

IRISH PHILATELY

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(I.P.)

(March 1967)

EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

Here is the March 1967, issue of Irish Philately. Your editor trusts that it will meet with your approval and continued support.

There is little or no need to reiterate what was published in the editorial last December. Our Journal is not a lighter than air project and must be continually supported or it will sink just as surely as a balloon struck by lightning.

To our producers, who have all worked quite selflessly and accomplished a quite tremendous amount of work from sheer goodwill I offer my sincere and hearty thanks.

Also to those who have responded to my appeals for contributions I tender my thanks gratefully, they are all counted among my valued friends, as indeed are all those who have helped in any way to produce this little magazine, whether they are known to me by name or not.

F.H.H.
February 28. 1967.

To The Editor 'Irish Philately'

Dear Sir,

In response to your Editorial in 'Irish Philately' for December, I enclose a copy of some information which I obtained about thirty years ago from the National Museum in Dublin, copied from a display case in which the Eagle Press stamps were on show. (See Notice on following page).

On revisiting the museum last summer, the information had gone. I have the 6d. stamp, but much to my regret have never succeeded in finding the 1d. and 2d. values. Maybe some kind member could help in locating these. The 6d. stamp is blue in colour.

I have only recently become a member of the I.P.C. and greatly appreciate 'Irish Philately', especially Fr. Brennan's article on the early labels.

One other point I would like to mention is that on comparing the watermarks of some definitive stamps bought this past summer in Ireland with some that I already had I found the watermark of the more recent issues to be a good $1\frac{1}{2}$ m/m narrower. Has this passed unnoticed?

I would suggest too, an article or two on the designers of Irish stamps. I have often wondered who is 'R.J. King' whose distinctive designs grace so many of our Irish stamps.

Thanks again for 'Irish Philately'.

Yours faithfully,

Sgd. Wm. Mathews.
Sunderland, Co. Durham.

January 1967.

ED:- Following Mr. Mathew's letter above and publication of the transcript of the Notice exhibited in the National Museum in Dublin some thirty years ago, Mr. H.G.L. Fletcher has very generously provided the Editor with further information about these I.R.A. stamps with photo enlargements of blocks of the three values and a photograph of a very rare cover in his possession which carries one of these stamps postmarked BELVELLY and dated July 23. 1922.

The next issue of 'Irish Philately' will carry further details and information about the Stamps of the Irish Republican Army.

(I.P.)

(2)

March 1967.

LABELS : I.R.A.

Copy of Museum Notice referred to by Mr. Mathews, in his letter to the Editor published on preceding page.

* * * * *

I.R.A. Postage Stamps

For a period after the outbreak of the Civil War in June 1922 the I.R.A. were the sole governing authority over the southern portion of the Irish Free State and had no communications with Dublin.

There was a shortage of postage stamps and to remedy this, the Eagle Printing Works, Cork, were asked to print stamps showing the head of Patrick Pearse. Technical difficulties however made this impossible, and a supply of stamps was printed and delivered to Union Quay Barracks in July bearing the words :-

An Post Poblaíct na hÉireann

within a framed circle, surmounted by the rising sun.

Their issue was delayed while an agent went to London to try and get the Pearse design printed there, he returned unsuccessful and arrangements were made to issue the Eagle Press stamps in August.

Free State troops however, effected a surprise landing at Passage and reached Cork the day before issue. Before evacuating the city the I.R.A. burned their barracks and the bulk of the stamps perished, but a few actually passed through the post.

The 1d. and 2d. were lithographed in sheets of 120 in 10 rows of 12 made up by transfers of 6 subjects arranged in 2 horizontal rows of 3. Each subject differs slightly. The 6d. was lithographed in sheets of 120 in double horizontal rows of 10 made up by transfers of 4 subjects and divided into 3 panes of 40 or one of 40 and one of 80. Double impressions are known and a 'tete-beche'.

On white wove paper with no watermark and white gum. The 6d. is known without gum.

BEES in my BONNET

by R. P. Woods

At some time in every collectors life comes a moment when something begins to nag and worry him as to the whys and wherefores of a certain stamp or issue.

For years past I have puzzled over the question of Eire's definitives. Since 1923 there has been no change in the four main designs, the 'Sword of Light' the 'Map of Ireland' the 'Four Arms' and the 'Celtic Cross'. Few countries, if any, could show stamps which have had 43 years of issue without changing the designs, the nearest perhaps has been the extremely conservative English stamps, and even there the George V stamps have shown some variation either in Die or Plate.

In spite of exhaustive enquiries by various means, a blank wall is presented when the Authorities are asked how many Dies or Plates? It is either on grounds of 'security' or it is the 'responsibility of some other department' and they won't budge.

The $\frac{1}{2}$ p green 'Sword of Light' was withdrawn years ago, but still no date has ever been published. Mr. H.G.L. Fletcher ventured the possibility that there were two Dies, based on the number of the marks on the forearm. Other variants are usually laid at the door of the old saying 'under or over-inking' and these two factors may indeed be the cause of many so-called varieties.

My own amateurish efforts dealing with the 1p Carmine 'Map' design have been castigated and large douches of cold water poured there-on. I have had enlargments made of a 'day of issue' stamp (1923) and a 1962 stamp; I have drawn grills on both and have counted and measured in the design with nothing very positive resulting. I still have that work, and when the spirit moves and I have the time, I take it out, and like a dog with an old bone, gnaw away at it. That there is a variant, I am quite positive, yet with our numerous 'experts' I quail at publishing my efforts, because the variants can or could be attributed to 'over or under-inking'. I shall try again, of that I am certain, for the 'bee' still buzzes!!!

Our good vice-president, Mr. F.E. Dixon, to whom I have expressed my theories, has endeavoured to guide my tentative footsteps and he suggests that the answer may lie 'in the gutters'. He may well be right, but how does one resident in G.B. acquire the material? Where is this material to be found? Who would be prepared to describe or sketch the variations which may be found on the 1p stamp since 1923? Should this be in two year intervals, or in five year intervals? These are some of the questions which come to mind over this theory.

Bees in my Bonnet (Concluded)

Our Editor has appealed for articles for the Journal which under his guidance and the expert production of Michael Richards has acquired new life. This short essay will, I hope, stir some of our members, who now number over 130, into examining their material, and then to come forward with their ideas towards answering the questions I have raised. Even if they only report their findings to me, I shall be only too glad to write them up, and bring to light some of my own efforts to solve this fascinating problem.

Who knows, possibly the Authorities will relent and release full information, when the new definitives appear, and thus stop the 'buzzing of my bees'.

* * * * *

I R I S H S L O G A N S Some Thoughts on Collecting and Mounting by Michael Richards

Most people who start collecting Irish stamps, will eventually gravitate to the collecting of postal history items, postmarks and slogans, and at today's prices for stamps, sooner rather than later.

My own collecting of Irish slogans commenced in 1954, and I was much assisted and encouraged by Mr. F.E. Dixon, who still helps and assists whenever possible.

I set out from the very beginning to obtain, if possible, an example of every slogan. a. From each machine on which it was used, b. for every month it was used and c. for each year it was used. Thus I am gradually building up a complete record of slogans used in Ireland from the very beginning in 1922.

There are still gaps in my collection, some are rare and practically unobtainable nowadays, but examples probably exist somewhere, and I have not lost hope of obtaining even these. Slogans in bulk are difficult to obtain, and my supplies are intermittent. Most of the missions which handle philatelic material seem unable to appreciate that I want to purchase complete envelopes with either postmarks or slogans, and I am bombarded with offers of Kiloware which is of no use to me. Members of the I.P.C. who live in Ireland could help the enthusiasts on this side of the water by locating and notifying any sources where material could be purchased.

One of the hardest problems to solve is to find a satisfactory method of mounting such a collection, and as I have recently started to remount mine, perhaps the method I have adopted will be of interest to other enthusiasts.

Originally, the slogans were stored in shoe boxes, complete covers and strips mounted on cards. Whilst this method ensured it being tidy, it was difficult to check and almost impossible to display without having to mount again on sheets. Next, the collection was moved to several loose-leaf binders, a vast improvement, as it could then be checked easily and the sheets could be taken out for display. However, the pages were not really stiff enough and too much handling caused slogans to come adrift from them. As a page was allowed for each month and year, the books became very bulky with holding far too many pages with only one slogan strip on them.

My third and final method of mounting was occasioned by being given a packet of Triplex board, plus a number of box files. The board was trimmed with a guillotine to $13\frac{1}{2} \times 9$ inches. They now fit into the box files with a space at the side to facilitate lifting out. These box files are $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep and each holds some 10 sheets of slogans. The spring clip normally fitted in each file has been removed.

The slogan number (using F.E. Dixon's catalogue) has been entered on the left-hand side of the sheet with the year beside it, details of the month(s) of use and re-use in succeeding years is written below. The wording of the slogan is printed in the top-centre with a short description of the slogan itself, i.e. 'in box' etc. plus the towns where it was used.

As the years passed and more and more machines came into use, some of the general slogans such as 'Prevent Forest Fires' were used in most of the machines each year, during the same month. That is, in the case of the slogan mentioned, April. A word of warning here, one must be careful in checking dates, for although 'Prevent Forest Fire' is generally used in April, it has been used at other times of the year on all machines, and this is true also for quite a few of the general slogans. The logical exception is 'Post Early for Christmas' always used from early December on until the 21st or 22nd.

Though I write all the information on the top of the sheet in ink, because I am regularly adding to the slogans, the rest of the information, i.e. month, year, English names of the town of use, etc., is written in pencil only. I use a good quality hinge even on slogan strips, so that if any removing is required it ensures that the sheet will not be marked. Information put on in soft black-lead pencil is easily erased.

So far as general slogans are concerned, four sheets are required for each slogan for one month each year. I trim my strips to $4 \times 1\frac{3}{4}$ inches, thus ensuring that I can mount some fourteen slogans on each sheet. I write the name of the town (in alphabetical order in Gaelic) on the side, but in the case of Dublin, the machine letter. This takes time to measure out, etc., but it is worth it, and the result is a nicely mounted sheet of slogans, easy to refer to and pleasing to the eye.

Where the Dublin machines are concerned it is possible to see slogans used on the same machine for ordinary cancelling in black, and in red on 'official' and 'paid' mail. It is therefore possible to have three strips from the same machine during a month. I also have examples from machines using two different slogans at different times on the same day. The Dublin 'H' machine, which would appear to do most of the cancelling in that city, is most erratic. There are four different types of town die in use and it is disconcerting to find two different dies in use on the same day, at different times.

The only machines I've seen, outside Dublin, using slogans in red with 'paid' mail are Limerick and Cork, with a square town die from the former and a circular die from Cork. However, I have had one or two early circular die examples from Limerick.

I usually collect slogans in strips to save space, but I try also to get a good 'strike' on cover for each slogan. These are difficult to get, mostly because the 'uninitiated' generally use the whole front of the envelope to write the address, and encroach on the portion of the cover required for the slogan. Overinking is another fault, and sometimes uneven and bulky matter in the envelope is the cause of only a partial impression being made.

Here then, are some of my thoughts and ideas on the collecting of Irish slogans. It forms a most interesting sideline in Irish philately, for most slogan material is still reasonable in price and does not come too heavy on the pocket. One may form a 'one of each' collection, or be a 'fanatic' like myself, and collect as I do.

My own collection at present consists of some 3,000 items, which is always being added to. Any help I can give to other enthusiasts will be given gladly but please do not ask me for items such as Nos. 3, 10 and 14. I've not got these myself, so far!

• Some Irish Sub: Post Office Correspondence in 1910/1915

Dr. Brian de Burca, when on holiday in Ireland, some time ago, came into possession of some old records and letters from a country Post Office. They proved to contain some quite interesting matter, and a selection made by Dr. de Burca follows. All names, personal or other, in the extracts, given hereunder, are entirely fictitious and without meaning or relevance. (Editor).

* * * * *

Head Post Office, Erewon
14th Nov. 1910

Claim for Extra Pay for Late Mail.

Mr. Donovan,

Why do you prepare two claims for 11¹/₂d for week ended 12th inst? Why do you claim 30 minutes for 11th seeing that the mail was not 30 minutes late? You are aware no claim is to be made unless mail arrives 30 minutes or over late.

* * * * *

Christmas Arrangements 1910

The Sub. Post-Master, Findit

Please note arrangements have been made for the Postman to return to Lestcum (the nearest Post Office, Ed.) on the 21st, 22nd 23rd and 24th Dec. 1910 one hour before his usual time.

He should be promptly dispatched and you should give notice generally, and specially notify any important persons so as to avoid any disappointments.

A notice should be put in the Office window.

December 26th 27th

On: December 26th and 27th 1910, the usual Bank Holiday should be observed. Please read and act on Rules 104 and 105 in your Book of Rules. The postman should attend for preparation half an hour after the usual time from the 21st to the 27th inclusive. Please instruct.

On Christmas Day there will be a general delivery of letters and parcels where there is ordinarily either six or seven days delivery by Postmen.

P.A.T. Murphy
Post Master, Erewon 19/12/10

* * * * *

The Sub. Post-Master, Findit

On the 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 26th, 27th 31st Dec, and 1st January 1911 persons employed to assist postmen on foot in carrying overweight loads should be paid at the rate of 4¹/₂d per hour. On Xmas Day such persons should be paid at the rate of 7d per hour. The rate of travelling for casuals is 3 miles per hour, and the time paid for must agree with the mileage - thus 6 miles is equal to two hours and two hours at 4¹/₂d is 9d.

In any case where the rate is exceeded the following paragraph should be added to the certificate at the foot of form pp 23. - 'Cheaper assistance not obtainable.'

(I.P.)

(8)

(March 1967)

On 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th and 27th December claims for waiting for mails should not be prepared at Sub. Offices, as claims for such attendances will be made out here on 26th and 27th December (Bank Holidays).

Claims for waiting and for mails, if any, shall be submitted as regards allowances for messengers. Such time shall be included in the Bank Holidays payments to Auxiliary Postmen.

Please keep this circular for reference on 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 26th and 27th.

P.A.T. Murphy. Post Master.
Head Post Office

(Presumably the same date as previous instruction. Ed.)

* * * * *

To Sub. Post Office, Findit.

Christmas Day

On Xmas Day there will be a general delivery of letters and parcels in those Rural Posts where there are ordinarily either a six or seven days delivery by Postmen. This should read that townlands with less than six day frequency will have no delivery on Xmas Day. At all offices where there are delivery of letters to callers on Sundays, parcels also should be handed over on Xmas Day, if the callers so desire to have them, and if this can be done without difficulty.

When dispatches are made to this office separate bags should be used for letters and parcels.

P.A.T. Murphy.
Head Post Office. 20/12/10

* * * * *

Findit Sub Post Office
28 Dec. 1910.

To the Head Post Master, Erehon.
Mr. Murphy, Sir,

With reference to the assistance for overweight for Postman on Saturday 24th December and Sunday 25th December, John Curran was assisted by Michael Doherty, as he had got overweight on each day. Saturday 39 lbs. distance 7 miles = 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ld, Xmas Day 6 miles 36 lbs. + 1/2. Total amount 2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Yours obediently,

H. Donovan, Sub. Post-Master.

* * * * *

Head Post Office, Erehon
(no date)

Mr. Donovan,

You were instructed not only in P.O. circular, but also in Post Masters Xmas Circular that only Townlands having a six days delivery were to be delivered on Xmas Day - still you apparently worked on that day.

You cannot be paid for work on Xmas day. Prepare one of the enclosed, sign and send it by return for 24th. Be sure and furnish all particulars.

N. Jeeves, for Head Post-Master

(I.P.)

(9)

(March 1967)

After further exchanges, the Head Post-Master apparently decided to exert his authority, and sent the following letter :-

Head Post Office Erewhon
6th Jan. 1911

The Sub. Post Master of Findit

Please report as follows :-

1. Have you a correct window notice.
2. Is it conspicuously exhibited.
3. Letter Box, if any to be repaired, please send estimate of cost.
4. Are the Letter Boxes free from defects.
5. Are the Notice Plates and Tablets correct and in good order.
6. Are the locks and reglob(sic) shields well oiled and in good working order.
7. Are the hinges and shields oiled periodically.
8. Is the internal wire netting in its proper position in each case.
9. Does each key bear a label.
10. Have you a spare key for each Box.
11. Where are the keys kept at night and when not in use.
12. What check do you keep on the issue and return of Tablets and Keys.

P.A.T. Murphy Esq. Post-Master

NOTE: The wire netting referred to in '8' above was to prevent letters falling out, and to keep them up from the bottom of the letter box. The campaign by the Post Master was maintained during the month, as is evidenced by the following letters.

* * * * *

20th Jan. 1911

Mr. Murphy, Sir,

I have inspected uniform, pouch, and leggings. All are complete.

Yours obediently,

H. Donovan, Sub.Post-Master.

* * * * *

23rd Jan. 1911

To Sub. Post-Master, Findit.

Please see Post Office circular of 13th December 1910, page 496 and note instructions regarding use of indelible black fluid.

A $\frac{1}{4}$ pint bottle of black fluid is sent to you today and should be brought into use at once. The fluid on hand being returned to this office carefully corked and secured.

P.A.T. Murphy Esq.
Post Master.

* * * * *

Circular 710. 5/10

Correction of Rule Books at Sub. Post Offices.

The duty of correcting Rule Books has been much neglected by many Sub Post-Masters and considerable expence has been incurred in bringing the books up to date, notwithstanding, that special attention was drawn to this matter in the Post Office circular of 14/12/07.

Failure to keep the Rule Books corrected up to date will in future be treated as an irregularity and recorded against the office, and if persistent will lead to disciplinary action.

The loss or destruction of correction slips will be treated in the same way as the loss or destruction of Rule Books, as a punishable offence for which, moreover, the office in fault may be called upon to make good the cost to the Department.

For the future all correction slips will be sent out separately, together with a Record Slip, which must be signed, and returned to me when corrections have been made in the respective books of Rules.

P.A.T. Murphy Esq.
Post Master.

* * * * *

The next letter is in reference to a deficiency in stamps which appears to have the Sub Post-Master with 5d profit.

Findit Sub Post Office
8th March 1911

Mr. Murphy, Sir,

I have sent on a remittance for stamps on 6th March - 19 shillings in silver and six shillings in coppers. Same was checked by initial on application form and found correct.

I have today received £1-0-5 in penny stamps. Please see to error and have balance refunded to me either in cash or stamps.

I am your obedient servant.

H. Donovan. Sub. Post-Master.

* * * * *

The answer was written on the back of the Sub Post-Master's letter.

"5/- in 1d stamps was not entered by you until you received stamps or error would have been noticed. Stamps are checked by a second officer here. Cash was received correct. 5/- in 1d stamps now enclosed."

N. Jeeves. for Post-Master.

* * * * *

The Head Post-Master appears to be making unnecessary trouble in the next entry :-

The Sub. Post-Master, Findit.

In what circumstances was the letter delivered from your office?
Callneslin is not in your delivery.

P.A.T. Murphy.
Post-Master.

(I.P.)

(11)

(March 1967)

The Post-Master, Erehwon.
Sir,

John Doherty, Michael Doherty's son, came in on that date, and he demanded his Fathers Book. I gave it to him, he signed the green receipt.

I am your obedient Servant.

H. Donovan. Sub.Post-Master.

To the Sub. Post-Master,

It is not understood how a request could be made by a resident in another Postal District. Was it pointed out to the applicant that the address was incorrect, and that steps should be taken to have it amended.

P.A.T. Murphy. Post-Master.

The next few years are filled with matters concerning old age pensions, national insurance, etc., and in 1914 - 1915 mobilization papers. Then in 1915 there are some interesting letters headed irregularities.

To the Sub. Post-Master, Findit.

The orders in question are returned in order that you may state on what date they were actually paid. You will observe that they are stamped with the same date in the month of October.

The orders should now be impressed with the datestamp where marked 'O' showing the correct date of payment. Such careless work is beyond all reason, and I must request your more particular attention to the duties of your office.

P.A.T. Murphy, Post-Master 23/9/15

To Post-Master, Sir,

When the date was changed the month was also changed by mistake, and never taken notice of for seven days.

There will be more care taken in future.

H. Donovan. Sub.Post-Master.

24/9/15

The Sub. Post-Master, Findit.

The impressions are not yet perfect, and many of them cannot be read. Do you use a rubber pad to stamp on? Please make a few impressions in the margin of this paper.

P.A.T. Murphy. Post-Master. 25/9/15

NOTE: The date stamp referred to is the rubber type issued about 1894, but the one under discussion was issued in the second half of 1912. The term 'Pad' may be confusing. There are two types of pad referred to. (1) Small type on which the ink is spread, and (2) a larger pad usually rubber, on which the letters were placed to apply the date stamp. It would appear to be an inking pad which is referred to in these letters.

To the Post-Master, Erewhon.
Sir,

The pad used is not a rubber one. It is an ordinary soft pad. I think it is the fluid, which is so thick, closed the letters and cannot now be got clear. The pad and stamp are kept clean. This is the clearest impression which can be made.

H. Donovan. Sub.Post-Master.

27/9/15

* * * * *

To the Sub.Post-Master

The stamp is evidently not getting fair play. It should be kept clean by lightly brushing the type with a soft brush. The ink should be well shook before being put on the (inking) pad. I am sending you herewith a rubber pad. When you have cleaned the stamp, apply fresh ink to the pad, make further impressions, and please give better attention to the duties of your office before serious notice has to be taken. Acknowledge receipt of pad.

P.A.T. Murphy. Post-Master. 28/9/15

* * * * *

To the Post-Master, Erewhon.
Sir,

I have brushed and cleaned the stamp as well as I could, and applied a small portion of the fluid to the new pad. There is no improvement. A new pad received today.

H. Donovan. Sub.Post-Master 29/9/15

* * * * *

To Mr. N. Jeeves (Assistant to Post Master)

The stamp seems defective. Please have it sent for inspection.

P.A.T. Murphy. Post-Master. 30/9/15

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To the Sub. Post-Master, Findit.

Send in stamp on Saturday night, please.

N. Jeeves, for P.M. 31/9/15

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NOTE: Some details of local mail handled during the normal October census in later years are also available. Weekly totals were:- 1926: 49./ 1927: 59./1928: 33./1930: 54/1932: 39./1935: 18./1936: 27./1945: 28/ The falling quantity of mail is indicative of the falling population. in this part of the island.

* * * * *

That Place Name on Your Post-Mark

by
A.A. Horner

Many of us, through our general interest in Irish philately, have at least a passing interest in Irish post-marks, but from a philatelic point of view, our interest is usually confined to the shape and size of the postmark whilst little attention is paid to the name on the mark except to identify the office of origin. Anyone who has sorted even once through some Irish kiloware must notice how frequently certain words recur, either separately or as the prefix element in longer words. This article outlines the origins and meanings of some of the commoner words. It will, it is hoped, give some enlightenment to those who have little or no Irish, and may perhaps help make their future post-mark studies more systematic.

All normal Republic of Ireland postmarks have the place-name in Irish; in most cases, these names are very old, dating back to the beginning of the Christian Era and have a Celtic, possibly even in some instances, a pre-Celtic origin. These names often reflect the mode and habitat of early Celtic life and in their concentration on pastoralism and warfare, provide a strong contrast with the more domesticated origins of present English place-names. Of course, the English language versions of some of these names is unrelated to the Irish, for it is a later imposition from Norse, Norman or Plantation periods. Thus, Wexford and Waterford, both Norse settlements originally, have a different origin to the older Loch Garman and Port Lairge which appear on the postmarks. Nevertheless, many Irish words are anglicised and incorporated in the English version as will be seen below.

The commonest and most familiar postmark is that of Dublin - Baile Átha Cliath. This name, meaning 'town on the ford of the hurdles' is favoured in preference to the complementary alternative Dubh Linn, meaning 'Black Pool' and referring to a berthing place below the ford, from which Dublin is derived.

The words 'Baile' and 'Átha' are, both together and in isolation, common constituents in Irish place-names with the usual anglicised versions being 'Bally-' and 'Ath-' respectively. 'Baile' in modern Irish usually means 'town' but it can also mean a home or village. Originally, however, the words seems to have been applied to a small territorial unit - usually about half a square mile in area - known as the townland. Many townlands still retain the word 'baile' in their name, and this has crept into the postmarks of many country offices, far removed from any town. This diversity in meaning accounts for the abundance of 'bailes' on postmarks.

Analysis of Eolái an Phoist (the Irish Post Office Guide) reveals that, of some 3000 Irish (32 counties) post-offices, almost 400 (389 in fact) incorporate the word Baile in their place-name; this includes the office at Ballintubber, Baile an Tobair, the townland of the well, whose abbey was commemorated by a special stamp last year. Baile is also found in Scottish place-names under the guise of such prefixes as Bal-, Balli- and Baillie-, (eg Balmoral).

Átha, meaning a ford, is a constituent of the place-names, for 32 post offices of which the most important is Athlone, (Áth Luair - the ford of Luan). In combination with other common words, Átha occurs not only with Baile, but also, more frequently with Béal, meaning mouth. Thus, Beál, Átha na Sluaighe is Ballinasloe, the ford at the mouth of the hosts or 'gatherings' (Joyce), and Ballyshannon is Béal Átha Aenagh, the mouth of Shannagh's ford. There are 35 post-offices whose Irish version includes the words Béal Átha.

The anglicised prefix Bally-, is usually derived from Baile, but in some cases comes from beal and also from Bealach (way). Ballina, another common prefix is also usually derived from beal or baile; Beal also gives rise to the prefix Bel-, which is found in such names as Belfast (Béal Feirsde - the mouth of the Farset), Belcoo and Belturbet.

Next to Baile, the most common word is Cill-, which forms part of the Irish name of 192 post-offices, including those of Kilkenny (Cill Choinnigh = the church of (st:) Canice), Killarney (Cill Airne) - the church of the sloes, and Kildare (Cill Dare = the church of the oak tree). The prefix Kil- may also be formed from Coill, a wood, but this is quite rare. It is, of course, a common prefix in Scotland (eg Kilmarnock) where it is one reminder of the Celtic influence.

77 Post-offices contain the word Drom or Druim as the initial element of their place-names; these include Drumcliffe, Co. Sligo (Druim Cliabh, the hill of the baskets) where W.B. Yeats was buried. The majority of these post-offices are concentrated on an east-west belt across the north of the country, particularly counties Down, Armagh, Louth, Monaghan, Cavan, Fermanagh and Leitrim, a distribution which is explained by the fact that 'Drum' means a long low hill or ridge, features which are particularly prominent in these areas.

The importance of military affairs and agriculture in early Irish society is indicated by the abundance of names containing the elements Clon- and Dun-, each of which is part of the names of 60 post-offices, and which are derived from Cluain, a meadow, and Dún, a fort (Usually royal) respectively. Clonmel (Cluain Meala = the meadow of honey) and Clones (Cluain Eois = the meadow of Eois). Dún Laoghaire (the fort of Laoghaire, the High King whom St. Patrick is alleged to have converted), Dungarvan (Dún Garbháin = the fort of Garvan), Dundalk (Dun Dealgan = the fort of Delga) and Donegal (Dun na nGall = the fort of the foreigners) are the most important of these offices. Dun- is also a common prefix in Scotland (e.g. Dundee).

Warfare and the agriculture are fused in the prefixes Lis- and Rath-, which are the anglicised versions of Lies and Rath respectively, both of which mean a 'fort' of a rather special type. These forts consist simply of a clearing encircled by an earthen mound and ditch; they were used as fortified dwellings by farmers during the Iron Age.

There are some 30,000 raths in Ireland, so their frequency in post-office names is perhaps not surprising. In one instance, Rath combines with drum to produce Rathdrum (Ráth Droma = the fort on the long hill).

Other words frequently occurring as part of the place name are Knock (Cnoc = a hill), Gleann (A glen as in Gleann dá Locha), Glendalough, the glen of the two lakes), Cool, from Cúil = a corner (e.g. Cúil an tSudaire = the tanner's corner, Portarlinton), Caisleán or Caiseal, a castle as in Caisleán an Bharraigh - Castlebar, and Droichead - a bridge as in Droichead Nua = Newbridge, and Droichead Átha = Drogheda = the bridge at the ford.

Two less frequent but important words deserve mention:- Inis and Oileán, both of which mean 'island' although when it comes to postmarks, this has to be interpreted with caution for 'Inis' can also mean a river meadow, and it is used in this sense in (among others) Inis and Inis Diomain (Ennis and Ennistymon Co. Clare). Oileán is less ambiguous, yet only three of the eight post-offices including the word are actually islands; the others being on the mainland and often not even near the sea. Nor can one rely on all island post-offices including the words 'Inis' or 'Oileán'. Thus, Valentia Island is Dairbhre (a place producing oaks), whilst the chief village on the Aran Islands is plain Cill Ronain = Kilronan; likewise, post-offices on Achill and other large islands betray no traces of their island nature in their postmarks.

No article on Irish place-names, philatelic or otherwise, would be complete without reference to the two great pioneer scholars, Eugene O'Curry and John O'Donovan, whose death centenaries are commemorated on a special issue of 1962. It is due to these two scholars, and particularly O'Donovan, that a standardisation of the anglicised version of the Irish place-names was made, this version being used on the early editions of the Ordnance Survey, for which both men worked. O'Donovan visited every part of Ireland, and in the course of his task, recorded observations and notes on 144,000 names in 62,000 townlands. The work of these men was not confined to place-names, and much of our knowledge of early Irish annals and manuscripts is due to their dedicated efforts in cataloging, annotating and publishing these early documents, an exacting but invaluable task.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY This article has, for reasons of space, been able to deal with only the most common place-names. More comprehensive and detailed information may be found in the following, many of which are, unfortunately long out of print; they may possibly be found in a good reference library.

JOYCE, P.W. The Origin and History of Irish Names of Places. 1869 - 1913
3 volumes. Academic but very comprehensive.

Ditto Irish Local Names Explained. Dublin and London. 1923,
a short and very useful summary of Joyce's book above.

/Continued overleaf..

Lacide.S. Post-Sheanchas na hEirinn. 2 Vols. Dublin.1905-11.
Gives Irish and English addresses of Irish post-offices,
together with some comments on the origin of several names.
Its usefulness is limited by its being very largely in
Irish.

O'Brien.M.A.Local Traditions: Place-names. A summary-chapter in
J.A. Meenan and D.A. Webb. A view of Ireland. Dublin 1957.

Otway-Ruthven. J. Place-names in Ireland, Irish Geography. Vol.2.No.2.
Dublin 1950. An academic discussion, largely on the theme
of townlands in Co. Dublin.

In addition, the Irish Place Name Society, An Cumann Logainmneacha, publish
a journal, Dinnsheanchas, many of whose articles are in Irish. Appendix 'C'
of 'The Shell Guide to Ireland' also gives useful summary information.

* * * * *

APPENDIX The most common Irish words incorporated in Post-office place-names.
Based on an analysis of the Irish names of over 3,000 post-offices
listed in Eolai an Phoist. Vol. 1 for the 32 counties of Ireland. The number of
occurrences as the initial word in the name, and the usual meaning is given in
brackets.

Acadh	(38 = field)	Doire	(27 = oakwood)
Ard	(30 = high)	Druim	(77 = ridge, long low hill)
Atha	(32 = a ford)	Dun	(60 = fort)
Baile	(389 = town, townland, home)	Droichead	(36 = bridge)
Beál	(49, 35 with Ath = mouth)	Gleann	(48 = valley, glen)
Bothar	(62 = a road, or an abbreviation)	Inis	(28 = island)
Caisleán	(36 = stone castle)	Lios	(52 = fortified farm)
Carraig	(30 = a rock)	Magh	(38 = a plain)
Cill	(192 = cell, church)	Port	(29 = port, wharf)
Cluain	(60 = meadow)	Ráth	(50 = fortified farm)
Cnoc	(56 = hill)	Ros	(27 = wood (Munster).
Coill	(29 = a wood)	Ros	(- = peninsula (Ulster)
Cora	(30 = a weir)	Sraid	(111 = a street)
Cros	(28 = a cross)		
Cúil	(39 = corner, back)		

IRISH TRAVELLING POST OFFICES.

These pages are being published and issued as a preliminary Check List to Irish Philatelic Circle members and others, to obtain further information and verification about the postal markings which were used on the Irish T.P.O's.

A few words of explanation as to the system I adopted for the layout of the format used for describing the hand stamps used on the trains.

- a. The Illustration number.
- b. Type of Handstamp.
- c. Size of Handstamp.
- d. Earliest and latest date of use known at the time of writing.
- e. Title: i.e. T.P.O., R.P.O. etc.
- f. Service: up or down - day or night.
- g. Other remarks.

It will be observed that some of the above are incomplete. If any reader can furnish information in this direction, I would be most grateful for same, so that it could be included in a future reprint.

The four prints of the compass are used to designate the directions travelled by the T.P.O's, i.e. North, South, East and West in that order.

My thanks for assistance in compiling these notes go to :-
F.E. Dixon; Dr. B. de Burca; Rev. Fr. Brennan; A. Stokes;
N. Langton; J.D. Houston; A. Sedgley.

January 1967.

Wm. Kane.
7 O'Connell Gdn.
DUBLIN 4.

BELFAST AND NORTHERN COUNTIES T.P.O.

- N.7. Single Circle 25/25 mm - 5.4.00 to 7.5.07
(S.T)
N.8. Single Circle mm - 30.8.01
(R.P.O)
N.9. Double Circle mm - 29.8.30
(S.C) UP and DOWN
N.10. Single Circle mm - 1.9.30 to 18.9.30

* * * * *

PORTADOWN AND DERRY T.P.O.

- N.11. Single Circle 21 mm - 14.5.1859 to 25.8.1893
(R.P.O)
N.12. Single Circle mm - 10.3.1894
(S.T)
N.13. Single Circle 26 mm - 5.3.1901 to 29.8.01
(S.T)
N.14. Single Circle 26 mm - 24.9.04 to 17.8.08
(S.T) UP-NIGHT DOWN-NIGHT
N.15. Single Circle 26/27 mm - 6.3.05 to 27.4.13
(S.T) D (= Down) U (= Up)
N.16. Single Circle 24 mm - 2.5.06
(S.C)
N.17. Single Circle 24 mm - 21.3.18 to 30.8.30
(S.C)
N.18. Single Circle mm - 30.8.30 to 20.12.37
(T.P.O) (UP and DOWN)

* * * * *

DUBLIN AND DERRY T.P.O.

N.19. Single Circle 24 mm - 25.7.16

(T.P.O)

N.20. Double Circle 27 mm - 28.7.22 to 15.8.22

(T.P.O) UP and DOWN

* * * * *

SOUTHERN T.P.O's

CORK T.P.O.

S.1. Single Circle 22/23 mm - 5.10.1877 to 25.8.80

(T.P.O) x or 9 above date

* * * * *

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN T.P.O.

S.2. Single Circle 21/22 mm - 1.11.1868 to 25.5.93

(R.P.O) also with A or B above date. Note small N's

S.3. Single Circle 23 mm - 28.7.84 to 25.5.93

(R.P.O) also with B above date. Note large N's

S.4. Single Circle 26/27 mm - 1.10.94 to 15.4.04

(R.P.O) UP DAY - DOWN DAY - DOWN NIGHT

S.5. Single Circle 23/28 mm - 17.12.97 to 23.10.99

(R.P.O) UP NIGHT - DOWN NIGHT

S.6. Double rim skeleton mm - 29.3.1899

(T.P.O)

S.7. Single Circle 26 mm - 8.8.1901 to 25.10.09

(T.P.O) UP NIGHT - DOWN NIGHT

* * * * *

- S.8. Single Circle 23/24 mm - 26.2.02 to 10.9.23
(T.P.O) UP NIGHT - DOWN NIGHT
Variety U NIGHT 20.10.04)
- S.9. Single Circle 24/27 mm - 26.2.02 to 25.1.19
(T.P.O) UP, DOWN "D", NIGHT, DAY.
- S.10. Single Circle 26 mm - 18.5.03 to 9.10.06
(I.P.O) DOWN - UP
- S.11. Single Circle mm - 28.11.04
(T.P.O) DN above date
- S.12. Single Circle 26/27 mm - 30.11.05 to 28.2.25
(T.P.O) UP - DOWN also NIGHT MAIL (28.2.25 last day of use)
- S.13. Double rim skeleton mm - 14.3.05 to 2.8.22
(T.P.O) D above date - DN above date.
- S.14. Single Circle 24 mm - 7.3.07 to 25.1.19
(T.P.O)
- S.15. Double Circle 26 mm - 2.5.20 to 20.2.25
(T.P.O) UP NIGHT, DOWN NIGHT (20.2.25 last day of use)
- S.16. Single rim skeleton 37 mm - 26.1.24
(T.P.O)
- S.17. Single rim skeleton
(T.P.O)

* * * * *

LIMERICK SORTING TENDER - SORTING CARRIAGE

- S.18. Single Circle 25 mm - 4.6.07 to 29.6.10
(S.T)
- S.19. Single Circle 25 mm - 30.8.13 to 18.10.13
(S.C) Note date - year in full
- S.20. Single rim skeleton 37 mm - 20.12.38 to 22.12.38
(S.C) Used for 3 days only - note date in one time.
- S.21. Single rim skeleton 37 mm - 19.12.39 to 22.12.39
(S.C) 19.12.39 First day of use

S.22 Single rim skeleton 37 mm - 20.12.39 to 20.12.39
(S.C) one day in use - Variety K reversed in the morning
corrected in the evening.

* * * * *

WATERFORD SORTING TENDER

S.23. Single circle 24 mm - 07
(S.T) also known used on Edward VII stamp;
no year in date plug. 20 Ju.

* * * * *

DUBLIN AND CORK T.P.O.

S.24. San Serif Letters mm - 22.6.94 to 29.5.95
(T.P.O) American mail
S.25 Single Circle 26/27 mm - 19.6.24 to 2.3.35
(Post Tals)
S.26 Single Circle 30 mm - 2.3.25 - 7.5.31
(T.P.O) UF DAY UP NIGHT, DOWN NIGHT
S.27 Double rim skeleton 37 mm - 23.11.27 to 24.11.27
(T.P.O) Similar to S.32 but with double rim DOWN DAY - UF DAY
S.28 Double Circle 28/29 mm - 30.11.28 to 24.8.36
(P-O.T) also without ANIOS or SUAS
S.29. Double Circle 29/30 mm - 16.12.27 to 4.11.60
(P-O.T) ANIOS - SIOS - note H dropped in Corcaigh and Oiche
S.30. Double rim skeleton mm - 15.2.29
(P.O.T)

- S.31. Double Circle 31 mm - 10.12.30 to 12.6.44
 (T.P.O) H replaces the dot on T of cliat and G of Corcaigh
- S.32. Single rim skeleton 37 mm - 22.7.30 to 17.7.31
 (T.P.O) DOWN NIGHT - UP NIGHT, VARIETY Urd
 (F lying on its side 15.6.31)
- S.33 Double circle 30 mm - 15.12.54 to 5.10.60
 (P.O.T) ANIOS - SIOS note letters of ANIOS in Gaelic Characters
- S.34. Single circle 30 mm - 23.-61 to 22.10.63
 (P-O.T) ANIOS - SIOS
- S.35 Single rim skeleton 30 mm - 23.10.64
 (P.O.T)

* * * * *

DUBLIN AND QUEENSTOWN T.P.O.

- S.36. San Serif letters 28 mm - 16.2.1892 to 26.10.1907
 (T.P.O) 26.10.07 last day of use. Note O instead of Q.
 also broken U.
- S.37. San Serif letters. 28 mm - 16.2.07
 (T.P.O) New Stamp correct letter Q.
- S.38. San Serif letters. 28 mm - 18.4.02 to 12.2.07
 (T.P.O) Numeral above date.

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BALLYBROPHY SORTING TENDER

- S.39. Single Circle mm - 22.8.00
 (S.T)

* * * * *

TRALEE AND MALLOW SORTING CARRIAGE

- S.40. Single rim skeleton mm - 22.10.53
 (T.P.O)
- S.41. Single rim skeleton 30 mm - 20.12.57 to 22.12.63
 (S.C) S.C. at foot in some cases.
- S.42. Single rim skeleton 35 mm - 20.12.38 to 17.12.53
 (-)

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MALLOW AND TRALEE SORTING CARRIAGE

- S.43. Single rim skeleton 30 mm - 18.12.56
 (S.C)

* * * * *

EASTERN T.P.O's

DUBLIN AND WEXFORD T.P.O.

- E.1. Single Circle 21 mm - 16.6.94 -
 (R.P.O)
- E.2. Single Circle 24/25 mm - 27.11.97 to 20.3.35
 (I.P.O.) UP and DOWN.
- E.3. Single rim skeleton 35 mm - 6.7.35 -
 (T.P.O.) UP and DOWN.
- E.4. Double circle 30 mm - 6.1.38 to 18.9.65
 (P.O.T) SUAS, SIOS, and ANIOS (18.9.35 service discontinued).

- E.5. Single rim skeleton 30 mm - 22.12.41 -
(P.O.T) Note inverted L for agus
- E.6. Single rim skeleton mm - 22.12.43 -
(P.O.T)
- E.7. Single rim skeleton 30 mm - 20.8.04 -
(T.O.P) note number above date

* * * * *

WESTERN T.P.O's

MIDLAND GREAT WESTERN T.P.O.

- W.1. Single circle 22/23 mm - 10.6.99 to 17.11.02
(T.P.O) UP DAY UP NIGHT
- W.2. Single Circle mm - 27.7.02 -
(T.P.O) UP DAY
- W.3. Single Circle 24/27 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm - 20.12.06 to 28.2.25
(T.P.O) UP DAY UP/DOWN NIGHT

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DUBLIN AND GALWAY T.P.O.

- W.4. Single circle 30 mm - 28.4.28 to 23.5.55
(T.P.O) UP/DOWN DAY ANIOS NIGHT, DOWN NIGHT
UP NIGHT, Variety inverted U and Broken
- W.5. Single rim skeleton 36 mm - 27.7.33 to 9.9.33
(T.P.O)
- W.6. Double circle 31 mm - 13.4.34 to 7.12.36
(P.O.T) (OICHE) ANIOS, ANIOS, OICCHE.
- W.7. Double circle 31 mm - 3.10.38 to 16.7.59
(P.O.T) (LAE) SIOS, ANIOS, var. ANIOS inverted.

- W.8. Single circle 30 mm - 12.5.48 to 22.12.48
(P.O.T) Star above date.
- W.9. Double circle 30 mm - 29.11.55 to 27.11.62
(P.O.T) Sics/Anios dash 4 mm
- W.10. Double circle 31 mm - 31.5.56 to 23.4.63
(P.O.T) Sios/Anios dash 8 mm

* * * * *

DUBLIN AND SLIGO SORTING CARRIAGE

- W.11. Single rim skeleton 29 mm - 19.12.64 to
(S.C)

* * * * *

MULLINGAR AND SLIGO SORTING CARRIAGE

- W.12. Single circle 23 mm - 18.2.04 to 25.5.06
(S.T)
- W.13. Single circle 24 mm - 10.8.04 to 13.5.18
(S.C)
- W.14. Single Circle 23 mm - .2.09 to
(S.T) (This could probably be a version of W.12.)
- W.15. Double circle 29 mm - 14.12.22 to 11.4.29
(S.C)
- W.16. Double circle 31 mm - 4.6.30 to 27.8.31
(S.C)
- W.17. Single rim circle 31 mm - 0.9.44 to 23.12.44
(S.C)
- W.18. Double circle 31 mm - 14.8.57 to
(S.C)
- W.19. Single rim skeleton 31 mm - 20.12.57 to
(S.C.)

W.20. Single rim skeleton. mm - 24.12.58 to
 (S.C.)

W.21. Double circle 31 mm to 25.5.64

* * * * *

NORTHERN T.P.O's

DUBLIN AND BELFAST T.P.O.

N.1. Single circle 22/27 mm - 4.8.1868 to 8.10.1903
 (R.P.O.) A or B above date - no letter - Up instead of letter.

N.2. Single circle 25/27 mm - 23.3.1899 to 4.8. 1922
 (T.P.O.) UP and DOWN. Service ceased as from 1.10.1923.

N.3. Single circle mm - 27.7.05 to 27.7.06.
 (T.P.O.) Rubber stamp for fragile parcels.

N.4. Single circle 30 mm -
 (-) Found cancelling Edward VII and George V stamps.

N.21. Single circle 26 mm - 5.8.1898 to 9.3. 1910.
 (R.P.O.) UP and Down (Subvariety of N.1.)

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ULSTER T.P.O.

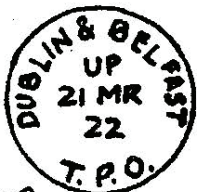
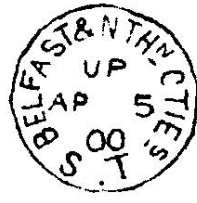
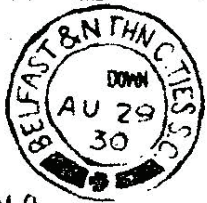
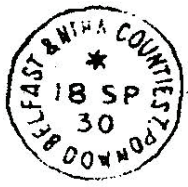
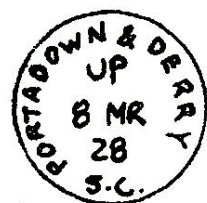
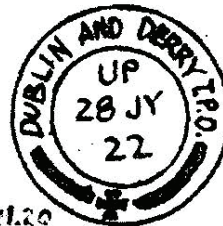
N.5. Double rim skeleton 35 mm - 1.7.01 to 22.8.01
 (T.P.O.)

N.6. Single circle 22/23 mm - 26/27 mm - 16.11.1895 to 8.2.06.
 (T.P.O.) U and D above date, also UP and DOWN.

* * * * *

IRISH T. P. O's.

NORTHERN.

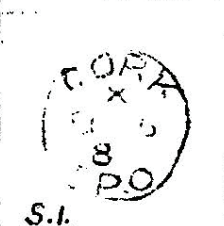
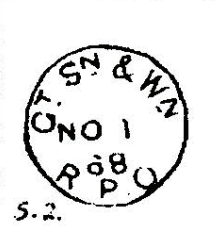
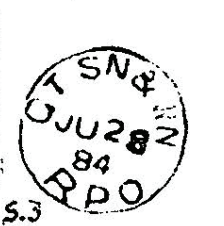
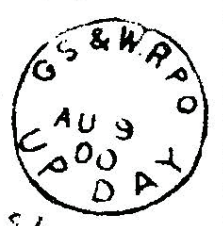
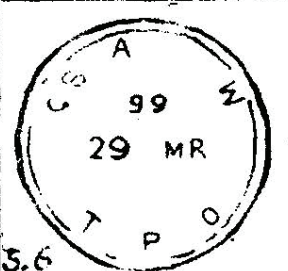
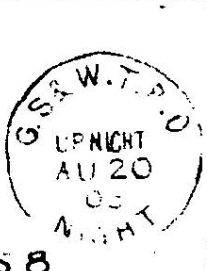
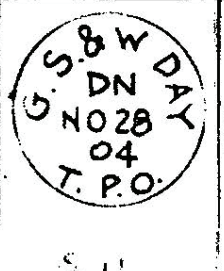
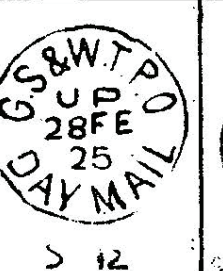
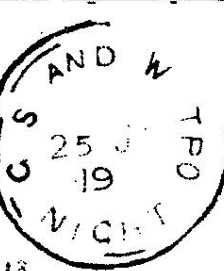
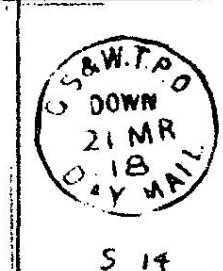
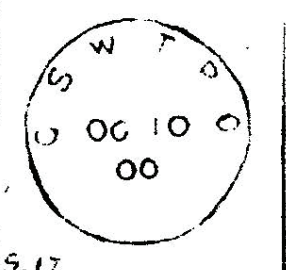
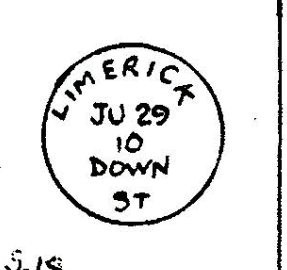
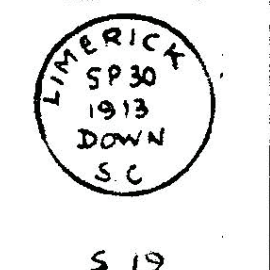
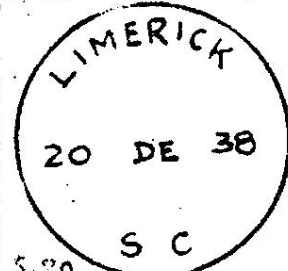
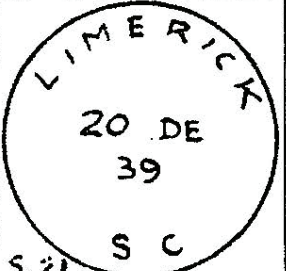
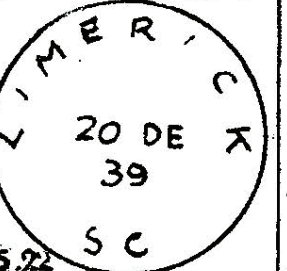
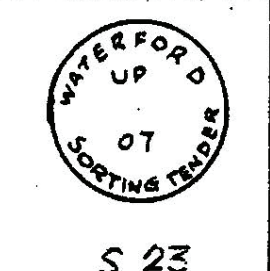
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 N.5	 N.6	 N.7	 N.8
 N.9	 N.10	 N.11	 N.12
 N.13	 N.14	 N.15	 N.16
 N.17	 N.18	 N.19	 N.20
 N.21			

(I.P.)

(1967.)

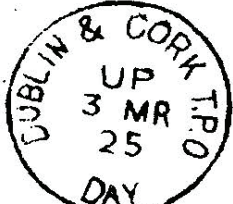
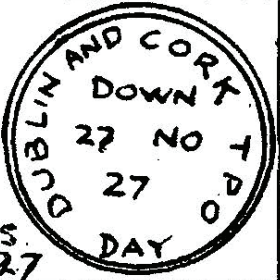
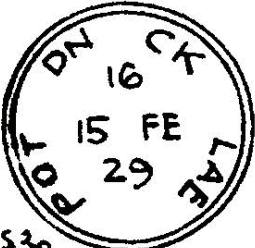
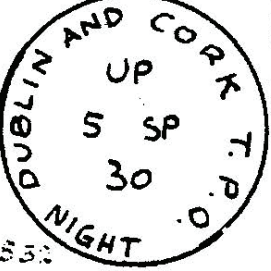
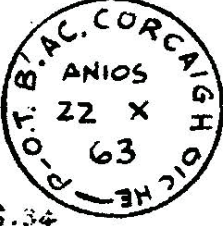
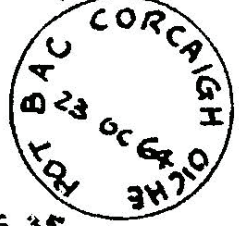
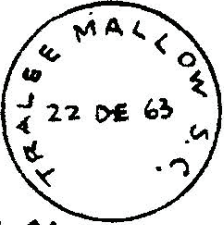
IRISH T. P. O'.

SOUTHERN.

 S.1.	 S.2.	 S.3.	 S.4.	 S.5.
 S.6.	 S.7.	 S.8.	 S.9.	 S.10.
 S.11.	 S.12.	 S.13.	 S.14.	 S.15.
 S.16.	 S.17.	 S.18.	 S.19.	
 S.20.	 S.21.	 S.22.	 S.23.	

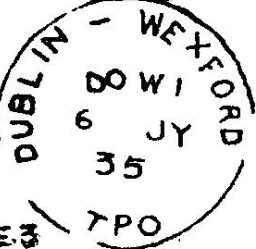
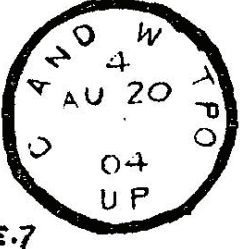
(I. P.)

(1967.)

 S. 24	 S. 25	 S. 26	 S. 27
 S. 28	 S. 29	 S. 30	 S. 31
 S. 32	 S. 33	 S. 34	 S. 35
 S. 36	 S. 37	 S. 38	 S. 39
 S. 40	 S. 41	 S. 42	 S. 43

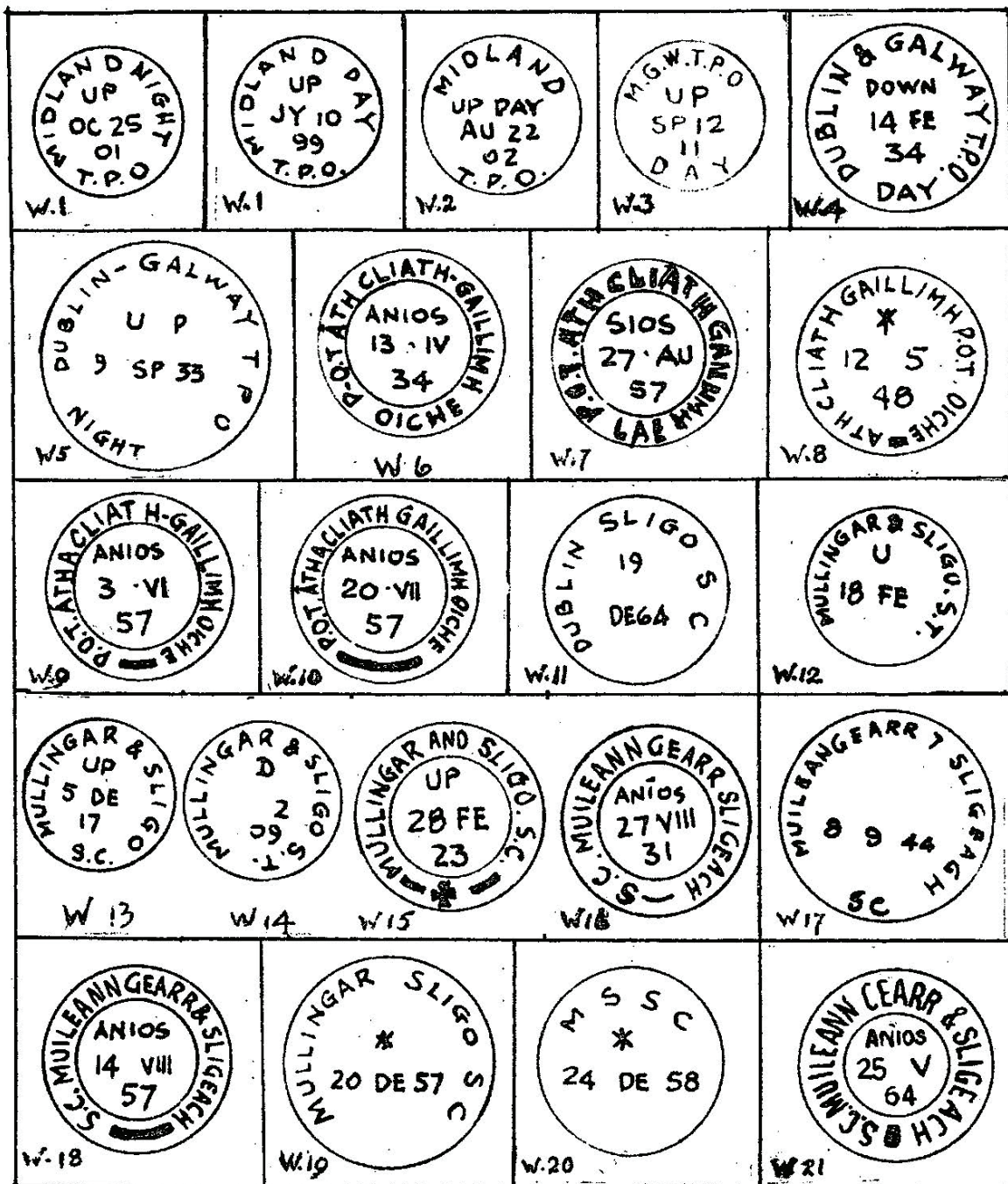
IRISH T. P. O's.

EASTERN.

 E 1	 E 2	 E 3	 E 4
 E 5	 E 6	 E 7	

IRISH T. P. O's.

WESTERN.



(I.P.)

(1967)