

IRISH PHILATELY

JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

Edited by

O.M. RICHARDS

"Yr Hafan" 9 Yorke Avenue Marchwiel Wrexham Clwyd

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"Irish Philately"

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EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of Irish Philately in its new format. Members will be aware of the financial difficulties that are facing the Circle at the present time and for the need to consider ways and means to save expenditure. The consensus of opinion at the Annual General Meeting was that an attempt should be made to produce an acceptable Journal at a lesser cost than at present.

This issue of the Journal has been printed and distributed from Wrexham and I hope that the loose leaf format will be acceptable to the membership. Your views would be very much appreciated. Please write to me, let me know your opinions whether they be favourable or otherwise. Alternative suggestions for consideration would be most welcome too. Remember, the alternative would mean a sharp rise in the subscription rate.

This issue brings the first part of "Post Offices of County Sligo and their Datestamps", by our Canadian member, Jim Howley. I hope it will inspire other members to 'have a go'.

OM Richards

Letters to the Editor:

Dear Sir,

I am responding to your letter in the Dec 1983 IPC which was received today (9 April 1984). I totally agree with your comments and would be very disappointed if the IPC were to spend much time rehashing the current issues. My primary reason for joining this association was to read about postal history aspects of Irish philately. The only information about postage stamps which would be of interest to me are new finds or forgeries.

I would like to take this time and make a number of requests. I collect postal history by the numbers (diamond type). There is very little information available, especially from the US. I am aware of which diamond numbers have been found, I hope, but how rare are they? What makes a cover rare or common for this period, the cancellation, colour of the ink or the receiving house markings?

I do have five years of the IPC but very little information is found in these. Help to educate me and others about this apparent little known period of history. Most writings are before 1844 or after 1900.

Yours faithfully,

William C Cole

Dear Sir,

MY FIRST IPC AGM

There can be few of us who have not set out from home bound for a meeting - perhaps even an AGM in connection with our work or some organisation to which we belong. We approach many of these occasions with something akin to dread as we see stretching before us interminable hours of "points of order" and "points of information", usually from people whose only "point" is the sound of their own voice. None of these thoughts or forebodings clouded my mind as I set off for Chester though, as a relative newcomer to the IPC, I was somewhat apprehensive about meeting people I knew had forgotten more about Irish Philately than I could hope to learn, having come to the hobby rather late in life.

I needn't have worried. The help and advice I had received in letters in the months since I joined the Circle and the assurances of a warm welcome at Chester were amplified many times that weekend. From the first pre lunch "bevvy" to the farewell handshakes of Sunday evening, it was a weekend of convivial company, business conducted with care and good humour, fine exhibition items, a super auction, a good dinner together on Saturday evening - what more could one ask?

I should like to thank most sincerely all the members who attended for their welcome and friendship. To anyone who hasn't been to an IPC General Meeting I would say - "if you possibly can come to London next May, do - you won't be disappointed".

Yours faithfully,

Jim Madely

RANDOM NOTES

by F.E. Dixon

SLIGO INK The use of red ink in the Sligo machine continued to 24 November or later.

ST PATRICK'S DAY POSTCARDS More than 500,000 were sold on the day of issue but many were bought by the general public for use nearer 17 March. I predict that sets with 29 February cancellation will be quite rare. Even rarer are examples sold and posted on 28 February.

Also collectable are the cards with the green cachet of the Philatelic Bureau featuring a ring of shamrocks and the dates 29.2.84 - 16.3.84. The machine cancellation "HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY" does not look well on the cards as it impinges on the printed headings at left. Future issues could revive an American idea of 70 years ago - having a large space labelled "for postmark only".

ST PATRICK'S DAY IN USA My mail included two covers posted on St Patrick's Day, both with specially designed cancellations in bright green.



One was from Dublin, Ohio and the other from St Patrick's, Missouri

The latter cover has an extra cachet alleging that it is the only one in the world. It is not even the only one in the USA, there being another in Louisiana.

Elsewhere there is St Patrick Head in Tasmania, St Patrick's Isle off the Isle of Man and St Patrickswell in Co Limerick.



TREE STAMPS Although pleasant artistically, they are poor stamp designs. Each tree should have been shown as large as possible, in full leaf, in a natural setting with blue sky background. A complete write-up of the issue will have to include the press photograph of the artist, Wendy Walsh, planting a tree in O'Connell Street, opposite the GPO, to celebrate the occasion.

OFFICIAL FRANKS

Towards the end of 1983 the Department of the Taoiseach was using an unusual, simple style of frank or certifying stamp, unframed and with a harp rather larger than seemed necessary.



ROINN
AN
TAOISEACH

In 1984 it has been superseded by having the name printed on the envelope as "Oifig an Taoisigh/Office of the Taoiseach".

It is using a Pitney Bowes metering machine with No T 190 1K.

REGISTRATION LABELS

No 288 = Bayside Shopping Centre, Sutton, in Irish COIS BÁ.
Most labels have the name in one line unless it is very long.
An exception is CASTLE-
KNOCK

No 162 has been seen on an envelope notifying a motorist of the result of his breathalyser test. (No, it wasn't me!) without an office datestamp. Only a weak impression of a certifying stamp with the name of the unit in Irish. I hope to get another example with a better impression.

BELFAST LATE MAIL



LATE
MAIL

A remarkable feature of Belfast postmarks is the large number of different handstamps used for TOO LATE, LATE MAIL etc.

One type I think peculiar to Belfast is a duplex found during the period 1869 - 71.

Can anyone add earlier or later dates?

TELEVISION LICENCE SAVINGS STAMPS

John Lennon found examples of a £1 stamp postally used which we had not seen before. Investigation found it to be available in post offices for affixing in special savings books for use when paying one's television licence fee (now £27 for black-and-white or £45 for colour). There is a 50p value which I have not yet seen.

UN-MOUNTED MINT

by W. Kane

"To be or not to be" is an often used quotation but, to the present day philatelist, the question most often asked is:- "Are the stamps mint or are they un-mounted mint?". Today the gum on the stamp is of paramount importance but I often wonder why so many collectors spend so much money just to have their stamps with the gum in pristine condition. The majority of people only look at the face of the stamp, to them the gum is there for the purpose of affixing the stamp to the envelope.

When I started to collect stamps, the only way to exhibit your collection was to

hinge the stamp to the album page. I often reflect on the thousands of valuable mint stamps I have seen exhibited in this way over the years. This raises the question - 'Who are the sane people?'.

I was motivated to pen these lines after recently reading an advertisement in one of the British stamp journals which stated 'STAMP RESTORATION'. Of course I was interested and wrote for details which were received in due course. These informed me that I could have my hinged mint stamps regummed for the sum of 75 pence sterling per stamp. This gentleman could also provide other services such as repairs to tears or thins, re-perforations and the removal of stains. In other words, he could restore my stamps to the pristine condition that is required by the present day philatelist and all for a modest outlay.

Last year a friend of mine was in New York and one day he came across a stamp dealers shop, in the window he saw a set of high value stamps which he required. Into the shop he went and asked to inspect the stamps, on examination he found they were hinged and stated that he wanted them in un-mounted mint condition. To his surprise, the dealer said that was no problem if he was prepared to pay a few extra dollars and wait for a couple of days. The dealer told him that he could remove the hinge marks and redistribute the gum. When my friend called back later to collect the stamps he could not believe they were the same ones that he had examined a few days earlier. Here we have the case of a fairly honest dealer.

So much for the expertise of the restorer but this raises the question of the present day differential in price between hinged and never hinged stamps. Surely there is now justification for reconsideration of this issue by dealers. Or, perhaps the present situation is in favour of the collector who can buy his stamps at the lower figure and have them treated for the removal of the hinged marks and the original gum redistributed.

There were restorers in Germany ten years ago who, over the years, have become very expert in their business of removing hinge marks, regumming and re-perforating stamps, plus repairing thins and tears together with repairs to short perfs etc. Because of this fact it now takes an experienced eye to detect the alterations.

In 1979, I remember reading in an Australian philatelic magazine how much they were concerned by the fact that a gentleman had set up business as a stamp restorer in Sydney.

Another thought, perhaps it will not be long before stamp auctioneers descriptions in their auction catalogues will use comments such as:- 'Re-gummed', 'Perfs Restored', 'Restored Thin On Reverse' and other such comments!

Here we have much food for thought, it might be interesting to have the views of readers on this topic.

* * * * *

IRISH POST OFFICE PENSIONS IN 1810

by F.E. Dixon

It is well known that the Irish Post Office during its independence from the British Post Office 1784 - 1831 was corrupt and that successive Secretaries, Sir John Lees and his son Edward, were able to wangle favours for friends and relatives. Some of the details are included in a fascinating book "Le Livre Rouge or Red Book" by PF M'Callum, listing the pensions and other emoluments paid out of public funds in England, Scotland and Ireland. Mine is the 5th edition, 1810.

A LIST OF OFFICES GRANTED IN REVERSION INCLUDES

Comptroller of the Port of Cork, Harcourt Lees and John Lees Esqs on the death or surrender &c of Sir John Lees, bart. for their Lives. Appointed per patent, dated 29th October 1794. £800 exclusive of fees.

Searcher of the Port of Wexford, Townsend Lees and Thomas Orde Lees, esqs on the death of Sir John Lees bart. for their Lives. Per patent 7th August 1798. Amount not specified.

PENSIONS, ALLOWANCES AND SUPERANNUATION CHARGED ON AND PAYABLE OUT OF THE REVENUES OF THE POST OFFICE

William Fortescue, late Resident Surveyor	£370
Elizabeth Masters, late Deputy of Belfast	80
John Palmer, late Inspector of Franks	55
Mathew Conolly, late Messenger	10
Henry Harrison, Clerk of the Connaught Road	85
Peter Alma, late Clerk of Dead Letters	70
Mary Bond, widow of Thomas Bond, late Chief Clerk of the Penny Post	20
Elizabeth Boswell, widow of Alexander Boswell, late Clerk of the North Road	20
Honora Storin, widow of John Storin	10
George Holdcroft, late Deputy Postmaster of Kells	52
James Twigg, Inspector of Franks	30
P. Thomson, per Warrant 1796 and 1800	100

Compensation for their loss in being deprived of their privilege of circulating British newspapers:

John Lees, during life of John Walcott, late Secretary	£162	10s
James Twigg, Clerk of the Connaught Road	27	
William Maturin, Clerk of the Munster Road	84	
Trever Hill, Clerk of North Road	28	
Richard Clerk, acting Clerk, Munster Road	88	
R.S. Williamson, First Assistant	44	

OFFICES EXECUTED BY DEPUTY

Treasurer, William Forward	£500
Accountant General, Henry Stewart	369

Comptroller of Sorting Office, Jackson Golding, partly by deputy	£250
Resident Surveyor and Comptroller of the Bye Letter Office, H.A. Burke, by patent during pleasure	319
Deputy Postmaster of Cork, H. Fortescue	613

* * * * *

IRISH RAILWAY STATION OFFICES

by Dr A.M. Goodbody

I have recently acquired a copy of pages 390 and 391 of the Irish Post Office Guide for 1929-30. These pages contain a list of railway station offices, which come together in the main list of post offices as they all begin with the word "Stáisiún". I have also acquired a copy of the relevant page (513) of the 1950 list as well as some manuscript note on the 1959 and 1969 lists.

The 1929-30 list contains the names of 56 station offices. Of these, only ten are missing from the 1950 list but six new ones have been added, a net loss of four, leaving 52 names. Most of the station offices disappeared during the 1950s and the 1959 and 1969 lists contain but four names each although, surprisingly, not the same four. A composite list is reproduced below, giving English equivalents in most cases, also the dates of the lists on which the entries appear, indicated by 30, 50, 59 and 69 as appropriate. Mallow and Port Laoise changed their spelling between 1930 and 1950.

That the list is not complete is clear from the absence of Straffan and Greenisland. However, it may well contain all those offices which had datestamps inscribed in Irish.

The small selection of illustrations should be self-explanatory. The first three single circle marks date from before independence but the other three marks inscribed in English - Greenisland Stn. S.O/Co. Antrim, Youghal Rail and Portarlinton Rail were almost certainly made after independence. Dundalk used a variety of double circle types Stáisiún Dealgan O.S as well as a skeleton, which Portarlinton introduced a single circle type inscribed Stáisiún/Chúil an Súdair.

It would be most interesting to know whether readers have other types and whether the list can be extended.

Acknowledgements

I am most grateful to Messrs Michael Leonard and Patrick Williams for the provision of material and information.

LIST OF IRISH RAILWAY STATION OFFICES REPRODUCED FROM THE IRISH POST OFFICE GUIDES OF 1929 - 30, 1950 AND 1969

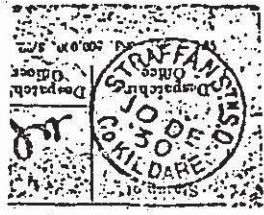
Stn Aonach Urmhumhan	Nenagh Stn	30	50	
Stn Áth Diomáin	Attymon Stn	30	50	
Stn Áth Luain	Athlone Stn	30	50	69

Stn Bhaile an Chairthe	Ballycarry Stn	50	59	69
Stn Bhaile an Ghráin	Ballingrane Stn	30	50	
Stn Bhaile an tSrutháin	Streamstown Stn	30		
Stn Bhéal Átha na Sluagh	Ballinasloe Stn	30	50	
Stn Bhiorra	Birr Stn	30		
Stn Bhrl Chuaíann	Bray Stn	30		
Stn Charraig na Siúire	Carrick-on-Suir Stn	30	50	
Stn Chathair Dhúin lasgaigh	Cahir Stn	30	50	
Stn Cheatharlach	Carlow Stn	30	50	
Stn Chill Áirne	Killarney Stn	30	50	
Stn Chill Choinnigh	Kilkenny Stn	30	50	
Stn Chill Dara	Kildare Stn	30	50	
Stn Chill Fionntan	Sutton Stn	30		
Stn Chill Lagáin	Killagan Stn		50	
Stn Chill Mhantáin	Wicklow Stn	30		
Stn Chill Mocheallóg	Kilmallock Stn	30	50	
Stn Chill na Mullach	Buttevant Stn	30	50	
Stn Chill Orglan	Killorglin Stn	30	50	
Stn Chluain Eois	Clones Stn	30	50	
Stn Chluain Meala	Clonmel Stn	30	50	
Stn Chnoc Luinge	Knocklong Stn	30	50	
Stn Chóbh	Cóbh Stn	30	50	
Stn Chorcaighe	Cork Stn	30	50	59 69
Stn Chúil an tSúdaire	Portarlinton Stn	30	50	
Stn Dhúin Diarmuda	Glarryford Stn		50	
Stn Droichead an Ríogh, Ath Cliath	Kingsbridge R.S. Dublin	30	50	59
Stn Droichead Átha	Drogheda Stn	30	50	
Stn Droich Bruach Fheargusa	Limavady Junction Stn		50	
Stn Droichead Nua	Droichead Nua Stn	30	50	
Stn Droma Sumhaigh	Cookstown Junction Stn		50	
Stn Dún Dealgan	Dundalk Stn	30	50	
Stn Dúrlas Éile	Thurles Stn	30	50	
Stn Eochaille	Youghal Stn	30	50	
Stn Fhearann Fuar	Farranfore Stn	30	50	
Stn Ghaibhle Magh Maighin	Macmine Junction Stn	30		
Stn Chráinseach Ailt an Chaistín	St Johnston Stn	30		
Stn Inis	Ennis Stn	30	50	
Stn Inis Córthaidh	Enniscorthy Stn	30		
Stn Inse Chaoir, Áth Cliath	Inchicore R.S. Dublin	30	50	
Stn Lann Abhaigh	Glanavy Stn		50	
Stn Luimnigh	Limerick Stn	30	50	
Stn Mhagh Ealla (or Mhala)	Mallow Stn	30	50	
Stn Mhainistir Fhear Muighe	Fermoy Stn	30	50	
Stn Mhainistir na Coran	Midleton Stn	30	50	
Stn Mhuileann Cearr	Mullingar Stn	30	50	59
Stn Mhuineacháin	Monaghan Stn	30	50	
Stn Mhuine Bheag	Muine Bheag Stn	30	50	
Stn na Cloiche Leithne Ath Cliath	Broadstone R.S. Dublin	30		
Stn Phort Láirge	Waterford Stn	30	50	69
Stn Phort Laoighise (or Laoise)	Port Laoise Stn	30	50	
Stn Raedh na Niartharach Áth Cliath	Westland Row R.S. Dublin	30	50	
Stn Ráth Luirc	Ráth Luirc Stn	30	50	
Stn Ros Cré	Roscrea Stn	30	50	
Stn Shaileáin	Sallins Stn	30		
Stn Sráid Amiens, Áth Cliath	Amiens St R.S. Dublin	30	50	
Stn Teampall Mór	Templemore Stn	30	50	

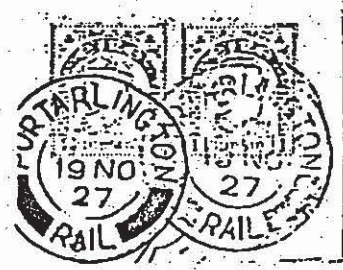
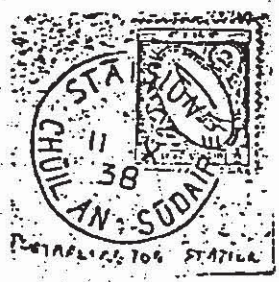
Stn Tiobrad Árann
 Stn Traighli
 Stn Tulach Mhór

Tipperary Stn
 Tralee Stn
 Tullamore Stn

30 50
 30 50
 30 50



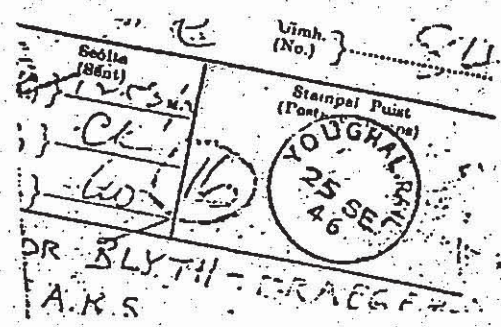
Single Circle Marks from Straffan and Greenisland



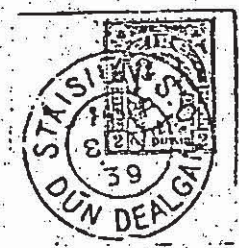
Portarlington Stn.

Portarlington Rail
 Double Circle mark

Dundalk Station
 Skeleton



Youghal Rail single circle
 mark used on telegraph form



Dundalk Station Double Circle Marks Inscribed in Irish

PENNY POST DAY 3 JANUARY 1984

by J. Mooney

Many members will know all about or at least have heard something about Penny Post Day. Because of the holiday atmosphere of the occasion the experiences of individuals may differ considerably. In what follows I have set out one person's experience - my own - and it is not in any way definitive.

For those members still unfamiliar with Penny Post Day, it is necessary to state very briefly that this was a promotion to mark both the two hundredth anniversary of the Post Office in Ireland and the devolving of responsibility for postal services from the Department of Posts and Telegraphs to An Post - a semi-state body. The concept was that the rate of postage of hand-written letters posted on Tuesday, 3 January 1984, the first working day of the New Year, would be one penny - a considerable saving on the normal rate of twentysix pence. Bulk postings were prohibited (although it is not clear how this would be effective in city areas) and a further condition was that the mail must be addressed to Ireland. This condition was to cause confusion.

It is of some significance that the first Chairman of An Post, Feargal Quinn, is associated with a leading supermarket chain. The promotion was, therefore, in the nature of a loss leader.

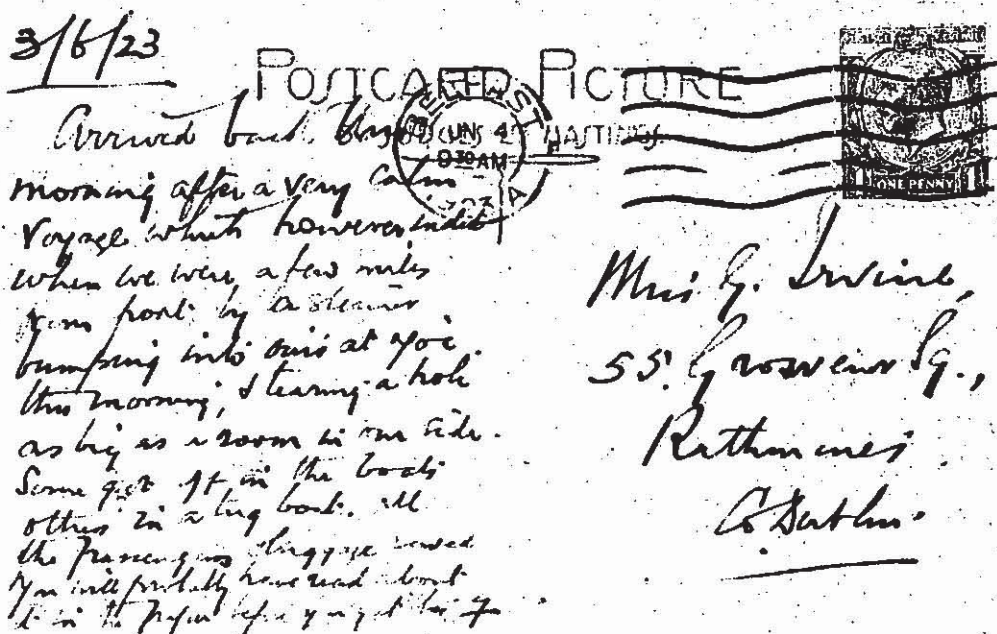
The first indication I had of Penny Post Day was through the unlikely medium of RTE, television's New Year Variety Show (31 December/1 January). The presenter, in an aside, mentioned the promotion and this was confirmed immediately after in the Close-down News Bulletin. Unfortunately there was some ambiguity in the announcements. One (I forget which) stated that letters should be sent to "Irish Addresses" while the other announcement was that letters be addressed "within the State". What of an Irish address outside the State - N. Ireland?

After some initial panic in trying to find a telephone number, I managed to contact a friend in Dun Laoghaire who kindly agreed to send a letter to my home in Northern Ireland. I am happy to say it arrived without surcharge on Wednesday, 4 January. I had, however, placed an "each way bet" and arranged for a cover to be sent to me C/O the Dun Laoghaire address which was duly forwarded. The covers are extremely ordinary but are the cheapest philatelic souvenirs I am ever likely to obtain.

The application of Penny Post Day will have varied in different parts of the country due, in the most part, to the unique nature of the occasion and the prevailing post - Christmas spirit. I am sure that there were letters and cards sent to Britain, either by accident or by sorters turning a blind eye. Some collectors may feel that any anomalies are worthy subjects for study but my feeling is that this defeats the whole object of the promotion which was, after all, an extremely welcome gesture of goodwill to the Irish public. However important the philatelic market, the Post Office does not exist for the benefit of collectors. It is too easy to be cynical about the promotion. It has pointed out that many of the letters sent at the penny rate obligated the recipients to reply - at the twentysix pence rate. Undoubtedly the publicity succeeded in bringing across the "change of ownership", "fresh start" impression to the public. No doubt many collectors will cross swords with An Post in the years ahead but nothing can detract from its very impressive start.

ALWAYS READ THE BACK OF YOUR POSTCARDS

by O.M. Richards



I never cease to be amazed by the unusual uses of postcards in days gone by, what I mean is that one can pick up a nicely used Irish card only to be disappointed when the adhesive stamp is cancelled by the machine cancel of say Bournemouth. People seemed to buy cards as souvenirs and when one was needed in a hurry they picked up the first that came to hand.

I bought a nice Judges card of Llyn Dinas in North Wales for, as I remember, 10p. On turning it over when I reached home, I found it had been cancelled by a double ring BELFAST Hey Dolphin machine and was dated 4 June 1923. The message reads:-

"Arrived back this morning after a very calm voyage which however ended when we were a few miles from port by a steamer bumping into ours at 7 o'clock this morning, tearing a hole as big as a room in our side. Some got off in the boats others in a tug boat. All the passengers and luggage saved. You will probably have read about it in the paper before you get this. F."

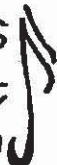
A little research revealed that the vessel concerned was the TSS GRAPHIC built by Harland and Wolff in Belfast in 1906. She spent 23 years on the Liverpool - Belfast service except for a few months in 1920 when she was on the Belfast - Ardrossan daylight service. She already had a narrow escape in the war of 1914-18 when she encountered a German submarine on the surface. By a judicious use of smoke and speed she escaped.

On the night of 13 June 1923, she sailed from Liverpool on her normal overnight voyage to Belfast and about seven o'clock the following morning, in hazy

conditions off Holywood, she was involved in a collision with the American vessel BALSAM. No lives were lost but the position of the sunken vessel in the Victoria Channel made navigation difficult. She was refloated and towed to her builders for repairs and continued in service after an extensive overhaul, being renamed Lady Munster and transferring to the Dublin - Liverpool service of the B & I SP Co.

She continued on this service until 1938 when she was displaced by the Munster and Leinster. Another change of name to Louth and at the end of the 1939-45 war a return to the Liverpool - Belfast service with yet another change of name to Ulster Duke. In 1951 she was withdrawn from service and on 8 March that year she left the Mersey, under tow, for Spezia and the breakers yard. However, she cheated the ship-breakers for, a few days after leaving the Mersey, she foundered and sank in the Bay of Biscay. This was a fitting end to a vessel that had given fortyfive years of service to the Irish Sea Services.

**ARTS
FESTIVAL
GALWAY**
April 22 - May 1



MOSNEY HOLIDAYS
-BOOK NOW-

fáilte
JULY & AUGUST
 **TAIBHDHEARC** NA CHILLIUNE
CLUB NA GAEILGE

MOSNEY
•TRADE SHOWS•
•CONFERENCES•
•EXHIBITIONS•

**Lovely
LEITRICK
FOR HOLIDAYS**



**TIPPERARY
IT'S
NOT
A LONG WAY**

**THINK
TIDY**



UNITED NATIONS

**24-31 OCTOBER
DISARMAMENT WEEK**

**JOIN GALWAY'S
500 CELEBRATIONS
IN 1984**

**POST EARLY
FOR
CHRISTMAS**

Thanks to John Lennon and Brian Warren I am able to illustrate the new slogans which came into use in 1983.

These are listed on pages 10 and 11 of IP Volume 1984 in the article:-
"That Was The Year That Was".

The following is the letter from a Kerryman's mother referred to in the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Chester this year. This was read to the members by the Chairman, Edwin Davey, when he closed the meeting.

Dear Son,

Just a few lines to let you know I'm still alive. I'm writing this letter slowly because I know you can't read fast. You won't know the house when you get home -- we've moved.

About your father -- he has a lovely new job. He has 500 men under him. He cuts the grass at the cemetery.

There was a washing machine at the new house when we moved in but it hasn't been working too good. Last week I put in 14 shirts, pulled the chain, and haven't seen the shirts since.

Your sister Mary had a baby this morning but I haven't found out whether it's a boy or girl so I don't know if you are an aunt or an uncle.

Your Uncle Patrick drowned last week in a vat of Whiskey in the Dublin Brewery. Some of his workmates tried to save him but he fought them off bravely. They cremated him and it took three days to put out the fire.

I went to the doctor on Thursday and your father went with me. The doctor put a small tube in my mouth and told me not to talk for ten minutes. Your father offered to buy it from him.

It only rained twice this week -- first for three days and then for four days. Monday was so windy that one of the hens laid the same egg four times. We had a letter from the undertaker. He said if the last payment on your grandmother's funeral wasn't paid in seven days, up she comes.

Your loving mother

XXX

P.S. I was going to send you five pounds but I had already sealed the envelope.

NOT - CALLED - FOR

by F.E. Dixon

Although overlooked in the Feldman & Kane handbook, the Dublin version of NOT CALLED FOR was mentioned in one of the supplements to Alcock & Holland - who had a London example in their original book.

My example is on a letter from Dervock to Dublin of 1842. After holding it for nearly two months the Post Office added the NOT CALLED FOR and wrote "Try Belfast". In Belfast a smudgy "Redirected at Belfast" was added and the addressee's Dublin address written. I have the addressee's reply in which he expresses surprise as he had received many other letters with no other address than "Dublin" which had been delivered and not held in the Post Office.

POST OFFICES OF COUNTY SLIGO AND THEIR DATESTAMPS

by J.T. Howley

Visitors to rural Ireland may be amazed at the multiplicity of Post Offices in thinly populated areas; some in tiny shops, some in isolated farmhouses, many quite difficult even to find. County Sligo is no exception.

In this essay I have undertaken to identify and locate the Post Offices of County Sligo and to list their various postmarks and the dates of their usage. I make no claim to completeness. In composing this article I had the valued assistance of the Chief Postmaster of Sligo, of Edwin Davey and Brian de Burca, and in particular of Eugene Labluk.

The accompanying illustrations show the main types of postmarks, in roughly chronological order, thereby indicating the gradual evolution of the modern-day type of postmark in Gaelic.

Figures 1 - 3	English single-circle.
Figures 4 - 7	English double-circle.
Figures 8 - 11	English "Skeletons".
Figure 12	English Temporary Rubber Datestamps.
Figures 13 - 16	Gaelic "Skeletons".
Figure 17	Gaelic Temporary Rubber Datestamps.
Figures 18 - 20	Gaelic double-circle.
Figures 21 - 23	Gaelic single-circle.

Note: "Skeletons" are usually made up in metal but in a few cases they were made of rubber.

SLIGO 1 ABHAINN BHEAG; AN ABHAINN BHEAG (1977)* Owenbeg

On Route L150, 12 miles NE of Ballina, Co Mayo (of which it was originally a sub-office).

Figure 13b Sep 28.
Variety of Figure 14 Nov - Dec 29.
Variety of Figure 20 (no aspirates) IV 32 to date.

SLIGO 2 ACHADH CHONAIRE; ACHADH CONAIRE (1977)* Achonry

On a country road about 7 miles west of Ballymote.

Figure 14a Jun 29 - Sep 30.
Variety of Figure 15 Jly 32 - Feb 33.
Variety of Figure 15 (serifed letters) Dec 38.

SLIGO 3 AN MULLACH MOR Mullaghmore

On the Atlantic Coast, just south of Bundoran, Co Donegal.

Variety of Figure 15 34mm diam, name serifed) Mch 48.
Variety of Figure 20 (no aspirates) IV 48 - VI 64.
Similar to Figure 23a 1968 to date.

SLIGO 4 ATH CLAIR; ATH AN CLAIR (1977)* Aclare

On a country road on the SW slopes of the Ox Mountains, about 12 miles east of Ballina, Co Mayo.

Figure 7 Apr 22 - Jan 23.

Figure 23 ? 23 - Jan 53.

Variety of Figure 23a (long arc) 1964 to date.

SLIGO 5 BAILE AN DUIN Ballindoon

On the north shore of Lough Arrow, 8 miles north of Boyle, Co Roscommon.

Figure 9 Dec 22.

Variety of Figure 14 Apr 30.

Figure 23a Jan 60 to date.

SLIGO 6 BAILE AN MHOTA Ballymote

Fairly large village, centrally located on Route L11.

Figure 5 May 22.

Figure 8a Aug - Dec 22.

Variety of Figure 3 (larger letters) Jan 23 - May 53.

Variety of Figure 20 (no aspirates) May 23 - Jly 23

Variety of Figure 20 (no aspirates) III 27 - VIII 29.

As above with dashes at sides 1927 - 1940.

Figure 19a XI 47 - II 69.

Figure 21 V 66 to date.

SLIGO 7 BAILE AN PHUILL; BAILE AN PHOILL (1977)* Ballinfull

On a country road between Carney and Cloghboley, 8 miles NW of Sligo.

Variety of Figure 1 (no time) Jan 30 - Feb 51.

Variety of Figure 20 (no aspirates) IX 38 to date.

SLIGO 8 BAILE AN TOCHAIR Ballintogher

On a country road near the Leitrim border, 5 miles SW of Dromahair, Co Leitrim.

Figure 2 Oct 22 - Jan 23.

Figure 19 IX 38 - XI 72.

SLIGO 9 BAILE AN TREILIC; BEAL ATHA AN TRI LIAG (1977)* Ballintrillick

On a country road in the NE corner of the county, near the border of Co Leitrim.

Figure 9a Dec 22 - Oct 29.

Variety of Figure 14 (serifed letters) Mar 40.

Variety of Figure 21 1966.

SLIGO 10BAILE EASA DARABallisodare

On Route T40, 5 miles south of Sligo.

Figure 1 Mar 22 - Nov 27

Variety of Figure 20a (aspirated letters) II 29 - VIII 81.

SLIGO 11BAILE IDIR DHA ABHAINNRiverstown

On a country road between Routes N4 and L3, 5 miles north of Lough Arrow.

Variety of Figure 2 Nov 22 - Aug 29.

Variety of Figure 20 (no time, no aspirates, 'Baile' contracted to B'1) X 31 - VIII 75.

Variety of Figure 23a (short dash instead of arc, Baile contracted) VII 80.

SLIGO 12BAILE NA CEATHRAMHA;BAILE NA CORA (1977)*Ballinacarrow

On Route N17, 6 miles SW of Collooney.

Variety of Figure 9a (D.O. serified) Nov 28.

Variety of Figure 15 Jul - Dec 32.

Variety of Figure 21 XII 64 to date.

SLIGO 13BAILE UI DHALAIGHBallygawley

On Route L3, south of Sligo.

Variety of Figure 9a (D.O. serified) Oct 22 - Mar 28.

Variety of Figure 16 (small letters) Oct 28 - Oct 29.

Variety of Figure 15 Dec 31 - Jul 33.

Variety of Figure 15 (serified letters) Mar 36 - Aug 38.

Figure 23a XII 66 to date.

SLIGO 14BEAL AN ATHA FADABallinafad

Just north of Boyle, Co Roscommon, at the SW corner of Lough Arrow.

Figure 2 Sep 28.

Variety of Figure 21 (no arc) VII 58 - VIII 78.

SLIGO 15CAIRRGINI (1922-1923); BEAL ATHA NA gCAIRRGINI;BEAL ATHA NA gCARRAIGINI (1977)* Castlebaldwin

About 8 miles north of Boyle, Co Roscommon, on Route N4.

Figure 9a Oct 22 - Jan 23.

Figure 14d Jun 28 - Apr 32.

Variety of Figure 22a XII 54 to date.

SLIGO 16BEAL TRAGHA; BEAL TRA (1977)* Beltra

7 miles west of Ballisodare, on Route L150.

Figure 2a Oct - Dec 22.

Variety of Figure 2a (no time) Jun - Sep 26.

Variety of Figure 18a (no time, two arcs) VII 28 to date.

SLIGO 17BREACHMHAIGH; BREACHMAIGH (1977)* Breaghwy

On a country road between Ballinfull and Grange, about 10 miles NW of Sligo.

Variety of Figure 1 (no time) Dec 22.

Variety of Figure 14 Oct 29.

Figure 23a I 57 - I 71.

Figure 13b Feb 72.

Variety of Figure 22a (no star) XII 83 (1977 spelling).

SLIGO 18BUN AN FHEADAIN Bunanadden

Small hamlet SW of Ballymote on Route L151.

Figure 3 Aug 16 - Mar 26.

Variety of Figure 13 (no index or time) Aug - Sep 28.

Variety of Figure 18a (no time) I 29 to date.

SLIGO 19CAISEAL AN GHARRAIN; CAISEAL AN GHEARRAIN (1977)* Castlegarren

North of Sligo on Route N15.

Figure 9a Mar 22 - Aug 32.

Variety of Figure 21 II 69 - XII 70.

SLIGO 19ACAISLEAN CONCHUBHAIR Castleconnor

Tiny village barely north of the border of Co Mayo, on Killala Bay. This office was closed sometime after 1937.

Figure 9a Oct - Dec 22.

Variety of Figure 14 Mar - Sep 29.

Figure 18a IX 32.

SLIGO 20CAISLEAN GEAL; CAISLE GEALA (1977)* Castlegal

Just south of the border of Co Donegal on Route N15.

Variety of Figure 1 Oct 22 - Jan 23.

Variety of Figure 1 (no time) Nov 26 - Apr 39.

Variety of Figure 21 II 48 - XII 71.

NOTE: * This spelling was made official on the recommendation of the Placenames Commission in 1977 but, as far as is known, has not yet been used on datestamps.

(To be continued)



1 SLIGO 10



2 SLIGO 8



2a SLIGO 16



3 SLIGO 14



3a SLIGO 42



4 SLIGO 66



4a SLIGO 66



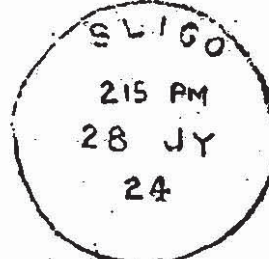
5 CLARE 32



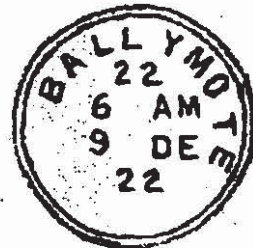
6 SLIGO 54



7 SLIGO 4



8 SLIGO 66



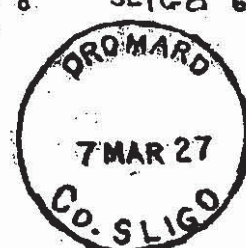
8a SLIGO 6



9 SLIGO 35



9a SLIGO 19



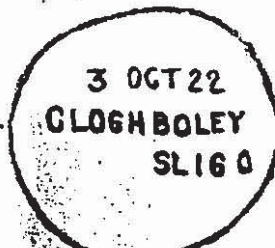
10 SLIGO 44



10a CAV 17



11 SLIGO 24



12 SLIGO 28



12a SLIGO 56



13 SLIGO 66



13a SLIGO 27



13b SLIGO 1



13c SLIGO 22



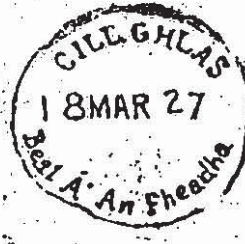
13d SLIGO 55



14 SLIGO 49



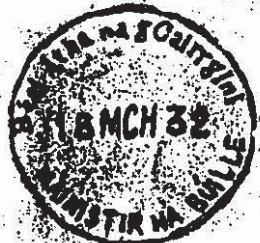
14a SLIGO 2



14b SLIGO 25



14c SLIGO 45



14d SLIGO 18



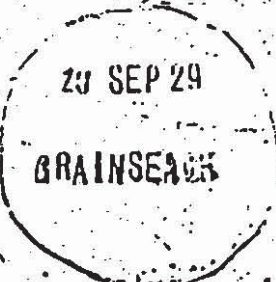
15 SLIGO 30



15a SLIGO 35



16 SLIGO 34



17 SLIGO 53



18 SLIGO 66



18a SLIGO 55



19 SLIGO 8



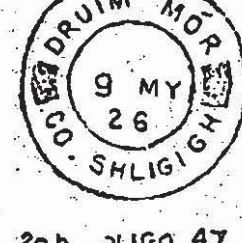
19a SLIGO 6



20 LEIT 8



20a SLIGO 54



20b SLIGO 47



20c SLIGO 25



21 SLIGO 60



21a SLIGO 55



22 SLIGO 27



22a SLIGO 67



23 SLIGO 4



23a SLIGO 35



23b SLIGO 39

