



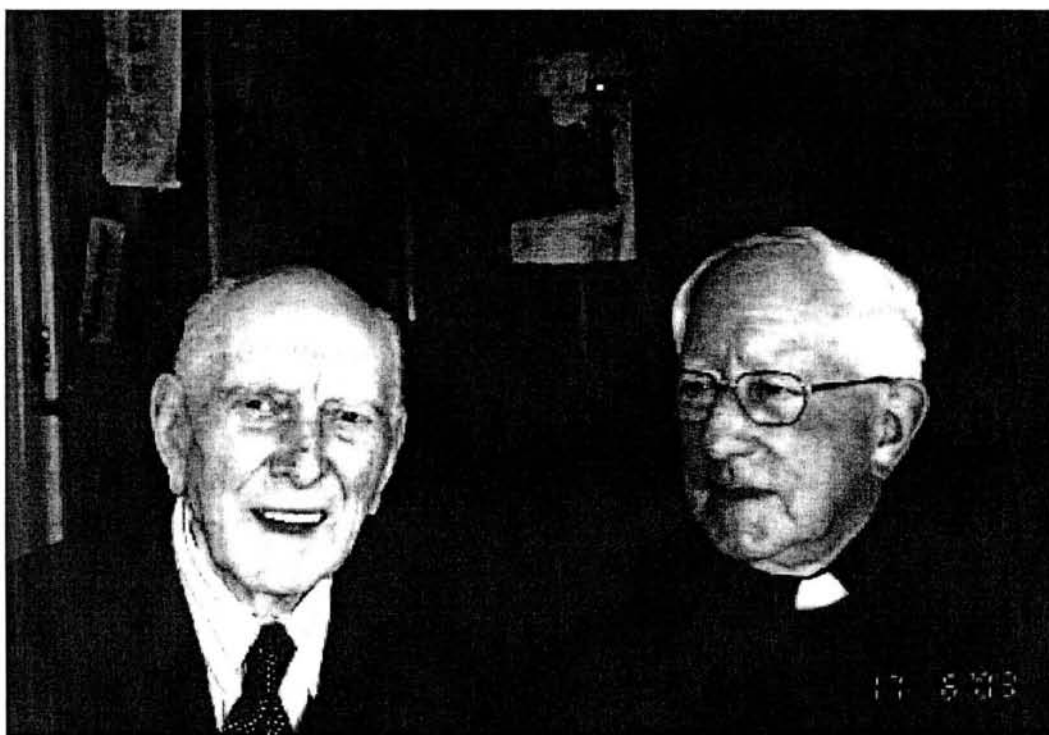
Volume
2004

Issue No.
JUNE/2

Irish Philately

THE JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE – TRIBUTES TO BILL KANE AND KEITH
JAMIESON, THE GOBBLER AND NOT WHAT YOU THINK



Bill Kane (left) and Canon John Brennan

Irish Philately is published by the Editor for the Irish Philatelic Circle. Articles herein are the copyright of the authors and may not be reproduced elsewhere in any fashion without express permission.

CONTENTS

15.	Overprinting by Waterlow of the re-engraved	Patrick Williams
16.	Request for information	Tony Best
17.	Dublin Journal 1810, copy	Peter Wood
18.	William Kane	P.H.W.
19	William (Bill) Kane	Michael Priestley
20	Not what you think	Stan Challis
21	The Gobbler	Stan Challis
24	The road to Dungannon	Stan Challis
28	Keith Jamieson	Peter Wood
29	Percy French	George Etoe
32	An Post's (Finance?)	Hugh McGoldrick

I too am saddened by the death of 3 of our members who were not only with expertise but prepared to share and publish their knowledge and we must consider how lucky we were to have had such people amongst us who gave their time to all.

Yet again I have to stress that without articles from you the members – there will be no Journal. I do not mind cajoling members for any items; irrespective of size and for those of you that did not attend the AGM at Chester, please at least send me something (as did 1 of our members who could not attend).

In this issue there is a “wants listing” from a member. This is acceptable within the bounds of membership and personal needs or requirements as against a member dealing through this means and was confirmed again, at Chester. Should any member wish to register their particular interests; it may be done through the Secretary, who I am sure would pass on such interests; if so asked. I also from time to time receive requests for stamp exchange or similar from various locations and countries throughout the world. If any members would like to participate – remembering that most of these come via my web page and maybe dealers – I would willingly pass on the information and email addresses.

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

Overprinting of the Waterlow re-engraved high value stamps

The late Cyril Dulin and I wrote an article in Vol 78/3 entitled "The High Value Overprints" resulting from research we carried out in the Records Office of the GPO in London and which gave our findings about where the overprinting was carried out and the numbers of sheets involved during the period 1922-1937.

One of the conclusions which we reached was that the overprint on the Waterlow re-engraved stamps was initially made by Harrison and then taken over by Somerset House. We were able to show that two of the overprintings were done by Harrison (November '34 and March '35) because the files specifically said this was so. These amounted to some 40% of the total overprinted for Ireland on the Waterlow stamps between November 1934 and January 1937. Hence the note in the MW catalogue (1991 ed) to this effect. I regret that I cannot recall the evidence for our stating that part of the overprinting was carried out by Somerset House. I have no reason to doubt that this was correct.

In the intervening 25 years I had numerous conversations with Cyril Dulin including some in which we discussed the problem of distinguishing Harrison overprinting from any other firm's work on the re-engraved stamps. So far as I know, he was unable to solve the problem nor did he find any definitive information pointing to another firm's involvement.

Recently I came across an article which I had extracted nearly twenty years ago from "Stamp Collecting" for 26th April 1984 entitled "Morocco Agencies (1934-42)" by J. N. Davies. It is concerned with the 'destruction of plates, slugs and logo types' connected with the KGV, EDVIII. and KGV stamps overprinted and also surcharged for Agencies. However, it also has some important information about the contemporary Irish overprint.

The article states that it:-

"...is based on weeded documentation which was kept at the Post Office Supplies Department for some time and covers the period from 1934 to 1942.

It appears that by March 1934 the "Inland Revenue Department Printing Shop" was due to close and a request was made to transfer the overprinting plates to Messrs Harrison and Sons at High Wycombe. By 18th April 1934 the following plates were received from the Director of Stamps and placed in stock."

{A detailed list is then given of what amounts to the current (1934) Morocco Agency stamps}

The article continues:-

"In addition to the plates mentioned above, the following was also included. SAOSTAT
EIREANN 1 Plate - 40 Set. (1922)"

This merely confirms the fact that the overprinting, at any rate initially, on the re-engraved was done by Harrison. The article goes on to reproduce tables concerning the disposal and destruction of obsolete various overprinting plates for Morocco Agencies.

One such table headed 'Obsolete overprints - Disposal of plates' has a section entitled 'At High Wycombe' and includes:-

Saorstát Éireann 40 set

The table is annotated thus: - All the above were sent to The Royal Mint on 10th May 1938, a certificate of destruction was issued by them on 18th May 1938.

While it is not conclusive evidence that all the overprinting was done by Harrison, the information given in the article by Mr. Davies is clear support for the view that the plate was in the possession of Harrison throughout the period, from April 1934 to May 1938 and that Harrison was solely responsible for the overprinting of the Waterlow re-engraved issue for use in Ireland.

Patrick H. WILLIAMS

The Right Honorable Lady Harriet Skeffington

Having recently purchased an entire, in the IPC Auction, which was addressed to The Right Honorable Lady Harriet Skeffington, may I request any information regarding the Skeffington family, re: photos, letters and correspondence that any member may have in their possession. As this was my late wife's maiden name and her family came from the village of Rock, nr Dungannon, Co. Tyrone.

Of course I would cover expenses incurred in sending any material to me at:

48 Recreation Road
Poole
Dorset BH12 2EB

Tony BEST

A copy of the Dublin Journal Saturday, August 25th 1810

This is yet another example of sharing information and is republished on the following page, through the courtesy of

Peter J. WOOD

GEORGE FAULKNER. The Dublin Journal.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1810.

GENERAL PENNY POST OFFICE,

DUBLIN, AUGUST 8, 1810.

EXTRACT OF REGULATIONS.

THE RIGHT HON. the POST-MASTERS-GENERAL, hereby give Notice, that the PENNY POST DEPARTMENT, has been placed on an Enlarged and Extensive Establishment, which it is trusted, will be found of the greatest Accommodation and Convenience to the Inhabitants of this City, and the Public in general.

A Number of RECEIVING-HOUSES are established in the City, and Country Limits, which extend four miles from this Office.—In the City there are Four Collections and Deliveries Daily, and in the Country Two Daily, (Sundays excepted).

The Hours for putting Letters into receiving Boxes, and of Delivery, are as follows:

Time for putting in Letters.		Time of Delivery in City.		Time of Delivery in Country.	
	H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	H. M.	H. M.
To 1st Delivery over Night by...	9 0	Morning, between...	8 30 and 10 0	Morning, between...	9 0 and 12 0
2d Do. Morning...	10 30	Noon Do. ...	11 30 — 1 0		
3d Do. Afternoon...	1 30	Evening Do. ...	3 0 — 5 0	Evening, Do.	3 0 — 6 0
4th Do. Evening...	4 50	Evening Do. ...	6 0 — 8 0		

All Letters, whether for Town or Country, may be put into the Receiver at this Office one hour later than above specified for each Dispatch.

The Postage on each Letter to and from all Parts of the City, within the General Post Office Delivery, is One Penny; beyond that Delivery, Two Pence.—No Letter exceeding Four Ounces in weight will be allowed to pass through this Office, except such as come by, or is intended for, General or Foreign Dispatch.—It is requested that Persons may be particular in stating the Street, and Number or Place those to whom they write reside in.

So secure and expeditious is the Delivery of Letters by this Office, that two Persons residing in the most distant Parts of the City from each other, may, between the Hours of Seven in the Morning and Seven in the Evening, write Four Letters, and receive Three Answers, and the Answer to the Fourth may be received by Nine next Morning.

All Letters for General or Foreign Dispatch put into the Country Receivers by Half-past Three o'clock, and into the Town Receivers by Ten Minutes before Five, will be dispatched the same Evening by the Inland and British Mails.

CITY RECEIVING HOUSES.

20, Carey-street
77, Rogerson's-quay
45, Townsend-street
18, Holles-street
24, George's-quay
7, Molesworth-street
6, Merrion-row
34, Grafton-street
18, King-street (South)
4, Leeson-street
17, Digges-street
30, Essex-street
27, Winetaverna-street
16, Cork-hill
4, Werburgh-street
28, Golden-lane
18, Stephen-street
12, Kevin-street
27, Camden-street
1, Harcourt-street
118, Corn-street
27, Clonibe (Lower)
34, New-street
38, New-Market
20, Meath-street
63, Francis-street
14, Echlin's-lane

127, Thomas-street
—, Kilmaham-lane
19, Cook-street
43, Bridgefoot-street
64, Smithfield
1, Queen-street
30, Manor-street
65, Barrack-street
7, Brunswick-street
13, Ormond-quay (Upper)
163, Church-street (Old)
19, Pil-lane
27, King-street (North)
45, Bolton-street
111, Dorset-street
—, Broadstone Hotel
51, Lower Dorset-street
28, Lower Ormond-quay
61, Henry-street
40, Mary-street
50, Great Britain-street
49, Capel-street
91, Abbey-street (Lower)
85, Great Britain-street
9, Sackville-street
133, Mecklenburgh-street
98, Summer Hill

COUNTRY RECEIVING HOUSES.

Ring's-end
Sandymount
Donnybrook
Ball's-bridge
Boooterstown
Black-rock
Stillorgan
Drumatom
Dundrum
Milltown
Rathmines
Ranelagh
Harold's-cross
Dolphin's-barn
Rathfarnham
Crumlin
Island-bridge
Chapelized
Palmer's-town
Finglass
—, —
Drumcondra
Donnycarney
Windsor Avenue
Clontarf Sheds
Raheny

By Command of the Post-Masters-General,

EDWARD J. BAYNES, Comptroller.

William Kane

17th June 1909 - 13th April 2004

William Kane – “Bill” to us all - died peacefully in his sleep at the home of his son, Frank, near Clonmel, where he had been living for about a year after moving from Ballsbridge.

The History of the Circle published as a supplement to the Journal in August 1995 reveals that Bill was a founder member of the Study Group (predecessor of the Circle) in 1960, that he edited the Journal for some years, was sometime Auctioneer, and President in 1975 and was the moving force in the Circle for forty years. He was a lifelong advocate for, and student of, Irish philately in all its aspects not only as a collector but also, for a period, as a professional. A friend and correspondent for years of Dr Stafford Johnson, T.E.Field., Professor Renouf, W.G.Meredith, F. E.Dixon, Canon Brennan (happily still with us in retirement in Callan) - to name but a few - places Bill in the pantheon of Irish philatelists.

Above all, Bill will be remembered as a great enthusiast. He believed that life was for living - to the full - and this embraced everything he did and everyone he met. Introduced by Michael Leonard to Bill at my first AGM in 1973 in Liverpool when I was starting to learn the basic facts of Irish philately, within minutes Bill had ensured I became a lifelong enthusiast. No one was ever the same after "a chat with Bill" about the hobby.

But there was much more to Bill than his interest in philately. He became a telegram boy at the age of 14 in Dublin. He acquired a fascinating knowledge of the businesses and of the prominent people to whom he delivered telegrams throughout the city. At the same time he learned, by correspondence with the Professor of Music at Trinity College, musical theory, harmony and counterpoint. Sitting on a bench in the street at the end of his delivery round Bill would do his written exercise for the day, post it to the Professor who corrected it and set his exercise for the next day, mailing it to Bill to collect at the GPO on arrival for work next morning.

Bill's father was a musician. Bill could play eight instruments. He was a member of the band of the Gresham Hotel for some years around the 1940's. He founded the first credit union in Ireland (for musicians). Later in life he was the Music Librarian for Radio Eireann and also transcribed orchestral scores and wrote arrangements for the Radio Orchestra.

As a teenager, Bill persuaded the R.D.S. to include classes for rabbits in the Spring Show. The late 1920's saw a boom in the fashion for angora wool. Bill advertised himself as a buyer of angora fur; Ireland's farmers and smallholders responded enthusiastically (as did the rabbits). Bill's business flourished, he won top prize for angora rabbits at the R.D.S. but when the boom burst the creditors discovered that Bill could not be made bankrupt as he was under 18 years of age!

When Bill became a postman he had to sell his embryo stamp collection. It was only in the 1970's that he became prominent in philately on joining the young David Feldman in his Leinster Road office. Bill also exhibited in philately, winning the Silver Mailcoach Trophy at London's Stampex for "War & Philately", and he had a drawer full of medals from Stampa, Stampex and other shows. For him it was fun, not competition. and a means of sharing his enthusiasm with others.

When David Feldman moved to Geneva, Bill joined Radio Eireann and while he was there an East German wrote asking about music. Since none of Bill's colleagues could read German Bill took the letter home, and using a dictionary, replied in German and over the next several years the Colonel in the Stasi secret police, his wife and young children were taught music in German by Bill, so that they were able to form their own quartet, and play music composed by Bill. Although he was invited to stay with the family in East Germany, Bill in fact never met them.

But his action-packed life was centered on his family. His marriage to Roseanna ("Posie") was a joy to them both as were their four sons. Endless hospitality, sustenance and friendship were dispensed to all who knocked on the door of 7 O'Connell Gardens. When Posie suffered a long period of poor health and the loss of a leg, and their son Liam died suddenly, Bill nursed her at home with great devotion. When Bill reached 90 years of age the past Presidents of the Circle gathered in Dublin to honour him. Although we had to hold the dinner without Bill's presence because he was, uncharacteristically, in hospital that day we were able at the same time to celebrate the 60th anniversary in the priesthood of Canon John Brennan another founder member of the Circle and a Past President who was with us that evening.

We who knew Bill treasure his friendship for he was a remarkable person. We shall remember him as a devoted servant of his Master, a delightful and generous companion, a knowledgeable philatelist, and an enthusiastic member of our Circle. May he rest in peace.

April 2004

P.H.W.

William (Bill) Kane

A fine tribute to the late William (Bill) Kane has been paid by Patrick H. Williams In "Irish Philately". He was a dear friend of all Irish philatelists. I wish to add some personal memories as well. Bill was deeply involved in the organisation of Irish Philately from its earliest days. The Irish overprints appeared from 1922 and a new interest arose in the hobby. From early on as a schoolboy, W.G. Meredith, produced a catalogue of these stamps. By 1927 this booklet reached its fourth edition. That edition contained some extra notes by Cornelius F. McLoughlin, a Dublin journalist and a collector especially of the high values of these stamps. The overprint was on the basic British stamps, the 2 /6, 5/ and 10/ values; they were known as the "Sea Horses".

I, myself, did not collect stamps until about 1953 and it was my luck that I was a great friend of the above Cornelius McLoughlin. He introduced one especially to these high values; they always remained my speciality.

About mid-1950's the Irish Philatelic Circle was formed and for some years members corresponded with each other and exchanged both stamps and information. In this way friendships grew up so that when a Philatelic meeting took place these friendships developed. It was at one such meeting I first met Bill Kane who was actively involved from its earliest days. From that time we became and remained close friends.

Patrick H. Williams, in his tribute to Bill, gives a list of members from the earlier days. I knew them all well except for Dr. Stafford Johnson whom I never met. I wish to add two more to this list who were also special friends of mine. The first was Mr. H.W. Leslie Fletcher, Bexleyheath. Leslie was president of the Circle In 1969. Besides being a very knowledgeable student of the High Value overprints Leslie was also an expert on forgeries, fakes and all manner of flaws on Irish stamps. He was a very useful member of the Circle. Another special friend of mine Reverend W. Edwin Davey, a Church of Ireland priest in Northern Ireland. He was President of the Circle in 1986 - 87. After his retirement he and his wife went to live in Salisbury where he died some years ago. Besides Edwin's great knowledge of Irish stamps he had a wonderful sense of humour and wit. We met only a few times but we corresponded regularly until he died. In one of his letters to me he wrote; "Isn't Bill a marvel - how does he keep it up. He looks after Posie so carefully, and cheerfully, and produces paper after paper for the P.H." (Postal history). Besides numerous papers and articles Bill produced many books as well. He produced the "Uniform Fourpenny Post in Ireland", the "Catalogue of Postal Markings of Dublin C1840 - 1922". With David Feldman he collaborated in the impressive "Handbook of Irish Postal History to 1840". These are only a few of Bill's productions; the full list is quite impressive.

Bill also loved showing his friends his many trophies and awards won at National and International Exhibitions. Perhaps one of his most treasured awards was that of being invited to sign the Irish Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and to accept the special scroll presented to him; the occasion was in 1981.

To the best of my memory it was about 1968/70 that An Post decided to open a Postal or Philatelic Museum. They rented part of the newly constructed Irish Life Complex in Abbey Street. The location did not meet the approval of the Irish Philatelic Societies. A large room underneath the main part of the G.P.O. in O'Connell Street was set aside for this purpose. Bill Kane was appointed to prepare the items for the Museum. He was to list, index and catalogue them. With permission, I was allowed into this room to see Bill. He was delighted with the quality and quantity of the material especially what had been donated by private donors. At a second visit to him there he had almost concluded his work. In the meantime the Fire Brigade Authorities made a report on the Irish Life Centre. The conclusion was that in the event of fire everything would be doused with water. Stamps and Postal History items would be destroyed. The whole project was immediately halted. Bill's services were also ended. The room was locked. The Postal Official principally involved with the setting up of the Museum was Mr. Con Buckley, long since retired. I wonder is all that material still under lock and key there?

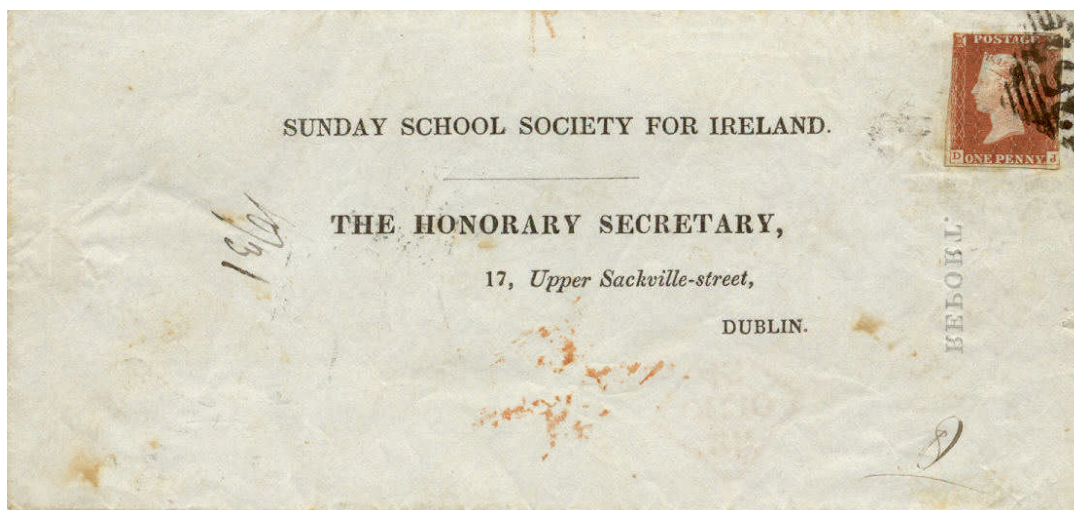
Sometime after his wife, Posie's death and the deaths of two of his four sons, his youngest son Frank and his wife Breda invited Bill to come live with them; they lived a few miles from Clonmel, Co.Tipperary. When I learned he was there I visited him about the time of his 94th birthday. Twice since last Christmas, due to the kindness of Frank and Breda who fetched me, I visited him. The last time was only a few days before he died.

To Bill Kane, to Dr. Cyril Dulin and to all the many friends, named and unnamed, who gave me great pleasure in these wonderful Philatelic years my thanks are due. May they all Rest in Peace.

Michael PRIESTLEY

NOT WHERE YOU THINK

Box 28 = Co Tyrone, at least in my muddled sorting system and in those boxes I am sure all sorts of mysteries lurk! Anyway, the time had come to sort the Co Tyrone box and below you will find an illustration of the back and front of a wrapper from 1845; it is one of those Sunday School items of which most collectors of early Irish Postal History will have acquired a few over the years.



You will note on the reverse a boxed 'Donaghmore RH' mark, plus a Newry datestamp for OC 30 1845 and a Dublin diamond receiving mark of the same day. The undated mark is listed by Bill Kane as type 1H and was in fact unique to Donoughmore. I was pleased enough to get this. So into Box 28 it went; well, Donaghmore is in Co Tyrone, isn't it, listed as a small town, 3 miles north west of Dungannon, population around 200, once with a station on the Great Northern Railway's 'Derry Road', post office opened 1834 as a Penny Post to Dungannon.

Funny that Newry postmark and the 357 diamond cancellation (also Newry) I thought; perhaps the routing was via Newry at this time where the item was transferred to the Dublin mail coach?

Wrong. The directories tell us of a further office which has been listed variously over the years as Donaghmore and Donoughmore opened in 1840 and given this name. This office was originally at Four Mile House – ie: 4 Irish miles north of Newry on the main Dublin to Belfast coach road and an ideal place for a post office. There it stayed until 1948 before it moved half a mile east into the village of Tullymurray. The office closed in 1992. For this last information I am indebted to notes sent to me shortly before he died by the late Tony Graham.

Why the name Donaghmore. The name does not show on the current Ordnance Survey map but it does show on the AA Road Book map of c1960 and Donaghmore church is shown in Taylor and Skinner (1778) as being at Tullymurray village. Lewis' Dictionary of 1833 tells us the Parish of Donaghmore had 4,463 inhabitants and was situate on the 'Great Road' from Dublin to Belfast. All very logical that an office be situate in the vicinity.

There are (or were) two further office in the Republic named respectively Donaghmore and Donoughmore. Thus the moral of this story is simply 'assume nothing and check the facts'..... and put the material in the right box!

Stan CHALLIS

THE GOBLER

In a collection I acquired at the end of last year I was amazed and delighted to find examples of a cancelling machine that I had not previously seen and the existence of which was unknown to me and I would suspect also many others. Certainly I cannot recall having seen any article on the subject.

At the foot of the following page you see an impression. Without wavy lines, the impression comprises a town die reading BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH with an arc below. The diameter is 20mm, a little smaller than the 21.5mm of similar dies used in the ubiquitous Universal cancelling machines. Beneath the town die (or above) is found the word ÍOCHTA inscribed horizontally followed by an amount. I have seen 3^p and 5^p, the 'p' being raised. That the horizontal wording is found both above and below the town die suggests that the town die must have been able to be inserted either upright or inverted, or perhaps sideways left, or sideways right.

The impressions I have seen, all on magazine wrappers, are placed at a distance of between 3 and 4½ inches from the short end of the wrappers; all are in red ink and the dates have the month in Roman figures. Dates seen are between 7 March and 27 June 1962.

The notes that came with the items I acquired identified the impression to be from a 'one-off' machine designed by one Brendan Scally a member of the P&T engineering department. It was capable of handling packets and parcels up to 2½ inches thick at a rate of up to 300 a minute. Beyond the fact that the machine was introduced early in 1962 and that it had a short operating life there was no further detail. The notes describe the item as 'scarce'. That it is scarce, I have no reason to doubt. After 40 years I suspect that few complete magazine wrappers have survived, let alone wrappings from 'packages up to 2½ inches thick'.

At this point I contacted John Lennon. What did he know? Initially nothing, but here is his response (paraphrased) 'I think I heard of Brendan Scally; maybe Fred Dixon mentioned him and the example you show seems to be ex FED' (John: certainly it was, for, Fred spent many years at Rosslare Harbour in his duties as a meteorologist when he wasn't emptying waste bins

looking for exactly this type of material) The next thing I knew is that John had located Mr Scally, now aged 82 – well done John!.

Here is what Mr Scally told John (again paraphrased)..... ‘At the time, I was an Engineering Draughtsman in that Department and was asked to see what could be done to help stamp large quantities (up to 20,000) bulky items like Readers Digest, that were coming into Pearse Street Sorting Office. There was only one of the postmarking machines; it was made at the P+T stores in St John’s Road (near Kingsbridge Station); they got a bit browned off with repeated minor changes and the machine was not developed as much as I would have wished. The British Post Office came over and expressed an interest but that was as far as it went. At the time the Irish economy was just beginning to lift and the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs (Hilliard) announced its invention in the Dail and that considerable savings for his Department would result’.

‘The machine (it had been nicknamed ‘The Gobbler’) was used on and off for a couple of years until the PO decided to stop marking the magazines. There was a reluctance to use the machine in the Central Sorting Office.’ (so now we know where it was used) ‘It was seen as a job killer, until one Saturday when there was a big soccer match at Dalymount Park and a large quantity of magazines (Readers Digest was the biggest user) arrived around midday. Normally the Sorting Office closed at 1pm but when a case like this arose the men were to stay on and process the mail. One remembered the machine and the magazines were put through it, at a rate of six per second and the men all got to the match.’ The Gobbler had indeed done its job!

Mr Scally went on ‘I also invented a device for pouring multiple pints.’ (now that does sound useful) ‘That was patented, but not the postmarking machine’.

Mr Scally did not know the fate of the machine but did receive a ‘thank you’ from the Minister and a ‘reward’ of £75. He also did a lot of artwork for the PO around this time and the National Library acquired his collection some two years ago.

Whilst I bet with confidence that our Irish members have not kept their Readers Digest wrappers from 40 years ago nevertheless I would be interested to learn if any member can add further information on what we must now refer to as ‘The Scally Machine’.



Stan

THE ROAD TO DUNGANNON

This is an unfinished story the ending of which can only be unfolded by the collaboration of all interested members and the unearthing of much more material together with further research of archives. I suspect it is typical of much more of Ireland's early postal history than we think.

Dungannon was one of those towns with as many as four different mileages (distance from Dublin) recorded in mileage marks in the period from 1808. Moxter's 'The Mileage Marks of Ireland 1808-39' lists four different:-

Dungannon/73	used (per Moxter)	1810-11
Dungannon/74	used	1812-15
Dungannon/76	used	1820-28
Dungannon/75	used	1829-31

Four different 'mileages' was by no means exceptional. The different mileages came about either as a result of a change of route, perhaps occasioned by a new piece of road, or simply as a result of resurveying. What is perhaps unusual about Dungannon is that the four different distances are so close. For example Moxter also records four different mileage marks for Tuam there being no less than 16 miles difference between the greatest distance and the shortest, whilst Derry has no less than five different distances recorded.

As a result of material acquired in recent years I can add to Moxter's list:-

1. Confusingly, either Dungannon/73 or 75 5 August 1818
(the impression is blurred but most certainly is not 74)
2. Dungannon/74 2 June 1822 and 3 February 1823

All marks were struck in red save the '76' which I have in black for July 1825 and April 1827; that mark was certainly in use by October 1823.

Why all these changes at Dungannon? The route today (motorways ignored) from Dublin to Dungannon is via Armagh and then crossing the Blackwater at Moy. We should commence by looking at what these towns have to tell us.

Armagh is recorded rather strangely as using both 63 and 66 between 1809 and 1814 and then just 66 until these marks went out of use, in 1831 in the case of Armagh. Moy is known using 69 from 1819 to 1823 and 71 from 1828 to 1830. These dates come from 'Moxter' and I cannot add anything more beyond noting that Moy was using a straight line mark without mileage by 1834.

Ignoring for the moment the 63 of Armagh recorded in the early year, it would seem that the distance from Armagh to Moy was determined at 3 miles (Irish) until about 1825 and then 5 miles thereafter, whilst that from Moy to Dungannon was 7 miles in 1820-21 reducing to 4 miles in 1829-30. How can this come about; what does the map tell us? Examination of the Ordnance

Survey map today tells us that Armagh to Moy is, give or take a few hundred yards, 6¼ miles English which translates to 5 Irish, whilst Moy to Dungannon is 5¼ miles English or 4 Irish.

But, take a look at Taylor and Skinner's map of the Roads of Ireland (1778). Then the road north from Armagh did not follow the route it does today. At a point shown on today's map as McCready's Corner, the old road took a 45° turn to the left and the routing was through Blackwatertown to Moy. More significantly that map shows Armagh at 63 miles from Dublin and Dungannon at 73 (Moy at 69) – the very numbers we have noted above. But the map also tells us to look further. Also reaching Moy with a distance shown of 69 miles is another route which one has to look hard to trace on today's map. This left the Dundalk to Armagh road at Markethill (variously 61, 63 and 60 miles from Dublin) and travelled via Richhill and the outskirts of Lough Gall to Moy.

A further look at Moxter will tell us that mileage marks are recorded for Blackwatertown (70) from 1829 to 1834 and Lough Gall (66) from 1825 to 1829. Frank and Stange tell us that Blackwatertown was opened in 1822 and Lough Gall in 1811.

Let us look at all this in tabular form –

Year	Armagh	Lough Gall	Blackwatertown	Moy	Dungannon
Actual in 1778	63	66	67	69	73
1809	63 or 66				
1810					73
1812					74
1814	Only 66				
1818					73 or 75
1819				69	
1820					76
1822					74
Oct 1823					76
1825		66			
1828				71	
1829			70		75
Actual by 1840	(66)	Via Armagh (c71)	Via Moy (c70)	Armagh plus 5	Armagh plus 4

It is pity that not more is recorded for Moy. However armed with the above, I believe we might draw the following conclusions:-

- The route in 1808/9 is uncertain but probably via Richhill (which was opened in 1796) and Lough Gall
- That would have led to the opening of the office at Lough Gall in 1811, the village being a few hundred yards off the 'direct road'.

- Armagh might have used both 63 and 66 miles from Dublin in the years to 1814 dependant as to whether the mail went direct or via Rich Hill (but I would like to see a lot more before one could be sure).
- During the years the direct road between Armagh and Dungannon was improved and rerouted to avoid Blackwatertown through which it had one passed: there may have been several resurveys accounting for the several different mileage marks.
- Blackwatertown received its mail via Moy by 1829.
- By 1829 the new direct route to Dungannon via Armagh was in use, via Moy and avoiding both Lough Gall and Blackwatertown.

The initial intention when I began researching this article was to say ‘Look! I’ve found two mileage marks from Dungannon which add to Moxter’s list; I wonder why there were so many?’ As my research went on it became obvious that the route had changed, almost certainly more than once and that there was reason, far more than simple resurveying, for the numerous changes at Dungannon. Above all I realised just how much more research there is to be done on what is seemingly a relatively simple subject.

I would welcome details of any dates you may have for Dungannon mileage marks together with scans if possible.

(Below I show a selection of the Dungannon mileage marks, including the one I cannot decipher – choose what you show – thanks.)

Stan CHALLIS



73 or 75 – who can tell us more?

Belfast to Armagh, misdirected to Dungannon



All are included for research purposes, Editor

Keith Jamieson - An Appreciation

Keith was born in Dublin on 15th February 1926 and died peacefully at Kingston-on Thames on 23rd March 2004. After leaving school Keith left Ireland for England and became a skilled craftsman in boat building on the Thames.

It was here that he was to meet Joan, who worked in the boatyard office and was to become his wife.

Through evening class studies Keith moved into draughtmanship and design. Later he went into go into the aircraft industry and worked on engineering drawings for Concorde. The recent farewell flights of Concorde could be seen from their garden in Hampton and Keith was apparently still keen to point out the wing leading edge that been constructed from his drawings!

Keith had been a member of Kingston and District Philatelic Society since 1966 and as we would expect has been actively involved with them. In fact he was President at the time of his death.

In other areas of life he and Joan were active in their local church, St.Mary's, Hampton. For many years they cleaned the memorial brasses and it is perhaps only co-incidence that one is to a passenger on the Leinster and of course Keith's particular collecting interest was in the Holyhead and Kingstown Packet service.

When his sons got involved with Scouting it was perhaps inevitable that Keith would not just sit back but become involved in administration and fund raising. In fact at the time of his death he was still receiving enquires and donations towards this years Giant Jumble Sale! Keith was a great servant to the Circle as General Secretary from 1979 to 1990. He also carried out duplication of the Journal for many years and the News for many more, over 20 in fact!

In the early years he was exchange secretary and he had been the Southern Area secretary for several spells arranging and supporting the London Area meetings.

His great service was recognised by election as President for 1996-97.

Keith would always support those working for the Circle and his enthusiasm and love for Irish Philately influenced so many of us.

While these organisations have lost a great supporter and servant we have lost a friend.

Peter J.WOOD

WILLIAM PERCY FRENCH 1854 – 1920

‘Remember me is all I ask, and yet - If that remembrance prove a task - Forget!’

Those words of William Percy French have haunted me for the past fifteen years since I first read an article by the late Vera Leonard in "Irish Philately" on Percy's life.

Of course I had heard of the song "Where the Mountains of Moune sweep Down to the Sea" but until then had just thought of it as just another Irish ditty, written by an unknown songster.

However that article and Michael Leonard's souvenir card which he had produced for the 29th AGM held in Chester in 1989 set me on a crusade which unfortunately ended this week.



The Percy French Memorial Engine, Co. Clare, Ireland

Photo: Dr. John J. Lee, Dublin, Ireland

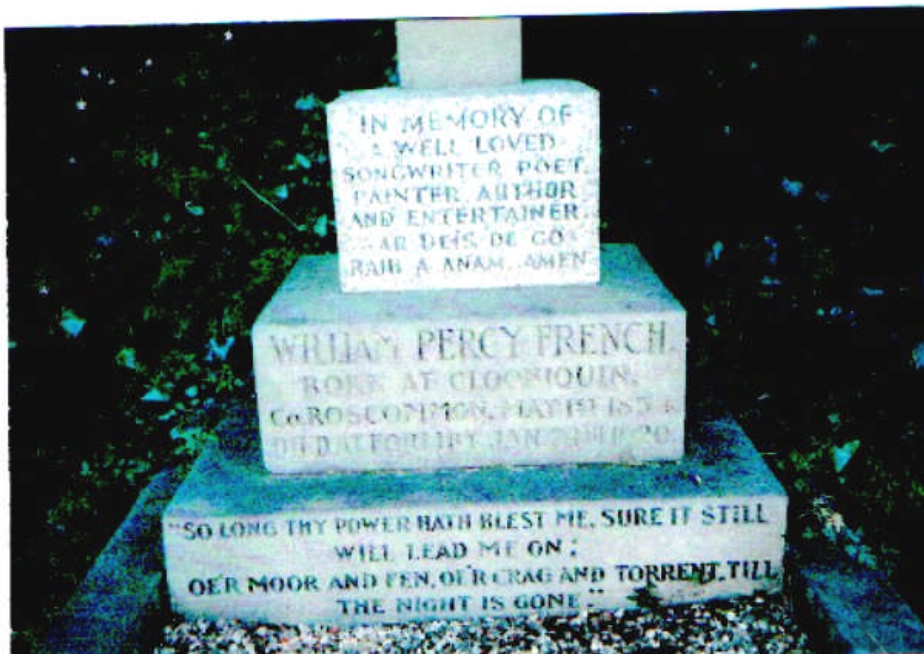
I found out that Percy was buried in St Luke's Churchyard at Formby in Lancastershire, just along the from the coast at Stockport where I was living at the time, so I visited it and took some photographs of his grave.

Having read the book by Brendan O'Dowda, found some photos of Percy's watercolours and from then on I decided here was an Irish man was worthy of recognition by having a stamp issued to commemorate his life and work.

My first letter to the stamp suggestion scheme of An Post is dated 1994, in an effort to get an issue for the 1997 painting themes but I received a reply that his watercolours were not in that criteria.

Again in 2001 I tried for the 2004 issue, which would be the 150th year of his birth and I received a reply that he would be considered in due course.

I wrote again in 2003 enquiring whether a stamp would be issued and today, I received a reply that although it was considered. Percy French, entertainer, poet, songwriter, watercolour artist and patriotic Irishman had not been deemed worthy of inclusion in the 2004 stamp issue!



To say that I am bitterly disappointed is an understatement, when one considers all the rubbish (I nearly wrote a naughty word) that has appeared on stamps emanating from An Post in recent years.



" BRINGING HOME THE TURF "

My thoughts make me to wonder if his name had been Michael O'Mouse, would An Post be queuing up to have his face printed on their sticky bits of paper?

However I must not get downhearted because as Percy French so immortally said 'Remember me is all I ask?'

Perhaps someone will remember his 200th anniversary in 2054!

George ETOE

24 October 2003

Dear Mr Etoe

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding a stamp to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Percy French in 2004.

Our Philatelic Service seeks suggestions from all major institutions in the State and the general public. All suggestions are vetted by an independent committee, the Philatelic Advisory Committee, which recommends the subjects for inclusion in our stamp programmes. Following ratification by the Board of An Post, the programme is then forwarded to the Government for final approval. In order to allow sufficient time for research, design and production our programmes are planned well in advance of the year of issue, normally 2/3 years. The 150th anniversary of the birth of Percy French was among the subjects considered by the Philatelic Advisory Committee for inclusion in the 2004 Stamp Programme. However, it was not among the subjects recommended for inclusion in the Programme in the final analysis.

We receive a huge volume of proposals to issue stamps from many different sources. I am sure you will appreciate that because the number of stamps which can be issued in any one year is necessarily limited, many worthy subjects cannot be accommodated.

Finally, may I thank you for your interest in this matter and I am sorry I cannot give you a more favourable response.

Yours sincerely



Brenda Dwyer
Stamp Design and Production

Oireachtas committee warned that An Post is on a knife edge

EMMET OLIVER

An Post has been forced to use overdraft facilities and the proceeds of property sales to pay the wages of its 10,000 staff over recent months, it was revealed yesterday.

Chief executive Mr Donal Curtin said there was no cash in the business in recent months and for the first time in the company's history overdraft facilities had to be called upon.

He also told the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Communications that 1,350 people working in An Post would be made redundant and all non-core subsidiaries needed to be sold. He said the company was on a "knife-edge" and any "slippage" in its survival plan or "adverse market developments" could have serious implications.

"The company is in deep financial difficulty and its future is at risk. The reality is that the company must solve its own problems by taking the actions that are necessary to achieve financial stability," he said.

"If progress in implementation

is slower than planned, or if there are more negative market developments than anticipated, then there will be a need for adjustments to the plan, which will impact on staff and customers," he said.

In response to questions from committee chairman Mr Noel O'Flynn, TD, Mr Curtin said in the second half of 2003 that An Post called on money from property sales to meet its commitments. He said the company was running an overdraft for the last six weeks of 2003.

Financial figures released by the company at the meeting show that property disposals are expected to total €151 million for 2003. The sale of a large office on Cork's Eglinton Street is believed to be a major contributor to this.

A spokesman for the company explained after the meeting that An Post had surplus property to sell following a restructuring of its mail processing operations and the financial crisis was not the trigger for this decision.

He said the company experienced a deficit in terms of cash

flow and had to use funds from property sales to meet its commitments in the latter half of 2003. He rejected any suggestion the disposals were part of a "fire sale". Mr Curtin earlier told the meeting: "The reality is the cash is not there."

Mr Curtin was also asked about the management team at An Post during 2003. He said the people who compiled financial data previously submitted to the committee were no longer "active" in the company.

He later revealed that An Post chief financial officer Mr Roman Byrne has been on sick leave since September 2003. He said several members of the management team had been re-assigned and others had left of their own volition. He said nobody received a "golden handshake" but anyone who left before their contract had expired received normal compensation.

Mr Curtin revealed that of the €46.4 million losses forecast for 2003, about €36 million will be accounted for by the company's letter post business and the rest by the SDS parcel service. He said

price competition from private operators in the parcel sector was causing major problems.

The meeting was due to be addressed by the Communications Workers Union, but a letter to the chairman from the union said it wanted to hear what management had to say first.

Mr Curtin said agreement on the change programme in the letters division needed to be agreed by February so the benefits could kick in by mid-2004.

He added that a price increase would also be submitted to ComReg by the middle of 2004. He declined to say precisely how much this might be, but said the company needed to be compensated for the wage rises resulting from pay agreements.

Mr Curtin also defended the company's plan to exit from the collection of the television licence fee. He said that while on the surface this service was profitable, the cost of debt collection in relation to licences made the service unprofitable. He said the cost of putting inspectors on the ground to check on evasion was very high.