



# The Revealer



Vol. XVI No. 2

ÉIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION  
(International)

January-March 1966

Whole No. 84

Issued Quarterly

John J. Walsh, Editor

## THE POST OFFICES OF MONAGHAN FROM 1922

by B. de Burca

English metal types

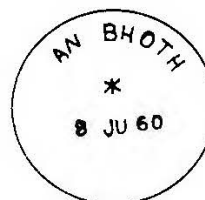
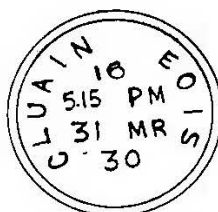
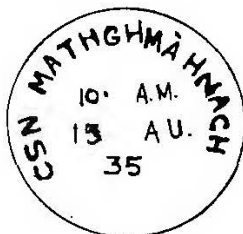
Adapted from  
English type



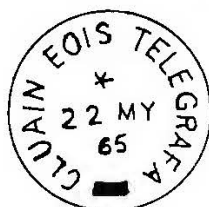
### Rubber Date Stamps



### Skeletons



### The three types of Telegraph Date Stamps



(cOntinued on page 613)

# **Fire Philatelic Association**

(INTERNATIONAL)

PRESIDENT - - - Fred E. Dixon

15 Terenure Road, East

Rathgar, Dublin 6, Ireland

VICE PRESIDENT - Joseph E. Foley

1825 Cromwell Road, Baltimore 34, Md.

SECRETARY-TREASURER - Gil P. Roberts,

1716 West Alpine, Stockton, Calif.

EDITOR OF REVEALER - John J. Walsh,

4 Ferris Avenue, Utica, New York

ASSOCIATE EDITOR - Rev. Eugene Doherty

330 No. Westmore, Villa Park, Illinois

ASSOCIATION ATTORNEY - Lorin L. Kay,

Box 489 Richland Centre, Wisconsin

E.P.A. EUROPEAN DIRECTOR - M.J. Giffney,

22 East Road, Dublin 3, Ireland.

PUBLIC RELATIONS - Mr. William Hickey,

96 Georgia Ave., Providence, Rhode Is.

FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS AND BACK COPIES OF

THE REVEALER. Write to Mr. Wm. Hickey

at the above address. Price of back

copies 35¢ each.



## **SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT**

### **New Members:**

# 419 Patrick Joseph Hope  
Architectural Office  
P.W.D. Hong Kong  
(Government official; collects Ireland, Great Britain and Hong Kong. Member, General Committee, Hong Kong Philatelic Society.)

# 420 John B. Sherman  
212 N. Freeman,  
Oceanside, California  
(Stamp Dealer. Also collects British. Proposed by Wallace Smith #371)

# 421 Bernard F. Ryder  
8517 Terhume Avenue  
Sun Valley, California  
(Also collects British North America. Proposed by Wallace Smith #371)

### **Change of Address:**

Henry O. Nouss,  
P.O. Box 219, Boca Raton,  
Florida 33432

## **EDITORIAL NOTES**

Mr. Walter Pottow, EPA # 317 has very kindly written that he has camera and other copying equipment capable of making enlargements and reductions of any material that might be used to illustrate any article in The Revealer. If any member is preparing an article that needs illustration, we suggest that you contact Mr. Pottow, Jockey Hollow Road, Morristown, New Jersey.

We are informed by member, Hans G. Moxter, Corregidora 16-5, Tlacopac, Mexico 20, D.F. that an Irish Study Group has been founded recently in West Germany. We are happy to welcome this new group and extend our best wishes to them and our sincere offer of assistance to them in their new venture.

## **RANDOM NOTES**

by Fred E. Dixon

DUBLIN & QUEENSTOWN T.P.O. Ward's "Irish T.P.O.s" illustrates only one handstamp inscribed "DUBLIN & QUEENSTOWN T.P.O." but mentions he had another, characterized as "1" above the date. It needs to be added that about 1904 a third handstamp appeared, without number. The best distinguishing feature is that the Q has a definite tail and the U is complete. In The earlier one without number the Q is almost an O and the U is broken into J. The latest is probably also the scarcest as the service ended in 1907.

DUBLIN DOUBLE CIRCLE HANDSTAMP. 55 is one of the rarer of the Dublin double-circle handstamps, of the Victorian and Edwardian era. The first that I found was cancelling the stamp on a card which had been posted on ship and put ashore in New York, in 1902. Now I have found two more, also 1902, both used as arrival markings on postcards to Dublin from U.S.A., but quite ordinarily posted post cards. Can anyone find supporting evidence for the theory that 55 was reserved for the American Mail ?



THE POST OFFICES OF MONAGHAN FROM 1922  
(continued from page 611)

In a previous article, a list of the present date stamps in use was presented. It is now intended to give notes on the Post Offices for the period from 1922 to date. These notes were compiled during a holiday in Monaghan, and the details of the early date stamps are due to the kindness of Mr. F.E.Dixon. This was a very happy holiday, and I will try to pass on some of the enjoyment and interest by recounting events not always pertinent to the story. Not all the Post Offices were visited, partly from lack of time, and more often due to the difficulty in locating many of them.

The postal administration is under three centers, Monaghan in the North, Clones in the South West, and the rest of the county by Dundalk in the county of Louth.

A 1/2" map as issued by the Ordnance Survey is essential in finding one's way about, but even this has limitations as all the Post Offices are not marked on it, and in addition most of the roads are not provided with sign posts.

The Post Offices are listed in alphabetic order together with their Irish spelling. The dates given are those known to us, and do not cover the limits of their use.

AGHABOG, Achadh Bog. On the road from Clones to Ballybay, in a side turning past Newbliss. A 'Family Grocer' and the Post Master is Mr. Brian Nolan. Rubber date stamp Achadh Bog, Cluin Eois (Clones), Co. Mhuineachain, 29 June to 31 Oct. 1929, and in purple with Cluin Eois omitted 11 Aug 1949 to 29 June 1950. Metal type D 1964.

ANALORE, Ath an Lobhair. Spelt Anlore by the Ordnance Survey, and Annalore in Eolai an Phoist (Post Office Guide). On a side road south of the Clones-Newbliss road. Mail is collected by van from Clones. A charming and helpful Sub Post Mistress, Mrs. E. Lee. Metal date stamp type E 1965.

ANYALLA, Eanaigh Gheala. On the road from Castleblayney to Monaghan. A corrugated iron building, housing a small store. The Sub Post Master is a genial character Mr. John Duffy whom I feel sure is over 70 years. Rubber distorted date stamp Eanaigh Gheala, Co. Mhuineachain for 27 July 1943. Metal date stamp type E 1963.

AUGHNAMUILEANN, Achadh na Muilaenn. On a side road South West of Ballybay. I was unable to find this Post Office. Metal date stamp type E for 1965

BALLINODE, Beal atha an Fhoid. Between Monaghan and Scotstown. A petrol station store, and post office. The Sub Post Mistress, Mrs. McElvaney, was the only difficult one encountered in Monaghan. Was told off, strictly according to regulations, and told to place my post card in the letter box. This made me reflect on the four types of women whom I had met in charge of Post Offices. The very young, willing, and helpful; 30 to 40 years unapproachable; 55 to 70, charming, helpful and generous; over 70 years, suspicious, and a careful approach is necessary, English metal single ring date stamp to 4 Nov. 31. Metal B 1964, somewhat worn and apparently in use for several years.

BALLBAY, Beale atha Beithe. A busy market town, with a crowded Post Office, so I retreated and posted my card in the letter box. Metal date stamp type B 1939-1965. Type C with county 1930-31.

BRADOX, Braghdogha (Badoga over Post Office). One finds many examples of this. The Gaelic spelling is found on the Post Office, and the frightful modern spelling in Eolai an Phoist. Best approach is from the Monaghan-Ballybay road. On a side turning and difficult to find, is a small general store and Post Office. The mail is collected from Castleshane by cycle. Gaelic rubber date stamp December 1939. The Sub Postmaster, Mr. J. Knox showed me an old rubber inset for a skeleton, which was new to me, as I had thought that all insets for skeletons were metal. Metal date stamp type D, 1965.

BRANDRUM, Breandruim. On a side turning, about three miles from Mon ghan on the Clones road. Not found on any map. There was a very vicious looking Alsatian dog here, who almost drove me off. The Sub Post Mistress, Mrs. A. Woods, told me that he knew all the regulars and ignored them. Metal date stamp type D 1965. BROOMFIELD, Taplah. On a side road off the Castleblayney-Carrickmacross road. A farm house, and the Sub Postmaster, Mr. A. Finnegan has been here for 17 years. There was no name plate on the Post Office. Mr. Finnegan introduced me to a straight line rubber hand stamp "Castleblayney" which he used on telephone bills. He told me that this was due to be replaced by a "Broomfield" hand stamp. This was my first introduction to this type, and in all subsequent visits to post offices with a telephone exchange I asked for a copy. This paid dividends when I found an old 1840 type brass hand stamp in use in Canningstown, Cavan. Metal type D in use 1964.

CARRICKMACROSS, Carraig Mhachaire Rois. My favourite town, with a first class hotel, and a friendly hostess who introduced me widely. There is a wonderful collection of old metal hand stamps at the Post Office, going back to 1840 and the Post Master kindly gave me copies of all of them. The generous help, hospitality, and presents received in this town was at times embarrassing.

Single ring English type 1922 to 1924. Double ring English type 1927 to 1935. Double ring type C 1928 to date. There are two office types D, but one has "1" at base with two thin side bars. There is also the usual parcel type found in large post offices.

CARRICKROE, Carraig Ruadh. First turn to the left past Emyvale. About two miles along this road look for a church in a side lane, and the Post Office will be found beside it. A small shop, and the Sub Post Master, Mr. John Treanor is at least 65 years. Gaelic rubber date stamp 1931 to 1932. Metal type E 1965.

CASTLEBLAYNEY, Caislean Matghamnac. The Post Master, Mr. Coyle was most helpful and provided copies of many old office stamps going back to about 1894. There was a very worn and almost indistinct "111". Single ring metal English type 1922 to 1925. Double ring metal "CSN MATGAMNAC, Co. MUINEACHAIN" 1928 - 1930. Large single ring skeleton 15 August to 30 October 1935. Double ring type C, but with a very short bar "CAISLEAN MATHGHAMHNACH" 1942 to 1959.

A curious occurrence happened in 1960. The General Post Office sent a new date stamp "BAILE NA LORGAN". How this spelling was arrived at no one knows. BAILE LEARGAN is the old name for the town, and this spelling is used on all the road signs. In 1962 the General Post Office decided to revert to the name CAISLEAN MATHGHAMHNACH, and three new date stamps were provided (1) type G for mail, (2) type F for sorting office, and (3) type E with a terminal "T" added for telegrams. The only explanation I can think of for this change is that -perhaps silence is golden.

CASTLESHANE, Caislean tSeagain. A general store. The postal counter is behind grills and postal customers apparently get preference in service. The Sub Post Master is Mr. McCarville, aged about 35 years. There is an English type of enamelled notice outside the Post office reading "Post Office for Money Orders, Savings Bank, Parcel Post, Telegraph, Insurance, Annuity, and Express Delivery Service". Metal date stamp type B, in use probably for several years.

CLONES, Cluain Eois. A stone built, impressive building. Copies of some old hand stamps were obtained. A double ring CLUAN EOIS with a broad bar below 2 September 1922. A similar type but with two side bars, and a Maltese Cross between them 1927 to 1929. This looks very like a recut English type. Single and double ring skeletons 20 May 1929 to 12 April 1930. Double ring with three bars 1930 to 1933. Small double ring skeleton December 1935. Type A 18 January 1938 to 1 November 1948. Type B, 8 December 1948 to 1965. Both A and B types as used here had time plugs. There is also an office stamp, type G, and a special "CLUIN EOIS TELEGRAFA" date stamp with five pointed star. Castleblayney and Monaghan

are the only other offices with special telegraph date stamps. There are the usual Parcel Post date stamp, and a "Delay caused by use of incorrect address" in two straight lines enclosed in a box.

CLONTIBRET, Cluain Tiobrid. On the road from Castleblayney to Monaghan. An elderly Post Master, Mr. Tom Latham, told me that he had the present type B since 1935. In that year the Post Master arrived from Monaghan on inspection duty. Mr. Latham asked for a new date stamp, as the old one was worn out. He was told the old one was satisfactory. Mr. Latham then asked the P.M. to have a try. Failing to get a good impression he agreed to a replacement. It appears that economy was one reason for the retention of some of the old English date stamps for so long.

COOLDERRY, Cul Doire. Spent an afternoon looking for this Post Office in Cool-derry, and next morning found it off the Kingscourt road in the parish of Fehaoe. The Post Office is located in a cottage, and I met the Post Master Mr. Sidney Babington, who looked about 70 years, sitting in a very old Hillman Minx. He told me that he must have done 200,000 miles in it and that it had never groaned or moaned at him. He agreed that he could not say the same about his wife. His father also had this Post Office. Of English descent, his father got the P.O. when serving with the Brownlows, local English estate owners. A rubber date stamp "Cul-Diore, Carraig Machaire Rois" June 1929. A similar type "Cul Doire, Co. Mhuineachain" 6 January 1932. The Post Master told me that the last rubber date stamp had been repaired with sealing wax and string before replacement. Type D 1960 approximately.

CORTUBBER, Cor Tobair. I was unable to locate this Post Office, which lies some where to the west of Shantonagh. Rubber Gaelic date stamps January 1935 to October 1949. A copy of type D at present in use, was provided by the Post Master, Monaghan.

CREIGHANROE, Critean Ruad. Some two miles north of Castleblayney on the road to Armagh. A petrol station, general store, and Post office. Postmaster Mr. Gabriel Moore. Rubber date stamp December 1929, and metal type E 1965.

DERRYGORRY, Dóire Ghofraidh. On frontier above Emyvale. Rubber date stamp 28 November 1930. Post Office closed 1932.

DONAGHMOYNE, Domhnacn Mhaighn. Some three miles from Carrickmacross between the Castleblayney and Donaghmoynne Roads. It is some distance up a side road and difficult to locate. A stone building erected in 1859 houses the Post Office. The Sub Postmaster is a wonderful old pipe smoking character, whom I will long remember. As usual, he was camera shy. At least three different rubber date stamps were used between 1929 and 1940. Metal type E from 1960 approximately.

DOOHAMLET, Dubhthamlacht. Half way between Castleblayney and Ballybay, it is one of those which I missed. English single circle March 1930 - 17 May 1943. Type E date stamp was kindly provided by the Post Master, Monaghan.

DOOHAT, Dubhtait. It lies south of Newbliss. A small shop managed by an elderly Sub Postmaster, Mr. Thomas Hall. The Post Office name board had been taken down for repainting, but the Post Master held it up in front of the Post Office to allow me to take a photograph. This was one of the few photographs which I managed to obtain of camera shy post masters. The mail is collected by van from Monaghan. Rubber date stamp July 1931 to August 1949, replaced at least three times. Metal type D 1965.

DRUM, Druim. On the road from Clones to Cootehill (Cavan). A small clean, busy shop in a pretty village. The Sub Post Master, Mr. A.T. Stewart was 70+, and very charming. Rubber date stamp with at least three changes between 1929 and 1943. Type D 1965.

DRUMACRIB, Druim an Chruibh. Some two miles from Castleblayney on the lower Armagh road. Located in a private house, without any name plate. The Sub Post Mistress, Mrs. Elizabeth O'Neill, told me that it had been removed one month ago for repainting, but that her husband had failed to collect it. She insisted

on sweeping the forecourt of the Post Office, and moving inside, before allowing me to take a photograph. Type E 1965.

DRUMMULLY, Druim Mullaigh. Near Clones, but failed to locate it. Date stamp type E provided by the Postmaster, Monaghan.

DRUMAKILL, Druim na Coill. East of Castleblayney, but failed to locate it. Rubber date stamps 1933 to 1946. Type F on post card kindly returned by the Sub Post Master.

DUNRAYMOND, Dun Reamoinn. Somewhere north of Ballybay, but failed to locate it. Rubber date stamp 1930 to 1941, changed at least three times. Type D 1965.

EMYVALE, Scairbh na gCaorach. North of Monaghan. A small village, and the Post Office was closed when I called. Type B with thick bar and time plug for 4 P.M. from March 1929 to May 1931. Without time plug from June 1934.

ESSEXFORD. No post office, but a V.R. wall box No. 11, collected from Inniskeen.

GLASLOUGH, Baile Glaslocha. Shop in a row of stone houses. The Sub Post Master is Mr. Wilson, and his assistant Miss G.Gillanders. English double ring metal date stamp "Glasslough, Monaghan" 1929 to 31 October 1944. The correct spelling I understand is now Glaslough. Type D 3 May 1955 to date.

GLENBROOK, Rusgoah. Near Newbliss. Rubber date stamp 12 September 1930. The Post Office was closed some years ago.

GREENAN's CROSS ROADS. Cros na Ghrianian. West of Smithborough. Type D 22 March 1961 to 6 February 1965 on which day it was closed. I have to thank the Post Master, Monaghan, and the Sub Post Mistress, Smithborough for copies.

INNISKEEN, Inis Caoin Deaga. On the Louth border. A general store. Type F date stamp 27 May 1964.

KILLBRONE, Coille Bron. Four and a half miles above Emyvale. The Post Office was closed when I called on a Sunday, but was fortunate to meet Mr. McMeel who is succeeding his father as Sub Post Master. There is a seat outside the Post Office where one can sit and gossip. He told me that there had been a Post Office here for 40 years. Type F date stamp 1965

KNOCKTALLON, Cnoc an tSalainn. Some five miles N.W. of Scotstown. Failed to find it. Type E by courtesy of the Post Master, Monaghan.

LARAH, Latrach. A private house on a side road off the Carrickmacross-Ballybay road below Lough Egish. The present Sub Post Mistress Mrs. Brigid Swinbourne is a very pleasant woman, and has been here since May 1965, succeeding Mrs. McCabe. She told me that there were 30 to 100 letters per day, most at the end of the month when bills are due. Mail is collected by van from Castleblayney. Rubber date stamps May 1929 to 1950, replaced at least six times. Type D 1965.

LATTON, Lechtan, and spelt Leachtfhinn on the Post Office name plate. A general store some five miles south of Ballybay. The Sub Post Master is Mr. McElroy, who is probably in his late twenties. There is an enamelled notice outside the Post Office similar to that for Castleshane. Type A 1965.

LATNAMARD, Leacht na mBard. On turning to the left some two miles along the Newbliss-Ballybay road. Failed to find it. Type E 1965, by courtesy of the Post Master, Monaghan. English rubber LATNAMARD, Newbliss, Co. Monaghan 1929-1934. Irish rubber 1952.

LISNALONG, Lios na Long. South of Rockcorry, but failed to find it. Rubber date stamp 18 September 1933. Type D 1965, obtained through the kindness of the Post Master, Monaghan, who sent my post card twice to the Sub Post Office to try to obtain a clear date stamp.

LOUGHMOURNE, Loch Mughdhorna. A farm house with an enclosed yard, about 100 yards up a side lane, not far from the junction of the Ballybay-Carrickmacross and Castleblayney-Shantonagh roads. An elderly Mr. James Duffy, told me that he had destroyed his date stamp record book a year back. Rubber date stamp 3 March 1933; type E 1965.

MAGHERACLOONE, Machaire Cluana. Five miles from Carrickmacross on the Kingscourt road, and opposite Coolderry Post Office there is a road leading to the right

which leads, after three miles to Maghercloone Post Office. It lies at a T junction, and attached to a farm house. The Sub Postmaster is Mr. George Anderson. When I called on a Thursday afternoon, the Post Office was closed. Wandering towards the farm, I found a greyhaired lady feeding chickens, who told me that she was Mrs. Susan Anderson. This kind lady informed me that the Post Office was never closed to visitors. Where else in the world would one get such a reception? Mail is collected by cycle from Carrickmacross at 11:45 A.M., and the Postman is due to return there by 3 P.M. in time for the English mail. Rubber date stamps November 1931 to December 1934. Type E 1965.

MONAGHAN, Muinechan. Mr. McKenna, the Post Master, was very kind and helpful, not only regarding the date stamps here, but also those of Sub Post offices. He also provided many maps. This Post office has recently been rebuilt, and all the old date stamps discarded without any record.

English date stamps were used until 1929, and there was even a new English one issued about 1924 of type A metal. I have also seen a small single ring English type used in May 1933.

Irish double circle with three bars below from 20 February 1930 to 31 August 1934. Type A 16 October 1934 to 29 November 1946. A similar type A with "2" between the bars 23 January 1939 to 1965, but the Post Master told me that it is now normally used on packets, though it was always used on his letters to me. A new type A was in use in 1949 with smaller bars, and letters more spread out.

There are now five date stamps in use (1) Muinechan 2 for packets, (2) Muinechan 1 type E on the counter, (3) Muinechan Claraite type E for registration, (4) type G with a short bar for money orders, and (5) Muinechan Telegrafa with an eight pointed star. There is also the usual parcel stamp, and a machine MULLAN, An Muileann. From Emyvale one turns right and the Post Office lies near the Co. Tyrone border. A general store, dark and dirty. The Sub Post Mistress is an elderly woman Catherine McKenna. Rubber date stamp November 1929 to January 1940, changed once. Type E 1965, and it was impossible to get a clean impression from a dirty pad and date stamp.

NEWBLISS, Lios Darach. The Post Office is in the main street. The Sub Post Mistress, Mrs. M McCabe was extremely helpful, and had an interesting selection of post cards. There is a telephone exchange with a straight line "Newbliss" hand stamp. Single circle metal English date stamp from July 1928 to October 1931. Type C with county added and with time plug 1 May 1942 to 14 June 1954. No time plug for 1965.

ROCKCORRY, Buidhe Achair. Lies to the west of the Ballybay-Cootehill road. An attractive Post office in a pleasant village. Enamelled notice outside as for Castleshane. A very pleasant Sub Post Mistress Mrs. K. Conlon. Type A 1965, and probably issued in the thirties.

SCOTSHOUSE, Achadh na nAbhla. It lies south of the Clones-Newbliss road. A dirty Sub Post Office in charge of a middle aged Mr. J. Donaghy. Rubber "ACAD NA nABLA" 21 June 1929 to 28 April 1931. Rubber "ACHADH na nABHLA Co. MHUINECHAN" 7 May 1931 to 19 January 1935. Type E with a short bar 1935

SCOTSTOWN, An Bhoth (Place of Worship) A pleasant village, and the Sub Post Master, Mr. Harry Wright is secretary of the Union of Post Office Workers of Monaghan. A general store and Post Office.

A small single circle English date stamp 1929. Type C with county added July 1934 to 1960. In this last year the date stamp was stolen by two youths, one of whom distracted Mr. Wright's attention in the grocery department. Starting probably as a joke, it became more serious than they thought, and the date stamp was never recovered. The Police, and the Post Master, Monaghan confirmed the tale. Mr. Wright refused to discuss the matter. A skeleton date stamp was issued, and my copy is dated 8 June 1960. A type E date stamp was issued later in 1960 or 1961.

SELLOO, Sail Mhagh. Four and a half miles from Scotstown, near the Fermanagh border, and along a pleasant "unapproved road" (meaning it cannot be used to cross the frontier). A stream separates the Post Office, the only building here, from the road. Rubber date stamp 6 November 1931 well worn. Type D 1965 and shows more signs of wear than has been seen in other metal date stamps. The Sub Post Mistress, Mrs. Susan Flynn, stepped back in alarm when I asked for her autograph on my post card asking "Am I on Candid Camera? "

SHANTONAGH, Sean tSonnach. A small village with a not too nice Post Office. The Sub Post Mistress is Mrs. Fox. Rubber date stamps, "Sean tSonnach, Caislean Mat Gamnac" 23 March 1929, "Sean tSonnach" September 1930 to May 1931, and "Sean tSonnach, Mhuinechan" July 1933 to May 1945, with two replacements. Type E June 1953 to 1965.

SHERCOCK. This town is in Co. Cavan, but its postal address was Shercock, Carrickmacross until 1931. Got a wonderful reception from the Sub Post Master Mr. Wright, and a nice album of old post cards, after I had assured him that I was not a Post Office official.

SILVERSTREAM, Currach Finne. From Monaghan take the road to the Armagh border, and after two miles, look for a petrol station and shop on the right hand side of the road. The Sub Post Master is a very young Mr. J. J. McCourt. Rubber date stamp 1934 to November 1944. Type E 1965.

SMITHBOROUGH, Mullagh, or na Mulla. Situated mid-way on the Monaghan to Clones road. Post Office only, and the Sub Post Mistress Una Ui Tuataill was the only one I encountered who wrote her name in Irish. She proved most helpful in subsequent correspondence. Type C with county added 1965, and probably in use for many years.

STONEBRIDGE, Leacht Gallain. It lies mid-way between Smithborough and Clones. The Sub Post Mistress, Mrs. K. McCluskey, was cheerful and helpful in spite of the handicap of nine children, and it would be a safe guess to say that this number will be increased. Rubber date stamp August 1942. Type E 1965.

STRANOODEN, Strath an Fhodain. On the road from Swan's Cross Roads to Monaghan. A small shop and Post Office, at a cross roads. The Sub Post Mistress is Mrs. Maguire, young and cheerful, with two charming small children. English single ring metal date stamp 26 January 1929 to 12 September 1930. Type D 1965.

SWAN'S CROSS ROADS, Druim Mor Thoir. About half way between Newbliss and Ballybay. A general store and Post Office. The Sub Post Master Mr. E. Sloan. Type D 1965.

THREE MILE HOUSE, Druim Guill. Four and a half miles south of Monaghan. I understand that the house was in the past three miles from Monaghan. It lies in the Parish of Druim Guill, and as happens elsewhere, when there is no village the Post Office is named after the parish. A petrol station, general store, and post office. The Sub Post Master is Mr. S. McEntee. Rubber date stamp 4 December 1934. Type D 1965.

TULLYNAHINERA, Tulamh na nInneona. Above Lough Egish off the Carrickmacross to Ballybay road. A comparative modern store. I did not meet the Sub Post Mistress but her assistant Miss B. Meegan was most helpful. Type E 1965. This date stamp appeared to be used on all sorts of items in the shop, luggage tags, et cetera. Wonder if it had its morning test on these items. There is a straight line "TULLYNAHINERA" for telephone bills.

TYDAVNET, Teach Damhnata. To the north of Monaghan and west of the Emyvale road. The Sub Post Mistress is Mrs. K. McKenna, 74 years. The Post Office was in a general store, but has recently moved to a separate office next door. The Post office name plates are in English only, and this is the only post office which I have seen in which the main name plates were not in Irish. There is an enamelled notice outside the Post office, similar to that at Castleshane. Rubber date stamp November 1928. Type C with county added 1965.

(Concluded)



# POSTMARKS



Supplement No. 26

ÉIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

January, 1966

## MALTESE CROSS POSTMARKS

In 1840, for the obliteration of the first adhesive postage stamps, issued 6th May, the English Maltese Cross postmark was introduced but not used generally until February 1841.

Later, many Irish towns had distinctive crosses, and those for Dublin, Cork and Belfast (used 1842-1844 only) were very similar but with certain distinguishing points. According to J. B. Seymour, "Stamps of Great Britain, the Cork cancel had a larger diamond and broader outside indentations than Dublin; Belfast had the largest and most spreading diamond, and the indentation of both outer and inner cross are much deeper, giving the centre a more compact appearance than in either of the others.



Belfast



Cork



Dublin



Mullingar



Westport

We quote from a paper read by Mr. D.A. Berry at a meeting of the Manchester Philatelic Society (Year and source not presently known) relative to the Cork Cross:

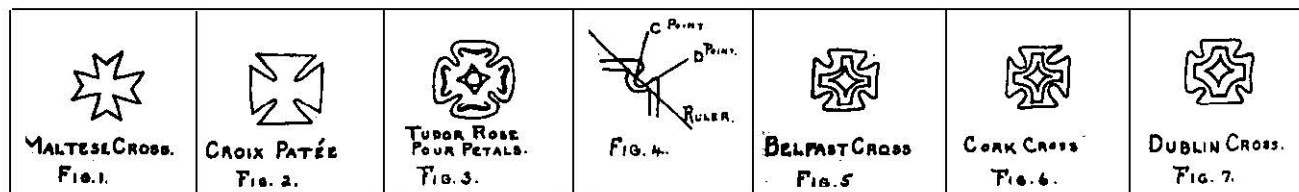
"The diamond of the Cork cross is large. Inner cross wide, fish tail spokes. The inner cross being much closer to the outer than usual, all the outlines being very thin. The indentations are wide. This is quite a distinctive cross, six single specimens shown, the first being a very fine example. Also one on original cover, dated Cork March 3rd, 1844. This cancellation came into operation probably early in 1843, the same as did also the Dublin and Norwich crosses and the London crosses with the numbers 1 to 12 in the centre. A different cross was in use in Cork prior to 1843, but it differs from the ordinary Maltese Cross. The outlines are thicker and the indentations are more curly. I show one on original cover dated Cork, March 26th, 1842, and there is a point to be noted in connection with this postmark that it has a small dot inside the inner cross at one of the points of the diamond."

## THE MALTESE CROSS POSTMARKS

by Tubbercurry

(Reprinted from The Revealer, Sept.-Oct. 1951, page 6)

The Maltese Cross obliteration was used to cancel the first stamps used in the British Isles. However, the cancellation is not a true Maltese Cross but apparently was formed by a combination of the following figures. See (Fig. 1, Fig. 2, and Fig. 3).



As Irish collectors, we believe that the idea came from the four-leaf shamrock. At first only one type was distributed for use. As these land stamps became worn, they were repaired, or in some cases duplicates were made locally, thus varieties came into existence.

The Maltese Cross cancellations are usually divided into four groups: (a) London Crosses, (b) Provincial Crosses of England and Wales, (c) Scottish Crosses, and (d) Irish Local Crosses.

Ireland used the normal English Cross until 1842, and then several varieties appeared and were used until 1844. The best known are from Belfast, Cork and Dublin. Cloghan and Galway both appear to have used distinctive crosses but more of these must be found on cover before they are definitely allotted to these offices.

The distinguishing features of the Irish Crosses are the straight sides of both the inner and outer crosses.

#### SIMPLE TEST FOR CROSSES

Place ruler across corners of the cross, so that it just touches the edges of the inner cross, and runs straight across the outer indentation and measure the space from C to D. The Belfast Cross is 2 1/2 mm spaced while the Cork Cross is 3 mm.

The Belfast Cross is scarcer than that of Dublin. The inner cross is relatively wider and the diamond runs to deep points. It was used during 1843 and 1844 (Fig. 5).

The Cork Cross has two varieties, both of which resemble the Belfast Cross in general outline. It has a neat appearance but clear impressions are scarce. The center diamond is a fraction broader than that of the Belfast and indentations of the outer cross are much wider and deeper. (Fig. 6).

The Dublin Cross has several varieties. Figure 7 shows the normal type used in 1843. Note that the inner cross is less curved making the arms broader and clumsier in appearance. It measures 18 mm in size.

The second variety was used near the end of 1843. It is 19 mm in size and has a semi-solid diamond with a circular uncolored center.

The third variety was also used near the end of 1843. It is 18 mm and has a rather clipped and severe appearance. The outline is extremely heavy and blurred. The outer and inner crosses have straight lines.

Another type reported was also used during 1843, and is 18 mm in size. The inner cross is broader and the center diamond is much larger.

Dr. J. Stafford Johnson reports a Dublin cross used at Durrow. Its distinctive feature seems to be that one of the outer indentations runs more deeply in than do the others.

Mr. J. B. Seymour discovered the Mullingar Cross. This cross has "v" shaped cuts at the center of all four sides and is unique for an Irish Cross.

#### NUMERICAL CANCELLATIONS

In 1844 the G.P.O. in London, at the suggestion of Mr. F. Abbot, set up a system of numerical cancellations for important offices-- each using a number assigned alphabetically. Ireland was assigned 450 numbers in 1844 and was given a type of cancellation which showed the cancellation number in a diamond of bars.

With the years 1856, 1874, 1887 and 1906 came additional changes in the original list--new numbers were added while others were changed or deleted. In 1906 the final changes were made and the last number assigned, bringing the list to 564. They continued in use until the middle 1920's.

Many variations occurred in the initial marking which was a square diamond with the numerals in the center of a rectangle-- 5 bars above, 5 below, and 5 at either side. These variances, from the original, began in the late 1840's and continued to the middle 1850's when duplex markings came in to widespread usage.

According to Hendy, the original postmark was a well-shaped diamond, with fifteen lines of medium thickness, five of them broken for the number. These handstamps were individually cut in brass so that variations were to be found. Dr. deBurca says that the Dublin type 8 has about thirty varieties. The subject of the varieties was discussed by both William Kane and Dr. deBurca in a series of articles in the Revealer in 1960-61 and the following chart is the original chart of Mr. Kane, as supplemented by Dr. deBurca.

LIST OF NUMERICAL OFFICES

For a complete listing of the postoffices to which the numerical postmarks were issued, our members may refer to Neil Stack's listings in the Revealer Nov-Dec. 1954 pages 194-5 ; Jan-Feb. 1955 pages 202-3; Mar-Apr. 1955 pages 210-11 and May-June 1955 pages 220-21.

| PERMUTATIONS OF THE NUMERICAL CANCELLATIONS                                                                     |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                    | by Wm. Kane                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                 | 3<br>3 3<br>3<br><br>9 lines    | 3<br>4 4<br>3<br><br>10 lines   | 3<br>5 5<br>3<br><br>11 lines   |                                                                                                                    |
| 4<br>2 2<br>4<br><br>10 lines | 4<br>3 3<br>4<br><br>11 lines  | 4<br>4 4<br>4<br><br>12 lines  | 4<br>5 5<br>4<br><br>13 lines  |                                                                                                                    |
|                                                                                                                 | 5<br>3 3<br>5<br><br>13 lines | 5<br>4 4<br>5<br><br>14 lines | 5<br>5 5<br>5<br><br>15 lines | 5<br>6 6<br>5<br><br>16 lines |
|                                                                                                                 | 6<br>3 3<br>6<br><br>15 lines | 6<br>4 4<br>6<br><br>16 lines | 6<br>5 5<br>6<br><br>17 lines | 6<br>6 6<br>6<br><br>18 lines |
| These<br>illustrations<br>are not to<br>scale                                                                   |                                                                                                                  | 7<br>4 4<br>7<br><br>18 lines | 7<br>5 5<br>7<br><br>19 lines | 7<br>6 6<br>7<br><br>20 lines |

# IMPRESSIONS OF NUMERICAL POSTMARKS & DUPLEX NUMERICAL POSTMARKS

[Taken from the Official Post Office Archives, London and obtained thru the courtesy of Dr. Brian deBurca for illustration herewith]

418

74.

Number  
Sent to  
Place. Impression. Acknowledged.

DUBLIN

6



Sept 21<sup>st</sup>



DUNDALK



June 24<sup>th</sup>

DUNFANAGHY



Sept 21<sup>st</sup>

Stamps.

