

the Revealer

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE ÉIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

VOL. 53, NO. 1
WHOLE NUMBER 231

SAMHRADH
SUMMER 2003



IRELAND: POSTAL HISTORY: The Pre-Adhesive Period



In This Issue

- 2 President's Message
- 3 Secretary's Report
- 4 That Was The Year
That Was – 2002
- 16 Mystery Envelopes
- 16 Letter to the Editor
- 17 Ireland: Postal History:
The Pre-Adhesive Period
- 20 The Mystery of the
"IRELAND" Handstamps

THE REVEALER

www.EirePhilatelicAssoc.org

ISSN 0484-6125

Published quarterly by the Éire Philatelic Association: Membership dues are as follows: U.S. (\$12.00); Canada/Mexico (\$15.00); all other countries (\$20.00).

Address Changes: Send address changes to the Publisher, Patrick J. Ryan, Sr., P.O. Box 2757, Universal City, TX, USA 78148.

E-mail Changes: Send e-mail changes to BCLANZ@aol.com and pjryansr@sbcglobal.net.

STAFF

Editor/Publisher/Distributor: **PATRICK J. RYAN, SR.**
P.O. Box 2757 · Universal City, TX, USA 78148 · (210) 658-9235

Assistant Editor: **ROBERT J. JOYCE**
14302 Oak Shadow · San Antonio, TX, USA 78232

Associate Editor: **ANTHONY FINN**
19 Kennington Rd. · Templeogue, Dublin 6W, Ireland

Advertising Manager: **RALPH CHAIET**
5718 Cheena Dr. · Houston, TX, USA 78096-5912

THE REVEALER Back Issues: **DAVID J. BRENNAN**
P.O. Box 704 · Bernardsville, NJ, USA 07924-0704

OFFICERS

President: **JOSEPH E. FOLEY, IRDP**
P.O. Box 183 · Riva, MD, USA 21140-0183 · jfoley4197@aol.com

Vice President, North America: ... **WILLIAM A. O'CONNOR**
3803 Foxglove Lane · Fallsbrook, CA 92028

Vice President, Europe: **MICHAEL H. PRIESTLEY**
14 Craigleith Crescent · Edinburgh EH4 3JL, Scotland
MandAPriestley@edinburgh52.fsnet.co.uk

Secretary/Chapter Coordinator: .. **MYRON G. HILL, III**
P.O. Box 1210 · College Park, MD 20741-1210 · mhill@Radix.Net

Treasurer: **BARNEY CLANCY**
P.O. Box 3036 · Seminole, FL, USA 33775-3036 · BCLANZ@aol.com

Immediate Past President: **DAVID J. BRENNAN**
P.O. Box 704 · Bernardsville, NJ, USA 07924-0704 · brennan704@aol.com

Editor/Publisher/Distributor - THE REVEALER: .. **PATRICK J. RYAN, SR.**
P.O. Box 2757 · Universal City, TX, USA 78148 · pjryansr@sbcglobal.net

DIRECTORS

Honorary Chairman of the Board:

COL. B.B. ZELLERS, IRDP

PAUL BENTO	MICHAEL BURRINGTON
PETER J. FOOTE, JR.	JOSEPH C. GODFREY
ROBERT J. JOYCE	PHILIP QUIGLEY

Auction & Trading Post Manager: **JOSEPH E. FOLEY, IRDP**
P.O. Box 183 · Riva, MD, USA 21140-0183 · jfoley4197@aol.com

Librarian: **PETER FOOTE**
P.O. Box 437036 · Chicago, IL, USA 60643-7036 · PeterFoote@aol.com

Special Offers: **TIMOTHY O'SHEA**
58 Porter St. · Granby, MA, USA 01033-9516 · toshea1@attbi.com

Historian: **MICHAEL J. CONNOLLY**
15 Fordham Rd. · Parlin, NJ, USA 08859

Publicity: **CHARLES J. G. VERGE**
P.O. Box 2788, Postal Station 'D' · Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1P 5W8
vergec@sypatico.ca

Youth/School Program Manager: **IRELAND - PHILIP QUIGLEY**
Rosslea Ten Acre, Kilrane, Rosslare Harbour, Ireland
..... **U.S. - ROBERT STEWART**
12721 Paddle Ct. · Orlando, FL, USA 32828 · bobstew@ix.netcom.com

APS Representative: **DAVID J. BRENNAN**
P.O. Box 704 · Bernardsville, NJ, USA 07924-0704 · brennan704@aol.com



President's Message

by Joseph E. Foley

Taking a look at our editor's deadlines, the one for the fall issue is September 1st. Since we install our new officers effective that day, this is my Swan Song. (Who said Seagull?) I was thinking of asking Pat to just re-run the one I wrote in the October-December 1969 Revealer, but that would hardly be fair.

It's been a quick two years and a memorable period - some memories like the attack on America that occurred just eleven days after the term started were terrible. Others, like the good fellowship of my many friends in the ÉPA are just the opposite. We all enjoy our stamps and covers, but to really top it off, the associations we make with others can't be beat.

Speaking of associations & people, this is the last Revealer before our AGM at BALPEX. We gave an outline in the spring issue and we can guarantee a really good time. "Early Birds" will gather in nearby Annapolis on Wednesday, August 27 at my home. There will be some good stamp talk, the possibility of a little amber colored

(continued on page 3)

CHAPTER COORDINATORS

Commodore John Barry Chapter

Members reside in NJ, NY, PA
Coordinator: David J. Brennan,
PO Box 704, Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Connecticut Chapter

Members reside in CT and Western MA
Coordinator: Michael J. Conway,
239 Judd Rd., Easton, CT 06612

James Hoban Chapter

Members reside in MD, VA, DC
Coordinator: Robert E. Moskowitz,
1634 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, MD 21231

John McCormack Chapter

Members reside in the greater Boston area
Coordinator: Peter E. Bugg,
5 Forest St., Franklin, MA 02038

Lone Star Chapter

Members reside in Central TX
Coordinator: Robert J. Joyce
14302 Oak Shadow
San Antonio, TX 78232

Northern California Chapter (NORCAL)

Members reside in Northern CA
Coordinator: David Laraway,
2070 N. Bechelli, #30
Redding, CA 96002

Southern California Chapter (SOCAL)

Members reside in Southern CA
Coordinator: William A. O'Connor,
3803 Foxglove Lane
Fallsbrook, CA 92028

The Association Secretary will write the appropriate coordinator when a new member joins the Association and provide the coordinator with the name and address of the new member. The role of the coordinator is to contact the new member, welcome the member to the Association and invite the member to join the local chapter.

ISSUE DEADLINES

Summer - 1 June · Fall - 1 September · Winter - 1 December · Spring - 1 March

Revealer ADVERTISING RATES

	size (inches)	per issue	4 issues (contract rate)
Full page	7.375 x 9.75	\$100	\$350
Half page horizontal	7.375 x 4.875	\$60	\$200
Half page vertical	3.625 x 9.75	\$60	\$200
Quarter page	3.625 x 4.875	\$35	\$120
Eighth page	3.625 x 2.5	\$25	\$85

CAMERA READY COPY REQUIRED

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(continued from page 54)

fluid and a meal. Thursday will see us move to Hunt Valley to set up our exhibits at BALPEX and insure that our hospitality suite is properly stocked. On Friday afternoon there will be an open [that means all are welcome] meeting of the officers and Board of Directors. In addition to the usual business and reports, there are a few topics that I would like to have your views on so that the Board can consider them. We seem to be running a little stale with our exhibits - all too frequently the same exhibits by the same folks - what can we do to entice some new folks? Is there anything we should do to improve our AGMs? And, like most philatelic groups, it would be great to attract some new and younger members. Any ideas?

Friday evening there will be a special Irish dinner at a near by restaurant. Please contact me [phone 410 974-6380 or e-mail: jfoley4197@aol.com] if you think you will be attending either the Annapolis early bird gathering or the Friday night ÉPA dinner so that we can plan on the right number. Our AGM itself will be on Saturday following the usual Irish Dutch Treat Lunch which is a Hoban Chapter BALPEX tradition.

At the AGM there will be a brief synopsis of the Board meeting followed by the installation of the new officers. OK - we're having the ceremony a couple of days early, but the Board and I thought it would be the appropriate thing to do, the meeting being so close. Bill O'Connor will be a truly outstanding president! Following the installation, Pat Walker will show us highlights from her Grand Prix exhibit of Irish Postal History. The session will end with a donation auction - many are unsold donation lots from our postal auction. That evening we will join our friends at the BALPEX Awards Dinner (I have been assured it will not be chicken - rubber or otherwise).

Sunday will be a little more informal. Catholic Mass will be on the premises [the priest is an Irish stamp collector, Fr. Mullowney]. Directions to other nearby denominations will be available. Some may wish to sample the brunch at the hotel - quite a meal. In the early afternoon, we hope to have a tour of the Irish exhibits with commentary by the exhibitors. It should be a great time. Further details are available from the BALPEX Website: www.BALPEX.org. Call or e-mail me if you have any questions - hope to see you there!

A few comments from and to our friends across the sea: member and STAMPA General Chairman Kevin Drury reports that STAMPA will be held on October 10-12 this year. There was some thought of moving to November dates, but that did not work out. STAMPA is an enjoyable show and you get to see Ireland in the bargain. Speaking of bargains, Irish stamps may on the edge. At the rate An Post is printing new issues, some with rather dubious Irish connections, they may just be killing the goose that ... (Seagull again? No -they don't lay golden eggs, they just ... well, we won't go down that road.)

This is being written a few days before the APS election closes. Regardless of the outcome, let me thank you for your support and encouragement.

It's time to close. There are a lot of members to thank and I do, but I would like to highlight our editor. Some of you know that Pat Ryan has been seriously ill. He has received strong support from his close friend and ÉPA director Bob Joyce and Jane Fohn, another friend and philatelist. Despite all of the problems, Pat continues to do yeoman work for us with our journal - God bless you, Pat!

Now it's time to go. I can't think of a better ending than that earlier message in 1969 when I said, "It has been an honor to serve this fine group of philatelists." ♣

SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Members

- 2651 Robert P. Wollert, 10 Van Saun Drive, Ewing, NJ 08628-1534
bobwollert@comcast.net
- 2652 Rich Parks, 154 Main St., P.O. Box 199, Altamont, NY 12009
- 2653 David Travis, 54 Egremont Rd., Devon, Exmouth England EX8 15A
buacha1@aol.com

Reinstatement

- 0448 John W. Walsh, 1000 Swallow Ave., Apt. 12, Marco Island, FL 34145-6224

Changes of Address

- 2192 Thomas J. O'Callaghan, 7707 W. Palatine Ave., Chicago, IL 60631
- 2331 Walter W. Johnson, P.O. Box 1872, Manassas, VA 20108-1872
- 2480 Brian G. Kestner, 1201 Broadway, Apt. 2408, Millbrae, CA 94030-1964
- 2012 Denis J. Mullins, 32-1 Tamaron Dr., Waldwick, NJ 07463-1177
- 2403 Lawrence L. Bowles, 301 N. Roadrunner Pkwy., Apt. 709, Las Cruces, NM 88011, we100@bellsouth.net
- 2608 Peter N. Allen, 75 S. Frog Hollow Lane, Evergreen, CO 80439-6305, vincenttwin@aol.com

New E-mail Addresses

Edward A. Tjarks corgi27@verizon.net

Membership Status

Members as of March 1, 2003 479
 New Members +3
 Reinstated +1
 Treasurer's Adjst +1
 Members as of June 1, 2003 484 ♣

REVEALER INDEX

From Michael Priestley

Any members who would like to have an updated copy of *The Revealer* Index on their computer can request one by sending an e-mail message to [MandAPriestley@edinburgh52.fsnet.co.uk]. The program is in Microsoft Word. Once on your computer, articles from subsequent issues of *The Revealer* can then be added to the Index.

I find it useful to be able to use the Find facility when looking for an article or author rather than searching 19 pages of closely typed paper. The program is also available in Microsoft Works, which gives the additional facility of being able to resort the Index.

THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS - 2002

(continued from last issue)

by Brian Warren



Type 1
(full frame)



Type 2
(cut away at top of tail)



Type 2
(incorrect cut away at top on 41c)



Type 3
(cut away at beak)



Type 4
(indent at bottom right)



Type 5
(indent at bottom right)



Type 5
(incorrect indent at bottom right on 41c)

41c Self-Adhesive (SNP Ausprint issues): The 41c Chaffinch and 41c Goldcrest within the roll and booklet are the same size and have the same perforation. However, the phosphor frame on the 41c Chaffinch stamps differs between the roll and the booklet. To explain this, I need to refer to the 30p, 30p/38c and 38c (all in rolls) and National rate NVI (booklet) self-adhesives with the Blackbird design produced by Ausprint. The tip of the tail of the Blackbird cuts into the top of the phosphor frame on the Australian printed issues. In order that the phosphor did not cover the tip of the tail, a small part of the phosphor was cut away so it did not overlap the tail. I do not understand why there was a need to do this but can only presume that the combination of the stamp colour and phosphor might upset the capacity of the IMP machinery to recognise the phosphor signal.

In printing the 10 x 41c self-adhesive booklet, it would appear that the same phosphor printing plate was used as for the 10 x N (38c) NVI booklet as the top of the phosphor frame on the 41c Chaffinch design has the same section of phosphor unnecessarily cut away. The full frame is present on the 41c Chaffinch ex. rolls. The 41c Goldcrest is the same as the NVI booklet with the tip of the beak of the bird being non-phosphor. This gives two separately identifiable Chaffinch stamps (types 1 and 2 below).

In addition, in August 2002, I noted a further printing of the 10 x 41c self-adhesive booklet with an altered phosphor frame on both the Chaffinch and Goldcrest. The frame as used for the 57c Song Thrush with indent at bottom right was now used in the booklet. The initial printing with type 2 frame (see below) appears to be more widely available. The various phosphor frame types on Australian printed self-adhesives are as follows:-

Type 1: Full frame – 41c Chaffinch design in rolls.

Type 2: Frame cut away at top of tail on Blackbird - 30p, 30p/38c dual currency and 38c (in rolls) and National NVI (in booklets). The same frame was incorrectly used on the 41c Chaffinch in the 10 x 41c booklet;

Type 3: Frame cut away at tip of beak of bird on Goldcrest - 30p, 30p/38c, 38c and 41c (in rolls) plus National rate NVI and 41c (in booklets);

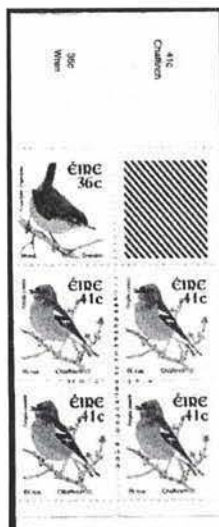
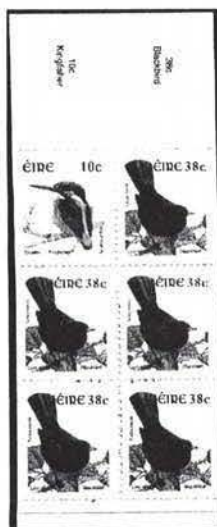
Type 4: Large frame indent at bottom right of Robin – European rate (E) NVI and 44c (in booklets); and

Type 5: Small frame indent at bottom right of Song Thrush – Worldwide (W) NVI and 57c (in booklets). This frame was incorrectly used on the 41c Chaffinch and 41c Goldcrest designs in the 10 x 41c booklet. This indent differs from Type 4.

Note: All ISSP, Enschedé and Walsall phosphor definitive stamps have full phosphor frames.



€4.10 Vending Machine Booklet and Pane



Vending Machine Booklets (Regular Gummed Stamps):

The format of the first euro currency booklet is the same as the previous £1 issues. The Blackbird instead of the Goldcrest was the featured design for the inland rate. The Blackbird design was cut back as the phosphor is now a 2mm frame, similar to sheet and self-adhesive issues (instead of a square box as per the previous £1 booklet). The 10c Kingfisher stamp is non-phosphor. The booklet has three identifiable singles – 38c Blackbird, imperf. left, 38c Blackbird, imperf. right and 10c Kingfisher, imperf. left – all on CCP3 paper. All £1 booklet machines at post offices were converted to take the €2 coin.

The revised €2 booklet issued on 6 August contains 4 x 41c (inland rate), a 36c make-up value plus a label. The booklet has thus three new identifiable singles – 41c Chaffinch imperforate left, 41c Chaffinch imperforate right (both with phosphor frame) and 36c Wren imperforate left (non-phosphor) – on CCP3 paper. I have noted a striking dark shade variation on the stamps in this booklet. The outer margins of these booklets continue to be imperforate with a top imperforate binding margin and a partly perforated bottom margin.

A €4.10 booklet for use in new vending machines was also issued on 6 August. This new booklet contains 5 x 41c Chaffinch (top row) and 5 x 41c Goldcrest (bottom row). This replaces the previous alternate design layout in both rows used in similar pre-euro 10 x 30p counter booklets.

The outer margins are imperforate with an imperforate binding margin on the left and a partly perforated margin with four centre holes at right. This gives two new identifiable stamps – 41c Chaffinch (phosphor frame) with imperforate top margin and 41c Goldcrest (phosphor frame) with imperforate bottom margin – on CCP3 paper.

New machines have been installed outside larger post offices which dispense these booklets. At such offices, the machines usually replace previously installed €2 booklet machines. You can use various coins to make-up the €4.10 but the machine does not dispense any change. No special FDC or pictorial cancel was available for either booklet issued on 6 August.

Frama Labels: The remaining working machines (Kilkenny and Galway) were withdrawn with the change over to the euro.

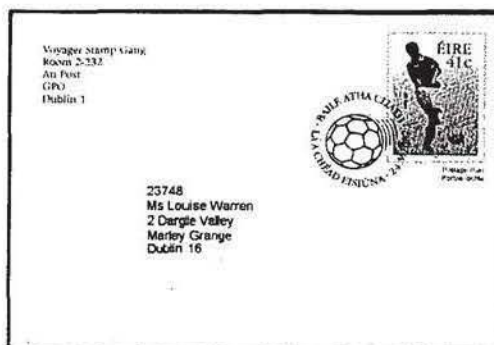
POSTAL STATIONERY

Date of
Issue

Description

Cost

Notes



Postage Paid Postes payées

ex. G.P.O. postcards

Voyager Club World Cup postcard

16 Feb	St. Patrick's Day	- set of three prepaid postcards	€1.00	per card - sold separately
		- set of three greetings cards	€1.80	per card including prepaid envelope – sold separately
23 Mar	World Cross Country Championships, Dublin	- set of two postpaid postcards	- *	distributed at event free of charge
April	Sellafield Postcards	- Greetings from Ireland	€1.00	} Sold by An Post and retail stores on } behalf of Chernobyl Children's Project
		- Look Me in the Eye	€1.00	
		- Tell Me the Truth	€1.00	
		- Greetings from Ireland (with tear off instructions)	- *	Distributed free to households
24 May	Voyager Stamp Club – World Cup Postcard	no charge	*	with imprinted postage paid Roy Keane stamp
2 July	G.P.O. Postcards	- set of six	€1.00	per card – postage paid
1 Aug	International Reply Coupon		€1.50	New type – barcoded on reverse
12 Aug	2003 Special Olympics Competition Postcard		€2.00	Sold at all post offices
Oct	C5 Postage Paid Envelope		46c	New printing
31 Oct	Voyager Stamp Club – Rock Legends Postcard	no charge	*	with imprinted 41c U2 stamp
10 Dec	Philatelic Bureau Christmas Greetings Postcard	no charge	*	

* : items marked with an asterisk were not on general sale.

St. Patrick's Day Cards: Three postcards were available featuring (1) Large and small Shamrock; (2) Map of Ireland and St. Patrick; and (3) St. Patrick (cartoon style) with Football (World Cup). The Postage Paid imprint has the usual R.J. King design and matches the imprint of recent years.

The St. Patrick's Festival logo also appears on each card. The price of individual cards was €1.00, an increase of 17.5c as compared to the 2001 price of 65p. All three cards were overprinted by the Stampa Council with a combined greetings/thank you message. One card was sent to each member.

Three greetings cards complete with prepaid envelope bearing the same R.J. King stamp design were also available featuring (1) Enamelled Latchet Brooch (as used for the 30p definitive design in the Heritage & Treasures series); (2) Illustrations from Book of Kells; and (3) Beach Scene. The price of individual cards was increased by 15c to €1.80 as compared to the 2001 price of IR£1.30 (€1.65).

The envelope was the same as the cream type used in 2001 with the wording "In the event...." positioned 2mm to the left of the three sender's address lines. A green "first day of issue" cancel was available from the bureau and other large main post offices for use on both postcards and envelope.

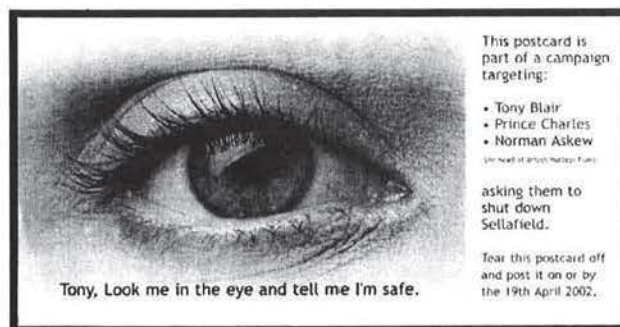
World Cross Country Championships: The Championships were held in Leopardstown Racecourse outside Dublin on 23/24 March. The Championships were due to be held at this venue last year but were transferred to Belgium due to the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease. An Post was an associate sponsor and had a stand at the venue. An Post staff at the venue distributed a pair of postcards free of charge advertising the event. The cards were not available from post offices or the bureau. One of the cards features Sonia O'Sullivan who was a member of the Irish Women's Team which won bronze in the Shortcourse event.

Postage
Paid

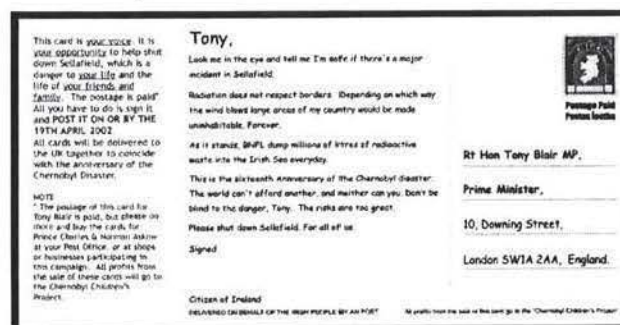
Both cards bear a simple "Postage Paid" impression on the reverse of the cards and could be posted at Leopardstown to receive either a special (but uninspiring) cancel - see *Other Special Postmarks* - or an ordinary DMC IMP cancellation.

Sellafield Postcards: The postcards were sold by An Post and a number of major Irish owned retail stores (including Superquinn and Dunnes Stores) on behalf of the Chernobyl Children's Project, which produced the cards and received the sales proceeds. The cards were part of a campaign to have the nuclear plant at Sellafield, England closed because of the potential environmental danger given its location beside the Irish Sea. They went on sale during week commencing 1 April. There was no special postmark available.

The cards are pre-stamped with a poor postage paid reproduction of the 2d Map of Ireland stamp and were pre-addressed to Prince Charles (Greetings from Ireland), British Prime Minister (Look me in the Eye) and the Chief Executive of British Nuclear Fuels (Tell us the Truth). Each card could be purchased individually.



Obverse (top) and reverse (bottom)
of postcard distributed free to households



In addition to cards on retail sale, An Post undertook to deliver one of the "Look Me in the Eye" cards without charge to each household in the Republic of Ireland. In practice, not all households received a free card. This card differs from the retail card as it has a tear off instruction notice attached to the card requesting that it would be signed and then posted to Tony Blair.

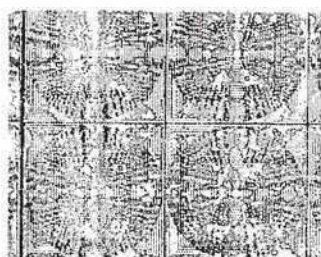
Voyager Stamp Club – World Cup Postcard: Roy Keane was captain of the Irish Team but amid great controversy was sent home from the team's training camp in Saipan prior to their transfer to Japan. An Post sent a postcard to all Voyager Club members promoting the World Cup issue. The postcard incorporates the Roy Keane design as a postage paid stamp and was cancelled with a first day pictorial cancel of 24 May. This date coincided with Roy Keane travelling home to Cheshire, England following his dismissal from the Irish squad.

G.P.O. Postcards: A set of six postcards depicts the G.P.O. and some of the events associated with the building. The cards depict (a) Modern view of G.P.O.; (b) Statue of Cuchulain, legendary warrior of Irish mythology – the statue by Oliver Sheppard dates from 1911 but was later adopted as a memorial to the 1916 rising and placed in the G.P.O.- the statue is reproduced incorrectly and is facing the wrong way; (c) The 1916 Proclamation – one of the few surviving originals is now on display beside the philatelic office in the G.P.O.; (d) View of

interior of G.P.O. during the 1916 Easter Rising – seven of the commemorative stamps issued in 1966 featuring the signatories of the Proclamation are superimposed on the picture; (e) Mid Victorian view of the G.P.O. by Edward Heffernan (1868); and (f) A selection of Irish stamps issued during 2001. Each card has an imprinted postage paid stamp which features a reduced version of the 75th Anniversary of the Easter Rising stamp issued in 1991.

International Reply Coupon: A new version of the in a revised design and larger format (as approved at 1999 UPU Congress in Beijing) went on sale on 1 August.

2003 Special Olympics Competition Postcard: Ireland will host the 2003 Special Olympics. An Post are one of the sponsors. A postal competition which required entrants to purchase and complete a large size (210mm x 148mm) postcard was on sale at post offices from 12 August to 3 September. The card was pre-addressed to the competition address and had a simple "Postage Paid" impression similar to that used on the World Cross Country postcards.



Pattern on inside of C5 envelope (reduced in size)

Postage Paid Envelope: The interior design was altered and now consists of circles within squares as illustrated above.

Voyager Stamp Club – Rock Legends Postcard: The postcard was sent out to members promoting the Rock Legends issue. The imprinted U2 stamp has a poorly printed bureau CDS cancellation.

Christmas Postcard (Philatelic Bureau): The philatelic bureau sent out a large postcard with Christmas and New Year greetings to all customers. The obverse of the card reproduces the 41c Christmas booklet stamp and the address/message side incorporates the stamp plus a postage paid indicator (with the "41c" retained within the design). The stamp was cancelled with a plain printed postmark of 10 December.

EXHIBITION SOUVENIRS AND CACHETS – OVERSEAS



No special souvenirs were produced by An Post during 2002 for overseas exhibitions. The only exhibition cachet, of which I'm aware, was produced for **Amphilex 2002** held in Amsterdam (30 August to 3 September). The exhibition coincided with the issue of the National Gallery stamps but there was no additional special first day of cachet available at the show.



Irish Philatelic Circle – Annual Convention (11 - 12 May): A special private non-postal cachet was produced by the Circle for their Annual Convention held in Hammersmith in London. The cachet marks the 40th Anniversary of the re-naming of the Group as the Irish Philatelic Circle in 1962. A special cover was also produced and is illustrated on the front cover (60 prepared).

Éire Philatelic Association – Annual General Meeting: The 2002 AGM was held in conjunction with the American Philatelic Society's STAMPSHOW in Atlantic City, New Jersey (15-18 August). The AGM was held on the 17 August. The 50th Anniversary Souvenir sheet was overprinted for the meeting and all who attended was presented with a copy. The overprinted sheet was illustrated on the front cover of the Fall 2002 edition of *The Revealer*.

EXHIBITION AND SOCIETY SOUVENIRS, POSTMARKS AND CACHETS – REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Date of Issue	Description	Cost	Plate Numbers/Notes	Paper	Perforation	Printer
	 					
	Stampa 2002 public souvenir – o/p on U2 miniature sheet					
9 Mar	IPTA/An Post Collectors' Road Show, Kilkenny					
	G.A.A. Hall of Fame Sheetlet with o/p in black	€6.00	600 copies (numbered)	CCP3	14¾ x 14	Mahons
	F.P.S.I. serviced cover	€1.50	30 copies			F.P.S.I.
10 Mar	IPTA/An Post Collectors' Road Show, Limerick					
	G.A.A. Hall of Fame Sheetlet with o/p in black	€6.00	600 copies (numbered)	CCP3	14¾ x 14	Mahons
	F.P.S.I. serviced cover	€1.50	30 copies			F.P.S.I.
14 April	Stampania 2002 (R.D.S., Dublin)					
	- Year of the Horse Miniature Sheet with "Stampania 2002" overprint in red	€3.00	600 copies (numbered)	CCP3	14 x 14¾	Mahons
	F.P.S.I. serviced cover	€1.50	60 copies			F.P.S.I.
26 July	Irish Philatelic Society – Centenary Season Exhibition and Buffet					
	- Irish Mammals €5 Miniature Sheet		- 100 copies o/p in black	CCP3	14¾ x 14	Ardiff
	- An Post Centenary Postcard		- 100 copies o/p in blue and red			IPS
	- Centenary Souvenir Card		- 100 copies o/p in green			IPS
5 Oct	Cork Philatelic Society Exhibition					
	- Booklet	€3.50	250 printed.			
	- Serviced cover	€0.50	with 38c Steeplechasing stamp – 165 printed.			
14 Oct	Stampa 2002 (Members' Souvenirs)					
	10 x Worldwide NVI booklet with o/p	€25.00	1,200 overprinted in black	CCP3	11¼ x 11¼	Mahons
	- Otter miniature sheet with o/p		1,200 overprinted in black	CCP3	14¾ x 14	Mahons
	- Irish Soccer Heroes sheetlet with o/p		1,200 overprinted in black	CCP3	14¾ x 14	Mahons
18 Oct	Stampa 2002 (Public Souvenir)					
	- U2 miniature sheet with o/p	€7.50	2,000 overprinted in black	CCP3	12¾ x 13¼	Mahons

All sheetlets/miniature sheets/booklets/postcards as listed above were privately produced/overprinted by the organisers. Overprinting (if applicable) was with the permission of An Post.



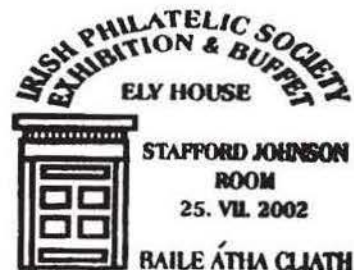
IPTA/An Post Collector Road Shows – Kilkenny and Limerick: The one-day shows were held in Newpark Hotel (Kilkenny) and Jury's Hotel (Limerick) on successive days in March. As well as the souvenirs listed, special postmarks were available for both shows. Both cancellations (as well as the Stampania and I.P.S. postmarks referred to below) were designed by I.P.C. member John Mullen. The Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland (FPSI) provided a specially printed envelope for each show. The same envelope was used for both shows. Envelopes were only sold stamped and cancelled.

Unfortunately, the regional roadshows have ended due to the withdrawal of support by An Post. The I.P.T.A. hope to run a number of "Stampania" type shows in Dublin during 2003.



Stampania 2002 overprint on Year of the Horse miniature sheet

Stampania 2002. Although An Post did not have a stand at the Dublin show held in Jurys Hotel, a special cancellation was available this year. The F.P.S.I. also provided a special serviced cover for this show.



Irish Philatelic Society: The I.P.S. ended its Centenary Season (2001/2002) with an exhibition and buffet for members held in Ely House, Ely Place, Dublin 2 on Thursday 26 July. The Society currently holds all its meetings at this venue. The two souvenirs issued in 2001 to mark the Society's centenary were overprinted for the event – 100 of each of the An Post postcard and the non-postal souvenir card were overprinted. In addition, the Irish Mammals miniature sheet was overprinted – 200 in total (100 mint and 100 cancelled on the Society's envelope). A special postmark was provided by An Post. The postmark incorporates an outline of the door of the Stafford Johnson room in Ely House. Stafford Johnson was a well known Irish philatelist and a member of the I.P.S. He was also a member of the Knights of St. Columbanus who own and occupy Ely House.

The special postmark was applied to all the overprinted An Post postcards and the cancelled miniature sheets. All four items including both a mint and a cancelled miniature sheet were presented in a folder at no charge to all members.



Cork Philatelic Society: Although the roadshows have ended, the annual Cork Philatelic Society show continues and this year marked the 25th anniversary of the first Cork exhibition booklet. To mark the silver jubilee, the booklet cover and interleaves refers to the anniversary; each booklet contained a pair of stamps from the Steeplechasing set. The cover has an illustration of a horse and jockey.

Stampa 2002: Stampa was held earlier this year and the three members' souvenirs were distributed to members resident in Ireland shortly prior to the exhibition. As the Rock Legends stamps were not issued until 17 October, the public souvenir (the overprinted U2 miniature sheet) was not available until the opening day of the show (18 October). The three special cancels available and the related stamp issues were as follows:-

- 18 October: Football (Irish Soccer Heroes);
 19 October: Euro symbol and European Union Stars (Euro Currency); and
 20 October: Top of Guitar (Rock Legends).

No special official cover was available. There were no other postmarks/cachets available as no overseas postal administration attended the exhibition.



The Awards Dinner was held in the Lansdowne Hotel, Pembroke Road, Dublin 4 on 19 October. The Awards Dinner Menu was printed on the reverse of an An Post gold edged invitation style card. The obverse side reproduced the three postmarks. In addition, each card was cancelled with the Euro postmark of the same date. Total of 50 cards produced – less than 30 attended the dinner.

OTHER SPECIAL POSTMARKS



World Cross Country Championships: As already detailed in the section *Postal Stationery*, the World Cross Country Championships were held in Leopardstown Racecourse outside Dublin on 23/24 March. A special (but uninspiring) postmark was available.



First Flight: A special cancellation was available in connection with the first flight by Lufthansa between Shannon and Frankfurt on 3 March. This was a cargo flight which was routed Cologne – Chicago – Los Angeles – Chicago – Shannon –

Frankfurt. There were also special U.S. cancels/covers for Los Angeles – Chicago – Shannon and Chicago – Shannon which incorporated a reference to Shannon in the postmark. It would appear from cachets applied to the U.S. covers that the inaugural flight overflew Shannon and that the first flight on this route which landed at Shannon was on 7 March. Covers flown from Shannon to Frankfurt have a Frankfurt arrival CDS of 4 March which appears to indicate that the covers were carried by an alternative routing from Shannon. Note the Irish cancel was incorrectly applied in all cases at 45° off-centre to the right. Illustration is correctly shown in upright position.



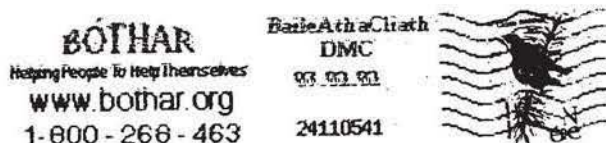
Methodist Anniversary: A special postmark (and cover) sponsored by *The Methodist Philatelic Society* was available in Limerick on 14 August to mark the 250th anniversary of the first recorded Irish Methodist Conference.

SLOGANS USED ON INTEGRATED MAIL PROCESSORS (IMPs)

(all illustrations of IMP postmarks reduced)

All new slogans used in 2002 for the first time are listed below. Repeat uses of earlier years' slogans are referred to at the end of this section. All slogans were in use at the Dublin Mails Centre ("DMC") and at Portlaoise Mails Centre ("PMC") except for IMP 39 which was only noted in use at the DMC. Earliest known dates are recorded. Each slogan is usually replaced by the following listed cancel.

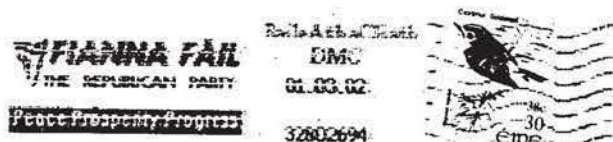
DMC continued to exclude the time within the postmark whereas PMC always has the time printed.



IMP 35, used 7 February 2002 on DMC machine 2

IMP 35 - BÓTHAR / Helping People To Help Themselves / www . bothar . org / 1 – 800 – 266 – 463

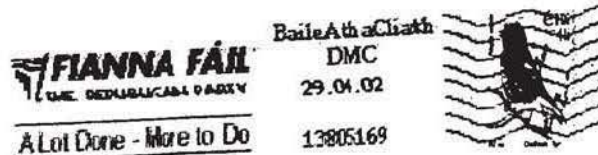
In use from 7 February 2002. Bóthar is a charity organisation that uses livestock in Development Aid. Bóthar is a word in the Irish language that means "Road". However, it finds its origins in the Irish word for cow which is "Bó" and "Thar" which means across or over.



IMP 36, used 1 March 2002 on DMC machine 3

IMP 36 - FIANNA Fáil / THE REPUBLICAN PARTY / Peace Prosperity Progress

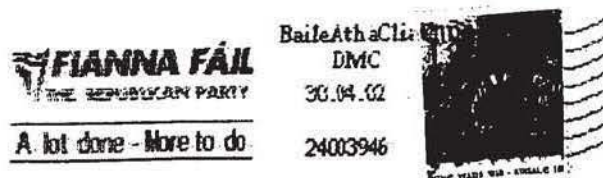
In use from 1 March (DMC) and 4 March (PMC). The use of this slogan and (IMPs 37, 38 & 39) by the largest Irish political party, prior to the General Election, was the subject of widespread adverse comment. Fianna Fáil together with their coalition partners Progressive Democrats were returned to office, hence the use of IMP 39 following the election on 17 May.



IMP 37, used 29 April 2002 on DMC machine 1, upper case

IMP 37 - FIANNA Fáil / THE REPUBLICAN PARTY / A Lot Done - More to Do

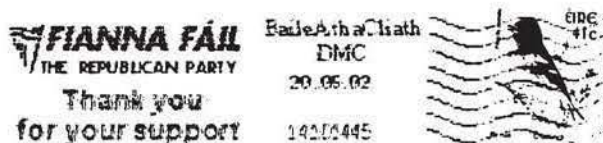
First seen used at DMC on 28 March. This slogan is similar in style and layout to IMP 36.



IMP 38, used 30 April 2002 on DMC machine 2, lower case

IMP 38 - FIANNA Fáil / THE REPUBLICAN PARTY / A lot done - More to do

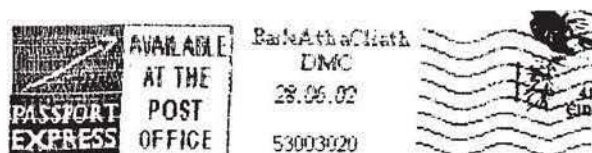
On 29 April the layout of this slogan was changed. Note the change to lower case lettering in the final part of the slogan wording.



IMP 39, used 20 June 2002 on DMC machine 1

IMP 39 - FIANNA Fáil / THE REPUBLICAN PARTY / Thank you / for your support

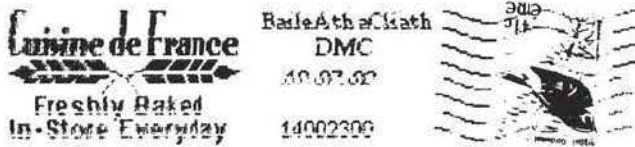
First seen used at DMC on 20 May. This slogan is similar in style and layout to IMPs 36, 37 and 38. There have been no reported examples of IMP 39 being used at PMC and IMP 38 remained in use there until the end of May 2002.



IMP 40, used 28 June 2002 on DMC machine 5

IMP 40 - PASSPORT / EXPRESS / AVAILABLE / AT THE / POST / OFFICE

First seen used at both DMC and PMC on 31 May. Last seen used on 1 July.

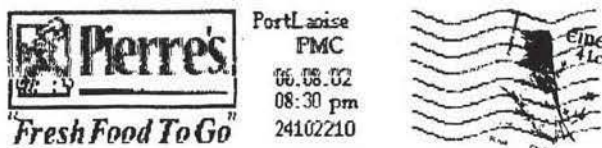


IMP 41, used 10 July 2002 on DMC machine 1

IMP 41 - Cuisine de France / Freshly Baked / In-Store Everyday

First seen used - at both PMC and DMC - on 2 July. Cuisine de France together with the illustration under it of ears of wheat is the trademark of that entity.

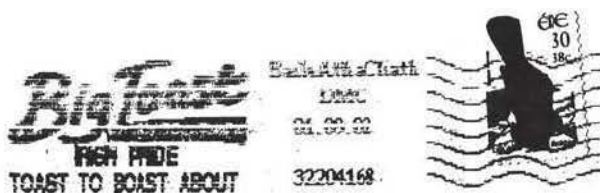
Cuisine de France manufactures and distributes par-baked bread, confectionery and savory products to the retail and food service industry.



IMP 42, used 6 August 2002 on PMC machine 2

IMP 42 - Pierre's / "Fresh Food To Go"

First seen used - at both DMC and PMC - on 1 August. Pierre's is a supplier to the convenience retail "food to go" sector, with nation-wide distribution.

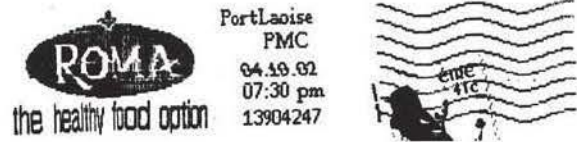


IMP 43, used 1 September 2002 on DMC machine 3

IMP 43 - Big Toast / EXTRA THICK / IRISH PRIDE / TOAST TO BOAST ABOUT

First seen used on DMC 3, on 30 August.

IMP 41 "Cuisine de France" was in use at PMC up to 3 September. IMP 43 was first seen used at PMC on 4 September.

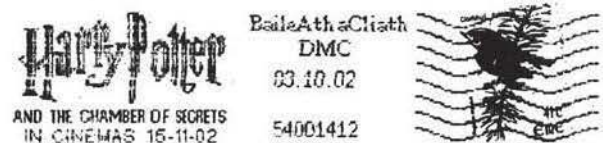


IMP 44, used 4 October 2002 on PMC machine 1

IMP 44 - ROMA / the healthy food option

First seen used at DMC on 16 September. It was used on 2 October 2002 at DMC and continued at PMC at least until 4 October. PMC machine 2 always appeared with only the top half printed.

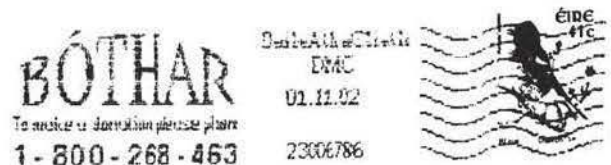
All four food slogans (IMP 41, 42, 43 and 44) relate to product ranges from IAWS plc, an Irish quoted company.



IMP 45, used 3 October 2002 on DMC machine 5

IMP 45 - Harry Potter / AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS / IN CINEMAS 15-11-02

First seen used at DMC on 2 October. The "Harry Potter" part of the slogan is the logo for that character. PMC machine 2 always appeared with only the top half printed.



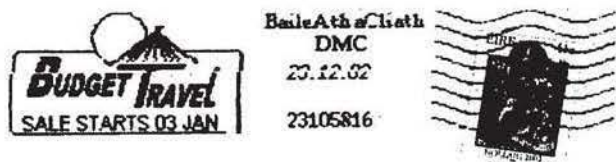
IMP 46, used 1 November 2002 on DMC machine 2



IMP 46, used 1 November 2002 on PMC machine 2 - top half only printed

IMP 46 - BÓTHAR / To make a donation please phone / 1-800-268-463

First used at both DMC and PMC on 1 November. This slogan should not be confused with IMP 35.

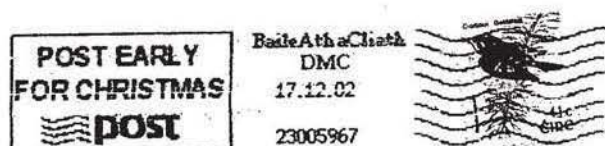


IMP 46, used 23 December 2002 on DMC machine 2

IMP 47 - BUDGET TRAVEL / SUMMER SALE STARTS 03 JAN

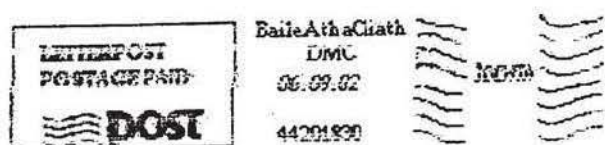
In use from 20 December 2002 to 2 January 2003. Note that the wording differs from IMP 34 as the date reference of "3 JAN" was altered to "03 JAN".

Repeated Slogans



IMP 7 ALWAYS INCLUDE A / RETURN ADDRESS / ON YOUR ENVELOPE = POST continues to be the default slogan which is used on all machines in the absence of a sponsored or An Post slogan. This slogan together with IMP 11 POST EARLY / FOR CHRISTMAS / =POST (in use from 2 to 21 December) were the only repeated slogans in use during 2002.

Postage Paid IMP



IMP P1 (PAID 1) - Letterpost / Postage Paid / =POST

A postage paid slogan from an IMP was first seen used at DMC machine 4 dated 6 September 2002.

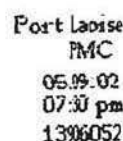
This is the IMP equivalent of the familiar red machine cancellations for postage paid items. Note IOCHTA is misspelled - it should be IOCTHA. Also seen on machine 5. Machine 4 is the more usual usage. Not yet seen in use at the PMC.

PMC town name formats



IMP 43, used on 5 September 2002 on PMC machine 1.

Note PortLaoise is a single word



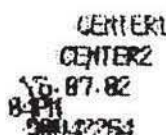
PMC machine 1 on 5 September 2002 - no slogan.

Note 2 dots at bottom left and space between Port Laoise

The slogan portion of the IMP cancellation is not printed on envelopes where the technology correctly identifies the address as being to a foreign destination. Rather than the slogan element being printed, up to four corner "dots" will appear.

The two illustrations above show this for PMC. Note the format of the town name also differs. Where the slogan is printed the town name appears as a single word **PortLaoise** whereas when the slogan is not printed, the town name appears as two separate words **Port Laoise** with a space between the "t" and "L". This was first noted during 2002 but could exist as far back as 2000 when PMC came into use.

ATHLONE MAILS CENTRE



Test Mail: CENTER1/CENTER2/16.07.02//04PM/00042264/AOO

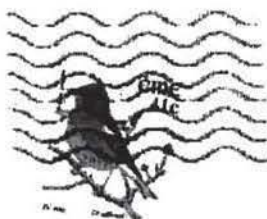
The Athlone Mails Centre (AMC) became operational on 2 October 2002. Testing of mail items at the AMC took place from July 2002 with further processing and postmarking taking place in PMC. Apart from a small number of test items which received the cancel illustrated above, the first AMC IMP style postmark consisted of a wavy lines cancellation which is shown on the next page.



Wavy lines cancel
used on 2 & 3 Oct.

This wavy line cancel was used only on 2 and 3 October (identifiable by reference to the tag code). From 4 October the full postmark as illustrated below came into use. Note the English wording in the town name.

ATHLONE MAIL CENTRE
AMC
04.10.02
00017430



ATHLONE MAIL CENTRE / AMC / 04.10.02 / 00017430

To date four OCR machines appear to be in use (with tag codes 3980/3981/3982/3983). The printed postmark does not contain any machine reference and the number beneath the date is simply a continuous consecutive number for the items processed cumulatively to date and does not correlate with the number included in the tag code on the reverse of the envelope.

A second cancellation machine appears to have been introduced on 4 November as a new consecutive number sequence commenced on that date. Either of the two number sequences can be found one of the four tag codes. This seems to indicate that the OCR and cancellation of mail are separate operations. By the end of December the first cancellation machine had reached circa number 970,000 and machine 2 circa 600,000.

MACHINE SLOGAN



**Lucozade
SPORT
GOOD LUCK
IRELAND**



SP 340: LUCOZADE / SPORT / GOOD LUCK / IRELAND

The slogan was used in June (from 1 June) during the period of the World Cup (Football). Slogan noted in use in Cork (two dies), Galway, Limerick and

Waterford. Galway continued to use the slogan up to 6 January 2003. All impressions were of poor quality and the above illustration has been enhanced to show the full wording. Lucozade Sport is the name of a popular isotonic drink.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS



old type – narrow font



new type – thin and wide font

December - Airmail Label: New rolls were first noted in December. The typeface and spacing differs as compared to previous printings.

December – An Post Christmas Card: The general card used by An Post incorporated the 41c self-adhesive booklet stamp design.

December – Santa Christmas Envelope: The 2002 envelope was a repeat of the design used since 1997.

CONCLUSION

Once again, I wish to thank An Post and my many philatelic friends for their help in producing this annual supplement. Particular thanks to Maurice Barrett (who supplied the information and illustrations relating to IMP/slogan postmarks), to John Mullen for his work in relation to the definitives and special cancellations and to John Lennon for additional information relating to IMPS and for identifying the initial phosphor frame variations. Finally, thanks to Brian Donoghue, Tony Finn, Heinz Grunz, John Holman, Otto Jung, Jimmy Kelly, Michael Kelly, Gerry Mooney, Geoffrey McAuley, Declan O'Kelly, Pádraig O'Shea and David Turner for providing much valuable assistance and information.

As usual, I once again ask members who might be attending any of the international exhibitions attended by An Post or their agents to let me know as regards the availability of any Irish souvenirs or cachets. In particular, shows attended by agents often result in the use of a cachet organised by the agent without the knowledge of the philatelic bureau in Dublin. I can be contacted by e-mail at brian.warren@ie.pwcglobal.com or by post at 2 Dargle Valley, Marley Grange, Dublin 16, Ireland.



Mystery Envelopes

by C.I. Dulin, Geneva

I believe that most of us who indulge in Irish philately sooner or later come across items which simply do not make apparent sense. Often, of course, this may be due to lack of knowledge which an "expert" will find a perfectly logical explanation for. There are others which appear to defy even the "experts" opinions.

One such has had me puzzled for years. It was only recently when a similar cover appeared in one of Andy Ballard's mail sale (No.47 Lot 75) that reminded me of it. Accordingly, this note is written in the hope that someone can come up with a reasonable explanation.

Essentially, I have a series of six of these envelopes (two of which are illustrated in reduced size below) which bear the boxed two line cachet (in black) "Found in Paddington/without contents". All have Irish definitives stamps (various denominations from 1/2d to 10d in my collection, 9d in Andy Ballard's sale) together a British GV 1-1/2d definitive. All the envelopes were unsealed.

The postmark on the Irish stamps is that of College Green (in Gaelic) and dated 25 JU 25. The British stamps are all postmarked Paddington 10 AU 25. The only exception to this is the 10d which has a machine cancel but equally dated 25 Aug 1925. All were on Jury's Hotel Dublin stationery. Paddington, incidentally, is a district in West London mostly known for its li railway terminus there.

Finally, in terms of description, all were addressed to Philadelphia, but to two distinct persons and addresses. One was to a Mr. William Conlen of 1818 Packard Bldg, the other to Mr. Edward R. Wood Jr. at 245 South 17th Street. No envelope had any

arrival American backstamps on it.

So much for description, now for the unanswered questions.

Firstly, it seems that they were genuinely used in Ireland. As to why they were found in Paddington is conjectural. If there was some mix-up in the mail bag distribution then a more logical railway terminus might have been Euston (where the Holyhead trains finished their journey). The lag time between the Dublin and Paddington postmark dates are of the order of 6-7 weeks. Again an unknown factor.

Next, the British GV stamp might have been affixed in Dublin. This would be of no import at all to the Irish Post Office but could have a bearing on the British Post Office. At that time, the preferential rate to the USA was 1-1/2d for the first ounce (the Inland rate was still 2d although for 3 ounces). Conceivably the envelopes (all empty now as then) could have contained advice notes, in which case they might have qualified under Printed Matter for which the postage for which would have been 1/2d.

Usually, but not necessarily, such material would have been marked as Printed matter. The key point here is that neither in Dublin nor in London was any surcharge raised.

Did the London Post Office forward the mail to the States or was it returned to Ireland? The latter seems unlikely since the envelopes did not contain any contents and hence no inkling of any return address. The absence of any US arrival markings was not uncommon at the time.

The dates appear, to me at least, without significance. As far as I can judge there were no especially important announce-

ments in Iris an Phuist regarding this particular date. The announcements on Irish Postal Stationery came weeks later.

Why to two different people, albeit in the same city? The names, to me at least, are not those of regular dealers at that period. And, finally, why bother to send the whole range of Irish definitives in this way? The values I have not seen are the 2-1/2d, 5d and the 1/-. They probably exist, but where?

Any and all comments would be greatly appreciated. ♣

Letter to the Editor

Labels MP 460

In the Winter 2000 issue of The Revealer I submitted a note on the MP 460 Label requesting further information.

I received a couple of replies, the most comprehensive of which was from Michael G. Murphy. I quote here part of his letter, which also contained a photocopy that he had dated May 6, 1936. In his example, it would seem that the label was used because it was an official letter from the Department of Agriculture and had a circular paid cancellation instead of the normal official paid machine cancellation.

"It seems that the label was used in the following circumstances:

a) Where the 'inspector' noticed, as the mail went through, normal Post Office procedures were not followed.

b) Where there was an unexplained delay in the delivery of the letter.

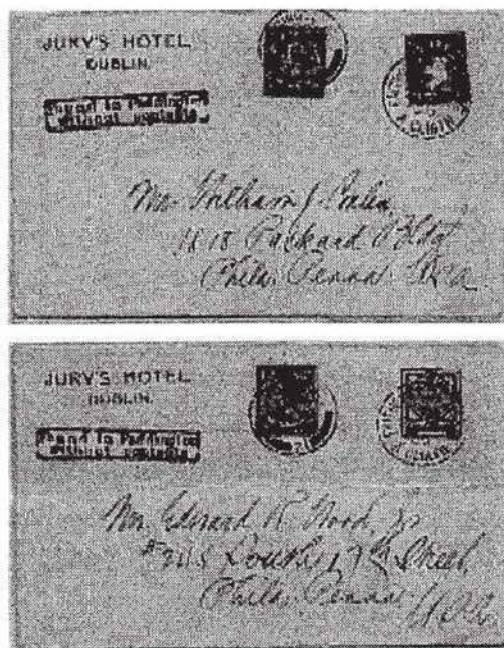
c) Where the letter appeared to be tampered with. In this case, it would also be sealed officially with a special label.

d) Where there might be considered the possibility of fraud or larceny, particularly with regard to registered mail."

He continues to remark that usually the matter would be dealt with locally but in more serious cases, it would be referred to The Post Office Investigations Branch.

Mr. Murphy's letter was dated February 6, 2001 and I would like to apologize for the delay in sending this information to you.

C. I. Dulin, Geneva ♣



IRELAND: POSTAL HISTORY: the Pre-Adhesive Period

Patricia Stilwell Walker, FRPSL

Reprinted from *The Collectors Club Philatelist* with permission of the author.

This article is intended to be an introduction to the postal history of Ireland from the date of the establishment of the post in 1657 through the period of initial postal reform (1839-1840), ending with the first postage stamp in May 1840. It is organized in a loose chronological fashion with a discussion of each "period" that had similar traits. The article is based on a presentation by the author ... titled "Ireland Postal History: 1657 through the 1890s".

Background

The structure and payment system for the post in Ireland was similar to other countries of this period. There were a few main roads on which the post traveled; most letters went via a major hub city, even if the "as the crow flies" distance was shorter, because of the poor quality of secondary roads. Rates were based on distance traveled and the number of sheets of paper in the letter – the theory being that the bulk (not weight) of the mail was important. Most mail was sent unpaid with the fees being collected by the recipient – because of the uncertainty of travel and the road conditions as well as an incentive of insuring delivery (no delivery, no payment).

In Ireland the hub city was Dublin; distances charged were measured to/from there using an Irish measure of distance, which differed from the British, or statute mile. 100 Irish miles were equal to 127 British miles.

Since Ireland is an island, understanding the packet routes to the rest of Britain is necessary. There are four: 1) Dublin to Holyhead (in north Wales) established pre-1657; 2) Donaghadee (near Belfast) to Port Patrick (Scotland) established in 1710, but did not start operating until 1718; 3) Waterford to Milford-Haven (southern Wales) established 1787, started operating in 1789; and 4) Dublin to Liverpool started in 1826.¹

Mail traveled between towns and cities with senders and recipients having to go to the post office to send or receive mail; in British/Irish parliamentary acts and post office notices this service is called the "General Post". In contrast, mail service within a city area to/from smaller sub-offices (receiving houses) or to a private ad-

dress is referred to as "Local Post". With the exception of Dublin, local posts were established quite late in Ireland.

General Post Early Period 1657 to 1784

The first Irish postal rates were established in 1657, by the same Act of British Parliament that set those for the English postal system. They were quite simple – any single sheet letter traveling under 40 Irish miles cost 2d ("d" is the abbreviation for pence – there were 12 pence in a shilling and 20 shillings to the pound), any single letter traveling over 40 miles cost 4d and a single letter from Dublin to/from London cost 6d.²

Until 1686, no money was exchanged between the Irish post office and the post office in London; this required partial pre-payments on letters coming from outside Dublin and going to London (or beyond) or those from London traveling to Ireland beyond Dublin.³ See Figure 1.

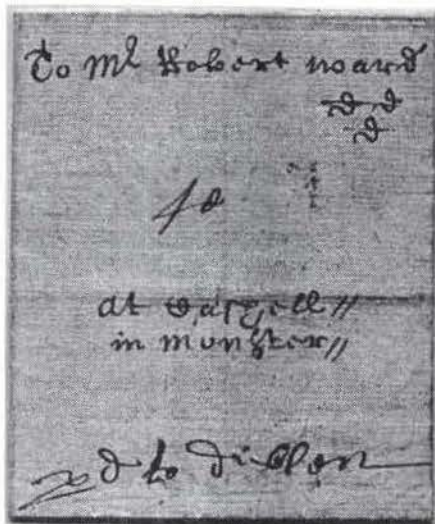


Figure 1 - November 3, 1657 from London addressed to "Mr. Robert Ward at Cashell in Munster." On the bottom is the manuscript notation "Pd to Dublin"; partial payment being required until 1686. The manuscript "4d" in the center is the postage due for the carriage of the letter from Dublin over 40 Irish miles to Cashell in the county of Munster.

The first Irish postal markings (other than manuscript) are the dated "Bishop Mark"⁴ and the Irish "postmaster initial in circle". Consisting of a divided circle with month and day, the Dublin Bishop mark first appeared in 1670 and lasted in vary-

ing forms until the late 1790s. Far less common are the initial W and D within a circle; only a handful are known from 1667 to 1669. The 1669 D in circle in the author's collection, Figure 2, is the only example in private hands. The assumption is that the letters represent the names of the postmasters.⁵

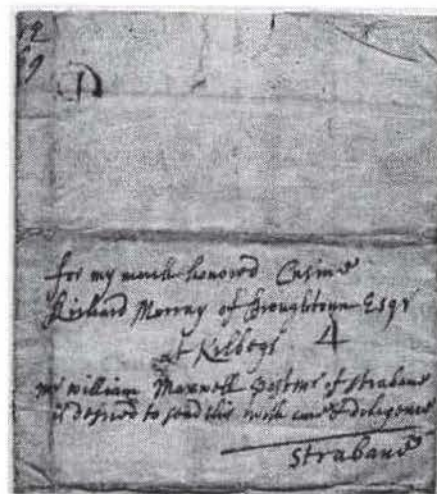


Figure 2 - Earliest Irish postal marking, the postmaster's Initial in Circle. The letters W (1667) and D (1669) are known; of 5 copies recorded, this is the only one in private hands. The "D" is assumed to represent Dowling (the Dublin Postmaster) or Deane (the Deputy Postmaster). December 24, 1669 letter addressed "for my much honored Cusine/Richard Murray of Broughtown Esqr/at Kilbeys/Mr William Maxwell postmaster of Strabane/is desired to send this with care and diligence"; charged 4d for more than 40 miles.

Next to appear are the town name handstamps – the first of which appeared in 1698 from Strabane. These straightline all capital letters marks eventually gave way to mileage marks (see below) and the more familiar circular date stamp (CDS) of the middle 1800s.

Mail incoming from other places (countries, colonies, etc) carried on private ships was supposed to be handed over to the post office at the first port of call; a fee was established in 1711 of 1d, which was added to the postage paid by the addressee.⁶ The earliest markings indicating this service are on a trio of covers from 1712/13; applied in Waterford, they read simply: SHIP.

Certain individuals – high ranking post

office and other government officials, and members of Parliament had the privilege of sending mail without charge; this practice was called the "franking system". Due to the high cost of mail this privilege was considerably abused. The franking system was abolished with the advent of uniform penny postage in 1840. There are many markings associated with free mail and its abuse that are beyond the scope of this article.

In this time period, there were no agreements to exchange money with other countries for mail handling services; thus, letters destined outside the British system had to be paid to point of departure – usually London. This is the principal reason why partially prepaid mail exists in the early period. Dublin had a number of handstamps, the first of which appeared in 1763, denoting POST PAID which are typically seen on letters to France.

General Post - Independent Period 1784 to 1831, Unified period 1827 to 1839

In 1784 two Acts of the Irish Parliament⁷ established a totally separate Irish Post office, under authority of the Irish Parliament with new postal rates. The Irish postal revenues were subsequently renewed (or revised) from 25th March each year. The Irish Post Office remained a separate entity despite the Union of 1801. There was a substantial change in how distance was calculated in 1827, and in 1831, control of the Irish Post Office once again passed to London.

During this period there were eight rate changes, each growing more complex with more and more distance ranges added, and higher rates! In 1784 the rates were divided into 3 distance stages: under 15 miles (2d), 15 to 30 miles (3d) and over 30 miles (4d). By 1827 these had expanded to 13 distance stages ranging from less than 7 miles (2d) to 250 to 300 miles (13d). Any study of Irish mail rates in this time period depends heavily on understanding the rate structure for the date of any particular letter.⁸

For letters carried from Ireland to a destination in Britain, the rate charged was split into an Irish and a British portion – this was not only because the mileage was calculated by different standards but because the Irish portion of the monies collected was owed to the Irish Post Office in Dublin. Often this split rate is noted in manuscript on the front of letters. One spectacular handstamp, Figure 3, is known from Belfast.

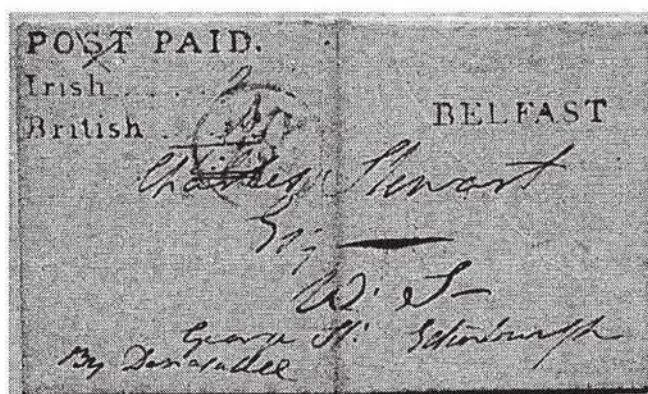


Figure 3 - Belfast split rate handstamp, one of four known. May 17, 1804 from Belfast to Edinburgh, Scotland. Irish portion of the rate is 2d (14 miles Belfast to Donaghadee the packet port), 10d is British portion (2d packet, 8d mileage) for a total of 1 shilling – written "1:0". The Edinburgh receiving date stamp has been struck over the bottom of the rate calculation.

To further complicate matters when calculating rates on Irish/British mail, special 1d fees were levied to help pay for two key bridges – across the Menai Straits (1819) in Wales (all letters traveling to or from Ireland via Holyhead), and across the river Conway (1821), traveling via Chester.⁹ These have to be added to all other charges. Finally in 1827, a fundamental change was introduced where the miles traveled were calculated as a single distance – Ireland and Britain combined – with a charge based on British miles. The period from 1827 until 1839, the start of postal reform, is known as the unified period for this reason.

The most common markings seen in the Independent period are the "Mileage" marks which were introduced in 1808 and lasted beyond their period of utility as name markings. Mileage marks consisted of the name of a town and a number which represented the miles between that town and Dublin – the primary method of calculating the rate charged.¹⁰ Also during this period, date stamps used in Dublin became more complex with time codes (AM, PM) and number/letter codes that identified the stamping device (and thus the sorter). Most well known is the Mermaid, which included a

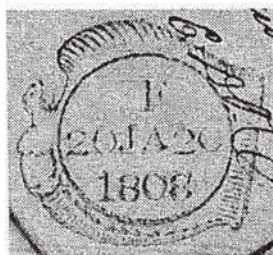


Figure 4 - Mermaid date stamp; introduced in January 1808, clear strikes are rare after the initial few months.

complex design of the figure of Hibernia¹¹, see Figure 4; this was followed by a date stamp with an octagonal frame and finally by a diamond shaped frame. The diamond shape was carried over to the design of the stamp obliterators in the adhesive period.

One of the great rarities of British postal history comes from the earliest experiments with registered mail which took place in Ireland from

1809 to 1811. On March 31, 1809 Samuel Browning presented a proposal to the Post Office titled *Plan for the Security of Property Letters passing through the Dublin Post Office inwards*. A partial test was initiated on March of 1809 as can be verified by a Post Office Notice printed in *Faulkner's Dublin Journal* in May 1809. The experiment lasted to the end of 1811, at the least, per the date of a letter in the author's collection, Figure 5.

The registration system required that letters be prepaid and a receipt was given to the sender at mailing. A rigorous system of signatures taken at each stage until the handing of the letter to the addressee allowed any problem to be pinpointed. Twelve towns in Ireland were selected for the experiment: Cork, Limerick, Belfast, Sligo, Derry, Enniskillen, Wexford, Newry, Kilkenny, Drogheda, Clonmel and Waterford. The Registration handstamp consisted of a circle trisected horizontally with a letter (top), number (middle) and a blank: it is surmised that the top letter designated the route, and the number, the town – the control number of each individual letter being entered in manuscript in the blank bottom. A/10 is known from Kilkenny (2 examples known) and G/9 from Wexford (1 example).¹²

Ship letter rates were changed in 1815 to be 6d single and 1s double for letters landing in Irish ports. The Irish rate of 6d was less than the rest of Britain (which was 8d) for ordinary ship letters and substantially higher than for India letters which were granted concessionary rates in Britain in 1819 (4d for up to 3 ounces). This



Figure 5 – December 20, 1811 Kilkenny to Dublin; one of three letters known handled by the Browning experimental registration system which required that letters be prepaid and a receipt given to the sender at mailing. A is the route designation, 10 is the town (Kilkenny), and the manuscript 3 is the letter number. Letter states: "I beg leave to enclose this half banknote of £50..." - thus charged 1s 2d the double rate for 50-80 miles.

country district (4 mile limit) was added for an additional 1d charge. Initially there were eighteen receiving houses. Until the early 1800s, the 1d charge for the penny post had to be prepaid;

anomaly in ship letter rates lasted until 1835.

In this period two categories of mail were granted reduced postage. The first concessionary rates for ordinary soldiers and seamen were enacted (1795). These provided that single letters could be sent or received for 1d (prepayment required) by non-commissioned personnel.¹³ In 1819 a special charge for Charity Letters was set by Act of Parliament. Charities were allowed to send printed matter (notices and letters) at the rate of 1d per dozen, anywhere within Ireland. Charity letter markings are scarce and sought after.

Beginning with the Franco-British Postal Agreement of 1836, Britain negotiated more and more agreements with foreign countries that governed the collection of fees and exchange of money for services provided.¹⁴ These grow more numerous until the establishment of the General Postal Union (1875) begins to eliminate the necessity. All of these British agreements with foreign countries apply equally to letters sent from Ireland. A very scarce marking is known from Dublin in 1837 that was created specifically for the agreement of 1836. It consists of a rectangular frame with capital B and F on two lines, meant for noting the British and French portions of the new rate; four copies are known. A similar rate mark, similarly scarce (3 known), was used in Derry after the Anglo-French Postal Convention of 1843.

Local Post 1773 to 1840

Dublin established a local post system in 1773 with service for the inner city area at a charge of 1d; in 1774 an outer city

for delivery in the country district the additional 1d was due on delivery. Arguably the most famous of the Irish pre-adhesive markings is the Dublin triangular framed PENNY POST PAID of this service. It is usually called the Irish "Dockwra" because of its similarity with the 17th century London markings of the same name. Ten examples are known to exist. Less well known, but scarcer, 5 known, is a PENNY POST PAID with tombstone shaped center, Figure 6. The central numbers of both types are presumed to represent the receiving house.

The Dublin Penny Post¹⁵ had a number



Figure 6 – Dublin Penny Post, second "Dockwra" type PAID handstamp with tombstone center, March 16 circa 1785; 5 examples known. The number 5 indicates the receiving house. Straightline MR17M is "morning" date stamp of the penny post system.

of less spectacular "paid" and "not paid" markings; a series of date/time (multiple deliveries per day) marks; paid numerals; receiving house names; and special markings to add local fee to ship letters – a 7d and a 1/1 handstamp for ship letters landing at Dublin and subject only to ship letter and penny post fees.

Local (penny) posts were not established in other towns in Ireland until 1832. Handstamps with the town name plus PENNY POST were applied to letters handled by these local posts; towns had varying numbers of receiving houses which, besides name handstamps, often used marks consisting of a number in a rectangular frame e.g. No. 5. Cork used a system of letters to identify its receiving houses.¹⁶

Postal reform period: 1839-1840

As is well known, agitation for lower postal rates in Britain led in December of 1839 to a uniform rate of 4d per single letter – now represented by a weight of 1/2 ounce – regardless of distance traveled. This rate lasted only until January 10, 1840 when a uniform rate of 1d per 1/2 ounce became effective. During the Fourpenny period, 12 Irish towns introduced numeral "4" handstamps; Dublin had four different styles. The franking system was still in effect and the local post system was unchanged. Letters which would have paid less than 4d under the old system – because of the very short distance traveled – were charged the lower rate.

After January 10, 1840 a number of Irish towns introduced numeral "1" handstamps which often included the word PAID. Dublin had a series of handstamps which also included number which ran from 1 to 24 – assumed to identify the sorting clerk.

The "Penny Black" stamps reached Dublin sometime in May 1840, thus ending

(continued on next page)

The Mystery of the "IRELAND" Handstamps

by Colin Breddy

Reprinted from *The Collectors Club Philatelist* with permission of the author.

Introduction

For twenty-five years, between 1784 and 1810, some of the mail crossing the Irish Sea from Ireland to mainland Britain was impressed with a handstamp bearing the single word – "IRELAND."

No other part of the United Kingdom was ever issued a handstamp bearing the country name. Until now, it has been an unexplained mystery why these handstamps were employed, and even where and when some of them were applied, particularly since not every letter was struck with this mark.

The main object of this article is to propose some new theories regarding the purpose for which they were issued and to establish exactly where and when they were applied. As a result of my research into the different types, sizes, ink colors, usage dates, and locations of these handstamps, this article presents a full and definitive account of this fascinating aspect of British and Irish postal history.

Previous Listings of These Handstamps

The basic red ink, small, medium, and large marks and the large "S" (for Sunday) variant were illustrated by Daniels¹ in 1898, and the same illustrations were used by Hendy² in 1905, both of these authors stating that all the marks were applied in Dublin. In 1937 Robson Lowe³ only showed the small and medium types in red and gave usage dates of 1777 to 1790 and 1791 to 1810 respectively. One year later the 2nd edition of his book⁴ thoroughly confused the whole issue by listing five various types by height instead of length, and although the entry did include the three basic sizes, the usage dates were completely wrong and the "S" variant was omitted. In 1940 the 3rd edition noted "It is now believed to have been a Foreign Branch Office London stamp applied to incoming mail to England passing through London." About the same time Alcock and Holland⁵ noted that the early specimens were struck in black ink "but in 1790 or 1791 a change seems to have been made to red ink." In 1948 Robson Lowe⁶ listed black and red specimens and an "S" variant but made no reference to the size of the handstamps.

Feldman and Kane⁷ produced a much more comprehensive listing in 1975 that included the three basic sizes and the "S" variant struck in red in London, but stated that all specimens in black ink were applied in Scotland, listing two sizes. Barrie Jay⁸ repeated essentially the same listing in 1983 although he added the completely new, small-sized "S" variant.

All of these listings from 1937 onwards continued to perpetuate the statement that

the handstamps came into use in 1777.

Primary Research and Sources of Information

I believe that, as a result of the shelling and burning of the Dublin Post Office in 1916 and further fire damage in 1922, virtually no records remain in existence of the early days of the Irish Post Office. Mairead Reynolds' book⁹ provides useful background information but no direct references to the "IRELAND" handstamps.

(continued from previous page)

the pre-adhesive period of her postal history.

NOTES

¹ See Denis Salt, *The Domestic Packets between Great Britain and Ireland, 1635-1840* for a complete discussion.

² Double letters (2 sheets or one sheet and an enclosure) were twice that. In the Irish/British system there typically was no triple rate, the next step being 4 times.

³ M.M. Raguin, *British Post Office Notices*, Volume 1 pre-1800, MR #8701.

⁴ The Bishop mark was named after Henry Bishop, Postmaster in London from 1660 to 1663; it was introduced in London to refute charges that the post office was responsible for delayed mail.

⁵ David Feldman and William Kane *Handbook of Irish Postal History to 1840*, page 5.

⁶ David Robinson, *For the Port and Carriage of Letters*, page 105; Colin Tabart, *Robertson Revisited*, page 5.

⁷ 23&24 George 3, Cap 17

⁸ The best discussion of rates is Robinson; a more compact version is Fred E. Dixon and Joachim Schaaf, *Irish Postal Rates Before 1840*. For example, Robinson discusses the fact that although the Irish and British currencies were different in this time period, that fact is almost never reflected in the rates charged mail that was carried by both systems.

⁹ Robinson, page 55.

¹⁰ For a complete discussion of mileage marks see Feldman/Kane Chapter 13 or Hans G. Moxter, *The Mileage Marks of Ireland 1808-1839*.

¹¹ For a detailed discussion see page 13 of Feldman/Kane.

¹² James A. Mackay, "Registration in Ireland from 1809", published in *The Revealer*, Summer 1988, Volume 38, No.1, pages 8-11.

¹³ Robinson, Chapter 57.

¹⁴ The primary references pre-1840 are Colin

Tabart, *United Kingdom Letter Rates: 1657-1900: Inland & Overseas*, O.R. Sanford and Denis Salt, *British Postal Rates, 1635 to 1839* and M.M. Raguin, *British Post Office Notices*.

¹⁵ The definitive reference for the Dublin Penny Post is Manfred Dittmann, *The Dublin Penny Post*.

¹⁶ See William Kane, *Undated Namestamps of Ireland 1823-1860* for a complete discussion.

REFERENCES

Manfred Dittmann, *The Dublin Penny Post*, Published by the FAI, 1992.

Fred E. Dixon and Joachim Schaaf, *Irish Postal Rates Before 1840*, published by the FAI, 2nd Edition 1995.

David Feldman and William Kane *Handbook of Irish Postal History to 1840*, published by David Feldman Ltd 1975.

William Kane, *Undated Namestamps of Ireland 1823-1860*, published by the FAI, 1986.

James A. Mackay, "Registration in Ireland from 1809", published in *The Revealer*, Summer 1988, Vol 38, No.1, pages 8-11.

Hans G. Moxter, *The Mileage Marks of Ireland 1808-1839*, published by the FAI, 2nd Edition 1994.

M.M. Raguin, *British Post Office Notices*, series of volumes covering the years from 1666 to 1899, published by the author.

David Robinson, *For the Port and Carriage of Letters, A Practical Guide to the Inland and Foreign Postage Rates of the British Isles 1570 to 1840*, published by the author 1990.

Denis Salt, *The Domestic Packets between Great Britain and Ireland, 1635-1840*, published by the Postal History Society (GB), 1991.

O.R. Sanford and Denis Salt, *British Postal Rates, 1635 to 1839*, published by the Postal History Society (GB), 1990.

Colin Tabart, *Robertson Revisited*, published by James Bendon 1997

Colin Tabart, *United Kingdom Letter Rates: 1657-1900: Inland & Overseas*, published by the author 1989.



In the British Post Office Archives in London, there are three volumes of Irish Post Office copy letter books relating to the administration of the Irish Post Office between 1784 and 1814.¹⁰ They contain not one single direct reference to these handstamps, although useful information relating to the Irish Sea packets and the mails to England can be found there. In addition they contain a most useful report written by Lord Cloncarty in 1807 describing in great detail his plans for improving the running of the Dublin Post Office. Since these plans were based on the running of the London Inland Office, they provide a useful insight into the way the system operated.

In addition there are fourteen volumes of the Inland Office administration copy letter books covering October 1794 to October 1810; twenty-eight volumes of the Inland Office orders and notices books covering February 1794 to October 1810; and the "Private letter copy book" of Daniel Stowe, Superintending President of the Inland Office.¹¹ I have searched all of these and with the exception of two very brief, but notable, entries, no comments or references directly relating to these handstamps were found. However the order books do contain information relating to the sorting of the Irish letters and of Sunday working which is very pertinent.

In the absence of "hard" information I have had to rely on the evidence of the actual covers that I have obtained or been able to record, and from these I have deduced a number of new theories relating to the usage of these "IRELAND" handstamps.

New Theories: Why Was an "IRELAND" Handstamp Required

In 1782, weakened and humiliated by the loss of the American Colonies, Britain agreed to a new deal for "IRELAND" when the self-styled Irish Volunteer Army demanded some form of self-government, or threatened an Irish war of Independence. Under this new deal the Irish Parliament became independent in 1783, and in the following year an Act was passed to form an independent Irish Post Office, which came into being on August 1, 1784. By this Act the two administrations were to receive, in respect of letters passing between the two countries, each its own proportion of the postage. An agreement was made at that time that, until the Irish Post Office could establish its own packet boats, the

mails would continue to be conveyed by packet boats hired by the British Post Office. The cross-channel element of the postage was credited to the British Post Office, and the Irish Office received from the former, "in lieu as well of the profits of the said packets as in compensation for other purposes," an annual sum of £4,000.¹² In fact, apart from a few weeks in 1813, the Irish Post Office never did establish their own packet boats.

At the same time, the first "mileage" marks were being introduced in England to assist postmasters in checking the computation of postal charges, since the rate to be charged was determined by the number of sheets of paper that made up the letter and the distance over which it was to be carried. These charges were written on the front of the letters, a new charge being added at each stage of the journey, the general principle being that each office handling a letter wrote on the cumulative unpaid charges only as far as the next office; the last forwarding office showed the final, and total, charge to the destination. The packet charges made for carrying letters across the Irish Sea were always part of the "British" charge, but for letters between Dublin and London, up to 1797, there was an "All-in" rate of 6d. per single sheet, that rose to 8d. in January of that year before being replaced in April 1801 by a specific packet rate and new mileage rates.¹³

When this 6d. charge was first introduced in 1653, it was 2d. more than the highest inland rate and had always remained that way until August 31, 1784 (after the Irish Post Office became independent), when the English rate for distances above 150 miles was raised to 6d. without any change being made in the Dublin to London rate.

Did this initially create a problem under the new system? After all, there was only a single charge marked on an unpaid letter from Dublin to England, and all of this was credited to the British Post Office, whose local postmasters collected it. Since the £4,000 allowance had presumably been calculated and agreed in the light of the rates prevailing before the end of August 1784, did the Irish Post Office now feel that somehow they were not being sufficiently recompensed for their work?

Possibly the "IRELAND" handstamps were associated with the introduction of mileage marks. However, I prefer to be-

lieve that the Irish Post Office decided to monitor the number of unpaid letters being sent to Britain, by the two different routes, and as part of that exercise it was necessary to apply a handstamp to them.

It is just possible that the answer to this may yet be found in some dry and dusty tome of the Receiver General's and Accountant General's records.¹⁴

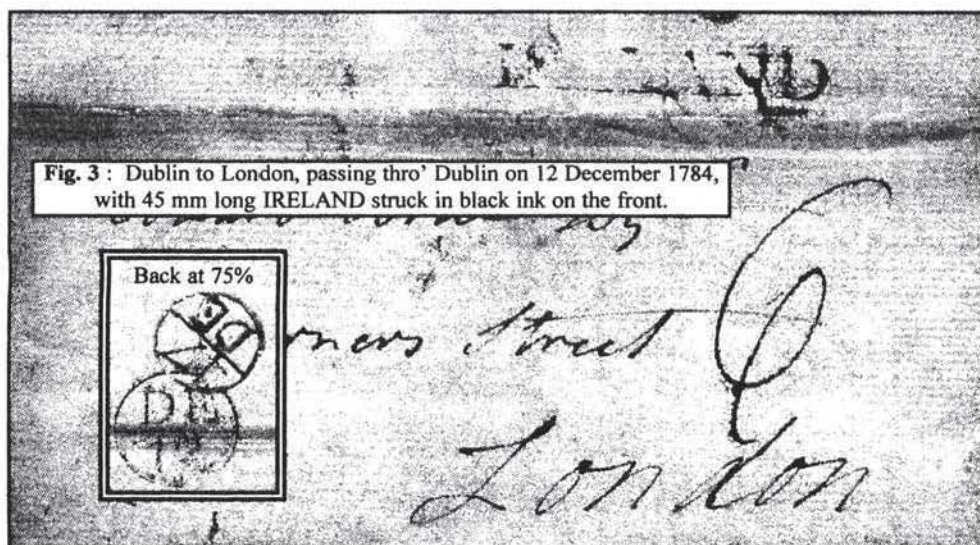
When Were the Handstamps Introduced and Where?

I believe that the first two of a series of "IRELAND" handstamps were manufactured and came into use, not in 1777 as previously stated, but in September 1784, after the Irish Post Office became independent on August 1, 1784, and the British Post Office introduced new charges on August 31, 1784.

In 1784 there were only two packet routes across the Irish Sea. The main route for mail to England was between Dublin and Holyhead and then on to London via Chester. An "All-in" rate of 6d. per single sheet was charged on this route. A northern packet route from Donaghadee, in County Down, to Port Patrick carried mail to Scotland, and occasionally from the North of Ireland to England via Dumfries and Carlisle. On this route there was a 2d. per single sheet packet charge in addition to the charges incurred in Ireland and mainland Britain. Although previous listings have shown 1777 as the date when the "IRELAND" handstamp came into use, I am sure that this is wrong. Bearing in mind that postmarks with a year date did not come into use until May 1787, it is quite likely that the earlier date of 1777 was a mistake resulting from the misreading of a manuscript date written on a letter. I have a letter dated as late as October 2, 1784, sent from Dublin to London without any sign of an "IRELAND" mark.

Contrary to previous statements and listings by others, I have found what I believe to be convincing evidence that two sizes of handstamp were, at first, applied in Dublin.

The earliest "IRELAND" mark, of any type, that I have recorded is on a letter from Dublin to Edinburgh dated September 22, 1784. The letter shown here (fig. 1), bearing an identical mark, is from Waterford to Edinburgh, passing through Dublin on September 27, 1784. The mark is 40mm long and struck in a distinctive pale claret-colored ink on the back of the letter. This let-



black ink, very like that of the accompanying Dublin dispatch Bishop marks and quite unlike the muddy brown-black of the London arrival Bishop marks. The mark also continued to appear on letters that originated outside of Dublin and passed through there on the way to London.

It is also quite clear from the matching ink colors of the Dublin Bishop marks and the 40mm "IRELAND" marks, on the backs of letters to Scotland up to the end of 1785, that the two marks were struck at the same time, using the same ink pad, that indicates that this handstamp also remained in Dublin at this time.

With only two notable exceptions all of the marks have been found only on unpaid letters. I believe that this was because the money had already been collected for prepaid letters, and there was no need to include them in the numbers being monitored. I believe this supports my theory that their purpose, at least initially, was associated with the pursuit of a potential claim for a greater part of the income from the letters being sent to Britain. I have a letter from September 26, 1785, from

Dublin to Inverary, that is one of only two prepaid letters so far recorded, both by the Donaghadee to Port Patrick route, which bears an "IRELAND" mark. Once again the ink colors of the 40mm "IRELAND" mark and the Dublin Bishop mark, both on the back of the letter, are identical, confirming application in Dublin.

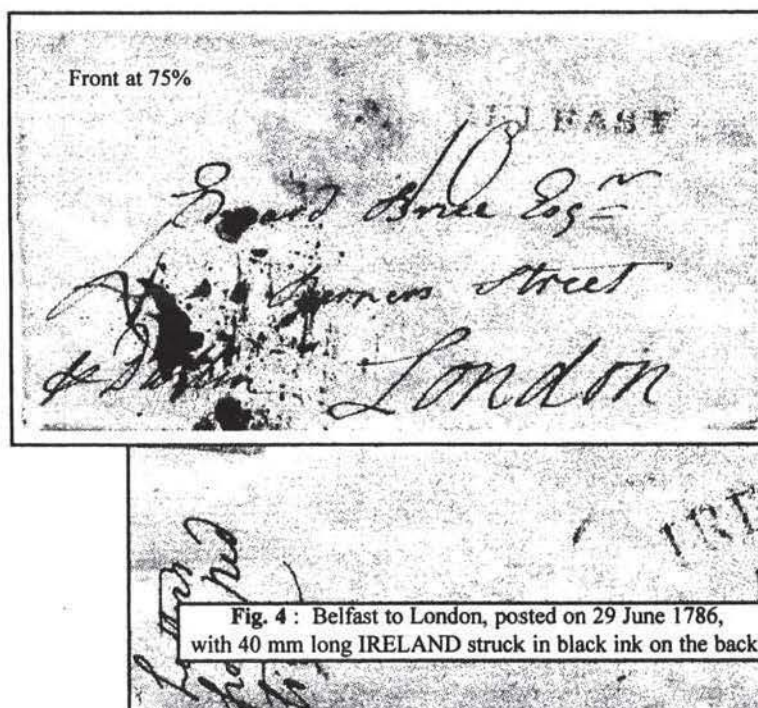
The 40 mm Handstamp Is Sent to Belfast

Although letters from the north are known to have been sent to London by the Donaghadee to Port Patrick packet, this one of 29th June 1786 from Belfast to London

(fig. 4) with a "p Dublin" endorsement was clearly intended to follow the southern route. However, unlike the other letters to London via Dublin, it bears the 40mm black "IRELAND" mark on the back, together with a Dublin Bishop mark confirming the route taken. This letter and several others, which have been recorded but not seen, suggest that by early 1786 the 40mm "IRELAND" handstamp had been transferred to Belfast and was applied there to letters, from the north of "IRELAND," being sent to Britain, both routed via Donaghadee and routed via Dublin. More evidence that the handstamp had been transferred to Belfast is provided by a letter I have of December 3, 1786, from

Donegal in the north of Ireland to Edinburgh. It quite clearly never went anywhere near Dublin, since there is no Dublin Bishop mark, and its direct transmission to Donaghadee, via Belfast, is confirmed by the rate charged. Secondly, the 40mm "IRELAND" mark, still being struck on the back, can be confirmed by careful examination of the size and the individual letters to be the same mark as before, although it is now struck in brownish-black ink, leaving a weak and smudgy impression.

(CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE)



ÉPA SPECIAL OFFERS

The following items may be ordered from **Timothy O'Shea, 58 Porter St., Granby, MA 01033-9516 U.S.A. (E-mail: toshea1@attbi.com)**
Except where noted, all prices include postage and handling within the United States. Beyond the U.S. add \$2.00. All payment to be in U.S. dollars and checks must be on U.S. banks and made payable to Tim O'Shea.

ÉPA PUBLICATIONS

The Adhesive Revenue Stamps of Ireland: 1858-1925
by *James J. Brady* » An award winning detailed analysis of Irish revenue stamps of the period. Profusely illustrated with catalog listings by type, bibliography, 20 pages + addenda. \$2.75 (nonmember \$3.50).

The First 55 Years of Irish Coils

by *Peter Bugg* » A comprehensive listing of all Irish coils with a check list of all leaders and tab ends, illustrated, bibliography, 40 pages. \$8.50 (nonmember \$10.50).

Ireland, Identification of the Rialtas and Saorstát Overprints
by *Joseph F. Foley* » A comprehensive listing of all overprints with accurate reproductions of the various overprints and a reprint of an illustration from the *Irish Philatelic*. \$3.50 (nonmember \$5.75).

The Post Offices and Datestamps of the County of Leitrim
by *Dr. Brian de Burca, updated by James T. Howley*
72 illustrations of handstamps, map, and descriptions of post office locations, 23 pages. \$6.25 (nonmember \$7.80).

A Listings of Irish Postmarks in Gaelic from 1922

by *James T. Howley* » Alphabetical listing in Gaelic with English translations, county earliest and latest known dates of use. Very thorough, based on Post Office Guides from 1922 on, and large scale Ordnance Maps. Spelling variations are noted. 82 pages. \$6.25 (nonmember \$7.80).

An Introduction to Irish Mileage Marks

by *W. E. Davey* » An illustrated listing and explanation of these early markings, 22 pages. \$4.50 (nonmember \$5.65).

The Reveal Index, vol. 1, no. 1 to vol. 35, no. 3, Jan. 1951 to Winter 1985 (with addendum through 1990)
by *Patrick J. Ryan, Sr.* » A cumulative subject index grouped by major categories. 38 pages + addendum. \$12.75 (nonmember \$16.00).

Irish Airmail, 1919-1990

by *William J. Murphy* » Lists all known mail-carrying flights to and from Ireland since the Alcock & Brown 1919 trans-Atlantic flight. Background information is provided for each flight. Covers are illustrated for most flights and a valuation guide provided. 96 pages, bibliography and index. \$15.00 + \$1.25 postage (nonmember \$18.75 + \$1.25 postage).

Airway Letters To and From Belfast, Including Air "Railex" Letters

by *William J. Murphy* » From the 1934 Railway Air Services to 1988, the airway letter covers are listed and examples illustrated with a brief description of the flight. 26 pages, bibliography. \$3.00 (nonmember \$4.00).

Irish Airmail - Balloon Posts, Rocket, Helicopter, Parachute and Glider Mail

by *William J. Murphy* » Covers a variety of mail as indicated in the title, with illustrations of covers, descriptions of events, pricing code and a bibliography, 22 pages. \$3.00 (nonmember \$4.00).

Irish Aerogrammes and Airgraphs

by *William J. Murphy* » Provides a detailed listing not only of the aerogrammes themselves, but rates, private supplemental printings, Northern Ireland, and special usages, pricing code and bibliography. Jung catalog numbers referenced, 46 pages. \$4.00 (nonmember \$5.00).

O.A.T. and A.V.2. Markings on Irish Airmail

by *William J. Murphy* » Presents an introduction to these markings used during World War II and a catalog listing of known Irish covers with the markings. An appendix lists covers to and from Ireland so marked. Illustrated with bibliography, 25 pages. \$3.00 (nonmember \$4.00).

Irish Airmail Back of the Book

by *William Murphy* » Fifth in a series of booklets covering specialized areas of Irish Aerophilately. Starts with the Balloon Flights from Paris in 1870-71 up to present day commemorative covers. Well illustrated, and also includes a bibliography. 32 pages. \$3.00 (nonmember \$4.00).

Irish Zeppelin Mail and Catapult Covers

by *William J. Murphy* » Describes Zeppelin and Catapult covers either posted in or addressed to Ireland. \$4.00 (nonmember \$5.00).

ÉPA ITEMS AVAILABLE ONLY TO MEMBERS

Official Lapel Pin - Metal replica of EPA logo. \$2.25

ÉPA Rubber Stamp - reproduces the EPA logo, 1 1/2" x 1". \$10.25

FAI PUBLICATIONS

Publications of the German based Forschungs-und Arbeitsgemeinschaft Ireland E.V. are also available to EPA members. All have text in both English and German.

Postal Stationery of Ireland

by *Otto Jung* » A detailed priced catalog and handbook, this 1994 edition includes the first comprehensive listing of stamped to order stationery. Essential to the collecting of these fascinating issues, illustrated, 270 pages. \$14.00 (nonmember \$17.50).

Postal Stationery of Ireland

by *Barney Clancy and Otto Jung* » A detailed priced catalog and handbook, this 2002 edition includes updates since the last edition. This new edition does not include the stamped to order stationery. Illustrated, 220 pages. \$14.75 (nonmember \$18.25).

The Mileage Marks of Ireland 1808-1839, 2nd edition

by *Hans G. Moxter* » Illustrated listing of all known Irish mileage marks, 57 pages. \$6.50 (nonmember \$8.00).

Undated Namestamps of Ireland 1823-1860

by *William Kane* » Listings of postal markings giving town names but without dates, includes much information on Receiving Houses, illustrated, 63 pages. \$7.00 (nonmember \$8.75).

Introduction to The Post Offices of County Clare, Ireland

by *John Mackey & Tony Cassidy* » Study developed from the postal archives of Dublin and London, 94 pages. \$9.00 (nonmember \$11.25).

The Dublin Penny Post

by *Manfred Dittmann* » Based on extensive research in postal archives and museums in Ireland and Great Britain, this is a well documented treatment of the subject, illustrated, 312 pages. \$35.00 (nonmember \$45.00).

Post Office Guide 1923

A reprint of the 1923 Guide. \$3.50 (nonmembers \$4.75).

The Gerl Issues

by *Otto Jung* » A comprehensive listing of this definitive series. \$3.50 (nonmember \$4.50).

75 years of Irish Stamps

An anthology by eight noted philatelists representing a variety of interests in Irish philately, with special postcard produced by AnPost, illustrated, 139 pages. \$17.50 (nonmember \$22.00).

Irish Postal Rates Before 1840, 2nd edition

by *F. E. Dixon & Joachim Schaaf* » Lists the Irish rates from 1637 to 1840, illustrated, bibliography, 37 pages. \$6.00 (nonmember \$7.50).

Irish Slogan Postmarks 1918-1994

by *Uwe Netzsch* » More than 300 illustrations by county, die and type, 116 pages. \$17.50 (nonmember \$22.00).

The Irish Architecture Definitives

A detailed catalog covering the sheet stamps, booklets, FDCs and presentation packs, illustrated, 37 pages. \$6.50 (nonmembers \$8.00).

Maritime Postmarks of Ireland

by *Bernt Dienelt* » \$5.50 (nonmembers \$7.50).

Irish Heritage and Treasures

by *Otto Jung* » Specialized catalog of this definitive set. \$6.25 (nonmember \$7.50).

Early Irish Stamp Canceling Machines Until 1922

by *Manfred Schollmayer* » \$6.50 (nonmember \$7.75).

The International Reply Coupons

by *Otto Jung* » \$4.00 (nonmember \$5.00).

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

The Dublin Spoon - 1855-57

by *Cyril I. Dulin* » An account of Ireland's first duplex obliterator, well organized with considerable detail, illustrated, value guide, bibliography, 48 pages. \$6.00 (nonmember \$7.50).

The Rare Coil

compiled by *Joseph E. Foley* » Recounts the research in the Irish Post Office archives that firmly establishes the authenticity of this stamp together with background information, illustrated, 76 pages. \$12.00 (nonmember \$15.00).

Ireland - Catalog of Perfins

compiled & edited by *Richard L. Mewhinney* » Punched for a 3 ring binder, this catalog can also serve as an album. Published by The Perfins Club, 38 pages. \$9.00 (nonmember \$11.25).

Hibernian Handbook and Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Ireland 2002

A complete catalog of specialized Irish philatelic material, 192 pages, full color, 2600 illustrations. \$19.50 (nonmember \$24.50).

Irish Crash Airmails 2nd Edition

by *Ronny Vogt* » \$20.00 (nonmember \$25.00).