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INSIDE THIS ISSUE – TRIANGULAR MARKS OF
IRELAND, GLENDORE GARDENDS, OVERPRINT VARIETY
AND STRANGE CANCELLATIONS TO MENTION A FEW



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My thanks to those who made the effort to contribute to this edition. As per usual I have no other articles in hand and have not been fortunate enough to meet up with many members (to cajole them to contribute) Every item that is published is of interest to the members – be it not to each individual's choice – it is the exchanging of information that assists us all and from which we all benefit.

That Was The Year That Was 2003
by Brian Warren

is also included as a separate supplement with this issue

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@ntlworld.com
Telephone 01494 583111 in the UK.
Editor

Eddy DALTON

Triangular Marks of Ireland

The Dublin Penny Post

Dublin [like London] also had a local Penny Post which was first set up on the 11th October 1773. The Chief Office was in General Post Yard, College Green, and a John Wolcott was its first comptroller.

The Dublin Penny Post was not a very successful venture, which may account for the rarity of early material.

A number of Receiving Houses [18] were sited within the area to be covered by the post, and only two deliveries a day were made at 9 am and 4 pm every day except Sundays.

The markings used were much like Dockwra's marks of the London Penny Post, Fig.1. This Triangular mark is known with the numbers 1, 4, 7, 14 and 16 in the centre. I have also seen a couple of impressions of this mark with a blank central portion, but as the examples were quite weak, it may be that the central number had failed to print.

I have noticed that previous writers have referred to these marks as "receiving house stamps", but this cannot be proven as at least two of the numbers have been recorded from at least three different locations.

Hand-Stamps

Similarly to England, Ireland had hand-stamps bearing a two or three letter telegraphic code of the office applying the stamp

Originally the stamps were quite large, FIG III.E2, and without punctuation, but later were reduced in size, FIG.III.E3, and most of the varieties found within the English types [Mitred Corners, With and without Stops, Thick and thin Frames etc] are present within some of the Irish stamps



Until 1922 Dublin had a two letter code "DN", FIG III.E4, but this was changed to BAC when the Gaelic name Baile Atha Cliath was adopted, and may be found in triangular stamps of varying sizes, FIGs.III.E5 and III.E6

Triangles may be found from a few offices which show their 1844 type office number [obsolete from 1906] in combination with their telegraphic code letters, FIG III.E7



The numeral system was not extended after 1906, however the numbers were still being used in obliterations for many years after

Examiners Marks

In 1908 small triangles [made of rubber] were issued to head offices for use as examiners stamps. FIG.HLE8.

These were used when unsealed printed matter envelopes were examined to ensure they conformed to the regulations and were meant to be struck alongside the adhesive, but may also be found as a cancellation, in cases where other attempts to cancel the adhesive have failed.

One of the smaller type stamps, which was in use as an examiners mark, caused some confusion as the office numbers within it were also being used within the English and Scottish triangles of similar type.

To solve the confusion, Ireland subsequently used a larger type triangle with a chevron added to its apex for clarification. FIG.HLE9.



Numerical Codes

The telegraphic codes in the triangular stamps were replaced with numerical codes at the same time as England's, [1924], and offices in the Irish Free State were also allocated triangular stamps with numeric codes, FIG.HLE10.



So that confusion would not arise measures were taken to separate the numbers used in Northern Ireland and provide a means of identification at the same time.

The solution was to give the numbers the prefix "I", which denoted Northern Ireland, similarly the Scottish marks had the prefix "S".

Only those offices of some importance were allocated numbers within the 1924 listings, hence Belfast, which had previously used the number 62, was now listed as, and was allocated the code "I.5". FIG.HLE11.



Machine Cancellations used on Circulars

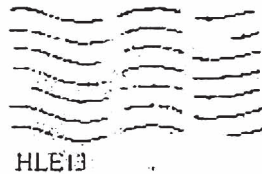
Triangles were also issued to Ireland for use in machines, the earlier types having a telegraphic code, later changing to the numeric system with England, but the Irish Free State and later the Republic continued to use the telegraphic codes.

Although triangular dies were issued it appears not many offices used them. Whilst Dublin and Cork are known, the Belfast office in Northern Ireland used two machines with triangular dies.

Dublin had three machines, the first of which was the Columbia, recorded in use from 14th June 1906 until July 1914, and from September 1915 to October 1919.

Although triangles were issued for this machine, the author has yet to locate an example.

The second machine was the Hey Dolphin and may be found with B.A.C. [Baile Arda Clath] in the triangle, FIG HLE12, and the third a Universal, FIG HLE13. These machines gave single impression cancellations.



Having done a little research on these stamps whilst writing my book, I am led to believe that the numbers in the centre were probably allocated to the person applying the hand-stamp, rather than to the office, and that the official stampers kept their own numbered stamps with them. This means that the same number could be found used from two or more separate offices, when the stamper carried out his duties, from time to time, at different locations or offices. But as examples of these stamps are very difficult to obtain, and I have not read every piece of literature on this subject, the above theory, although difficult to prove, seems logical.

Cork had a Krag machine and used a small triangle with mitred corners and the code "CK", which was allocated to this office during 1870, and has survived into recent times as it has been seen in use with wavy line cancellers and even slogans of which some were in the transposed position, HLE14.



HLE14

Similarly Belfast had at first a Columbia machine with a canceller having six straight lines, but from September 1914 used a pattern of five wavy lines which may be found incorporating a triangle, FIG HLE15, and later used a Universal machine which also included the use of slogans, FIG HLE16.



HLE15



HLE16

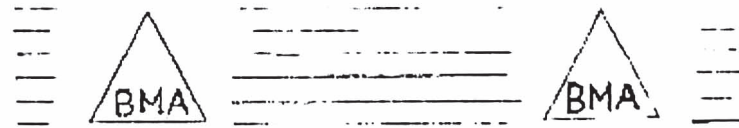
A few other offices were issued with Krag machines, - ie; Ballymena, Galway, Limerick, Londonderry, Portadown, and triangles are rarely seen from these locations, only being used for emergency use when perhaps a normal die was broken etc.

Well, my book on Triangular Marks was published earlier this year which starts with Dockwra marks and continues through all periods to recent times, and although it is a general account, it includes a section on the Irish marks. I have copied two of the contents pages on my ancient scanner to give an idea of what the work contains. There are 190 pages which includes a scarcity and price guide + plenty of illustrations. Just in case anyone would like to own a copy, I have 9 surplus copies left over from a total printing of 250 which have been sent all over the world. The price of the work is £19.99 which includes P&P to anywhere

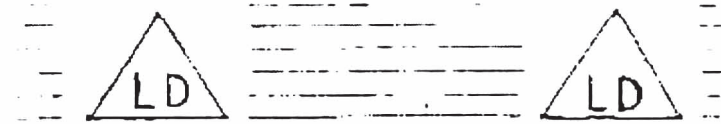
Harry LAYNE

See also illustrations on next page

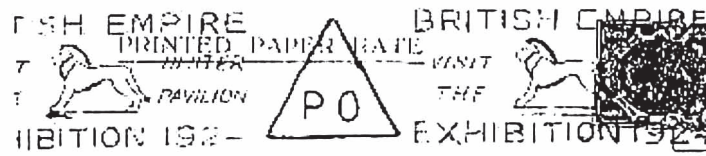
FIGs HLE17, HLE18 and HLE19 show three examples from Ballymena, Londonderry and Portadown respectively



HLE17



HLE18



HLE19

FIG HLE19 is to the authors knowledge possibly the only example known [courtesy of J. Gilpin, Belfast] and is thus rated very rare

September 1968 saw the introduction of the two-tier system in Northern Ireland and the use of triangular marks appears non-existent, save for a few occasions when a triangle has been used to cancel an adhesive that has managed to evade the machine, but more often than not, a quick stroke of the pen is sufficient

Letters to The Editor

In the September 2003 issue of Irish Philately, I set out the postal rates operative from 30 August 2003. There was one typo error in the opening paragraph which members should note:-

- The previous inland rate increase from 38c to 41c was on 2 April 2002 (not 2 January 2002).

In the following pages is a list of rates operative from 6 January 2004 when new international rates came into effect. An Post is forecasting continuing losses even at these rates and I expect that a further increase in inland rates will be introduced later in 2004.

Brian WARREN

A Universal machine with a Baile Atha Cliath die was first recorded in use in May 2003. The cancellation used the UK slogan "Pass on your Postcode". It was mainly used on large A4 envelopes. Presumably, this machine was purchased from Royal Mail and the UK slogan was still in the machine and was used in error.

(courtesy of Maurice Barrett non member – an illustration appears in the supplement)

(Also the following article with the information was supplied by Brian Warren, Ed.)

Irish Postal Rates Since 5th January 2004

Inland rates were unchanged (except for registration fees for additional compensation and Swiftpost rates) but there were significant rate increases for Britain, Europe and the Rest of World. In the case of Britain, the priority rate for the initial 50gr. weight step was increased to 60c (previously 50c). In the case of European destinations and the Rest of World the basic priority rate is now 65c (previously 57c). The initial weight step for Europe/Rest of World is now 50g (previously 25g) and the 1.5kg weight step has been abolished. All European rates up to 100gms are the same as the Rest of the World (as before). There are some savings at higher weight steps e.g. a 2kg package to Rest of World is now €16.00 (previously €20.00).

Ireland (unchanged)

Weight not over	Letter / Postcard	Large Envelope	Package
100g	48c	60c	96c
250g		96c	€1.44
500g		€1.44	€2.40
1kg		€2.40	€4.50
2kg			€6.50
Each additional 500g			€1.50

Britain

Weight not over	Letter/ Postcard		Large Envelope		Package	
	Priority	Economy	Priority	Economy	Priority	Economy
50g	60c	50c	€1.10	€1.00	€1.65	€1.50
100g	85c	75c	€1.30	€1.10	€1.65	€1.50
250g			€2.00	€1.75	€2.50	€2.25
500g			€3.00	€2.50	€3.50	€3.00
1kg					€5.50	€5.00
2kg					€7.50	€6.50

Europe

Weight not over	Letter/ Postcard		Large Envelope		Package	
	Priority	Economy	Priority	Economy	Priority	Economy
50g	65c	55c	€1.20	€1.10	€1.80	€1.65
100g	€1.20	€1.10	€1.40	€1.25	€1.80	€1.65
250g			€2.00	€1.75	€2.50	€2.25
500g			€4.00	€3.00	€4.00	€3.50
1kg					€8.00	€6.00
2kg					€13.00	€9.00

Rest of World

Weight not over	Letter/ Postcard		Large Envelope		Package	
	Priority	Economy	Priority	Economy	Priority	Economy
50g	65c	55c	€1.20	€1.10	€1.80	€1.65
100g	€1.20	€1.10	€1.40	€1.25	€1.80	€1.65
250g			€3.00	€1.75	€3.50	€2.25
500g			€5.00	€4.00	€5.00	€4.50
1kg					€10.00	€8.00
2kg					€16.00	€11.00

Maximum dimensions of a Letter / Postcard: 235mm x 162mm x 5mm thickness (i.e. C5 size). (Also known as "POP" or Post Office Preferred Size). Above 100grms, the large envelope or package rate applies.

Maximum dimensions of a Large Envelope: 400mm x 300mm x 25mm thickness (i.e. C4 size). (Also known as a "Flat"). Above 1k (Ireland), 500grms (Europe/Rest of World), the package rate applies.

Dimensions of a Package: Items that exceed 400mm x 300mm x 25mm thickness.

REGISTRATION RATES - Ireland (inclusive of postage)

Weight not over	Letter / Postcard	Large Envelope	Package
100g	€3.90	€3.90	€3.90
250g		€4.40	€4.40
500g		€5.35	€5.35
1kg		€7.50	€7.50
2kg			€9.50
Each additional 500g			€1.50

Ireland: The fee payable for the basic registration covers compensation up to a maximum of €320. Additional compensation up to €1,250 and €1,750 is available for an additional fee of €3.00 or €4.00 respectively.

Britain, Europe and Rest of World: €3.40 plus priority postage. The compensation limit for Britain is €900 and €150 for the following countries - Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden; for all other countries the limit is €35. Note that the basic fee for Britain provides higher compensation (€900) than is available for Ireland (€320).

SWIFTPOST (inclusive of Priority Postage for National and Exprés)

	National	Exprés ¹		International
Weight not over	32 Counties	Britain	Europe	Other Countries
100g	€4.30	€5.50	€7.00	Fee of €4.00 plus priority postage. Delivery times not guaranteed (Service not available for all countries)
250g	€5.80	€7.00	€8.00	
500g	€7.05	€8.00	€9.50	
1kg	€8.50	€9.50	€14.00	
1.5kg	€9.95	€11.00	€18.00	
2kg (max)	€11.40	€13.00	€23.00	

1. Service applies to Britain, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Spain and Switzerland – guaranteed delivery times vary between countries e.g. Spain - 2 days, urban - 4 days, rural. For other countries the lower (non-guaranteed) Swiftpost International rate applies.

GLANDORE GARDENS, BELFAST - A Short-lived Sub-Office

There is a deep satisfaction for a postal historian in "discovering" a previously unrecorded post office. It must be the same feeling a scientist has when discovering a new species. One of the discoveries that former IPC member Tony Graham communicated to me was his finding mention of a Belfast Town sub-office called 'Glandore Gardens'. So short-lived was this office, however, that Tony was too guarded to state that it even opened, even after I found the minute entry for its closure at the Post Office Archives in London. His short history for this office began "There is still some doubt as to whether this PO actually opened or not." He added a pencilled note-"A Postmark here would clinch it".

Happily (and with great delight) I recently acquired such a postmark which puts it beyond doubt. So here is the record of the office:

1 Dec 1896: P.O. Circular advised Glandore Gardens 'Money Order Office & Savings Bank open'.

15 Feb 1899: P.O. Archive Minute no. 275 'Glandore Gardens TSO - office abolished'

1 Mar 1899: P.O. Circular advised 'office abolished'.

In the street directories 8, Glandore Gardens was Irwin & Owens, grocers. 10, Glandore Gardens was 'S.M. Irwin' (who was also listed at site of Cavehill Road Post Office 1895-6). The map ref. is OS J332 771, and the street is a small one off the Antrim Road.

None of the street entries noted a post office or postmaster in Glandore Gardens. Cavehill Road was close by and the post office there opened June or July 1896. (Interestingly Fortwilliam PO opened very close to the original Glandore Gardens PO in 1929.)

The postmark itself (see fig 1) is a steel single circle, which explains why no proof book strike could be found, for only the rubber types survive from this period. In summary it could be described as:

SR28(max.) GLANDORE GARDENS / BELFAST 16 OC 1897 'AM' above clock time over date.



It was struck on a parcel post label which probably (but not necessarily) had 'Glandore Gardens' printed on it. I suppose no-one has a complete one?

Tim STEPHENS

IRISH OVERPRINTS

UNCATALOGUED CONSTANT VARIETY



Fig 1



Fig 2

Recently while studying my Irish overprints, I came across a variety on the halfpenny Saorstát Éireann (Control No.'s U 22 & U 23, solid background to the left of the word "halfpenny" on Row 10 Stamp 1 see Fig 1 & Fig 2 above) of which I have 3 very clear examples. My problem is, and I hope some members can help, according to the Irish reference books this variety does not exist on overprinted stamps, as the printing plate with this variety was not used for stamps that were overprinted in Ireland? However it is mentioned in the British Four Kings reference books as existing on the British un-overprinted stamp. So as you see I am looking forward to hearing from our knowledgeable experts.

John MULLEN

RECENT MACHINE CANCELLATIONS

No centre bars



With centre bars



IOCTHA centred



IOCTHA lowered



A Day in The Life of the Mail Centres

The past ten years have seen a major change in the handling of mail in Ireland. From a system based on Post Offices all around the country it is now concentrated on five Mail Centres, four in the Republic and one in Northern Ireland.

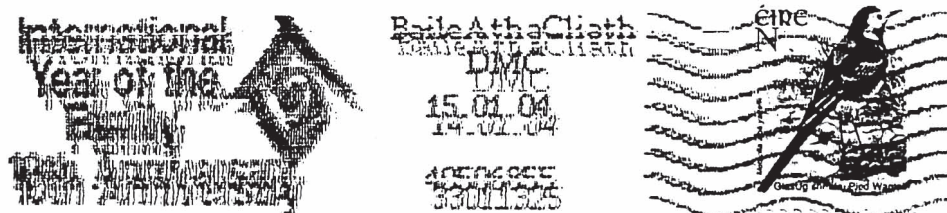
The changeover isn't fully implemented yet but the Mail Centres are now all up and running so I thought it would be interesting to have a look at an ordinary day's activity in them. When Portlaoise, Athlone and Cork centres commenced operation large quantities of mail were brought from Dublin to satisfy the voracious appetite of the machines. This has now ceased.

The day chosen was Thursday 15th January 2004. The Christmas post was well out of the way and there was nothing to cause anything unusual. My daughter's birthday didn't generate much post, mostly text messages!

In the December issue of *Irish Philately* Brian Warren and I explained, we hope, how to decode the tags etc., so I will take that as read.

Dublin Mail Centre (DMC)

As the day began two DMC machines were running. IMP2 (3993) was just coming to the end of its evening run and ended around 00.10 (20001240). IMPs 4 (3995) and 5 (3996) spend most of their time on secondary sorting mail for Dublin addresses into Postman's Walks. IMP 5 had ceased by 00.30. It had been working on mail already primary-sorted on IMP3. IMP4 had been used up to 23.30 on 14th but I didn't see it used between midnight and 01.00, so maybe it started up again when IMP5 ceased. It started with meter-franked mail and continued with mail primary-sorted on IMP3, ending around 03.00.



*IMP4 secondary-sorting before 3am on 15th
on a letter primary-sorted on IMP3 at 3.30 pm on 14th.*

The first machine to start up in the morning was IMP5, soon after 10.00. It ran until 13.00 secondary-sorting mail from Galway at first (20 minutes) but mostly from Northern Ireland (much of which was dated 8th!). It resumed at 14.20 with British and Continental mail, followed by meter-post (15.30 – 16.00), then more Northern Ireland and finishing with British at 17.00. IMP4 ran from midday to 15.00 secondary-sorting British mail.

From the beginning, 14.00 has been the normal weekday DMC start-time and on 15th both IMPs 1 (3992) and 2 (3993) began then, sorting/cancelling both stamped and unstamped (Freepost, Licence & meter-post) mail from the Dublin morning collections. This was completed, as normal, around 16.30 when both take a break for about half an hour. When

they resumed after 17.00 they were joined by IMP3 (general) and OCR1(3989) (for meter-post). IMP4 began after 17.30 apparently (a hunch!) secondary-sorting mail collected from 'Dublin Only' letterboxes. At 18.00 OCR2 (3990) came into action followed by OCR3 (3991) at 18.30, both for meter-post.

IMP5 started up again at 19.00, dealing mainly with meter-post. OCR1 took a break at 19.00 so, when it resumed at 19.30 all eight DMC machines were in operation and they continued so until 20.45 when OCR3 ceased operation, followed by OCR1 at 21.00.

The first IMP to stop was 1 at 21.30 and both IMPs 2 and 3 finished around 22.00. As usual IMPs 4 and 5 went into the early hours on 16th; 4 for only a short time, 5 until 02.30.

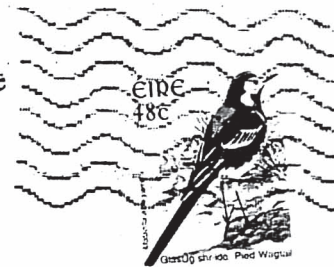
By noting the highest tag number each half-hour it is possible to see how much mail is processed and I estimate about 700,000 items passed through the DMC on 15th. About 50,000 items were processed twice.

Athlone Mail Centre (AMC)

The machines in Athlone and Cork are different from those in Dublin and Portlaoise in that the number in the cancellation doesn't contain any machine identification so I have given them an IMP number based on their tag number.



Baile Átha-Luain
Athlone Mails Centre
15.07.04
06538823



*Athlone IMP 1. Tag coded 3980 15 39 01579.
Cancellation number is virtually meaningless.*

Athlone doesn't usually operate before 18.00. IMP3 (3982) started at 18.15 and ran, non-stop, until 22.30. IMPs 1 (3980) and 2 (3981) started after 19.00 and IMP 4 (3983) at 19.30.

These ran until 22.30, 22.15 and 21.30, respectively. IMP1 seems to have taken a break between 21.00 and 22.00 and IMP4 from 20.15 to 21.30.

IMP4 processed unstamped mail only with very little unstamped items on the other three. A considerable amount of the stamped mail was already cancelled at the place of posting.

Athlone processed about 147,000 items on 15th.

Cork Mail Centre (CMC)

Cork hasn't reached its full potential yet. Counties Clare, Kerry, Limerick and Waterford as well as parts of Galway, Tipperary and even Cork still do it the old way and I expect they will soon be delivering to one of the Mail Centres, mainly Cork.

Cork IMPs have also been numbered relating to the tag number.



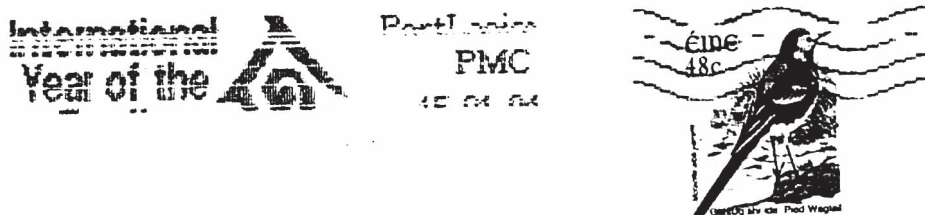
Cork IMP 1 on a letter missent from Northern Ireland. Tag coded 3996 15 36 05716

IMPs 1 (3996) and 2 (3997) began at 17.00; IMP 3 (3998) at 17.30. IMP 4 (3999) didn't run on 15th. It is only rarely that I see the four Cork machines run on the same day. IMP 3 started with bank mail ('Postage Paid / Baile Atha Cliath' !) and ended with meter post. The others had a small amount of unstamped mail scattered through their runs. The tagging ink on IMP 2 is so faint that on first glance it appears untagged. They had an early night in Cork, with all machines finished by 20.00, having processed about 125,000 items.

I don't think these machines do secondary sorting yet, but I don't see much Cork addressed mail. Maybe some of our Cork members can correct me if I'm wrong.

Portlaoise Mail Centre (PMC)

Portlaoise has just two machines and was the last of the Mail Centres to come into action on 15th. IMP 1 (3985) started at 19.00 and IMP 2 (3986) at 19.30.



IMP 2 had the bottom half of the cancellation missing on 15th.

IMP 2 ceased shortly after 21.00 and IMP 1 at 22.00. Approximately 110,000 items were processed.

Northern Ireland Mail Centre

Unfortunately, I cannot decode the tagging on the Northern Ireland Mail Centre machines and as so many of the cancellations are illegible it makes it very difficult to work out the routine.

The number in the cancellation is the same as those in Dublin and Portlaoise. It shows the machine number, half-hour and item number. Since last May, it usually has an 'A' prefix which indicates, I think, that the address has been machine-read. Above this number the real time is shown, to the minute.

On the plus side, the machines print the date and tag number on the back of unstamped mail. Whereas the cancellation has 'Northern Ireland' this back print has BT for Belfast.

There are four machines. Machine 1 is now only seen back-printing. The other three can be found both cancelling and back-printing. The times seen have been between 01.30pm and 10pm.

All four machines ran on 15th but I didn't get enough legible examples to even hazard a guess as to times and quantities. A significant amount of the mail from Northern Ireland for Dublin has no DMC tagging which suggests it is already sorted to Dublin Districts.

Estimated quantity of mail (both stamped and unstamped) processed on 15th January

<u>Dublin</u>		<u>Athlone</u>		<u>Cork</u>		<u>Portlaoise</u>	
3989	60,000	3980	32,000	3996	35,000	3985	60,000
3990	50,000	3981	50,000	3997	45,000	3986	<u>50,000</u>
3991	25,000	3982	44,000	3998	<u>45,000</u>		110,000
3992	140,000	3983	<u>21,000</u>		125,000		
3993	155,000		147,000				
3994	100,000						
3995	110,000						
3996	<u>110,000</u>						
	750,000						

The printed number in the Athlone and Cork cancellations increases with each cancellation, starting from when the machine testing began. The number range seen on each machine on 15th January for stamped mail was:

<u>Athlone</u>	3980	06537012 – 06559316	(22,304)
	3981	08882418 – 08912742	(29,324)
	3982	08770482 – 08799275	(28,793)
<u>Cork</u>	3996	02164518 – 02176009	(11,491)
	3997	02637211 – 02651966	(14,755)
	3998	02232640 – 02246982	(14,360)

As can be seen from these figures only about 55% Athlone and 33% Cork mail has a cancellation.

John LENNON