

IRISH PHILATELY

JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

Edited by

O.M. RICHARDS

"Y Hafan" 9 Yorke Avenue Marchwiel Wrexham Clwyd

Volume

June 1982

No. 2

CONTENTS

Editorial	21
Letters to the Editor	22
Llandudno Company	22 - 23
Letters to the Editor	24
Postmarks	24 - 26
Interesting Letters	27 - 28
The Uniform Fourpenny	29 - 30
General Post	30 - 32
International Reply Coupons	32 - 33
Random Notes	33 - 34
Famine in Ireland	35 - 37
The SG 74b Story	37
Unrecorded Markings	37
Revenue Stamps	38 - 39
Mileage Stamps of Ireland	40
Postmark Miscellany	

EDITORIAL

We are in to a heat wave at present and perhaps because of the call of the garden most of us are not so active in our collecting at this time of year.

The work in the Editorial office must go on of course and this issue is the result. I am grateful to Michael Leonard who passed on to me his copy of a letter to the late Tom Field on the subject of SG 74b, a fascinating story.

We are looking forward to the AGM in September as I am sure are a lot of other members. A big thankyou is extended to Keith who does a great job in organising the event in London, functions of this nature do not just happen, they are the result of a lot of hard work.

See you in London - all being well.

"Irish Philately"

Published by the Editor
for the Irish Philatelic
Circle. Articles are the
copyright of the authors
and cannot be reproduced
without permission.

OM Richards

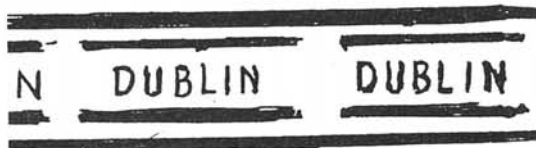
Letters to the Editor:-

Dear Sir,

DUBLIN EMERGENCY CANCELLATIONS OF 1916

The only date that I can usefully add to those presented by Mr Partridge is 18 December for an unnumbered double-rimmed skeleton. However, it was not a cancellation but datestamping a telegram.

More important is his omission of one type of emergency cancellation, the rubber roller type with DUBLIN between bars. I have it on cover and on piece but have not seen any datable example.



Referring to Irish Philately 1982 No 1 page 13, Bradford should read Broadford.

Yours faithfully,

F.E. Dixon

Dear Sir,

In the past I was delighted with almost every line of the IPC Journal but in the December '81 edition there was a review of the Hibernian Stamp Catalogue I had better not read at all. Even if I take into consideration that Hibernian is a commercial firm, criticism should be fair and helpful.

I got the catalogue as a Christmas present from my son-in-law & at first I was a bit disappointed because I had expected Feldman's catalogue. After I had read the first pages however, I found the catalogue very good. This is my own opinion and I allow, of course, everybody his own. Yet I must say that I find it extraordinary that the writer didn't find one acceptable page.

For several reasons I haven't done business with Hibernian for years. Nevertheless, I want to say that this review was not fair and definately not up to the standard of the IPC nor the Philately as a whole.

Yours faithfully,

M. Dittmann

LLANDUDNO CONWAY

In 1858 the St George's Harbour and Railway Company was formed. The company made efforts to attract the Irish traffic and the following leaflet was made to show the advantages of the Llandudno crossing.

I am grateful to member Len Watkins for sight of this item. It is slightly reduced in size from the original in order to fit the page.

COMPARATIVE VIEW OF THE ROUTES

FROM

LONDON TO DUBLIN,

BY

ORME'S HEAD,

OR ST. GEORGE'S HARBOUR.

	Distance in Miles.	Rate per Hour.	Time of Transit.
Kingston to Orme's Head	96	11	8 42
Orme's Head to Chester	44½		
Add for Gradients	1		
Chester to London	187½		
Total <i>effective</i> Land Distance	233	27	8 36
Making the whole time from Dublin to London			17 18
From which may be deducted when the proposed new lines are formed	11	27	0 25
Leaving for the whole time by this route			16 53
* This may certainly be reduced one hour by the use of Steam Vessels of the first class			1 0
			15 53

Cost of this line, £600,000.

N.B.—The time of Transit from Dublin to Liverpool by this route, via Birkenhead, will be nearly two hours less than the passage direct by the Mail Steam Packets.

HOLYHEAD.

	Distance in Miles.	Rate per Hour.	Time of Transit.
Kingstown to Holyhead	63	11	5 43
Holyhead to Conway	40		
Add for Gradients	14		
* Time passing Menai Bridge and from the Packet to Terminus			1 0
Conway to London	233	27	8 36
Deduct for the new lines			17 19
			16 54

Cost of this line, £2,500,000.

* See Mr. Vignolles' Report in the Second Report of the Irish Railway Commissioners, Appendix A. p. 40.

PORTH DYNNLAEN.

	Distance in Miles.	Rate per Hour.	Time of Transit.
Kingstown to Porth Dynllaen	70	11	6 21
Porth Dynllaen to Llangollen	85½		
Add for Gradients	27½		
Llangollen to London, as thus—			
Llangollen to Wolverhampton	61½		
Wolverhampton to Birmingham	14		
Birmingham to London	112		
Total <i>effective</i> Land Distance	306½	27	11 6
Making the whole time by this route from Dublin to London			17 27
Add as per Note			1 0
			18 27

Cost of this line, £3,000,000.

* This supposes a bird-flight across, whereas a circuit of from 10 to 15 miles is necessary, in order to avoid the Irish Bank.

JOHN JENKINS, ENGINEER,

Red Lion Square, London.

Dear Sir,

Somewhat belatedly in reply to Mr Mörch's article in the June 1981 bulletin on the subject of the Post Offices of Kerry, I enclose a photocopy of my only AGHATUBRID postmark - the usual rubber cancellation dated 6 December 1935. I know nothing else about this office.

I can, perhaps, offer a little more information regarding Currans. I have two examples of a postmark inscribed CURRAN - CO CHIARRAIGHE dated 1940, and whilst not pretending to speak a word of the Irish language I am prepared to guess that Curran is, in fact, the office of Currans to which Mr Mörch refers. The postmark is of a type that was introduced during the 1930s, presumably when the Post Office was opened. It is not listed in the 1927 Post Office Guide but unfortunately my next copy is in the 1950s by which date the office was no longer extant. Currans does list in Bartholomew's Gazetteer and is shown not having a Post Office in the 1935 edition, but is the name given to a parish with, at that time, a population of some 600. The ordnance survey shows Currans to be astride the railway 2 miles north of Farranfore. To the best of my knowledge there has never been a station.

BUSINESS REPLY CARD
LICENCE No. 20426



In the same area can anyone find me the postmarks of Faha and Fybagh, which have never come my way, or do I have to write for them, which does really rather spoil the fun!!

Yours faithfully,

S. Challis

* * * * *

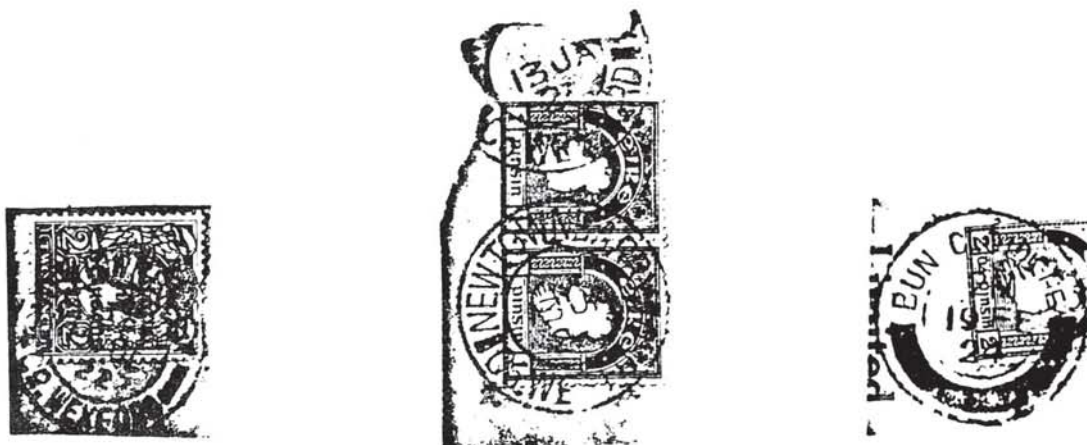
POSTMARKS

by S. Challis

NEWTOWNBARRY

I am always pleased to find postmarks from the period after 1922 in English, especially those produced by the newly independent Irish Post Office. One very short short lived one must have been NEWTOWNBARRY, now better known as Bunclody in County Wexford.

Illustrated are a 27 mm double circle mark dated 15 December 1922 of a type generally introduced about 1920, but not particularly common. This obviously broke or was stolen and was replaced by a larger 30 mm double circle mark dated 13 Jan 2 . The missing year must be 1924 because the 1d map stamp was not introduced until February 1923. Note that this still shows the name in English and that Newtownbarry was not changed to Bunclody immediately on independence. By 19 February 1924 a 29 mm Irish double circle handstamp was in use inscribed BUN CLOIDIGHE with large thick bar at base. I have one further example of this in March 1924 but a different handstamp was in use by 1931.



ELLY BAY

Elly Bay Coastguard Station features in my 1910 Post Office Guide, in small type as an office whose sole purpose was for the General Delivery of Telegrams, and a quick look at a map will tell us that there could not have been very many of those.

Elly Bay is, in fact, located some 7 miles south of Belmullet on the Blacksod Peninsular in County Mayo. Therefore, I was very surprised to find it cancelling a stamp on a postcard in July 1907. To my great amazement, from quite a different source, I found another example a few months later but astonishingly from the same correspondence, both from Uncle Jack to Southsea, Hampshire.

My first theory that Uncle Jack was the relief lighthousekeeper was dashed when neither the ordnance survey map, nor my Gazetteer of the British Isles, make any reference to a lighthouse and, in any case, he would hardly send postcards of Achill Island!!

No, there is little doubt that Uncle Jack was an early tourist to the area so the postmark was presumably available to the general public.

Elly Bay Coastguard Station lists in neither the 1896 or 1916 Post Office Guide. How long was it open then and who can extend my date range?

POST CARD.

This space may be used for Inland and Foreign Communication except to Japan, and Spain.
(Post Office Regulation).

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN HERE.

22/7/07 Blacksod Bay

Arrived at this place at 1-30 to day

Jack

Mrs J. H. Army.
33 Jessie Rd
Fawcett Rd
Southsea
England

POST CARD.

FOR INLAND POSTAGE THIS SPACE, AS WELL AS THE BACK, MAY NOW BE USED FOR COMMUNICATION.

FOR FOREIGN POSTAGE THE BACK ONLY.
(Post Office Regulation)

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN HERE.

28/7/07

This is another card for your book
Uncle Jack

Master W. Alderson
of Mrs J. H. Army
33 Jessie Rd
Fawcett Rd
Southsea
England

EDITOR'S NOTE:-

I refer to Stan Challis's notes on the Elly Bay datestamp of ELLY BAY CG STN (Coastguard Station), its use was apparently short lived as it was a travelling (skeleton) stamp. It may well be that the station had radio telegraph equipment and the stamp was intended for use on telegrams. This practice was the case on these stations prior to World War I.

As far as Blacksod is concerned, there is certainly a lighthouse there. Nowadays the lighthouse itself is unwatched, that is, it is an unmanned light. There is a VHF Mast there and it has a post office telephone, a radio beacon, a helicopter pad and it is classed as a helicopter shore station. One may assume that Elly Bay and the installation at Blacksod are one and the same. The fact that the cards are of Achill Island is not strange as it is only a short distance south of the Blacksod peninsula.

INTERESTING LETTERS

The following are letters from the collection of Rev Edwin Davey which have been forwarded to me for inclusion in the Journal in the hope that they will be of interest:-

EVEN IN 1821 - MORE PAY!! - BUT IN VERSE

To: William Shaw Mason Esq, Record Tower, Dublin Castle (printed address).
From: W.E. Enwmeraton (no address given).
Handstamps: OULART/58 mileage mark in black.
Free Frank, Feldman and Kane Type 124 in red - 18 Oct 1821.

OULART
53



THE LABOURER IS WORTHY OF HIS HIRE

Dear Sir:

I hope you'll not offended be
With my once more addressing thee;
To recollect at last
That time and clothes I have not spar'd,
Nor for the weather have I cared,
But answers I always prepar'd
To all your queries past.

To you the fault does not belong,
Tho' I to you address this song
To sympathise with me:
As you have frequently subscribed
Yourself - my servant - now tis tried,
If you will for my wants provide
MONEY - sincere you'll be -

W.E. Enwmeraton

And in be half of all his fellow-sufferers!

THE INCONVENIENCE OF THE MAIL

Following the withdrawal of a mail coach there were many complaints in the Ardee area about the late delivery of the mail. The Rector of Ardee, the Revd Richard Olphert, complained to the Head Postmaster, Augustus Godly, in Dublin and here is his reply:-

General Post Office
Dublin
16th Feby 1832

Sir,

You do my but justice in ascribing to me a wish to afford to Ardee and its neighbourhood as much accomodation and facility for their correspondence as the posts are capable of affording. I am quite aware that the time for answering letters is comparatively limited since the mail coach was withdrawn, but that was a measure founded on the general principles that guide this Establishment of adopting the best and shortest roads, and not for any wish to inconvenience any Town that had previously the advantage of the Coach passing thro' it.

It is quite true that if a post were sent from Dunleer direct to Ardee the Belfast and Dublin letters might be received earlier, but all from Navan and the Derry line would be detained; and the postage to Dublin would from the encreased distance be one rate higher.

In bringing all the letters from the Derry, Enniskillen, and Belfast roads to meet at Slane, and delivering the whole at Ardee by 9 a.m., and leaving it at 4 p.m., I think you will concur that the arrangement has been made with a view to serve all the interests involved in the post, and that it places Ardee in quick communication with every Town in the County, as well as with all on the roads stated. I am aware the arrivals at Ardee have been too late; but I expect that as the days are now lengthening and danger of robbery cannot be apprehended, that the period for answering letters will be proportionately encreased.

I am Sir,

Your very obedient servant

Aug. Godly

Revd. Rd. Olphert
Ardee



This letter was forwarded by the recipient, Rev R. Olphert, to: "The High Sheriff of Louth and Churchwarden of Charlestown, Lisrenny", with this note appended:

"For yr information I send this letter the result of a Correspondence in regard to our inconvenience & the remedy I proposed to remove it. R.O."

N.B. This letter was forwarded almost certainly by hand - just over 3 miles from Ardee to Lisrenny. The only postal marking is a Dublin 'spade' free frank of Feb. 16, 1832 on a cover headed "On His Majesty's Service" and in the lower left corner, in two lines: "General Post Office, / Dublin".

* * * * *

THE UNIFORM FOURPENNY GENERAL POST

by F.E. Dixon

One of the less satisfactory sections of the Feldman and Kane handbook of Irish postal history is that dealing with the short period from 5 December 1839 to 9 January 1840 when the system of charging by distance was abolished and there was a uniform 4d per half-ounce for letters between any two places in the United Kingdom. The handbook illustrates only two of the handstruck 4s, and one of them is doubtful.

In 1923 FW Meredith's "Old Irish Postage Stamps and Franks" illustrated three types of four, used at Armagh, Belfast, Dundalk, Galway and Newry. By 1940 Alcock and Holland's "Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland" could illustrate six Irish 4s and added to the towns Dublin and Enniskillen. Robson Lowe's "Postage Stamps of Great Britain (1942)" added Roscrea but lacked illustrations. The second edition (1943) added Ballymena and had two illustrations. By 1952 the second edition of Volume I of the "Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps" could add Drogheda and there were six illustrations. The data remained unaltered in the reprint of 1969 for the EPA. RM Willcocks' catalogue "The Postal History of Great Britain and Ireland" 1972 had the same data but omitted one illustration.

In the last ten years only one more Irish 4 has been discovered, that for Dungannon reported in IP December 1981.

From Alcock and Holland on it has been stated that there were three types from Galway, two being very similar. I think that these two were from the same handstamp and believe that Willcocks agrees as he illustrates only one of the variants.

The sources referred to above suggest that identical 4s were used at Armagh, Belfast, Derry, Drogheda, Dundalk, Enniskillen, Newry and Roscrea. The Newry variety is not identical, having a smaller loop and it is likely that careful tracings from clear impressions would reveal that some of the others are distinctive.

The colour was normally black but Armagh is known to have used blue and Drogheda green.

A surprising aspect of the subject is the number of important towns for which no handstruck 4 has yet come to light, notably Cork, Limerick and Waterford.

Armagh
Derry
Dundalk
Roscrea

Belfast
Drogheda
Enniskillen

Dublin

Dungannon

THE UNIFORM FOURPENNY GENERAL POST

by F.E. Dixon

One of the less satisfactory sections of the Feldman and Kane handbook of Irish postal history is that dealing with the short period from 5 December 1839 to 9 January 1840 when the system of charging by distance was abolished and there was a uniform 4d per half-ounce for letters between any two places in the United Kingdom. The handbook illustrates only two of the handstruck 4s, and one of them is doubtful.

In 1923 FW Meredith's "Old Irish Postage Stamps and Franks" illustrated three types of four, used at Armagh, Belfast, Dundalk, Galway and Newry. By 1940 Alcock and Holland's "Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland" could illustrate six Irish 4s and added to the towns Dublin and Enniskillen. Robson Lowe's "Postage Stamps of Great Britain (1942)" added Roscrea but lacked illustrations. The second edition (1943) added Ballymena and had two illustrations. By 1952 the second edition of Volume I of the "Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps" could add Drogheda and there were six illustrations. The data remained unaltered in the reprint of 1969 for the EPA. RM Willcocks' catalogue "The Postal History of Great Britain and Ireland" 1972 had the same data but omitted one illustration.

In the last ten years only one more Irish 4 has been discovered, that for Dungannon reported in IP December 1981.

From Alcock and Holland on it has been stated that there were three types from Galway, two being very similar. I think that these two were from the same handstamp and believe that Willcocks agrees as he illustrates only one of the variants.

The sources referred to above suggest that identical 4s were used at Armagh, Belfast, Derry, Drogheda, Dundalk, Enniskillen, Newry and Roscrea. The Newry variety is not identical, having a smaller loop and it is likely that careful tracings from clear impressions would reveal that some of the others are distinctive.

The colour was normally black but Armagh is known to have used blue and Drogheda green.

A surprising aspect of the subject is the number of important towns for which no handstruck 4 has yet come to light, notably Cork, Limerick and Waterford.

Armagh
Derry
Dundalk
Roscrea

Dublin

Dungannon

Newry

Galway

Galway

Ballymena

* * * * *

INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPONS

by B. Warren

International Reply Coupons are exchangeable at post offices abroad for postage stamps equivalent to the foreign surface letter rate and thus enables the sender of a letter to a place abroad to prepay a reply. They are sold at the larger post offices in Ireland. Coupons from abroad may be exchanged for postage stamps (24p at present) at any Money Order Office.

Coupons are uniform in design and with the issue of a new style 16p coupon in 1975, the only indication of country of origin is the datestamp of the issuing office; the currency may also identify the country of issue. I have attempted, in recent years, to identify and collect all issues since decimal day (15.2.71). I have also established details prior to 1971 based on information obtained from fellow members, Bill Kane and Padraig O Mathuna. Members based abroad may have received IRCs from Ireland over the years; can you help? I would appreciate any further information either through the columns of "Irish Philately" or by writing to me at:- 42 Lohunda Park, Clonsilla, Co Dublin, Ireland.

In the following table I have attempted to link the postal rates with the equivalent IRC rate. Rapid increases in postal rates in recent years have been accompanied by an ever widening gap between the foreign surface letter rate and the cost of an international reply coupon. Most coupons are known uprated in manuscript. 16p and 18p coupons are also known uprated to 20p by the use of a small rubber stamp. The existence of a rate does not necessarily result in the issue of a coupon eg no 31p coupon was issued in 1981. The current philatelic bureau stock list includes a 37p coupon - none exist as yet; this refers to the cost of an old 24p coupon uprated in manuscript to 37p.

Until the early 1970s Britain and certain Commonwealth countries issued Commonwealth coupons. They were issued in connection with preferential postal rates between Commonwealth countries - since abolished.

Did Ireland ever issue such a coupon(s)?

FOREIGN SURFACE RATE		INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPON			NOTES
		Rate	Release Date	Actual Coupon Issued	
3d	1. 1.1922	4d	?	4d ?	Note 1
4½d	1. 3.1951	6d	?	6d ?	Note 2
5d	18. 5.1953	8d	?	8d ?	Note 3
6d	1. 4.1959	1/- ?	?	1/-	Note 4
8d	1. 6.1964	1/-	?	1/-	Note 4
7d	1. 1.1966	?	?	?	
9d	1. 1.1969	1/3	?	1/3 ?	Note 5
1/2	1.10.1970	?	?	?	
6p	15. 2.1971	6p ?	?	6p ?	Note 6
7p	1. 7.1973	8p	Late 1973	8p	Note 6
9p	1.10.1974	10p ?	2.1.75	16p	Note 7
11p	1. 1.1976	18p	1976	18p	
12p	1. 4.1977	20p	Late 1977	20p	
11p	25. 7.1977	20p	-	20p	No change
13p	1. 8.1979	24p	Late 1980	24p	
16p	1. 7.1980	24p	-	24p	No change
19p	1. 4.1981	31p	-	-	No coupon issued
24p	1. 9.1981	37p	-	-	No coupon issued to date

NOTES

1. Per 1929/30 edition of Eolai an Phoist. Has anyone seen a 4d coupon?
2. Per 1950 edition of Eolai an Phoist ie one year before the change in the letter rate. Did the rate for an IRC alter between 1922 and 1950. Has anyone seen a 6d coupon.
3. Per 1953 edition of Eolai an Phoist. Has anyone seen an 8d coupon?
4. Per 1964 edition of Eolai an Phoist. Earliest coupon known dated 1961 which implies that the rate was in force since 1.4.1959.

5. Per 1969 edition of Eolai an Phoist. I have only seen uprated 1/- coupons for this rate. Has anyone seen a 1/3 coupon?
6. I do not possess a 6p coupon. This is the rate mentioned in the 1971 edition of Eolai an Phoist, Part I, Inland. In Part II, Foreign, issued in 1972 the IRC rate is listed as 8p. As no increase had arisen between 1971 and 1972, the 8p rate may have been in force from 15 February 1971 ie the 1971 entry was incorrect.
7. The Post Office list of rates issued in connection with the increases on 1.10.74 clearly states a rate of 10p; however, a 16p coupon was issued on the following 2 January. This 16p coupon was the only coupon to be given advance publicity by the Post Office in recent years. Did the rate change at the beginning of 1975 or was the entry of 10p incorrect?
8. The foreign surface rate for letters (and postcards) includes the cost of air mail charges for all European countries, Azores, Canary Islands, Cape Verde Islands, Cyprus, Greenland and Madeira. The above rates prior to 1970 were obtained by reference to the October 1974 edition of "The Revealer" as supplied by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. Prior to 1953 there was a cheaper preferential rate for the USA and British Commonwealth.

* * * * *

RANDOM NOTES

by F.E. Dixon



PUNST PERFIN OR SPIF A few years ago I suggested that stamps with holes punched through them are punctured stamps and that Punst would be a better word than the prevalent Perfin or Spif. I thought I was being original. Not so. In 1905 Bertram WH Poole, editor of the West-end Philatelist, insisted that "punctured" was the appropriate adjective "perforated" being reserved for the holes round the stamp.

NUMBERED DOUBLE DIAMONDS In reporting Stampa '79 I mentioned an important find confirming that the rhomboid (or diamond) cancellations with extra numbers in the bars over 186 were used in the newspaper section of the Dublin sorting office. That was in the 1870s and in the 1890s similar cancellers were in use on registered mail. My latest discovery is a piece with College Green datestamp, June 1889 and with 1 above the 186. Numbers 6 and 7 have been seen on covers from Lower Mount Street and 8 on a cover from Merrion Row. Can anyone add to the list?

DUBLIN PAID A rather messy looking cover of 1896 was salvaged from the wpb and scrutinised. The mess was made by three overlapping strikes of the red Dublin 1d Paid handstamp, the 28½ mm diameter version introduced in 1896. Why three strikes? The first applied had the wrong date 24 AP. So the second with the correct 25 annulled the first and the third confirmed the second. Illustrated above.

THE MISSING YEARS Longford machine had the year line blank up to mid-February as did Thurles to the end of January. Port Laoise continued

5. Per 1969 edition of Eolai an Phoist. I have only seen uprated 1/- coupons for this rate. Has anyone seen a 1/3 coupon?
6. I do not possess a 6p coupon. This is the rate mentioned in the 1971 edition of Eolai an Phoist, Part I, Inland. In Part II, Foreign, issued in 1972 the IRC rate is listed as 8p. As no increase had arisen between 1971 and 1972, the 8p rate may have been in force from 15 February 1971 ie the 1971 entry was incorrect.
7. The Post Office list of rates issued in connection with the increases on 1.10.74 clearly states a rate of 10p; however, a 16p coupon was issued on the following 2 January. This 16p coupon was the only coupon to be given advance publicity by the Post Office in recent years. Did the rate change at the beginning of 1975 or was the entry of 10p incorrect?
8. The foreign surface rate for letters (and postcards) includes the cost of air mail charges for all European countries, Azores, Canary Islands, Cape Verde Islands, Cyprus, Greenland and Madeira. The above rates prior to 1970 were obtained by reference to the October 1974 edition of "The Revealer" as supplied by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. Prior to 1953 there was a cheaper preferential rate for the USA and British Commonwealth.

* * * * *

RANDOM NOTES

by F.E. Dixon



- PUNST PERFIN OR SPIF** A few years ago I suggested that stamps with holes punched through them are punctured stamps and that Punst would be a better word than the prevalent Perfin or Spif. I thought I was being original. Not so. In 1905 Bertram WH Poole, editor of the West-end Philatelist, insisted that "punctured" was the appropriate adjective "perforated" being reserved for the holes round the stamp.
- NUMBERED DOUBLE DIAMONDS** In reporting Stampa '79 I mentioned an important find confirming that the rhomboid (or diamond) cancellations with extra numbers in the bars over 186 were used in the newspaper section of the Dublin sorting office. That was in the 1870s and in the 1890s similar cancellers were in use on registered mail. My latest discovery is a piece with College Green datestamp, June 1889 and with 1 above the 186. Numbers 6 and 7 have been seen on covers from Lower Mount Street and 8 on a cover from Merrion Row. Can anyone add to the list?
- DUBLIN PAID** A rather messy looking cover of 1896 was salvaged from the wpb and scrutinised. The mess was made by three overlapping strikes of the red Dublin 1d Paid handstamp, the 28½ mm diameter version introduced in 1896. Why three strikes? The first applied had the wrong date 24 AP. So the second with the correct 25 annulled the first and the third confirmed the second. Illustrated above.
- THE MISSING YEARS** Longford machine had the year line blank up to mid-February as did Thurles to the end of January. Port Laoise continued

Another missing year occurred at Cloirtheach (Clara) which in January was using a 30 mm sc skeleton datestamp with the year space blank.

Inland and UK

Letter 20q 29p.

20q 44p.

Air letters 30p.

Minimum 70p.

GREY ABBEY I bought one cover, its attraction being a faint GREYABEY in red.
Other markings include N.T.ARDS and the Dublin PAID stamp for
88

2 January 1828. Grey Abbey is a town on the Ards peninsula and did not become a post town until 1834. However, the results of the 1837 enquiry include the report that the unauthorised establishments around Ireland included one at Grey Abbey as a sub-office to Newtownards. Treasury sanction was obtained in 1834, retrospectively allowing the sub-postmaster's payment of £3 7s 8d per annum. It is not clear when the unofficial sub-office came into being but Pigot's Directory, published 1824, lists Grey Abbey as among the towns to which Newtownards despatched at noon and from which mails arrived at 4 am.

FOURIER SERVICES The succession of strikes adds to the popularity of the non-official delivery services. One using adhesive labels is PAPERLINK. The one I have seen is black on yellow, 49 mm x 24 mm, with rounded corners and inscribed "PAPERLINK/DUBLIN AREA/ A 84246". It is tied to the envelope by a handstamped 0 15843.

* * * * *

FAMINE IN IRELAND

The form of appeal letter shown opposite came my way recently, it is in no way philatelic but I thought members would be interested in its content. It is in the form of a double letter sheet, there is no imprint so we do not know whether it was produced in Ireland or England, the latter is more probable. Dated 1847 it is a fascinating glimpse of efforts made to relieve the hunger and poverty of the Ireland of that time.

OMR

OMR

FAMINE IN IRELAND.

“ Save us, O Lord, we perish.” *St. Matthew, Chap. 8, v. 25.*

EMPLOYMENT, INDUSTRY, AND EDUCATION,

AT

ESKER, ATHENRY, COUNTY GALWAY, IRELAND.

The Very Reverend Doctor Smyth takes leave respectfully, but earnestly, to solicit your kind and charitable assistance, to enable him to carry on the work of mercy which he has on hand, and which the following statement will show. He refers you for the accuracy of his statement to the following persons :

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF LEINSTER,

LORD CLONCURRY,

THE MOST REVEREND DOCTOR MURRAY, DUBLIN,

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD MORPETH,

SIR WILLIAM SOMERVILLE, BART.,

MR. REDINGTON, UNDER-SECRETARY FOR IRELAND,

and many others too numerous to mention.

The Very Reverend Doctor Smyth lives in a remote part of the West of Ireland, fourteen miles from the Town of Galway, where the Population is great—the Destitution *awful*. He is educating Six Hundred poor Children. He clothes, on every Christmas-eve, (according to merit) Fifty of them. He teaches Trades to them, (Shoe-making and Tailoring) and provides for Twenty-six Orphans *annually*. He is endeavouring to feed *One Hundred Destitute Poor daily*. He is draining and reclaiming the Waste Lands around him, and endeavouring to build an Agricultural Establishment for the benefit of the Country. He has no Funds or Means to carry out this work of mercy, but by the Benevolence of the Public. As this Charity is now only in its infant state, Doctor Smyth looks up with the greatest confidence to the Nobility, Gentry and Affluent classes for its support, as also to those of his Dissenting Brethren, from many of whom he has received most generous contributions, and experiences the most kindly encouragement to pursue his course of ameliorating the condition of such a multitude, the offspring of the most destitute Peasantry perhaps in the world, by teaching them their duty to God and to Man, and placing them in a position to remove themselves from their primitive misery, and the evil consequences which inevitably would arise to them and to society in general, by their being left in such a state.

Subscriptions, however small, will be thankfully and gratefully acknowledged by the Very Reverend Doctor Smyth, to the care of Mr. Charles Dolman, 61, New Bond Street, London.

“ Save us, O Lord, we perish,” *St. Matthew, Chap. 8, v. 25.*

April 3rd, 1847.

THE SG 74b STORY - APRIL 1957

from M. Leonard to T.E. Field

During the 1930s most Cigarette Manufacturers in Ireland had Free Gift schemes whereby they exchanged the coupons or cards for gifts. I noticed that one Firm, Wills, were in the habit of using coil stamps on correspondence from their Free Gift department and, naturally, I kept a sharp look out for correspondence from this quarter. My acquisitions consisted mostly of the commoner 2d coil stamp ie imperf by perf. To my surprise I noticed that one of these envelopes bore a 2d stamp in the same perf arrangement as the earlier 1d issues, ie perf by imperf. I watched the New Issue reports for some weeks and, since the variety was not recorded, I decided to report my discovery to Messrs Gibbons. Their reply was that this item was already catalogued. A report to the Philatelic Magazine brought forth a similar reply. As I was a member of the JPS I decided to submit the variety to the Stamp Lover for their opinion. They were the first to recognise it and give it a paragraph in their New Issue news.

EXTRACT FROM THE 'NEW ISSUE' COLUMNS OF THE STAMP LOVER - MARCH 1937

"An uncatalogued and possibly unique variety of the current 2d stamp is shown to us by Mr Leonard (JPS 9433). It was presumably issued in coil form and is perf $14\frac{3}{4}$ by imperf (without the single perf at each top corner) - like the 1d coil stamp of 1934 (SG No 72b). The width of the stamp from imperf edge to imperf edge is a good 20mm, the margin on each side being 1mm wide. Used on original cover, it is postmarked "BAILE ATHA CLIATH 8.30 PM 9 July 1936" - the addressee being resident in Sligo. 1936 Coils Perf $14\frac{3}{4}$ by imperf 2d grey-green. Note - The 2d coil stamp of 1934 was imperf by perf $14\frac{1}{4}$ ".

I never found a reference to this variety anywhere again and from various enquiries put forward the reply was the same - "Does such a thing really exist,".

When World War II ended I happened to be in contact with Webber, the dealer, who handled Irish Stamps and he plainly stated that such did not exist, although it was listed in Gibbons. Webber introduced me to a keen collector of Irish stamps and postmarks in Greenock - the late CE Edridge - and after we had exchanged a few letters it came about that he possessed a copy of SG 74b PM at NAAS. Edridge sent his copy to Webber to convince him that the variety really did exist. It appears from this that Webber valued the variety at £10 but Edridge was not a seller.

About this time (1950), I wrote to Miss IM Clifford of Dublin to see if she could throw any light on this elusive item and her reply was that she had about twelve mint copies and had just parted with her last one to a collector in Canada in an exchange transaction.

I had quite a bit of correspondence with Neil Stack of New York about this variety and he offered to pay all expenses if I would send my copy to New York for examination. This I did not feel inclined to do at this time because of the Import and Export restrictions in force in the UK. As this was the only copy I had seen I dreaded its loss or confiscation, so I held on. I put my friend Edridge in touch with Stack and the outcome was that his copy went to New York and was used as second evidence to the copy reported as discovered by a member of EPA about 1952. Edridge's copy was returned to him with the Philatelic Foundation Certificate, Neil Stack paying all expenses.

About this time Stack reported in The Revealer that Scotts Catalogue accepted the existence of the variety and proposed listing it in the next issue of their catalogue. This they did in due course by means of a footnote. In 1953 I wrote to the Editor of Stamp Collecting saying that I would be interested if any readers of his paper could give me any information on copies of SG 74b which they possessed. I had replies from four collectors in the UK who claimed that they had this variety and that was as far as that avenue led.

Early in 1956, I contacted one of the four collectors claiming to have the variety and asked him if he was interested in disposing of his copy and he said "Yes". I secured this specimen which turned out to be "the Goods", in fine used condition, cancelled with a portion of the Dublin slogan cancellation "Grow More Wheat". Dr Renouf had written to me enquiring about SG 74b and asked me to let him know what I could about it. It was his interest in the variety that prompted me to purchase this copy and I sent it along to him with the price ticket of £12. I arrived at this valuation on the strength of a report in The Revealer which claimed that a copy had changed hands in America for 45 dollars. It transpired that Dr Renouf was more interested in trying to disprove the genuineness of such a variety. As he didn't seem inclined to agree with my valuation, I had to ask him to return the variety after some weeks and offered it to S Gibbons stating my price of £12 and their reply was that they did not require one for stock at the present time. I offered it to several people and they turned it down. I then wrote to Trevor Edwards of Harmers saying that I had a copy of SG 74b if they were interested in placing it in one of their Auctions and his reply was "Irish material is not very popular and it is difficult to express an opinion without seeing the stamp but if you send it along we will make a decision". By this time I felt disgusted with everybody in general and went along to a Liverpool Dealer and said "Here's a copy of SG 74b for £12 if you are interested". He accepted after a delay of 24 hours and paid me in exchange for a receipt stating that the transaction was subject to expertization. This dealer sent the copy to a customer in America who returned same with the remark that "They were not too happy about it". It was supposed to have been submitted to the American Philatelic Foundation. The dealer told me afterwards that he got a Certificate which he showed to me and found a buyer. Putting two and two together I should think that the dealer must have doubled his purchase price.

Your own copy displayed in Liverpool in September 1956 was the next part of the story and at that time and up until your recent remarks on SG 74b, I always had the impression that you had a copy in your collection for many years. How wrong I was! You would have been the first to have had this second copy of mine had I only known. However, it is too late now. Dr Renouf is still unable to disprove this variety and I doubt if Irish officialdom will ever prove helpful since they are supposed to have no records of production or issue of coil stamps perf/imperf combinations.

Just before Christmas a casual call on a Liverpool dealer put me on to a man from Stockport who claimed that he had a copy of this variety for many years and he wished to sell it. Since this dealer was not interested in the stamps of this period he did not hesitate to let me view the variety and carry out the deal. This dealer, by the way, is not the one mentioned above to whom I sold my second copy.

While I was arranging this deal, which lasted some three weeks, an advertisement by Nissen in Stamp Collecting offering a used copy of SG 74b at £25 almost wrecked this transaction as I was not prepared to pay a figure as high as that if this seller quoted this advertisement to me as a basis for his price. However, luck

seems to have been on my side and the advertisement was neither quoted nor was it mentioned. I offered this copy to Dr Renouf for £15 but he was not a cash buyer. I had, as I thought, a brain wave and wrote to Shanahan's Auctions saying that I had a copy of SG 74b which I would like to auction as to the best of my knowledge a copy had never been sold in auction before. Their reply was - 'We should be delighted to offer it at an early sale and we would estimate it at £5 (F I V E P O U N D S !). Needless to say I did not reply.

I eventually sent it to Robson Lowe with a reserve of £15 on it and his reply was that my valuation was reasonable and he would offer it in an early sale in May at £18.

Editor's Note:- I am very grateful to Michael Leonard for allowing me to publish this piece of 'history', the original was addressed to the late Tom Field. It may interest readers to know that the current catalogue value of this item is:-

Mint LM	£9500	Used CDS	£1850
---------	-------	----------	-------

* * * * *

UNRECORDED MARKINGS

I recently had the pleasure of examining an 18th century correspondence which has several items not known of hitherto. One was an interesting misspelling WAXFORD of 1745. Another DROGHEDA with the H and E merged 1748. There are two examples of the framed FREE with the FREE curved, known only for 1784.

D

One remarkable later item with this material is an 1827 mileage mark from Mullingar with the MULLINGAR curved. Some of these items may come on the market but the present owner is likely to become a keen collector and to part with duplicate material only.

REVENUE STAMPS

The lucky man has a few banknotes and on them I discovered two new embossed stamps. The first is General Duty 1½d Die A on a note of 1800 and the other is Banker's Note or Bill 1½d Die GG used in 1824

The above are additional Random Notes from FE Dixon.

* * * * *

MILEAGE STAMPS OF IRELAND

I am grateful to Dr Brian de Burca for allowing me to show on the following pages two sheets from his collection of Mileage Stamps of Ireland.

IRELAND

TOWN MILEAGE MARKS

Circular dated mileage stamps were used after 1819 in Belfast, Clonmel, Limerick, and Waterford, Undated in Castleblinham and Lurgangreen (34 & 37).



Mr. D. C. ROOSE,

Mr. D. C. ROOSE,

Norwich Union Office, 2, Capel-Street.

DUBLIN.



IRELAND

TOWN MILEAGE MARKS

From 1808 to the 1830's Irish Post Towns showed the mileage from Dublin in their Town Stamps. After 6th July 1827 the postal rates of G.B. and Ireland were amalgamated and English mileage was used in estimating postal rates on letters to England. Athy was the only town to convert its mileage to English miles. Irish mileage continued to be used in Ireland. After 1830 date stamps were gradually introduced, but down graded Post Offices continued using them until the late 1850's.

ATHY
32

Adjusted to English miles

ATHY
41

BROADWAY
30

N.T.LIMY
137

NEWCASTLE
114

Adjusted Irish miles

NEWCASTLE
116

CORK
'124'

CASHEL
79

A late transient variety used in 7 towns

1824

KILLYSANDRA
64

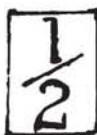
Mr. D. C. ROOSE,

*Nornich Union Office, 2, Capel-Street,
DUBLIN.*

POSTMARK MISCELLANY

by O.M. Richards

BELFAST
PENNY POST



BELFAST PENNY POST On the front of a letter from Lancaster to Belfast dated 27 January 1837 and charged at 1/3 is a nice example of the serrified BELFAST PENNY POST. It overlaps a boxed 1/2d stamp. The reverse bears an example of the LANCASTER double arc stamp. The 1/2d stamp indicates that the letter travelled Lancaster - Carlisle - Port Patrick - Donaghadee - Belfast.

UNDATED CIRCLE On the reverse of a rather battered envelope from Ballinastoe to Kilcock I noticed an undated double arc circle of GLANTANE. I do not think that I have seen one as small in diameter as this one. The cover is dated 26 April 1859 and is cancelled by the Ballinasloe 'spoon' cancellation, Irish type. There is a double arc Kilcock dated 27 April 1859.



DUBLIN CASTLE My thanks to Michael McNamara who recently sent to me a couple of covers with the boxed DC used on mail emanating from one of the several Government Departments housed in Dublin Castle. This is a new stamp with frame and letters much thicker than the previous stamp. Both are illustrated for comparison.



CURVED MULLINGAR 38 As I read FE Dixon's note on the curved MULLINGAR 38 mileage stamp a little bell rang and on looking through my mileage stamp collection I found that I have an example of this on a 'FREE' front. This was sent from Mullingar on October 29 1827 and was addressed to a Miss Dormer at Avondale, Rathdrum. The signature is Tuite. In addition to the mileage stamp there is an example of a 'FREE' frank of the type used in Dublin from about 1815 to 1832. Both marks are in red.

MULLINGAR
38



VIA CORK I recently bought an envelope addressed to Charlston SC USA from Liverpool. In blue is the rubber stamp VIA CORK. The two 2 1/2d stamps on the cover are cancelled by strikes of a Liverpool squared circle cancellation as shown.

VIA CORK

