

D.F. Newsletter

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HOUSE JOURNAL OF
DAVID FELDMAN LTD., DUBLIN



AIRMAILS



Most countries have recognised the value of the ordinary postage stamp as a useful ambassador to other nations. Ireland has had many such fine stamps, but none quite so beautifully produced as the Airmail series of 1948/65. These superb creations feature the Flight of the Angel Victor Messenger of St. Patrick, carrying the Voice of the Irish over the World. The backgrounds show a historical landmark of each of the four provinces of Ireland. They are often noted (even by non-collectors) as ranking among Ireland's most attractive stamps, by virtue of their excellent design and printing. What a pity that with the advent of decimalisation we saw the last of them. Perhaps our Post Office may give us the pleasure of seeing a similar set of outstanding productions in the near future.

BY SUBSCRIPTION

D.F. Newsletter

Editorial

CONGRATULATIONS

May I open by taking personal advantage in these lines to thank so many readers for your kindness on the occasion of my marriage, earlier this year. Now it is my turn - and a very happy one it is too - to announce another 'addition' - Geraldine, our IBM expert, has just had a baby boy, and they will call him Cathal - the first birth at Leinster Road.

Geraldine's work has been almost fully taken over by Isabelle while she continues to help us from home. She has not relinquished however, her work on this Journal.

NEW ISSUE SERVICE - Mint, Used, F.D.C's etc.

As already announced to our New Issue Subscribers, due to the continued and commendable growth of the Irish Post Office, Philatelic Section, we have decided to transfer their order DIRECT to the Post Office. This will thus enable customers to obtain New Issues directly from the source and will prove less expensive. Besides it enables the Post Office, Philatelic Section to take more advantage of this economy of scale.

If readers have not already received information on this changeover or would like to begin collecting New Issues please let us know and we will send on the relevant forms; or you may write directly to the Philatelic Section, G.P.O., Dublin 1.

Stampa '74 provisionally planned for mid-November, is still in preparation and prospects for it are very good - it will be quite different in character to its two predecessors. The main change will be the venue - The Gresham Hotel, O'Connell Street, Dublin. The organisers are also inviting foreign stamp dealers to attend if they wish for the first time. It is expected that there will be more entries than last year. Altogether it should prove a very pleasant and rewarding few days. (For further information please contact Stampa Hon. Sec. Mr. Ian Whyte, 11 Harrington Street, Dublin 8.)

STOCKHOLMIA, Stockholm, September 21-29, 1974

We are not taking a stand ourselves at this exhibition but I shall be at the Robson Lowe stand for the first 6 days and shall be delighted to meet old and new friends.

D.F.

Internaba Basle 1974

CONGRATULATIONS

"INTERNABA 1974" has come and gone. K. F. Chapman writing in "Stamp Collecting" weekly sums up the exhibition admirably. Here is a section from his report.

INTERNABA 1974 - CENTENARIUM U.P.U. is now a part of philatelic history. Those fortunate enough to attend it will retain pleasant memories of a great exhibition, faultlessly organised and presenting some of the finest collections the world has to offer. More particularly, there were important new collections which surely gave the case-hardened members of the international jury particular pleasure since they must have jerked the veteran judges out of the tendency to feel "we've seen it all before". They hadn't !

K.F.C.

In view of the fact that there were 825 Competitors and the standard very high, we wish to congratulate the following on receiving awards.

Karl Boos	Ireland	Silver Bronze
"Marlton"	Ireland	Silver
C. Calmonson	Ireland	Silver Bronze
L. J. Sicking	Ireland	Bronze
W. Kane	War & Philately	Silver
D. Feldman	"D.F. Newsletter"	Bronze
D. Feldman	"Stamps of Ireland"	Bronze

Mr. R. A. Sullivan made his first attempt at exhibiting his collection of "Ireland" at his local society in California and now is the proud owner of his Silver-Bronze award. Our sincere congratulations on such a high award for his first time exhibit.

At the recent Kidderminster Society Competition, Revd. W. E. Davey won the Societies Cup for a display of his "Irish Overprints". The exhibit was then submitted for competition at the Midlands Confederation Exhibition where it was placed second. No mean achievement - congratulations Edwin.

From the Netherlands comes word that two "Irish" collectors have received Silver awards at the recent "EINDHAVEN" Exhibition. Mr. Janssen and Mr. F. Hermse are the gentlemen concerned. Mr. Hermse's exhibit consisted of 60 pages of Irish stamps and Mr. Janssen had the same number of pages starting with Forerunners through the overprints to date. We sincerely congratulate both of those fine collectors of "IRELAND".

The TELEPHONE EXPRESS LETTER Service

The development of the telephone networks hastened the decay of the telegraphs. One interesting hybrid service involved a message initiated by telephone, delivered like a telegram, but charged as express letter ! Illustrated is the envelope of one delivered in Ballsbridge, Dublin from the Rathmines Town Sub-Office, in 1933. The inscription on the envelope reads:

" No. 254

TELEPHONE "EXPRESS LETTER"

If the receiver of a Telephone Express message wishes to send a reply he may do so on payment of (1) an express fee of 3d a mile for the return journey to the Post Office, (2) a local telephone fee, i.e. 2d in London and 1d or 2d in the provinces, (3) the junction or trunk fee, if any. If the reply message has to be delivered from a call office, every 30 words or part thereof will be treated for the purpose of the Express charge as a separate Express service."

The last edition of the Irish Post Office Guide to mention this service was that for the year 1954.

F. E. Dixon



IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

Founded 1962

The Annual General Meeting was held at the National Liberal Club, Whitehall Place, London during the weekend of May 11 and 12, 1974 with some 35 members and friends from most parts of the British Isles in attendance.

The Officers and Committee elected for 1974 - 1975 were:-

President	Wm. Kane
Vice Presidents	Dr. B. de Burca, A. L. Stokes, and J. Geo. Cleary.
Treasurer	W. J. Wilks
Auctions and Exchange	A. T. Sedgley
Editors	O. M. Richards and N. J. Langton
Committee Members	Dr. J. A. Quigley Miss N. K. Wright Dr. D. O'Connell J. A. C. Munro M. Leonard P. H. Williams
Secretaries, Area	H. K. Jamieson, N. J. Langton and O. M. Richards
General	T. S. Telfer, 8 Denstone Dr., Lache Lane, Chester.

During the Proceedings, discussion and displays on many aspects of Irish philately were presented by some ten members.

In addition, the annual "THOS. E. FIELD" Award from the Eire Philatelic Association in the U.S.A. was presented to Mr. W. G. Meredith, the immediate past President of the Irish Philatelic Circle, for his work which he published 50 years ago and which still stands as a Reference for studies on the Irish Free State Overprints of 1922.

It was the desire of the Meeting to offer to provide displays to any Local Society wishing to include "Ireland" in their programme.



The "Thomas E. Field" award being presented to Mr. W. G. Meredith for his standard reference work on the Irish Free State overprints of 1922. The occasion being during the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Philatelic Circle, London, May 1974. Present reading left to right:

M. Leonard, W. Mathews, J. P. Holt, W. G. Meredith, A. T. Sedgley, W. Kane, and A. Chamberlain.

25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

The Committee of the E.P.A. are well advanced in their preparations for the celebration of E.P.A.'s 25th Anniversary at "WESTPEX '75" to be held April 25/27 1975 at the Jack Tar Hotel, San Francisco, California U.S.A.

The Irish Department of Posts and Telegraphs have agreed to participate and the Waterford Glass Co. have donated a 10 inch Vase which will be the top award for an Irish Exhibit.

It is the intention of the E.P.A. to make this show the best Irish exhibition ever held in the United States, and would be pleased to hear from all Irish collectors interested in sending an exhibit for competition. Please drop a line to the President of E.P.A. - W. T. McCaw, 368 Grand street. Newburgh, N.Y. 12550, U.S.A.

THE DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL NOTICE.

Postage stamps in the present definitive series will, in future, be printed on un-watermarked paper.

Three denominations will be printed on un-watermarked paper this year. These are:

DENOMINATION	AVAILABLE
20p	Mid-June 1974
5p	Early August 1974
3½p	Early October 1974

The stamps will be available from The Controller, Philatelic Section, G.P.O., Dublin 1 from the above dates and from all Post Offices in due course.

Stamps in these denominations printed on watermarked paper will remain on sale until stocks are exhausted.

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE SERVICES WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE.

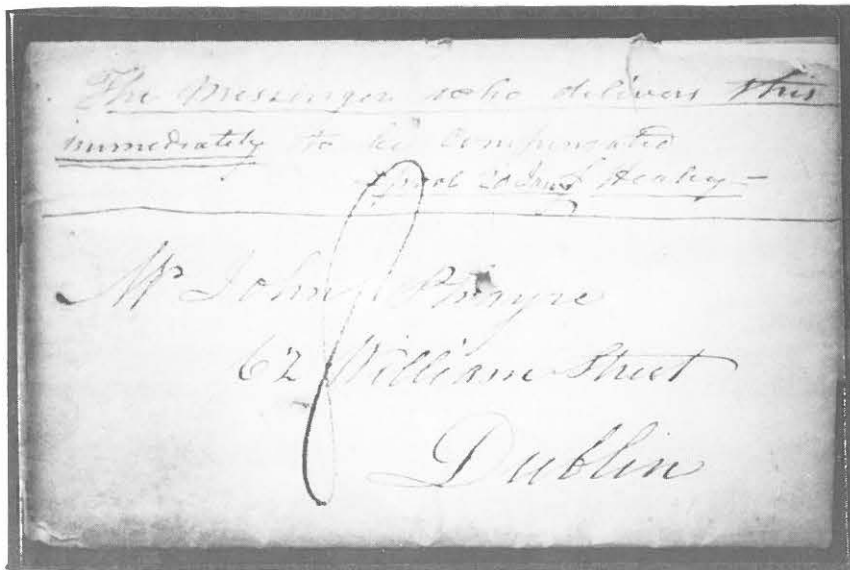
Further denominations will be printed on un-watermarked paper in 1975. Persons who wish to be advised in advance of printings on un-watermarked paper in 1975 are asked to contact the Controller, Philatelic Section, G.P.O., Dublin 1 as soon as possible.

ANOTHER DISINFECTED LETTER

by F. E. Dixon

When I reported the disinfected letter of 1833 (D.F. N.L. v.2 No. 12), I forgot that I have another, tucked away in a file of Express letters. Here it is, written and posted in Liverpool on 20th January, 1833 and datestamped in Dublin next morning. The letter concerns the death of a man in Liverpool - from jaundice not cholera, and the sender hoped that delivery could be accelerated by offering a reward to the postman.

There is double evidence of disinfection. Firstly a hole pierced the folded letter, probably made by driving a nail. Secondly there is staining, as if the letter was dipped in vinegar, and dried over a fire. Oxidising of the ink of the Dublin datestamp suggests that the treatment occurred after its impression. It is possible that the disinfecting was carried out by the addressee and not by any official authority.



DISINFECTED MAIL

In view of the increasing interest in the subject, it has been suggested that a study circle devoted to Disinfected Mail would be useful to collectors of this and related materials, such as Health Passports, vaccination documentation, Maritime clean bills of health etc.

Would readers interested please contact:

V. Denis Vandervelde, 25 Sinclair Grove, London N.W.11.

giving a note of their interests. All letters will be answered and a stamped addressed envelope would be appreciated.

VARIETIES



IRELAND

Wide 4th Line Variety Found on the Thom 5 Line Narrow Setting Stamps

Recently I was engaged in an enjoyable activity of positioning my R/Se and Ei/1 varieties. While searching for examples of R/Se in the third position, I noticed that the fourth line seemed longer than normal on some copies. Using a mm scale my suspicion was confirmed, the fourth line was $\frac{1}{2}$ mm longer. (See photo, mint copy with black overprint and used copy with blue-black overprint.)

To obtain more information I started corresponding with fellow Irish collectors. The data I have obtained on this unlisted variety can be summarized as follows:

The wide fourth line occurs once on stamps printed from Plate 2, it is the fourth stamp in the twelfth row. The variety is therefore found always with the R/Se in the third position.

In my own collection I have five examples with black ink and one example with blue-black ink. Of these, three examples are contained in larger pieces to aid in the conformation of the position indicated above.

Should any other students of Irish Philately find this variety in this or other positions I would enjoy hearing from them.

1. Priestley, Maj. M. H., THE REVEALER, Supplement 42, October 1969, "The R/S and R/Se Overprint Varieties Thom Narrow Setting".

Bruce C. Weinman.

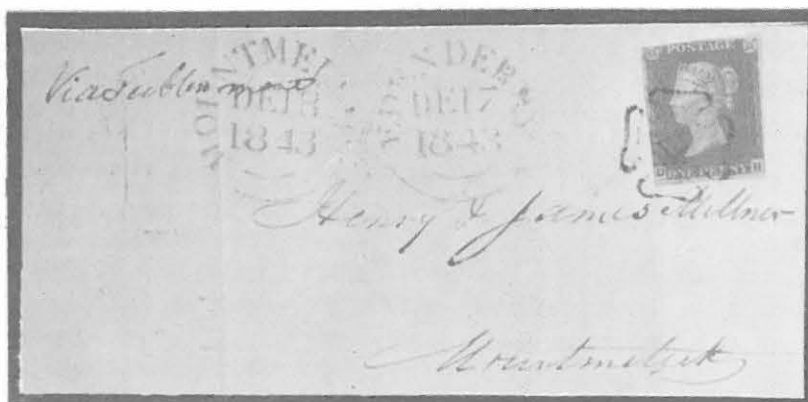


DUBLIN TO FALMOUTH

Postmark collectors delight in the multifarious markings on mails sorted abroad the Holyhead & Kingstown Packet. Collectors of postcards find souvenirs of many other routes linking Ireland with Great Britain.

Illustrated is an attractive card supplied on board various of the "Lady ..." fleet of ships operated by the British & Irish Steam Packet Company. The Ladies were Roberts, Wolseley, Hudson-Kinahan, Martin and Olive, of 1100 to 1500 tons, fitted with electric light, and carrying passengers and freight, including horses and carriages. They sailed from Dublin and London twice a week, return fares for the whole journey being 17s for deck passengers, rising to 38/6 for a 1st class cabin. These did not include provisions, which cost as much as 23s each way for a 1st class passenger !

F. E. Dixon

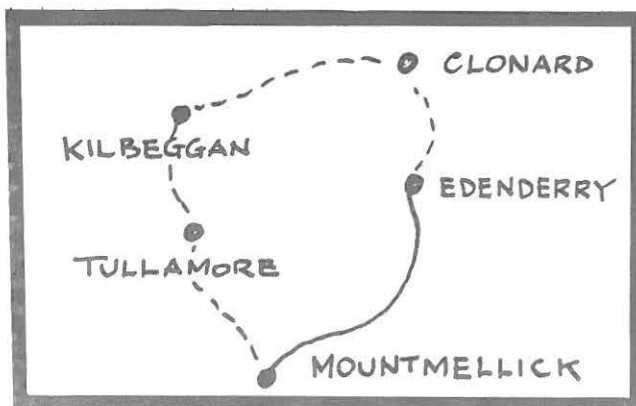


CROSS POSTS

Dr. Cronk of Gloucester has kindly sent us a photo of a most interesting cover, sent from Edenderry to Mountmellick via; Clonard, Kilbeggan and Tullamore. A triangular route of about 50 miles for a 20 mile (direct) journey.

The Penny Red Stars is cancelled by Maltese Cross which is small (17 mm) with a characteristic deformation of the central die. As the cover did not come to Dublin, so it must have been carried on a cross post. The question which now arises is where was the Maltese Cross cancel applied. None of the towns at which the Double Arc datestamp was struck, are credited with having a distinctive Maltese Cross.

Dr. Cronk would like to hear from anyone who has a similar cover.



This brings us to the most interesting and not often discussed subject of the Cross Posts.

Regretably the records are sparse on this topic and there is need for research in this sphere. It is recorded that in the late 1700's while the Irish Post Office was under the control of England, its expenditure exceeded its revenue, resulting in its affairs being badly managed. Many places possessed no Post Office, and others so poorly supplied that a letter sent by a Cross Post was most uncertain.

For instance between Limerick and Cork, two large towns in the south of Ireland, a distance of 50 miles, the Cross Post took a circuit of 150 miles and letters between Cork and Mallow, a direct distance of approximately 15 miles were carried via Clonmel, thus making the route of some 80 miles. It was not until the Irish P.O. asserted its independence and the Irish Parliament passed an Act in 1783/84 establishing "One General Letter Office and Post Office in Dublin, and Sub-Offices throughout the Kingdom" that the Cross Posts were improved.

By the year 1839, the Post Office Directory of that year recorded the following:

CROSS ROAD MAILS

Places	Distance Irish	Time H.M.	Hour of Despatch	Hour of Arrival
From Ballinasloe to Westport	62	9.30	6.0 m	3.30 a
Ballina to Castlebar	17	2.45	8.45 m	11.30 a
Belfast to Derry	70	12.30	7.30 m	8.0 a
Belfast to Enniskillen	73½	13.5	5.30 m	6.30 m
Belfast to Larne	18	3.15	7.45 m	11.0 a
Cork to Bantry	56½	8.40	8.15 m	4.55 a
Cork to Kinsale	15	2.14	2.20 a	4.34 a
Cork to Tralee	64	8.35	8.45 m	5.20 a
Derry to Sligo	68	11.45	8.45 m	8.30 a
Enniskillen to Ballyshannon	21	3.50	7.20 m	11.5 m
Galway to Ennis & Limerick	52	7.38	9.30 m	5.0 a
Galway to Tuam	16½	3.0	6.30 m	9.30 m
Limerick to Cork	51½	7.30	8.30 m	4.0 a
Limerick to Tralee	49	7.6	8.30 m	3.35 a
Limerick to Waterford	60½	9.30	8.0 m	5.30 m
Newry to Dungannon	25½	4.0	2.45 m	6.45 m

Sligo to Castlebar	46	7.20	9.35 m	5.15 m
Waterford to Cork	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	10.30	9.0 a	7.30 m
Waterford to Wexford	29	4.54	6.0 m	10.54 m

N.B. In Winter the hour of despatch is later, varying from 30 to 60 minutes, and the time allowed longer for several of the above mails.

TO-DAYS PRICES

David Mac Donnell

Most people will agree that auctions generally reflect fair market prices, by virtue of the method of sale. However, the realisations from two recent Postal History Auctions gives one cause to reconsider. It only takes two people to raise the price of a particular item out of all proportion. Also, current trends regarding condition make a poor item unsaleable, and an exceptional one all the more desirable. There also seems to be a marked increase in demand for the unusual and attractive. This along with the tremendous lack of good quality rare material from the open market provides some interesting results from specialised auctions such as these.

The auctions in question are the Postal History and Shipletter Sales held by Robson Lowe on the 2nd and 14th of May respectively. Some of the more interesting prices realised for Irish material are detailed below.

POSTAL HISTORY 2nd May

Lot No. 1231	21 pieces of registered mail including two framed "Registered at Belfast".	Est. £25 R1. £82.50	
1327	1835 E.L. showing "India Letter Cork", scarce but stained and ragged.	£45	£25
1451	Two Entires, each showing straight line "Ireland", the first with Waterford namestamp on front.	£20	£45
1461	1841 E.L. from Jamaica to Athlone showing Redirected at h.s. followed by Athlone cds and below Paid at Boyle h.s., and on the reverse an amazing selection of transit cds's. (Although not described as such, this was a beautiful piece).	£15	£46

1470	1858 E.L. showing superb Strabane Spoon.	£75	£85
1478	An attractive decorated Valentine.	£15	£65
1484	1845 E.L. showing a superb strike of the scarce Seymour of Cove F.A.C.	£30	£46
1491	1830 E.L. showing superb Sunday Paid.	£35	£85
1492	1839 Uniform 4d h.s., Superb on E.L.	£40	£110
1495	1846 E.L. showing Dublin "From 5 to 5.30 P.M." Late Fee, Fine.	£20	£33
1498	Do. but a little smudged and incomplete.	£15	£5

SHIP LETTERS 14th May.

Lot. No.	35	1770 Repaired E, showing SHIP (poss. Cork) and faint "CNTRY".	£25	£19
	39	1801 E.L. showing scarce COVE/SHIP LE., very poor,	£18	Not sold
	40	1811 similar, but a fine strike.	£40	£62.50
	110	1825 E.L. showing the rare IRISH/SHIP LE. Fine.	£140	£190
	113	1847 Repaired E, showing fine Dunmore East ship letter.	£125	£190
	200	1848 E. showing the very rare Kilrush Ship Letter, very fine.	£90	£210
	206	1840 E. showing Kinsale Ship Letter, crossed by heavy crease.	£22	£18
	207	1844 similar, but a nice example and additional F.A.C. on reverse.	£35	£50
	392	1835 E.L. showing superb Waterford Ship Letter	£25	£55

There are many conclusions to be drawn from these two sales, but I think the most interesting point about it is that auction describers and valuers must really be having a tough time trying to keep up.

We do think it helpful to publish results like these - it does tend to give one a more balanced view of the market. If you would like us to continue in future issues, please let us know.

BISHOP MARKS - W. Kane

Before continuing with my article, I must sincerely thank Dr. Brian de Burca of Surrey and E. T. Sullivan, of Illinois, U.S.A. for their most helpful letters in connection with the first part of this opus.

Dr. de Burca says that he cannot altogether agree with my view regarding the facilities available at that time for the making of the handstamps - thinking of the King John's Cup made nearly 1,000 years ago with perfect screw mechanism, also some of the early brass work which can be seen in the British Museum, London.

With all this I must agree, and in this particular aspect there is a need for someone to accept the challenge and at a later stage publish his or her findings as to how the Bishop Mark handstamps were really made. All part of our fascinating hobby.

Mr. Sullivan sent me a photo-stat of a most interesting cover of 1786, on which the Bishop Mark of November 2nd had a double impression of the figure "2", which would at first glance make one think that the figure "2" was applied twice, but from the knowledge available at the moment I do not think this was possible. However I will investigate this at a later date, perhaps it will make for another chapter sometime in the future.

Before I wrote this article, I must have examined close on 500 Bishop Marks, so many of them were imperfect strikes and did not allow for any accurate measurement so had to be disregarded. I now intend to give a resume of some 80 Marks covering a period of approximately 100 years of usage. The drawings have been reproduced as near as possible to the original of course they are not as good as photographs but will convey the message better than the written word.

Abbreviations used: -

E	-	Entire	B	-	Bishop Mark	L.S.	-	Lower Segment
F	-	Front	D	-	Diameter	U.S.	-	Upper Segment
C	-	Cover	H	-	Height			

Measurements to be applied on the principle as outlined in the previous article.



1692 E - Horkwold to Dublin, dated 15th Feby.
B.M. FE. 20. Unserifed letters and figures
D. 14 mm. H. 13.5 mm. LS. 7 mm. US. 6.5 mm.



1706 E - Dublin to London, dated 4th October.
B.M. OC. 5. Out of alignment to the extent of
1 mm.
With division of 1 mm. between the two segments
D. 13 mm. H. 14.5 mm. LS. 6 mm. US. 7.5 mm.



- 1714 E - Tralee to Dublin, dated 17th Sept.
B.M. SE. 22. Thick barline.
D. 13 mm. H. 14.5 mm. LS. 6.5 mm. US 8 mm.



- 1720 E - Dublin - Dunlow, dated 30th April.
(possibly the name of a house in Dublin).
B.M. AP. 30. Out of alignment to the extent
of approx. 2 mm.
D. 13 mm. H. 13 mm. LS. 5.5 mm. US. 7.5 mm



- 1721 E - addressed to Dublin, dated 21st August.
B.M. AU. 25. With Division of 1 mm between
the segments.
D. 13 mm. H. 14 mm. LS 6 mm. US. 7 mm.



- 1721 E - Kells to Dublin, dated 28th Nov.
B.M. DE. 1. Out of alignment to the extent
of approximately 1.75 mm.
D. 12.5 mm. H. 13.5 mm. LS. 6 mm. US. 7.5 mm.



- 1726 E - Longford to Dublin, dated 25th Feby.
B.M. FE. 27.
D. 13 mm. H. 14 mm. LS. 6 mm. US. 8 mm.



- 1726 E - Kilkenny to Dublin, dated 28th Feby.
B.M. MR. 1. with division of 1 mm. between
the lower and upper semi-circles
D. 12 mm. H. 14.5 mm. LS. 6 mm. US. 7.5 mm.



- 1726 E - Maryborough to Dublin, dated 27th Oct.
E.M. OC. 28. With division of 1 mm between
lower and upper semi-circles, also out of
alignment to the extent of approx. 2 mm.
D. 12 mm. H. 15 mm. LS. 7 mm. US. 7 mm.



- 1732 E - addressed to Dublin, dated 10th Jany.
B.M. JA. 15. With a division of 1 mm between
the lower and upper semi-circles.
D. 14.5 mm. H. 15 mm. LS. 6.5 mm. US 7.5 mm.



- 1733 Part Entire addressed to Dublin, undated.
B.M. JA. 9.
D. 14.5 mm. H. 15 mm. LS. 7 mm. US. 8 mm.



- 1733 E - Cork to Dublin, dated 17th April.
B.M. AP. 20.
D. 15 mm. H. 15 mm. LS. 7 mm. US. 8 mm.



- 1734 E - Navan to Dublin dated 14th July.
B.M. JY. 15. Partial double barline.
D. 14 mm. H. 14.5 mm. LS. 7 mm. US. 7.5 mm.

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