



Volume
2013

Irish Philately

THE JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

www.irishphil.com

Issue No: 2
June



**A previously unknown numeral cancellation – ‘484’ of Scartaglen (Co Kerry)
noted by Erinman for sale on E-bay (Auction Review is on page 46)
with added comment on page 48**

IN THIS ISSUE

Editorial	26	Olympic and Paralympic Gold – Brian Warren	37
A Letter to Western Canada – Julian Tweed	27	Letterboxes of Ireland, part 15 – Brian Warren	40
Belfast, Garmoyle Street	28	Tempo, Co Fermanagh	41
Interview – Stephen Ferguson	29	Obituary – Paul Appleby – Héloïse Mitchell	42
Book Review – From a Rock to a Hard Place by Tony Cassidy, reviewed by Ronny Vogt	32	Beyond the Catalogues – Mangan and the Republic Issues of 1949 – John Lennon	43
Letters to the Editor	33	Auction Watch - Erinman	46
Irish Postal rates 2013 – Brian Warren	35	484 – A Few Notes - Editor	48

Irish Philately is published by the Editor for the Irish Philatelic Circle. Articles herein are the copyright of the Authors and may not be represented elsewhere without express permission. The views expressed herein are those of the Editor and/or the Individual Authors and are not necessarily those of the Committee of the Irish Philatelic Circle.

EDITORIAL

With this issue, somewhat to my surprise, I complete five years as your editor. I recall taking on the task as 'a retirement project' at the AGM in October 2007 noting at the time that I planned to be retired by the following autumn and able to concentrate on 'Philately'. Five years on and I find myself still drifting into the office one or two days a week and generally getting in the way. So much for the best laid plans of mice and men!

At such times, it is appropriate to consider what has and what has not been achieved in those five years. I do believe we have a better journal today; the greatest single improvement is the decision to move to 100% colour. For this, we have to thank Colonel Bill Zeller's most generous donation, made some years ago, which your committee decided should be used to achieve this. Not only has it made for a more visually attractive product but it has also made your editor's life so much easier as now I know that the illustrations will appear as they are in real life. It is important that we continue to use the colour to the full.

I must also give my thanks to our regular contributors. You will know who they are from the many contributions that have appeared during the last five years and that without them we would have no Journal. It is been very gratifying for me to be able to whisk an e-mail away to several of our regulars with the plea 'I am a bit short for the next issue' and in a matter of days I have been sent material to fill the blank pages which I would otherwise desperately have to attempt to fill myself.

Equally, I must thank our occasional contributors, particularly several non-members who I have contacted with the request that they produce a few lines often to receive more than a few pages. With their help, it has been possible to vary the content and provide a much better balance.

I cannot leave the 'Thank Yous' without a word for Brian Warren who in addition to penning many an

article, arranges our printing and dispatch (the latter with help from John Lennon) in Dublin. Without that support, nothing would arrive in your letter box. Thank you, gentlemen both.

So, where have we not achieved? I have been disappointed, above all, that it has proved impossible to create a lively 'Questions and Answers' forum. All too often my post box is all but empty and I am close to concluding that there are very few amongst our membership that still put pen to paper. This is sad because any Society needs interchange amongst its membership to survive and I am left with the feeling that the thirst for knowledge that led our forebears on to greater philatelic deeds may have waned. Please prove me wrong!

Another surprise is that so few members have sent me examples of their favourite items. I hope we are all proud of our collections and what we have put together, often over many years. Are we all closet collectors? I hope not, for one of the pleasures of collecting must be the talking to others about one's collection and 'showing off' the prize items. In my own case, a favourite is a cover addressed to a train, which I hope to be able to show you as I continue the series of articles 'Making the Mail Go Faster'. The cost was negligible and the potential story fascinating but could you hope to find another one!

Finally, you will see that this edition is somewhat of a 'Postbox' edition, an area that is not 100% true philately but nevertheless, I believe, of interest to many of our members and unless we record the boxes now, they probably never will be. I hope you will all enjoy the summer – we are surely due for some sun in Britain and Ireland this year - but also that you will find sufficient time to pen an article or two for our Journal on your favourite subject(s). Enjoy!

Stan - 24 May 2013

OUR OFFICERS

President:	Brian Warren, Dublin	brian.warren2@upcmail.ie
Vice president:	Des Quail, Banbridge, Co. Down	jdq2008@aol.com
Secretary:	Douglas Law, Co Durham, England	douglaw@talktalk.net
Treasurer/Membership secretary	Martin Taylor, Leicester, England	info@dmisc1.com
Editor and webmaster:	Stan Challis, Guernsey	stan@roskelly.co.uk
Auctioneer:	Martin Taylor, Leicester, England	info@dmisc1.com
Irish area secretary:	John Lennon, Dublin	johnglennon@eircom.net
Southern area secretary:	Peter Wood, London	peter.wood95@btinternet.com
Committee members:	Barry Cousins, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Jacques Renollaud, Paris;	

AN EARLY LETTER TO WESTERN CANADA – Julian Tweed



I bought this letter, written and posted in Belfast on 4 June 1825, because of my interest in mail crossing the Irish Sea. At the time neither I nor the e-Bay seller realised the significance of the cryptic pen endorsement above and to the left of the address and which took the full story of the letter much further.

The letter was originally addressed care of the Hudson's Bay Company in London and postage of 2/- was paid by the sender in Belfast for that stage of its journey. The postal charge was split between the Irish and British Post Offices as indicated by a now rather faded manuscript endorsement in red ink to the left of the address; 9d for the 80 Irish miles to Dublin and 1/3d thereafter, the latter made up of 2d packet boat fee, 1d Menai Bridge charge and 1/- mileage to London from Holyhead. Before leaving Belfast the letter was also date-stamped 4 June 1825 in black and marked with a black boxed "P PAID".

The letter passed through Dublin on 5 June, receiving a red dated octagon date-stamp, and arrived in London on 7 June where two red dated tomb-stone "PAID" marks were added. It was immediately forwarded unpaid to John Rae, the local agent for the Hudson's Bay Company in Stromness, Orkney. On the reverse there is a black circular London dispatch date-stamp for 7 June and a red Edinburgh circular arrival dated 9 June. The onward charges to Orkney were 1/6½d, including ½d Scottish wheel tax indicated by a black boxed "1/2" applied in London. Those charges are consistent with a routing via Wick and the Huna ferry to Kirkwall. There are no further Post Office marks.

Probably also in London, it was marked by a Hudson's Bay clerk at the top left with the already mentioned pen endorsement. This distinctive mark reads "YF" and stands for York Factory, the main Company trading post on Hudson's Bay itself, south of the modern settlement of Churchill. Several of the Company's major trading posts in North America were identified by abbreviated marks at that time. It is thought that these rarely seen marks were only applied to the top letter in each bundle of letters for each trading post, accounting for their relative scarcity. From Stromness, the letter was carried privately to Canada by the Hudson's Bay Company in its own vessels. Once at York Factory, the letter would have been carried by Company employees to the addressee, John Stuart, who was at this date in charge of its interests in Saskatchewan.

The letter was written by John Stuart's brother and begins (his spelling and punctuation):

'My dear Brother

I have now before me your letter of 1 August 1823, the last I have had the pleasure to receive from you, and the contents of that letter has been really too distressing to me to brood over it without any other information from you since.

In the first place, your sudden return from the N.W. to Hd Bay and your discouraging prospects in trade were to me a consideration of distress, much heightened by your disappointment in receiving my letters, which was twice a year and for two years miscarried. This made me suspicious of some foul play (as children say) and, having received none from you last season, am exceedingly concerned on

your account, but sincerely hope that this may reach you and that I may be fortunate in the ensuing Autumn so as to hear from you and better tidings.'

He continues with much family news before finishing:

'I must now conclude in hopes that I am not too late for the H. B. ship and that in return I may receive your reply in the course of the coming autumn. Mrs S & children join me in fondest love and best wishes for your welfare and happiness and in fond hopes of better encouragement in all your concerns.

I remain, my Dear John, your most affectionate Brother,

P. Stuart.'

So who was the recipient of the letter and what was his news from 1823 that was too awful for his brother to think about?

Though John Stuart (1780-1847) was born and died in Morayshire he spent most of his life in what would eventually become western Canada and the far north-west of the USA. In 1796 he joined the Canadian North West Company and by 1805 he had risen to be an important member of Simon Fraser's epic expedition to explore the lands across the Rockies that became British Columbia. On that expedition he became the first commander of the garrison at Fort St James on what was later called Stuart Lake after him. Further exploration with Simon Fraser followed in 1808 along what was thought to be the Columbia River but which turned out otherwise and was eventually named the Fraser.

Stuart spent most of the next decade in an area beyond the mountains, then called New Caledonia, in charge of various posts on behalf of the North West Company. During that time there was an intense rivalry with the Pacific Fur Company, which had been set up in the USA by John Jacob Astor and much of Stuart's time was taken up with fending off their encroachments and harassing them in turn. The North West Company eventually won out, largely as a result of the disruptive effects of the War of 1812 on American interests in the region and it purchased Pacific Fur in 1813.

From 1817 to 1820, Stuart was based at Pierre au Calumet in Alberta warding off encroachment from the east by another major rival, the Hudson's Bay Company. This time the rival eventually came out on top and the two companies merged in 1821 as the reformed Hudson's Bay Company. Stuart became a chief factor for the new enterprise in the west.

It seems that he had always prided himself on his good relations with the native population and he

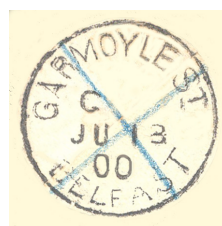
therefore felt perhaps overly responsible when two Company employees were murdered by two of the local Carrier Indians at Fort (now Prince) George in 1823. The incident prompted a breakdown and led him to ask for a more settled and less demanding posting. His account of the incident in his 1823 letter home is likely to have been the news that so disturbed his brother. As a consequence of his request, Stuart was sent to take control of the Saskatchewan District in 1824 and he would have been there when his brother's June 1825 letter reached him.

Later postings included taking charge of the Winnipeg District from 1826 to 1832 and the Mackenzie River District (now in Oregon) from 1832 to 1835. The latter posting was a demotion after Stuart fell out with the Governor, George Simpson, apparently because he disagreed over Simpson's abandonment of his "country wife".

In 1835, he returned to Scotland on health grounds and was followed in 1836 by his own "country wife", Mary Taylor. Ironically in the light of his earlier disagreement with Simpson, she returned to Canada in 1838 because Stuart refused to honour his previous promise to marry her formally. After Stuart's death in 1847, his sisters succeeded after considerable litigation in having his legacy of £500 to Mary reduced to £350.

I am aware that other letters sent to John Stuart exist, a number of which were once owned by the late Allan Steinhart. I would be most interested to know if the contents of any of the others throw more light on the "incident" referred to in this letter or on other aspects of the life of this intriguing pioneer of the Canadian West.

A SCARCE BELFAST POSTMARK



I recently located a scruffy but rare example of one of Belfast's scarcer Town Sub Office postmarks – Garmoyle Street. Located to the north of Clarendon Quay, the office was opened in 1897. It closed after a faked robbery on Sunday 18 July 1913 with the subsequent conviction of Mrs. Dardis (the postmistress) and her daughter on a charge of stealing postal orders. I am grateful to the late Tony Graham archive for this snippet of information – *Ed.* The illustration is computer-enhanced.

THE EDITOR'S INTERVIEW – STEPHEN FERGUSON



A recent visit to Dublin saw me call in at the GPO and meet with Assistant Secretary of An Post, Stephen Ferguson. We were soon in conversation:

SC Stephen, I think you are best known to the philatelic community in Ireland as the man who actually made the Philatelic Museum happen.

SF Not all my doing by any means. To some extent it was being at the right place at the right time. What we have actually achieved is small, certainly by international standards, but it gives visitors something to see; it seeks to tell the story of what the Post Office is all about, the tradition of service, the range of activities. We owe a debt of gratitude to An Post's current CEO Donal Connell who has been very supportive. Resources have always been tight particularly so in recent years. The idea had been talked about for 30 years or more but nothing had ever happened and finally resources became available, not as much as one might have wished of course but we were provided with sufficient funding to get started. I particularly wanted to show something of our range of services, not just postal but also include reference to such items as the Savings Bank, the Telephone Service when it came under our auspices, the Social Welfare payments that are paid. The Post Office has touched people in so many ways, in ways that no other organisation has been able to do, giving a real sense of belonging, loyalty and trust, particularly in the rural communities.

Premises must have been a problem?

Yes! There were at least two other serious attempts over past generations. Bill Kane (former IPC president) wanted to push ahead in the early 1980s, in the pre An Post days. Bill had been brought in as an expert but the then Department of P&T, or should I say, the Government of the day 'pulled the plug' on the money. Premises had been selected in Talbot Street and were nearly ready.

Was there not talk of using the Post Office Arcade behind the GPO?

Indeed yes; the idea originally dated back as far as the 1920s; a few historic artefacts were in fact set aside but it was a long term dream despite the importance of the Post Office Building after the events of 1916. Then it suddenly happened; I had looked at several external options but was able to fix my sights on the space in the GPO where the telephone kiosks had been. In recent years they had seen ever dwindling use. Our former partners, Telecom Eireann, appreciated what we were trying to do and were able to facilitate us with a revised public telephone arrangement in the Parcel Office. We were able to combine with the philatelic shop (which had been at the GPO for many years) and we had sufficient space for a small museum.

Was material difficult to get?

Yes and no! Some things had been set aside over a number of years and looked after in various places. Some things had not unsurprisingly got lost along the way. Clearly I wanted some stamps, datestamps and the like but also items such as philatelic artwork, printing plates etc. I drew on the goodwill of other bodies, the Revenue Commissioners (home of the old Stamping Branch), the National Museum, National Library etc. Some items came from the North. I note particularly the Robinson Library at Armagh. Lord Rosse (of Birr Castle fame), descendant of a former Postmaster General has lent a picture. Help has come from many sources, some unexpected and I cannot recall anybody saying 'no'. There has been total support from all parties once the decision to proceed was taken. Needless to say some material is on loan – in fact we can help institutions by showing items, when they do not have the space or facility themselves. I would have wished to have been able to include some larger items, post boxes, even postal furniture, sorting frames and workbenches but these were just too large for the available space.

Even so, there must have been quite a cost?

These were all met internally by An Post. In total we have spent close to a million Euro in development, fitting out, refurbishment and conservation work – a substantial investment for An Post at a time when volumes are dropping and the economy is not in the healthy state it was some years ago. We used a professional exhibition layout firm, chosen after a competitive tender process, and I am very pleased with the end result. There is also the ongoing cost of maintenance, keeping exhibits up to date and changed from time to time. I have also been lucky enough to have a small budget for the purchase of key specialised material which means we can display items that would not normally be seen by the public.

And the objectives?

Primarily twofold. First the obvious one of preserving and protecting historical items; secondly the wish to show what the Post Office has been doing for the last 200 years, that it is something to take pride in, to show our long term commitment to service – a PR element in fact. Visitor numbers are increasing. Bill Kane would have been so pleased! We are up to around 15,000 visitors per annum, not counting internal people (ie: An Post staff, guests business contacts etc) and the numbers are growing. We open for free during Heritage Week and other special events but otherwise we felt it right to make a small charge and put the gate there not so much to make money (which we don't) but to respect what is there and show we place a value on our *Letters, Lives & Liberty* exhibition. We did a free Valentine's Day card and hoped that the visitors bought a special stamp at the philatelic counter! Our visitor base is about 40% Irish, 20% UK and the rest from elsewhere. We see tourists from North America, Europe, Australia etc., as one would expect but also an increasing number from the Far East; they are some of our best customers at the Philatelic counter and encouragingly many of them are younger than the average European collector. A recent visitor was a lady who works for the Indian Post Office in a senior capacity and I was pleased to show her around. We have also had other 'VIP' visitors. If I had a disappointment, it would be the time it has taken for the Museum to become known amongst Dubliners and the general public.

It is clearly very close to your heart.

Very much so. Yes! I would like to expand, but that obviously involves cost. Space is a constraint. As I mentioned we have a collection of old Post Boxes and other items. The building is likewise a constraint. It does not belong to An Post - it is State property. The centenary of 1916 will call for something special and is clearly a one-off. Whatever

is done will largely depend on money being available from the State. Government committees are being set up to plan commemorative events and An Post will do all it reasonably can to help. That will be a unique opportunity to show the Post Office off; not just the building but also and perhaps more important, what we do.

Is much new material being found?

We are getting some donations but nothing really major. We get given old uniforms, rule books and the like and of course a few 'photos. I do want to broaden the interest throughout the community. We know that stuff is out there but the age old problem is getting it centralised and distinguishing the wheat from the chaff. The bulk of the paper file records were moved to National Archives some 20 or more years ago. I know that John Lennon is working through those files; it is complicated to sort through it. We do have a lot of administrative records that had been kept by the former Head Offices. I am trying to get them consolidated. Local pride has always run through the community and there can be a reluctance to let artefacts and old records go to Dublin. Occasionally items have been taken out for 'safekeeping' and disappear for a time though they can find their way to county and local museums. That is very understandable but rarely do we know what they have – there is no cross-fertilisation! Confidential records do have to be destroyed of course and that is always done in accord with controlled conditions. Local daybooks from the old Head Offices can be very interesting. We get such items sent to us as copies of instructions for postmen to meet trains, arrangements for the carriage of bags, all of local but rarely national interest. Then there are what I call the genealogical records – records of service going back over 100 years in many cases. This material is probably unavailable elsewhere. There is a duty to look after it and centralise where possible. We have had help from a professional archivist but needless to say funding is tight.

We have barely mentioned stamps!

We do in fact have two collections – the Irish issues as you would expect plus those sent to us by the UPU. This dates back to the time the Free State joined c1926/27. This is very rarely looked at, hence in 2011 An Post took the decision that all future new issues sent from the UPU would be sent to the National Museum. Quite simply we had no space. Our own current stamp issues are looked after by 'Philatelic' which supplies several hundred of each new issue to the UPU for distribution. I know they have all sorts of problems with stamps on rolls and self adhesive items!

Are you a philatelist yourself?

I collected as a youngster, swopped a bit as boys did in those days but a serious philatelist – no! Today, I will buy stamps that are of interest to me, both Irish and others but the real interest is the history of the Post Office as an institution (*this is quite evident from a glance at the books on the shelves in Stephen's office – Ed!*). I studied history for my degree and also Ancient Greek!

That brings me nicely to you and your career

I am a Dubliner, born and brought up. My father was a Methodist clergyman which led to my attending Wesley College and then I had the good fortune to go on to Trinity. After that, I trained as a teacher but taught for just one year in Dublin – History and English. I decided to apply for the Civil Service and sat the diplomatic and general service exams, finding myself assigned to the Post Office. Hence I became an administrative officer with the old Department of Posts and Telegraphs, starting just before the transfer to An Post. With this background I was always going to be an administrator and could not have crossed over into 'operations'. There were (and still are) specific lines of career advancement. Initially, I was in 'Establishment Branch' (Personnel) and then moved to what was the relatively new field of 'Business Planning'. Over the years I have also been in 'International Affairs' and made several visits to UPU Headquarters at Berne but never got to a UPU Congress. Nevertheless I found this aspect very interesting and do recall an evening out at the Russian Embassy pre Glasnost where there was an interesting collection of attendees! I have enjoyed the meetings with other postal administrators and discussions on the EU enforced liberalisation of the postal services sector. This has not been an entirely good thing for An Post but was inevitable. It brings one back to the conflict between the Post Office as a social service and the requirement to be commercial. I do not feel that anyone has satisfactorily been able to address this whether in Ireland or elsewhere.

But you now serve as Assistant Secretary?

It was about 2000 that I was transferred to 'CoSec' and appointed to my present position. I am not a qualified Company Secretary but do enjoy the work and what it entails. My main role is to support the Company Secretary and the Board. I am much involved with the various subsidiary companies finding myself in many meetings and the necessary follow up therefrom. I fear there is an increasing amount of regulatory work which just has to be done.

We've diverted a bit but tell me what is new at An Post?

The focus has to be on replacing lost business. Mail volumes have dropped some 25% over the last five years – an enormous drop in a very short period – and with revenues down and costs largely fixed, the Company faces great challenges here. There is potential certainly in the packets and parcels market – the internet helps here – but that same technology drives business away from the traditional letter with bills, statements, invoices and so forth all moving on-line. We are also trying to get more services into post offices and keep them at the heart of the community. We entered the mobile phone market with our Postfone product aimed at a particular segment of the market but it is a tough business. Our venture into providing a limited foreign exchange service – basically sterling and dollars – at post offices has proved very popular and is doing well and savings products, provided through An Post for the State, have been in favour during the financial turmoil of recent times.

In the past government has supported the Post Office but is not allowed to do it now. This means pressure on local communities and the loss of rural post offices is the obvious result. We often advertise for local postmasters/ mistresses but cannot replace them. The salary is no longer attractive and there is an ever increasing volume of forms to complete. For example, I found myself speaking with a retiring postmistress in Donegal; she had 16 old age pensioners to pay out their pension, sold a handful of stamps and took in the occasional parcel. There have been attacks on shops in the area and the result is that the local post office has closed – it is a repeating story, sadly the way things are.

Finally family.....

My wife Lydia works as a librarian at Trinity College where she looks after its collection of early printed books. We met at Trinity and live in South Dublin. Our two daughters are still at school and have yet to plan their careers. I have had great support at home whilst planning the Museum – it has certainly been a passionate interest for me, really worth doing and I take much pride from it. Otherwise at home, I play the piano, also the organ - this I find really relaxing. As a collector, I go for books – I've far too many, I'm told, with lots unread – but, just like many stamp collectors, half the fun is in finding what you're missing!

Many thanks for a fascinating interview. I really do hope that we will all keep our eyes open for items which should be in the Museum and give it as much publicity as possible.

FROM A ROCK TO A HARD PLACE by TONY CASSIDY

a review by Ronny Vogt

The crash of Pan Am's Constellation NC88858 "Empress of the Skies" on 15 April 1948, at Shannon Airport is one of the major airline accidents in the West of Ireland. The 'Empress of the Skies' crashed en route from London to New York while on final approach onto runway 23 at Shannon Airport, in the early hours at 2.30am hitting a stone wall and catching fire immediately. 30 people on board were killed in the accident, the only survivor being Marc Worst, a Lockheed representative working at Shannon Airport and a colourful personality.

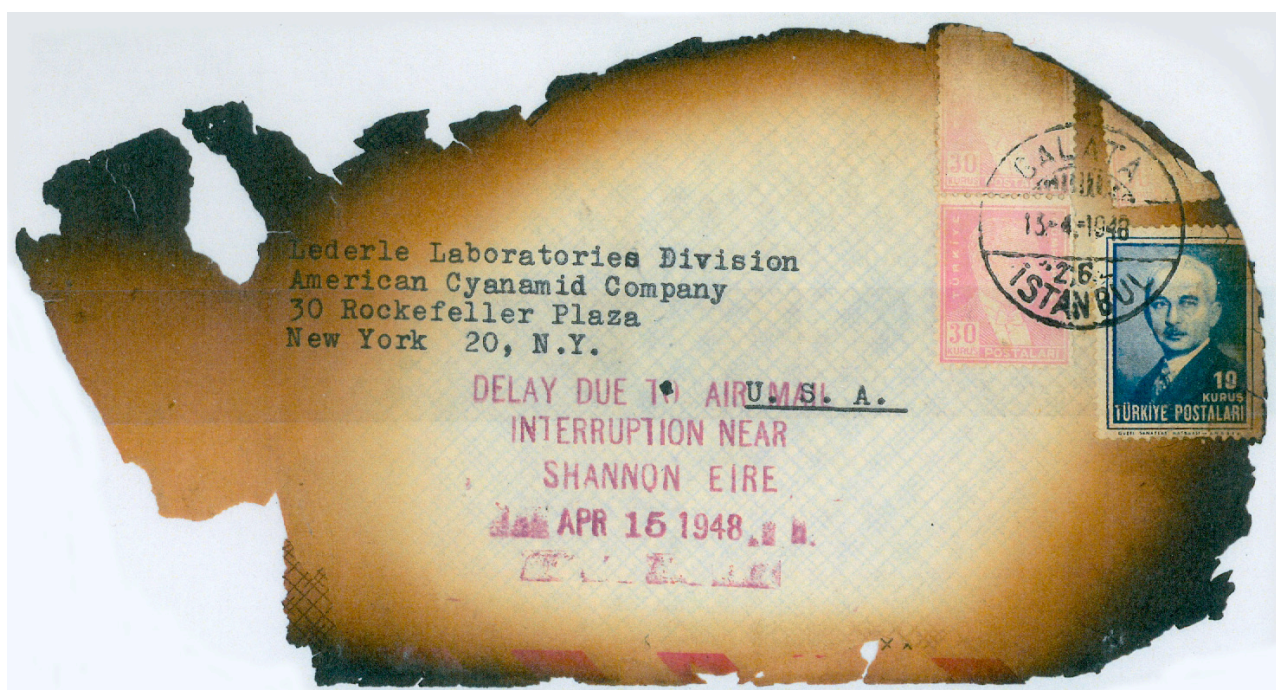
The 65th anniversary was commemorated in Ennis on 18 April 2013, with a high profile launch of our member Tony Cassidy's book 'From A Hard Rock To A Hard Place' (48 pages, published by the Clare Roots Society).

Tony chose a very different approach to describe the circumstances of this accident. First, he established that the first impact of the plane was a stone wall exactly 600m in line with runway 23 (and not 100m as erroneously described in my earlier book on "Irish Crash Airmails"). He was able to find out about this by tracking down Jack Hogan, a 90 year old retired farmer. The "Empress of the Skies" hit a rock at Moylan's Crag, just 200m away from the house where Jack lived with his father, Thomas Hogan and where he was sleeping in the early hours of 15 April

1948. Within minutes, he was the first to reach the crash site. Now, 65 years later, he explained that Shannon Airport had purchased their land in 1958 and demolished their house to make way for the new re-aligned runway 24/06 known locally as 'the jet runway' which opened in 1960. However, Jack was able to describe the exact spot where the 'Empress' hit the rock and came to rest and much more. Not surprisingly, Jack and Tony were in the focus of several interviews broadcasted by radio on Clare FM and RTE Radio.

Due to the fierce fire it was impossible to identify most of the victims of the crash. It was for this reason that a mass grave was prepared at Drumcliff Cemetery in Ennis. Tony pays homage to the victims by including short biographies of all passengers and crew members and it is this social aspect that makes the book very special and a real treasure. Grave and tombstone are very well maintained and preserved by local Clare people.

The book is a bargain at EUR 5 plus postage and may be bought via the Clare Roots Society website on www.clareroots.org (payment via Paypal). I understand that over 240 copies were sold within days and that the book is almost sold out.



I conclude by showing a cover, posted in Istanbul, salvaged from the crash of 15 April 1948

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

As a new member of *The Circle* and a collector of Seahorse Irish overprints, I was delighted to read Bryan Kearsley's article in the December 2012 issue of *Irish Philately*. Based largely on the information in his book, *Discovering Seahorses*, Bryan's characteristically forthright text blows away the cobwebs and anomalies which have lingered for too long in this fascinating philatelic area.

From the summary tables, it is now possible not only to convert the old Plate Numbers assigned to the many Seahorse issues into their Official Designations but also, at a glance, to relate the actual overprinting formats to these Plates. It is then immediately obvious that a few only received one type of overprint making such Plate-overprint combinations especially rare and desirable.

A prime example of this is the most spectacular of all Seahorse re-entries at R1/2 (*Hibernian T59a*; *SG 64a*) on the Bradbury Wilkinson (BW) 2/6d Plate 3/5 Left (State 2), formerly designated Plate 3A (see Kearsley, 2005; MacDonnell & Williams, 2008) and which was only overprinted with the *Saorstat* wide-date text by Thom.

Although 98,393 sheets of this Plate in its State 2 were printed in total by BW, it is likely that only 1200-1500 of these were sent to Ireland and received the Thom overprint. Of these, half (600-750) would have been 3/5 *Left*; conservatively then, perhaps 20 – 30 examples of this overprint on R1/2 will have survived, making positional blocks like the one illustrated, or even a single example of R1/2 with this *Saorstat* overprint, exceptionally rare and desirable. (*an example of the block is shown on the next page – Ed*)

Kearsley's *Time to ditch* article also highlights that many catalogue designations of Irish overprint varieties are insufficiently detailed or confusing. Thus, in the example illustrated in this letter, the R1/2 re-entry is listed by Gibbons as *SG64a* without mentioning that this variant only occurs on the relatively few sheets from Plate 3/5 Left (State 2) which received the Thom *Saorstat* wide-date overprint and not on the majority of these overprints which were on sheets from different Plates. The *Hibernian* 2009 designation (*T59a*) for the same stamp describes the R1/2 re-entry as 'NC' (not constant) which is equally unhelpful. This re-entry is constant on all examples of Plate 3/5 Left (State 2) which were overprinted by Thom.

However, Seahorses from several different Plates (see Kearsley's table) also received the wide-date Thom overprint and it is the examples from all these other Plates which, of course, will not show the variety at R1/2. Catalogues need to list both the position of the re-entry (or other variety) and the relevant Official Plate designation. This is now a simple task, thanks to summary tables in the last issue of *Irish Philately*.

With his article, Bryan Kearsley has made it so much easier to understand the complexities of Seahorse Irish overprints and it must surely be welcomed by all Seahorse collectors. I totally agree that it is time not only to ditch the Irish Plate numbers but also to hope that subsequent issues of the relevant catalogues will all embrace the fruits of his ground-breaking research. I look forward to further correspondence in this Journal regarding this fascinating subject

References:-

Kearsley, B. (2005). In: *Discovering Seahorses*. GB Philatelic Publications, London, pages 136-138.

Kearsley B: (2012). *Time to ditch those Irish Seahorse plate numbers*. In: *Irish Philately* 2012, Vol 4, pages 77-81.

MacDonnell B and Williams PH (2008). *Ireland: The Overprints 1922-35. A tribute to the late Cyril Dulin*. MacDonnell Whyte, Dublin, pages A107 and D3-4.

Yours sincerely

Arthur Weston
Cheshire, UK

On the next page - Upper left corner block of four 2/6d Seahorses from BW Plate 3/5 Left (State 2) with *Saorstat* wide-date overprint by Thom; part of the re-entry at R1/2 is highlighted. This is the only Irish overprint variant used on this Plate (see Kearsley's *Bradbury Plates* table in *Irish Philately*) and is the most spectacular of all Seahorse re-entries; in its *Saorstat* overprinted form, it is exceptionally rare.

(Also shown on the next page are items sent to me by John Greer: do please remember that I always welcome scans of your interesting items, especially new finds - Ed.)



Professor Weston's block – see previous page

Dear Editor,

I enclose illustrations of two items which have come to me recently which I believe may be of interest to our members. The first is a block of the E watermark 10d showing no accent (fada) over the first E of Éire (lower left stamp). The Hibernian catalogue records this on the SE watermark but not on the E watermark. The second item is a mourning envelope, used internally (possibly in the Department of Defence), with the heading of the Provisional Government dating the item to 1922. I have not seen the use of a mourning envelope thus inscribed previously and do ask what specific event gave rise to the use of the envelope. Has anyone seen one used postally? I would welcome correspondence on both of these items.



Yours sincerely

John Greer
Dublin

Irish Postal Rates since 2nd April 2013 Brian Warren

(Previous rates table was effective from 1st May 2012)

Postal rates changed with effect from Tuesday 2nd April 2013. The basic inland and overseas rates for the first weight step increased by 5c and 8c respectively. Except for registered items, the initial weight step reduction to 50g (from 100g)

introduced in 2012 was reversed. The majority of other rates remain unchanged. The reduced rate for meter users for inland mail has been extended to include large envelopes and packets.

Ireland (including N. Ireland)

Weight not over	Letter / Postcard	Large Envelope	Packet
100g	60c ¹	€1.05 ¹	€2.40 ¹
250g		€1.50	€3.00
500g		€2.10	€4.00
1kg			€6.50
2kg (max)			€7.50

¹ A reduced rate applies to meter mail – 59c (letters and postcards), €1.03 (large envelopes) and €2.35 (packets).

Europe (including Great Britain)

Weight not over	Letter/ Postcard	Large Envelope	Packet
100g	90c	€1.65	€3.00
250g		€3.30	€4.00
500g		€4.50	€5.00
1kg			€7.50
2 kg (max)			€10.75

Rest of the World

Weight not over	Letter/ Postcard	Large Envelope	Packet
100g	90c	€1.65	€3.00
250g		€3.30	€4.00
500g		€4.50	€5.00
1kg			€10.75
2kg (max)			€17.00

REGISTRATION AND EXPRESS RATES

All Categories of Mail except Parcels (Letters/Large Letters/Packets)					
Registration			Express		
Weight not over	Ireland	All Other Countries	Ireland	Europe (incl. GB) (see list below)	Australia, Canada, New Zealand & USA
50g	€5.25	€5.17 (letters) €5.85 (large envelopes) €7.05 (packets)	€5.75	€9.00	€9.00
100g	€5.50	€4.60 plus postage	€5.75	€9.00	€9.00
250g	€6.00		€7.40	€10.00	€10.00
500g	€7.00		€8.75	€11.50	€11.50
1kg	€10.00		€11.00	€14.50	€17.50
2kg (max)	€12.50		€14.80	€18.00	€24.50

Registration Fees – Ireland (including N. Ireland): The fees payable are inclusive of postage and cover compensation up to a maximum of €320. Additional compensation up to €1,500 or €2,000 is available for an additional fee of €4.00 or €5.00 respectively but to Republic of Ireland addresses only. €320 is the maximum limit for Northern Ireland. You can track and trace the item and view the recipient's signature on line.

Registration Fees - All Other Countries (including Great Britain): The compensation limit for Great Britain is €320, for Europe €150 and for all other countries €35. You can track and trace items up to dispatch from Ireland. In practice, I have found that items posted to the UK can also be fully tracked on line. The An Post website states that a copy of the recipient's signature can also be obtained on request from An Post Customer Services (presumably to be viewed on line as per Express mail – see below).

Express - Ireland: The fee applies to all Irish destinations (including N. Ireland). Next working day delivery is guaranteed to Republic of Ireland addresses. A signature and insurance option is available for an additional €2.00 which gives compensation up to a maximum of €350 (i.e. greater than the basic compensation maximum for the inland registration service). This additional insurance option is only available in respect of mail to Republic of Ireland addresses. All items can be tracked via An Post's website and, if the additional €2 fee has been paid, you can also view the recipient's signature on line.

Express Service – Europe and Rest of World:

This service is only available to Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and USA.¹ No signature or insurance option is available outside Ireland but the Track and Trace system also operates to these destinations. The minimum envelope size acceptable for items destined for the USA is C5. A complimentary Easi Pak is available at post offices counters if the item is destined for the USA and is smaller than C5 in size.

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 packet rate applies.

Maximum dimensions of a Large Envelope:

400mm x 300mm x 25mm thickness (i.e. C4 size). (Also known as a "Flat").

Dimensions of a Packet:

Items that exceed 400mm x 300mm x 25mm thickness. Maximum dimension is a combined length, width and depth of 900mm. No dimension can exceed 600mm.

¹ Australia, Finland and New Zealand are new express mail destinations since 2012. Slovakia and Hong Kong were dropped.

OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GOLD

Brian Warren



In my *That Was The Year That Was 2012* supplement, I referred to a series of five postmarks used in Northern Ireland in relation to the Olympic Torch relay¹. There are however a number of other GB postal connections in relation to Irish (and former Irish) competitors who participated in either the Summer Olympic or Paralympic Games in London in 2012.

Most members will be aware that Royal Mail issued a series of miniature sheets for every individual or team who won gold for Team GB in either Games. Unfortunately, no Northern Ireland competitor won Gold in the Olympics. Rowers Richard and Peter Chambers took silver in the men's lightweight fours, while Alan Campbell won a bronze in the men's single sculls – all as part of Team GB. Belfast boxer Paddy Barnes had to be content with his second Olympic bronze after suffering an agonising defeat in the light-flyweight semi-finals. Fellow Belfast man Michael Conlan also won a bronze medal in the flyweight boxing competition, after losing his semi-final bout. As boxing is organised on an all-Ireland basis, both boxers competed under the Irish flag.

However, there was one Team GB competitor with an Irish connection. Peter Charles MBE (born in Liverpool, 1960) is a British-Irish equestrian who competes in the sport of show jumping. He originally represented Great Britain before switching to represent Ireland in 1992 (the country of his mother's birth) and competed as part of the Irish show jumping team in both the Olympics of 1992 and 1996. In 2007, he relinquished his status as an Irish rider and once again competed for Great Britain. He was a member of the gold medal equestrian show

jumping team in London 2012 and appears on one of the GB miniature sheets (he is at left on the stamps shown above) together with fellow team members Scott Brash, Ben Maher and Nick Skelton. He was appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2013 New Year Honours, for services to equestrianism.



fig. 1



fig. 2

To commemorate Team GB gold medal winners at the 2012 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games, Royal Mail painted a number of post boxes gold. Each gold medalist had a post box painted in recognition of their achievement, usually in their home-town. In the case of Peter Charles, a "B" size EiiR pillar box (PB 1042/1) at Paper Mill Lane/Waterside Court in Alton (his home town as recorded on the Team GB website) was painted gold (*fig. 1*). Residents in Alton described the gold postbox as "excellent" but pointed out that Peter Charles lives in the village of Bentworth, about four miles away. As a result, a second box at Holt End Lane in Bentworth, a larger "A" size EiiR pillar (PB 1041/1) was also painted gold (*fig. 2*).

¹ See page 12 of *That Was The Year That Was 2012* - "Olympic Torch Relay" (published March 2013).

There was further glory for Irish competitors in the Paralympics. Ireland's medal haul totalled 16 medals - 8 Gold, 3 Silver and 5 Bronze and the team were positioned 19th on the final medal table. Three members of the Irish Paralympic team who won gold were born in Northern Ireland. – Bethany Firth, Michael McKillop and Jason Smyth. At first, Royal Mail announced that these athletes would not have gold boxes painted gold. However, they changed their minds after public and civic representations.



fig 3



fig 4

Swimmer Bethany Firth (born 14 February 1996) was born in Seaforde, County Down. On 31 August 2012 Firth, competing in her first Paralympics, won a gold medal in the S14 classification 100 metres backstroke final. Firth, who has learning difficulties, had only been swimming for three years. A small EiiR lamp box situated at Newcastle Road, Seaforde, Co. Down (fig. 3) was painted gold to mark her achievement.

Michael Gerard McKillop (born 27 January 1990 in Ballymena, now living in Glengormley) is a middle distance runner and competes in the T37 classification, as he has a mild form of cerebral palsy. McKillop won gold for the men's 800 meter T37 with a time of 1:57.22; this was a world record. He also won gold in the 1500m T37 race. The medal for the latter was later presented to him by his mother, Catherine McKillop, an ambassador of Procter & Gamble². A type B EiiR pillar box situated at the Sandyknowes roundabout, Glengormley, Co. Antrim was painted gold for Michael (fig. 4).

There would be one more honour for McKillop who picked up the Whang Youn Dai Achievement Award as one of two athletes who

² Michael McKillope was only one of two athletes at London 2012 to receive their medal from a parent. The other competitor was Zara Phillips (silver medal in team eventing) who received her medal from her mother Anne, Princess Royal.

exemplified the best spirit of the Paralympic Games, his dedication to helping and encouraging thousands of school children throughout Ireland being recognised and his belief that all Paralympians should help promote their own sports and serve as role models for the next generation.



fig. 5

Jason Smyth (born 4 July 1987, Derry) is a sprint runner who competes in the T13 classification. Jason won heat 1 of the 100m breaking the world record in a time of 10.54 seconds before breaking the record again in the final where he defended his Paralympic title in a time of 10.46 seconds, the fastest Paralympic 100 metres in history. Smyth equaled his Beijing achievement by winning gold in the Men's T13 200m with a world record time of 21.05 seconds. His postbox, a modern type K is situated at Woodvale Road, Eglinton, Derry (fig.5).



fig 6

The final Irish connection is in the miniature sheet issued in advance of the games on 27 July (fig. 6). The cyclist depicted on the £1.28 stamp is Wendy Houvenaghel (born 27 November 1974 in Magherafelt, Co. Londonderry) who is a member of Team GB. However, Wendy was not in the final team chosen to take-part in the Women's Team Pursuit and caused controversy when she was especially vocal about her exclusion. Her comments to the media included the following:

"I feel particularly aggrieved that the head coach made the decision to put in a rider who wasn't 100% well on the start line twice. Thankfully the girls did go on to win their race but perhaps had I been allowed to do my job that world record could have been faster."

I do feel I have been deliberately omitted from that opportunity that was mine and the opportunity to bring home a gold medal to Northern Ireland. The last gold we had was 40 years ago with Dame Mary Peters. It's a very shocking and upsetting decision."



fig. 7

The full cyclist design incorporating Wendy was also used in "dummy sheets" during trials of the Gold Medal Winners stamps at Walsall Security Printers prior to the Games (*one of the unissued miniature sheets included in the dummy sheet is shown in fig. 7*). It is understood that it was always Royal Mail's intention with the first dummy sheet to feature an athlete who would not be competing in the 2012 London Games, lest the competitor be jinxed in any way ³.

One of the dummy sheet trials incorporating the cyclist design (but minus the common wording, Queen's head and imagery of the base sheet) was used as part of the end-to-end testing of the production and distribution process (*fig. 8*).

The gold coloured outer envelopes included an adhesive label with the name of the Post Office Branch and its address, plus the delivery route number and the quantity of dummy sheets enclosed and sheet code GMW-E1. Upon opening the package, a quantity of A4 sheets would be found with a despatch note clearly stating

IMPORTANT: TEST ONLY
PLEASE DESTROY THE SHEETS

The destruction request was ignored at some offices, as around 40 sheets have been seen on offer through eBay with selling prices between £10 and £65 per sheet.

A final thought. It's a pity that An Post did not paint a postbox gold in Katie Taylor's home town, of Bray, Co. Wicklow to mark her boxing gold.

³ Mark Cavendish MBE, who featured on another dummy sheet, was not treated to this consideration. Mark failed to win Gold at the Olympics. Prophetically, the dummy sheet included the actual date of his (hoped for) win.

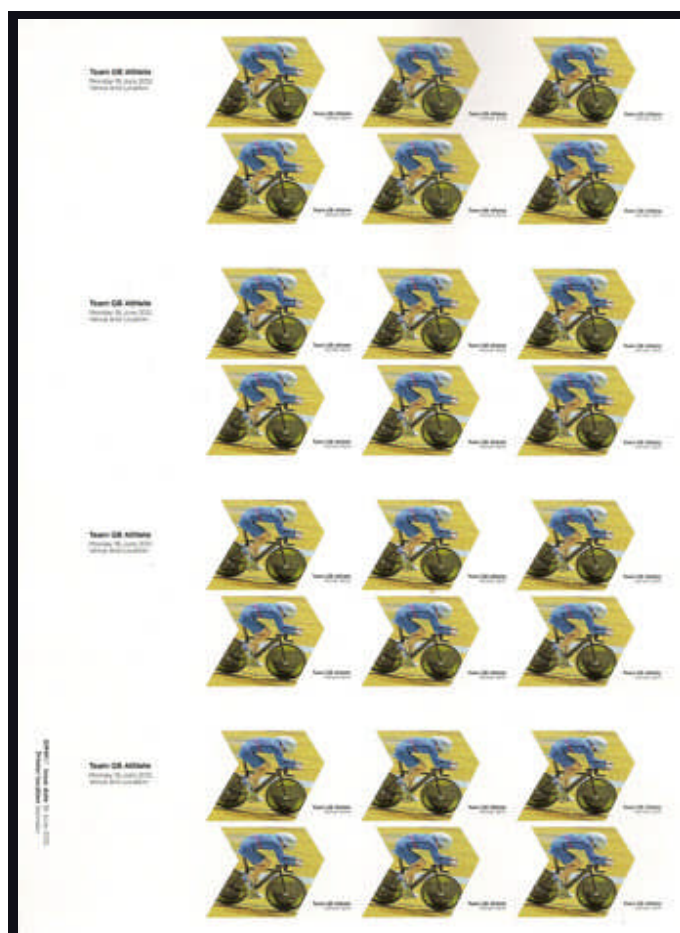


fig. 8

Acknowledgments: I wish to thank fellow member John Frazer who supplied the pictures of the gold postboxes situated in Northern Ireland. The information and illustrations relating to the dummy sheets incorporating the Wendy Houvenaghel cyclist design are taken from *Dummy Stamps Newsletter* (Issus 26 & 27) with the kind permission of the author Glenn H Morgan FRPSL. Further details can be obtained by reading the full articles at www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm

LETTERBOXES OF IRELAND - No. 15 - Brian Warren



In 1999, An Post installed on an experimental basis a number of locally manufactured circular and oval metal boxes. A total of seven boxes covering five different types were installed in the Dublin city area.

The smaller of the two boxes illustrated above is one of the five types. It is the only example of this type of box and is a "B" size box with single 12" x 1½" curved aperture integrated within a full-length door. There is a recessed vertical door pull, a large integrated collection plate holder and a flush lock. The photograph shows the box located at the corner of Pembroke Street Upper/Fitzwilliam Sq. South, Dublin 2. They were obviously not considered a success by An Post as no more boxes of this type were installed. As far as I'm aware, only four of the

original boxes are still in use including this box. It is now located on Sandford Road, Ranelagh, Dublin 6.

The second box is known as a Meter Mail box with customer lockable plain polished metal roller and inset collection plate holder. The words "Franked mail only" is inscribed above the roller. A transfer with the words "Pouched Meter/ Mail Only/No Loose Mail" was sometimes added to the metal roller of some boxes. Meter Mail boxes are used by business customers to lodge bulk postings that are franked by the use of postage meter machines manufactured by one of the three approved Irish suppliers – CASS Limited, Neopost Ireland Limited and Pitney Bowes Ireland Limited.

Although the boxes do not incorporate the name of the manufacturer, this type of box was probably supplied by the British firm, Romec who manufacture the exact same type of box for Royal Mail. A large number of these boxes have been installed since they first appeared in 1997. Currently Meter Boxes of a different type are manufactured by a local Irish firm. The box is still in situ at this location together with a Victorian pillar box.

I conclude by showing below two painted boxes in Northern Ireland, at Draperstown, Co Londonderry and Newtownabbey, Co Antrim respectively.

Update No 14 was in the IPC journal issue of Sept 2009. 1 to 13 were published in Irish Stamp News.



POST OFFICE PAGE - TEMPO, CO. FERMANAGH

It is time to go north once again! The Post Office in the Fermanagh village of Tempo (present population c550) was opened in 1821, the earliest reference being found in the Belfast Newsletter of 12 January of that year advising 'The Postmasters General have been pleased to direct that Tempo, in the County of Fermanagh, shall be made a post town and communication with Enniskillen be opened three days a week'. An almanac of the early 1820s records Tempo as being 108 miles from Dublin with three posts per week. This must have been English miles as the only mileage mark traced from this small office, dating to 1827, shows TEMPO/75 (illustrated below). That mileage would also seem incorrect. In 1827, the Enniskillen mileage mark was showing that town to be 82 miles (Irish) from Dublin; Tempo is a further 8 English miles (6 Irish) to the northeast of Enniskillen, hence I would expect the Tempo mileage mark to read c88. The only other feasible routing from Dublin would have been via Clogher and Fivemiletown but as Clogher's mileage was variously 78, 83 and 82 that does not appear to 'work' either!



Tempo to Belfast in January 1827 – a 'double' charged at 1/4d, 8d (British currency, this having been introduced in January 1826) representing the 65 to 95 mile rate presumably via Enniskillen, Monaghan and Armagh to Belfast.

Business must have been relatively good as there were six posts a week by 1833. However, the office was reduced to a Penny Post under Enniskillen by the following year. I have not seen a Penny Post item from this office but the late Tony Graham suggested that the office used a 'No 1' mark in conjunction with the Enniskillen Penny Post. By 1837 a Penny Post also operated to Clogher, a distance of some ten Irish miles.

Tempo has since this time continuously remained a sub office under Enniskillen and in consequence was never issued with a numeral postmark.



Tempo Post Office in 2004

The earliest location traced for the office is on the west side of the Main Street (1845). One James Little served as postmaster until at least 1859. A George Smyth is listed in 1870. By 1880 the office had crossed the road and was on the east side of the street where it stayed until at least 1922. Thomas Beatty was listed as postmaster between 1880 and 1894. His widow Eleanor Jane Beatty had certainly been appointed by 1901. However a report in the Fermanagh Times of 27 July 1922 noted the office was vacant after Mrs Beatty had left it.

It was probably at this time that the office moved to its present site (photograph above) on the west side of the main street, on the corner of a lane leading to Derrin Lough and just 20 yards from its location in the 1850s. Although the name over the door was 'Thompson' by 2004, Tony Graham's research showed that the postmaster between, at least, 1964 and 1988 was F Nixon. Almost opposite the present office there is an archway in the property next to the Lord Nelson pub; it does make one wonder if this was the site of the original office with the horses taking the mail cart into the courtyard behind?

Below, I show the only two circular postmarks I have seen from this office, the earlier known used between 1902 and 1920 and the latter seen in use from 1937 to 1977. It is believed that outgoing mail ceased to be cancelled shortly after this date.

I am grateful to the late Tony Graham for the majority of the information in this short article.



1902-1920



1937-1977

OBITUARY – PAUL APPLEBY (1930-2013) – Héloïse Mitchell



Paul Appleby, former President of the IPC, passed away after a long illness on 1 April 2013. He was a well established member of the Dublin ‘stamp scene’ having been born in the City in 1930 and lived in Wigan Road in Glasnevin all his life. He looked after his mother there until she died and then stayed on in the family home. Paul was a typical Dubliner with a very dry wit, and once one was in conversation with him he was both entertaining and amusing. He was one of four boys, two of whom – Don and John – predeceased him. His brother Liam and Don’s widow Peggy are still alive. Although he never married, he boasted a large family with many nephews, nieces, grandnephews, grandnieces and cousins. A nephew of the same name was Ireland’s Director of Corporate Enforcement for more than 10 years, whilst Appleby Jewellers, located in Johnson’s Court, off Grafton Street, was started by Paul’s brother John and is now run by three of Paul’s nephews. Paul was educated by the Christian Brothers in Brunswick Street and worked at the Guinness Brewery all his life, where his final position was that of Security Manager. In addition to the Wigan Road property, Paul enjoyed a house in Greystones where he loved to spend much of the summer looking after the garden. Sadly, in his later years, it eventually got too much for him. Active in the local community, he was a member of the Iona Road Parish Finance Committee and was involved in fundraising for the parish. He was also a Knight of Saint Columbanus.

Philatelically, Paul was best known for his wonderful collection of Irish postal history, perhaps the best in Ireland, much helped by his encyclopaedic knowledge of the subject. He was a leading authority on the Dublin Penny Post and contributed to Manfred Dittman’s book ‘The Dublin Penny Post’ (1992), providing many of the illustrations. He also collaborated with Heinz-Juergen Kumpf on his book, ‘Military Postal History of Ireland’ (2008), many of the illustrations being from Paul’s collection. He possessed an excellent collection of Irish Revenue stamps and was keen on his two sideline collections, the themes being Art on Stamps (specifically the Great Masters) and Birds on Stamps. He was also a collector of Guinness memorabilia. A frequent visitor to auctions, he loved to get a bargain but could be the bane of other bidders because he never gave up if he really wanted an item.

Paul was a regular visitor to exhibitions in the UK on the trail of Irish postal history, his last trip to London being in October 2007 as a part of the IPS team attending the special display at the Royal Philatelic Society of London, to mark the centenary of the Northern Ireland Philatelic Society.

Whenever he was asked if he would exchange an item or be willing to dispose of a duplicate, his answer was always the same: ‘You’ll have to wait until I’m dead’. As a rule Paul did not exhibit competitively although he was happy to act as a judge in Dublin Stamp Society competitions. He did however win the DSS Society Shield for best display of the year for the season 1996-97.

Paul was a member of many philatelic societies, serving as our President, in succession to Jacques Renollaud, from 2000 to 2002. He was Vice Chairman of Stampa from 1990 to 1993 and a Committee member of the IPS from 2003 to 2005, going on to become Vice President of that society from 2007 to 2012. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend meetings after 2008 owing to illness. As a mark of his long contribution to Ireland’s philately, he was awarded the Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland (FPSI) medal, instituted in 2011 for ‘behind-the-scenes’ services to Irish philately, which he received at the Federation’s AGM held in the RDS during Stampa 2012.

Early in 2012, Paul moved into Newtownpark Nursing Home in Blackrock where he died on 1 April 2013 after a long struggle against kidney failure. He was buried in Glasnevin Cemetery on 4 April.

THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND and JAMES MANGAN issues of 1949

John Lennon explores BEYOND THE CATALOGUES



Issued 21 November 1949



Issued 5 December 1949

These two issues are being dealt with together for reasons that will be apparent.

Researches in Archives have revealed the following: The Dean of Cashel, Dr. R. Wyse Jackson, wrote to the Minister of P&T in November 1948, 'I expect that the centenary will already be in your mind, but I do hope that you will see your way to marking the death of Mangan with a special stamp in June 1949.' The Minister replied 'I am having the matter examined'. His secretary asked the P&T secretary to consider it and the memo has some pencilled notes. The Dean had made requests previously. 'It may be one of his habits. The case for Mangan is I think a bit thin.' 'Yes. That is so. He dabbles in things like this'.

A Report to the Minister on 19th November, stated 'The 1798 stamp is on sale today and it is hoped to have the 1d and 1/- Air Mail stamps on sale before the end of the year. Arrangements are also being made for the issue next year of 8d and 11d stamps. In view of these new issues the introduction of a commemorative stamp during 1949 is not favoured.' It also referred to Finances frequent comment on too many issues and nobody else had requested a Mangan issue. 'In all the circumstances and in the absence of evidence of any widespread support for the suggestion it is thought that it should not be entertained.'

Before this was sent to the Minister, there were many internal memos. 'We needn't worry about what Finance say'. Compared to other countries we were on an exceedingly modest scale. 'We can hardly turn down the proposal for a commemorative stamp in 1949 because four additions to the regular issues are being made shortly. The only point to be cleared up first is whether there are likely to be any more important matters to be commemorated in 1949.' 'James Mangan's status as poet is of the highest order.'

On 1st December a note on the back of a letter 'you will certainly be asked to get out a stamp for 21 Jan, 'the first day of the Republic'. You ought to raise it at once or someone will get all het up about it when it's too late to do anything.'

Having consulted several sources, three figures were listed: JC Mangan, Fintan Lalor and Owen Roe O'Neill. 'It looks as if Mangan could get pride of place since we have already covered Lalor in the Young Ireland Stamp & Owen Roe is probably too far distant..... in mind to propose a stamp in 1949 for the Republic of Ireland, and I suppose that the situation in this direction has now sufficiently advanced to warrant a positive move for such a stamp. Hence the only question at issue appears to be whether it is desirable to issue two special stamps in one year. I think both can be done, but as Mangan would claim a date in June, the Republic stamp would be pushed on to later in the year and there might be an inclination on the part of the Government to have such an issue earlier if the date of declaration is to be fixed in the early part of the year. ... it is time to get moving'.

On 10th December, in the Seanad, Helena Concannon asked the Minister for External Affairs, Sean McBride, if a stamp would be issued for the Republic with 'Poblacht na hEireann' on it.

McBride: I am sure it is one which will be considered by the Dept of P&T, which is never slow to issue stamps.

Hearne (Michael, member for Longford) interjected in the Dail: Well chosen or otherwise.

Another possible issue arose when a meeting was held with the Deputy Director of Stamping, Drum, on 17th December, - the 75th Anniversary of UPU. He had no problem if they were spread over the year. It was put to him that one issue could be done by Waterlow using the Recess type of printing. 'He said that on the contrary the recess process was far more trouble and excessively expensive and that he is strongly opposed to it on those grounds.'

The Republic of Ireland Act came into law in the Republic on 21st December, to come into effect on 18th April, 1949 (It didn't receive Royal Assent until June 1949). On the same day another Report to the Minister was prepared. Three commemoratives in one year would be unusual - 1943 was the only time there was more than one. The UPU issue arose from a resolution carried by the Congress of Paris, in 1947, but it wasn't binding. A note at the bottom of

the Report '*Question of UPU stamp to be left in abeyance for the present.. Government sanction for the other two issues to be prepared.*'

Finance sanction for two issues was requested on 24th December. A Committee would be appointed to advise on the artists invited to take part in a competition and to select the most suitable designs. '*As the range of designs obtained for the 1798 issue was not satisfactory, it is proposed to broaden the field to six artists. It is intended to issue the Republic of Ireland Act stamp in two denominations, 2½d and 3d, and the Mangan stamp in one denomination, 2d.*' The cost of plates, dies etc., would be £325 and £200 respectively.

The Mangan issue was to be on 17th June (later corrected to 20th) and the Republic issue was likely to be earlier. Government approval was received on 7th January, 1949.

The selection Committee, which included Dr. J. Stafford Johnson, met on 19th January. They discussed two separate competitions as artists more skilled in portraiture would be more suitable for Mangan and those in symbolism for the other. They decided to invite twelve artists to submit designs for both stamps! Dr. Stafford Johnson suggested that the Mangan stamp should be 1d, which would be in more common use than 2d and this was agreed.

They met again on 12th February and from 18 submissions, Richard King's design for the Mangan issue was chosen, subject to a small change. The years of birth and death, 1803 and 1849 to replace '1849-1949'. Whether the name Mangan should be in Irish or English was to be considered. In a letter, King wrote '*I wanted to depict the poet James Clarence Mangan in a moment of inspiration with pen upraised about to write one of his immortal poems.*'

Whether 'Éire' or 'Poblacht na hÉireann' should be used was causing a problem. '*The Taoiseach had expressed the view that, as the question of the description of the State had yet to be fully considered, it would be a pity to take a snap decision at this stage in connection with the issue of a stamp. He was not in favour of any change at present but he would like to have the concurrence of the Minister for External Affairs in his viewpoint.*'

The implications of the change from 'Éire' were pointed out. All existing definitives, National Insurance, Entertainment Duty, etc., stamps, as well as embossed dies for legal and revenue purposes, would have to be changed at huge cost. The practice in South Africa, Belgium and Switzerland was described.

The Secretary to the Government said the Taoiseach would like to see the design and if the Minister, P&T, brought it to the Government meeting on 18th February it would be shown around informally. '*... the Taoiseach also desired that in future designs of new stamps should be brought informally to the notice of Ministers at a Government meeting. None of them could later say that the stamp was a 'frightful atrocity'.*'

A separate meeting was held, on 19th February, to select a design for the Republic stamp, with Muriel Brandt's being chosen, from 20 but with modifications. The heads were to be substituted by the arms of the four provinces and the shamrocks in the corners were to be made bigger. The heads were '*Tone, Mitchel, Davis and Pearse representing the driving force of the Republican ideal over the past 150 years*'. As a foot-note they recommended 'Éire' for the Mangan and definitive stamps and '*as directed by Government*' for the Republic stamp. On 1st March it was noted that the Government had decided that for the Mangan stamp the new name should be shown bi-lingually. This resulted in Mangan's portrait being smaller than proposed. When it became public that English was to be used on an Irish stamp for the first time it led to protests from many quarters, particularly County Councils.

The Minister was informed '*None of the designs was regarded as outstanding. Many of them were merely hackneyed symbolisation. The title of the State appears bilingually as directed by the Government in the case of the Mangan Commemoration stamp.*'

The amended and approved drawing for the Mangan stamp was sent to the Revenue Stamping Branch on 23rd March for them to proceed.

When the finished drawing for the Republic stamp was sent to the Minister for approval, the accompanying letter had, added in manuscript, '*We had contemplated, as you remember, putting the Ulster arms first but the Genealogical Office advised against it and indicated the present order.*' It was sent to the Castle on 12th April.

A scribbled note, dated 30/6/49: '*Mr. Drum says Mangan stamp should be ready about the middle of August and the Republic of Ireland act stamp in September (probably end of).*' On 29th July, it was ascertained that the Mangan stamp would not be ready before mid-September and the Republic one a month later.

The Minister was updated on 5th August and various dates of issue suggested. '*An important consideration in determining the dates of issue is that both the Mangan and the Republic stamps will*

for the first time bear the words 'Republic of Ireland' in both Irish and English and if the Mangan stamp were issued first, it is possible that it would cause a certain amount of confusion in the mind of the public, and also detract from the importance in the public view of the Republic stamp.' The decision was that the Mangan stamp be issued a month after the Republic stamp.



The plate for the Mangan issue is retained in the Revenue Stamping Branch archives. It is a mystery why such a small plate with just four impressions was made. There is a similar plate for the 2d Map stamp. The connections for the electrolysis process can be seen at the right.

Colour Essays for both issues were sent to the GPO on 14th October and it was pointed out that the 3d stamp was restricted to blue (UPU colour for overseas mail) and as somebody (no reference found) had decided green was to be used for Mangan only shades of green were submitted. They were returned next day with the chosen colours noted.

The same day, a note was sent to Head of Stores for the issue of the necessary warrants, giving 21st November and 5th December as the dates of issue. Both issues to be on sale for six months.

At the end of May stocks remaining were:-

Republic of Ireland	2½d	2½ weeks
	3d	3 months
Mangan	1d	4 months

The stamps were to remain on sale until stocks were exhausted.

The letter from Stores ends with an interesting paragraph: 'As it is desirable to conserve the stocks of Air Mail Postage Stamps which are now rather low perhaps An Rúnaí (Secretary) will please state whether applications for Air Mail Stamps of 1d, 3d and 6d denominations may be met temporarily by the issue of equivalent amounts of 1d Clarence

Mangan and 3d Republic of Ireland Postage Stamps. If this course is approved it may be necessary to insert a notice in Iris an Phoist instructing Máistrí Phoist to inform purchasers of Air Mail Postage Stamps that the Commemorative Stamps referred to may be accepted for postage by Air Mail as a temporary expedient.'

It was noted in a memo that this would help exhaust the stock of 3d Republic before the Holy Year issue. Stores were told to issue 6d definitives for 6d Air Mail requests as the size of the 3d Republic would be inconvenient for making up the most common rate of 9d.

A draft notice for Iris an Phoist concluded: 'Officers employed on Counter duties should inform purchasers of Air Mail Stamps that the alternative stamps are valid for post by Air Mail.' This insinuates non-Air Mail stamps were not normally valid! However, the notice that appeared on 28th June was changed to 'Any query on the part of the public should be answered to the effect that the Air Mail stamps are temporarily out of stock. Care should be taken to issue Air Mail labels.'

The stocks of both Republic stamps were reported on 8th August as exhausted. The Mangan stock was gone 'about the end of September'.



An airmail envelope used to Switzerland dated 17 July 1950 showing the use of the Republic stamp. This is actually an incorrect usage in that the 3d stamp covered surface transit, thus the item should either have been diverted to surface and marked accordingly or postage due charged. The basic European airmail rate was 5d until 1 March 1951. The Airmail 3d stamp (see above) would have seen use on airmail postcards to Europe at this time.

John plans to turn his attention to the 1950 Holy year set in our next issue. Interestingly, in view of the comment in this article, they were printed by Waterlow! If you have any information on these stamps or unusual covers, John would be pleased to hear from you - Ed

The Argyll Etkin sale of 22nd March 2013 offered for sale the original watermark Master Plates made by the papermakers Edwin Amies and Son Ltd who also supplied paper to various stamp printers. The plates (to quote the catalogue) 'consist of a metal plate (1-4mm thick) with one or many impressions of the watermark made of wire and affixed to the surface. Each plate is impressed with a number, a brief entry for each number appearing in the company's ledger of these plates. The plates were pressed into wax and the surface polished with plumbago (black lead) and then scraped off leaving the design with an electrical connection. The wax was then put into a bath of copper sulphate and by electrolysis the stamp bits were grown until the watermark was ready. Hot water was poured on the surface to release the copper watermark which was then filled with solder. The electrotype was then soldered on to the dandy roll and all the pieces not required were then cut away leaving just the watermark on the surface of the dandy roll ready for the paper to be made. These plates therefore show the very first stage in the watermark production'.

Of particular interest was Ireland no 2988 (lot 16) 'Irish Stamp bit e' which comprised 30 impressions of the multiple 'e' watermark which first appeared on stamps in late 1940, 121x70mm. The lot sold for £140. Also offered for sale was Ireland no.2989 (lot 17) 'Irish Postal Order bit' comprising two plates 'with the same number, one with six impressions of a large 'e', 91x132mm, the other with three similar impressions, the 'e' differing slightly in shape 122x57mm. This realised £85.

Although, Revenues are not normally covered by this column, the Corbitt's sale of 14th March offered a collection, described as 'Revenues & Fiscals various mainly legal documents etc. bearing revenues or postage stamps with appropriate cancels, manuscript marks, etc., also a number of revenue stamps incl. Petty session, Stamp types & Embossed types, Registration of Deeds, Court FU etc. also M or SPECIMEN examples of County Courts, Land Commission, Judicature 1d to £5 (14 vals) & more'. One of the more interesting accumulations seen on the market for some time, saw the pre-sale estimate of £200 left far behind as the lot sold for £900. As so often with an accumulation of this nature, one cannot be sure that the auctioneer knew the material he was offering, nevertheless the realisation shows a keen and ongoing interest in this type of material. I show a group of items in this lot in the next column (*fig 1*).



fig 1

In the same auction, an interesting '1907-16 Sinn Fein Hibernia horizontal tête-bêche pair fine M - few rough perfs at right side. Scarce Hibernian L176' estimated at £200 went under the hammer for £300 (*fig 2 below*).



fig 2

Also in the same sale, I noted a lot described as '1923 Coil stamps incl. variety long 'l' in 1922 on ½d (6), 1d (6), 1½ (6) & 2d (4) in coil strips SG.67a/70a. Cat. £300.' With a pre-sale estimate of £70 the lot sold for £250, a sum close to the full catalogue price.

e-Bay continues to provide the occasional item of interest although I do ask if the time spent checking through the hoards of routine material on offer merits the time spent. One such unusual item was a stampless and somewhat worn cover, showing the previously unrecorded by Brumell, numeral 484 proving allocation to the tiny village office of Scartaglen (Co Kerry). Whilst there may be other unrecorded examples in existence, no doubt to the pleasure of a surprised seller, for the item started at a mere few dollars, the buyer was happy to pay a price a little in excess of the dollar equivalent of over £100. (*the item is illustrated on our front cover – Ed.*)

MacDonnell Whyte held their first auction of 2013 on 27th April. In the Ireland category there was a strong section of Irish Postal History with many choice and rare items on offer. Generally high realisations were obtained – I note some examples below.

Lot 569 offered a 1778 entire letter sent locally in the Penny Post, showing the very rare Dublin 'Dockwra Paid/Penny/Post/NO14 and matching O.30.A'. The item had a closed tear at top but the item was a 'good example' of one of the only two known examples of the No.14 handstamp. The item with a pre-sale estimate of 4500euro sold for 7250euro. (fig 3 below)

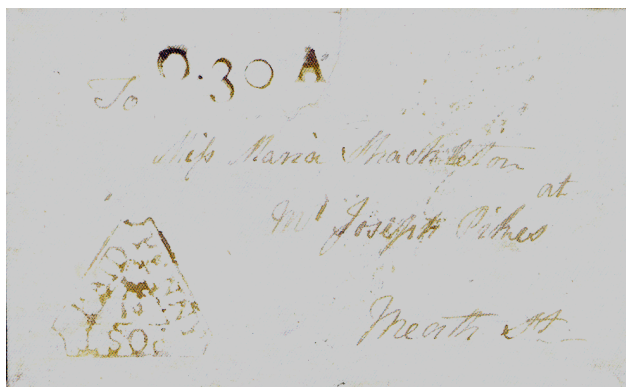


fig 3

The material which gave rise to the article 'Murder Most Foul' in our March issue featured as lot 614 in this auction. Described as '1818 EL (Entire Letter) from the Magistrate at Skibbereen, regarding a reward bill posted for the arrest of the murderer Simpson, enclosing a sworn affidavit from the Postmaster at Skibbereen attesting that Simpson had been in Skibbereen Post Office a fortnight earlier, sent under convenience address *Edward S. Lees Post Office Dublin* then forwarded to John Moyne under cover with frank of Thomas Orde Lees T.O. Lees and handstruck crown TO-BE/DELIVER'D FREE in red, bs 'Ribbon' P.P.OFFICE/12 O'CLOCK M, thus allowing the cover and enclosure free in the Penny Post, with written copy reply from Moyne to the Cork Magistrate urging the apprehension of Simpson.' Noted as 'a very unusual use of the franking systems of the General and the Penny Post on criminal business' this highly interesting lot went under the hammer for 675euro compared to the pre-sale estimate of 250euro. It would be nice to think that the article in our Journal added to the interest shown in this unusual group of items.

Two covers dated 1824 and 1826 to Newry showing the small REFUSED of Newry in black and red respectively, one from London with declaration on reverse 'I do certify ...this letter was not opened....P.Bradley' with black NEWRY/50 on flap, the latter from Llannelly (sic) with red

NEWRY/50 on flap, British postage of '1/3' and '1/6' reaccounted on face. With only four Irish prestamp REFUSED markings recorded this interesting lot sold for 4200euro (pre-sale estimate 1500euro).

An entire letter landed in Ireland and showing COVE/SHIP LETTER with matching COVE/JA 10 1840 cds (the first day of uniform postage) charged '8' being the single rate for ship plus inland postage and subsequently forwarded to Falmouth and then Madeira sold for 4300euro (estimate 2500euro), this being the only known Uniform Ship First Day for Ireland.

Lot 752, comprising an attractive '1857 cover to a ships passenger via Antwerp, prepaid 8d. with 1d. red two pairs and 2d. blue pair, tied by the rare experimental Dublin mini spoon 186 duplex with the left bars of the diamond forming part of the cds (only in use for a few months in 1857) went under the hammer for 600euro against a pre-sale estimate of 300euro.

In similar vein, a 1858 letter sheet 'with strip of four 1d.reds tied by the Dublin 186 continuous roller obliterator with normal DUBLIN/186 duplex for MY7, one stamp affected by file fold' sold for 310euro against a pre-sale estimate of 125euro.

Perhaps the most interesting item in the auction was the unique 1839 Treasury essay from an official Irish source which epitomised the rarity of items on offer in the sale. The essay for the world's first postage stamp was the submission of Augustus Godby who was the Secretary of the Irish Post Office. The submission to the Treasury Competition was to select the best design with Treasury Registration no.22107/39, was 'in the form of a large adhesive stamp to fully cover the front of a lettersheet, incorporating the address within the central panel and *stamp* repeated in margins, signed by Godby under sample to Wexford'. This very important piece of Irish Philately sold for 34000euro (pre-sale estimate 18000euro). (fig 4 below)

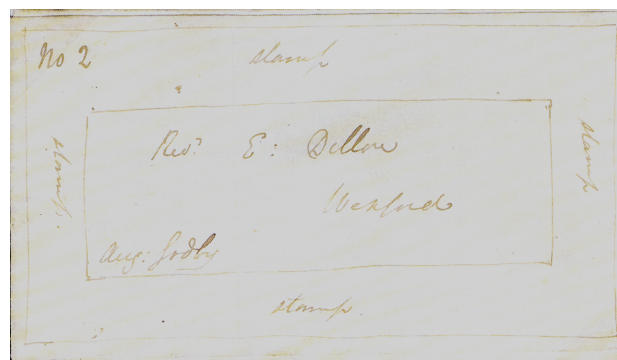


fig 4

On the stamp front, the ever popular 1/3d *Extra Feather* variety R4/6 of the 1946-65 Air set in a vertical corner strip of 4 in unmounted mint condition went under the hammer for 575 euro (estimate 350euro).

An example of the 1946 2/- booklet serial 28 complete and fine made sold for 600euro (estimate 500euro).

Lots which caught the eye included the 'Williams' collections of overprint varieties. Although the auctioneer's estimates were clearly designed to encourage bidders, the 2100euro realised (over 4 times estimate) for a lot of control blocks of the original 5 line Dollard overprints and 3200euro (well over 3 times estimate) for '87 pieces including

blocks and strips' of the 3 line overprint series must have served to make our late President's executors happy. Yet, amongst the lots from this collection, there was one lot (946) containing 112 examples of *R over S* and *R over Se* varieties mainly in blocks of 12 of values to 1/- mainly unmounted which at 190euro narrowly failed to make the estimate of 200euro. (*I suspect that several readers would have snapped this lot up had they been in the room and awake! – Ed*). The realisations do nevertheless show the ongoing interest in the overprints and their varieties.

Overall and as ever, fine and scarce items together with those of the highest quality continue to keep the market for Irish material in a healthy position. Long may it remain so.

484 AND BEYOND – A FEW NOTES - Editor

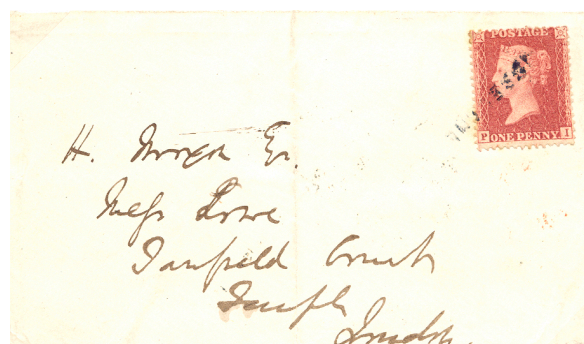
The discovery of the 484 numeral has caused me to look at the list of numbers after the original series of 1844 which ended at 450. By 1856, the last list saved before that of 1874, the list had extended to 458. There then follows what appears to be a series in alphabetic order stretching from 459 (Baldoyle - which I shall exclude from my thoughts it being in Co Dublin) into the 480s. This series appears in the 1874 list with a number of gaps. Those gaps must clearly have been issued but had been withdrawn by 1874. All known numbers between 460 and 485 were originally issued to offices in Cork, Kerry or Clare. In consequence, I believe that all the missing numbers would have been issued to other offices which came under the control of the Southern Surveyor who clearly determined that some mail handling arrangements in his area would change c1859 – the earliest number in this run, Kilkee (475) being known from October 1859.

484 does not quite fit into the alphabetic order coming between 483 Millstreet and 485 which remains unknown. 484 had been reallocated to Manorhamilton by 1874 so use at Scartaglen must have been shortlived.

Of the 10 numerals between 460 and 485 not shown in Brumell's listing of British (and Irish) Post Office numbers (originally published in 1946), three have now been recorded; these are Kilsheelan (478) known for September 1860, Knocknacoppul (480) January 1864 and Limerick Junction (485). Two of these are in Co Tipperary but still within the Southern area.

In my collection are two covers, which I show alongside. Both are from the area but likely predate

the arrival of the numeral – mailbag seal used at Banteer in June 1857 and straight line village name at Lisselane (a short lived office north of Clonakilty) in July 1858. Can anyone add anything further?



A family bereavement has precluded Peter Wood from being able to provide a further instalment of his long running series on Irish Cinderella material. He hopes to be able to continue later in the year.

Equally, other contributions being available, I have held over the next instalment in the 'Making the Mail Go faster' series. I hope to take that forward in our September issue.