

IRISH PHILATELY

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Edited by

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EDITORIAL

The AGM was a very enjoyable occasion, it was good to meet so many old friends once again and to make one or two new ones. The minutes of this meeting are published in the News together with a report from Bill Stevens on the mini auction.

The fact that the AGM, held in Dublin, was such a success is due to the enthusiasm of the members of the Circle in Ireland and especially to the efforts of John Lennon. John was the organising genius not only for the AGM but also for the visit that several of us made to the main Sorting Office in Sherrif Street. Thanks to you all.

I am glad to be able to publish a study from JA Jennings on Eolai an Phoist 1982. His findings on the changes in Northern Ireland will be published in the next issue of the Journal.

"Irish Philately"

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OM Richards

Letters to the Editor:-

Dear Sir,

Two comments on Dr Dulin's excellent article (Irish Philately December 1982).

DUBLIN EMERGENCY CANCELLATIONS OF 1916

1. Skeleton Types. There were various sizes in both single and double rim types, the range of diameter being 31mm to 35mm. I have a single rim, diameter 31mm with no number.
2. Barred Handstamps. I have one example with eleven bars, cancelling a newspaper wrapper. It cannot be guaranteed as of the 1916 period and may well exemplify a normal use of the type before 1916.

More comments.

CURRAGH CAMP CO KILDARE (December 1982 - Irish Philately)

An important feature of the cover illustrated on page 69 is that it shows charges 4 and 11. These are consistent with 4d for the Curragh to Dublin, plus 7d for Dublin to Derry. The absence of markings from Newbridge or any other post town makes it clear that there was a post office at the Curragh Camp, opened temporarily during the Summer Camp there. Incidentally, the 1808 camp was the first for three years.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF DUBLIN REGISTRATION LABEL NUMBERS WITH NOTES
(December 1982 - Irish Philately)

36. Used at Granby Road in 1981 - possibly an error.
91. Land Commission.
100. GPO (Philatelic Section).
101. College Green.
123. Employment Appeals Tribunal.
124. Kilbarrack.
138. Department of Justice (Four Courts).
140. Radio Telefis Eireann.
153. Munster and Leinster Bank.
167. National Museum.
169. Planning Office (1981).
185. Electricity Supply Board.
199. Ulster Bank (1980).
206. Department of Transport and Power.
210. Sandymount.
220. Employment Exchange, Werburgh Street (1981).

- 222. Rathmines (1967).
- 248. Templeogue.
- 253. Perrystown.
- 283. Bank of Ireland.
- 294. Dublin County Council.

- NOTES:-
- 1. Earliest seen is 34, Lower Mount Street (1910).
 - 2. Bank attributions cannot all be guaranteed but it seems likely that Head Offices have been given numbers, in the same way as Government Departments and "semi-state" bodies.

ANOMALIES IN THE RATES (March 1983 - Irish philately)

The covers illustrated by Figures 3 and 4 were both correctly charged. The Ballymoney cover belongs to the interesting period when the postage rates had actually been reduced ! In January 1826 there were two major changes: Irish miles were replaced by statute miles and Irish currency by sterling. To compensate for the effects on charges the Irish Post Office knocked 1d off so that Ballymoney to Dublin, which had cost 10d in 1825, was charged only 9d in 1826 - 27. This was too good to last and some time (I think about the end of 1827) the old rates were re-introduced, based on the Irish mileage but in British pence of 12 to the shilling instead of the Irish, 13 to the shilling.

The Cootehill cover demonstrates another peculiarity of the Irish system. Although the Cootehill mileage stamp is recorded only with the mileage shown as 52, the almanac lists reveal that through remeasuring or re-routing, the distance from Dublin increased to 58 Irish miles (74 statute) about 1820. 8d was, therefore, the correct figure in 1828.

EARLY IRISH REGISTRATION ENVELOPES

Mr Blessington asks about the green stamps. I think that the Post Office was simply following the precedent established by the embossed revenue stamps. After the destruction of the Dublin Customs House the stamping for Ireland was done in London using British dies but with green ink instead of the orange normally used there. It is the change from emerald to olive which puzzles me: it is too big a change to have been accidental and I have seen no revenue stamps in olive.

I can add only one item to the listing - K size envelope with emerald stamp coded FG.

One interesting point is that the envelopes with 5d orange stamp continued in use in the Free State, my latest being a G size, Code BQ, used at Cobh on 4 February 1924.

Yours faithfully,

F.E. Dixon

EOLAI AN PHOIST 1982

by J.A. Jennings

The arrival of a new Eolai an Phoist is always a welcome event. Although I send off the accompanying card to request supplements, they never arrive, (perhaps they are not for foreign eyes), so the new volume helps me to identify new postmarks and pleases me when I find that I have postmarks from newly closed offices. To save members the effort of ploughing through the list themselves, they may be interested to know the changes since the publication of the 1977 edition, omitting the very numerous changes in Northern Ireland.

CLOSED OFFICES

Dublin City Offices

Ballymun Avenue 11	-	Ascal Bhaile Munna
Clontarf Road (No 194) 3	-	Bothar Cluain Tarbh
*Dolphin's Barn (No 41) 8	-	An Carnan
Gardiner's Row 1	-	Raadh Gardnar
High Street 8	-	An tSraid Mhor
*Lower Dorset Street (No 30) 1	-	Sraid Dorsait Iochtarach
*Morehampton Road (No 87) 4	-	Bothar Moramton
*Ringsend (2 Bridge Street) 4	-	An Rinn
*Thomas Street (No 132) 8	-	Sraid San Thomas
Upper Leeson Street 4	-	Sraid Chill Mochargan Uachtarach
Walkingstown 12	-	Baile Bhailcin

* Change of location.

Country Offices

Aherlow Tipperary	-	Eatharlach
Altachullion Belturbet Co Cavan	-	Alt an Chuilinn
Baily Co Dublin	-	Dun Criofainn
Ballymacaw Waterford	-	Baile Mhac Dhaith
Ballymackney Dundalk Co Louth	-	Baile Macnai
BLACKROCK CO DUBLIN		
Upper Trees Road	-	Bothar na gCrann Uachtarach
Williamstown	-	Baile Liam
Cadamstown Moyvalley Co Kildare	-	Baile Mhic Adaim
CARLOW		
Tullow Street	-	Sraid na Tulcha
Clonleigh Lifford Co Donegal	-	Cluain Lao
CORK		
Boreenmana Road	-	Boithrin na Manach
Cuffe's Grange Kilkenny	-	Grainseach Chuffe
DROGHEDA CO LOUTH		
James Street	-	Sraid Sheamuis
Inish Toirbirt Galway	-	Tairbeart
Johnstown Naas Co Kildare	-	Baile Eoin

Killeenadeema Loughrea Co Galway	-	Cillin a Dioma
Lattin Tipperary	-	Laitean
*Meenacross Donegal	-	Min na Croise
Moyvalley Co Kildare	-	Maigh Bhealaigh
Mulhuddart Co Dublin	-	Mullach Eadrad
Newcastle Greystones Co Wicklow	-	An Caislean Nua
Oldtown Portlaoise Co Laois	-	An Seanbhaile
Rathkea Tipperary	-	Rath Cae
Rathmoyle Kilkenny	-	An Rath Mhaol
Rostellan Midleton Co Cork	-	Ros Tiallain
Rosturk Westport Co Mayo	-	Ros Torc
Sheean Westport Co Mayo	-	An Sian

*Meenacross Letterkenny Co Donegal has now become Meenacross Donegal.

NEW OFFICES

Dublin City Offices

Clontarf (4 Vernon Avenue) 3	-	4 Ascal Bhearnon Cluain Tarbh
*Dolphin's Barn	-	An Carnan
(309 South Circular Road) 8		
Glasnevin Avenue 11	-	Ascal Glasnaion
*Lower Dorset Street (No 35) 1	-	Sraid Dorsait Iochtarach
*Morehampton Road (No 103) 4	-	Bothar Moramton
*Ringsend (2 Thorncastle St) 4	-	An Rinn
*Thomas Street (No 80b) 8	-	Sraid San Tomais
Walkinstown South 12	-	Baile Bhailcin Theas

* Change of location

Country Offices

Altinure Belturbet Co Cavan	-	Altaniuir
CARLOW		
Staplestown Road	-	Bothar Baile an Stapogaigh
Clonoulty Cashel Co Tipperary	-	Cluain an Ultaigh
Corduff Co Dublin	-	An Chorr Dhubh
DROGHEDA CO LOUTH		
Mary Street	-	Sraid Mhuire
Drumturk Dundalk Co Louth	-	Droim Thoiric
DUN LAOGHAIRE CO DUBLIN		
Rochester Avenue	-	Ascal Bhaile an Roiste
Firhouse Tallaght Co Dublin	-	Teach na Gluise
GALWAY		
Mervue	-	Muirbheach
Lacken Kilkenny	-	An Leacain

I would be very pleased if members would advise me of any errors.

* * * * *

CORK GAS COMPANY METER READING PRE-PAID CARDS
THE END OF AN ERA

by C.A. Ross

The Cork Gas Company, formerly the Cork Gas Consumer's Company, has been supplying "town" gas to Cork City since the 1860s. Just as did the national organisation, the ESB, so too did the Gas Company use pre-paid meter reading cards. That is, up until recently. It is reasonable to assume and is, indeed, confirmed by long-serving employees, that the cards date from pre-war days. However, the earliest card that I have seen is the 3d blue embossed with meter dials depicted on the obverse and addressed to the Company's former offices at 72 South Mall. There may well have been a 4d blue card but my next example is a 6d brown which was followed on decimalisation by a 2½p brown. These all bore the South Mall address. Subsequent cards were addressed to P0 Box 57 at the present offices in Patrick Street. A check list follows:-

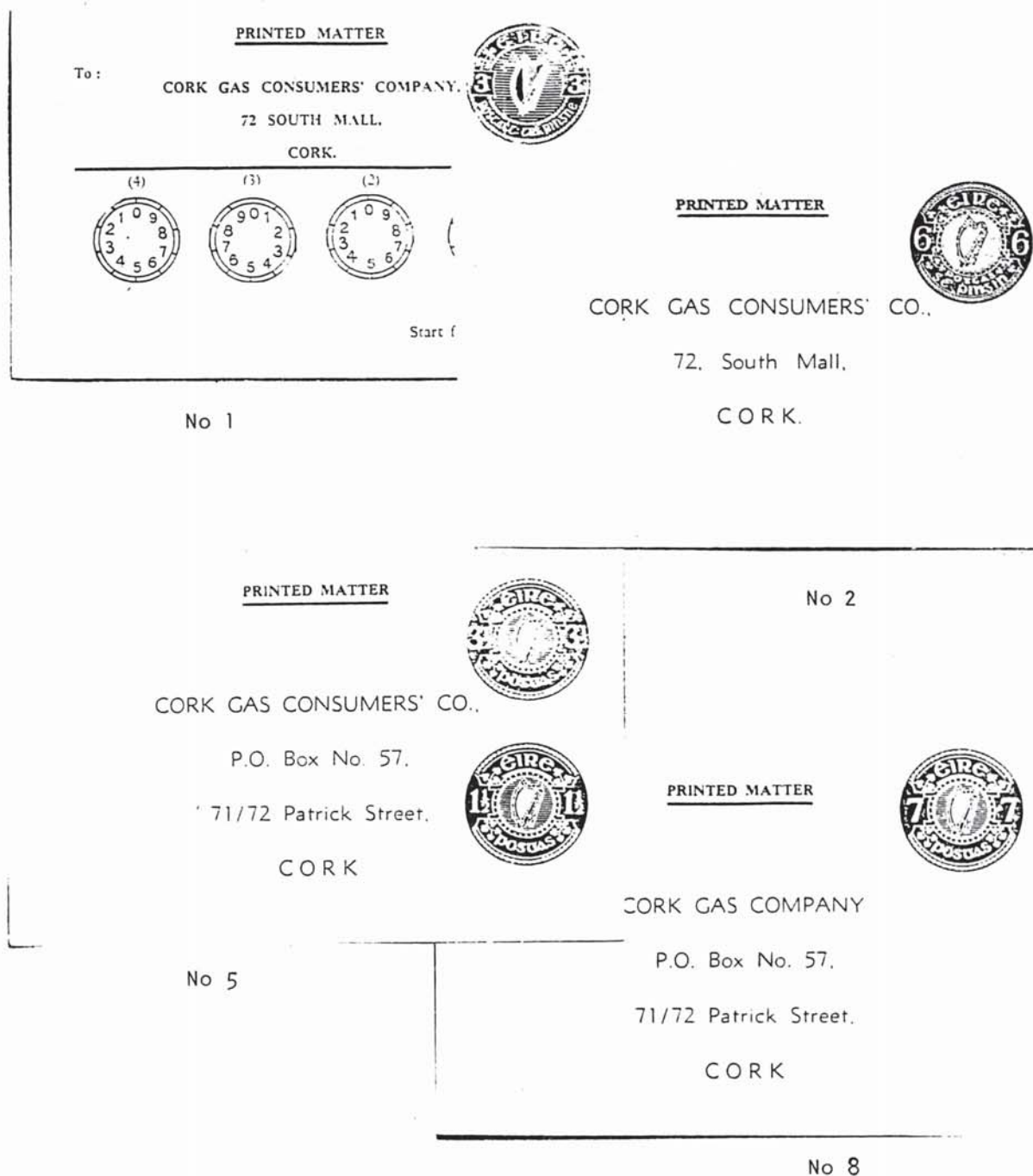
1. 1967 3d blue embossed.
2. 1970 6d brown.
3. 1971 2½p brown.
4. 1973 3½p orange-brown.
5. 1974 3½p orange-brown plus 1½p maroon.
6. 1975 5p yellow.
7. 5p yellow plus 2d meter mark (NP503) in red, date slugs I and III, applied over stamp.
8. 7p olive.
9. 1977 7p olive plus 1p meter mark (NP503) in red, date slug IV, applied vertically at right over stamp.
10. 1978 8p meter mark (NP503) in red, date slugs I 78 and II 78 applied instead of a stamp.
11. 8p brown.
12. 1979 8p brown plus 2p meter mark (P.B.T.1053V) in red, date slug 1.79, applied vertically at right over stamp.
13. 10p purple
14. 1980 10p purple plus 2p meter mark in red, date slug 1.80 applied at right over stamp vertically (also seen at left).

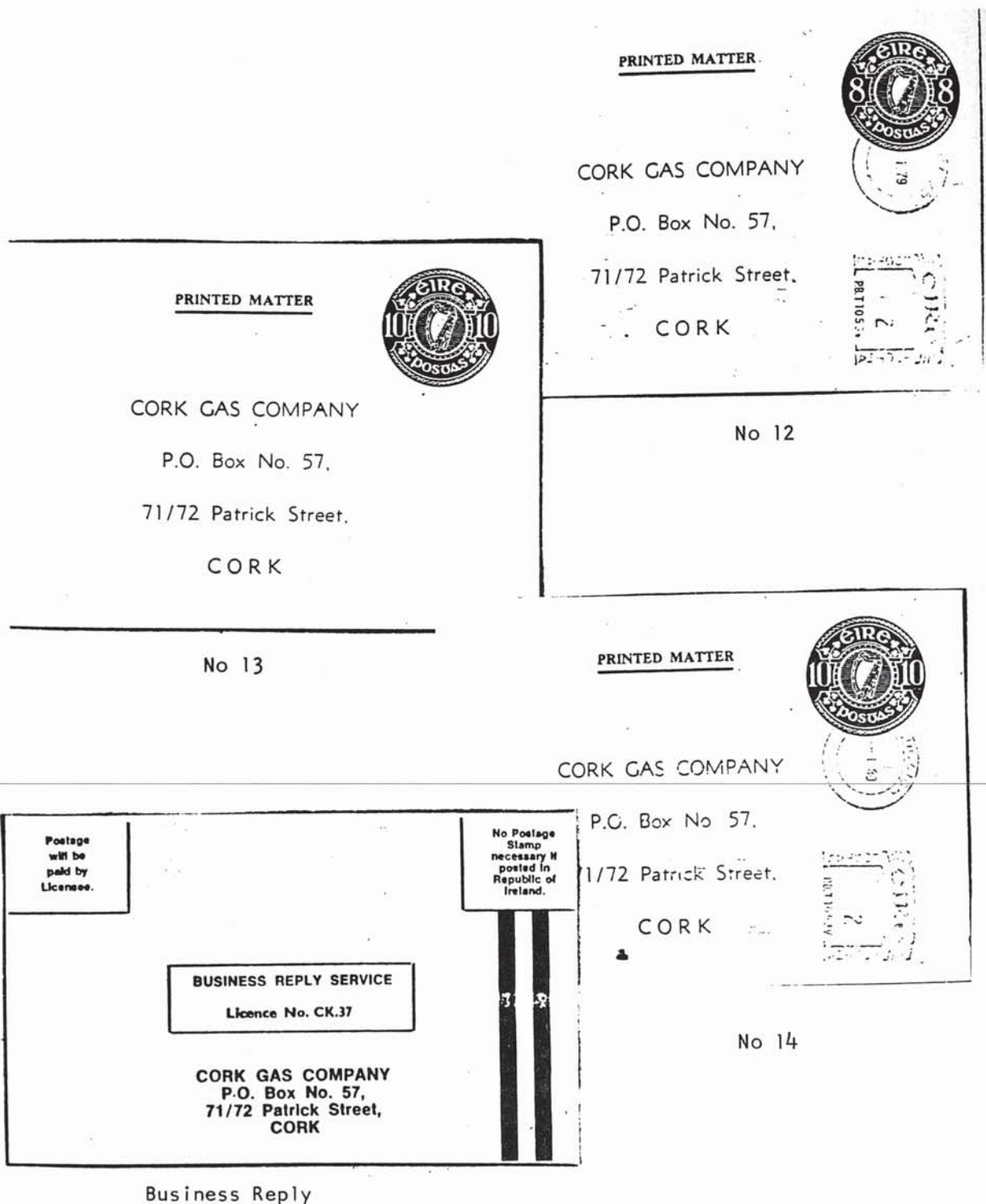
The following cards are printed in blue:-

15. 1981 12p meter mark (P.B.T.1053V) in red, date slug 10.3.81. applied vertically at left.
16. 12p meter mark (P.B.T.1053V) date slug 23.3.81 applied in red horizontally in place of stamp.
17. 15p meter mark (P.B.T.1053V) in red, date slug 11.4.81, applied in place of stamp.

In August 1981 the Cork Gas Company, for reasons of economy, adopted the Business Reply Service, Licence No CK37 (with regulation black printed cards) and so brought to an end an interesting little sideline of Irish postal stationery.

It is intriguing to note that, as with ESB cards, dies were prepared and stamps printed by the Stamping Branch for the public utilities which were never used on official Post Office stationery although a need existed for them at the time.





I apologise to Dr Ross that I cannot use all his illustrations, those omitted were too poor in quality to reproduce.

RANDOM NOTES

by F.E. Dixon

THE MISSING YEARS The only town so far noticed to have the year line blank in its machine cancellations is Mallow, the latest example seen being 25 January.

PERMUTATIONS On 25 January the date was above the time in that Mallow cancellation, which reminded me of a recent calculation of the number of possible varieties in machine cancellations. Considering all the movable parts which can occur upright or inverted or omitted, I find a total of 1320 possibilities, of which I have, so far, found only 51!

NEW SLOGAN Galway has been using a new slogan advertising its local Arts Festival but so far neither John Lennon nor I have found a legible example.

SLOGAN WAR In view of the sincere efforts being made by many factions to improve North-South understanding, with the hope that Ireland can become a single unit, it is tactless for Northern Ireland Post Offices to use such slogans as COLLECT BRITISH STAMPS or BACK BEAUTIFUL BRITAIN.

THE MISSING YEARS Amend first paragraph above. Fermoy also - 24 February.

LOCAL PENNY POSTS Hitherto we have thought that Enniskillen was the only Irish town to have had a framed Penny Post marking with italic type. Brian Wallas has found a similar style for Ennis, used 1847.

~~DUBLIN~~ ~~From 1796 to 1799 Dublin used a circular date stamp with the~~
DATE STAMPS date in three lines, the third being the last two digits of the year. Willcocks opines that there were dots on each side in the first two years, omitted in the second two. Feldman and Kane state that the types with and without dots were both in use in 1796 and they think that a variety with dashes instead of dots is due to smudging. I have examples with a dot on one side and a dash on the other. Now Brian Wallas has discovered one with wavy lines on both sides and it appears to be the earliest version, being 6 January 1796, the earliest date yet recorded.

NEW TYPE SKELETON Rubber, 42mm diameter, date across centre. The name seems to start AOL and my diagnosis that it is blundered. Might be LIOS CEANNUIR. Confirmation desired, also reports of other similar skeletons.

INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPONS Not long ago I wrote that a collection of the Irish coupons should start with UK examples sold in Ireland. Now one such has come to light, an early issue sold at 3d and datestamped COLLEGE GREEN, DUBLIN 12 MR 1917.

CONTRARY TO REGULATIONS It is well known that in the 19th century sub-offices were not supposed to cancel stamps, that being done by the head office. There are many examples of the rule being broken and one I have

discovered is from Carndonagh, a sub-office of Derry at the time. What I found is a strip of four penny reds bearing three impressions of the circular datestamp August 31 1860. It is, unfortunately, off cover so we do not know what action was taken when the letter reached the Derry Office.

DUBLIN In the first comprehensive account of the handstruck marks
ADDITIONAL for the Scottish Additional $\frac{1}{2}$ d (Postal History Society Bulletin
HALFPENNY No 33 1945) Sidebotham illustrated the Dublin stamp, the special
 features being the long bar between 1 and 2 and the large loop
of the 2. I have seen two examples in which the left end of the bar is broken so
that it ends below the right foot of the A.

MISSING YEARS The failure to obtain fresh number plugs for the new year is not
 peculiar to modern times. I have found a cover of 1847,
datestamped in Dublin on 8 January, with the year shown as 184 . Oddly enough,
when the letter reached London next day it was datestamped Jan. 6, the day
having been inserted wrong way up. However, the error was noted, the wrong
stamp neatly cancelled with the appropriate zigzag and another, corrected
impression applied.

ANOTHER IRISH GER Ithell reports another discovery by Michael Goodman, a
EXHIBITION Parcel Post Label of Gratton Road, Brook Green, Hammersmith,
CANCELLATION London W., with a skeleton datestamp IRISH EXHIBITION/W OC 6 88.
 I have no knowledge of this Exhibition but surmise that it was
a project of the first Irish Industries Association, inaugurated at a Garden
Party in the Viceregal Lodge, guests being asked to attend attired in costume of
Irish material. In Lady Aberdeen's account of this she mentions that the
movement was the outcome of an Irish Industries Exhibit in Edinburgh. How many
other such exhibitions had post offices before the now famous BallymacClinton?
What about the Irish villages at Chicago 1893 (opened by Lady Aberdeen) and that
at St Louis in 1904?

INTERNATIONAL Changed regulations in 1922 were first shown by overprinting the
REPLY COUPONS back of the coupon but I am puzzled by the reaction of the Irish
 Post Office. An instruction to Postmasters in "Iris an Phuist"
No 5, 26 April 1922, ordered that, although a 3d stamp should be given for each
overprinted coupon, an unoverprinted coupon should be exchanged for only $1\frac{1}{2}$ d
stamp. It was envisaged that customers would protest and so "In the event of any
difficulty arising with the public concerning coupons without the instructions
printed in red on the back, a postage stamp of the value of $1\frac{1}{2}$ d should be given
provisionally and instructions sought from the Accountant".

THE RAILWAY PERFINS OF IRELAND

by Norah K. Wright



There is always a fascination about railways which arouses one's philatelic instinct to collect postmarks, TPOs, RPOs and covers. When collecting perfins it seems the natural thing to make a study of this branch of perfin collecting.

The Irish railways are particularly interesting as one has

many years of collecting Irish perfins first on UK stamps used in Ireland. In 1916 the turbulence of the country during the rebellion period can be seen as one finds the skeleton handstamp of the rebellion period on King George V stamps with the GS/WR perfin. History takes us to another interesting period, that is the Irish overprinted stamps bearing the railway companies perfins. We pass on then to railway perfins on the first Irish definitive issue and all the commemoratives that followed. Here again history raises her head, during the war years the GSR railway used what can only be termed as a provisional die.

Not all of our railways used perfins. The following is a list of all the railways known to have used them:-

1. Belfast and Northern Counties Railway.
2. Cork, Bandon and South East Railway.
3. Cork, Blackrock and Passage Railway.
4. Great Southern Railway.
5. Great Western Railway.
6. Great Southern and Western Railway.
7. Ireland Great Northern Railway.
8. Midland Great Western Railway.
9. Waterford, Limerick and Western Railway.
10. Coras Iompair Eireann.
11. Railway Executive Western Region.

THE BELFAST AND NORTHERN COUNTIES RAILWAY

The Belfast and Ballymena Railway was incorporated in the mid 1840s and renamed Belfast and Northern Counties Railway in 1860. In 1903 the Belfast and Northern Counties Railway was acquired by the Midland Railway and became part of the London Midland and Scottish Railway in 1923.



BNCR 14 13 8 11 4

This perfin has only been found on 1d Red plate numbers.

THE CORK BLACKROCK AND PASSAGE RAILWAY

Incorporated in 1846. Extended to Crosshaven in 1896. Opened to Monkstown in 1902. Became part of the Great Southern Railway in 1925. Closed in 1932.



CB/PR 8 14/10 12 5

Found on King George V $\frac{1}{2}$ d $1\frac{1}{2}$ d
1912 - 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ d $1\frac{1}{2}$ d

THE CORK BANDON AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY

Constituents - Bandon Railway, Cork Kinsale Junction Railway, West Cork Railway. All were amalgamated in 1888 as the Cork Bandon and South Coast Railway and eventually became part of the Great Southern Railway.



Die 1

CBS/CR 8 14 10/8 11 5

Found on Queen Victoria 1d lilac
Jubilee $\frac{1}{2}$ d
King Edward VII $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d
King George V $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d



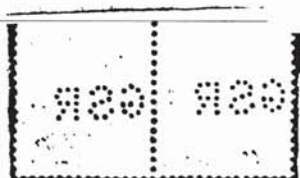
Die 2

CBS/CR 8 14 10/8 12 5

Found on Queen Victoria 1d lilac
King Edward VII $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d
King George V $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d

THE GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY

The Great Southern Railway was the result of the amalgamation of all the railways operating in the Irish Free State in 1925.



Die 1

GSR 10 11 12 $4\frac{1}{2}$

Found on Irish 1922 Definitives
and Irish Commemoratives 1929 - 1937



Die 2

GSR 9 9 10 $4\frac{1}{2}$

Found on Definitives
Commemoratives to 1941

THE GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY



Selection of Provisional Perfins - GSR 9 9 10 $4\frac{1}{2}$

Found on 1940 Definitives. Commemoratives 1941 - 44.

During the second world war Sloper's works were destroyed by enemy action and the dies lost. However, very quickly, and with ingenuity, Sloper produced replacements but these took the form of single letters and pairs with the result that the single letter R was unevenly spaced and appeared anywhere on the stamp.

THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY

The Great Western Railway had offices at various Irish ports in connection with their cross steamer service. In view of this their perfin can be found on Irish stamps.



Die 1

GWR 10 14 12 $4\frac{1}{2}$

Found on Queen Victoria 1d lilac
Jubilee $\frac{1}{2}$ d



Die 2

GWR 11 14 12 $4\frac{1}{2}$

Found on King George V $\frac{1}{2}$ d



Die 3

GWR 9 12 10 5

Found on Irish Definitives
Commemoratives 1933 - 45



Die 4

GWR 9 12 10 5

Found on 1d Map

THE GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN RAILWAY

The Great Southern and Western Railway was the largest railway. It was completed in 1855. Its route ran from Dublin to Cork with many branches throughout the south and west. In 1925 it became part of the Great Southern Railway.



Die 1

G/SWR 10/10 16 11

Found on Queen Victoria 1d Red Plate Nos
1880 $\frac{1}{2}$ d green
1881 1d lilac



Die 2

GS/WR 10 10/15 11 $4\frac{1}{2}$

Found on Queen Victoria $\frac{1}{2}$ d Jubilee
1d lilac
King Edward VII $\frac{1}{2}$ d 1d and 3d
King George V $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d
Irish Overprints 1d and 2d



Die 3

GS/WR 10 11/14 12 5

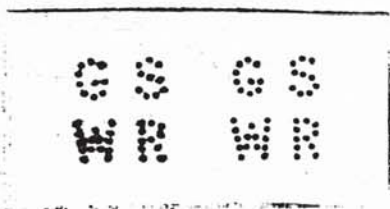
Found on King Edward VII $\frac{1}{2}$ d 1d and 3d
King George V $\frac{1}{2}$ d 1911 - 12
King George V $\frac{1}{2}$ d 1d $1\frac{1}{2}$ d and 2d
1912 - 22
Ireland Overprints $\frac{1}{2}$ d 1d and 2d
Ireland Definitives $\frac{1}{2}$ d 1d and 2d



Die 4

GS/WR 10 10/16 11 $4\frac{1}{2}$

Found on King George V 1d and $1\frac{1}{2}$ d
Ireland Overprints 1d and 2d



GS/WR 10 10/15 11 $4\frac{1}{2}$

Die 5 & Die 6

The discovery of this new Sloper manufactured perforating machine which was brought to light last year by our Editor is a most interesting discovery and had not previously been recorded. This machine originally came from the old Broadstone station in Dublin. The machine perforates two stamps at a time and is in perfect working order having all the pins intact. There are minor differences between Die 5 and Die 6. The most interesting point is that these dies have never been reported on stamps and one wonders if this machine was ever put into operation.

THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY (IRELAND)

The company was formed by the amalgamation of several small companies in 1876.



1/GNR 5/10 13 13 5

Found on Queen Victoria 1d Red Plate 171

THE MIDLAND GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY

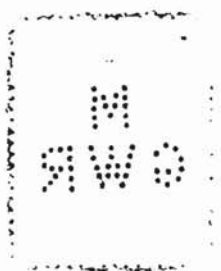
The Midland Great Western Railway was incorporated in 1845. It ran from Dublin to Galway with numerous lines covering the centre of Ireland and the west coast. This railway retained its identity for 80 years until 1925 when it became part of the Great Southern Railway.



Die 1

M/GWR 15/10 16 13 $4\frac{1}{2}$

Found on Queen Victoria $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d
 Red Plate Nos
 2d blue
 1d venetian red
 1d lilac (14 and
 16 dots)
 $\frac{1}{2}$ d Jubilee
 King Edward VII $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d
 King George V $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d
 Irish Overprints $\frac{1}{2}$ d 1d and 2d



Die 2

M/GWR 15/10 16 14 5½

This die is known only on the
3d Railway Parcel stamp

RAILWAY EXECUTIVE WESTERN REGION



RE/WR 10 9/12 10

In the same way as the Great Western
Railway perfin is found on Irish stamps
the Railway Executive Region perfin also
appears on them. Found on Irish 1940
Definitives ½d 1d 1½d 2½d and 3d and
Irish Commemoratives 1949 1952 and 1954

THE WATERFORD LIMERICK AND WESTERN RAILWAY

The railway opened in 1854 from Waterford to Limerick and gradually extended
its network. It was amalgamated with the Great Southern and Western Railway.



WLWR 14 7 14 11 5

Found on Queen Victoria 1d lilac

CORAIS IOMPAIR EIREANN

Corais Iompair Eireann (CIE) Irelands transport company was formed in 1945 by
the amalgamation of the Great Southern and the Dublin Transport Company.



Die 1

CIE 7 4 9 4½

Found on Ireland 1940 Definitive issue
Commemoratives 1943 - 48

C.I.E. Die 2 is prolific. In the 1980s it is still in use but the die has many
broken pins and the letters appear with blind holes and are not collectable.



Die 2

C.I.E. 7 4 9 4½

Found on Ireland definitive issues
and commemoratives from 1949 to the
present day

I would like to acknowledge all the information and help I have received from the Security Endorsement and Perfin Society and its members and also the books on Irish Railways by H.C. Casserley.

* * * * *

EARLY IRISH REGISTRATION ENVELOPES

By C.I. Dulin

John Blessington's excellent article on Irish Registration Envelopes (JIPC March 1983) once again bears out our good friend Bill Kane's maxim, that to get more facts on a topic one should publish one's own data - however incomplete.

At the time of writing my article on the subject (JIPC September 1982) I was aware that a code indicating the date of printing existed (See Robson Lowe's Encyclopædia of British Empire Postage Stamps Vol 1 Part 2, for example) but did not, at that time, have access to AK Huggin's 'British Postal Stationery'.

There are two letters under the flap which indicate the printing period. The second letter indicates the year and can be code-cracked fairly easily. The month, however, is a little confusing since although they follow alphabetically, I and J are used together to indicate September.

However, it is all explained in Huggin's book (and neatly tabulated in John Blessington's article) and armed with this, it was possible to re-examine my own material again.

Perhaps for those interested, it is possible to examine used (and dated) envelopes by gently prying open the flap end in the right area (lower right) and seeing the code. However, for envelopes which have been opened at the "wrong" end and some of the olive types which appear to have a stronger adhesive, this is not always possible without damaging the flap. Few of us relish tearing items which are, relatively, scarce. Mint envelopes are, of course, no problem.

Using a variety of different light sources, I was not able to detect the code under a sealed flap (which was, of course, the intention when the envelopes were devised in the first place).

Herewith, then, the results from my collection thus far. I have several more dated samples (olive mostly) on which I am unable to get to the code and,

reluctantly, must leave these aside for the moment.

All envelopes referred to are the 5d green type used in Ireland during the transition period.

<u>COLOUR</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>CODE</u>	<u>DATE PRINTED</u>	<u>OTHER DATA</u>
Emerald Green	F	AQ	January 1922	Mint
	F	CQ	March 1922	Mint
	G	EQ	May 1922	Mint
	H	EQ	May 1922	Mint
	K	FQ	June 1922	Mint
	F	AQ	January 1922	12 June 1922
	F	BQ	February 1922	12 October 1922
	F	EQ	May 1922	13 March 1922
	G	EQ	May 1922	16 April 1923*

* On a personal note, this is the star item in my collection of postal stationery. It is used in England (Hammersmith London) to an English address (Suffolk). Bearing no surcharge, it tends to support the belief that green Irish Registered Envelopes were also valid in England.

Olive (No size letter)	F	ER	May 1923	9 February 1924
Olive (With size letter)	F	HR	August 1923	Mint
	F	AS	January 1924	14 March 1925

To this list can also be added certain 5d British types, in orange, which may be pertinent for the period.

Orange	F	KP	October 1921	3 April 1922
	F	LP	November 1921	10 April 1922

What, then, can we make of this data (and that contained in John Blessington's article).

1. 5d ORANGE SIZE F

The printing dates indicated of October and November 1921 are of no great consequence in themselves (the last of this printing, per John Blessington's notes; was February 1922). However, the usage in Ireland with the dates of April 1922 may be significant. It is tempting to believe that they may be a clue to the fact that the Emerald-Green types were not yet available for sale. However, since the 5d Orange types were used until 1924 (and even later) caution must be exercised here.

With the reduction of postal rates in England (from 5d to 4½d - entailing a new die) on May 29 1922, the fact that the last printing of these

envelopes in February 1922 indicates that the authorities had made the decision three months earlier.

2. 5d EMERALD GREEN SIZE F

The greatest surprise here is that printings were made in January, February, March and June 1922. (Does someone have a DQ - April - or a later code G to M - July to December for these?).

Most astonishing are the January and February 1922 dates. It is known that JJ Walsh (the new Postmaster General for the Irish Provisional Government) went to London early in 1922 to arrange matters of transition with the GPO there. It is probable that at that time Registration envelopes may have been discussed. Again this is conjecture for, as is well known, other items of postal stationery were not introduced until 1924. In any case, it may well be that if the matter was discussed then the printers, M'Corquodale were informed. Given the British timing, an AQ (January) printing would indicate an intention to have them ready for sale in April 1922. Additionally, this has the logic of tying in with official transference of British postal administration to Irish on 1 April 1922 - the beginning of the financial year. This may have been the intention but whether it is factual can only be discovered with used early examples.

Alternatively, of course, it is possible that the printer printed the code in anticipation of embossing and that the AQ, BQ or even later codes, (January and February or later) were made ostensibly for the 5d Orange type.

5d EMERALD GREEN SIZE G

There seems to be little in my list or that of John Blessington that is of immediate use.

The Size F was the most popular but generally the F and G sizes were released together. Again more data is needed.

5d EMERALD GREEN SIZES H & K

These are very scarce indeed, being too cumbersome for most collectors to save. They were often issued after the F and G sizes and the single issue dates here of May and June 1922 may be of some significance - again, conjecturally.

3. 5d OLIVE - NO SIZE LETTER

John Blessington's two samples (January 1923, Size G and April 1923, Size F) are both earlier than my single identifiable specimen (EQ May 1923). Quite definitely more examples are required here.

4. 5d OLIVE WITH SIZE LETTER

Again, known examples, at this stage are few. The mint envelope of HR (August 1923) seems very early compared with AS (January 1924) that both John Blessington and I have.

All of this, as can be seen, does not solve the original problem, ie when were these envelopes on sale in Ireland. Printing dates are one thing, issuance another. As John Blessington has noted, in England the period between the two was rapid. Certainly within a month or two. But that was in a condition of continued supply and usage. The 5d Green types were rather special. Did this comparatively short period exist for them?

The closest, identifiable, time interval in my collection is about five months - almost certainly too long. John Blessington's date is similar, though shorter, at about four months.

Intuitively the period, I believe, must have been shorter. Oh! for more data! Perhaps the Registration Books in the GPO archives in London will help. Hopefully I will have the opportunity to examine them in the coming months.

One last, interim, note which perhaps someone more erudite on the subject than I can contribute. The printing codes on registration envelopes seem to come in various colours. Why?

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THE CHANGING FACE OF PHILATELY

by B. de Burca

When I started at the age of ten years to collect stamps and postal history, I was fortunate to have the help of a Dublin dealer, Mr Charles Houghton, to advise me. The stamps were English stamps used in Ireland. Penny blacks and 2d blues came in profusion and I particularly liked large blocks of other stamps used on telegrams. I also developed a desire to collect illustrated hotel envelopes.

My next contact was Mr Alteskye in London who not only advised the collection of Mulready's but sold me many for a very small sum. An old friend, Mr Ritchie Bodily, guided me to my first and only 4th recorded Charles Dargan from the first Dublin Exhibition. This man said that he grew an inch the night Queen Victoria had dinner with him.

Nowadays it is special postmarks and stamp booklets that are popular. It is beyond me to mount a stamp booklet properly and I wonder what the special postmarks will look like 100 years hence. It is time we got away from philately and got down to serious collecting. Some of the recent articles in Irish Philately show that a change is coming about. W Kane's book on Dublin Postmarks is another example of the change.

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