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INSIDE THIS ISSUE – PROOFS ETC. IN THE BRITISH LIBRARY,
COUNTY NOTES – CORK,



Steel and rubber cancels from Drinagh and a cover (ex. Stafford Johnson) from Lyre (Clonakilty)

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I have already informed the members of the Committee that I will resign as Editor at the next AGM in May; to be held in Chester. This is due to my purchase of a property in France and the ongoing circumstances to which this will lead, hence my time will be taken up far more because of this. So if any member out there who would like to inform the Committee or myself of their interest in becoming Editor, please do so. A lot of the work I do – for the want of a better phrase – is held on my computer and can easily be transferred to another system, should this be of help.

Well Stampa is over for another year and as usual I enjoyed being there and meeting up with old friends, members and either browsing or trawling through the dealers stands. A wealth of material relating to the members of the armed forces, including those who were training as pilots in Ireland during and after the First World War, is still “out there and available on dealers stands”, for those that want to browse. I managed to find four to six postcards, generally costing well less than €10’s each, all due to the information in “Fighter Pilot Training Camps” which suits my pocket admirably and will no doubt lead me into any aspect of Irish social philatelic history.

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

George Etoe - An Appreciation.

George was a great servant to the Circle as Treasurer from 1992 to 2005. Many members got to know him through this as he would often correspond rather than simply take the subscriptions. His contribution to the Circle was of course so much wider, supporting “Irish Philately” with articles which demonstrated his research but often showed a touch of humour helping to show that our hobby is supposed to be fun.

At the convention weekends he was always prepared to show material either in competitions or as a display and truly reflected the idea that the important thing was the taking part. Writing up and displaying ones material to its best advantage in a personalised way to entertain and interest the viewers. Enthusiasm for the Nelson society and membership of the Cinderella Stamp Club came together in the labels which adorned many of his letters.

Those of us who have been privileged to be members of the Circle at the same time as George will certainly remember him.

Peter Wood

Post Office Circulars

Looking through Post Office circulars in the British Post Office Museum and Archives, whilst searching for information on British Reply Coupons and Postal Stationary. I came across a couple of circulars which may be of some interest. Post Office circulars were issued weekly for the information of all Post Office employees but it is not clear from the circular, when they ceased to be issued in Ireland.

15 February 1922 Irish Free State – Issue of Overprinted Stamps

Supplies of Postage Stamps overprinted in Gaelic characters with the following inscription

Rialtas
Sealadac
na
h'Eireann
1922

will shortly be issued to Postmasters in the Irish Free State. Postmasters in Great Britain and in Northern Ireland should note that such overprinted stamps are valid for payment of postage, and that correspondence so prepaid shall be dealt with in normal course.

29 March 1922 Overprinted Stamps (Irish Free State)

The Provisional Government of the Irish Free State gave notice that in the next issue of overprinted stamps the 2½d, 4d and 9d will have the words “Rialtas Sealadac na h'Eireann” printed in red ink instead of black ink.

Red overprint of the series mentioned will be on sale on and from the 1st April; and the black overprints of these series will also continue to be on sale until the stock is exhausted. There will be no alteration in the overprints of stamps of other values.

6 December 1922 Irish Free State – Issue of a new 2d postage stamp

A new twopenny postage stamp has been brought into use in the Irish Free State. The stamp is coloured blue and has the design of a map of Ireland.

Postmasters in Great Britain and Northern Ireland should note that such stamps are valid for payment of postage in the Irish Free State, and that correspondence so prepaid shall be dealt with in normal course.

25 April 1922 British Stamps on Postal Packets from the Irish Free State

When letters etc. from places in the Irish Free State are received marked for surcharge because they are prepaid in British stamps not overprinted for use in the Irish Free State allowance should be made, when these charges are collected, for the British stamps which they bear; and these stamps should be obliterated before delivery. For instance, on a letter bearing a twopenny British stamp and surcharged 4d as unpaid only 2d should be collected, 2d being allowed for the British stamp.

No charge should be collected on delivery unless the letter has been marked for taxation by the Post Office of the Irish Free State.

George KING

Proofs etc. in the British Library

Some years ago, sometime in the '60's, the British Library acquired the archives of the Inland Revenue Stamp Office, including the books in which registration copies of the new dies and overprints were recorded. The Stamp Office was responsible for production of British Stamps (Revenue and Postage) and Postal Stationary in the 19th century, rather than the General Post Office. The Royal Mint made most of the dies. At that time, I was actually looking at the overprints on British Stationary (for Levant, Morocco, Bechuanaland etc.).

However, in one of the Stamp Office Registration books, (List 1, volume 29, page 109) and still not conserved after 40+ years, - there is quite a backlog – I spotted the green Irish Revenue Stamps of 1d, 2d, 6d & £1 but with no actual registration date recorded; by order of the board 28.04.1922. The previous record is dated 1 May 1922 and the following entry in the book is dated 28 June 1922.

Earlier in the book I found:

6 Feb 1922 (page 100)	6d, 1/-, 2/6d, 10/- 15/-, colours other than green, Registration of Deeds Ireland
8 Feb 1922	1/6d & £1 both orange, Registration of Deeds Ireland

After casual conversation with authorial staff about what else I collected I was shown original artwork and proofs for the first Irish stationary dies, for envelopes, telegrams, post cards and wrappers. Produced by and endorsed "Royal Mint"; these were the Inland Revenue Stamp Office copies.

I also saw artwork for the 2d embossed die, dated 21 April 1923; several times lifesize, from the Royal Mint but backstamped "Inland Revenue Stamping Department, Dublin 21 April 1923.

There was also artwork for the ½d, actual size, achieved by amendment to a print but with no obvious date.

There were black proofs for:

½d embossed		Used for envelopes
2d embossed	19 January 1924	Used for envelopes
5d embossed	11 December 1923	Used for registered envelopes
1s embossed	11 January 1924	Used for telegrams
½d typographed		Used for wrappers
1d typographed	7 January 1924	Used for postcards
1½d typographed	14 January 1924	Used for postcards

all neatly mounted on card but tucked inside old envelopes. Also seen were copies from Nickel Electors:

1d	29 February 1924	100
1½d	15 March 1924	50
2d	7 March 1924	100

There is also one colour sheet, for the typographed issues, with a draft of the carta puist heading and the SE symbol between. The P has a dot above it and the sheet is endorsed "colour okay but note die changes, spacing changes already agreed". The versions of the stamps on this colour sheet have a d symbol for the penny next to the values on each of the dies. There is a second 1s endorsed to the effect that it is concave.

The whole of this is stacked in a box - the size of an old fashioned laundry box; for those old enough to remember the door to door laundry collections – along with loads of other packets, all of which contain black proofs for Irish Revenues, National Savings Stamps, Savings Certificates and the first Irish Definitive Postage Stamps. As a stationary collector, I did not recognize much of the Revenue material myself. It is listed but not very well. The way to refer to it seems to be Inland Revenue Stamping Department Archive List of Stamps, 3C, 1 - 10 for stationary, 3D 182.

Anyone who wants to see the Library's material is welcome but they will need to obtain a British Library Reader's Ticket first. Be sure to turn up with evidence of address, 2 utility bills (gas, electric, water, telephone or similar bill) and evidence of your signature i.e. bank card, credit card etc. then just complete the necessary forms. In real-time, including an awful computer photograph, it took less than 45 minutes.

You will then need to make an appointment to see part of the philatelic collections, with either David Beech or one of his assistants. Paul Skinner was the assistant who showed me the material. Note: no pens or biros are allowed within the Library, only pencils.

George KING

COUNTY NOTES - COUNTY CORK

The Former Bandon Head Office Area

As noted previously the cover the whole of County Cork would exceed an entire issue of Irish Philately, hence I am splitting Cork into what I hope will prove to be manageable 'chunks'. The first of these covers the former Bandon head office area which until it was stripped of its status (c2000) covered the Clonakilty and Dunmanway areas, but not Kinsale. Many of the rural offices have been closed in recent years and others will surely follow as An Post reduces the network. Since c2003, no office in the area cancels outgoing mail. I will follow the format used for previously for County Carlow and as ever welcome comments.

Ardfield A 'rubber office' until c1950 – at least 9 different were used post 1922 the most interesting of which gave an almost egg shaped impression - seen October 1928 to May 1930 (fig 1)



fig 1

Ballinacarriga Closed 1967 and never common. The former office was unmistakable when visited in 2002 (see below)



Ballinadee A hard mark to find and all strikes seen in recent years are poor.

Ballinascarthy Only two postmarks appear to have been used after 1922.
Closed in July 2001.

Ballineen Possibly issued with a duplex (462) immediately on its opening in 1858-59; this was one of the thin bar types (fig 2 overleaf). Brumell's date of 1874 for this is far too late. RSO postmark in use 1901-08.



fig 2

Bandon Head Office A very old office, open by 1659 with postmarks known from c1703. At least six skeleton marks are known in the years 1906-15 and the triangle 'BYS' was in use until to the mid 1960s. That said, I have found no unusual marks from this former head office.

Bandon – Kilbrogan TSO Closed c1994, it was situated in a side street at the top of Kilbrogan Hill and the site can still be identified thanks to a postbox in the wall of a house. The postmark is only found on parcels and registered mail and in consequence is scarce.

Bredagh Cross Not opened until 1953, it was closed c1991. The mark is however relatively easy to find.

Butlerstown A 'rubber' office, 8 different noted between 1912 and 1950 (fig 3). A skeleton was in use in 1973.

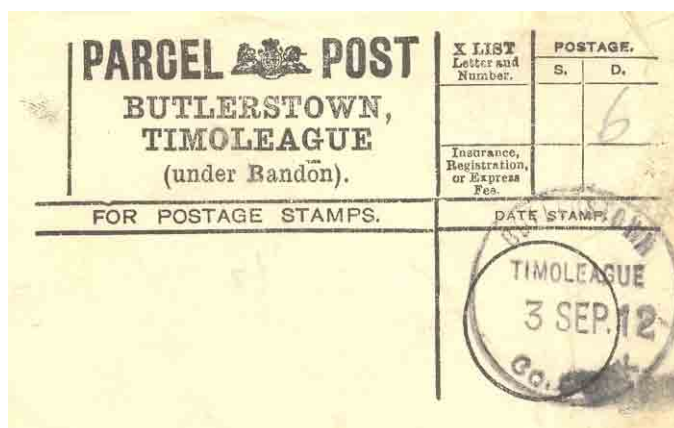


fig 3

Caheragh Another 'rubber' office, 9 being noted between 1918 and 1943 including a rubber skeleton in 1926-7 (fig 4) which apparently lasted 15 months (so much for the rubber skeletons only being in use for a few days (!) although that was often the case). The replacement mark known from December 1927 has unusually small lettering (fig 5).



fig 4



fig 5

Carey's Cross

Open between 1877 and 1891, it supposedly had a numeral postmark. Has anyone ever seen it?

Castlefreke

Usually known locally by its Irish name of Rathbarry. I have recorded only one postmark which was in continuous use from 1929 until at least 1987.

Castletown Kinneigh

7 rubber postmarks are recorded between 1921 and 1950. Purple ink has been noted in 1985-87.

Clonakilty

The present post office is in a disused Presbyterian church. Prior to 1847 postmarks read Cloughnakilty (fig 6). Goodbody records a RSO mark; this is scarce, the only example seen (1911) being on registered mail which indicates it was used only on the counter. The universal machine read Clanna Chaoilte from 1971 to 1977, thereafter Cloich na Coillte and is known with a local publicity slogan in the early 1980s.

fig 6



Coolkellure

Closed in 1912, no live postmark is recorded for this office.

Coppeen

A simple postmark history; rubbers until c1951 (7 noted including the proof book strike of 1900) thence a steel handstamp which was still in use in 1991.

Courtmacsherry

Surprisingly closed in 2000. A double ring mark with time in code is found from 1894 to 1901 and then the same mark is found without code used as late as May 1930 (figs 7 and 8). Meanwhile a RSO mark is noted 1907-11.

fig 7



fig 8



Derinacarah

Closed c1998, rubber marks were used until c1950. The postmarks are easy enough to find.

Desertserges

Another 'rubber' office, there is little of note to report.



fig 9



fig 10



fig 11

Drimoleague The double ring postmark showed time in code until at least 1905. A skeleton is noted for 1925-27 (fig 9), thereafter there is nothing of note.

Drinagh The earliest mark I have recorded is a steel mark reading Drinagh/ Dunmanway RSO which I have seen used 1922-25 but must date from prior to 1905 (when RSOs were abolished) (fig 10). Rubber marks were then used 1928 to 1938 (fig 11 shows an example struck in bright violet) and a skeleton is recorded in January 1940.

Dunmanway An RSO mark was used 1904-11 and is common. Scarcer is the '200' triangle known used c1930-50; Dunmanway may have been the only town in Ireland to have shown the old 1844 series office number in its triangular postmark rather than the telegraphic code letters (fig 12).

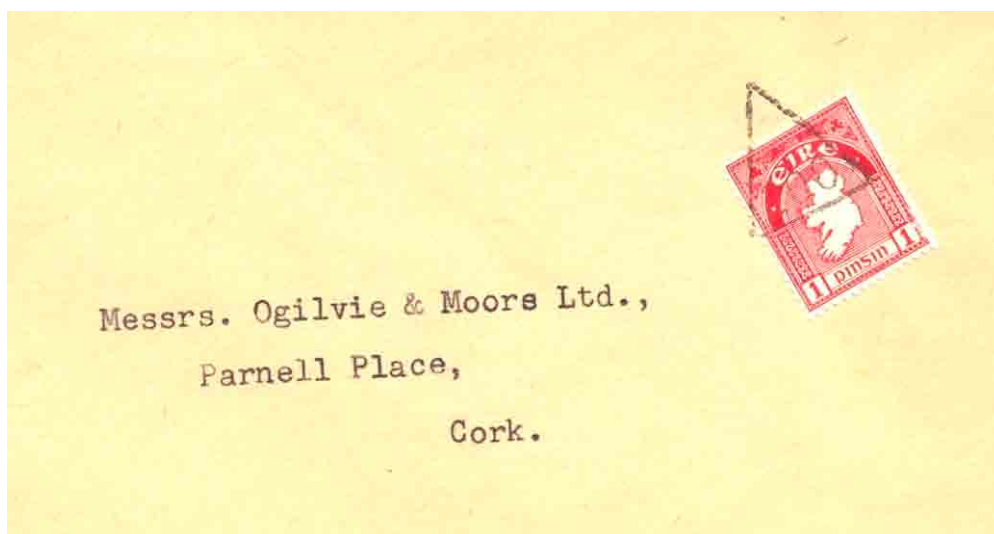


fig 12

Enniskean The twin village to Ballineen, a straight line mark is recorded in 1855. A fine lined duplex is known used 1866-80 (but assumed introduced in 1858-9). The RSO mark is recorded 1905-15 and a skeleton is recorded for 1936. Modern marks are very common, thanks to a postmaster who appears to have taken care to ensure all outgoing mail received a clear postmark.

Gaggin Open 1947, closed 1987 and in consequence hard to find. A skeleton is noted used on 3 December 1947 and then a huge rubber postmark (41mm diameter) in 1949-50. Sadly I do not have a copy fit for display but this is shown in Mackay's book on Irish rubber cancellations. The Head Postmaster at Bandon was however kind enough to provide me a last day strike of the steel postmark (fig 13 overleaf).

fig 13



fig 14



Geragh

Closed by 1925, I have only ever seen one postmark (fig 14). I hope it illustrates well and suspect it is scarce!

fig 15

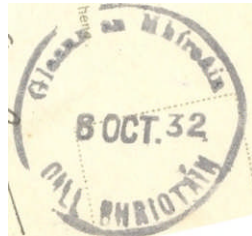


fig 16



Howe's Strand

Although closed by 1962 this is not especially scarce. 5 different rubber cancellations have been noted between 1922 and 1951, one of which is unusual in having lower case lettering at the top and capitals at the base (fig 15).

Kilbrittain

A numeral postmark <264> was issued c1885 but is not recorded in use. The RSO mark, used 1902-12 is however not rare. A small double ring postmark is recorded 1922-37 (fig 17) and is one of the later uses of an English language postmark in the County.

Kilmacsimon Quay

A charmingly situated office adjacent to the Bandon River, the postmarks are hard to find, that of 27 November 1981 reading IX 81/ 27.

Lackenduff

No live postmark recorded and closed in 1923.

Lisbelad

7 rubber postmarks are noted in use between 1922 and 1950, the majority of which can be found struck in purple. The office closed c1999 and I was greeted most pleasantly by the former postmistress when I visited in 2002. (see below).

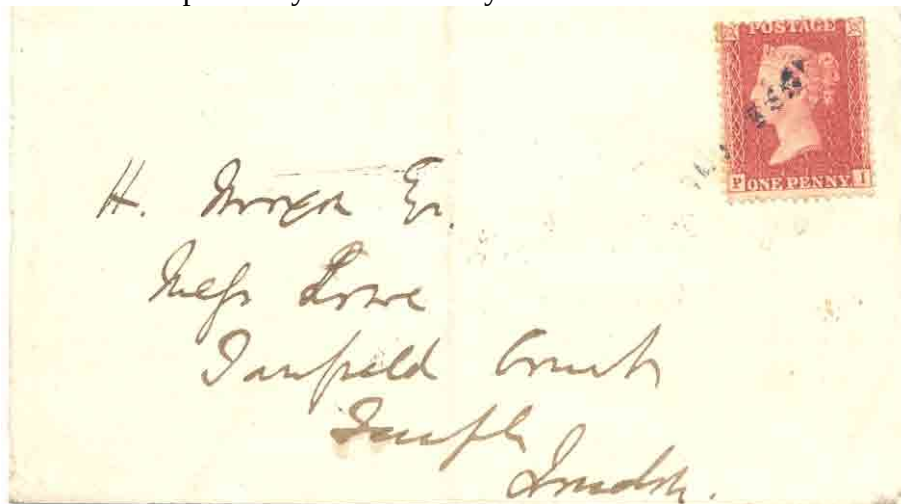


Lislevane
1992. Not scarce.

The English mark was in use until 1928 and the replacement Irish mark until at least

Lisselane Open for just 4 years c1855-59 this office was just one of a handful known to have used its straight line 'village' namestamp to cancel stamps. The example shown (fig 17) is poor but perhaps no more than three such covers are known. It is interesting to speculate why this tiny office cancelled stamps. It is known that the Skibbereen to Bandon mail coach passed the door and it must be assumed mail was sent direct to Cork and beyond, bypassing the head office at Bandon thus necessitating 'local cancellation'. The office was replaced by Ballinascarthy c1859.

fig 17



Lyre (Clonakilty) Shown is a rare cover addressed in his hand to Dr Stafford Johnson, the legendary postmark collector of the 1920s and 30s (fig 18). He appears to have kept very few covers so possibly thought of this postmark as being 'scarce'. In fact 4 different rubber cancellations have been seen used between 1928 and 1947 and the replacement steel mark used 1952 until closure is not especially rare.

fig 18



Mount Pleasant Closed 2003, it lay on a back road to the north west of Bandon (not marked on the Ordnance map) and is a tough mark to find (fig 19)

fig 19



Newceston The postal address was, for many years, Newceston, Enniskean and a mark reading Baile na Lústasaigh./INIS CHÉIN – mixed case and mis-spelled (Lústasaigh for Iústasaigh) is known used in 1929 (fig 20 on back page).

Reenascreena A tough mark to find, but 7 different rubber cancellations are known used between 1922 and 1945, the last variant (seen in 1943 and 45) has the year in four figures.

Rosscarbery The mileage mark used 1822 to 1834 uses just one ‘S’ in the town name (fig 21 on back page). Time in code is noted in the double ring datestamp used 1895 to 1900. A skeleton was in use in the spring of 1929. The replacement handstamp was still in use in 1998 by which time the outer rim had totally disappeared (fig 22 on back page). A self inking datestamp in the modern scalloped style had also arrived by this date.

Rossmore Ballineen served as the post town at one point and the 1922 mark reads Rossmore/Ballineen SO; by 1927 a skeleton was in use and by May 1928 the first of two Irish language postmarks used since. The office appeared very run down when I visited in 2002.

Shanlaragh Closed Christmas 2000, this is a hard mark to find pre-1950. The replacement for the 1950s steel handstamp introduced in 1991 and presumably in use until closure may prove harder still to find (fig 23 on back page).

Templemartin Closed September 2003, I was lucky enough to stumble across this office (not marked on a map) some years earlier. Three rubber postmarks are recorded used to 1948 and then just one steel postmark. This office may have only used its mark on parcels and registered mail during its last thirty years of operation. (fig 24 on back page).

Timoleague Used in English until at least 1936, but be careful. The double ring mark seen in 1899 was recut at some point (figs 25 and 26 on back page); note shorter ‘T’. Marks from recent years are common, but I have seen a circular undated packet stamp with vertical bars at top and bottom used c1930.

Stan CHALLIS

Masthead:

As stated in an earlier issue of the Journal, the intention is to change the stamp illustrations at the top of the front cover each calendar year. So our publisher Brian Warren is seeking ideas. Please send him your suggestions by e-mail to brian.warren@ie.pwc.com or by post to 2 Dargle Valley, Marley Grange, Dublin 16. Ireland.

Stampa:

The date for next year’s Stampa is Friday 12th to Sunday 14th October 2007, for those of you who may want to make a note. Once again it will be at the RDS in Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.



fig 21



fig 22



fig 20



fig 23



fig 25

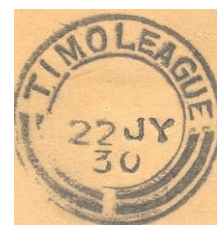


fig 26



fig 24