

IRISH PHILATELY

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Edited by

O.M. RICHARDS

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"Irish Philately"

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EDITORIAL

I have decided that to list the office bearers every issue is really a page wasted, especially as we are restricting the Journal to twenty pages. In future they will be listed annually, in the June issue.

The next event in the Irish Philatelic Calendar is "STAMPA", which I understand is 6 to 9 November 1975. I have neither seen or received any publicity material, as yet, to confirm these dates. This will be another opportunity to meet old friends and to make new ones and is well worth the effort made to attend.

O.M. Richards

Letter from the President:-

Dear Member,

As I pen these few lines, we are preparing for another philatelic season. Our local society's calendar of events is to hand. This means that if one is down to give a display preparation is an immediate necessity.

The only way to improve one's collection is to give a display, this means that you do some work, both in research and the writing up of your pages. In return, this improves the status of your collection, so it is a means to an end. The true joy of Philately is not in possessing a treasure but in showing it to your fellow philatelists.

When you are preparing for your local society display, please give a thought to the "TE Field" Award at our AGM in Liverpool next May. In other words, kill two birds with one stone.

Whilst on the subject of the "Field" awards, I am thinking about the literature section. When we started out in 1960 with our first journal it was called the Irish Philatelic Study Group. Since then, many of our members have done some wonderful research. Would it be possible to unite efforts by forming small groups, say of three or four members interested in the same aspect, and when their work is completed have their efforts published in pamphlet form. If we had several such efforts entered for the "Field" award it would indeed be a fitting climax to the memory of that great Philatelist.

Please give this a thought and drop me a line regarding your ideas on this subject.

Before I close, may I remind you to send something to "Sedge" for the AGM Fund. Now is the time to do so.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Kane

Address:- 7 O'Connell Gardens, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Ireland

Dear Editor,

In the last issue of Irish Philately FE Dixon asked for information about the Sligo TPOs. Since the early 1950s a mail train has left Sligo at about 8 pm and reached Mullingar before 11 pm. After about half an hour it returned to Sligo arriving about 2 am. At Mullingar connections to and from Dublin and from Galway were provided by the Dublin - Galway Night TPOs. Until 1973 passenger accommodation was provided but in view of the improved train frequencies introduced in April that year only mail is carried now. Naturally the precise times of the trains have varied from year to year.

Although there is no reference to this in the CIE time tables I think that during recent Christmas periods the Sligo mail train must have been extended to operate through from Dublin to Sligo. I have specimens used each year from 1963 to 1969. The inscription, in English, was:-

DUBLIN SLIGO SC	1963 1964 1965
DUBLIN AND SLIGO SC	1966
DN AND SLIGO SC	1967
DUBLIN SLIGO S C	1969

I also have specimens of a dcads inscribed S.C. MUILEANN GEARR & SLIGEACH dated 21 July 1957 and 18 December 1959, which is presumably the cancellation used on the normal mail train throughout the year.

The above adds a little information about these services but poses a number of questions:-

1. Is the Dublin Sligo SC an extension of the Mullingar Sligo mail train?
2. When was the Irish skeleton cancellation reported by FE Dixon introduced?
3. Is sorting still carried out on the Mullingar Sligo mail train throughout the year or is it now confined to the Christmas period?
4. In Britain the practice is for the TPOs to be withdrawn during the Christmas pressure periods. In Ireland they seem to be introduced solely for Christmas. What is the reason for this difference in practice?

Yours sincerely,

John Hearn

From the Editor:-

I am able to throw a little light on the Mullingar Sligo portion of the TPOs. This service was in regular use pre war as a day mail only and ceased on 24 April 1944. It resumed on 9 July 1945 and ceased completely as a daily day service on 20 January 1947. Two of the hand stamps, one a skeleton, are illustrated.



I do not have a note of when the pre Christmas Sorting Carriage commenced but I can give dates and times for the 1955 - 1957 period as follows:-

Mullingar and Sligo SC Night Mail 17 to 24 December 1955

Down Journey	Depart Mullingar	9.47 pm
	Arrive Sligo	12.55 am (following day)
Up Journey	Depart Sligo	7.25 pm
	Arrive Mullingar	10.55 pm

The date stamp used was the pre war double circle illustrated above, officially for use on official documents only but it is to be found cancelling mail.

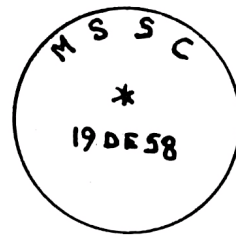
Mullingar and Sligo SC Night Mail 18 to 22 December 1956

Depart Mullingar	11.20 pm
Arrive Sligo	2.20 am (following day)
Depart Sligo	7.25 pm
Arrive Mullingar	10.50 pm (5 minutes earlier than previous year)

Mullingar and Sligo SC Night Mail 17 to 24 December 1957

Depart Mullingar	11.20 pm
Arrive Sligo	2.20 am (following day)
Depart Sligo	7.25 pm
Arrive Mullingar	10.55 pm

The following are a selection of date stamps used in the period covered by the above notes.



Letters to the Editor:-

Dear Editor,

BUSINESS REPLY STATIONERY

Adding to the list of previous correspondents, herewith some additions and observations:-

DN	74	THE AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION - DUBLIN 2 (Tear-off card)
DN	880	ARNOTT'S DUBLIN 1 (Folder seen in five different colours)
DN	941	SINGER BUSINESS MACHINES (Card)
DN	1017	JULIAN S HODGE (IRELAND) LTD (Card)
DN	1326	"BUSINESS AND FINANCE" (Card)
DN	1416	SE RYLE LIMITED (Card)
DN	1446	PHOENIX RELAYS LIMITED - DUBLIN 6 (Envelope)
DN	1747	HERTZ RENT A CAR - DUBLIN 4 (Envelope)
DN	1836	SHERIDAN ASSURANCE ASSOCIATES LTD (Card)
DN	1865	ESB - METER READING SECTION (Card) (This appears to have replaced the identical card with embossed stamp)

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

1. No two are of the same dimension (ie NO standard size).
2. Vertical lines vary (very much) in thickness.
3. Some read "BUSINESS REPLY ENVELOPE" others read "BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE".
4. In some cases the addition of the word "the" occurs in the 'standard' (?) wording - "No postage stamp necessary if posted in ("the") Republic of Ireland".
5. The prefix DN in some cases reads D.N.

Yours faithfully,

Michael J Kerr

PHILATELIC OFFICE GPO ARCADE DUBLIN

by O.M. Richards

I was privileged to be invited to the opening of the new Philatelic Office in the GPO Arcade, Dublin on Monday, 28 July. The Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien TD., performed the ceremony. There were many guests including the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Alderman Patrick Dunne, members of the Stamp Design and Philatelic Advisory Committees, the Post Office Users' Council and representatives of many philatelic interests. It was good to meet "old " friends again and to be able to talk to them, as well as to new friends, on matters Irish philatelic. It was difficult to inspect the new premises, it was rather crowded, but I did notice a display of colour trials of the Countess Markievicz stamps, a proper scrutiny of the display will have to wait until my next visit to Dublin.

At the reception afterwards, at Wynn's Hotel, each guest was presented with a folder containing current definitives to the pound value, plus several sets of recent commemoratives. A most acceptable souvenir of the occasion.

From the Press Release it may be of interest to quote the following:-

"Up to now, philatelic services have been provided from a counter in the main public office of the GPO. The new Office will enable a better service to be given to philatelic customers, particularly to philatelists seeking advice and information regarding Irish stamps. Philately is an area of the Department's postal activities which has shown notable growth over the years and indications are that prospects of further development, to the mutual advantage of the Department and of philatelists, are good. Just before the official opening, the Minister had received a report from the Philatelic Advisory Committee (established in 1973) on ways and means of promoting further interest in Irish stamps and postal history. Various Irish philatelic exhibits of interest will be on display in the new Office from time to time. The initial display, which is currently on view, features the designs on which the two definitive series of Irish stamps were based.

Here is Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien's speech in full:-

"I am very pleased indeed to be here today to open this new Philatelic Office and to welcome all our guests for the occasion. Philately is an area of the Department's activities which has shown notable growth in recent years and the provision of the new Office is a reflection of this. In the past five years philatelic sales have approximately doubled. We hope that it will enable us to give a much better service to our philatelic customers. Hitherto, collectors who wished to purchase stamps and other philatelic items could do so at a special counter in the GPO proper. That arrangement was not altogether satisfactory, especially for those philatelists who wished to seek advice and information since the counter was also used for general postal purposes, and was only available for philatelic purposes on a specific day. This office is the philatelists' own and I trust they will make full use of it. I know that the staff here, who between them have many years experience and knowledge of philately and who have long had a reputation for friendly service, will be only too glad to assist customers in any way they can.

I regard the opening of this Office as a further step in what is a continuing development of our philatelic services. Interest in Irish philately has never been higher - the philatelic sales of this year's Europa issue, for example, were at a record level - and there is every indication that further growth is attainable. In this connection, I am very pleased to say that I have today received the report of the Advisory Committee which I set up late in 1973 to advise me on ways and means of promoting interest in Irish stamps and postal history. I am sure that this report will provide a sound basis on which further development of our philatelic services can be planned to the mutual advantage of the Department and of philatelists. My sincere thanks are due to the Chairman of the Committee, Mr WH Walsh, and to his colleagues for the public-spirited and expeditious way in which they set about their task.

I should also like to mention the other and older Stamp Committee which has given such valuable advice to my predecessors and myself on design. Good design is, of course, a prime element in philatelic success and I am very appreciative of the efforts of the Stamp Design Advisory Committee to continue improving the already high quality of design of our stamps which the members of the Committee have done so much to establish.

I should like to express my appreciation to the senior architect in charge, Mr F Hilton of the Office of Public Works and to the contractor, Messrs Ridge and Sons Ltd. I wish also to compliment Mr Eckersley and his colleagues of the Kilkenny Design Workshops who designed and mounted the exhibition material. I feel sure that philatelists and students of postal history will find the exhibits interesting and I know that my Department would welcome any comments on the display or suggestions for future displays. The display itself is a blend of the old and the new - you will see the material from which the Department's first definitive stamp series originated and, in contrast, the designs on which the current series were based.

To sum up, may I say that everyone concerned with the construction and presentation of the new Office deserves to be commended. They can be justifiably proud of their work.

It gives me great pleasure to declare this Philatelic Office formally open.

* * * * *

CONTEMPORARY IRISH ART 28 July 1975 The stamp features Oisín Kelly's sculpture "Bird of Prey". Oisín Kelly was born in Dublin 1915. He was educated at St James National School, Mountjoy School and Trinity College. He won a travelling scholarship to study philology at a German University. He pursued a dual career as a sculptor and school teacher until recently, when he decided to devote himself solely to sculpture. He is particularly well known for his work on religious themes, which may be seen in churches throughout Ireland. He works also for the Kilkenny Design Workshops and his work is regularly exhibited at events such as the Royal Hibernian Academy's annual exhibition.

* * * * *

THE CANCELLING MACHINES OF IRELAND

PROVINCES

by O.M. Richards

CABHAN (avan)

A DD (slow), Universal Frankers Ltd, machine was issued to Cavan early in 1953. Slogans have been and are still used in this machine, Fig 42.

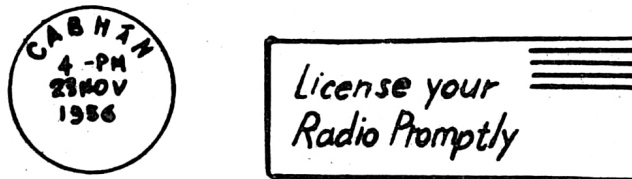


Fig. 42

I have not seen any OFFICIAL PAID dies from this machine. Paid dies in English and Irish have been used, Fig 43.



Fig. 43

CARA DROMA RUISG (Carrick on Shannon)

A Pitney Bowes DD (slow type) machine, Serial Number 3773, was issued to this office in 1964, the first day of use being 9 July 1964. Slogans were not used at first, in fact the only one I have seen is that illustrated below.



Fig. 44

OFFICIAL PAID and PAID dies have not been seen.

PLATING THE SAORSTAT OVERPRINTS

by Dr. C.I. Dulin

INTRODUCTION Being fortunate enough recently to obtain a large number of Saorstat controls, efforts were made to plate the overprint settings and, if possible, associate them with particular plates of the GB stamp involved.

It was soon discovered that both the Meredith and Feldman descriptions, although indicative, did not fully describe the guiding characteristics whilst the measurements involved also seemed erroneous to some degree.

Accordingly, efforts were made to find a plating method which was reliable, logical and speedy. This is a summary of those findings.

SETTINGS Five distinct settings of the overprint were made by Thom starting in December 1922 and continuing into 1923.

CONTROLS The overprint settings in relation to the control, by value, are given in Table I.

As a general observation the scarcest setting is 5 whilst the commonest is 2. Obviously, this must be highly qualified both in terms of the value and the particular printing involved. For example, overprint settings 4 and 5 were each used on three values only ($\frac{1}{2}$ d, 6d, 1/- and $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 5d, 6d respectively) but 4 is much more evident.

Plate 3, which is fairly common on most values, is quite scarce in the $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 6d values which were the only ones to be printed from all five settings.

MEASUREMENTS Measurements of the setting spacings within the terms of the conventional method (left of 1 in 1922 in R20/1 to a similar position in R20/2 and between R20/1 and R20/3) are given in Table II. Also included are the measurements of MH Priestley (Stamp Magazine December 1972 page 127) who has done so much in putting the study of settings and stereotypes on a sound basis.

As may be seen, the differences of the Priestley values and those found here are extremely slight and well within the bounds of normal paper shrinkage and reading precision. The measurements given here were made at 50% R.H. at a temperature of 21°C and are the averages, in each case, of a number of samples - usually about 50 of each setting. A higher humidity figure would tend to give slightly higher values. (Note: In the past, especially on the Thom 5-line setting, very substantial differences of setting measurements have been reported. Only part of this could ever be due to the usual explanation of paper expansion or shrinkage. A separate study is now underway wherein a range of measurements of specific samples is being made under different environmental conditions. It is hoped to publish this shortly).

CHARACTERISTICS

Although, undoubtedly, the best way to collect controls is in blocks of six, with some of the stamps involved this can be quite expensive.

Accordingly, the search for key characteristics was concentrated on the single control stamp (R20/2). It is, in fact, possible to plate the settings from the study of a single letter on this stamp. However, for greater simplicity and for confirmatory evidence a pair (R20/1 and R20/2) can be used. For even more evidence R20/3 can be used although this is really superfluous for setting identification.

SETTINGS

- Setting 1 R20/1 The 1 of 1922 is almost invariably short. Moreover, the 1 and the first 2 are on one level, while the 9 and the second 2 are both on another level about 0.15 mm lower. It is often noted on this stamp that the final 2 is lower. Whilst this is true it is not, of itself, a good guide to the setting.
- R20/2 Usually there is a defect in the first t of Saorstat. This occurs about halfway down the stem and often appears as a sizeable nick (see Fig 1c). It can, superficially, be confused with a defect on the same letter in setting 5. The latter, however, is more broken towards the base and shows greater separation.
- Setting 2 R20/1 In the right hand member of the first A in Saorstat there is invariably a small circular defect (see Fig 1a). Often it is stated that the final 2 in 1922 is raised. This is true, but its extent is very small. Often this setting has the print sloping slightly upwards to the right and this tends to visually accentuate the "raised" 2.
- R20/2 Only in this setting is the first t in Saorstat normal and free from breaks or defects.
- Setting 3 R20/1 Invariably a small circular defect in the final 2 of 1922 is apparent (see Fig 1b).
- R20/2 The upward curve of the first t in Saorstat shows a distinct break near its tip (see Fig 1d).
Although this setting is often printed somewhat heavier than the others (save for 5) this is not a particularly good guide.
- Setting 4 R20/2 The first t of Saorstat is greatly deformed in its lower curve but it is free from breaks (see Fig 1e). The extent of the deformation is always distinctive but it is especially pronounced in the 6d value.
- Setting 5 R20/2 The stem of the first t in Saorstat is split principally in the region nearer the base. It can initially be confused with the Setting 1 nick which sometimes extends almost through the stem (this is more a question of ink viscosity than anything else).

Setting 5 R20/3 The overprint setting is visually quite to the right compared with the regularity of those on R20/1 and R20/2. This is also a characteristic of Plate 3 but not of the other plates.

PLATING PROCEDURE

As a summary of these characteristics the procedure which logically follows in plating the settings is as follows:-

1. On the control stamp (R20/2) note any peculiarity of the first t of Saorstat. If there is none it is probably Setting 2. Verify by checking the first a in Saorstat in R20/1 which shows a hole in the right hand downstroke.
2. If there is a defect, note where, and if there is a break.
3. If swollen and deformed but with no break it is Setting 4.
4. If there is a break and it is towards the tip then it is Setting 3. Verify by checking the final 2 of 1922 on R20/1 which has a small hole in its curve.
5. If the break is in the stem then it is probably Setting 1. Check by the levels of 9 and final 2 in 1922 on R20/1 which are both lower than the other figures.
6. If the break is more towards the base it is Setting 5. Levels of 9 and 2 on R20/1 are normal.
7. If in any doubt between 1 and 5 visually check distance settings on R20/1, R20/2 and R20/3. Setting 1 looks approximately the same. Setting 3 on R20/3 is distinctly to the right with respect to the other two positions.

INKS

Apart from the red ink (which is actually nearer carmine) used for the 2½d, 4d and 9d values, normally the ink used for this printing was a blue-black that is often shiny. A dull black ink was also employed on Settings 1, 2 and 3 but it can be very difficult to distinguish.

An asterisk in Table I shows where it definitely occurs. An asterisk in brackets indicates that it has been reported but is either extremely rare or unverified. Up to 1967 Gibbons used to list the controls and stamps (½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d, 3d and 6d) but have not done so since.

With the overprints a dull black ink very often leads to conjecture on whether they were proof sheets. In the case of the Saorstat printings this is extremely doubtful. Possibly the idea arose because of the existence of circulated proofs of the ½ Thom wide printing in a jet black ink which was issued about one month earlier.

CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF SETTINGS

Table I indicates the first appearance of the various values. It is difficult to correlate these dates with either the Settings or the Controls. Whilst there is not enough data to indicate which is the correct order (if, indeed, there was one) of the printing, it does appear as if Settings 1, 2 and 3 preceded 4 and 5. It also seems likely that 1 and 2 came before 3. Setting 5 was likely to have been the last on the basis of scarcity.

The embarrassment of the missing accents on the sheets of Plate I and their recall and subsequent re-issue, however, does suggest that the other printings (certainly Setting 2) were initially released simultaneously. During the period 1922 - 1923 there seemed to be a continually chronic shortage of stamps, the Saorstat series did not seem in particular short supply. Even the withdrawal of some of the commonest value stamps ($\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d) to the extent of several thousand sheets (officially 3,867 and 3,041 respectively) did not apparently cause a notable shortage. Moreover, only the 2d of the pictorial definitive series appeared at this time, the $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d values were months away.

Contemporary weeklies of the period, and especially that of the most prolific Irish correspondent, W Ward, in Stamp Collecting never noted a shortage of Saorstats. The Thom wide overprint of a month earlier was regarded as very elusive (some readers even claimed illusory).

SHORT I IN 1922 In Setting 1 the I in 1922 in R20/I is usually short. The normal length is about 2.05 mm and lengths of 1.8 - 2.0 mm can be found in the short I for the different values. In the 2d it is only fractionally shorter and not as pronounced as in other values suggesting that it was, in fact, printed before the others. Its early appearance tends to confirm this. No set order can be found in the remaining values, however, with the exception of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d which shows the greatest range and hence was probably printed after the 2d value. The accent error on R15/I2 on Setting 1 does not appear on the $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2d and 10d values and so it is likely that the $\frac{1}{2}$ d was printed after these three. Examples of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 10d are very scarce in Setting 1 but all tend to be in the 1.9 - 1.95 mm region. Most of the other values are about 1.88 mm in length.

GB BASE PLATES JAC Munro (IPC Supplements December 1970) has done some very fine and painstaking work on the overprint setting - GB base plate relationship on the Dollard and some of the Thom February and June printings. Nothing comparable, however, is available on the Saorstat printing.

The following listing is no more than indicative of what has been noted in the course of this plating study but, hopefully, can form a base on which others can build. Quite a number of pieces have been found impossible to place, as yet, but no definite new GB plates (ie plates not found in the overprinted state) have been discovered other than one with the 6d V23I. A new modification of an existing plate has also been noted on the 1d in the T22I control.

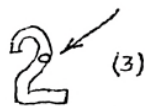
POSITIVE IDENTIFICATIONS

$\frac{1}{2}$ d	T22	I	Plate 72	Setting 3			
	U22	I	Plate 48 + 68	Setting 1	Plate 68, 72, 74	Setting 2	
	U22	P	Plate 66b	Setting 1	Plate 74	Setting 2	
	U23	P	Plate 66b	Setting 3			
1d	T22	P	Plate 96	Setting 2			
	U22	P	Plate 93	Setting 2			
	U23	P	Plate 93	Setting 2			
$1\frac{1}{2}$ d	T22	P	Plate 12b	Setting 1			

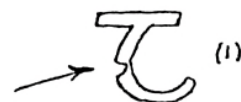
2d	T22	I	Plate	1 + 2	Setting	1		
	T22	P	Plate	1	Setting	2	Plate 2	Setting 1
2½d	T22	I	Plate	8b	Setting	1 + 3		
	U23	I	Plate	11b	Setting	3		
	U23	P	Plate	10	Setting	3		
3d	U22	I	Plate	8b	Setting	2		
4d	U22	I	Plate	1e	Setting	1		
	U23	I	Plate	4	Setting	3		
	V23	P	Plate	4	Setting	4		
5d	T22	I	Plate	3	Setting	5		
	V22	P	Plate	3	Setting	2		
	U23	I	Plate	3	Setting	3		
6d	U22	I	Plate	6	Setting	2 + 4		
	V23	I	Plate	6	Setting	3 + 4		
	W23	I	Plate	6	Setting	3		
9d	T22	P	Plate	1f	Setting	1 + 2 + 3		
	U23	I	Plate	3b	Setting	3		
	U23	P	Plate	1f	Setting	3		
10d	T22	I	Plate	2b	Setting	3		
	T22	P	Plate	2b	Setting	2 + 3		
1/-	T22	I	Plate	3	Setting	2		
	U23	I	Plate	3	Setting	4		



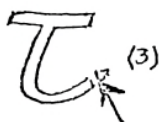
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)



(f)

Fig 1

T A B L E I

OVERPRINT SETTING AND CONTROL RELATIONSHIP

Value	Date	T22 I	T22 P	U22 I	U22 P	U23 I	U23 P	V23 I	V23 P	W23 I
$\frac{1}{2}$	18.12.22	3,4,5 *	3,4,5	1,2 (*) •	1,2 •	3,4,5	3,4,5 (*)			
1	18.12.22	1,2 *	1,2, (*) •	1,2 •	1,2, (*) •	3	3 (*)			
$1\frac{1}{2}$	21.12.22	1	1 (*)	2	2					
2	11.12.22	1,2 *	1,2 (*)							
$2\frac{1}{2}$	6. 1.23	1,3 •	3			3	3			
3	6. 1.23			1,2	1,2 •					
4	16. 1.23			1,3 •		3			3	
5	29.12.22	3,5	2,3,5			3				
6	28.12.22			1-5 *				3,4 *		3,4 *
9	28.12.22	3	1,2,3 •			3	3			
10	13. 1.23	3	1,2,3							
1/-	21.12.22	2		1,2	1,2	3,4	3,4			

* Indicates existence in black ink

(*) Indicates possible existence in black ink

• Indicates accent error R15/12

T A B L E 2

C.I.D. VALUES (MMS)

PRIESTLEY VALUES

Setting	20/1 to 20/2	20/1 to 20/3	Id only	20/1-2	20/1-3
1	20.0	40.6	20.4,40.4	20.1	40.8
2	20.1	40.7	20.6,40.8	20.1	40.7
3	20.1	42.5	20.7,40.6	20.1	42.5
4	19.9	41.9		20	42
5	19.9	42.7		20	42.8

* * * * *

EUROPA 1975

Random Notes Page 33 Irish Philately June 1975

In the above-mentioned Random Notes FE Dixon commented on the design of the Europa stamps for 1975. Thanks to him I am now able to reproduce the full chalk drawing, some three quarters of which was used in the stamp design.



RANDOM NOTES

by F.E. Dixon



I have long disliked the usual "scroll" description for this distinctive and popular style of cancellation. I've now thought of a new word and suggest we call the style COWALL, indicating that its Irish use was limited to Cork, Waterford, Limerick and Londonderry. My latest findings confirm that it was brought into use at all four places during 1883, the earliest being February for Cork and Waterford, May for Londonderry and October for Limerick. The range of codes now seen are:- Cork - C,D,E,H,I,J,K,P and U, always with 2 below; Londonderry - I with B,E,H,N,S,T; Waterford - C,D,E,F,G,H,M at top, always with 2 below; Limerick - at first 5 at top 2 below, later L,M occurred, above or below.

There were at least two different Cowall hand stamps at Cork, differing most obviously in the size and shape of the 2 at foot and of the R of CORK. Londonderry also had two, easily differentiated by the size of the office number 172.

CDS In the 1880s (and some places earlier) many towns were quite
CANCELLATIONS erratic in their cancelling. Those with duplex cancellers
 sometimes applied the numbered killer to the stamp and
added the name-and-date portion separately. I now have 50 examples of the latter
being used by itself as the cancellation. My list, with the earliest date seen
is as follows:-

Armagh	1895	Dingle	1884	Maghera	1876
Arthurstown	1886	Dublin	1883	Milford	1886
Athlone	1883	Dungannon	1893	Monaghan	1890
Ballina	1893	Ennis	1880	Monkstown/Dublin	1881
Ballinasloe	1883	Enniskillen	1893	Mullingar	1879
Ballyshannon	1876	Fermoy	1884	Navan	1877
Belfast	1887	Galway	1883	Nenagh	1893
Buttevant	1891	Goresbridge	1882	Newcastle/Limerick	188?
Cahir	1873	Gorey	1882	Rathfriland	1887
Carrick-on-Shannon	1893	Greystones	1886	Recess	1894
Carrick-on-Suir	1892	Kilkeel	1880	Rockcorry	1879
Castlebar	1884	Killucan	1880	Stradbally	1878
Castlerea	1884	Kilrush	1879	Swinford	1893
Claremorris	1885	Letterkenny	1874	Warrenpoint	1883
Clifden	1868	Limavady	1895	Waterford	1881
Cloughjordan	1881	Londonderry	1882		
Cork	1871	Longford	1891		
		Lurgan	1873		

A difficulty in collecting this style is that impressions on single stamps are rarely enough. One needs enough of the paper to prove that there was no accompanying killer.

DUBLIN DUPLEX Yet another oddity which has turned up in the 1880s material
I have been studying. Some provincial towns used letters as
well as numbers in their "codes". I thought that at Dublin a number was the main

identifier, supplemented by a time letter. The discovery is a Dublin impression of April 6 1886, with "FA".

PAUL SINGER Stamps, desirable and others, are now such big business that the number of swindlers involved is probably increasing. So it was sensible of the AMERICAN PHILATELIST in its May 1975 issue to retell the story of Dr Paul Singer and the Shanahans. Unfortunately, the author chosen, Paul Henhoeffter, did not check all his facts. What I find the most puzzling feature of the venture is that hard-headed Kerryman Jerome Shanahan made no enquiries before agreeing to Singer's proposals. He could easily have ascertained that Singer was an undischarged bankrupt in England. Henhoeffter refers to Singer buying in London with a thick roll of British pound-notes. That is what he could not do: he paid everywhere with cheques ready signed by the Shanahans. And there is reason to believe that he would pay a cheque of £1200 for a £1000 collection, pocketing £200 cash in change!

LONDONDERRY



A batch of cancellations just found include some duplex LONDONDERRY 172 of 1885. Their peculiarity is that the time (?) letter above the date is sideways. K, P and S appear thus - K facing up, S down and P both up and down!

LIMERICK The same batch yielded an 1874 piece from Limerick, apparently the duplex, but with the name-and-date portion skewed about 70% anti-clockwise. One meets examples of the name-and-date portion and the numbered killer being struck separately, but the relative positions in this case suggest that they were applied together.

DERRY I find that the note above about Londonderry applies equally to earlier (1876) duplex cancellations when the name was still shown as DERRY. Why did some towns use many more code letters than others? In 1876 Derry used E,H,N,S and possibly Z but it is probably N sideways. And at some periods (1880s and 90s) there were often two letters!

DUBLIN 186 WITH Most of the few examples recorded of the earlier use of the
EXTRA NUMBER Dublin killer with a digit above 186 are on 1d reds, probably of the 1870s. At last I have a datable example, with evidence of its use. It is on 1/2d plate 6, posted in the sub office at St Margaret's Co Dublin in 1875. In this case at least the canceller (number 4) was applied in the Dublin main sorting office on an item collected from a rural office not allowed to cancel.

POST OFFICE NUMBERS St Margaret's, mentioned previously, raises a problem. By 1874 it had been allotted number 490 but did it ever have a killer with the number? I have never seen one and in several cases of the 1870s items posted there bore the St Margaret's cds but the stamps were all cancelled in Dublin.

LATE MAIL Although "LATE MAIL" hand stamps (including date stamps) were used for many years, I have seen very few as late as the 1870s. Now I can add an example (sans-serif, 30 x 5 mm, black) apparently applied in Limerick in June 1875. Can anyone confirm this attribution?

BOOK BARGAIN "Ainmneacha Gaeilge na mBailte Poist" is a list of Irish post office names, arranged by counties, with full indexes. 188 pages, well bound, it was on sale until quite recently at the 1969 price of 25p. Alas it is no longer available.

UNUSUAL SKELETON DATESTAMP Parsonstown's canceller from early July until some time in September 1897 was the "double-rim" type with circles 29 and 31 mm diameter. Its special feature was that the time was included in the lower part, those seen being for 12.15 and 6.0, both obviously PM.

PARSONSTOWN & BIRR The next discovery was that the change over from the name Parsonstown to Birr was between July 2 and July 12 1900. However, some confusion may arise from the fact that in January and February 1901 Birr had the year wrong, as 00!

DUBLIN 186 WITH EXTRA NUMBER The varieties to be found in cancellations are quite bewildering. This marvellous lot I am sorting has provided two examples of the 186 killer with number 2 above 186. Both were used in 1887 on items bearing no evidence of the place of posting but probably Glasnevin. However, one has bars 3⁴₃ and the other (with a larger 2) 3₃3!

ANOTHER SKELETON There are collectors specialising in RS0 cancellations and others who like island items. So the cds of Valencia Island RS0 is quite choice. It continued in use until September 1911. It was replaced about the beginning of 1912 by a similar marking without the RS0 and in between there was a 31 mm "skeleton" inscribed simply "VALENCIA ISLAND".

LIMERICK NPB Another quite rare cancellation is the Limerick NPB intended for newspapers but found as a general purpose date stamp. My few examples were in the date range 1902 to 1908 but another has now turned up of February 1913. It has the time as one line: the 1902 type had it in two lines.

POSTMARK MISCELLANY

by O.M. Richards

The Department of Posts and Telegraphs continued to maintain their high standards in the hand stamps used to cancel first day covers. That for the issue of the new definitive stamps on 17 June 1975 incorporated the "Stylised Dog" used as one of the designs of the definitive stamps.



On 26 June 1975 two stamps were issued for the European Amateur Golf Team Championship which was held at Killarney. On this occasion a special hand stamp was used in Killarney as well as Dublin. Both the same design with CILL ÁIRNE and BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH respectively.



The cancellation used in the temporary post office in the Royal Marine Hotel, Dún Laoghaire, was for the cancellation of mail posted at the International Convention of the National Association of Round Tables of Great Britain and Ireland.



For this year's issue of the Contemporary Irish Art stamp, the hand stamp illustrated was used in Dublin. The day of issue coincided with the opening of the "Philatelic Office" in the GPO Arcade, fuller details of which are given elsewhere in this issue of Irish Philately. Covers and stamps were on sale during the opening which were cancelled and handed back to the purchasers.



In this issue of Random Notes, FE Dixon creates a new word for the so called "scroll" cancellations used in Cork, Waterford, Limerick and Londonderry - "COWALL". This type of hand stamp was used in Dublin from November 1922 to at least October 1933, in red. These hand stamps were used to cancel mail from Government Offices but a note received from a friend, who supplied a photo copy of the October 1933 item, states that they were used to cancel official correspondence to British Dominions, Colonies, Dependencies and Mandated Territories.



I have two of the Newspaper Branch marks used in Ireland, that of Limerick used to cancel a postcard (of which I have only a corner) and one from Cork, well centred on a stamp only. Alas, the Cork item has gone missing, after I had copied it for reproduction here, amidst the heaps of paper etc., that live by the side of my favourite chair. The Limerick item is covered in Random Notes.



There is a sub post office at the University of Dublin (I'm not sure if this is the correct name). When it opened in 1973 a temporary skeleton date stamp was used, quickly replaced by a permanent date stamp. Is there a parcel post hand stamp too?



Our holiday in Adrigole, West Cork, provided an opportunity to visit more post offices in the area and to add to my collection of cancellations. The return journey to Dublin too enabled me to call at offices to obtain further cancellations. Parcel post cancellations were acquired at:- Cashel, Cahir, Cork, Bantry, Clonakilty, Ballydehob, Dunmanway, Roscarbery, Skibbereen, Kenmare, Fermoy and Phibsborough Sub Office, Dublin. As usual, many were in a bad state, three are worthy of mention. At Dunmanway the parcel post stamp was held together with string and not elastic bands as is usual. A visit to Phibsborough Sub Office, Dublin last year produced an example of the parcel post stamp which was a dreadful "splodge". To my surprise they still had it in the temporary premises, it is even more of a "splodge". I hope that when the reconstructed office is opened it will have a new parcel post stamp.



At Fermoy a conversation with the clerk revealed that an effort is being made to simplify the spelling of place names in Irish. Fermoy - MAINISTIR FHEARR MUIGHE is now MAINISTIR FHEAR MAI. However, the parcel post stamp reads:- MAINISTIR FHEAR MAT!! Examination of the stamp confirmed it was 'T' and not 'I'.

