

# IRISH PHILATELY

## JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

Edited by

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### CONTENTS

|                                                   |         |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Editorial                                         | 41      |
| Letters to the Editor                             | 42 - 44 |
| Random Notes                                      | 44 - 46 |
| Awandering in the South West                      | 47 - 48 |
| The High Value Overprints                         | 48 - 51 |
| Postmark Miscellany                               | 52      |
| The British Field Post Offices in Ireland 1916-22 | 53 - 55 |
| Literature Review                                 | 55      |
| Members Queries                                   | 55      |
| A Letter of 1815                                  | 56 - 57 |
| Cancelling Machines of Ireland                    | 58      |
| Writing Up Stamps for Exhibition                  | 59 - 60 |

### "Irish Philately"

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### EDITORIAL

Again I have to apologise for the late appearance of 'Irish Philately' due mainly to a family bereavement.

I shall be sorry not to be at 'STAMPA' this year, the first one I will have missed for several years. I am sure it will be as well organised as in previous years and will be well worth a visit.

I should like to appeal for material for the Journal, especially from 'new authors'. We seem to be so dependant on a few members who faithfully support me by supplying material for publication, they are only a small percentage of our total membership. If you have an article you have been wanting to write or, indeed, have already written and not sent it in, please do so, I will be glad to receive it.

O.M. Richards

Letters to the Editor:-

Dear Sir,

Could any reader help me in identifying a postmark, circular, on a pair of SG 122, 1872/3 6d brown.



Is this Tarbert, Co Kerry (426 in Lists of 1844-57) or Tarbert, Argyllshire, Scotland (321 in Lists of 1844-74)? This information from G Brumell's 'Post Office Numbers' 1971.

What is the significance of the 'A' at top?

I have had this for some years but have been reminded of the question on seeing Tarbert mentioned in 'The Provincial Penny Posts of Ireland' in 'Irish Philately' for December 1977.

Yours sincerely,

Caitlin Morrissey.

Dear Sir,

The Authors of 'That was the year that was' in June's Journal asked for comments on their article. I would like to take this opportunity to comment on this article and other aspects of the Journal.

With regard to 'That was the year that was' I feel that it was issued too late. News should be as up to date as possible and this article was history. Why not publish it in four parts - as up to date as possible in each issue? In this way collectors could get most of the stamps, variations, cylinder blocks etc., when the stamps are still available in the post office. Could there not be 1 - 2 pages in the Journal each month with a heading of possibly 'Just Issued' which would give all the information and detail of 'That was the year that was'. This, plus Random Notes, should keep the modern collector supplied with all the information he might need. The listing must be specialised as simplified listings can be obtained in most stamp magazines and 'Irish Philately' should be somewhat more specialised than these.

On reflecting on the Journal in general I find it usually interesting. I prefer more modern material as with the post office advance information service improving I find that a very wide field of philately can be collected with sorting through the letter box and sending for the odd special cancellation. In view of this I find those articles on handstamps and slogan cancellations most interesting. I must also add that I have little interest in the overprint stamps due mainly to

their price. I know that this is a very specialised field of Irish stamps but I wonder if the large number of articles on the subject in any way reflects the spread of interest of collectors (or members) in proportion. I feel that the majority of Irish collectors are not so specialised - (see 'The Revealer' July 77) - and long articles taking up half the Journal such as the article on the '25th Anniversary of the Easter Rising of 1916' in June 1978 cannot interest more than maybe 25% of members at the most. I think the best way to get a spread of interesting articles is to divide the Journal into a number of sections, maybe as follows. 10 - 12 pages for 2 - 3 articles, preferably one modern and one pre 1926. 2 pages for modern news such as recent issues, variations, new paper on definitives, new handstamps, slogan cancellations etc. Another two pages or so could be devoted to area of specialisation, for example, First Day Covers, First Flight Covers, Slogan Cancellations, Ship Covers, Railway Letters, Handstamps etc., with information how a collector could obtain such items other than through a dealer. Half the fun in collecting is being able to get these items without having to go to a dealer. Can anyone tell me which ships on the Irish Sea have ships cachets? I only read recently that ships of the Irish Navy have cachets. I would think that such information would open up vast fields for collectors.

Possibly another page could be used to give news of the goings on of some of the stamp clubs in Ireland, Stamp Fair and even, on occasions, maybe a list of dealers with areas in which they might specialise.

I would like to see 'Post Mark Miscellany' and 'The Cancellings Machines of Ireland' to continue, but maybe I am biased in this area. I would also like to see some more interest in Northern Ireland. I know that this may cause some political problems but even with 2 different governments it is still the one island that is Ireland. The separate parts of the United Kingdom all have their own Philatelic Associations so why not try to join them up with our Northern friends and allow them some pages in our Journal. Up to 1922 we shared a common field of collection.

I hope that at least I have been constructive in the few ideas I have sent you and I look forward to reading the Journal in future - changed or unchanged as you think fit.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr) Aidan Kehoe.

Dear Sir,

Having arranged my collection of Dublin machine cancellations, I find I can add information and comments to those already given in 'The Machine Cancellations of Dublin' which can be found in Irish Philately (October 1972 and December 1975).

Columbia: Jun 10th 1906 with lines above and below and time on bottom.  
Aug 30th 1906 with no lines on date box.

None of the many examples seen for 1907 have 'A', my earliest is Jan 2nd 1908. Different 'A's' appear to have been in use, sometimes with a line under it, during the five years of use.

A narrower set of lines was in use in late 1908 and early 1909. I have three examples of the re-use in 1919:- Aug 12th, Sept 20th and Oct 1st.

Of the Krag and Hey Dolphin the only comment I have is that I have an example of the

Krag (Machine No 2) showing 3 Jan 23 in one box and 3 23 in the other.

Universal: I don't think the story of the bars is as straightforward as told in the Journal. I have five examples of this machine:-

19th May 1920 showing seven bars.

26th Oct 1920 showing the top bar broken (Figure 13).

3 Jan 1921 with six bars - top bar removed.

9 Feb 1921 with seven bars again.

26 Mar 1921 seven bars, but with nearly an inch missing off the end of the bottom two bars. Maybe these were the two bars removed?

As mentioned in the Journal, following the change to Irish, a break occurred at the bottom of the "A" die. This happened on 1st - 2nd June 1922.

Yours sincerely,

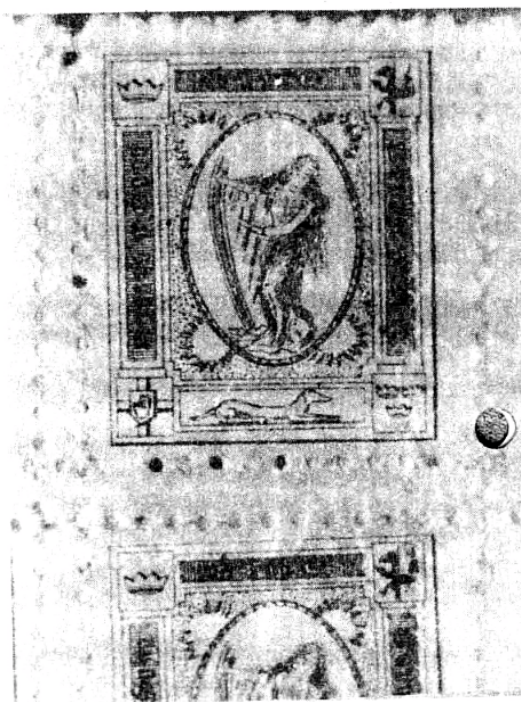
John J Lennon.

#### RANDOM NOTES

by F.E. Dixon

#### SINN FEIN LABELS

The design featuring a female harpist in an oval, with a hound below and the arms of the provinces in the corners, had the outlines printed in black, with green and yellow added. A block of six has turned up, printed in pale blue, and without the other colours. The impressions were laid down on the stone with 5 mm separation horizontally and vertically, allowing space for two rows of perforations. A single impression, printed in green, imperforate, was auctioned in Dublin during March.



#### ANOTHER 1922 ARTIST

One of the best known of the rejected designs for the 1922 Irish definitive series is that showing a winged female trumpeter, holding a harp. Examples were printed for the philatelic trade in many

colours and combinations of colours. These have always been credited to Dollards but there has been no mention of the artist concerned. The original painting has now come on the market, signed by Walter Till. He was a talented professional artist, whom Bill Kane remembers well.



Mr Till also prepared an attractive design for a 2/6 value, featuring the Irish Elk. As it uses the designation "EIRE" it was not one of the original submissions but may have been volunteered later in 1922, or afterwards.

**MID DAY OUT** A further dip into the archive revealed that before the MID.DAY.OUT of 1812 there was a similar stamp without stops. The two examples were of November and December 1811.

**MILEAGE AND NON-MILEAGE MARKS** It is clear that Ireland introduced the handstamps showing mileage from Dublin in 1808. The earliest yet reported is from Mullingar at the end of January. But why were some major towns so slow in using them? Limerick started their mileage stamp in August. Belfast had none until 1812 or 1813!

**BRITISH COUNTY CATALOGUE I** is a really new publication, by RM Willcocks with B Jay, listing all the known handstruck stamps from 12 of the English Midland and Eastern counties. They are referred to 88 standard types, the illustrations of which include Irish examples. So we hope the series is extended to include Ireland as well as Great Britain. There are good introductions for the individual counties, with maps, and the problem of pricing is met by using a scale of rarity.

**IRISH POSTAL MUSEUM** On 7th June a Dail question from G Brady elicited information that the question of establishing a postal museum was under consideration. It was also mentioned that the estimated revenue from postage stamps

was about £350,000 a year, with good prospects for further growth.

FIRST DAY COVERS Another attractive special envelope was printed for Aer Lingus to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Bremen flight.

IRISH POSTAL HISTORY RESEARCH The Irish Philatelic Society meeting on 29 June featured a talk by Mrs M Reynolds, the lady now in charge of the stamps in the National Museum. She has been researching the early history of the Post Office in Ireland and has located important new information in the British Museum Library and elsewhere.

THE NEW IRISH PLACE NAMES There is considerable confusion in the introduction of the revised and altered names. For example, I have seen a registered letter with label 'Caislean Mathghamhnach' and cancellation 'BAILE NA LORGAN, CO MHUINEACHAIN I'. They are the old and the new Irish names for what is still 'Castleblaney' in the Telephone Directory!

H & K PACKET The few envelopes of the 1860s bearing stamps cancelled on board the mailboats were posted at places between Dublin and Kingstown and I had assumed that they were put on the boat trains. I now find that from about 1850 bags of English mail were made up in Kingstown.

ANOTHER ARCHIVE Through the kindness of Viscount Gormanston I have been able to inspect some of the family correspondence. The first interesting find was a very large BALBRIGGEN (sic) of 1773, much earlier than hitherto recorded for that town. It may even be a first-day cover in that the post office was established that year. The letter (to Dublin) was charged only 1d - the concessionary rate for letters going less than one post stage.

Another interesting penn'orth is from Newry to Virginia in 1824, apparently accepted as a 'Soldier's letter' although not signed on the front by the Commanding Officer.

Less important is an addition to the lists of Receiving Houses - GORMANSTOWN (sans-serif) 1853-55.

A remarkable feature of the letters is that although the Gormanstown title is 500 years old, the premier Viscountcy in Great Britain or Ireland, the family were not entitled to free postage. They were banished by William III because they had actively supported James II. Although later allowed to return to Ireland, the Viscount was not allowed to sit in the House of Lords and that is why he had no franking rights. There are letters addressed to Viscount Gormanston with FREE markings applied in error and then cancelled.

SLOGAN CANCELLATION A slogan reading (on legible examples) COLLECT POSTAGE STAMPS was scheduled to appear on 1st July at Cavan, Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Dundalk, Galway, Limerick and Waterford.

POST OFFICE REFORMS As promised in their Election Manifesto, the Government has appointed a group, mainly business men, to investigate giving autonomy to the telecommunications system and to recommend improvements in the postal services. Philately and stamp issuing policies are unlikely to be considered.

## AWANDRING IN THE SOUTH-WEST

by B. de Burca

This May I made a lone trip to Ireland for the Killarney Bridge Congress. However, one is never alone in Ireland. While waiting to get on the boat at Swansea I met some old friends and made new acquaintances. With bridge in the evenings only, I wandered far and wide over Kerry, Clare, Limerick and Cork. What a pleasure it is to motor here with the roads still relatively empty and, travelling in an otherwise empty car, requests for lifts came frequently and could be amusing. Remember one lass of some 18 years who stopped me. I pointed out that she would be alone with me, a stranger, but received a coy look and 'Well Sir, do you think you will be safe with me alone in the car?'. Another was a cook who guided me to an excellent hotel in Bandon, where I had fried chicken with apricots, apple tart with real cream, cheese, coffee and with VAT the bill came to £1.70. Parking in a town like Mallow can be very difficult so on another day went to a large hotel some two miles outside the town. There over lunch met two sisters from Mallow Hospital who suggested that I should stay on and go to Mallow races that evening, but had a bridge date with a friend from Agen. He, however, could not get away from the oysters at Gleanbeg, I discovered next day.

What has this got to do with stamps? Well, it illustrates the friendly attitude one met everywhere, and this includes the Post Offices. In Killarney the machine has been giving trouble and one example seen had the time plug only. I was told that this was a mistake but that the year plug was damaged and a replacement was not available. Post Offices generally were very much different from those in the Monaghan and Leitrim areas. One, as in Monaghan, had no notice whatsoever, 'it had been sent for repainting'. Some were painted with Gaelic letters, some in English only and in between a mixture of all kinds. There was no uniform white on green. One met with every colour, and black and white seemed to predominate. The reason for this is simple, as I was told by one Post Mistress. The expense of putting up the notice falls on the Sub Post Master or Post Mistress, as do repairs and upkeep of the Post Office. For this there is a very small grant. Paint is very expensive these days and if a tin of black paint is available - why buy green? There were the usual variations in spelling, such as LIOS-ARD-ACAID over the Post Office, and LIOS ARDACHAIDH in the date stamp. Some of the sub offices still have the long wearing double ring modified English type date stamps. 'You must have had this date stamp for 30 years' I commented in one case and I received the answer, 'I think longer'.

The post boxes showed even more variation, from slits in the sub Post Office wall to large boxes, but frequently with no inscription. Most of the roadside boxes were VR but saw one ER. Many seem to have been removed and one on the Mallow road was removed about two years ago because of the danger of a hold up in the isolated spot it was in.

Some ten per cent of sub Post Offices seen were in very modern smart shops. An interesting commentary on village affairs occurred on a visit to a sub Post Office located in a bungalow. Was told of the expense of the upkeep and pointed out that repainting the outside would be an easy operation for an active young lady. 'But, Sir, what would be my position in the village if I did such a thing'. O tempora! O mores!

Two rebuilt Post Offices were seen, modern cement boxes with simply OIFIG AN PHOIST, the correct spelling can be seen at sub Post Offices. One of these was at Macroom

and the other at Listowel. This latter Post Office was opened this year on the outskirts of the town and the old 'Post Office, Listowel', can still be seen on the more central building. The assistant here was most anxious to please but the Post Master was a silent man, nothing but a nod or a shake of his head. I thought of how interesting it would be if their roles were reversed. Bandon must have one of the most impressive post offices in Ireland. From a distance I thought that it was a bank. I hope it survives.

Two final thoughts, without trying to emulate Mao. I do not know of any country with its own distinctive language which ignores it as the Irish P.O does with the Irish Alphabet. Outside one tiny village I saw a very finely executed notice, Failte go Baile Muirne, may the spirit of Ballyvourney long live. It is probably why I go back to Ireland so often.

\* \* \* \* \*

### THE HIGH VALUE OVERPRINTS

by C.I. Dulin and P.H. Williams

We would like to communicate a note which we believe is of considerable importance to the study of the Irish overprints and possibly to Irish philately in general.

It has been suspected for some time that at least part of the high value overprints were made in London rather than in Dublin. Thanks to the archives at the Records Office of the British Post Office which we have recently consulted, not only can we confirm this but, additionally, can add a wealth of detail.

Our findings will take several articles to elaborate but, briefly, the position is as follows:-

1. The Dollard and Thom Rialtas printings were, of course, made in Ireland by these printers respectively.
2. The first Saorstat was printed by Thom in Ireland.
3. The narrow date Saorstat was printed by Dublin Castle and possibly, though doubtfully, in London.
4. The wide and narrow date was printed in London. (This is not entirely clear from the archives but there is additional evidence to hand to confirm this).
5. The wide printing was also made in London.
6. The re-engraved overprint (and this is our most important finding) was initially printed by Harrison and then taken over by Somerset House.

We have discovered a great deal of information on the number of sheets printed although, tantalisingly, data from about four years during the period 1922 to 1937 is incomplete.

To avoid the misinterpretations which have plagued handbooks and catalogues in the past, when quoting overprint figures we give the data as found. We would like to avoid the classic case of the Saorstat Harrison coil where a partial printing has, through the years, been taken as the total printing for the issue.

The data and our assessment of it are therefore quite distinct.

- a. The Dollard figures are not in the archives but in any case are known from separate sources. For the record, the numbers printed were first noted by W. Ward in Stamp Collecting 17 March 1923 p. 605.

|      |      |
|------|------|
| 2/6  | 1000 |
| 5/-  | 650  |
| 10/- | 500  |

Both here and throughout the rest of this article all figures refer to sheets which, of course, contained 40 stamps.

- b. The first statement showing the monthly issue of sheets of stamps to the Irish Free State includes the following (Dated 15 March 1923):-

|      | 1922 |      |      |      |      | 1923 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|      | July | Aug. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. |
| 2/6  | 0    | 0    | 25   | 100  | 125  | 200  |
| 5/-  | 50   | 0    | 25   | 50   | 75   | 125  |
| 10/- | 50   | 0    | 25   | 25   | 25   | 62   |

Assessment:- The Thom printing covers the period October to December 1922 with the Saorstat high values appearing in December 1922 (2/6 on December '21, the other two on December 28). The July figure may be part of the Thom printing but this looks doubtful. The December figure may be partially for Thom Rialtas and partially for the Saorstat. However, it is far more likely that the whole of the December sending was used for the initial issue of the Thom Saorstat. In either case the total figure for Thom Rialtas overprint is even less than has been suspected. We can postulate as follows:-

|      | Min. | Min + July | Max. |
|------|------|------------|------|
| 2/6  | 125  | 125        | 250  |
| 5/-  | 75   | 125        | 200  |
| 10/- | 50   | 100        | 150  |

We believe that the minimum figures are the most probable, although there is also another consideration in that it is possible that some of the July shipment may have been used for the proofs which are known to exist on at least the 5/- value.

- c. The next statement (Dated September 1925) covers the period July 1924 to June 1925. The figures are as follows:-

|      | 1924 |      |       | 1925 |       |
|------|------|------|-------|------|-------|
|      | July | Nov. | April | June | Total |
| 2/6  | 500  | 625  | 1000  | 1250 | 3375  |
| 5/-  | 250  | 500  | 500   | 2000 | 3250  |
| 10/- | 250  | 150  | 300   | 1000 | 1700  |

Assessment:- We are greatly indebted to Bill Kane of Dublin for providing us with a copy of a letter with a date of 9 August 1938 and addressed to a senior official of the Irish Post Office Stores Department. The letter, which is a transcript and unsigned, can confidently be deduced to have been written by an official of the Government Printer's Office, Dublin Castle. This letter confirms the Total figures given above identically. We hope to discuss the text of the letter more fully in a later article.

The figures for the number of sheets issued between January 1923 and July 1924 covering the period when Thom Saorstat was printed have not been discovered. It is, therefore, only possible to postulate figures based on those for the period of February to December 1922 and July 1924 to January 1925. The June 1925 figures are abnormally high for reasons we can only suspect. The very much hypothetical figures could be:-

|      |       |      |
|------|-------|------|
| 2/6  | about | 2000 |
| 5/-  | about | 1250 |
| 10/- | about | 750  |

- d. The next statement is dated 22 April 1931 and covers the period 1926 to 1931. There is no breakdown by value but only totals of the number of sheets sent. However, other references do give the 1930 and 1931 breakdowns by value.

|                                |       |        |      |      |
|--------------------------------|-------|--------|------|------|
| August 1926                    | 6000  |        |      |      |
| December 1926 and January 1927 | 8233  |        |      |      |
| March 1928                     | 6000  |        |      |      |
| January and February 1929      | 12137 |        |      |      |
| September 1929                 | 6300  |        |      |      |
| March 1930                     | 7000  | 2/6    | 5/-  | 10/- |
| December 1930                  | 3125  | = 1750 | 625  | 750  |
| April 1931                     | 7500  | = 4000 | 2000 | 1500 |

Assessment:- We have good reason to believe that no further stamps were overprinted in Dublin between June 1925 and February 1926 when a further requisition was complied with by the British Post Office.

It is known that the narrow setting plate was sent to London in January 1926. The intriguing possibility is that the February 1926 and part of

the sendings listed above in August and December 1926 as well as the January 1927 are not 'Castle Narrows' but what might be termed 'London Narrows'. (For example - the 'missing accent' on stamp 40 and ink differences that have been noted on this setting may possibly be attributed to the 'London Narrow').

Additionally, it may be noted that the issue of sheets does not correspond to the wide and narrow date introduction in May - June 1927. Reasons for this will be discussed more fully in a future article.

- e. Perhaps a brief mention should be made at this point that the first official suggestion that the overprinting of the high values should be made in England is contained in a note dated 24 December 1925. The overprinting for other material such as Insurance stamps and Postal Orders was already being done in England at that time.
- f. Between April 1931 and October 1934 there is a complete absence of data but with the overprinting of the re-engraved issue fortunately there is a file covering the complete period up to 1937.

The following two printings were made by Harrison on the re-engraved issue. The relevant notes are dated 30 October '25, November 1934 and 26 February '29, March 1935. Additionally, and very specifically, there is a note dated 23 November 1934 which includes the following:-

'The stamps were all of the new issue printed by Waterlows and the overprinting was done by Harrisons under their current contract at 10/- per 100 sheets'.

| Harrison Printing: | November 1934 | March 1935 |
|--------------------|---------------|------------|
| 2/6                | 2250          | 2000       |
| 5/-                | 1000          | 1375       |
| 10/-               | 625           | 750        |

- g. For some reason, not yet explained, Harrisons do not appear to have had a hand in the remainder of the re-engraved overprinting.

The actual figures are as follows:-

|      | Aug<br>1935 | Jan<br>1936 | Apr<br>1936 | June<br>1936 | Sep<br>1936 | Jan<br>1937 |
|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2/6  | 957         | 1215        | 934         | 955          | 991         | 993         |
| 5/-  | 597         | 873         | 583         | 492          | 625         | 620         |
| 10/- | 353         | 371         | 372         | 345          | 373         | 375         |

Assessment:- Without any element of doubt the total printing of the re-engraved high values was as follows:-

|      |                                |
|------|--------------------------------|
| 2/6  | 10295 (of which Harrison 4250) |
| 5/-  | 6165 (of which Harrison 2375)  |
| 10/- | 3564 (of which Harrison 1375)  |

In future articles it is hoped to give more information as well attributing more accurately the data given here.

POSTMARK MISCELLANY

by O.M. Richards

A letter of 20 May 1824 from Castletown-Roche is annotated 'By Waterford'. The charge levied was 1/2d. The only postal marking is the abbreviated C.T. ROCHE struck in black.

116

C.T. ROCHE  
116

I was fortunate recently to acquire a letter, from a firm of solicitors in Cork, Messrs. Exham and Shift, to The Honorable Reverend Archdeacon St. Leger, Circus, Bath. It concerns lands at Ballyneene which were up for sale. It is dated 26 November 1826 and has two postal markings; on the front the 'CORK 124' mileage stamp and on the reverse the 'MIDDAY MAIL' as shown, both struck in red. The latter stamp was in use from 1816 to 1841 and was considered to be used in connection with the 'Cashel Mail' as the Dublin to Cork mail service was known. The letter is charged at 2/1d.



CORK  
124

The study of mileage stamps is fascinating. I was at a meeting of the Welsh Philatelic Society a few days ago where one of our members, the Rev Edwin Davey, showed Irish mileage stamps as part of his display. This prompted me to look at my own collection of these marks; one page caught my eye, it had two mileage stamps from Tyrrelspass, as illustrated. Both struck in black, the larger one is dated 1811 and the small one 1829.

TYRRELSPASS  
40

TYRRELLSPASS  
40

The special handstamp cancellation used on 18 September 1978 at the GPO Dublin is shown. It incorporates symbols connected with the three stamps issued on that day - The Hypodermic Needle (The Global Eradication of Smallpox) - The Cross (Bicentenary of the Birth of Catherine McCauley) - The Paintbrush (Contemporary Irish Art).



## THE BRITISH FIELD POST OFFICES IN IRELAND 1916-1922

by B. de Burca

A further addition to this story appeared last year and, as nothing new has turned up since, I think that it is worth time reviewing the knowledge available again.

Col GE Crouch was the first to give an account under the heading 'Expeditionary Forces, Ireland 1921 - 22' which appeared in the 1938 spring number of the Philatelic Adviser. I later wrote a more detailed account in The Postal History Journal No 142 of 1966. The latter account, based on the official list is given in Alistair Kennedy and George Crabb's - 'The Postal History of the British in World War I', published in 1977. The interesting thing about this list is that only single copies are known of seven Field Post Offices and two in the official list have never been recorded. The authors adhere to the official listing of locations but these, in practice, were not always adhered to.

### Easter Rising 1916

Four Post Offices were opened on 4 May 1916 and closed on 16 August 1916. Free Mail was allowed to Saturday 6 May 1916.

ARMY POST OFFICE HD/D14 Type I 5 May 1916 - 15 Aug 59 Div. H.Q. Dublin.

ARMY POST OFFICE (HD)40 Type I 1 May 1916 - Aug 1916 176 Bde.

ARMY POST OFFICE (HD)41 Type I 1 July 1916 - Aug 1916 177 Bde.

ARMY POST OFFICE (HD)42 Type I 1 May 1916 - July 1916 178 Bde.

The 178 Brigade was composed of four Battalions of the Sherwood Foresters, the 2/5, the 2/6, the 2/7 (The 'Robin Hoods') and the 2/8. the 2/7 moved to Oranmore on 30 May 1916 and to Tuam on 16 September 1916. After (HD) 42 opened the civil Post Office was still being used, at least for private letters. This Brigade left Ireland on 12 January 1917. It must be remembered that the Brigade would be scattered and that only those attached to Brigade H.Q. may have used the FPO.

### 1920 - 1923

Four Army Post Offices were established on 1 December 1920 at Belfast, The Curragh Camp, Cork and Dublin. Early in 1921 six Field Post Offices were opened to serve Brigades. All FPOs in Southern Ireland were closed by the end of 1922 and the last to close was D41 at Dublin. It moved to Belfast in January 1923. Field Post Office 202 Type 2 first opened in Belfast and moved to Dundalk with 26 Brigade September - December 1921 and sometime in 1922 moved to H.Q. Northern District at Newtownards.

FIELD POST OFFICE D41 Type 2 Nov 1921 - Dec 1922 Dublin G.H.Q. (A.P.O.4).

FIELD POST OFFICE 3K Type 2 Sep 1921 - May 1922 said to have been located at The Curragh Camp but I have it from Tallagh Camp, Co Dublin in September 1921.

Tallagh Camp was the Artillery Headquarters and 17th and 20th Batteries G.R.A.,

and possibly other Artillery units were located here. It is a rare item and if it was located at The Curragh Camp one would expect it to be relatively common. It may have moved to The Curragh Camp later as in 1922 it can be found cancelling Irish overprinted stamps, but these are also rare.

FIELD POST OFFICE T29 Type 2 2 January 1921 to March 1922. Located in Cork in the official list, with 6th Division (A.P.O. 3). However, two letters from Fermoy in March 1921 are backstamped with T29 which would suggest Dublin as a location. A rare item and more information is required. Col Crouch located it at Kilworth, Co Cork and it appears improbable that letters from Fermoy to Dover would be routed or resorted at Kilworth.

FIELD POST OFFICE W16 Type 2 December 1920 to September 1921. Dublin G.H.Q. With FPO D41 the only relatively common FPOs.

FIELD POST OFFICE 5 Type 4 recorded January 1922. Stated to be at Athlone with 13 Brigade and later at Ballykinler, Co Down with 16th Brigade.

FIELD POST OFFICE 6 unrecorded. Located at Galway in official list.

FIELD POST OFFICE 7 Type 4 recorded January 1922. Located Buttevant in official list.

FIELD POST OFFICE 8 Type 3 March 1921 to January 1922. Fermoy, Co Cork with 16th Brigade. The rubber date stamp in this busy station became deformed (Type 5) and in November 1921 was replaced by a single ring metal date stamp Type 4.

FIELD POST OFFICE 9. A single example Type 3 recorded for August 1921 when it was in Limerick with 18th Brigade. In January 1922 Type 4 was in use and also in September 1922 when it was in Derry.

FIELD POST OFFICE 10 Type 3. August 1921 to February 1923 (N. Ireland). . . Various locations in North Ireland, Derry, Belfast and possibly other towns. Type 3 was first issued and, like FPO 8, it became deformed and Type 4 was issued in December 1921.



I



II



III



IV



V

This concludes the account of the FPOs and reveals how much has still to be found out. Alistair Kennedy's discovery of the official list was a big advance and I have to thank him and my other fellow member of the Forces Postal History Society, George Crabb, for permission to use the material in their summary. I remember some years past visiting Fermoy to find out what had still been preserved there only to find that the Barracks had been burned down. As the FPOs were established for security reasons and the majority of the mail was official, it is improbable that further information will come except from this source. The dates for FPO 8 given by Col Crouch 40 years ago are those quoted today.

Apart from FPOs there was a Military Telegraph Office in Bere Island in 1915 - 16 using a skeleton date stamp and the two examples which I have are on a postcard and a YMCA envelope. The RGA No 32 (Cork) located at Spike Island used an official oblong date stamp on their letters in 1918.

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#### LITERATURE REVIEW

A HISTORY OF THE TRAVELLING POST OFFICES OF GREAT BRITAIN A must for those who collect Irish TPO markings is Part 3 of 'TPO A History of the Travelling Post Offices of Great Britain' by HS Wilson. Part 3 covers the TPOs of Scotland and Ireland detailing the history and markings of each of the TPOs. There are many illustrations of the date stamps and several photographs of the TPO carriages, plus maps. Members FE Dixon and W Kane have contributed information to this work which is the most comprehensive I have seen on this subject. It can be obtained from 'The Railway Philatelic Group', 20 Rockley Road, Leicester LE4 0G - Price £3.75 plus postage.

DF NEWSLETTER SUMMER 1978 The Summer 1978 issue of the DF Newsletter is, as usual, full of information on many aspects of Irish Philately. There is an excellent article by 'NJ' on the 'Belfast "Peoples Post" of Christmas 1977', Part I. This gives full details of the service provided and we eagerly await the second part which will appear in the next issue. Bill Kane's listing of Postal Stationery used in Ireland continues, this article covers printings in Irish from 1924 and is well illustrated.

THE REVEALER JULY 1978 The second of a series of articles on 'Irish Postmarks from 1922 Onwards' by JT Howley is well illustrated and we look forward to reading the next part in due course. Part Two of 'The Postage Stamps of Ireland 1922-27' by NG Meredith as revised by JE Foley will interest those who collect the Overprints. The rest of the pages are filled with items of news with a selection of Letters to the Editor.

#### MEMBERS QUERIES

Member RM Kitchingman, Chesham Prep School (Flat), Orchard Leigh, Chesham, Bucks. HP5 3QF, requires the following information:-

Does any member know what some odd triangular labels marked 'One Country - One Flag' represent? Used on cover with a copy of the Saorstat Eireinn overprints of 1922, postmark oddly marked 1960! Forgery?

Also, Europa last year - 10r Mountain with a plain brown vertical line on the left which looks every bit like a telephone pole. Where and when or position on sheet? Any ideas?

## A LETTER OF 1815

by O.M. Richards

Some time ago one of our members suggested that, from time to time, we published in our Journal the contents of any interesting letters in our collections; to date there has been no reaction from the membership. One of the interesting letters in my collection was written towards the end of 1815 and gives an account of mob violence in Co Armagh at that time. The contents are reproduced below:-

To: Miss Warburton, 8 Gwinns Buildings, Islington, London.

Date: 23rd December 1815.

From: A.N. Warburton, Gilford.

My Dear Miss W.

I enclose you W's order for the needful and just say on paper all's well and and we will understand that you have received safely.

And now let me ask you who were in the midst of those frightful mobs whether you (poor lone woman) were not dreadfully alarmed? How awful are the present times and how daringly unreflecting are those who have the happy-power to relieve thousands of their fellow creatures and yet give up such a delight for the indulgence of some extravagant pursuit, which in the conclusion brings its own punishment. I suppose you do not get the Examiner now. I have had only two in seven weeks. I have had my fright too. Even in this remote corner the spirit of mischief stalks abroad. The dwelling house and Demense of a distant relation of mine stands opposite to our house and is separated only by a narrow road and in the night some of his Tenants set his out offices on fire, one of the maids awoke me at one o'clock with the pleasing intelligence that, if I did not instantly get up we should all be burned alive for that Sir William Johnston's House was all in a Blaze - But she added "Mistress Ma'am you need not be frightened not in the least". The fire lasted in terrific splendor for six hours during which time I was flying from front to rear giving all directions which I thought requisite. Our Barn - Stable and Cowhouse/being thatched/together with our Stack yard - I did not expect to save - But I Bless Heaven, I did not lose a single straw - and tho' I had only a great coat over my night shift and thin shoes - and stood six hours on the Wet Earth, I did not even get cold and except occasional palpitation of my heart and Tremor of my nerves - have not found any inconvenience during the fire. Not an hand was spared to assist in extinguishing, all stood looking unconcernedly on - no one spoke. But in a whisper as if fearful of hearing any sound but the crackling and hissing of the flames in persons that I never recollect to have seen before ran around my stacks throwing on water and a man whispered in my ear - "Go in Madam - Go to your bed in peace and fear nothing - if one straw belonging to you takes fire - an hundred men will be at your back in five minutes". I was certainly happy to receive such an assurance but could by no means feel so composed as to follow the advice - the houses continued burning until the same hour next night when all the straw, hay turf, live poultry and house timber, oats etc., being consumed, the walls alone were left standing, a letter was left at the same time telling Sir William that if he did not take the fire as an caution against harrassing the poor - they would visit him again in a more formidable way - He is a man who has £60,000 in the Funds, £100 per annum from Government and Two Thousand landed Estate, is

unmarried and a mixer - tho when in London/where he has an house/he gives dinners and concerts there - he does screw the tenants to the highest possible pitch and is a man without Bowels. I hope and trust I shall never pass so frightful a night again and I am grateful for the escape I have had, which was indeed miraculous, if you could see how we stand ----- poor Ann Granger and poor Miss Granger. I am sincerely sorry for her, surely! there must be some hope, that since she has survived so much longer than her Medical Attendants expected, She may yet recover - She has youth, and providing that health in her favour and as she has lasted so long, I do not by any means give her up nor despair of her ultimate recovery and I trust I speak prophetically; when you send a paper next/if ever again/pray let me know how she is. When you wish to avoid postage and have anything in particular to say, write with milk on the news cover in plain distinct lines, when held before the fire 'till almost burns, will all appear, do not mention this and rule the bit of paper till you get into the way of doing it without lines - We have a bad fever now raging within ten miles of us owing to bad food and want of fire - the distress is soreful and universal. The season was so wet neither rich or poor could get Turf made and you can form no idea of the general misery this want above all others creates as this season of cold. We have had three weeks of most intense frost and snow - this day we have a complete thaw and rain - I sent you two papers today but could not get this written in time for the same post - I wish you and Miss McR all the enjoyments of the season and am ever your sincere friend.

A.N. Warburton.

The Examiner has this moment arrived May 5th do not write again but on the cover with Milk -.

The letter was prepaid and is annotated in manuscript, in red, Paid 1/10. There are six stamps on the face of the letter, the first in blue is the GILFORD 67 mileage stamp. The letter which was written on 23 December 1815 acquired the double frame 'PAID' stamp of Dublin, but there was no indication of the amount due, this was struck in black. It arrived in London on 28 December 1815 and acquired in addition to the 'MORE TO PAY' stamp, three other stamps all struck in red.

**GILFORD  
67**



The round double frame stamp was introduced in London about 1810 and used as a receiving indicator, the oval stamp is mis-applied on a letter that had been paid, it was produced for letters which were unpaid. The 'Tombstone' PAID stamp was introduced in London about 1810.

Some of the stamps are poorly struck, despite this the letter is most interesting both in content and in the stamps struck thereon.

## THE CANCELLING MACHINES OF IRELAND

### PROVINCES

by O.M. Richards

I regret that this series of articles on the cancelling machines of Ireland is taking so long to complete. I shall endeavour to have at least one page in each issue from this time on.

#### CILL MHANTAIN (Wicklow)

According to official records a Universal (slow) machine was issued to this office in December 1965 and brought into use on the 10th of that month. However, as will be seen from the example shown, my earliest impression is 6 November 1965. The machine has continuous wavy lines, slogans are not used neither have I seen examples of OFFICIAL PAID or PAID mail. I regret that I do not have a record of the serial number.



Fig. 65

#### EOCHAILL (Youghal)

A Universal DD (slow) machine was issued to this office in April 1965, the first day of use was the 18th of that month. I have no record of the serial number of this machine. Continuous wavy lines are used, slogans are not used. I have not seen OFFICIAL PAID or PAID mail from this machine.



Fig. 66

#### GUAIRE (Gorey)

A Pitney Bowes Ltd (Universal) machine was issued to this office in June 1964. It was first used on the 1st July. It is a DD (slow) Model, Serial Number 3777. The machine is fitted with continuous wavy lines, slogans have not been used. I have not seen OFFICIAL PAID or PAID mail from this machine.



Fig. 67

## WRITING UP STAMPS FOR EXHIBITION - A PERSONAL SOLUTION

by M.H. Priestley

Have you some stamps in your collection which you feel could win a club competition prize if you had the talent to write them up properly? Or perhaps you have ambitions for a national competition medal but your artistic talent does not match the task of illustrating the varieties you want to show! Having faced this problem myself, and now won a number of competitions, I pass on my experience to you.

### CHOICE OF WRITING UP METHOD

I examined several methods suitable for competition entries.

- a. Copper Plate / Italic / Gothic Handwriting. I did try hard with a special sloping nib but the results were not good enough.
- b. Electric Typewriter. A possibility if you can afford one. The type impression is very even but to my mind lacks individuality.
- c. Letraset. A fine effect can be achieved. I tried Palace Script lettering but found the perfect appearance hard to produce and very expensive if you do a lot of writing up, as I do.
- d. Stencil. This was the method I eventually chose, something of a compromise perhaps as it is not quite as good in appearance as Letraset but it is far quicker and cheaper and produces a good result if done carefully.

### USING A STENCIL

- a. Type and Size of Stencil. Stencils can be Italic (sloping) or straight; I prefer Italic. I found the German Standardgraph stencil the most satisfactory; in several years use nine of the little letter projections have broken off. The most useful size is 3mm and a Rotring pen is much better than others I have tried; the ink keeps flowing if the pen is washed after use - wash the stencil too or the letters get clogged up with dried ink.
- b. Keeping a Straight Line. This is vital and not easy unless you use a heavy metal ruler - mine weighs a couple of pounds and has a rubber base, so that it does not get moved too easily. Getting the correct level is important too. By laying the edge of the ruler exactly on one of the faint lines on the page, the stencil letters appear exactly on a faint line above. Incidentally, the edge of the stencil can be used for ruling ink lines without smudging the line when you remove the stencil.
- c. Letter Spacing. This needs practice. The best spacing is achieved by covering the letter you have just stencilled by the stencil letter before the one you are about to use. For example, if you were writing the word 'Stencil' and had reached 'Sten', the 'c' should be placed so that the 'b' on the stencil covers the 'n' you have just written. This does not apply to narrow letters like 'i' where judgement has to be used for the best spacing.

- d. Lighting. I find a strong side light from an Anglepoise lamp essential.
- e. Mistakes. Concentration is the keyword! To get to the last line on a page and then make a mistake is heart breaking. Very small mistakes can be corrected but for a competition I would rather rewrite a page than correct it. Look out particularly for:-
  - i. Putting the pen in the wrong letter, especially 'i' and 'j' or 'v' and 'w'.
  - ii. Making spelling mistakes.
  - iii. Missing out words - always write down what you want to stencil.
  - iv. Smudging ink before it is dry.

To begin with you may find it difficult to complete a page without a mistake but this will improve with practice.

### ILLUSTRATING VARIETIES

Most exhibition entries include varieties which need to be illustrated. No problem if you are an artist but if, like me, you cannot draw, you do have a problem. I have produced very acceptable results using the following method:-

- a. Enlargement of the Variety. Stick a (damaged) copy of the stamp onto millimetre graph paper. With a very sharp pencil extend the graph paper lines over the stamp making a pattern of 1 mm squares. Then with a stand magnifier (I use a X10 linen thread counter) copy a 1 mm square onto a 1 cm square of graph paper. This enlarges the area by 100 times and the amount of detail in a 1 mm square is small enough for a non-artist to draw with reasonable accuracy. By enlarging 1 mm square at a time the relative position and size of the detail of the stamp can be maintained.
- b. Improving the Enlargement. I redraw the enlargement onto another sheet of graph paper, improving the outline by comparing the shape of the curves with the original stamp until an acceptable enlargement is achieved.
- c. Copying the Enlargement. To transfer the enlargement onto the exhibition page, first trace it carefully onto a small piece of tracing paper with a hard pencil. Keep the tracing paper steady by sticking it to the graph paper with sellotape. Lightly pencil in the back of the tracing with a soft pencil and stick the tracing on the exhibition page in its precise position, again with sellotape. Under the magnifying glass trace over the outline with a sharp pointed instrument (not a pencil), then remove the tracing paper and again, under the magnifying glass, carefully draw over the outline with a sharp pencil - the sellotape will peel off the page without damaging the surface if removed slowly. Straight lines should be drawn with a ruler, also under magnification.

After pencil dust residue has been brushed off the paper, an outline is left which looks as if it had been drawn directly on the paper, even when magnified.

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