

IRISH PHILATELY

JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

Edited by

O.M. RICHARDS

"Y Hafan" 9 Yorke Avenue Marchwiel Wrexham Clwyd

Volume 1982

September 1982

No 3

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EDITORIAL

Apologies for the late arrival of the September issue of our Journal, holidays and family illness being the main cause.

The AGM was a very enjoyable occasion, how nice it was to meet old friends once again and to make new ones. A full report in the NEWS. Once again a sincere thank you to our Hon General Secretary for the hard work he put in to make this event such a success. Well done Keith!

We missed the friends who were unable to attend and hope to see them at the next AGM. To Brian de Burca and Fred Dixon who were prevented from attending because of illness, we extend our best wishes and hope to hear better news of them soon.

OM Richards

"Irish Philately"

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FORSCHUNGS- UND ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT IRLAND

Frank Holzmüller
Auenstraße 21a
8000 München 5
West Germany

An die philatelistische Fachpresse
(zur freien Verfügung)

Für das interessante Sammelgebiet Irland wurde am 24 Juli 1982 in München eine Forschungs- und Arbeitsgemeinschaft gegründet. Rund 20 Philatelisten aus ganz Deutschland hoben den neuen Verein aus der Taufe. Aus Irland, Großbritannien und den USA kamen Grußworte für ein gutes Gelingen.

Zusammen mit schriftlichen Anmeldungen besteht die FORSCHUNGS- UND ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT IRLAND bereits zu Beginn aus über 40 Mitgliedern.

Der neue Verein beantragt die Mitgliedschaft im Bund Deutscher Philatelisten e.V. und strebt eine gute Zusammenarbeit mit den internationalen Organisationen der Irland-Philatelie an.

Der erste Rundbrief mit dem Titel "Die Harfe" soll im Oktober erscheinen, außerdem sind Vereinsauktionen und ein Rundsendedienst geplant.

Informationen (bitte Rückumschlag) beim 1. Vorsitzenden:

Frank Holzmüller, Auenstraße 21a, 8000 München 5

Über eine Starthilfe in Form einer Veröffentlichung würden wir uns sehr freuen.
mit freundlichen Grüßen (Frank Holzmüller)

Anlage: Fotos der Gründungsversammlung.

The above letter was translated by a friend, G.A. Glitz of Wrexham, as follows:-

For the interesting subject of Irish Philately, a Research and Study Society was founded in Munich on 24 July 1982. About 20 Philatelists from all over Germany were present at the foundation. Written support for a successful society came from Ireland, Great Britain and the USA.

Altogether, including written applications, the Irish Research and Study Society already consists at its initiation of over 40 members.

The new Society has applied to the "Bund Deutscher Philatelisten e.V." for recognition and is striving for co-operation with International Organisations for Irish Philately.

The first circular of the Society entitled "The Harp" is intended to appear in October, also Society auctions and Exchange packets are planned in the future.

Information (stamped addressed envelope please) from the chairman:- Frank Holzmüller, Auenstrasse 21a, 8000 Munich 5.

We would be pleased to receive donations to help with publicity for the society.

With friendly greetings

Signed: Frank Holzmüller

Dear Sir,

Herewith comments on IP June 1982

ELLY BAY To add to the confusion I can report that Thom's Directories list neither Post Office nor Coastguard Station in 1906 or 1910. However, the 1911 Coastguard Instructions mention a station at Blacksod Point and it is probably the same. And a year or two later the synoptic meteorological station was transferred from Bellmullet to Blacksod Point. For many years the met. observer was also the postmistress and the opening of that post office eliminated the need for telegraphic service by coastguards.

INTERESTING LETTERS Augustus Godby (not Godly) was Secretary to the Irish Post Office, not Head Postmaster.

INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPONS Brian Warren's article is disappointing, especially as much more information is available. My contribution on separate pages.

MILEAGE STAMPS Dr de Burca notes the framed style as used in 7 towns. At least 9 are recorded - Askeaton, Ballymoney, Cashel, Down, Galway, Gorey, Holywood, Lisburn and Miltown Malbay. However, I doubt the last in this list and would like confirmation. A line accidentally impressed by the edge of the handstamp can suggest that there was a frame.

DC The only examples of handstruck DC that I have seen have been on envelopes from the Post Office Savings Bank and, although I do not know what the letters mean, I believe that they are one of the British PO practices continued after the 1922 change of administration.

F.E. Dixon

Dear Sir,

I would like to make a small correction to the item on the DC Official Cachet in Postmark Miscellany (IP June 1982). As far as I am aware, the DC cachet is only used by the Savings Bank area of the Post Office and, unless the POSB was located originally in the Dublin Castle area, I doubt if that is its meaning and that it was ever used in Dublin Castle.

A few weeks ago I asked Fred Dixon about the cachet and even he did not know. So if Fred does not, does anybody know the meaning and origin of the DC.

There appears to be a few different styles of the cachet in use at present and I enclose an example of the third type which has come my way.



Yours faithfully,

M. McNamara

Dear Sir,

I refer to Postmark Miscellany in the June 1982 issue of Irish Philately and in particular to the handstruck 'DC' mark used on Government envelopes.

You hazarded a guess that DC stood for 'Dublin Castle'. I understand that the mark is only to be found on envelopes emanating from the Post Office Savings Bank.

If this is the case, the letters probably mean 'Death Claims' showing that the letter has come from, or is to be returned to, the Death Claims Branch at the Savings Bank, unless someone knows different!!

Yours faithfully,

J. Hearn

Dear Sir,

Correction to IP March 1982 - That Was The Year That Was.

Page 4 Land Law Act plate numbers should read 1111 and 2111

Page 4 RDS 1111

Page 13 Last sentence should read :- "IRISH ARCHITECTURE DOWN THROUGH
THE AGES"

Yours faithfully,

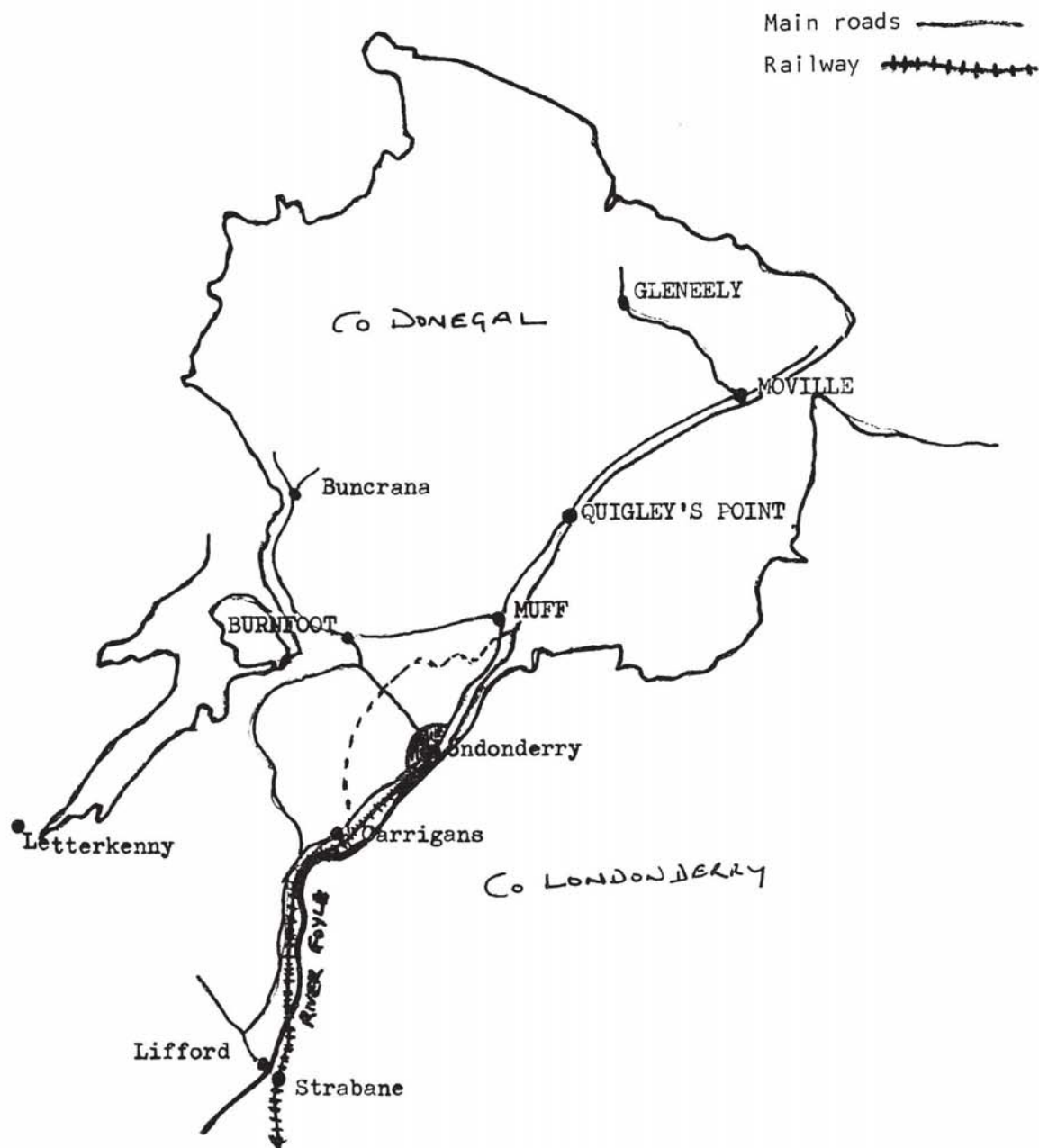
B. Warren

* * * * *

MAIL ROUTES IN NORTH DONEGAL

by S. Challis

The Inishowen Peninsular to the north of Londonderry forms a part of the county of Donegal and always has done. A quick glance at a map shows this to be illogical. The main route to the south has always passed through Derry, crossing the River Foyle here and then south to Dublin, via Strabane. This caused no problems prior to Independence but now, unless one is prepared to cross the border twice, a 50 miles detour via Ballyshannon and Sligo is called for.



This area must be a problem for the Irish post office to handle. Prior to Independence Derry had been the post town for the Area but in 1922 this honour passed to Lifford, which was subsequently raised to Head Office status, having prior to 1922 been a sub office to Strabane.

I was able to purchase three registered covers of the immediate pre-war period recently and was fascinated by the postmarks they had collected from the area. All were addressed to Manchester.



Leitir Clárúite.

(REGISTERED LETTER)
Caitfeair an Leitir seo do
tabairt do' Oifigeadóir le
clárú, agus domáil fáil uirthé.
THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER
OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND
A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.
Caitfeair an seóla do scríbe
ar an deasob go.
THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE



Oxendale & Co. Ltd.

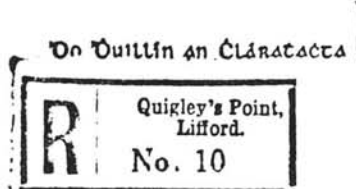
Granby House

Manchester

Táille íocta
FEE PAID



The first is from Burnfoot, just 6 miles behind Derry, dated 7 July 1937. This passed through Lifford at 11.30 pm that night.



Leitir Clárúite.

(REGISTERED LETTER)
Caitfeair an Leitir seo do
tabairt do' Oifigeadóir le
clárú, agus domáil fáil uirthé.
THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER
OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED AND
A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT.
Caitfeair an seóla do scríbe
ar an deasob go.
THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE



Oxendale & Co. L.T.D.

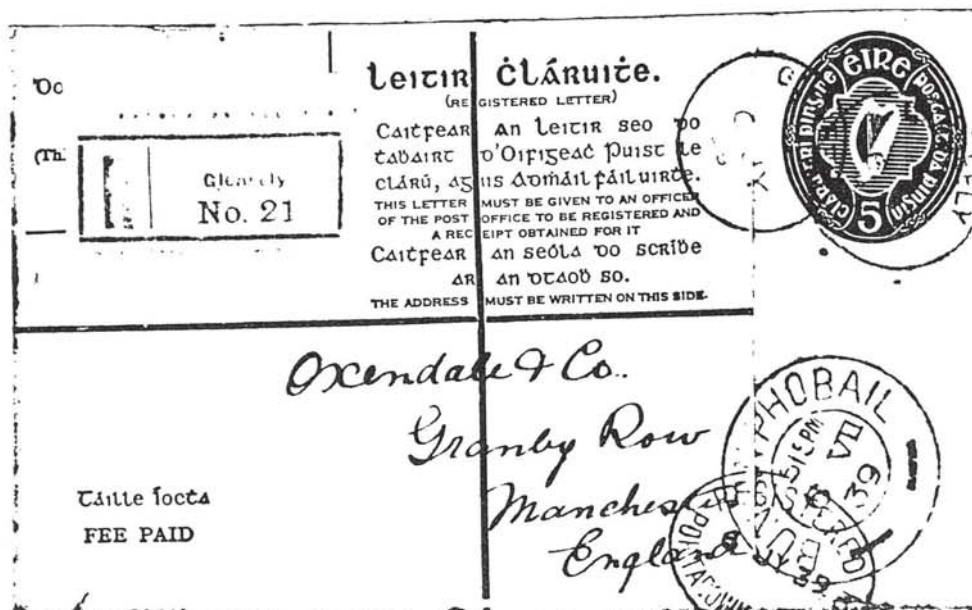
Granby House

Manchester

Táille íocta
FEE PAID



The second was posted at Quigley's Point on 2 December 1938 and was cancelled at Muff at 6.05 pm on the same evening. Note the Muff (Magh) datestamp. Something has clearly been removed - can anyone tell me what it was?



The third was from Gleneely (still using its English datestamp) dated 6 July 1939. Merville was reached by 5.15 pm that evening and the very bottom of the envelope shows a Registered mark for Portadown of the same day. I don't have a 1939 Bradshaw but my 1938 edition shows a train leaving Derry, complete with refreshment car, for Belfast at 7.20 pm arriving at Portadown at 9.37 pm. To have been datestamped at Portadown it is, I think, reasonable to suppose that it must have waited overnight there, having missed the last train to Dublin, been put on the 8.58 the following morning, reaching Kingstown Pier (sic) at 12 noon, leaving on the 2.30 boat to Holyhead and was presumably delivered in Manchester the following morning. In other words, this cover most likely crossed into Northern Ireland at Derry (and then briefly back into the Republic between Carrigans and Strabane) crossed the border again on route to Dun Laoghaire before crossing to Manchester. Alternatively, if it went on either the Belfast to Heysham, or Larne to Stranraer crossing, why did it get a Portadown cancellation (unless it was mis-sorted in error) when the evening train went through to Belfast?

What were the actual routings of these covers? Who can tell us more?

STRIKES Students of 20th century postal history will probably have difficulty in establishing details of the industrial actions and inactions which interrupted postal services. Early this year some railway employees were moved to different jobs and they protested. They happen to be members of the National Busmen's Union, which set up their pickets outside various places including the Sheriff Street Sorting Office. This led to the cessation of the parcels post from April to 10 May 1982. F.E. Dixon

RANDOM NOTES

by F.E. Dixon

POSTAL RATES An Analysis published in the Irish Times reveals that the Irish postal charges are now the highest of the EEC countries and its minimum internal letter rate (26p) is more than double the lowest (Luxemburg 11p). Ireland is also expensive for telephoning, one very remarkable comparison being for 3-minute calls between Ireland and Denmark - eastbound £2.25, westbound 88p.

ABBREVIATED NAME STAMPS Continuing my report on 18th century correspondence seen recently, I present an up-to-date listing of the first series of shortened town names. The asterisks indicate those now being reported for the first time:-

A-MAGH	1712-42	C [*] LYONS	1781	* K:KENY	1746-53
A-LONE	1712-31	C [*] MARTYR	1777-99	K.SALE	1740
* B-BOY	1733	C ^N POLLARD	1787	L-KENNY	1763-84
B-MENA	c1735	C ^N MELL	1737-54	* L ^G BVRN	1727
B.FAST	1731-37	D.DEE	1745	L ^G FORD	1726-50
B.FAST	1739-46a	D.PAT	1717-20a	L-LAND	1764-67
C-RICK	1728	D.DALK	1731-45	L-REAGH	1731
C [*] FERGUS	1748-63	D.GANON	1729	M-BROUGH	1747-50
C-M CROS	1745-46	D.LEER	1740-44a	M-MELICK	1714-28
* C [*] BARR	1733	E-CORTHY	1755	* R ^R COMMON	1746
* C ^{TL} BAR	1742	E.COVRT	1742-61a	T ^R LEY	1746
C [*] BLAKENY	1756-57	G-WAY	1717-34a	W [*] FORD (Waterford)	1736
C [*] DERMOTT	1746-89	K-KENY	1737	* Y [*] HAL	1727

"a" indicates that albino impressions have been seen.

CORRECTION In notes suppld earlier this year a postmark was reported apparently a RAILWAY CONVENTION of 1934. Michael Richards points out that the convention was in 1964 but the 6 of the year was poorly struck and looks like a 3.

C.C.C. An important type of stamp easily overlooked is that issued by railway companies with "C.C.C." at foot, signifying "Customs Clearance charge". Those of the Londonderry & Lough Swilly Railway Co have been turning up in sundry auctions and it should be noted that for some values there were two printings, one major difference being in the shape of the "&". I suspect that those being offered are remainder stock. Used probably exist but are rare. The only such stamps that I know in used condition are those of Coras Iompair Eireann.

THE NEW ISSUES The "Literary & Musical Figures" stamps were a disaster. Whether one is pro- or anti-Joyce the inept caricatures must be condemned as in bad taste and annoys philatelists because fine used are difficult to find. The portrayals of O'Connor and Kickham are drawn from photographs of statues. Why? Find an artist competent to design a stamp, with his own impression of what the man looked like, with an appropriate setting. The Field design is acceptable because it used a drawing and was given a background.

The Fish series are attractive and beautifully executed but have their faults. Stamps intended to appeal to collectors overseas must have the inscription in an internationally understood language and English should replace Irish. Secondly, the size of each creature should have been suggested by introducing others for comparison - small fish with the shark and salmon, mussels or cockle-shells with the oyster and prawn. Oysters normally live in large colonies and that could have been indicated by lightly sketching a few in the background. A writer to the Irish Times points out that the oyster is drawn with the wrong side up!

22p ENVELOPE The new envelope appeared on 29 July, only eleven months after it became necessary and now useful only for second-class mail. The remarkable feature is that although allegedly size A the new envelope is an unprecedented 162 x 114 mm whereas all previous issues of size A have been about 120 x 96 mm (officially $4\frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{11}{16}$ ins).

MACDONNELL Some good prices were realised at the auction on 26 June, some
WHYTE I noted being, 1743 Entire with COUNTERFEIT - £440; 1839 4d
AUCTION General Post, Belfast handstruck 4 - £440; 1929 O'Connell FDC -
£310; 1931 Shannon FDC - £320; 1932 Eucharistic Congress FDC -
£165; Penny Blacks on Irish covers - £180 and £190. Ship's postcard used
from Tory Island 1907 - £41.

NEW BOOK Everyone interested in postmarks will want it: "Irish Postmarks since 1840" by James A Mackay, price (post paid) £8.70 in GB and 1, £10.65 elsewhere, obtainable from the author at:- 11 Newall Terrace, Dumfries DG1 1LN, Scotland. Far more thorough than any previous work, over 2000 postmarks are illustrated and there is a very informative commentary on them with shrewd discussion of the Irish language types and concise historical notes. There is an excellent bibliography and full acknowledgement of the use made of IRISH PHILATELY, THE REVEALER etc.

* * * * *

IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE POST IN CO CLARE

by B. de Burca

One evening when absorbed in the Orders for the Posts of our Realms, which were issued in 1803 by King James I, a lady from Co Clare visited me. I asked her about post boys and she said that the postmen in Co Clare were very obliging and helpful. For instance, one never posted a letter. Instead one left it in the front window so that the postman would see it. He whistled to announce his presence, collected the letters and the money for the postage. I suspected that this could have led to fraud and was told that I was insulting a Co Clare man.

The most novel innovation was made by one postman who had a long round. He called at the local school and gave letters to various students for delivery. He always put the letters in the school satchels. I can also remember this custom in Co Monaghan.

EARLY IRISH REGISTERED ENVELOPES

by C.I. Dulin

One of the most intriguing sidelights of Ireland's postal transition from a British administration to an Irish one lies in the postal stationery used at the time.

It may be remembered that, in general, use of British postal stationery of all types (envelopes, postcards, letter-cards, newspaper wrappers and registered envelopes) was allowed for a period of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 years after the Irish authorities took over the running of the Post Office in 1922. It is still not known with certainty as to the exact dates of validity of some of these items - or even when certain Irish stationery items were first introduced.

These mysteries apart, a very peculiar situation arose in the case of the registered envelopes.

Irish stamps (as GB overprints) were first issued on 17 February 1922. British postal stationery in use at that time included a 5d registered envelope embossed in orange-red. On 29 May 1922 there was a reduction in British postal rates giving rise to a $4\frac{1}{2}$ d fee for registered post ($1\frac{1}{2}$ d postage and 3d registration). No such corresponding reduction was made in the Irish rate which remained at 5d (2d postage and 3d registration).

At some time in 1922 (the exact date remains to be discovered) the 5d British registered envelope appeared but with the stamp embossed in green instead of orange-red.

Initially in emerald, the colour was changed to olive sometime in 1923 or possibly late 1922, although still supplied by the English printer Messrs McCorquodale.

The emerald registered envelope came in four standard sizes:-

F	$3\frac{1}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{4}$ inches	H	5 x 8 inches
G	$3\frac{3}{4} \times 6$ inches	K	6 x $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches

and, more particularly, was notable for the absence of the size designation letter being noted in the registration label space.

The olive envelope that next appeared was also notable for the absence of the size letter but, in any case, appeared only in sizes F and G. Later in 1923 (yet again no date is known) the olive envelope appeared in four sizes (F G H and K) but this time with the size letter in the registration label space.

It does not seem to have been noted previously that other differences between the types also exist.

For the emerald and olive types without the size letter, the word REGISTERED is 6 mm high. In the third type (olive with size letter) the height of the letters was reduced to $5\frac{1}{4}$ mm. Additionally, the first two showed the full stop after REGISTERED tall and elongated, whilst the third issue had this changed to a fully square full stop.

It has been mooted that the colour of the embossed stamp was changed from orange-red to green because of its Irish connotation. Whilst this may have been so, it scarcely explains why other stationery items were left in their original colours for use in Ireland (envelopes - orange; lettercards - orange; newspaper wrappers - red; postcards - brown).

More perplexing, assuming the Irish connotation to be valid, is that when Irish stationery did appear (with a symbolic harp instead of George V's head), the registered envelopes' embossed stamp was in violet (although plain envelopes were, indeed, green). In fact, as was common in other countries, the embossed stamp corresponded in colour to the normally issued sheet definitive stamps.

By the same token, it is also often alleged that the use of a 5d registered envelope was made in Ireland in order to use up the surplus stocks of British stationery. Whilst this may be true, but doubtful, for other items, since the registered envelopes were changed in other respects, this does not seem tenable either.

Irish registered envelopes appeared in late 1924 but not in all sizes. It is believed that sizes F and G first appeared in July 1924, sizes H and K did not appear until december 1924. For the British (green) types there was a period of validity (up to 20 August 1924 for sizes F and G; period unknown for the other sizes), but this seems to have been ignored completely at all post offices. No example has ever been noted where the olive type was refused and dated envelopes used in 1925 and even 1926 have been seen.

Unfortunately, the green registered envelopes are not at all common (especially the larger H and K sizes) but there may be enough in collections to establish some missing dates.

In my own collection I have the following:-

Earliest emerald date	-	12 October 1922
Earliest no-size letter olive date	-	3 February 1923
Earliest size letter olive date	-	15 December 1923

Very certainly much earlier dates than these exist and it would be useful to know them. Perhaps members could provide more dates.

* * * * *

INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPONS

by F.E. Dixon

A collection of Irish coupons should start with examples of the early printings of GRANDE BRETAGNE-GREAT BRITAIN coupons issued through Irish post offices between 1907 and 1922, face value 3d. During this period there were variations in the printing of the country name and in the wording and arrangement of the reverse. One thing continued unchanged, the watermark "25c Union Postale Universelle 25c".

It seems probable that in 1922 there was a British 3d overprinted SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN but I have not heard of any. The 1923 P.O.G. incorporated in the first EOLUIDE AN PHUIST showed that the charge had risen to 6d but for this payment two 3d coupons were supplied. It is likely that the first printings for the Irish Free State had the 6d denomination. In 1925 the amount in the watermark was upped to 50c but a further change brought it down to 40c.



The earliest Irish issue I have seen is 1926, with value 6d, amended by handstamp to 4d. The obverse languages are English and French, the validity only two months (but six for overseas) and the name of the country is "État libre d'Irlande. Irish Free State". The basic design is the original one of 1907 - a draped female figure linking the two hemispheres of the globe.



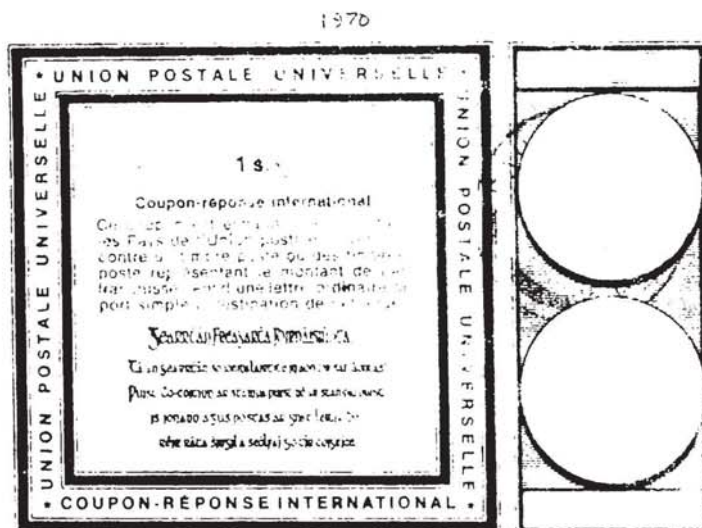
By 1931 there were several changes: Irish text replaced French, "Saorstát Éireann" replaced "Irish Free State", the two-month restriction was removed and the globe was redrawn omitting lines of latitude and longitude. In 1931 the new design came into use and the six-months limit disappeared. It also had a new watermark - simply UPU.

In 1932 the price went up to 5d and in 1933 to 6d. It is likely that the changes were made by handstamp.

In 1940 (?) the name of the country changed to "IRLANDE - EIRE" and all the Irish text was in Gaelic type. By 1945 a smaller fount of Gaelic type was introduced. The next modifications were on the reverse, German being dropped and Arabic, Chinese and Russian brought in.

The increase to 8d in 1951 (?) was at first shown by pen but there was an 8d printing. The 1955 increase to 9d probably occasioned similar provisional and definitive issues.

The 1959 increase to 1s was about the time of minor modifications of the lay-out - and the revival of the German language.



The 1s value was still current in 1966 when the form was redesigned - eliminating the ornamentation and making the country's name more prominent by printing it in red. The watermarking also changed to multiple UPU. In 1969-1970 the 1s was modified to 1/3 by pen.

In 1974 the international reply coupons became truly international for the first time when the name of the issuing country was omitted from the further simplified design. Obviously the issuer can be deduced from the currency of the price and the datestamp of the issuing office.



UNION POSTALE
UNIVERSELLE

COUPON-RÉPONSE
INTERNATIONAL

C 27

Ce coupon est échangeable dans tous les pays de l'Union postale universelle contre un ou plusieurs timbres-poste représentant l'affranchissement minimal d'une lettre ordinaire, expédiée à l'étranger par voie de surface.

Empreinte de contrôle du pays d'origine (date facultative) 	Prix de vente (indication facultative) 	Timbre du bureau qui effectue l'échange
--	---	--

However, the latest development I have noted is that some countries have abandoned the attempt to record all the stages of inflation and are selling the coupons with the price section blank!

* * * * *

THE CANCELLING MACHINES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

by O.M. Richards

Readers will bear with me if I reproduce the notes on the first two machines I covered - ANTRIM and ARMAGH.

ANTRIM A letter from the Head Post Office in Ballymena, under whose supervision Antrim now comes, stated that the Postman's Sorting Office opened there on 18 May 1970 and that a Universal 'Slow' Machine has been in use there from that date, Serial Number 648. It further stated that a Krag type machine had never been used in that office. To reiterate my point in the introduction (IP June 1981 p 39) that information is scarce, despite the statement that a Krag type machine was never used, I do have a solitary example dated 17 December 1969.



Figure 1

This machine was recorded as having been introduced on 17 December 1968 (British Postmark Society's Bulletin), a short life at this office. It had five wavy lines and the 'box' had three lines. As is usual at Christmas, the time has been omitted. Figure 1.

The earliest example I have of the Universal machine is for 26 May 1970. This die is still in use although somewhat battered. Figure 2.



Figure 2

Slogans are used regularly and I have seen them in normal and transposed positions. I have not seen PAID or OFFICIAL PAID dies used on this machine.

NOTE In Northern Ireland ordinary dies are used in red to cancel both paid and official mail, the only die I have seen with Great Britain in it is from Belfast and this was used in black and is obviously a 'one off'. The type of mail is indicated by the removal of the centre segment of the wavy lines and the insertion of a segment showing paid rates, official paid or First or Second class rates as shown in Figure 3.



Figure 3

ARMAGH Armagh was one of the offices which had a hand operated Krag type machine initially, my own earliest example is for 13 July 1939, Figure 4, but I do have a note of 3 May 1939 (FED).

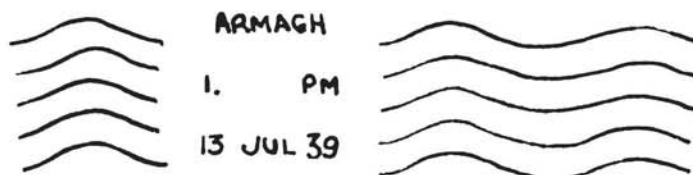


Figure 4

It was used continuously until 1953 (British Postmark Society's Bulletin) but my latest example is for 13 December 1952. Figure 5. There were five wavy lines and the die 'box' had three lines.

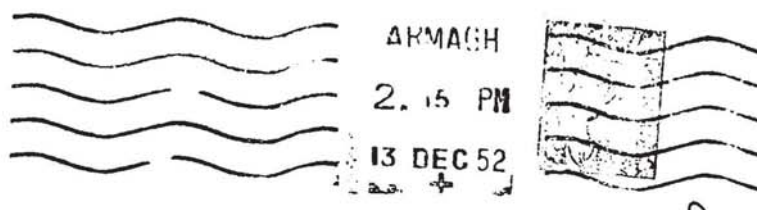


Figure 5

The Universal machine came into use in 1954, there is an example for 7 October 1954 (FED), my own earliest is 27 November 1956. Figure 6.



Figure 6

The first Universal die had the wording ARMAGH - COARMAGH, it is unusual to have the county name with the county town die. A new die came into use in 1957, my earliest is for 12 July 1957. This new type of die is illustrated at Figure 7.



Figure 7

Slogans are used in this machine but I have not seen PAID or OFFICIAL PAID examples.

BALLYCASTLE CO ANTRIM

This office has one of the two hand operated Krag machines used in Northern Ireland and was first used there in 1960. The British Postmark Society's Bulletin gives 8 November 1960 as the date but my own earliest example is for 12 July 1960. This machine has been in use continuously since that date and it is an example of a hand operated machine being issued to an office where the volume of mail was too great for handstamping but has never increased sufficiently to justify the

issue of a power operated Universal machine. Figure 8 shows an example from this machine, it has five wavy lines and a four line die 'box'.

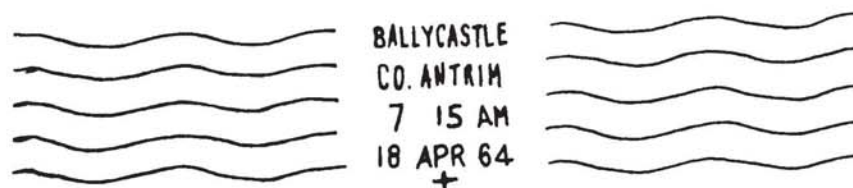


Figure 8

Slogans, PAID and OFFICIAL PAID dies are not used on this machine.

BALLYMENA CO ANTRIM

Ballymena has always been a town of some importance in Northern Ireland. It was a centre of industry with many factories, this resulted in a large volume of mail which was reflected when the office was amongst those issued with Krag machines in the 1912 programme. My earliest example is for 4 May 1912 (also FED). Figure 9.



Figure 9

This machine had five wavy lines and a three line die 'box' for most of its life, however, by 6 September 1948, my latest example, it had a four line die 'box'. Figure 10.

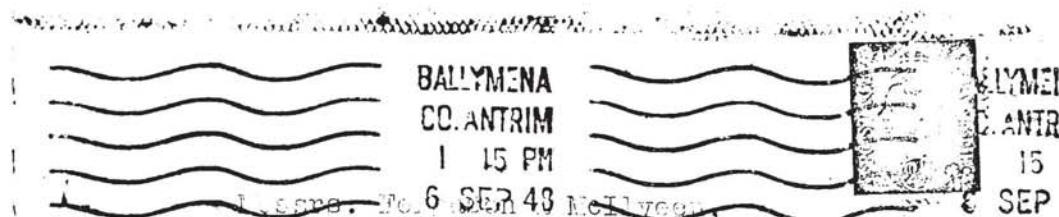


Figure 10

A Universal machine was in use at this office by 16 April 1949 (FED). My own earliest example is for 7 June 1950. Figure 11.



Figure 11

New dies were issued in 1964, Figure 12, and again in 1975, Figure 13. These two were very alike, the letters in the latter being slightly larger.



Figure 12

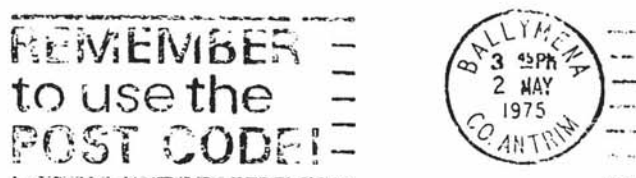


Figure 13

Slogans were not used in the Krag machine as far as I am aware, they are used regularly in the Universal machine both in transposed and normal positions. Figures 13 and 14 respectively.



Figure 14

I have seen Paid dies in red but not OFFICIAL PAID. I have a strip with 'ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE' and a machine mark in red 1st PAID, so it may well be that there is no need for OFFICIAL PAID slugs.

BALLYMONEY CO ANTRIM The British Postmark Society's Bulletin lists a Krag machine used in Ballymoney but I have not seen this nor do the lists supplied by friends show such a machine. Further information with a photocopy, if possible, is required.

A letter from the Head Postmaster at Coleraine tells me that Ballymoney was issued with a Universal 'D' type machine on 10 March 1959. My Earliest example is for 28 August 1959. Figure 15. Slogans are used regularly but I have not seen and PAID or OFFICIAL PAID dies in red.



Figure 15

BANBRIDGE CO DOWN This office was issued with a Krag type machine in the early 1950s, my earliest example being dated 7 October 1952. Figure 16. My latest is for 11 December 1958 although the British Postmark Society's Bulletin gives 11 March 1959 as the latest date. There were five wavy lines and the die box was four lines.

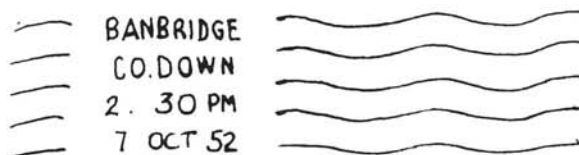


Figure 16

The Head Postmaster at Portadown informs me that a Universal 'D' machine was installed at Banbridge on 25 May 1959. My own earliest example is for 19 December 1963, Figure 17, but there cannot be much doubt that examples must exist for late May 1959. Slogans are used occasionally but I have not seen PAID or OFFICIAL PAID dies in red.



Figure 17

(To be continued)