

IRISH PHILATELY

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Edited by

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EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of 'Irish Philately' for 1977 and I am in the happy position of having a reserve of articles etc, for the next couple of issues. Not that we can afford to become rather complacent about this, I always need more articles, especially on adhesive stamps.

Constructive ideas on how we can improve the Journal are always welcome.

If there is an aspect of Irish philately in which you are interested and which we have not covered, let me know. I am sure we will be able to do something about it.

"Irish Philately"

OM Richards

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Letter from the President:-

Dear Member,

It gives me great pleasure in having this opportunity to write to you again and thank you for your kind co-operation and hope it will continue for many more years. With this journal you will receive the reports from the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer and after studying them I hope that you will make an effort and send to the Postal Auction Secretary lots for inclusion in the auctions, for in this way you will help to ensure that the present annual subscription may be maintained.

With the AGM in London in May I hope that you will make every effort to attend and that the very high standard of enthusiasm and hospitality of the last few years will be maintained.

The Hospitality Fund run by me and being carried on by Paddy Smithers is in a sorry state, as will be seen by the report, so may I appeal for a donation or material to be sold on behalf of the fund.

On the Agenda of the forthcoming meeting is a proposition to alter the times and venue of future AGMs to every eighteen months to coincide with alternate 'STAMPA' and 'STAMPEX'. This is an excellent idea but I personally feel that members would really be more interested in the Exhibition than the meeting and I would prefer that the AGM be held annually in London where an afternoon meeting would suffice and that an additional meeting be arranged at 'STAMPA' and 'STAMPEX' as suggested in the original proposition. If a room could be hired for the Saturday at the Exhibition where a display by members could be mounted and where members and prospective members could view at their leisure and relax to chat as they wished. An officer of our society could be on hand at all times to answer questions and a meeting could be arranged for late afternoon and afterwards to adjourn to participate in a social evening as experience at Dublin, Liverpool and London. Your opinions on this suggestion would be appreciated. Please write to me or your local secretary.

I am pleased to say that I am making progress, even if very slow, and look forward to meeting you again in London.

Best wishes,

Sedge

Letters to the Editor:-

Dear Sir,

In my collection, and I am sure in many others, are many interesting letters. Interesting not only for the postal markings on them but also for their contents, which are often of historical significance. Perhaps it might be worth-while publishing the contents of some of them from time to time in our Journal. I would be willing to find one or two to start with if the membership consider this to be a good idea. If you consider it to be a good suggestion let the Editor know.

Your faithfully,

Len Watkins

CATALOGUE OF THE PERFINS OF IRELAND

Compiled by Norah K. Wright

The perfins are listed in the system used by the Security Endorsement and Perfin Society of Great Britain in listing their perfins.

1. The letters forming the perfin and full stops (if any).
2. The number of holes in each letter.
3. The height of the letters.
4. The type of ampersand used.
5. The name of the concern, if known, using the perfin.

THE HEIGHT The height of the letters is measured in millimetres. The height is taken from the centre of the lowest hole to the centre of the topmost and is measured to the nearest $\frac{1}{2}$ millimetre above.

THE AMPERSAND

Type I	is the type of ampersand most generally found on the earlier types of GB stamps and is characterised by its flat top and square back.
Type Ia	Flat top rounded back.
Type II	Triangular shaped top.
Type III	Diamond shaped top with square top.
Type IIIa	Similar top but with rounded back.
Type IIIb	is a variation of Type IIIa with an additional pin at the foot of ampersand.
Type IV	This type is a less common type and is found mainly on early issues and has both rounded top and back.

The same initials may be found in conjunction with two or more of these ampersands and may indicate different firms or branches of a firm.

The oblique strokes between the letters means one line over the other:-

—	A C	—	AC/LD
	L D		

This catalogue includes the perfins of Ireland, north and south, and perfins on the UK stamps used in Ireland from mid Victorian days up to the present time, as well as the 1922 Overprints and Irish Commemorative and Definitive stamps. I see nothing to be gained by putting these into separate categories. I prefer to mount the stamps of the various firms from early times up to the present day, as one would mount the stamps of any country and not break the continuity by putting them into sections. Even if some collectors wished to have the catalogue divided into sections it is early days to attempt this as much more research is needed.

LETTER 'A'

<u>PERFIN</u>	<u>NUMBER OF HOLES</u>	<u>HEIGHT</u>	<u>AMPERSAND</u>	<u>IDENTITY</u>
AA/Co L ^o	10,10/8,4,7,7	5		Alliance Assurance Co Ltd
AAO/Co	10,10,10/8,4	5		Anglo American Oil Co
AAO/C ^o	10,10,10/8,6	5½		" "
AAO/Co	8,8,8/7,4	4½		" "
AC/LD	10,8/7,11	4½		Arnott & Co Ltd Dublin
AC/LD	10,8/7,11	5		" "
A&C ^o /B	10,13,8,6/13			Allman & Co Bandon
ACo/L ^o D	10,8,4/7,6,11	4½		
AF/&Co	10,8/12,8,6	4½	(IIIa)	Alex Findlater & Co Dublin
A.G.S/&C ^o	10,10,10/14,10,6	4½	(III)	Arthur Guinness Son & Co
AG/S	8,9/9	4½		" "
A.G.S/&C ^o	10,10,13/14,10,8	5½	(III)	" "
A.G.S/&C ^o /LTD	10,11,12/13,10,8/7,6,9	5½	(III)	" "
A10/C ^o	10,5,10/8,6	5½		Antrim Iron Ore Co
AN/J/SL	10,13/14/10,7	4½/9/4½		Junior Army Navy Society Ltd
AO/&Co	10,10/14,8,4	5	(I)	A Oppenheimer & Co
AW/&Co	10,16/14,8,4	4½	(III)	

LETTER 'B'

(B)		B=7.14=0val		Bessbrook Providers
BASS	14,10,10,10	4½		Bass Ratcliff & Gretton Ltd
BB/LD	13,13/7,7	5½		
B.C.	14,8	5½		
BC/&C ^o	13,8/13,8,6	5½	(III)	
B&Co/L ^o D/D	12,12,8,6/7,7/11	4	(IIIa)	
B&D	15,14,12	5	(III)	Bewley & Draper Ltd Dublin
B.E.	13,10	5		British Engine Boiler & Electrical Insurance Co

<u>PERFIN</u>	<u>NUMBER OF HOLES</u>	<u>HEIGHT</u>	<u>AMPERSAND</u>	<u>IDENTITY</u>
B&F	13,12,10	4½	(IIIa)	
B/LD	14/7,7	5		
B/LTD	14/7,5,7	5		
B/NCR	13/13,8,11	4		Belfast & Northern Counties Railway
BP/CoLD	14,10/8,6,7,7	5		British Petroleum Co Ltd
BP/LD	14,10/7,6	5		" "
BRN	14,?,?			
BRC ^o /L ^o	13,12,8,6/7,7	5		Belfast Rope Co Ltd
BRC ^o /L ^o	13,12,8,6/7,7	4½		" "
B.R/Co/LD	13,11/8,6/7,7	4½		" "
B&S	14,6,10	5	(II)	
BSS/CoLD	13,11,11/8,6,7,7	5½		
B.T&C ^o /L ^o T ^o	13,7,12,8,6/7,5,7	4½	(IIIa)	
B.T./&C ^o	13,7/13/8,6	5½	(III)	
B.T/D	13,7/11	4½		
B/TH	14/7,12	5		British Thompson Houston Co Ltd
B/TH	15/7,12	7		" "
<u>LETTER 'C'</u>				
C	7	4½		
C	9	6½		
CASH/&CO	8,10,11,11/12,8,10	5½	(IIIa)	Cash & Co Cork
C.B	10,13	7		
CB/&C	10,14/14,10	5½		
CB/PR	8,14/10,12	5		Cork Blackrock & Passage Railway
CBS/CR	8,14,10/8,12	5		Cork Bandon & South Coast Railway
C&B/SOHO	8,14,14/10,10,12,10	5	(I)	Cross & Blackwell Ltd
C/&C ^o	8/12,8,6	4½	(IIIa)	
C/&C ^o	8/13,8,6	5½	(III)	
C/&Co	8/14,8,6	5½	(IV)	
C/&Co	8/9,7,6	7	(III)	
C/&C ^o	9/12,9,6	6½	(III)	Clery & Co Dublin

<u>PERFIN</u>	<u>NUMBER OF HOLES</u>	<u>HEIGHT</u>	<u>AMPERSAND</u>	<u>IDENTITY</u>
C&Co/L ^D	8,13,8,6/7,6	5½	(III)	
C&Co/L ^{T.D}	8,13,8,6/7,5,7	6	(III)	
C/ & C ^O /L ^V	11/13,11,6/9,12	6	(III)	Cannock & Co Ltd Limerick
CC/ & Co	8,8/12,8,6	4½	(Ia)	
CCW	8,8,14	4½		C.C. Wakefield & Co Ltd
CIE	7,4,9	4½		Coras Iompair Éireann
C.I.E	7,4,9	4½		" "
CIS/L ^{T.D}	8,5,10/7,5,7	4½		
CLEEVE	8,7,10,10,9,10	5½		Cleeves Confectioners Limerick
CN/ & C	8,13/12,8	4½	(IIIa)	Clarnico Works
CP/Co	8,10/8,4	5		
C&R	8,14,12	5	(III)	
C.S.	10,12	8		
CSC	8,11,8	5½		Clyde Shipping Co
C.S.C	8,11,8	5½		" "
CSP/CO	8,10,10/8,6	5		Cork Steam Packet Co
CU/AG	7,8/8,9	4½		Commercial Union Assurance Group
<u>LETTER 'D'</u>				
D	12	11		
DB/ & S	11,13/13,11	6	(III)	
D/ & Co L ^{T.D}	10/12,8,6/7,5,7	4½	(IIIa)	Dwyer & Co Ltd Cork
DC	9,7	5		Dublin Corporation
D/ & Co	9,13,7,4	4½	(I)	
D.C.B/L ^{T.D}	11,9,13/7,5,6	4½		
D & Co L ^{T.D}	Monogram 74 (in all)	15 overall		Dockerell & Co Ltd Dublin
	Interlocked 22 (in all)	10		
DD/CC	11,11/8,8	5½		
DD/CL ^{T.D}	11,11/8,7,5,7	4½		
D.E/C.I	11,10/8,5	5½		

<u>PERFIN</u>	<u>NUMBER OF HOLES</u>	<u>HEIGHT</u>	<u>AMPERSAND</u>	<u>IDENTITY</u>
D.G	11,10	6		
D&H	12,12,12	5½	(IIIa)	
D.M./C.	11,15/8	6		
DN/SP	11,13/11,10	5½		Dundalk & Newry Steam Packet Co Ltd
DOCK/RELL	9,8,7,9/9,9,6,6	5½		W.J. Dockrell & Co Dublin
D.O/&C.L ^o	11,10/13/8,6,7,7	5½	(III)	
DR/Co	10,11/8,6	4½		Dunlop Rubber Co
DRCo/L ^{TD}	10,11,8,6/8,5,7	4½		" "
DSC/L	11,10,8/7	4½		
D.S./C.L ^o	14,12/8,6,7,7	5½/4½		Dublin Salt Co Ltd
D.S/L ^o	12,11/7,7	5		

LETTER 'E'

E	13	10		
EC/I	10,8/5	6		Educational Company of Ireland
ESSO	9,9,9,8	4½		Esso Petroleum Co

LETTER 'F'

Y				
R				
F (Diagonally)	8,12,8	4½		J.S. Fry

(To be continued)

RANDOM NOTES

by F.E. Dixon

DUBLIN Hitherto I have been sceptical about the existence of octagonal stamps
DATE made by filing down the 'mermaid' design. Now my attitude is changed
STAMPS by my having what seems to be an example, in orange-red, dated 15 Jan
 1813 on a letter forwarded to Dublin. Also, there is on it a black
mermaid of four days earlier when the letter passed through Dublin on the outward
journey.

POSTAGE Most 'postage paid' markings relate to prepayment of postage. A cover
PAID just bought is different. It had been posted unpaid from Dublin to
 Delgany. The 3d was paid there - with a neat manuscript endorsement -
but it was re-addressed to Dublin, with a further 3d due.

PagusT The Christmas 1976 issue of the Irish Post Office staff magazine is an excellent number. It is, however, ironic that the T in its title signifies 'Telegraphs' whereas the dominant theme of the magazine is the development of the telephone service! An item of great interest to postal historians is a pair of photographs of a Letter Carrier of 1860. For other philatelists the only feature is the list of special issues for 1977.

MACHINE A batch of envelopes posted in November 1976 revealed that Bandon
CANCELLATION still had its year line blank; Clonakilty had a dash; Fermoy was
DATES still using 1975!

Another envelope was from Thurles, with a slogan POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS, but clearly dated 16 ' I - an error for 16 . XII.

CHRISTMAS Some of the apparent shade variations result from the colour
STAMPS shifts, notably of the red. The red was included as part of the
SHADES dark brown but, when displaced, even $\frac{1}{2}$ mm shows up strongly as an
 independant colour.

EXPRESS More use is being made in Ireland of the 'Express' service in an
 attempt to reduce delays in delivery. Has any Irish office used
a distinctive canceller for Express mail? A recent letter expressed from Cork had a parcel post handstamped cancellation and on reverse had a registered (CLARAITHE) datestamp as well - neither correct.

Could it be that there is no Irish word for 'Express'?

CHRISTMAS The Department of Posts and Telegraphs 1976 Christmas Card
STAMPS reproduced the painting used for the stamp design, thereby revealing
DESIGN a typical designer's stupidity! At the upper left the picture
 shows the angel appearing to the shepherds with their sheep. But
the stamps include only the lower half of one shepherd and the sheep are not recognisable as such. If the cut had been made at the other side only a piece of Joseph's robe would have been lost.

POSTAL The second instalment of 'The Irish Post Office 1784 - 1830'
HISTORY appeared in the January-February issue of the Bulletin of the
 PHS. One peculiar mistake in it sites the old Dublin GPO in
Suffolk Street. The back entrance was there: the front was in College Green.

ROYAL This year the 'RDS' added to its programme of Christmas holiday
DUBLIN events for children a day on collecting. The morning concerned
SOCIETY coins and the afternoon stamps. I showed slides and talked about
 the development of philately and was followed by Seamus Kearns
on what to collect and how to collect. There was an associated trade show at which samples of albums, catalogues and accessories were shown by Nummus Ltd. It had been intended for teenagers but of about 150 boys and girls who came most were 10 to 12 years of age. However, they formed a receptive audience and asked many sensible questions.

* * * * *

THE DATESTAMPS OF IRELAND FROM 1894

by O.M. Richards

THE DOUBLE RING SERIES

The use of double ring stamps as combined datestamps and obliterators commenced in Scotland in 1883 when stamps, as Figure 24, were issued to Glasgow, Edinburgh and to several other offices. Their use very quickly spread to many other offices in Scotland. It will be noted that these stamps showed the office number from the lists of 1844-57 and subsequent additions and alterations.



Fig 24

The first series of the double ring stamps used in Ireland varied in diameter from 27 to 30mm, the office name being at the top with double arcs separated by a space. These first series of stamps invariably had a '1' inserted in the space between the arcs, some 45 examples of this period, 1894 - 1896, have been noted. Later issues or replacement stamps had the space left void. This resulted in an office which had a fair amount of mail to cancel having two stamps, one was probably an un-numbered single ring, the other a double ring with or without the number '1'. In the larger offices there were several stamps numbered from 1 upwards, the series for Dublin ran from 1 to 50, Belfast from 1 to at least 14, Cork from 1 to 5 and Limerick had 1 and 2. Time was in 'clock code' initially, 'time in clear' came as stamps were converted from 'clock code'. The earliest I have seen of these is from Gorey for 6 April 1894, Figure 25.

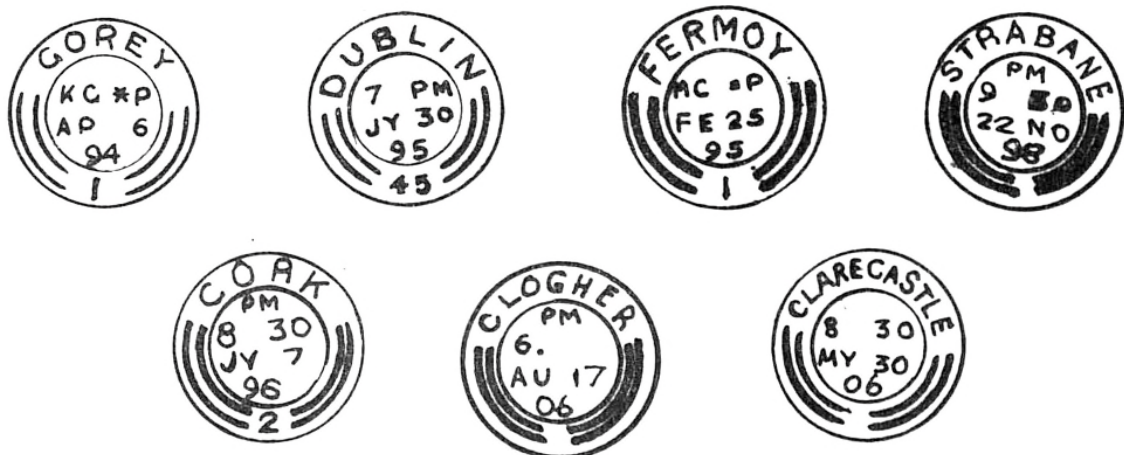


Fig 25

The arcs varied in thickness and their length was determined by the number of letters required for the name of the office. At first only the office name appeared but later examples also showed the superior office or county, these are comparatively few in number, Figure 26.



Fig 26

At the turn of the century a new series of stamps appeared, slightly smaller than the first series, 25 to 26mm in diameter. They were issued to offices as additional or replacement stamps. In the larger offices, especially in Dublin, examples of the same number may be found with variations in lettering, and the figure, as some stamps which were in heavy use were replaced fairly frequently. Examples of these stamps may be found to at least 1954, for instance Ballyhooly. The time and date were in three or four lines, Figure 27.

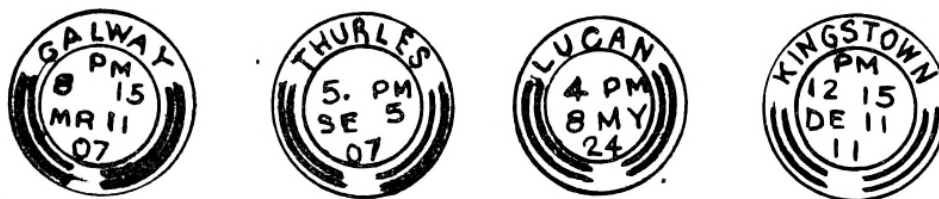


Fig 27

A further series of double ring stamps appeared about 1910, 25mm in diameter they were neat in appearance, although they must have given the engravers no little trouble when a long office name, with the county, had to be produced, Figure 28. The use of this series was not as wide spread as the previous two issues of double ring stamps. Dublin had a complete set 1 to 57, Cork 1 to at least 9 and Limerick 1 to at least 4. The last date of use I have is for Tullow, Co Carlow, 8 November 1935.

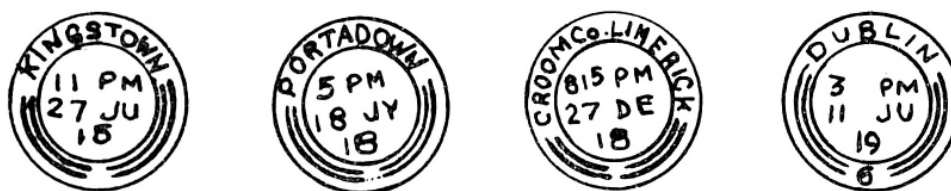


Fig 28

It may be of interest, especially to those who specialise in Dublin stamps, to note the fact that all of this series of double ring stamps used in Dublin were

lost in the rising at Easter 1916. They were replaced quite quickly, the need for stamps to cancel mail being urgent, dates are as follows:-

1 to 12	-	18. 8.16	38 to 40	-	9.12.16
13 to 18	-	29. 8.16	42 to 46	-	12.12.16
19 to 26	-	3. 9.16	47 to 49	-	15.12.16
27 to 28	-	25.10.16	50 to 54	-	19.12.16
29 to 32	-	6.11.16	55 to 56	-	9. 1.17
33 to 37	-	7.12.16	57	-	25.10.16

Number 41 is not recorded as being replaced and, therefore, must have survived the destruction of the GPO. Dr de Burca informs me that number 57 was recovered from the ruins of the GPO and survived in private hands for a number of years. It was eventually returned to the GPO, the donor being given a receipt and copy of the datestamp which Dr de Burca now has in his possession.

The advent of the double ring with a cross at the foot between thick arcs was much later in Ireland than in England and Wales where they had been in use from early in the 1900s. There were several sizes of these stamps ranging from 24 to 29mm in diameter. The earliest I have seen is for Drogheda, 27 September 1917 and the latest Kilbeggan, 11 March 1957, Figure 29. Stamps of this series with the office name in Irish were also used.



Fig 29

A little used and scarce series of stamps are the double ring stamps having the office name above with two arcs either side of the head office name, which was below. I know of only two of these, both illustrated, Figure 30.



Fig 30

The next series of double ring stamps are those where the office name was at the top and separated from the head office or county name, which was below, by short thick arcs or segments which were of varying size and length. These were 26 to 28mm in diameter with time and date in three lines. The earliest I have seen is from Aclare, Ballymote for 28 June 1917. Examples may be found from well into

the 1930s and even later from Northern Ireland offices. Again time and date were in three lines. A further series of these stamps appeared after the Irish Free State was created in 1922. It is strange that a new series in English was produced at this time, it may be that these had been ordered previously and that the reason for their introduction was one of economics. These were the largest in diameter of the double ring stamps, 30mm. Time and date were in three lines. The earliest date I have seen is for Moville, 23 June 1922 and the latest for Shankill, 21 December 1953. Again there were variations in the thick arcs or segments separating the office name from that of the post town or county. These are illustrated, Figure 31.



Fig 31

An interesting collection of double ring stamps may be made from offices which were in the Irish Free State from 1922 but had been controlled by a superior office in what became known as Northern Ireland. In the case of these offices the name of the superior, or head office and the arcs were excised. They continued in use until replacement stamps were issued, usually, but not always, in Irish. Figure 32.



Fig 32

A further series of double ring stamps had thick arcs either side of a number, 28 to 29mm in diameter. They appear to have had a restricted use in a few offices. These included Cork where a series of stamps numbered 1 to 10 were issued, Belfast 1 to at least 19, Limerick had 1 to 3 and one or two of the Dublin sub offices used them. The earliest date I have seen is for Clonmel, 23 March 1917. Examples may be found from well into the 1920s, Figure 33.



Fig 33

The issue and use of the double ring stamps in English after 1922 continued with a series of stamps which had two medium arcs separated by a space, Figure 34. I have seen these from Blackrock, Curragh Camp, Donegal, Monaghan, Roscommon and Wexford. There may be others. Examples can be found in use up to the 1940s.

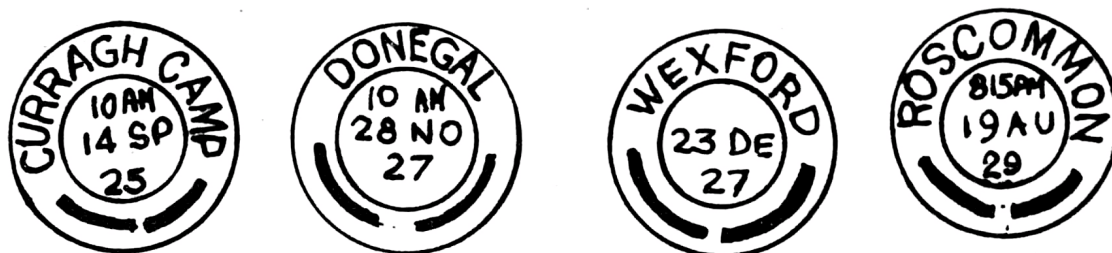


Fig 34

Another little used series were the double ring stamps with one thick arc, Figure 35. Amongst the few offices which used these were Blackrock, Athenry, Ballyjamesduff, Hacketstown, Limerick, Monaghan, Naas, Sligo and Skibbereen. Examples may be found dating from 1925 to 1952.

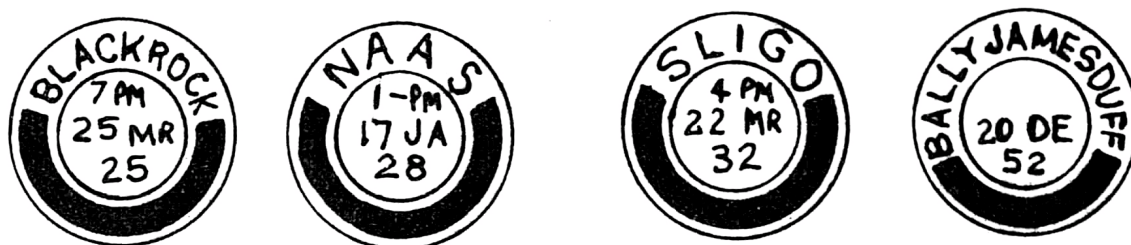


Fig 35

It will be noted that in all the double ring stamps covered, except for the first two of the series, the time and date were always in three lines. In cases where the time was omitted the space was always left blank. Asterisks or stars have not been seen and times were shown in either 'clock code' or 'clear'. Letters indicating a time or duty were not, as far as I know, used.

Most RSOs were issued with the single ring series of stamps but a few did use the double ring stamps. Those I have seen are:-

Abbeyfeale RSO	Kilcock RSO
Cabinteely RSO Co Dublin	Maynouth RSO Co Kildare
Castlemaine RSO	Sixmilebridge RSO Co Clare
Clara RSO Kings Co	Street RSO Westmeath
Dunleer RSO	Swords RSO Co Dublin
Foynes RSO Co Limerick	Tynan RSO Co Armagh
Inver RSO Co Donegal	

The dates range from 1902 to 1922. Also included in this small section is the one station stamp I have seen, in English that is, Portarlinton Rail, Figure 36.



Fig 36

There are only five double ring stamps associated with TPOs known to me. They are:-

Belfast and Northern Counties SC
 Dublin and Derry TPO
 GS & W TPO Night and Day
 Mullingar and Sligo SC

Examples of these are illustrated, Figure 37. These stamps are not common, dates run from 1922 to 1931. Only the NIGHT stamp of the GS & W TPO is shown, it can also be found with DAY at foot.

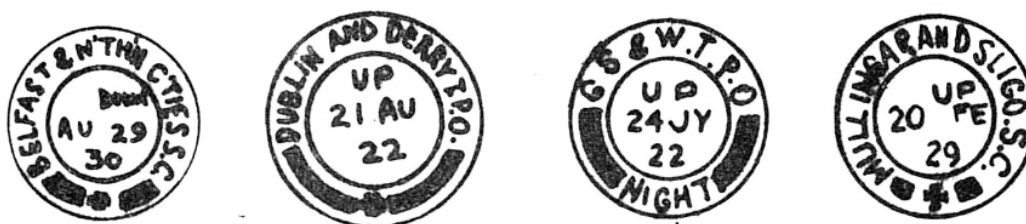


Fig 37

The only double ring Official Paid stamp I have seen is of recent years used in Belfast, Figure 38.

There were none in English, as far as I am aware, used in Dublin or any other office in Ireland.

Official Paid stamps are normally struck in red.



Fig 38

The H & K Packet commenced using double ring stamps in 1883, these are said to resemble stamps in use in France at that time. However, it will be noticed that the double ring stamps used in Scotland at this time were of the same general size and appearance. Sizes in this series varied from 20 to 21mm in diameter, the numbers ran from 1 to 15. Number 5 was adapted for use as an obliterator by placing it in a double-stamp with the Dublin 186 in bars forming a diamond. With the exception of the last mentioned stamp, the others were normally used to backstamp mail sorted aboard the vessels.

The only other double ring stamps were used in the period 1919 to 1925. There were two stamps, that for the 'Day' boat is self evident. The stamp with the cross at the foot was used on the 'Night' boat.

Figure 39 shows examples of the H & K Packet stamps mentioned.



Fig 39

There were two double ring stamps used at the 1907 Exhibition in Dublin. They may be differentiated by comparing the arcs which is the main difference between them, Figure 40.



Fig 40

Field Post Offices in Ireland have been amongst the users of the double ring stamps. In the period 1919 to 1922 five have been recorded as follows:-

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 202 | Northern Ireland HQ District Newtownards | (rare) |
| D41 | HQ Irish Command, Parkgate, Dublin | |
| 3K | Tallaght | (6 miles SW of Dublin) |
| T29 | Dublin | (I have seen a list in which this stamp is shown as being used in Kilworth Camp Co Cork, this is considered to be erroneous) |
| W16 | Dublin | Covers may be found with various unit stamps ie Command Pay Office; Armoured Car Service etc |



T29
Dublin

551
Londonderry

552
Lisburn
Fig 41

659
Ballykelly

772
Ballykinler

During the period 1970 to date nine Field Post Offices have been established in Northern Ireland, all of which have a pair of double ring stamps, both having the same number. One is used for morning duty with the code 'A', the other for afternoon duty with the code 'B'. They may, however, be found with a star or even at times with the space left blank. It apparently depends on the mood of the man on duty. Figure 41 shows examples of the Field Post Office stamps.

It will be appreciated that, as with single ring stamps, the double ring stamps continued to be used with Irish office names in Ireland and English office names in Northern Ireland. It would seem that the trend is to produce single ring stamps as replacements are needed and especially in the North where the cancelling of mail is becoming more centralised. Offices which no longer cancel mail are issued with the single ring stamps only, although I do know of one or two of these where the double ring stamp has been retained and is still in use on the counter.

This completes the story of the double ring stamps. The next, and final, instalment will cover the rubber stamps and steel stamps used for special purposes.

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COVER WITH A STORY

by B. de Burca

It is not often that one gets a bargain these days but a cover picked out of a job lot recently was full of interest. It was posted in Ballyfarnin and bears the No 1 mark of this receiving house. The penny red was cancelled with the Boyle Maltese Cross and date stamped on 6 May 1844. From Boyle it travelled 14 miles to Longford on the Sligo - Dublin Mail and from there by a Cross Roads Post to Athlone where it arrived on 7 May. It was here transferred to the Dublin - Galway Mail and taken off 17 miles further on at Loughrea on 7 May. From here it travelled over the ten mile long mountain road to Gort, probably carried by a mounted postman. At Gort on 8 May it joined the Galway - Limerick Cross Roads Mail and finally went by the Limerick - Killarney Cross Roads Mail arriving in Killarney on 9 May.

As to why it was taken off at Loughrea and not taken on to Galway to join the Galway - Limerick coach there I would very much appreciate an explanation.

The Longford, Athlone and Loughrea date stamps were in green, Boyle and Gort in blue and Limerick and Killarney in black.

With six different sortings it reached its destination in three days, I wonder if it would travel any faster at present.

* * * * *

1976 CHRISTMAS STAMPS The most remarkable feature of this issue is the wide range of variation of colour between different sheets and between different stamps on the same sheet. For example, note the first two stamps on the top row of any value! F.E.D

MODERN IRISH COVERS AND SIGNATURES

by R. French

Whilst cover collecting, Irish or otherwise, is not a new facet to philately, in this first article of the series I would like to introduce you to my particular approach to this branch of the hobby.

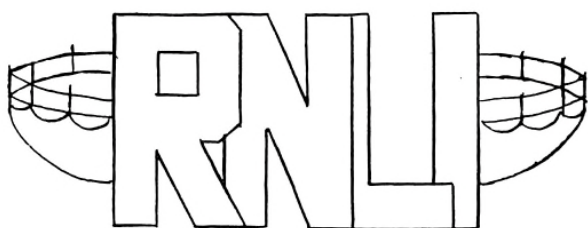
My angle is designing and producing my own covers for new issues and notable events and then trying to obtain an appropriate signature on the cover (more details of this in a later article). This can be as satisfying and fascinating as collecting postal history, postmarks, overprints, varieties or any of the specialised sections of philately.

No elaborate or expensive materials are required, just a supply of good quality envelopes, mapping pens, letter printing pen and supply of various nibs, tracing paper, pencil and Indian ink.

Designs for some new issues spring readily to mind whilst others require a little more thought, sometimes I can select from two or three alternatives and other times I am groping to produce one design.

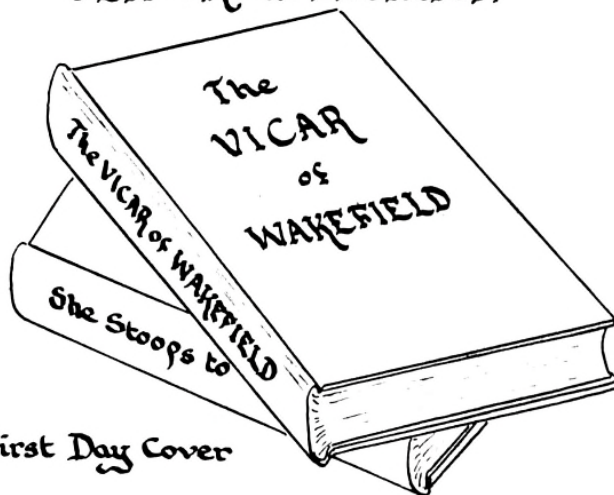
My plan of attack is to put ideas down roughly on paper, then to draw out on to a sheet of paper the probable finished designs at the correct size. To help achieve this I mark the paper off into cover sizes. The actual size of the design is determined by the amount of wording to be applied to the cover.

Royal
National
Lifeboat
Institution



150th
Anniversary

200th Anniversary
of the DEATH of
OLIVER GOLDSMITH

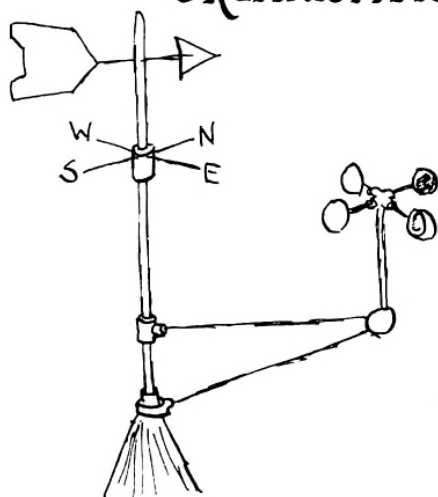


First Day Cover

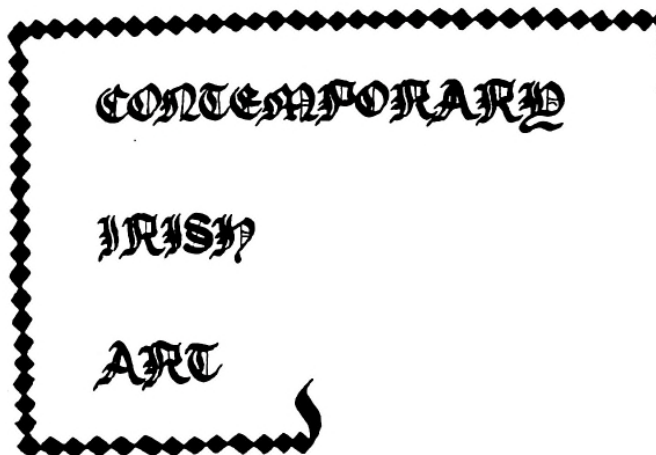
When I have settled on a particular design, I trace it then reproduce it on to the actual cover by blacking the back of the tracing and drawing over. I then go over the traced design with Indian ink, coloured inks can be used but I find

black usually has the best effect.

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION



First Day Cover



First Day Cover

Some issues for which covers were readily produced are shown, these are 150th Anniversary of the Lifeboat Institution; Oliver Golsmith; World Meteorological Organisation. Issues like Contemporary Art are difficult to illustrate and the set to be released on 12 September 1977 where each stamp depicts a different event, viz Electricity Supply Board; Agricultural Credit Corporation and Greyhound Track Racing can create problems if one cover is to be produced to accommodate the complete set.

I have in the past submitted my ideas to the Irish Post Office for consideration but sadly without success. I would appreciate members views on my designs.

* * * * *

BALLYCASTLE CDS CANCELLATION

In 1844 Ballycastle, Co Antrim, was allotted number 37 and for some years its canceller was the rhomboid with that number. By the 1890s it had a duplex type, numbered 41. When did the number change? How long was it without a number?

Evidence suggesting a part answer to the second question is supplied by envelopes of 1867 and 1870 bearing 1d reds cancelled with Ballycastle's circular date stamp. In each case the same stamp is impressed on the reverse of the envelope.

WEXFORD MALTESE CROSS

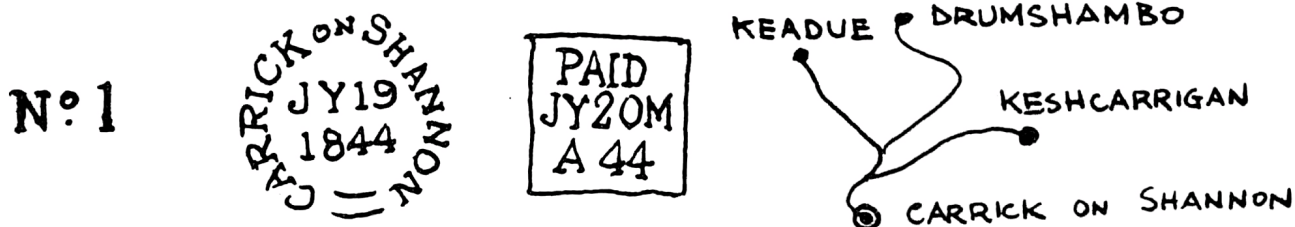
When I was redistributing to the appropriate files and albums the material loaned to the Wexford Festival, it caught my eye that the 'Maltese Cross' on a piece of 1842 had a distinctive feature. The central diamond is not symmetrical, the angle at one point being appreciably larger than that opposite.

F.E.D

THE NUMBERED PENNY POST COLLECTING SUB OFFICES

by W. Kane

First I would like to congratulate Dr Brian de Burca on his article on the above subject published in Irish Philately, December 1976. This aspect of Irish Postal History has been sadly neglected over the years. I cannot find an explanation for this neglect, other than a shortage of material, with convincing evidence as to the Receiving House where the letter was handed into in the first instance. Most of the Penny Post Office numbers I have seen were on fronts which, due to having no backstamps, make it difficult to locate the office of posting. Even with entires a problem can exist. In my collection I have an entire headed Carrick on Shannon, 19 July 1844, which has a No 1 in red. Carrick on Shannon double arc 19 July in green and the Dublin Paid July 20 in red.

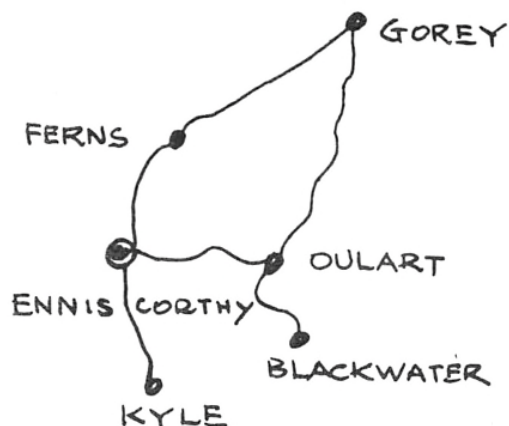


We know that KEADUE was the No 1 R. H. of Carrick on Shannon but why was this letter posted approximately 8 miles from the address on the letter? This is an instance where confusion can arise. Also I have an entire headed BLACKWATER, 15 November 1845, with a neat Boxed No 1 in black, backstamped GOREY 16 November in black and the DUBLIN PAID of the 17th November.

Blackwater is a small village about four miles from OULART, on a secondary road to GOREY, which passes through OULART. So the item never went to the main office of ENNISCORTHY of which OULART was a Penny Post Sub Office. Should we assume the No 1 on this item to be OULART?



Then again, another problem to be contended with is the location of some towns on a modern map. Since many of them have changed their name over the years. Take for instance CASHCARRIGAN under Carrick on Shannon, you will find it hard to locate this town as it is now known as KESH CARRIGAN.

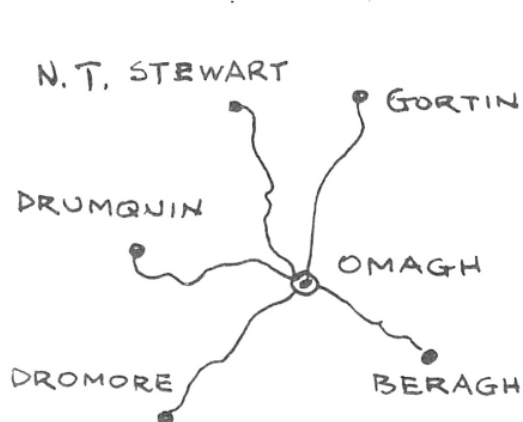


Alan W. Robertson gives a listing of the Irish Provincial Penny Posts in his book *Great Britain - Post Roads - Post Towns - Postal Rates - 1635-1839*. In his book he outlines the Irish Post Towns and the P.P. sub-offices under their jurisdiction. In the case of ENNISKILLEN, he names the six offices as quoted by Dr de Burca, and so on. Regretfully, he did not allocate the numbers allotted to the sub-offices. At least we do know, or have a good idea of, how many offices were in existence at that time.

Some researchers seem to think the numbers were allocated by the distance from the main office. Take for instance the case of SKIBBEREEN with two P.P. sub-offices, SCHULL (SKULL) being No 1 and CROOKHAVEN No 2. This would incline one to think this was the system used. Against this we have the instance of OMAGH with the nearest sub-office being BERAGH, which is No 4.

As Dr de Burca rightly points out, we are deeply indebted to Mr FE Dixon who collaborated with Mr Robertson when he was working on his book, which, over the years, has been such a great help to all interested in Irish Postal History.

Perhaps if all members were now to pool their knowledge relative this most interesting aspect, we might be able to close the issue.



EIGHT MILES TO THE INCH
 0 5 10 15 20