

IRISH PHILATELY

JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

Edited by

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Volume 1983

September 1983

No 3

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EDITORIAL

It is some time since I made an appeal for articles etc, for the Journal but I do so now. The editorial cupboard is almost bare and I would appreciate your contributions. I am most grateful for the support given to me during the last 18 months.

Autumn and Winter are the seasons for giving displays etc., and I would welcome details of displays given by members to Philatelic Societies and those they have been asked to give.

I hope that the coming philatelic season will be a successful and interesting one for you all.

OM Richards

"Irish Philately"

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Letters to the Editor:

Dear Sir,

Mr FE Dixon's note on the "NO RUGBY TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA" adhesive label in IPC March 1981, Page 6, reminded me of a much older propaganda label acquired a couple of years back. This is:-

**CUIRTEAN CORA LE
beo-jeannab
na n-ainmibte!
STOP VIVISECTION!**

on the back of a PSE 1b Postal Stationery Envelope and cancelled BAC 24 May 1932. Whilst anti-vivisectionists and members of the Animal Liberation League have recently achieved greater publicity, it is interesting to see that they have celebrated at least 50 years existence.

DUBLIN NUMBER 6 HANDCANCEL

Although last mentioned by Mr FE Dixon in his June 1975 IPC 'Random Notes', this unusual "English" circular datestamp is still in existence and has recently come under discussion in Irish Stamp News Numbers 11 and 12. For members who do not obtain this worthwhile publication, the following may be of interest:



I obtained a large piece at Stampex 1982 addressed to Nevis Philatelic Bureau, Nevis, West Indies, with this cancel dated 6 September 1981.

Later in the year I was given a further copy on a piece with 10p Stag definitive addressed to Dublin 12 with circular date stamp of 20.V.1977 but proceeded to lose this on the Dun Laoghaire - Holyhead Ferry!

I cannot add to John Lennon's notes in ISN No 12, ie that it is used in the Foreign Section of the Central Sorting Office - except to say that I understand that its prime usage is on the mail bag destination tag/label of mail going to countries where Baile Atha Cliath would not be understood.

It is found on international mail, apparently where the incorrect usage of postage stamps has occurred, eg previously used stamps, and the mail is sent to an inspector for action. It is also found on international mail which has been misdirected through the Foreign Section and my lost 20.V.1977 piece was probably an example of this.

Suggestions that the Nevis envelope was cancelled at the Foreign Desk because the sorters did not know where Nevis was cannot be confirmed. All other mail addressed to Nevis and other small West Indies Islands which I have seen has received normal BAC hand or machine cancels.

Yours faithfully,

AV Cassidy

RANDOM NOTES

by F.E. Dixon

DOGS STAMPS There is a widespread condemnation of the size and shape of the "miniature" sheet and the lack of space for addressing the envelope sold by P & T allegedly for use with the sheet. The stamp designs are excellent, except for one oversight. It is the law in Ireland that every dog must wear a collar. Is that why a collar was supplied in the day of issue cancellation? I have not yet heard what Irish scholars think of the names of the breeds. According to my Dinneen "madra gearr" seems to mean "deficient dog" but the others seem reasonable.

TRANSFER DUTY Although Great Britain had "Transfer Duty" adhesive stamps from 1888-93 there have never been any official issue for Ireland. However, there is a large 2/6 stamp, used by the Dublin United Tramways Company Ltd. My example is on a declaration that some Share Certificates had been lost or destroyed and asking for the issue of substitute certificates, date 1925. The document also bears 2/6 and 6d embossed General Duty stamps to pay the Inland Revenue fee for the transaction. A footnote explains that the 2/6 payable to the Company is for the cost of preparing the new Certificate. Did any other companies use such stamps?

TELEGRAM RECEIPT A form I have not seen hitherto is T.-No.94 acknowledging that a telegram has been handed in and the necessary charge has been paid, together with a fee of 2d for the receipt. It is an 1899 printing by the Dublin firm of Falconer and bears an unusual datestamp, see Figure A. The only similar one I have has code 4.T and was used in 1895 to cancel a 5s stamp.

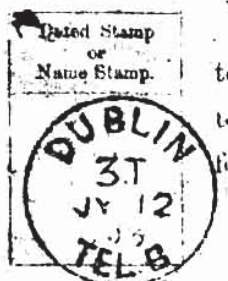


Figure A



Figure B

UNIFORM 4d GENERAL POST In IP June 1982 I listed Roscrea as among the Irish towns with a standard type of handstruck 4. R.M. Willcocks has sent me a tracing showing that Roscrea had a quite distinctive type without the loop. Figure B refers.

REGISTRATION Another acquisition is a UK Registration envelope size H, the stamp being cancelled at Mullingar NO 9 1887. It also has the datestamp of Ballinea for the same day and a blue crayon "Regd at Rathconrath". This is surprising because the lists do not assign a post office to Rathconrath until many years later. Was it an unofficial sub-sub-office to

the sub-office at Ballinea?

TELEGRAMS In the 1920s the reverse of a telegram usually carried commercial advertising, publicising Insurance, Cigarettes, Stout, betting etc. Were there special printings for different towns? The question is raised by a 1929 telegram delivered in Cork advertising Suttons Coals, giving the address of the head office in Cork. It is one of a batch of 6,000,000 printed Feb 1927 by Brown & Nolan. Did they all have the same advertisement?

NEW TYPE SKELETON In IP June 1983 I mentioned a new type of skeleton datestamp. I have now decided that the most likely attribution is COR AN DOLA. My hunt through the lists was complicated by the fact that in the Irish index to Polai an Phoist it is spelt thus but in the main listing Corrandulla is Irished as Carndolla!!

IRISH PO IN THE 1920s I have been given an Irish Times Supplement summarising the progress of the Irish Free State 1921-31. One page concerns Department of Posts & Telegraphs which, by 1931, employed over 12000. Even then the telegraph was declining and a losing service, to be continued as only a luxury and emergency one. In spite of declining population the volume of postal traffic had increased:-

		<u>1923</u>	<u>1930</u>
Letters	-	110,781,385	116,954,400
Printed Papers	-	26,481,730	37,473,895
Postcards	-	7,684,470	8,011,950
Parcels	-	4,481,510	5,215,135

One paragraph is worth quoting verbatim:-

"In order to give later facilities for posting, letter boxes have been fitted experimentally to trams and buses, so as to benefit the public in towns and villages along the routes. For the present the scheme is confined to a limited number of services but if it proves a success the facilities will be afforded throughout the Saorstat generally".

Has anyone covers identifiable as posted in these travelling boxes? And does one of the travelling boxes survive to be an exhibit in the postal museum?

RETURN TO SENDER At one time Dublin used a series of RETURN TO SENDER handstamps, each showing a different reason for return, eg Gone Away. The present practice is to have only a single handstamp combined with the multi-purpose indication, in English and French, with the applicable line marked by an X.

POSTAGE DUE There are variations in the rectangular marking with the alternative reasons for there being more to pay. The first line can be POSTAGE UNPAID or POSTED UNPAID and an interesting error is GRNS for GRMS in the third line.

OBITUARY Dr John Stafford Johnson, long the doyen of Irish philatelists, whose pioneer research, especially in Postal History, has inspired many of us, died on 12 August, soon after his 95th birthday. He was one of the

collectors who sold his collections while he was still able to make good use of the proceeds, and many of us cherish items which we can label "ex Stafford Johnson".

FREE? When I first came across a prepaid letter to Dublin bearing the FREE datestamp I thought it was an accidental error, the sorter having picked up the wrong handstamp. I recently saw several more examples, all of around 1820, with the crowned spade-shaped FREE marking and I now think that this usage was deliberate - and quite reasonable. The word "Free" indicates that no further postage charges can be raised and it was quite justifiable for a postal official to apply the stamp to incoming mail fully prepaid.

MILEAGE MARKS On my check list there are still some postal towns from which no markings have yet been recorded. One recently deleted from that category is Kildysart, Co Clare. A mileage stamp for it has turned up for 1817 with mileage 126.

RECEIVING HOUSES The same material included a new Receiving House in the italic type, Doolin/Ennistimon. It is an interesting letter of 1849 in which the PMG Lord Clanricarde's Private Secretary explains that reductions are planned in the Department and he thus is unable to provide the job of a clerkship as requested.

POST PAID Some time ago I reported a finding of POST PAID of Limerick 1810, much earlier than reported hitherto. Now a letter of 1821 has turned up, also POST PAID in Limerick but with a different handstamp.

IPC AGM To me the highlights of the AGM Dublin gathering were provided by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. On the Friday some of us were given the freedom of the Central Sorting Office where we salvaged many items from the rubbish, obtained answers to most of our questions and inspected a great variety of handstamps. Beware of exceptional items dated 20 May 83! Then on Sunday afternoon Con Buckley nobly sacrificed his free time to display obsolete cancelling devices and an array of display pages prepared for the still hoped-for postal museum.

1826 CHANGE OF RATES One of the covers recently acquired is a delightful demonstration of the changes associated with the substitution of British for Irish miles and currency on 5 January 1826. The letter was written on 4 January and correctly charged double the 11d rate, 1/10. When the letter reached Dublin on 6 January an inspector applied his crown to cancel the 1/10 and amended the charge to 1/8 (= 2x10d). One major problem is why the charges were reduced. In this case the strict application of the conversions would have been to convert the 126 Irish miles to 158 statute: that meant an increase to 12d Irish, equivalent to 11d sterling. So the reduction to 10d was illegal - but continued in use for over a year!

THE 1827 CHANGE In 1827 the Irish PO re-introduced the pre-1826 scale based on Irish miles but, as the currency had altered, this meant a net increase of about 18%. For some time I have been wondering when in 1827 the change was made. I have now established that it was in July, between the 5th and 24th. Has anyone covers from between those dates which will help to determine the change more precisely?

1827 CHANGES A cover bought at the MacDonnell Whyte sale on 11 June almost fixes the date of the reversion to pre-1826 rates. It reached Dublin on 9 July and was posted in Mountmellick, probably on Saturday the 7th, prepaid 6d whereas the rate up to 5 July was 5d.

Another interesting item at the sale was a cover of 1807 with a two-line
NEWMARKET in 5mm capitals.
ON FERGUS

There were several bursts of quite spirited bidding, one near the start for the collections, another for the postmarks 1922-25 and official stationery. Quite outstanding was £60 for 55 free election envelopes. I was gratified to find that Nos 75 to 191 of my Random Notes fetched £39!

G ? In the Dublin octagonal paid datestamps, single and double frame, current 1813 and 1832, I have seen letters A, B, C, D, E, F and H above PAID. It seems likely that G was also used. Can anyone confirm its existence?

NEW BOOK Collectors of Irish postal history material acquire many items to or from London, or which have passed through London. They will, therefore, be eager to acquire the latest volume of the British County Catalogue of Postal History by RM Willcocks and B Jay. It is Volume 3 and is devoted entirely to London up to 1840. The earliest letters listed are those from London to Venice before 1450 and the rarest Dockwra-Murray-Chamberlen Penny Post and Povey Halfpenny Carriage. There is a vast amount of detailed information not published hitherto, with splendid lists of Receivers and Receiving Houses and nearly 600 meticulously drawn illustrations. There is a 12-step scale of rarity from A with a current valuation under £5 to L signifying a worth of several thousand £s. The IPC is listed on the dustcover as one of the Postal History Societies. Published by RM Willcocks, 7 Shooters Hill Road, London SE3 7AR, price £15 + £1 postage and packing.

DUBLIN OFFICE NUMBERS Another complication. No 195 listed as being allocated to the Department of Industry and Commerce had, by 1971, been transferred to Orchardstown, an office opened in the 1960s.

A further addition to the list is No 299 = Radio Telefis Eireann and the label has a contracted town name "Baile A'Cliath". This means that collectors of the Dublin labels have at least nine different versions to look for:-

Blank	DUBLIN	Baile Atha Cliath
Dublin	DUBLIN (DN)	Baile Atha Cliath(DN)
Dublin (DN)	DN handstamped or written	Baile A'Cliath(DN)

HANDSTAMPED SLOGANS Letters sent by A.L.O.N.E. (a voluntary organisation for helping the aged) have two slogans handstamped - VISIT THE OLD LIVING ALONE in red and THE OLD FEEL THE COLD in purple.

BANK OF IRELAND The publicity for the 26p bicentenary stamp alleges that the main source of the design was James Malton's aquatint. This is grossly unjust to Malton. He was an expert in perspective and never drew a full frontal view. And, although not infallible, he would never have omitted the railings.

POSTMARK MISCELLANY

by O.M. Richards

CLANDEBOYE CAMP

One of the gaps in my small collection of Irish Camp postmarks was that of CLANDEBOYE CAMP which was in Co Down, to the east of Belfast.

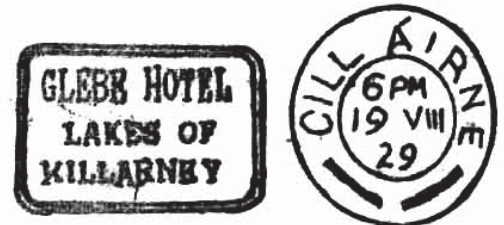
I was delighted to acquire a card of the hutted camp recently, the adhesive stamp was cancelled by the skeleton illustrated. This is one of only two such marks used in Northern Ireland during World War I, the other being SHANES PARK CAMP CO ANTRIM.



HOTEL CACHET

During a visit to the North East of England this summer, we found a shop in Seahouses which had cards for sale. The cards were nothing special but one of the Colleen Bawn Rock in the Lakes of Killarney caught my eye.

On the reverse was a strike in violet of the cachet illustrated. The adhesive stamp was cancelled by the double ring CILL AIRNE dated 19 August 1929.



RAF CACHET



An official registration cover dated 15 June 1942 posted from the RAF Station at Ballinderry to Swanage, Dorset has, in addition to the Station official stamp in dark violet, one of the large registration labels printed in light blue. The office of identification on the label is FPO 329. There are another two of this FPO stamp which have been overstruck by the double ring SWANAGE DORSET dated 18 June 1942.

UNDATED CIRCLE

Two covers of 1858, which I had been given some years ago, were posted at Rosegreen, Fethard, Co Tipperary to London. One posted in May 1858 has a variety of postmarks, these are ROSEGREEN undated circle, FETHARD 12 May 1858,

CLONMEL 12 May 1858, DUBLIN 13 May 1858 and, in red, LONDON 14 May 1858. In both cases the adhesive stamps are cancelled with a poor 106 (Cashel).



The cover of June 1858 has the following ROSEGREEN undated, CASHEL 4 June 1858, DUBLIN 5 June 1858 and a strike in red of the LONDON Cresswell machine, 7 June 1858.



PENNY POST

A "Free" Front dated Dublin June Twenty One 1830 and addressed to London was sent under the signature of ? Achinson. There is no "Free" Frank but a charge of 1d has been raised and the stamp TO PAY 1d ONLY has been struck in black.

*Chapelized
Penny Post*

Also italicized 'Chapelized Penny Post' again in black. The "To Pay" stamp was applied in London and is one of several small stamps used from about 1818, used in black and red.

TO PAY 1d ONLY

OFFICES OF EAST CLARE

by A.V. Cassidy

In Irish Philately March 1982, under Divided County Allegiances, Dr de Burca mentioned BROADFORD/ĀTH LEATHAN (not Bradford). Along with 17 other offices in East Clare - to the East of the L 11 Road from Cratloe (on the Ennis to Limerick Road) to Gort (in Co Galway) - Broadford is under Limerick. Some of these offices show Limerick in their cancels while others show their true county. However, there are one or two anomalies:-

ARDNACRUSHA	-	ĀRD NA CROISE/LUIMNEAC
BODYKE	-	LUBĀN DĪGDHE/CO AN CHLĀIR

BROADFORD	-	ÁTH LEATHAN/CO AN CHLÁIR
CAHER	-	CATHAIR/CO LUIMNIGH
CLONLARA	-	CLUAIN LÁRA/CO LUIMNIGH
DROMINDOORA	-	DROM AN DUBHSHRATHA
FEAKLE	-	FIACAIL/CO AN CHLÁIR
FLAGMOUNT	-	LEACA AN ÉADAIN LUIMNEACH
KILBANE	-	CILL BHÁIN CO LUIMNIGH
KILLALOE	-	CILL DALUA/CO AN CHLÁIR
KILMORE	-	CILL MHÓR CO AN CHLÁIR
MOUNTSHANNON	-	BAILE UÍ BHEOLÁIN/CO AN CHLÁIR
O'BRIENS BRIDGE	-	DROICHEAD UÍ BHRIAIN
O'CALLAGHANS MILLS	-	MUILEANN UÍ CHEALLACHÁIN
O GONNELLOE	-	TUATH Ó gCOINGHAILLA
SCARRIFF	-	SCAIRBH
TUAMGRANEY	-	TUAM GRÉINE LUIMNEACH
WHITEGATE	-	GEATA BÁIN LUIMNEACH

As can be seen, there are three Co Clare offices which have 'switched allegiance' from the 'Banner County', doubtless to confuse the postmark collector!

KILLALOE had a cancel in 1929 reading CILL DALUA/LUIMNEACH while SCARRIFF had a cancel in 1955 reading SCAIRBH/CO AN CHLÁIR.

Two offices further west of the L 11 come under Limerick:-

SHANNON (TOWN)	-	BAILE NA SIONAINNE
SHANNON AIRPORT	-	AERFORT NA SIONAINNE

The mail from these two offices passes within a few hundred yards of the aforementioned CRATLOE (under Ennis) halfway on its journey to Limerick.

SHANNON AIRPORT is the only office in Co Clare, apart from Ennis, to have a cancelling machine. However, it would appear that this is no longer in use (1982) and that Shannon Airport mail is taken direct to Limerick for cancellation. Can any member confirm this? Mackay, in his book "Irish Postmarks Since 1840", shows a 1979 hand cancel (No 1644) reading AERFORT NA SIONAINNE 1. My copies are without the "1". Can any member confirm the Mackay cancel?

On the subject of mail going direct to Limerick for cancellation, I believe that this is now happening with other offices of East Clare eg KILMORE. Again, can any member confirm?

There are also four County Clare offices under Galway with the following cancels:-

BALLYVAUGHAN	-	BAILE UÍ BEACÁIN GAILLIM
BEALACLUGGA/BELL HARBOUR	-	BEAL AN CHLOGA GAILLIMH
BURRIN	-	BOIREANN CO AN CHLÁIR
CRAGGAGH	-	CREAGACH GAILLIMH

Finally on the subject of Co Clare cancellations, can any member supply information on the offices/copies of cancellations for the following:- DOONAHA; DRUMGEELY (now Shannon Town?); KILLIMER; MURREIGH; RINEEN; SHANAHAE (SHANNAKEA?); TULLYERINE.

THE CANCELLING MACHINES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

by O.M. Richards

DUNGANNON CO TYRONE

I do not possess a single example of the Krag machine which was in use in Dungannon by 2 July 1949 (FED) and recorded as being in use to 11 May 1957. By 18 March 1958 a Universal machine had been issued to this office, Figure 31, a machine of this type is still in use.

Slogans are used regularly and have been seen in normal and transposed. The office also has a triangle die for use in the machine, I have only seen this used once as a backstamp on mail during the annual census in 1974, Figure 32.

I have not seen PAID or OFFICIAL PAID mail from this machine.

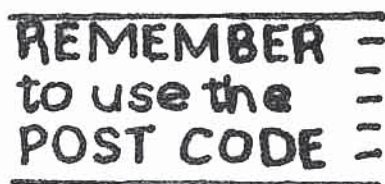


Figure 31



Figure 32

ENNISKILLEN CO FERMANAGH

A Krag type machine was in use in this office by 30 July 1940, my earliest example, Figure 33. It will be seen that the 'die' box is in four lines with five wavy lines. It was in use to 13 March 1957.

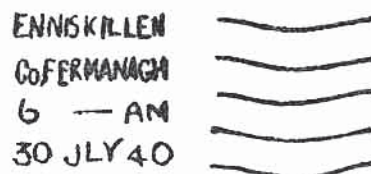
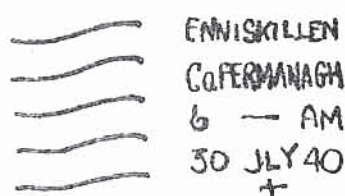


Figure 33

My earliest example of the Universal machine used in this office is for 28 August 1956, Figure 34. It will be seen that there was an overlap when both a Krag and a Universal machine was in use.

I have seen examples of PAID dies used in this machine, Figure 35, but as yet have not seen OFFICIAL PAID dies. Slogans are in regular use, both the normal and the transformed positions. The damage seen on the left hand side of the name and date die has been apparent from its use in August 1956.

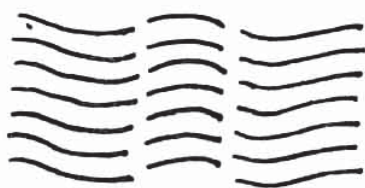


Figure 34

Figure 35

HOLYWOOD CO DOWN

From 23 December 1958 (FED) to 5 March 1974 (FED), a Krag machine was used in the office at Holywood, Co Down. Figure 36. A four line 'die' box was used with the usual five wavy lines. As will be noted, it was HOLYWOOD/BELFAST.



Figure 36

By 12 December 1961 a Universal machine was in use at this office (BPS), the die being inscribed HOLYWOOD BELFAST, Figure 37. By 1964 it was altered to HOLYWOOD CO DOWN. This second die was one of those with "squat" letters, a type issued to almost thirty offices. Holywood and Belfast A to D were the only ones in Northern Ireland, Figure 38.



Figure 37

Figure 38

I have not seen OFFICIAL PAID mail but PAID and segregated mail dies are used. Figure 39 and Figure 40.

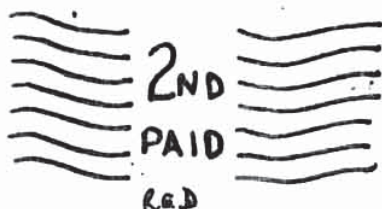


Figure 39



Figure 40

LARNE CO ANTRIM

The British Postmark Society record that a Krag machine was in use in Larne in the 1940s, Mr Dixon has an example dated 11 March 1957. I have not seen an example as yet.

The Universal machine was first used on 19 July 1957 (BPS), my own earliest example being for 9 March 1964, Figure 41.

I have not seen PAID or OFFICIAL PAID dies used in this machine. Slogans are used regularly, I have seen these only in the normal position, Figure 42.



Figure 41

Figure 42

LIMAVADY CO LONDONDERRY

The British Postmark Society records the use of a Krag machine at Limavady on 19 January 1958, Mr Dixon has an example dated 24 November 1965. I have not seen examples from this machine.

My earliest example of the Universal machine is for 8 March 1960, Figure 43. Slogans are used only in the normal position as far as I am aware. I have not seen PAID or OFFICIAL PAID dies.

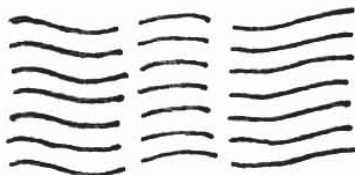


Figure 43

LISBURN CO ANTRIM

The earliest example of the Krag machine that I have is for 19 July 1941, Figure 44, and it was in use to at least 24 May 1966 (FED). It had a four line 'die' box with five wavy lines.

LISBURN
CO. ANTRIM
5 30 PM
19 JULY 41



LISBURN
CO. ANTRIM
5 30 PM
19 JULY 41



Figure 44

There is some unravelling to do as far as the use of machines in Lisburn is concerned. A letter from the Postmaster admitted they had no records and could not help in any way. As has been already written, the Krag machine was apparently in use from 1941, there are reports that this ceased to be used in 1945. I have an example dated 17 May 1945 and it is entirely reasonable to suppose that the machine was withdrawn as the volume of mail decreased at the end of the war (examples of the period 1945 to 1960 (FED) would cast some light on this minor mystery).

The British Postmark Society report a Universal machine in use by 3 October 1952, my own earliest example is for 10 September 1956, Figure 45. On 23 January 1962 (BPS) a new die was in use, this may be seen at Figure 46. It had arcs on either side and continued in use to 1980 when another new die was issued, Figure 47.



Figure 45



Figure 46

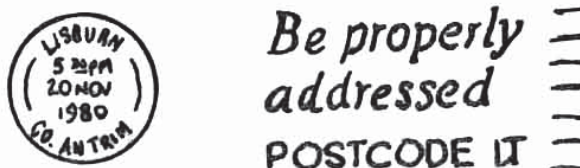


Figure 47

I have not seen OFFICIAL PAID dies but PAID dies are seen regularly. I have 2½d, 3d, 4d, 2nd PAID and one example where the moveable middle section of the wavy lines has not been replaced by 2nd PAID and therefore there is no indication as to the type of mail posted.

Slogans are in regular use and have been used in the normal and transposed positions.

ADDENDA - LARNE CO ANTRIM

Since I penned the details of the Larne machines, Alan Kane has sent to me a photocopy of a PAID die from Larne. This has posed yet another mystery. It is a square PAID die from a Universal machine, Figure 48.

I have already stated that the first use of a Universal machine is recorded as being 19 July 1957 (British Postmark Society), now we have an example from 1939, probably prior to the Krag machine.



Figure 48

Information on this and especially details of any other Universal machine marks from this period would be welcome both to me and to the British Postmark Society.

* * * * *

DUBLIN LETTERED MARKINGS 1808-1840

by F.E. Dixon

The "mermaid" datestamps introduced in 1808 sometimes had an identifying letter above the date and it is generally accepted that the letter identified the counter in the sorting office at which the item was processed. Although the use in datestamps continued only until 1832 the four-pointed star and the Late Mail stamps had them as late as 1840. The letters found are eight in number, A to H, corresponding with numbers 1 to 8 found with the *rhomboid datestamps of 1835-46.

There is one omission from my illustrations; the PAID mermaids also have the letters. The T.OFF and date crown are both really rare and I do not know of sufficient examples to confirm that they occur with all the letters.

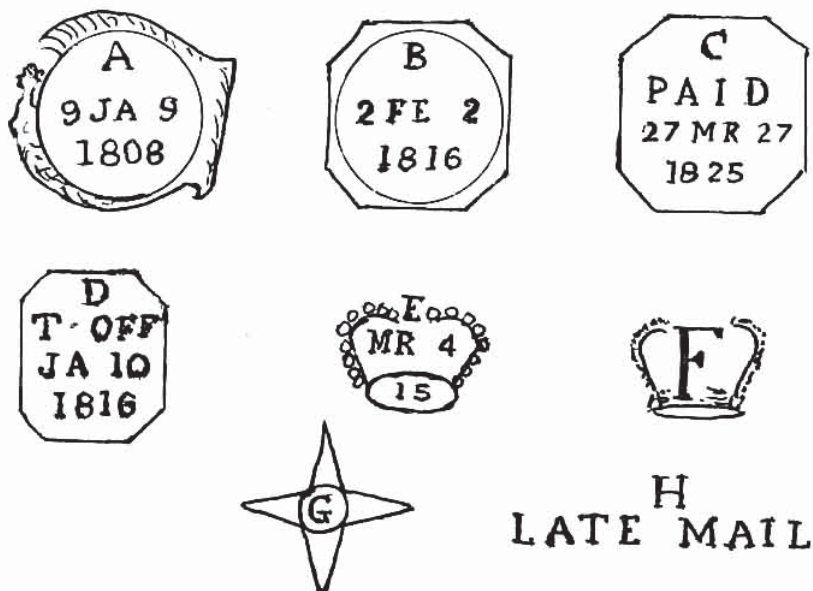
At one time I thought it would be possible to assign the different letters to particular mail routes. I was soon disillusioned and now believe that a bag of mail arriving in the office was probably dumped on whichever counter had least on it already. A batch of letters from Kildysart has examples of C, F and H but none of these was reserved for the western region: Drogheda mail bears B, C, F and H.

Going through my albums I found 200 covers with legible letters in their stamps. I am sufficient of a statistician to realise that there would not be 25 of each letter but expected a scatter - perhaps 18 to 32. Not so! F was the commonest with 43, followed by C 41, B 33, A 30, H 19, D 17, E 12 and G 5.

So wide a range needs explaining, especially G with only 20% of the average. Was it a spare table brought into use only at rush periods or did it happen to be the table furthest from the door? It is unlikely that we shall ever

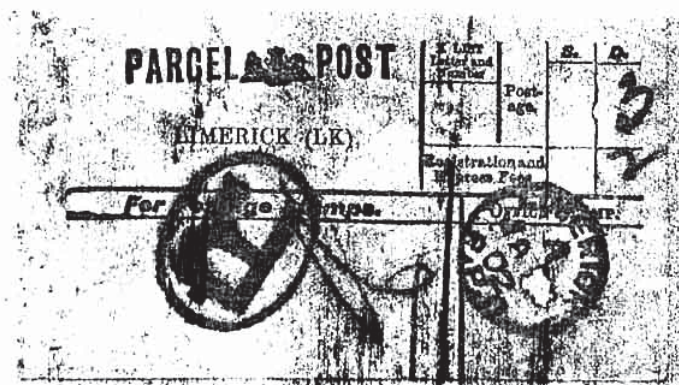
know but I hope that other collectors will help the census and report their findings.

Is it significant that, taken in pairs, the totals become quite a normal distribution? F+G 48, C+E 53, B+D 50 and A+H 49!!



- * "rhomboid" describes any shape of four equal sides: "diamond" can be used for the special case with the longer axis vertical but "lozenge" in its heraldic sense would be better.

INTERESTING ITEMS



One of the delightful Parcel Post labels in my collection has the LIMERICK PPO (Parcel Post Office) dated January ? 1902. Note the postage 3d and the registration fee 2d, value for money even in those far off days. The large 'R' is one of those stamps issued to almost every office which handled registered mail. Made of brass they lasted for a very long time.

Their use in smaller offices was limited but in the larger offices they must have been used daily. I was lucky enough to have one of these given to me many years ago.



A recent acquisition is the pictorial envelope illustrated above. Registered at College Green (note that at this time DUBLIN 1, page 72 Volume 1982 refers).

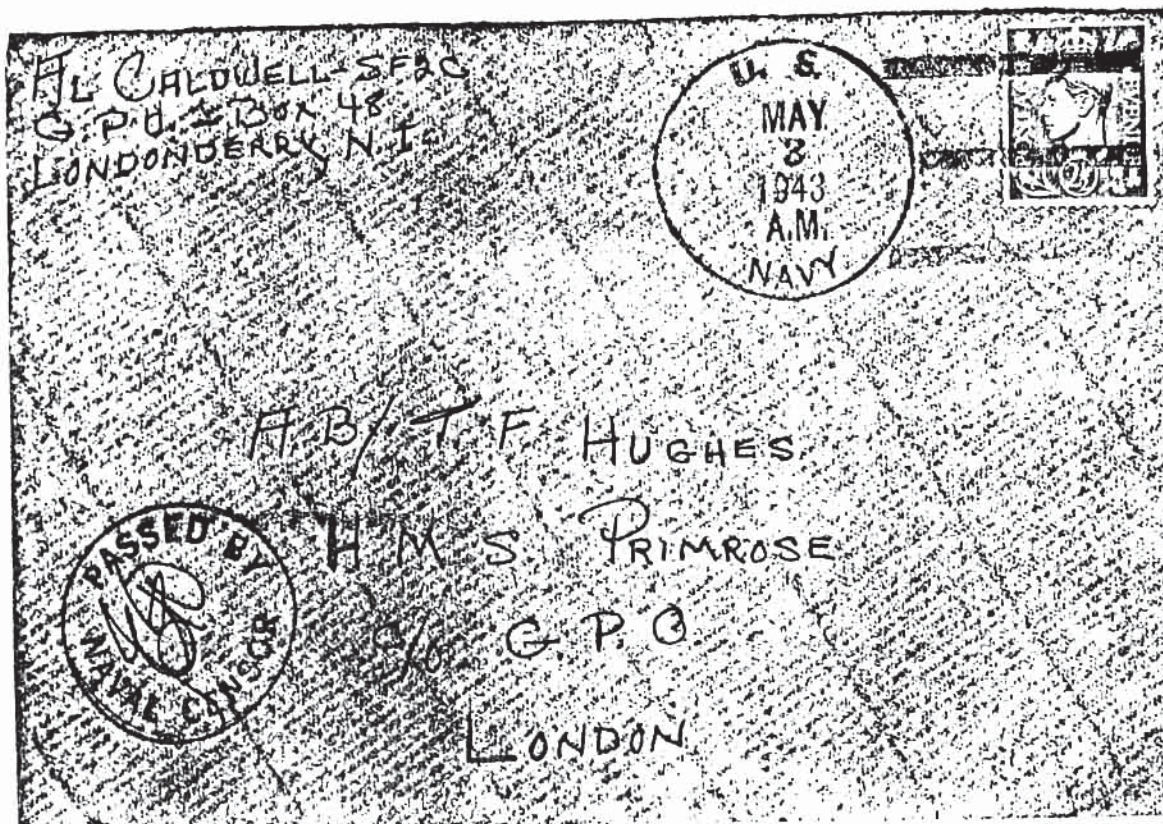
Addressed to London it has on the reverse these two stamps. (OMR)

US NAVY POST OFFICE LONDONDERRY

Member Alan Kane has sent me a photocopy of a cover from a member of the US Navy stationed at Londonderry addressed to an Able Seaman on HMS Primrose (a Flower Class Corvette).

As was usual at this time, and remembering my own experiences during my naval service in the last war, all mail was addressed C/O GPO London. The US Forces had many Post Offices in Great Britain during the war, mostly at Airfields with Army Units and a few Naval Units. The one on the cover is that used in Londonderry and is unusual for this type of stamp inasmuch that it is not

numbered, no doubt for security reasons which the senders address has negated!
The PASSED BY NAVAL CENSOR is of the type in general use.



EOLAI AN PHOIST 1982 - NORTHERN IRELAND

by J.A. Jennings

I have checked the 1982 edition of Eolai an Phoist and now continue my listing of New Offices and Closed Offices in Northern Ireland.

NEW OFFICES

Ballee, BALLYMENA, Co Antrim
BELFAST

28-32 Royal Avenue
Shaw's Road
St James' Park

Coolessan, LIMAVADY, Co Derry
DERRY

Creggan
Meenan Park

DOWNPATRICK, CO DOWN

Model Farm

Kilcooley, Bangor, Co Down
Knockmore, Lisburn, Co Antrim
Laurel Hill, Coleraine, Co Derry
Legahory, Craigavon, Co Armagh
LISBURN, CO ANTRIM

Knockmore

Mossley, Newtown Abbey, Co Antrim

CLOSED OFFICES

Aughafatten, Ballymena, Co Antrim
Ballinderry Upper, Lisburn, Co Antrim
Ballydugan, Downpatrick, Co Down
Ballyneaner, Strabane, Co Tyrone
Ballynease, Ballymena, Co Antrim
Ballysalough, Dromore, Co Down

BELFAST

Albert Bridge
Bridgend
Corporation Square
Court House
Divis Street
Durham Street
Great Victoria Street
Highfield

Boa Island, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh
Cairnvalley, Belfast
Derryanville, Portadown, Co Armagh
Downhill, Coleraine, Co Derry
Drumaney, Cookstown, Co Tyrone
Drumlea, Omagh, Co Tyrone
Dunadry, Muckamore, Co Antrim
Dunmoyle, Omagh, Co Tyrone
Fallaghloon, Maghera, Co Derry

Giant's Causeway, Bushmills, Co Antrim
Glassdrummond, Annalong, Newry, Co Down
Glenwherry, Ballymena, Co Antrim
Jonesborough, Newry, Co Down
Kilcronaghan, Magherafelt, Co Derry
Killeeshill, Dungannon, Co Tyrone
Killown, Newry, Co Down
Kilmore, Armagh
Kircubbin, Newtownards, Co Down
Knocknacarry, Ballymena, Co Antrim
Leggamaddy, Downpatrick, Co Down
Lislea, Armagh
Lislea, Ballymena, Co Antrim
Lisnastrea, Lisburn, Co Antrim
Lower Greenisland, Belfast
Milltown, Belfast
Minerstown, Downpatrick, Co Down
Parkhall, Antrim
Scaddy, Downpatrick, Co Down
Seaforde, Downpatrick, Co Down
Staffordstown, Randalstown, Co Antrim
Stragolan, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh
Thompson's Bridge, Enniskillen,
Co Fermanagh

I would be very grateful if members would advise me of any errors or additions to these listings.

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DUBLIN POST OFFICE NUMBERS

I refer to IP Volume 1982, pages 70 - 75, Dublin Post Office Numbers, and am grateful to members JI Mørch of Denmark and AV Cassidy of Milton Keynes who have filled in one or two gaps in the listings printed.

Both give 103 as Rathmines, Ivaar has this for 1975, 1977, 1980 and 1982. He has a query as to the identity of a datestamp on one of his covers, it is dated May 1980 and reads Oineilm B.A. Cliath. Can anyone help?

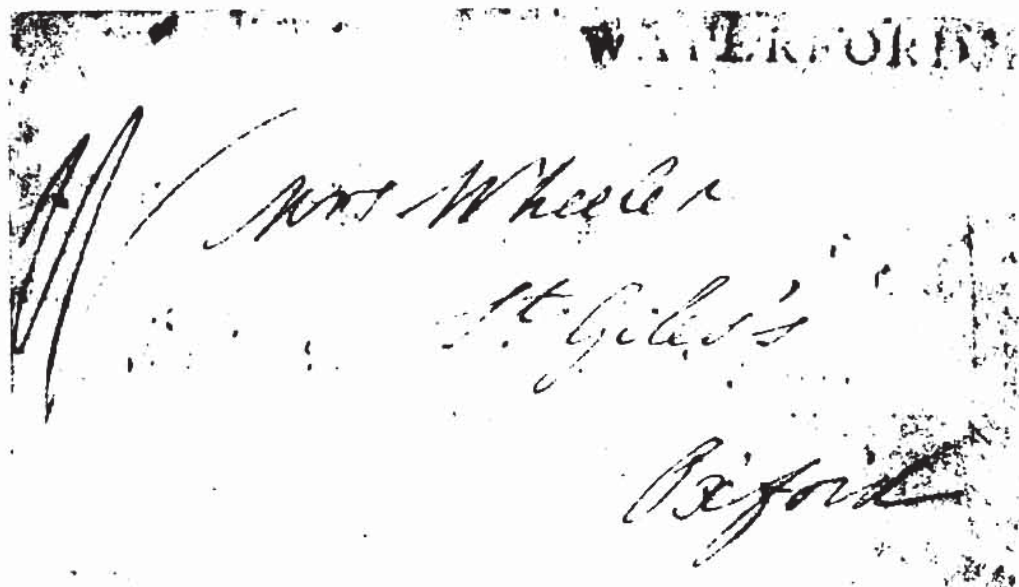
- | | |
|--------|---|
| DN 34 | Temporary label, Companies Registration Office. This is on an official paid cover addressed to Drogheda, there is no Dublin datestamp, the only stamp is a single ring DROICHEAD ATHA 7 September 1975. The cover has been redirected to West Germany |
| DN 100 | On first day of issue of registered envelopes from the Philatelic Bureau. |
| DN 215 | Finglas |

OMR

A LESSON IN POSTAL HISTORY

by F.E. Dixon

Many of the more interesting covers of the pre-adhesive era are attractive because of the multiplicity of postal markings, each requiring deciphering and explanation. In a few cases, however, it is the absence of markings which provide important clues.



The letter illustrated was written in Waterford on 16 July 1791 and the only markings are the straight-line WATERFORD and the charge mark for 1/-. There are no datestamps of Dublin or London such as occur on most letters of the period between Ireland and England.

The explanation is that the letter was sent via Milford Haven to Oxford. If sent by the other route the cost would have been 1/2 made up of 4d Waterford - Dublin, 6d Dublin - London and 4d London - Oxford whereas the 1/- charge comprises 6d Packet Fee plus 6d for Milford Haven to Oxford.

Although the 6d Packet Fee was in force from 1787 to 1801 (when it was cut to 2d) covers demonstrating it are hard to find.

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