

D.F. Newsletter

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HOUSE JOURNAL OF
DAVID FELDMAN LTD., DUBLIN



1925 Narrow date misplaced overprint.



*An unusual and spectacular variety
which tells a story for the student.*

By Subscription

D.F. Newsletter

EDITORIAL

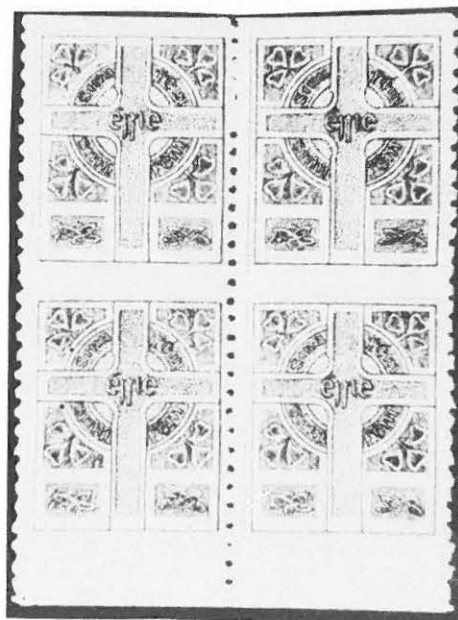
Current talk at the Post Office concerns the issue of a new definitive series and it is thought that designs have already been approved. When the new set appears, it would seem that collecting interest in the replaced Gerl designed issues will step up. It is also possible that we may see a new set of airmails in the future.

Apparently the Revenue Commissioners have a capacity for recess printing stamps and the Post Office would like to see some of the forthcoming designs produced by this method. It would be a pity to let this opportunity slip by to give us some really first class stamps in the old tradition but it remains to be seen whether the Revenue chaps have the necessary machine time spare.

The Irish National Television Service, RTE, have been considering the possibility to produce a film on stamp printing in the near future. It certainly sounds an interesting venture, and if it ever comes to fruition, no philatelist in the Republic should ever miss it.

NEW SINN FEIN VARIETY

Recently we were shown a new variety on the Sinn Fein blue and black Celtic Cross label. The block of four illustrated is completely imperforate horizontally. The colour and setting match the issued labels exactly so it does not seem likely to have come from a proof printing.



RECEIVING HOUSES

by Anna Liffey

Over the past years, most aspects of Irish Postal History has been researched but despite all the information available, the section I am most interested in, continues to provide many questions which need answers.

Hence this exploratory article. There is an old saying "You cannot get an answer until you ask the question". I now do just that, in the hope that some collectors will have data on this subject and will be so kind as to help me with this project.

Let us review the information available:- First we have the work of the late J. G. Hendy, who was the Curator of the Record Room, G.P.O., London. His book, published in 1909 compiled chiefly from Official Records, covered the period from 1840 to 1876. This provides an excellent starting point.

Another historian, C. F. Dendy Marshall gave us some good listings of the Irish Post Towns and Sub Offices, in his articles published in Gibbons Stamp Weekly, 1910.

Walter Morley in his book, published 1923, continued the good work, with listings of the Irish Post Towns, Penny Post Offices, and Receiving Houses.

In 1930, G. Brumell published his book "British Post Office Numbers" (1844-1906) in which Ireland received good coverage.

Alcock and Holland's great book of "British Postmarks" came onto the market in 1940, and an outline edition was published in 1960. Both these books are excellent publications.

1952 saw the publication of Robson Lowe's "Encyclopaedia". Irish Postal Historians now had an outstanding reference book.

Alan. W. Robertson's book on British Post Towns, Roads, and Rates, was published in 1961. Ireland had very good coverage, thanks to the assistance given by F. E. Dixon and the late T. E. Field.

1975 was indeed a very good year, with the issue of R. M. Willcock's "England's Postal History", which contained some notes on Ireland. Also published in 1975 was the Feldman-Kane "Handbook of Irish Postal History".

Dr. J. T. Whitney's book "Collect British Postmarks" 1980, brings us up to date. Here again Ireland is mentioned.

Over all those years the Philatelic Magazines and the Society and Trade Journals provided useful information on Irish Postal History, subscribed by such names as Stiff Diben, Dendy Marshall, Col. Crouch, Dr. Stafford Johnson, F. E. Dixon, Dr. Brian de Burca, and Bill Kane to mention but a few.

Strange to say, despite all this information on Ireland's Postal History, the subject regarding the Irish Receiving Houses is still not complete.

Writing in the Irish Philatelic Circle's Journal "Irish Philately" of December 1976, Dr. de Burca stated that only 11 "RH" numbers out of a possible 150 or more were known.

F. E. Dixon wrote an excellent article on "Irish Receiving Houses" 1840 - 1860. in Stamp Collecting, 1st May 1969.

Mr. Dixon and Dr. de Burca compiled a listing on the "Provincial Penny Posts of Ireland" in "Irish Philately" December 1977.

One would think, that with all the data published since 1909, the subject of the "Receiving Houses" would be a closed book, such is not the case.

I hope that I have made my point! In his article on the "RH's" Mr. F. E. Dixon, commences with the types of hand-stamps known as "Mileage Marks" and follows with the "Penny Post" markings.

While both these marks are associated with the Receiving Houses, I would like to commence my study with the later markings, as I will explain further on, my reasons for so doing.

The first question I pose is, can we arrive at a listing of the Receiving Houses as separate from the Penny Post Sub Offices?

I understand that in the Record Room of the G.P.O., London, such information might be obtained from the Appendices to the Reports of the Select Committee on Postage, 1838.

Also, even more information is to be found in the Report Series (Post 40) which runs to 1836. Here full details relative to the Post Office's arrangements for the setting up of each Penny Post, and how the Receiving Houses were to be served. Similar information is contained in the Minute Series (Post 35).

Alas, this means going through at least forty volumes, and would take a lot of time.

Any volunteers for this research?

It was generally agreed that dated hand-stamps before the year 1840, were only issued to Post Offices whose business exceeded £1,000 per annum.

The Post Office records have a relevant minute, — No. 581x of March 1837, (Volume 40 — 1836-7).

The minute reads:—

"Dated stamps to be supplied to all post towns and to some considerable places where there are sub offices gradually".

It has been the practice of the office hitherto to confine the supply of dated stamps to Post Offices, the revenue of which was not less than £1,000 per annum, this regulation has of course excluded a very large portion of post towns of considerable correspondence and importance from many of which applications have been received for the supply of a dated stamp.

Unquote:— The minute continues with reasons and other data, not relevant at the moment.

This raises the question, as to why the undated marks were used at the "RH's" until the years 1859-60.

The main problem when studying the numerals, is to discover which numbers were used at the various "RH's". As no specific help is available in the Post Office Records, London, since the allocation of the numbers was something Headquarters left to the District Surveyors and local Postmasters.

This problem can only be solved by the study of postal material of the period, at the moment held in the collections of Postal Historians and such others.

We must also realise, that some of this material is scarce, hence so many still remain unidentified.

Two lines of thought can be applied, the first is that RH's could have been numbered outwards from the Post Town and secondly one could look through the Appendices to the report of the Select Committee of 1838, to find out data relative to the various P.P. sub offices there listed, with information relative to the revenue for the year of 1836 for each of the RH's. Thereby one could arrive at some status for the individual RH's.

Numbers may have been allotted in order of importance.

Alan W. Robertson in his book, lists 64 towns, each with one P. P. sub office under its control. We know that five such sub offices used a number 1. Can we assume that the other 59 also used a similar number? According to the unwritten laws of Postal Historians, we must assume nothing, we must produce facts, or nothing at all.

Now, we know that there are two offices not recorded by A.W.R.

Post Town	— P.P.S.O. —	Number
Maguires	Woodgate	1
Killaloe	Fiakle	1

So much for the background information let us proceed with the marks themselves.

The question now arises, should we study the markings, based on appearance, or by their date of usage. Perhaps if we could combine both, it would be ideal.

The first type of handstamps for consideration, are those of the "Mileage Marks" used from 1808 — 1855.

There are at least four sub types:—

Type 1 Straight line town name, with the mileage below.

Cork is an exception, with a curved mark.

Type 2 Straight line type, boxed.

Type 3 Single circle, with mileage in the centre.

Type 4 Single circle, with date in centre and mileage at foot.

In the supplement of the E.P.A. "Revealer" of July 1970, Hans G. Moxter subscribed an excellent listing of the "Irish Mileage Marks".

He listed over 500 different marks with dates of usage. Of course there is a duplication of marks for some towns. In the form of a change of mileage, or a contraction of the towns name.

MILEAGE MARKS

DERRY DERRY
112 118

CORK
124

ENNISCORTHY
60

ESCORTHY
62

The second type we must consider is that of the "Penny Post".

Here again there are several sub types of the two line handstamps used at that time.

The Town name above, and the words "Penny Post" below. In addition we have numerals associated with the Penny Post sub offices.

Cork is an exception in that instead of using numbers they used letters A to E for the Receiving House markings. These letters were boxed.



RH NUMBERS

Three styles, unframed, framed, and script, used between 1840 and 1850, struck in black, blue or red.

Nº 1

Nº 1

Nº 2

Nº 2

PENNY POST MARKINGS

There were six basic types of hand-stamps.

DUNGANNON PENNY POST

Two line serified capitals varies in size, used from 1832 to 1850.

Black, red, green or blue ink.

*Boyle
Penny Post*

Two line italic, in use from 1832 to 1853, struck in black, green, red or blue.

*BALLYDEHOB
Penny Post*

1847 to 1856

Top line sans serif capitals

Line below italic (Penny Post) in black or blue.

*Enniskillen
Penny Post*

1835 to 1845

Boxed two line italic, only used at Enniskillen, struck in black or red.

*Monaghan
Penny Post*

Two line italic, in fancy frame, only used at Monaghan, from 1837 to 1841, Black or blue.

MAGUIRESBRIDGE P. P.

Two line serifed capitals. Second line abbreviated, used from 1840 to 1845. Struck in black.

The listing of the Provincial Penny Posts by F. E. Dixon and Dr. de Burca updated A. W. Robertson's list. They also gave some of the P. P. sub office numbers.

So readers, this is why I do not deal in any length with the subject of the "Mileage Marks" or the "Penny Post" so much work has been done on those two aspects.

I will confine my remarks to the later marks which commence from this point, and where the least research has been done.

The later RH marks can be broken down into three groups, with many sub sections.

Group A — Single line town names.
Group B — Double line town names.
Group C — Circular type stamps.

FENAGH

GROUP "A"
Type 1A
1846 — 1853

Straight line, unframed, serifed capitals, struck in black, blue, or red inks. Also known for:— Ballycastle, Ballyvaugren, Bushmills, Ballymahon, Ballymacarrett, Ballycarnew, Castledawson, Dalkey, Fethard, Glasslough, Groomsport, Killyardish, Lahinch, Lisnagry, Templepatrick, Tulske.

INNISCARRA

Type 2A
1840 — 1859

Straight line, unframed, sans serif capitals. Struck in black, blue, or green inks. Varies in size of lettering.

Also known for:—

Ardfert, Achill Sound, Ardagh, Athleague, Balla, Ballinful, Banteer, Ballydrissan, Crossmolina, Coolsallagh, Castle-town, Dromiskin, Dromore, Easkey, Grangecorner, Killymore, Kiltormer, O'Brien's Bridge, Newtown Gore Cross Roads, Raharney, Sharavogue, Swanlinbar, Watergrasshill.

FEENY DERRY

Type 3A
Straight line, unframed, sans serif capitals R.H. and Head Office in one line in Black.

Canningstown

Type 4A
1842 — 1856

Single line, italic, unframed in black. Also known for:— Ballyfarnon, Crawfordsburn, Ardatton.

DUGORT

Type 5A
1846 — 1848

Framed, single line serifed capitals in black.

Also known for:— Kilcock.

CONVOY RE C^g - HOUSE

GROUP "B"

Type 1B
1830

Two line serified capitals. The abbreviation of "Receiving" is the feature of this mark, struck in black. Only known for Convoy.

BALLYHAISE RECEIVING-HOUSE

Type 2B
1830 - 1832

Two line serified capitals. Town name above and Receiving House below, struck in red.



Type 3B
1831

Two line serified capitals, with Receiving House below, in octagonal double line frame. Red ink.

AGHADOWEY R.H

Type 4B
1842 - 55

Two line serified capitals, with the letters R. H. below, black and blue inks.

Also known for:— Ahoghill, Bettystown, Keatsbridge.

DONAGHMORE R.H

Type 5B
1842 - 50

Framed two line serified capitals, with R. H. below. Struck in black.

*Armoy R.H
Ballymoney*

Type 6B
1844 - 57

Two line italic, with town and R. H. on the top line, and the Post Town below, black, blue, and green inks.

Also known for:— Ashfield, Trillick, Burnfoot Cross, Katesbridge, Annalong, Ardlogher, Ardstraw.

*Donadea
Kilcock*

Type 7B
1847 - 57

Two line italic, Town above and Post Town below. Black, blue and green inks.

Also known for Ballygranny, Cloone, Errill, Inch, Killyman, Naul, Trillick, Muff Don, Newtown Cunningham, Straid/Carn Swanlinbar.

CLONDALKIN TALLAGHT

Type 8B
1849 – 59

Two line, sans serif capitals, black, blue, green and red.

Also known for:— Bridgetown, Coolatin, Carnlough, Castlebridge, Kells/Thomas-town, Mountmorris, Kilsheelan, Rath-farnham, Courthouse/Belfast, Black-water, Shanklin Rd/Belfast, Greenisland/Belfast, Ballyeaston/Belfast.

GROUP "C"

Type 1C
1840 – 57



Circular serifed capitals, double arcs below. Black, blue, and green inks.

Also known for:— Bailyborough, Bun-cranna, Churchill, Dervock, Killeshandra, Louth, Nobber, Portarlington, Tander-agee.

Type 2C
1857 – 59



Circular, sans serif capitals, double arcs below.

Also known for:— Aردادton, Ballykelly, Frenchy, Lower Georges St., Swanlin-bar, Newtowncromlin, Raharney.

Type 3C
1857 – 60



Town name curved in circle, black ink.

Also known for:— Ballycumber, Kilbride, Lisnagry, Milltown, Munster Harbour, Killemond, Glasnevin, St. Douloughs.



Type 4C
1859 – 60

Town name in a straight line, in circle, black ink.

Also known for:— Agher, Ardagh, Beleek, Golden, Moyne, Burrin.



Type 5C
1857 – 59

Circular sans serif capitals without outer frame with the name of the Post Town below. Black, blue, or green inks.

Also known for:— Newtownlimavady, Dunloy, Timoleague, Killagan, White-abbey, Arran Island.

From the above, it will be observed that some RH's used several different types of handstamps over their period of usage.

For instance:—

Swanlinbar, 2A – 2C – 7B and a numeral "1".

Keatsbridge, 4B – 6B

Raharney, 2A – 2C

Lisnagry, 1A – 3C

What a complex study, but you will agree most interesting, and this is only the commencement, what lies ahead? Please send your observations to the Editor, who will forward same to me, all letters will be acknowledged with thanks.

1925 Narrow date misplaced overprint

This is a rather unusual variety occurring on the 1925 narrow date printing of the 5/= high value. The second, fourth, sixth, eighth and tenth horizontal rows all have the overprint violently misplaced reading diagonally across the sheet. Only one sheet of this variety is known, but it is very important (besides being a spectacular error) in that it shows quite clearly how the overprinting of this series was carried out. The overprinting was executed from one plate in two operations. Rows 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, were printed in one pass of twenty subjects, and Rows 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 in the second pass. Obviously the need for care in printing is shown clearly. The error is a clear result of what can happen unless a watchful eye is kept. There must have been a specific reason why such a cumbersome arrangement was used. Of course, a plate of 20 cliché's is a lot easier to assemble than one of 40. It was perhaps then on the grounds of expediency and economy that the printers opted for this method. The previous Thom plates were becoming unserviceable at this time and there may have been a big hurry to obtain fresh stocks. This is an interesting variety, made even more desirable by the fact that only one sheet escaped destruction.

L.R.



The upper left hand block of ten (largest surviving) showing the progressive serious misalignment. The block of five shown adjoins this block at the foot.



Block of four from the center right of the sheet (Rows 5/6 Stamps 3/4) showing the overprint partly in the margin.



Bottom right corner block of four showing the overprint intended for Row 10/4 completely in the margin.



Row 8 no 1 showing the overprint almost omitted. Row 10 no 1 had no overprint at all.



Block of five from Rows 6, 7, 8, originally with left hand margin since removed.

HANDSTAMPS OF THE DUBLIN
PENNY POST

By W. Kane

GEN^l PY P. OFFICE
1 PY PAID

1774 – 1788
(black ink)



1810 – 1826
(black and red inks)

1774 – 1809
(black ink)

N 18 M

1810
(red ink)

GEN^l PY POST
UN·PAID

1788
(black ink)



1811 – 1814
(black and red inks)



P. P. P^d

1803 – 1809
Various Sizes
(black and red inks)

1814
(black ink)



NOT PAID

1803 – 1809
(black ink)

1814 – 1820
(red ink)



GEN^l PY P. OFFICE
2 PY PAID

1803 – 1833
(red ink)

1814 – 1820
Number (1 to 4)
Above Date
(red ink)



1820 – 23
larger oval
(black and red ink)

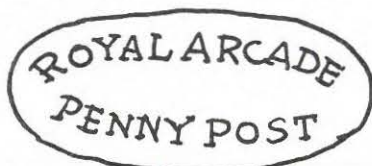


1822 – 1832
Indented sides
(black and red inks)

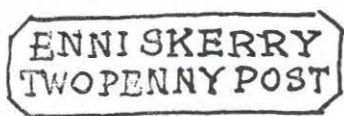


MERRION ROW
PENNY POST

1805 – 1843
(black, red, blue,
and green inks)



1821 – 1831
(red ink)



1827 – 1840
(black and red ink)

1834
(black ink)

Dublin
Penny Post

This mark was applied to letters transferred from the General Post, for local delivery in country areas. This is a scarce handstamp.



1837
(black ink)

The numeral "1" is found both with and without serifs.



1814 1818 1827 1831 1839

From 1810 onwards unpaid letters were marked with a numeral one in black ink (denoting one Penny), of which many varieties were in use at different dates.

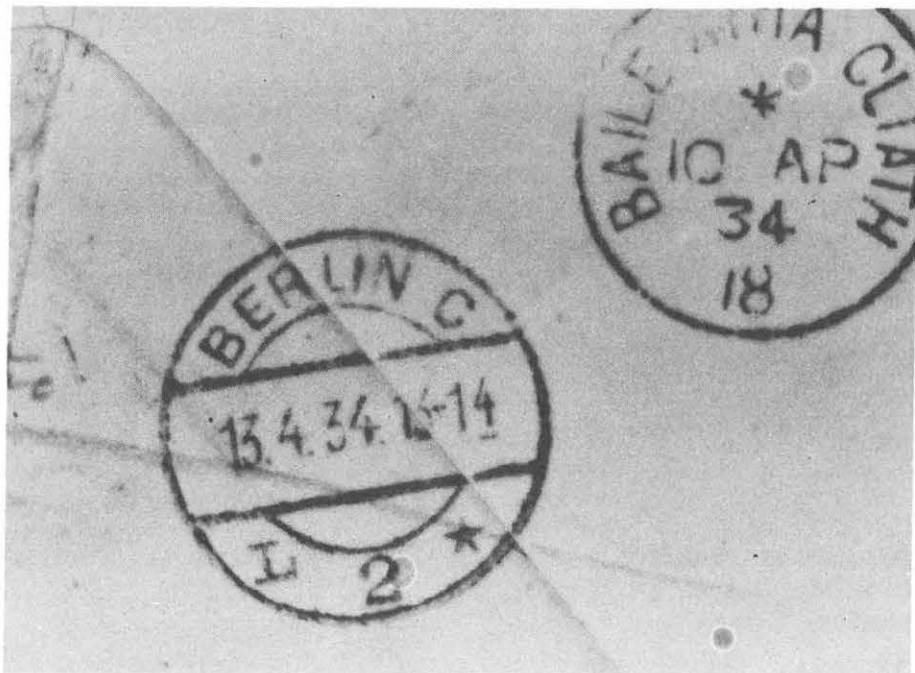
1840 – 53
(black,
blue or green
inks)



Dublin had a distinctive figure "2" (denoting two pence)

AN IRISH CATAPULT COVER

During 1934 the German based Syndicated Coudor Company offered a very unusual airmail service between Berlin and Pernambuco in Brazil. Mail from other countries was directed to Berlin where an established airmail service brought it to Bathurst in the Gambia, West Africa. From there it was brought by Dornier seaplanes to the ship SS Westfalen, used as a floating base in the Mid Atlantic. Aircraft were then catapulted from the deck of this ship and flew to Brazil. Covers from this flight may be distinguished from the Zeppelin service by the Berlin despatch CDS of 13.4.34 and the Pernambuco arrival of 19.IV.34.



DUBLIN PENNY POST SMALL OFFICES

BRIDE ST

GT BRUNSWICK ST

CAMDEN ST

CASTLE ST

From the date on which Penny Postage was introduced, the old DUBLIN PENNY POST ceased to operate as a separate system. A number of small offices remained open in different parts of the city, but as the old names continued to be used they were for some years known as "CITY RECEIVERS for GENERAL and PENNY POST LETTERS".

The following offices were open between 1840 and 185-. Letters posted at these offices were stamped with the office name in a straight line.

AMIENS STREET
AUNGIER STREET
BAGGOT STREET, LOWER
BAGGOT STREET, UPPER
BRIDE STREET
BRITAIN STREET, GREAT
BRUNSWICK STREET, GREAT

CAMDEN STREET
CAPEL STREET, LOWER
CAPEL STREET, UPPER
CASTLE STREET
CLARE STREET
COLLEGE GREEN
COOMBE

DAME STREET
DAWSON STREET
DENMARK STREET, GREAT
DORSET STREET

FOUR COURTS LIBRARY

GLOUCESTER PLACE
GRAFTON STREET

HIGH STREET
HOLLES STREET

INNS QUAY

JAMES STREET

KILDARE STREET
KING STREET, NORTH

LEESON STREET, LOWER
LINEN & YARN HALL

MECKLINBURGH STREET
MERRION ROW
MERRION ST., UPPER

NORTHUMBERLAND BUILDINGS

PHIBSBOROUGH

QUEEN STREET

ROGERSONS QUAY

STEPHEN'S GREEN WEST
SUMMERHILL

TEMPLE STREET
THOMAS STREET

USHER'S QUAY

WARRINGTON PLACE

Although this list appears comprehensive, it may not be complete, and we would be grateful to hear from anyone with further examples of City Receivers.

1979 Strike Post



Two new courier service labels have been reported. One shows the legend "via air mail", presumably mail was carried on Aer Lingus/British Airways scheduled flights by courier for posting in the UK. The second shows "via M.V. Columbia" although the illustration more closely resembles a coastal freighter than the ferry boat between Ireland and the UK. No details on face value are provided, and none have been seen on commercial mail, as yet. The most genuine candidate for a real strike post service would still seem to be the Dublin/Belfast strike post described in earlier issues of DFNL which handled commercial mail on a regular basis.

Illustrations by courtesy of Stamp Collecting.

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