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Edited by

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EDITORIAL

I apologise for the late appearance of Irish Philately this quarter.

The display to the 'Royal' and the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Philatelic Circle are now past, both events were enjoyed immensely by those who were fortunate enough to be able to attend.

Everyone will be relieved that the long strike by postal workers in Ireland is now over. The mail will take a little time to flow evenly in both directions but I am sure the backlog will soon be dealt with.

I am glad to welcome a new contributor to the pages of Irish Philately in the person of S.D. Challis, his article on the large lot of postmarks he purchased very recently is most interesting.

More new contributors would be most welcome.

"Irish Philately"

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OM Richards

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Letters to the Editor:-

Dear Sir,

It is intended to publish in the near future a catalogue of the postcards used at the Franco British Exhibition of 1908 - 1909, this of course includes cards of Ballymaclinton. Members are advised to pick up what they can on this theme, now, before publication.

Prices are around 50p, possibly less in some places, for mint cards and cards postally used in places other than the Exhibition. Cards with 1908 Exhibition dates are usually £1.50 to £2.00 each; cards with 1909 dates are good value at less than four times these figures.

Postcards can be found with a Ballymaclinton theme cancelled with the 1910 Japan - British Exhibition Paddington handstamp. These are of interest but not easy to find, to date only one is known. A cover with the Ballymaclinton handstamp has not, as yet, been found but may well exist. Other items worth looking for are those addressed to Ballymaclinton, White City, London W.

Good Hunting,

George Ithell

* * * * *

THE POSTMARK COLLECTORS DREAM

by S.D. Challis

Occasionally in the pursuit of one's hobby one is fortunate to have a little luck; at other times one makes some terrible buys!

It has long been my intention to try and achieve as complete as possible a detailed collection of Irish twentieth century postmarks with the emphasis placed on the early years after Independence. Therefore, I was intrigued to see in a recent auction catalogue 'Lot 778 - Ireland - Duplicated range on paper with early commems - 1000's' (like many auctioneers estimates this proved a little optimistic). It was the 'on paper' that made me go and look and sure enough Lot 778 was clearly the balance of a Kiloware parcel (the original parcel label was still there) purchased early in 1933 containing almost exclusively stamps with 1929 to early 1932 postmarks and the bulk was 1930 and 1931. From these the original purchaser had clearly removed so many of each stamp leaving a large quantity of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d and 2d definitives, a few higher values and several hundred commems (O'Connell, Shannon, RDS and a few Eucharistic Congress). But more to the point, it was obvious from a brief glance that the lot had not been sorted for postmarks.

Having acquired the lot at somewhat below the auctioneer's estimate it did not take long to get down to work and to realise that here was indeed a very rare opportunity - the nearest to a postmark collector's dream I have yet found. Virtually 50 years old and to all intents and purposes unsorted. Moreover, it was

to yield well over 200 date stamps in English, a field which particularly interests me.

As my interest in the postmarks of Ireland has developed I have often wondered just how quickly the English date stamps disappeared. It is, of course, well known that most towns had Irish date stamps by the end of 1923 and a few English ones lingered on at rural offices until the 1950s, but what of the vast majority of village and rural offices. What percentage of mail was still being cancelled in English in 1930 or, for that matter, 1940? Here was my chance to examine the early 1930s.

Rubber cancellations are too a source of interest and always seized on whenever possible but just how scarce are they? here again was my golden opportunity to conduct my private survey. I assumed that the few pre 1929 items were balanced by those dated after 1931 as time and, in some cases, illegibility did not permit sorting into year piles. I had a sample as large as that used in any public opinion poll of postmarks used in Ireland in 1930/31. The spread seemed even from over the entire country with good representation from Donegal to Wexford. It was a fair sample and I set to and counted.

Purposely I ignored the parcel marks; the odds must be that the original owner had taken a high proportion of the stamps and these gave me a higher illegibility problem in any case. The object then was to analyse the 'ordinary letter postmarks'.

Whilst the results will come as no surprise to anyone who knows the postmarks of the period, I believe they are worth recording as the chances of finding similar effectively unsorted lots in the future must be fairly remote.

The results then, with a mid-point of 31.12.30 or just about 9 years after Independence are:-

Postmarks in Irish

	<u>Note</u>	<u>No of Pieces</u>	<u>%</u>
Machine Cancellations	1	662	30.9
Machine Triangles	2	1	-
Handstamps - Metal	3	1000	46.7
Handstamps - Rubber		140	6.5
Skeletons	4	12	.6
Triangle B.A.C	2	7	.3
		1822	85.14

Postmarks in English

Machine Cancellations	1	5	.2
Machine Triangle	2	:	-
Handstamps - Metal		266	12.4
Handstamps - Rubber	5	4	.2
Triangles	2	11	.5
TPO, Late Fee etc		3	.1
		290	13.55

<u>Summary</u>	<u>No of Pieces</u>	<u>%</u>
Postmarks in Irish	1822	85.14
Postmarks in English	290	13.55
Totally Illegible	28	1.31
Total	<u>2140</u>	<u>100.00</u>

Notes:-

1. Machines were at Dublin, Cork, Limerick, all these Universal and Krags at Waterford, Kilkenny, Galway and Monaghan, that at Monaghan being inscribed in English and the 5 items definitely identified may be an understatement.
2. I regard the Dublin (BAC) triangle as being Irish but where the code remains unchanged as still being English. The machine triangles were one each from Dublin and Cork.
3. I have made no attempt to differentiate between types. Over 20 different must have been in use.
4. Skeletons were mostly fairly illegible but a superb double ring No 16 Clones (10.4.30) was included, also a 'Buy Third National Loan 10.6.30 used at Sligo. Perhaps this is strictly a bi-lingual!
5. For the record these are:-

Manister/Limerick	30.10.31	Liskinfere/Gorey	1. 5.31
Latnamard/Newbliss/Co.	Mon 30.? .31	Kilcarn/Navan	25.11.?31

My answer, therefore, was that about 1 item in 7 was still cancelled in English with rubber cancellations accounting for about 1/16th of mail.

Has anybody done similar exercises for other dates: if so, do please let me know!

* * * * *

NEW MACHINE DIE

- ° DONEGAL formerly DUN NA nGALL
 Month in Roman Figures.
 Note the mixture of lower and upper case letters.
 The only difference appears to be the additional accent over the 'A' of nGALL.



AUCTION REALISATIONS

by 'Bruno'

Some 266 lots of Irish material were sold in London on 22 May 1979 by the American firm of Gregg Manning Auctions Inc., of New Jersey. It was not a 'named' sale and it would appear that many items were provided by one or more of the prominent European Irish dealers. It is no secret that most dealers do not wish to hold costly items in stock in the volatile market conditions now prevailing.

It was a comprehensive selection and, surprisingly, the room was very sparsely attended, there being about four collectors present who were outnumbered by the specialist dealers from the UK and Eire. The 'book' of postal bids was unusually weak and any collector in the room had a good chance of securing items within his budget. The quality of the lots was generally good.

The sale opened with a section of 45 lots of postal history. The prices quoted here are before 10% buyers premium but all lots were free of VAT. Representative items included:-

- 1834 Entire to London with red straight-line 'Ballymahon Penny Post' M/S rate 1/5 changed to 2/9 with Inspectors red crown. Est £30/40. Realised £24.
- 1663 An unmarked letter from Dublin addressed to 'Mr John Morris at Ye Flying Horse in Cornhill' in fine condition. Est £50/75. Realised £38.
- 1825 Entire to Dublin with boxed red straight-line 'GALWAY 104' rather faint. Est £40/50. Realised £38.
- 1808 Wrapper from Rochford to Dublin with red Mermaid II Au II 1808. Fine. Est £40/50. Realised £44.

Whilst most lots in this section went below estimate an exception was the 1861/62 Ireland - America Publicity envelope (stated to be one of two known examples) per Great Eastern via Queenstown with red and green HH-GH cancellations of New York and Queenstown, heavily creased, and estimated at £150/200 which sold for £425.

Prices for a small section of Ship Letters were about estimate and the highlight was a letter wrapper from Bahia to London with black scroll 'Ship Letter', 'Dunmore East 83', red 'Dublin Ship Letter' and other markings. Estimated at £450/600 it sold for £500.

GB used in Ireland included a collection of 421 line-engraved stamps 1854/70 with various cancellations, described as fine/very fine which sold for £70. On the other hand, a £5 orange (SG 137) neatly cancelled in Belfast, with a disfiguring blue crayon mark and slight crease, realised £800 against catalogue £650.

Next came an unusual array of forerunners, opening with an unused 1 cent Fenian label (DF LI) stated to be the finer of the two recorded. Estimated £1000/1250

it fetched £900. An unused Fenian 3 cent green, with good margins but a little stained, sold at £375. A used but creased 2½d Colonial Key type was only a little below estimate at £220. A block of 4, upper pair tête-bêche of the Woman & Harp label perf 11 sold at £250.

A good selection of the overprinted stamps followed, generally of above average quality and condition, together with proofs and controls. Prices showed a welcome discount off catalogue (to collectors!). Some examples are:-

- Dollard 2/6d Nissen re-entry. Fine o.g. £62.
 10/- Strokes over TEN. Fine £145.
- Thom (Black) ½d - 1/- . Complete set on separate FDCs of 17 Feb 22.
 £425.
- Thom (Blue black) ½d - 1/- in blocks of 4. £220.
 1d used strip of 3, one reversed 0 for 0. £85.
 9d POSTAGE variety £160. (Mint).
 10d Broken frameline variety £125. (Used).

'Investment' interest reared its ugly head when the Thom high values, mint, reached £850. Normality quickly returned when the Thom Saorstat low values in (mostly unmounted) blocks of four went for £42. A good mint copy of the ½d Saorstat with missing accent sold for £230 against catalogue of £600. Most of the listed varieties on the low values were present; a single mint 1/-d ONF variety reached only £75. A fine selection of the Saorstat high values heralded some higher prices, a top half sheet of the Thom Saorstat 2/6d, rather heavily creased along the bottom row, fetched £400. The composite setting produced £850 for the set of three pairs even with some defects. A nice block of 12 of the narrow date 2/6d (the bottom three rows of the sheet) realised £280. The lower half of a sheet of the 2/6d Composite proved its appeal by selling at £575.

Bargains (by current standards) unexpectedly reappeared with the definitive series Essays. A lot consisting of 19 of the Dollard 2d lithographed essays in fine mint condition fetched £125, only about 1/3rd catalogue, as did 10 Valdivia specimens selling at £160. A fine collection of the definitives from 1922-1976, mainly in blocks of 4 and including some varieties, sold for less than 1/3rd catalogue as did a complete collection of the commemoratives in blocks from 1929-1976. Interest was not revived by some Dues and Railway Letter stamps which failed to secure more than lukewarm bidding at mostly half estimate.

This important sale shows what can happen when publicity is inadequate, collectors stay away, or the venue is wrong. Bargains are still obtainable. The hunt is far more exciting than the kill.

RANDOM NOTES

by F.E. Dixon

ST MARGARET'S Some time ago I expressed doubts as to the existence of a numbered cancellation for St Margaret's (Co Dublin) although it had been

allotted 490 by 1874. I have now seen the 490 cancelling a pair of 1d reds on an envelope of 1869. Why then was it not used in the 1870s?

MAIL COACHES The bulletin of the Postal History Society (No 206) has another article by John Stuttard from St Martin-le-Grand Mag. 1917. This concerns the Irish Mail Coaches and has details of many accidents and robberies as well as useful historical information.

REGISTRATION The change-over to 'Irish' names on registration labels is quite LABELS slow. One recent 'DUBLIN' label may have been old stock but is more likely to be a recent supply ordered by an official who had forgotten about the new policy.

NEW NAMES IN In November 1977 a Philatelic Information circular listed the CANCELLATIONS offices involved in the first phase of the change-over to the forms recommended by the Placenames Commission. The circular promised notification of the date of commencement of the second phase. One cancellation I have seen suggests that the second phase has started. It is MAINISTIR FHEAR I AI for Fermoy in lieu of MAINISTIR FHEARR MUIGHE. However, the first phase is not finished. Templeogue in December was still TIGH MOLOG and not yet TEACH MEALOG.

NSC The National Savings Committee has produced a handsome leaflet 'Stampa na hEireann, Uimhir a 2', with a half page summary of postal history and 3½ pages with colour reproductions of essays (3) and commemorative stamps.

PAGUST The Christmas 1978 Pagust had more than a page of 'Philatelica' including the suggestion that, even before the promised Irish Postal Museum is an accomplished fact, there could be a series of Postal Museum Publications, beginning with Mrs Reynolds' researches into postal history and my findings regarding the design competition of 1922.

IRISH FORCES I have very little luck in contacting people with relatives IN LEBANON serving with the Irish Forces serving with United Nations units. However, I have seen some recent envelopes from the Lebanon. They have no postmarks or stamps, only a circular cachet with the UN emblem and UNITED NATIONS/INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON. A peculiar feature is that all (with dates early in December '78) had the date inverted.

BROTHERS OF The expected stamp issues for 1979 include one commemorating the ST JOHN OF GOD 100th anniversary of the establishment in Ireland of the Brothers of St John of God. The Brothers are already using on their letters a colourful label which I recommend as suitable for embellishing covers bearing the stamps. The address of their administration centre is Granada, Stillorgan, Co Dublin.

MISSING Each year at least one major office, plus a few minor ones, fails YEARS to get its new year die in time. This year I noted that Sligo began 1979 with the year-line on its machine blank.

BRITISH FIELD POST OFFICES IN IRELAND

1916 - 1922

by C.I. Dulin

Further to Dr de Burca's very interesting article on the above (Irish Philately September 1978) in which he admirably summarises available data on the subject, may I add one or two items from my own collection.

Easter Rising 1916

ARMY POST OFFICE (HD)41 The period of use is given as July 1916 to August 1916. I have 5 examples (4 on 'Rising' postcards) the dates of which are 21 May; 9 June; 1 July; 26 July; 27 July 1916. This extends the noted period of use by something like six weeks. My fifth example (the non 'Rising' card) is written from Fermoy and this might be indicative of the location of the APO. It is dated 26 July 1916.

However, it may also be of interest to note that two more 'Rising' cards (from same correspondent as the '41' cards and to the same recipient in England) both bear JAMES'S STREET DUBLIN cancellations. One is a single circle clearly dated 24 May 1916 whilst the other, a double circle type, is barely decipherable but also seems to be May 1916.

1920 - 1922

- a. FPO 41. The dates of usage are given as between November 1921 to December 1922. All my examples fall within this period, the latest being dated 4 December 1922. D41 was, of course, located in Dublin.
- b. FPO 3K Here the dates are given as September 1921 to May 1922. I have but two examples, one is dated 6 January 1921 whilst another is dated 4 March 1922 (on an overprinted stamp). Certainly the earlier one extends the period of one very considerably.

It is believed that 3K was used at Tallaght (about 6 miles from Dublin). The suggestion of Curragh Camp seems to be extremely doubtful - as was noted by Dr de Burca.
- c. FPO T29 Dates given for this office are January 1921 to March 1922. Here again it is possible to considerably extend the period of use, I have one example dated 25 February 1922 (overprinted) and another 21 November 1922.

Colonel Crouch gave the location of T29 as Kilworth, Co Cork. This is about 3 miles from Fermoy, the camp itself being about 6 miles from Fermoy. Consequently, it is somewhat difficult to see why Dr de Burca's two examples from Fermoy and backstamped T29 would suggest Dublin as a location for

- c. FPO T29 (cont) the FPO. Routing or resorting at Kilworth (for Letters apparently addressed to Dover) would seem quite logical - given that anything to do with Ireland is logical!

Somewhat intriguingly, and perhaps yet another red herring, my 21 November 1922 example is on an envelope the flap of which is embossed MILITARY ADVISER NORTHERN IRELAND. The stamp is a 1½d non-overprinted but this would be normal for a letter of this type (the army rate was 1½d as opposed to the Irish rate of 2d at this time and use of British as opposed to the overprinted Irish stamps was quite usual. The use of overprinted stamps on this type of mail - as was indicated by Dr de Burca - was rare.

- d. W16 The period of usage is given as December 1920 to September 1921. All my examples fall within this period.

One (dated 16 May 1921) is particularly interesting for it also bears an oval cachet HEADQUARTERS IRISH COMMAND DUBLIN PARKGATE, confirming the location of the FPO.

- e. FPOs 5 to 10 I wish I had some examples!!

SKELETON DATE STAMPS

by B. de Burca

Skeleton date stamps are blank circular stamps with a circle of holes around the periphery for inserting letters and three rows in the centre for inserting the date which, consequently, can be inserted as a single line either vertically or horizontally or as two lines. They are normally used for a short period, as when a date stamp is sent for repair, or to meet any other temporary emergency. The list which follows was made from a collection lent by FE Dixon and deals with the period 1925 to 1950 roughly. It is by no means complete. Where two figures are given for the diameter it refers to a double circle.

<u>Ath Luain (Athlone)</u>	28 mm	17 November 1932 to 20 January 1933.
	26 mm	24 October 1944 to 13 December 1944.
<u>Aonach Urmhumhan (Nenah, Tipp)</u>	34 mm	24 February to 26 March 1928.
	37 mm	5 March to 27 October 1934.
<u>Ann Bhoth (Scotstown)</u>	31 mm	8 January 1960. Stamp stolen.
<u>At na nUrlainn (Urlingford)</u>	31 mm	8 December 1943.
<u>Abbeyfeale Co Limerick</u>	33, 31 mm	6 P.M. 31 January 1928.
<u>Baile Locha Riach (Loughrea)</u>	36 mm	26 June 1930 to 31 August 1930.
		Date in one line.
	37 mm	4 March 1932 to 8 March 1932.
		Date in two lines.
	36 mm	26 January 1935 to 10 July 1935.
		Date in two lines.

Baile Atha Hi (Athy) 33, 31 mm 11 January 1928.
33 mm 9 March to 4 May 1932.

Baile an Mhistealaigh (Mitchelstown) 35 mm 13 November to 3 December 1928.

Beal Easa (Foxford) 38 mm 22 October 1933 to 13 August 1934.

Baile Atha Buide (Athboy) 35 mm 3 to 15 August 1938.

Biorra, (Birr, Offaly) 32, 30 mm 26 March 1928.
37.5 mm 16 July to 3 September 1932, 5 October 1933,
11 April to 10 May 1934.
31 mm 20 June to 24 July 1946.

Beal Atha an Fheada (Ballina) 34 mm 25 February to 3 April 1929.
37 mm 2 February to 26 March 1938.

Baile ui Bhfiachain (Newport Co Mayo) 37 mm 19 November 1934 to 19 January 1935.
35 mm 20 September 1940.

Baile an Mhota (Ballymote) 37 mm 28 October 1943 to 29 January 1944.

Beal an Atha Moir (Ballinamore) 36 mm 8 December 1932 to 2 March 1933.

Bri Chualann (Bray) 36 mm 19 November 1927 to 16 January 1928.
34 mm 11 November 1928 to 11 March 1929.
34 mm 14 September 1932.
35.5 mm 11 July 1934.

Beal Tairbeirt (Belturbet) 36 mm 21 February to 3 April 1929.
31 mm 10 July 1942 to 14 September 1942.

Beal Atha na Sluagh (Ballinasloe) 35 mm 3 December 1928 .
34, 32 mm 5 February 1935.

Baile ui Chuigle (Ballycogley) 36 mm 21 January to 7 February 1950.

Baile Fionn (Ballyfin) 34 mm 16 October 1934.

Bealach an Doirinn (Ballaghaderreen) 31 mm 18 September 1945 to 2 February 1946.

Carraig na Siuire (Carrick on Suir) 30 mm 11 August 1961.

Cabhan (Cavan) 31.5, 29 mm 2 November 1927.
36 mm 23 September 1936.
38.5 with 2 mm thick circle 7 June to 9 August 1950.

Caislean an Bharraigh (Castlebar) 35 mm 4 February to 4 April 1929.
38 mm 27 March to 22 June 1934.
In one line.

Caislean Nua (Newcastle Limerick) 36 mm 20 March to 30 June 1934.

Caiseal Mumhan (Cashel) 35 mm 28 February to 8 March 1946.

Carraig Art (Carrigart) 32 mm 1 November 1928.

Cathair na Mart (Westport) 38 mm 4 May to 18 June 1934.
31 mm 13 to 27 February 1957, 26 March 1959,
21 August to 21 September 1959.

Ceanannus Mor (Kells) 30 mm 8 August 1942.

Ceatharlach (Carlow) 36.5 mm 5 to 6 December 1922.
37 mm 27 January to 11 March 1935.
30-32 mm 2 June to 28 July 1928.

Cill Airne (Killarney) 34 mm 17 January to 20 February 1929.
 37 mm 18 to 23 September 1931.
 31, 29 mm 10 to 28 April 1934 and June 1934.

Cill an Disirt (Kildysart) 38 mm (1.5 mm thick) 28 November 1928.

Cill Dara (Kildare) 34.5 mm 6 February 1929 to October 1930, 30 November 1931.
 34.5 mm 31 December 1934 to 27 February 1935.

Cill Droichadh ? (Celbridge) 37 mm 24 February 1941.

Cill Chathlaigh (Bailieborough) 31.5, 29.5 mm 31 August to 20 October 1928.
 31 mm 11 to 18 February 1953.

Cill Choinnich (Kilkenny) 36 mm 2 May to 28 December 1934. Seen July
 August, September and October 1934.
 38 35 mm 19 January and 2 September 1935
 18 January and 9 May 1936.

Cill Fionntan (Sutton) 30 mm 6 October 1950.

Cill Mhantain (Wicklow) 38 mm 8 December 1927 to 18 January 1928.

Cill Chiarain (Kilkerrin) 10 July 1941.

Cill Lucain (Killucan) 38 mm 21 August to 2 September 1936.

Cill Mhicthomaisin (Kilmacthomas) 37 mm 21 March to 8 April 1929.
 35 mm 30 November 1935.

Cill na Seanratha (Killishandra) 36 mm 8 August 1938.

Cathair Saidhbhin (Cahirciveen) 35 mm 6 February 1929.

Clarach (Clara) 34.5 mm 20 December 1927
 37 mm 12 July to 9 August 1935. Date in one line.
 31 mm 3 November 1954.

Clar Chloinne Mhuiris (Claremorris) 35 mm 11 to 30 May 1929.
 31 mm 27 March 1956.

Cluain Damh (Clondaff) 31 mm 30 January to 2 March 1954.

Cluain Dolcain (Clondalkin) 36 mm 21 January 1934.

Cluain Eois (Clones) 36 mm 20 March to 26 April 1929.
 31.5, 29.5 mm 31 March to 12 April 1930 and
 31 December 1935.

Cluain na nGamhan (Cloneygowan) 35 mm 29 January 1938.

Cobh 36 mm 25 October 1929 to 13 December 1929.
 31 mm 27 August to 27 September 1932.

Cora Finne (Corofin) 34 mm 20 February to 13 March 1929.

C'S'N Mathghamhnach (Castleblayney) 36 mm 15 August to 30 October 1935.

Cuil an tSudaire (Portarlinton) 31 mm 6 April 1939.

Cuil Mha Oile (Collooney) 38 mm 13 September to 29 December 1933.

Curragh 33/31 mm 10 October to 20 November 1928.
 34 mm 28 September 1943 to 3 February 1944.
 34/31 mm 2 June to 23 August 1936.

Darmhagh Ua nDuach (Durrow) 34 mm 11 November 1939.

Droichead Atha (Drogheda) 34 mm 23 November 1928 to 9 January 1929.
34mm 6 November 1934.
38/36 mm 17 July to 9 November 1940.
34 mm 13 January to 18 October 1950.

Dun Dealgan (Dundalk) 38 mm 7 May to 29 August 1935.
31 mm 13 January to 18 October 1950.

Dun Garbhann (Dungarvan) 37 mm 28 March to 19 June 1934.
In one line.

Dun Laoghaire 34 mm 16 May 1927 to 27 January 1928.
36 mm 27 August to 25 September 1932.

Durlas Eile (Thurles) 31 mm 10 August 1939.
31 mm 5 November 1942 to 20 February 1943.
36 mm 28 April 1950. A badly worn datestamp.

Eadan Doire (Edenderry) 36.5 mm 10 January to 22 February 1934.

Eochail (Youghal) 38 mm 6 October 1926.
36 mm 30 July to 29 August 1934.

Gaillimh (Galway) 37.5, 35 mm 29 June to 13 September 1933.
37 mm 17 January to 6 March 1933.
31 mm 10/14 September 1938.

Geata Ban, Mstr na Coran (Whitegate, Middleton) 39 mm and 2 mm thick.
18 July 1946.

Gleann Choluim Chille (Glencolumkille) 38 mm 20 November 1944 to
12 December 1945.

Gleann Guail (New Birmingham) 36 mm 30 November 1928.

Goban Anchoire (Achill Sound) 38 mm 8 April 1929.

Gort an Choirce (Gortahork) 38 mm 6 June 1932.

Gort Inseguaire (Gort) 37 mm 1 August 1931.

Guaire (Gorey) 32/30 mm 26 May to 4 September 1936.
31 mm 30 to 31 March 1949.

Inch Annascaul (English spelling) 36 mm 5 December 1949.

Inis (Ennis) 34 mm 23 November 1938 to 18 February 1939.
'1' seen at base of circle December 1938.

Inis Coirthe (Enniscorthy) 32/29.5 mm 1 December 1928 to 9 March 1929.
Very worn.
37 mm 27 June 1928 to 24 October 1929.

Inis Corthaigh As last with altered spelling.
38 mm 10 August 1935 to 14 January 1936.
38 mm 11 March 1936.

Inis Diomain (Ennistymon) 38 mm 8 January to 8 April 1929.
31.5/29.5 mm 12 to 27 March 1929.
38 mm 20 December 1938.

Leithbarr (Lifford) 36 mm 7 to 19 May 1943.

<u>Leitirceanainn</u> (Letterkenny)	36 mm	25 April to 10 June 1930.
	34 mm	29 and 30 November 1932 and 13 January 1933.
	38 mm	21 to 30 June 1933.
	35 mm	11 December 1933 to 13 March 1934.
	35 mm	8 December 1952.
<u>Lios Tuathail</u> (Listowel)	31 mm	8 December 1959.
<u>Longphort</u> (Longford)	34 mm	23 May to 10 July 1936 and 9 June 1943 to 22 March 1944.
<u>Magh</u> (Muff)	36 mm	Date ?
<u>Magh Ealla</u> (Mogeely)	36 mm	6 February to 8 April 1929 and 27 January to 6 February 1930.
<u>Mainister na Buille</u> (Boyle)	38 mm	7 to 17 January 1930.
<u>Mainistir Laoghise</u> (Abbeyleix)	35 mm	31 July to 3 September 1930.
	31 mm	18 September to 1 November 1953.
<u>Moin Ratha</u> (Mountrath)	32/29.5 mm	21 April 1929.
<u>Mointeach Milic</u> (Mountmellick)	35 mm	24 January 1934.
		8 September 1934 to 3 January 1935.
	36 mm	14 May to 18 June 1946.
		With date in one or two lines.
<u>Muileann Cearr</u> (Mullingar)	34 mm	14 May to 18 October 1935.
<u>Muine Bheagh</u> (Bagenalstown)	36 mm	November to 9 December 1927.
	34 mm	28 March to 3 October 1935.
	31 mm	29 January 1957 and 27 September 1958.
<u>Mota</u> (Moate)	36 mm	13 August to 7 November 1947.
<u>Muine Moling</u> (Monamolin)	31 mm	Date ?
<u>Navan</u> (English spelling)	31/29.5 mm	1924.
<u>Neidin, Cill Airne</u> (Kenmare)	35 mm	7 March to 2 April 1929.
<u>Port Lairge</u> (Waterford)	36 mm	31 May and 8 August 1929.
		26 March to 14 May 1930.
		October 1934.
		Between 1929 and 1934 Waterford was issued with at least three new date stamps.
<u>Portlaoighise</u> (Leix)	31/29 mm	9 October 1934 to 23 January 1935.
<u>Rath Bhoth</u> (Raphoe)	36 mm	9 February to 23 March 1929.
		In one line.
<u>Rath Domhnaigh</u> (Rathdowney)	36 mm	17 November 1927 to 2 January 1928.
	31 mm	12 August 1940.
<u>Rath Droma</u> (Rathdrum)	31 mm	'15.12.56' '23 Mar. 29'.
<u>Roscre</u>	38.5 mm	20 to 24 November 1930. 5 mm between Ros and cre.
<u>Sciobairin</u>	31/29 mm	8 October 1928 to 23 January 1929.
<u>Síol Eiligh</u> (Shillelagh)	32/30 mm	19 January 1944.
<u>Sraid an Diuic, A Cliath</u>	34 mm	13 July 1929.

Sraid Bhaile (Stradbally) 34 mm 8 April 1936.
Taobraid Arann 31 mm 2 November 1943.
Teach na gCeire Mhile (Four Mile House) 37 mm 27 October 1949.
Teampall Mor 32/29.5 mm 12 December 1927.
Tuaim Tuam 24 mm 21 November 1927 to 2 January 1928.
 33/31 mm 30 March to 20 May 1935.
Tulach Mhor (Tullamore) 35 mm 22 September to 13 October 1927.
 31 mm 4 to 14 March 1942.
Uachtarard 37 mm 15 February 1928.

THE SAORSTAT OVERPRINT SETTINGS IN RELATION
TO BASE G.B. PLATES

by C.I. Dulin

The GB Plates used for overprinting Irish stamps have always held a fascination for the Control specialists but knowledge of the combinations of the overprint settings in relation to specific plates can also be an aid in identification, in tracing development of flaws and as a guide to printing sequences.

Although there have been various attempts to make a correlation between settings and GB Plates, the first comprehensive study was that of RH Sampson (London Philatelist No 821 p 105, 141, 143 and 144) who gave data on all the printings from Dollard through the Thom 5 line and finally to the Saorstat 3 line overprint. Later, JAC Munro gave an even more comprehensive study on the Dollard printing and started the Thom (Irish Philately December 1970 p 49).

As part of what was very much a team effort, the author co-ordinated the inputs of Patrick Williams, James Munro and Victor Hale, together with his own, to produce this article on the Saorstat settings and their GB Plate relationship.

One difficulty with a study of this type is that not only is it virtually impossible to complete (some material is extremely scarce, whilst new discoveries come along almost regularly), but the GB Plate definition is still in a state of flux. For example, Sampson classified his findings according to the then current classification in the standard work of KM Beaumont and JBM Stanton's 'Postage Stamps of GB Part IV'. This classification was adapted by Gibbons in their Specialised GB Part 2 but only in light of the more recent research. This meant the addition of several more plates and a reclassification of some plates and their numbers. Whilst most of the B & S plates can be ascribed to the newer numbers of Gibbons, some are quite impossible to do. By the same token, even successive editions of the Gibbons work change the plate numbers. The 4d, for example, had a Plate 4 in the third edition which has now been eliminated and reclassified as Plate 3b.

For this study, whilst the participants felt reasonably happy with most plate descriptions, for most of the values, there is no doubt that the 1d and the 6d still present difficulties. In the case of the 1d it is fairly clear that some

plates seem to exist which are found in the overprinted state alone, whilst in the 6d there is very little accurate description available to define a plate, with certainty, from what has been the usual starting bases - control blocks of 6.

Again, the use of the Controls themselves as a means to identification is also open to hazard in that often the same plates were used for different printings. Thus the position, or shape, of a Control is not an infallible means of tracing the connection between settings on similar plates. For some reason the 1/- value appears to have been the subject of reprints to an extent greater than any other value except the 1d.

For the purpose of simplification, the very distinct differences which exist between the blue-black and the black inks have not been separately described (although they are noted, by value, in the Tables). Similarly, the Type 2 and Type 3 watermark differences which are real enough have been ignored since insufficient data was on hand to separate the two.

In the Tables which follow, the settings (of which, for the Saorstat overprint, there were 5) are the standard ones, whilst the GB Plate classification is that of Gibbons 4th edition.

Where there has been insufficient description to accurately ascribe a plate, it is noted as A (Another). It should be realised that this can also mean that it is, or could be, an existing plate or one that has yet to be classified. In some cases two or more unknown plates are involved but this too is listed as the generic A.

It is, obviously, extremely doubtful that our listing is complete. Any reader who can contribute and add to the listing is most welcome to do so. For any serious student a set of photographs of close-ups of very many of the control letters is available. These, as has been noted, can be an aid to identification when more than one printing is involved.

Table 1
Saorstat Settings and Control No. Relationship

<u>Value</u>	<u>Control</u>							
	<u>T221</u>	<u>T22P</u>	<u>U221</u>	<u>U22P</u>	<u>U231</u>	<u>U23P</u>	<u>V231</u>	<u>W231</u>
$\frac{1}{2}$	3,4,5	3,4,5	1,2	1,2	3,4	3,4,5	-	-
1	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	3	3	-	-
$1\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	2	2	-	-	-	-
2	1,2	1,2	-	-	-	-	-	-
$2\frac{1}{2}$	1,3	1,3	-	-	3	3	-	-
3	-	-	1,2	1,2	-	-	-	-
4	-	-	1,3	-	3	-	3	-
5	3,5	2,3,5	-	-	3	-	-	-
6	-	-	1 - 5	-	-	-	3,4	3,4

Table 1 (continued)

<u>Value</u>	<u>Control</u>							
	<u>T22I</u>	<u>T22P</u>	<u>U22I</u>	<u>U22P</u>	<u>U23I</u>	<u>U23P</u>	<u>V23I</u>	<u>W23I</u>
9	3	1,2,3	-	-	3	3	-	-
10	3	1,2,3	-	-	-	-	-	-
1/-	2	2	1,2	1,2	3,4	3,4	-	-
	<u>Inks</u>							
$\frac{1}{2}$	*	0	(*)	0	0	(*)	-	-
1	*	(*)	0	(*)	0	(*)	-	-
$1\frac{1}{2}$	0	(*)	0	0	-	-	-	-
2	*	(*)	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	-	-	*	0	-	-	-	-
5	0	0	-	-	0	-	-	-
6	-	-	*	-	-	-	*	*
10	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
1/-	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-

* Indicates definite use of black as well as blue-black ink.

(*) Indicates suspected use of black ink.

0 A zero indicates use of blue-black ink only.

Table 2

Overprint Setting and G.B. Plate Relationship

<u>Value</u>		<u>Setting</u>				
		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
$\frac{1}{2}$	T22I	-	-	68,72,A	68,72	A
	T22P	-	-	66b,72, (76?)	72,(76?)	66b,A
	U22I	48,68,72, 75,A	48,58,68,74, 75,A	-	-	-
	U22P	58,66b,70, 72,74,75,A	48,58,66b, 70,72,74, 75,A	-	-	-
	U23I	-	-	48,A	48,68,A	-
	U23P	-	-	64,66b,75, 81,A	64,66b,81, A	66b,A

Table 2 (continued)

Value

		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
1	T22I	A	91, (86 or 94), A	-	-	-
	T22P	87b, 92, 94, A 91 variant	96, (86 or 94), A 91 variant	-	-	-
	U22I	87b, 91, A	91, A	-	-	-
	U22P	A, (97b or 116)	93, (97b or 116), A	-	-	-
	U23I	-	-	A A, 91 variant	-	-
1½	T22I	A	-	-	-	-
	T22P	12b	-	-	-	-
	U22I	-	27, A	-	-	-
	U22P	-	25, (27 or 31)	-	-	-
2	T22I	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 3, A	-	-	-
	T22P	1, 2	5, 6, A	-	-	-
2½	T22I	8b, 10	-	8b	-	-
	T22P	11b	-	8b	-	-
	U23I	-	-	11b	-	-
	U23P	-	-	10	-	-
3	U22I	8b, A	8b, A	8b	-	-
	U22P	11, A	11, A	11, A	-	-
4	U22I	1e	-	1e	-	-
	U23I	-	-	3b	-	-
	V23I	-	-	3b	-	-
5	T22I	-	-	3, A	-	A
	T22P	-	3, A	3	-	A
	U23I	-	-	3, A	-	-
6	U22I	4, 6, 7, A	4, 6, 7, A	6	4, 6, 7, A	6, A
	V23I	-	-	6, 7	6, 7	-
	W23I	-	-	6	6	-
9	T22I	-	-	2b, 3b	-	-
	T22P	1f	1f	1f, 2b	-	-
	U23I	-	-	1f, 3b	-	-
	U23P	-	-	1f, 2b, 3b	-	-

Table 2 (continued)

<u>Value</u>		<u>Setting</u>				
		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
10	T22I	-	-	2b	-	-
	T22P	2b	2b	2b	-	-
1/-	T22I	-	3,A	-	-	-
	T22P	-	A	-	-	-
	U22I	3,A	3,A	-	-	-
	U22P	A	3,A	-	-	-
	U23I	-	-	3	3,A	-
	U23P	-	-	3,4	4	-

* * * * *

THE HOLYHEAD AND KINGSTOWN PACKET

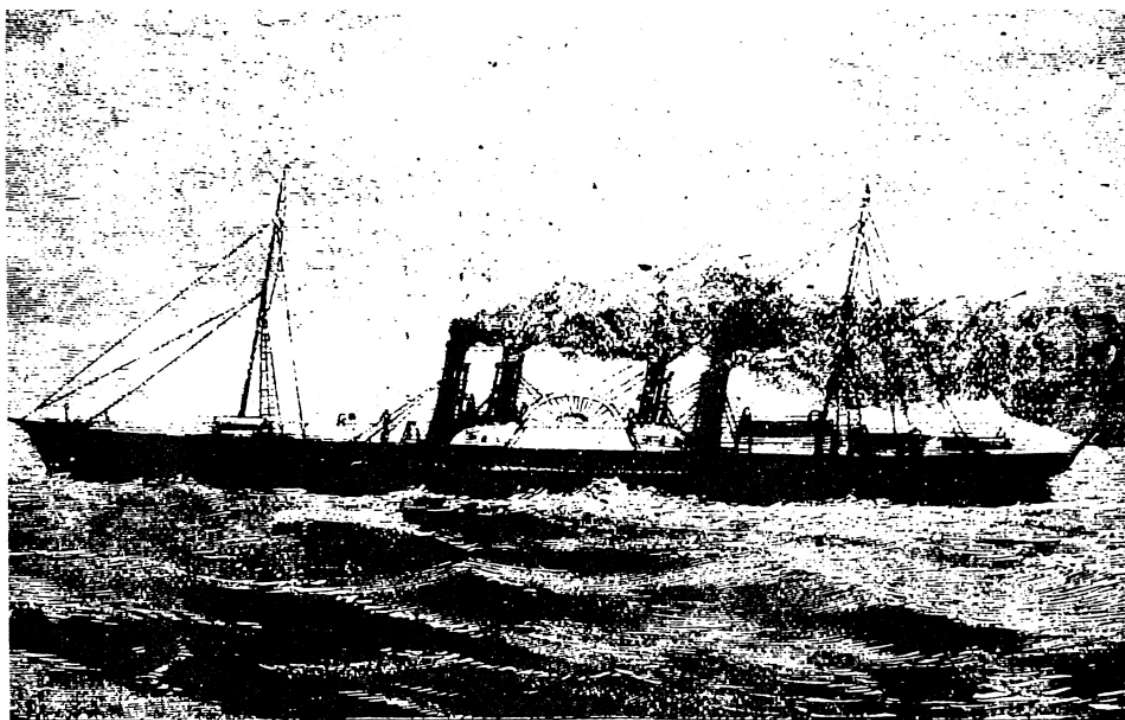
by O.M. Richards

Thanks to the kindness of a fellow member of the Welsh Philatelic Society, Mr Michael Scott Archer, I am able to reproduce two photographs of illustrations from an old London and North Western Railway Company's magazine. They are reproduced especially for those members who have an especial interest in the H & K Packet Service.

The PS Connaught was one of a quartet of vessels built in 1860 for the accelerated timing of the mail from London to Kinstown; the time was reduced to just over eleven hours. The mail train took 6 hours 40 minutes from Euston to Holyhead, 35 minutes to transfer mail and 3 hours 45 minutes for the sea crossing. In practice the transfer of mail was often reduced to ten minutes and the mail arrived at Kingstown before schedule. This was important as the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company, who had the contract, could be fined 34 shillings for every minute the mail was late in arriving.

The four vessels were named after the four provinces of Ireland and were built at Birkenhead by Lairds, 340 feet in length they were capable of speed of 18 knots, the Connaught was the fastest with a time for the crossing of 3 hours 14 minutes. Built originally with four funnels, these were reduced to two during extensive refits in the 1880s.

The Connaught was taken out of service in 1897 and broken up in 1898. Conditions in the sorting office in rough weather were grim, as the picture shows. The sorting offices were in the bows and one of the anchor hawse pipes can be seen. Keeping ones feet with the vessel rolling, as shown, must have been difficult in the extreme.



Holyhead and Kingstown Mail Steamer *Connought*.



Interior of the Post Office Sorting Cabin on board the *Connought*.