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Experimental Duplex Spoon Cancellations

THE REVEALER

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President's Message

by William O'Connor

Our general and board meetings in Los Angeles this past October were most interesting and rewarding. After a rather long and lively debate concerning the necessary quorum for a board meeting, the board agreed to propose a change in the bylaws to reduce the number of board members necessary to conduct business to four members. This was deemed necessary due to the fact that few board members from Europe are able to come to the meetings, and the annual meetings would prove useless if the board could not conduct business requiring a requisite number of members present. The membership will be asked to vote on this change. Ballots may be ready for this issue of *The Revealer* or the next, depending on the time needed to legally submit this for your consideration.

At the annual meeting it was a great joy to welcome our Honorary Chairman of the Board and past President, Bill Zellers. Bill most generously donated \$1,000 to the ÉPA for the promotion of our hobby. I know I speak for the entire membership in thanking Bill for his many years of devotion to the ÉPA, and this wonderful gift to all of us is most appreciated. A special thank you is also in order to all the members and guests that attended our gathering during SESCAL.

It also gives me great pleasure to present our new Youth Stamp Coordinator for North America. Rich Kelly attended our annual meeting this

(continued on page 39)

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Coordinator: David J. Brennan,
PO Box 704, Bernardsville, NJ 07924

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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

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

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 2727 Linda G. Harris, 157 S Eastern Dawn Ave., Tucson, AZ 85748, youbou-girl@yahoo.com
 2728 Dennis J. Connor, 1216 Tilton Park Dr., Rochelle IL 61068, oconnor@rochelle.net

Deceased

- 0454 Coughlin Jr., William, Massachusetts

Resignations

- 2251 Cole, Michael J., England.
 2248 Southard, John E., Washington.

Dropped for Non-Payment of Dues

- 2255 Norton, Thomas R.

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- 2160 Connolly, Michael J., 2260 Pesnel Ct., Mobile, AL 36695
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 New members+5
 Deceased-1
 Resignations-2
 Dropped NPD-1
 Adjustment+1
 Members as of September 1, 2005488 ♣

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(continued from page 38)

year, and his enthusiasm and desire to help the ÉPA is most gratifying. I would also like to thank our former Youth Coordinator, Bob Stewart, for all his hard work and service. If you have material that you would like to send Rich, his address is in the masthead of the current journal. Additionally, a big thanks is in order to all the chapter coordinators and past officers and board members for their unswerving duty to the well being of the Éire Philatelic Association.

One of the great joys of our annual meeting is having an expert make an interesting presentation concerning an aspect of Irish stamp collecting. We were not disappointed this year in having Garvin Lohman give a most delightful history of the Fenian essays. He had some examples of this elusive material, which is highly prized and difficult to acquire. Some of the more modern reprints are available; Scott numbers 238-239, Hibernian numbers C120 and C121, show two examples of these interesting aspects of our history.

You will see a more detailed announcement in this journal of the most recent recipients of the awards presented on an annual basis by the ÉPA. I would like, however, to personally congratulate Kevin Drury, the Thomas E. Field Memorial Award recipient for this year; George Nicholson, the John J. Clark recipient; and Paddy Lineen, the Vincent A. Linnell recipient. These awards are but small tokens of our appreciation for all that you do for Irish Philately.

Let me remind you that our next AGM will be held at BALPEX, Maryland, September 1-3, 2006. I would like to extend to all our members my wishes for a most festive holiday season, and a healthy and productive new year. ♣

Three Recognized at ÉPA AGM

At the Annual General Meeting of the Éire Philatelic Association held at SESCAL on October 8, 2005, three ÉPA members received recognition by the Association. The John J. Clark Award for outstanding service to the Association was awarded to George Nicholson. This is a cumulative award and may only be awarded once to an individual. George is a long-time ÉPA member who has been active in publicizing the Association, and most recently has con-

ducted an extensive recruitment campaign by directly contacting American Philatelic Society members who have expressed an interest in Irish Philately.

The Vincent A. Linnell Award for the best article in the ÉPA Journal was awarded to Paddy Lineen for his article on Irish First Day Covers published in Volume 54 of *The Revealer*. A jury chaired by Charles Verge selected this article from the many fine submissions to *The Revealer* in 2004. When

notified of his award, Paddy indicated it would inspire him to write more articles for *The Revealer*.

The Thomas Edwin Field Award is presented to any person who has made an outstanding contribution to Irish philately. This year's recipient is Kevin Drury. Those ÉPA members who have traveled to Dublin to attend STAMPA know of the outstanding work Kevin has done in managing that exhibition. ♣

1906 Mail Apparatus Label

by David MacDonnell

This little-known label would appear to be quite innocuous at first glance. However, the final two words of the inscription refer to a curious "Mail Apparatus" which do not immediately suggest a connection with traditional Post Office equipment.

The reason this label was issued can be traced back as far as 1826, when Rowland Hill introduced the concept of sorting mail while travelling in specially constructed Mail Coaches. It was about eleven years later, when mail began to be sent regularly by train, that a submission was made by George Karstadt, a Post Office Surveyor, to institute a network of Railway Sorting Carriages to carry mail which would be processed en route. Coincidentally, Nathaniel Wordsell had been working on a device that would allow mailbags to be picked up and put down from moving trains without the need to stop. After a bit of Patent Law machinations, the Post Office adopted the mailbag machinery and installed sites over the whole Railway system.

No one bothered to think up an innovative name for this machinery, so it became known by its bureaucratic term of Mail Apparatus.

Parcels were accepted for transmission by 1885. However, the mails did occasionally suffer damage as a result of being hurled out of speeding trains, and in 1902, special labels were ordered to be printed for affixing to packets unsuitable due to their fragility (there was a facility to send eggs and other breakables by Post).

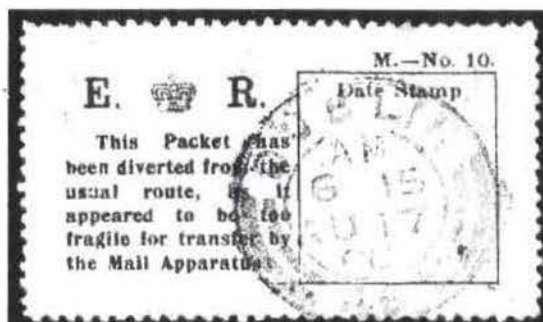


Figure 1

These labels bore the legend E Crown R (for Edward the Seventh, the reigning monarch) and imprint M-No. 10, with a space for the date stamp of the accepting office. The legend explained why the packet had been diverted from the normal route, possibly incurring a delay. In 1906, the phrase "too fragile" was replaced with "unsuitable." A further issue was made for George the Fifth with G Crown R, and the labels were withdrawn in 1930.

The label pictured (Fig. 1) is of the first type, and postmarked in Dublin Chief Office at 6:15 a.m. on August 17, 1906. A picture of a Sorting Carriage showing the Apparatus is also shown (Fig. 2). Not many of these interesting snippets of Railway Philatelic History have been found for Ireland. Perhaps if collectors realize the meaning behind the phrase, some more will be recognized. ♣



Figure 2

Dublin, March 17 Cancellation, 1937

by Bill O'Connor

It is not very often that I come across a St. Patrick's Day cover that I have not seen before. This 1937 engraved cover postmarked with the *Grow More Wheat* slogan cancel of Dublin, March 17 is such an example. This cover is printed in green with red wording under the design. The harp, shamrocks, and perhaps a rendition of Hibernia, makes for a most attractive combination. It is franked with the 1/2 pence printed meter rate for the time period to the United States. Nothing, as is usual, was found enclosed in this cover, so what kind of circular or information was included has been lost to time. This is most likely philatelic, and if any member can shed more light on who may have been behind this, please let me know, or better yet, send a note to the editor for inclusion in a future issue of *The Revealer*. ♣



Postal Stationery Error Found

by David MacDonnell

I have just been shown a remarkable error which occurred on the 96 pence registration envelope size G, first issued in 1983. The flap where the value is normally printed embossed bears no value, except for a single adhesive 20pence Architecture definitive, obviously added to make up the new Postage Rate of 112 pence, which was introduced in February 1985.

A Dublin-based collector had walked into the Post Office at Greenlea Road, Dublin 6 (now closed) on June 12, 1985. While buying some stamps for correspondence, he spotted an unusual registered envelope behind the counter, with the value stamp missing, but with a 20p definitive added. He learnt on enquiry that the assistant had spotted the imperfect envelope, which she was about to return to GPO Stores. She showed him a perfect example, with the 96p imprinted stamp and the added 20p definitive. After some persuasion, he managed to convince the assistant to sell him both envelopes, but only after he agreed to pay the intended face value of 224 pence for the two.

Readers familiar with registered envelopes of this period will be aware of the desire of the Post Office to use up, where possible, old stocks of envelope "blanks", by printing a new stamp thereon, or simply affixing a normal stamp, in order to revalue envelopes during rate increases.

The Post Office had introduced a new type of AN POST 96p registered envelope as part of its new Corporate "rebinding" in October 1984, thus rendering the old 96p "EIRE" type obsolete. A Registration Fee increase, from 70p to 90p, followed four months later, on 25 February 1985. As a new registered envelope was not issued until December 1985, stocks of the AN POST 96p envelopes were uprooted to 112p by the affixing of a 20p stamp. However, some of the obsolete 96p "EIRE" types were similarly treated during this period.

This "missing value" error emanates from the latter.

Close examination of the flap, where the value is normally embossed, reveals not a trace of any green printing, or any trace of albino embossing.

A remarkable feature is the presence of the 20p Architecture. Would it have been feasible for someone to have affixed it without noticing the missing 96p stamp? Or may it have been affixed by someone who did not grasp its significance?

In any case, this discovery has remained unchronicled until now, 20 years later. It was shown to me as a result of a chance conversation. I would be grateful to hear from any reader who has another copy. If there is a history attached, so much the better.

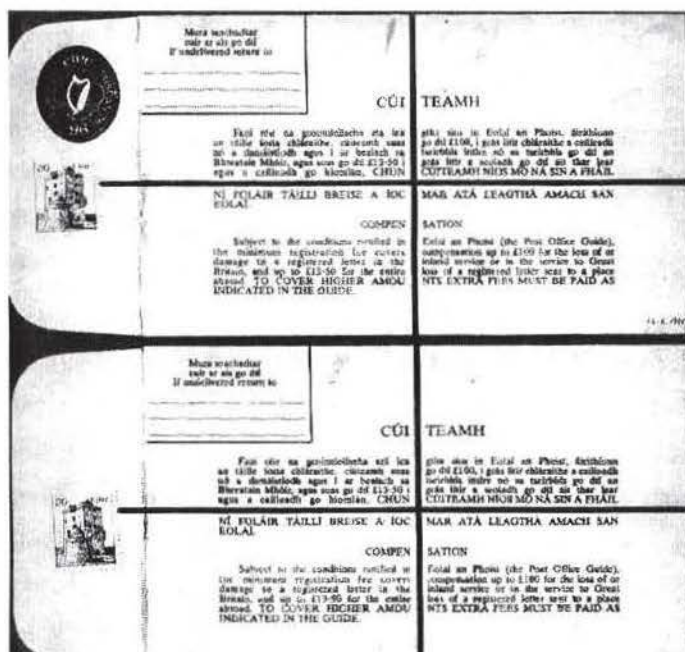


Figure 1

Top: 96p green registered envelope size G, with 20p definitive added to make the 112p rate.

Bottom: Ditto, but with the 96p stamp missing.

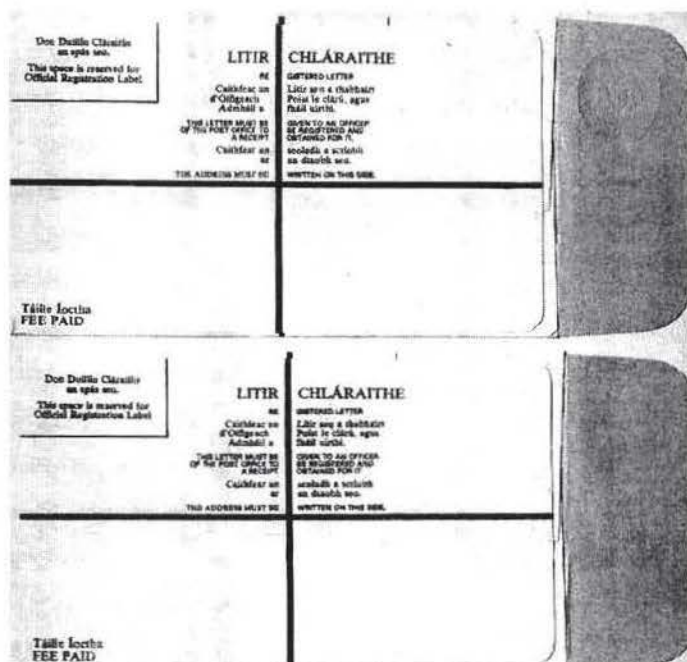


Figure 2

Top: Reverse of flap of normal 96p registered envelope. The partial impression on reverse is due to the embossing during printing.

Bottom: The error does not show any trace of embossing on the reverse of flap.

STAMPA 2005 AWARDS LIST

Postal History

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <i>Mourne Mails – John Matthews</i> | Silver |
| 2. <i>Merchant Post to Maltese Cross – Des Quail</i> | Gold, É.P.A. Medal, F.E. Dixon Shield and David Feldman Trophy |
| 3. <i>London's 18th Century Postmasters – Robert Viney</i> | Vermeil |
| 4. <i>The Boxed Postage Due Marks of Malaya – Joe Robertson</i> | Silver-Bronze |
| 5. <i>Ireland's Numeral Cancellations – Stan Challis</i> | Silver and É.P.A. Certificate |
| 6. <i>Cockermouth and the Posts of West Cumberland – Mike Mapleton</i> | Vermeil |
| 7. <i>Isle of Man Postal History – William B. Wilson</i> | Vermeil |

Aerophilately

- | | |
|--|---|
| 8. <i>Trinidad and Tobago First Flights – Norman Finnie</i> | Bronze |
| 9. <i>Airmail Service to and from Ireland - 1911 to 1935 – Ray How</i> | Vermeil, É.P.A. Certificate and William Kane Trophy |

Traditional

- | | |
|---|---|
| 10. <i>Iceland 1930 Millenary Issue - Its Extraordinary Story – Margaret Morris</i> | Vermeil and Whyte's Trophy |
| 11. <i>Haiti – Stephen Parker</i> | Vermeil |
| 12. <i>Revenue Stamping Branch – Special Issues and Commemoratives – The Photogravure Period – Brian Warren</i> | Silver, É.P.A. Cert. plus Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd. Trophy |

Open Class

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 13. <i>A Christmas Miscellany – John H. Fitzsimons</i> | Silver |
|--|--------|

Novice Competition

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 14. <i>British Commonwealth Occupation Forces – Japan – Malcolm Price</i> | Silver and Gwyn Bennett Trophy |
| 15. <i>Britain's Greatest Admiral – George Etoe</i> | Certificate of Participation |
| 16. <i>German Occupation of Poland (1939 to 1944) – William Thompson</i> | Silver-Bronze |

SESCAL 2005 Irish Awards

Irish exhibits received many awards at SESCAL held October 7-9 at the Radisson Los Angeles Airport Hotel. Barney Clancy won the show's Reserve Grand and Gold and the United Postal Stationery Society Marcus White Medal for his exhibit entitled "Ireland Postal Stationery 1922-1942." Barney also captured a Vermeil and the Mercer R. Bower Multi-Frame Memorial Award for his exhibit of "Ireland Propaganda Labels 1865-1922." Barney also received an ÉPA Certificate for this exhibit.

David Brennan received a Gold and the WESTPEX Merit Award for his exhibit entitled "Railway Letter Stamps of Ireland." This was also accompanied by an ÉPA Certificate. Garvin Lohman received a Silver and the ÉPA Medal for his showing of "Ireland Postal History 1672-1900." Alfred Kugel received a Gold and an ÉPA Certificate for "British Forces in Ireland 1920-1922."

The SESCAL 2005 Jury consisted of Chairman Bud Sellers, Dickson Preston, Paul Tyler, Joe Foley, Hal Vogel, and apprentice Akthem Al-Manaseer. ♣

Can Someone Help?

Paul Bento – pbento@charter.net

Some time ago I purchased a remnant collection of low value overprints, each of which is identified by a four digit number. An introductory page states that the classifications refer to a "chart" compiled by F.L. Simpson and F.C.S. Gardner. I have never heard of the chart or the authors and solicited advice from many of our learned members with no results. I brought the pages to SESCAL for the AGM, and while some in attendance were fascinated by the collection, no one could provide clues to its origin.

Can someone help? I will be happy to share the results in a future issue of *The Revealer*. ♣

Irish Showcase at the 2006 AGM

by Joe Foley

We will hold our next Annual General Meeting in conjunction with BALPEX on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day Weekend, September 1 - 3, 2006. The exhibition will be held at Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn, just north of Baltimore. We are planning a full range of activities.

Over the years, BALPEX has provided a "showcase" for various groups and this year it will be an "Irish Showcase." This is a series of noncompetitive one-frame exhibits designed to show a particular field of our hobby. Usually there are sixteen pages to a frame. While BALPEX provides the frames at no charge, they require an entry form for administrative purposes. A full row will hold thirteen frames. Some thoughts for subject matter for the "Irish Showcase" are:

- Postal History - the pre-stamp era
(w/ various sub-divisions)
- Postal History - Great Britain used in Ireland
(w/ various sub-divisions)
- The Troubles
- Overprinted Issues (w/ various sub-divisions)
- Definitives:
- First series
- Gerls
- Architecture
- Treasures
- Birds
- Commemoratives
- Registry
- Air Mail (stamps and/or flights)
- Booklets
- Coils
- Souvenir / miniature sheets
- Revenues (w/ various sub-divisions)
- Railway Letter Stamps
- Postal Stationery (w/ various sub-divisions)
- Sea Mail (w/ various sub-divisions)
- Political Labels
- Christmas Seals
- Various Cinderella (e.g., Dublin Horse Show)
- St. Patrick's Day Covers
- First Day Covers
- Essays & Proofs
- TPOs & RPOs
- Specimens
- Irish Picture Post Cards

This is more than thirteen subjects, but we probably won't wind up with something for every category. If we do, BALPEX may be able to accommodate us. You may also have a thought for a subject that is not on this list - that's fine as well. I'd like to get this project underway, so if you are willing to participate, please get in touch with me, either by regular mail at Box 183, Riva, MD 21140 or email at jfoley4197@aol.com. Let's put on a grand showing for Ireland! ♣

Triangle Cancels of Ireland

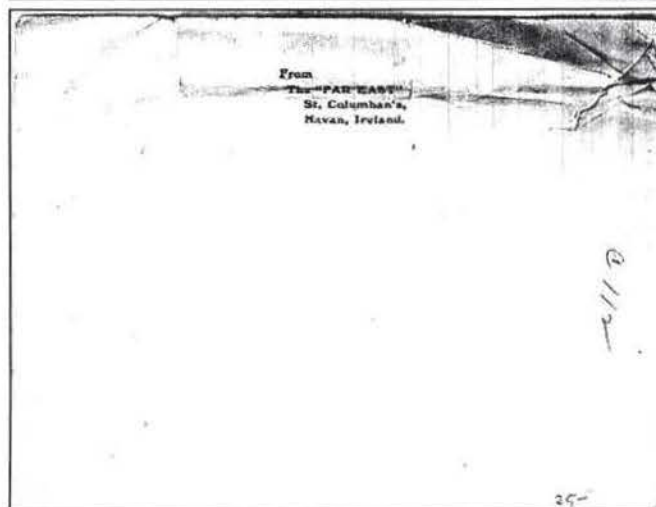
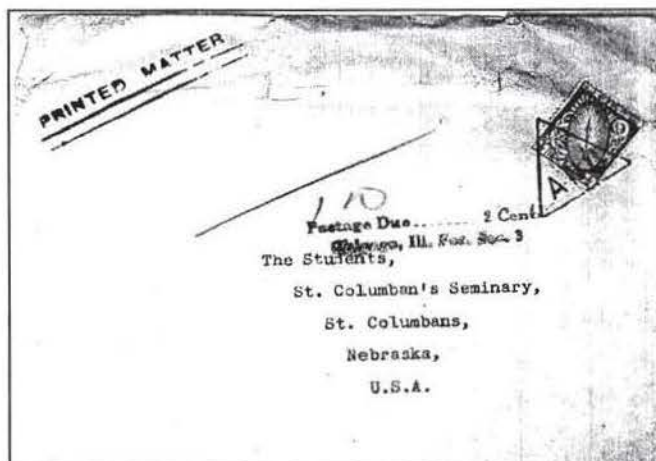
A Response by Peter Foote, Sr.

Our fine editor reminds us that the Triangular cancels have "not been addressed for over thirty years in *The Revealer*". As I read over Pat Ryan's recycled challenge, I self-indulgently promised to review my own modest holding for a 'T' tale.

Reviewing highlighted a cover, not really a wrapper, but an envelope bearing an Isosceles triangle and within the telegraphic code ANU. While in this one instance *The Revealer* chart identifies ANU as the "City/Office" of An Uaimh, an appropriately parenthetical English designation does not appear.

I learned ANU as Navan when I collected a cover, not a wrapper but an envelope, carrying on reverse a printed return "From The 'FAR EAST' St. Columban's, Navan, Ireland." Catholic missionary society senders placed a 1/2p Sword of Light adhesive on the envelope, which was then tied with the ANU triangular. Although stamped in bold purple, underlined twice PRINTED MATTER, this envelope later received a penciled "T" and the United States "Foreign Section 3" in Chicago stamped it in dark red: **Postage Due.....2 Cents.**

And so, since I have the cover, the addressees - "The Students, St. Columban's Seminary, St. Columbans, Nebraska, U.S.A." - must have gotten their two cents in. ♣



British Forces In Ireland 1920-1922

by Alfred F. Kugel

Historical Background

There was a long history of warfare between the Irish and English, starting with the first Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland in 1169. However, the disastrous defeat of the Irish forces at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690 was the most significant event in confirming the British administration (or occupation, depending on one's point of view) of the island, which lasted until 1922. While most of the Irish population never accepted the status quo, they were not strong enough to do anything about it for more than two hundred years.

However, an abortive revolt in 1916, sometimes referred to as the "Easter Rising," convinced the British authorities that a large segment of the Irish would no longer tolerate being ruled from London. Thus, once the First World War had been put behind, events moved in the direction of partition. Ulster, comprising the six northeastern counties with a large Protestant population, retained its ties to the United Kingdom, while the 26 counties in the predominantly Catholic south became an independent nation.

The first step was the establishment of a Parliament for Northern Ireland on June 22, 1921. The British then began negotiations with the Irish leaders of the Sinn Féin party with regard to the creation of a government in the south. This led to the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty on December 6, 1921 and the emergence of an independent Irish Free State on December 6, 1922.

However, a militant group calling itself the "Irish Republican Army" was violently opposed to the separation of Ulster from Ireland. As a result, it carried on a campaign of assassinations and military actions against both the British and Irish governments in what can be regarded as a form of civil war. To counter this opposition, the British reinforced their garrisons throughout Ireland, and the IRA was eventually driven underground.

To serve the needs of its troops for communications, a number of new British military post offices were established. As the fighting died down, all of the military post offices in Southern Ireland

were closed by the end of 1922 and those in Northern Ireland by mid-March 1923. The civil war was declared ended by May 1923, even though sporadic guerilla activity and terrorist acts continued up to recent times.

Forerunner Mail

Prior to the opening of the first military post offices on December 1, 1920, letters from the troops stationed in Ireland were sent through the civil post offices. An example of such "forerunner" mail is shown in Figure 1.

The First Army Post Offices

Initially, four British military post offices were established at the beginning of December 1920. In order to supply the postal clerks with cancels immediately, new devices were not supplied, but the offices were assigned old markings that had either been used during World War I or made up but never placed in use.

For example, the first Army Post Office at Victoria Barracks in Belfast was assigned a cds inscribed FPO 202, which was part of a series that had been used in the intervention in Russia (i.e. FPO 200 in North Russia and FPO 201 in Siberia). This marking is recorded as being used from January 1921 until March 1923. An example with the earliest recorded date is shown as Figure 2.



Figure 1. Forerunner cover from a member of the 10th Lincolnshire Regiment sent to his mother in Suffolk. Dated at "The Court House, Killenaule." Mailed at the civil post office and postmarked "Killenaule/Thurles" on November 8, 1920.

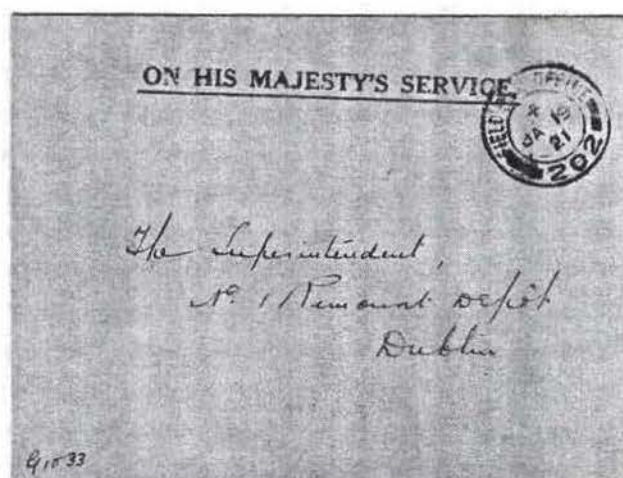


Figure 2. Cover sent from the first British APO in Ireland, located at Victoria Barracks in Belfast. Postmarked "Field Post Office 202" on January 19, 1921, it is the new earliest documented example of this marking (eight months earlier than reported by Proud).

The second Army Post Office was opened at Curragh Camp in County Kildare. It was given the postmark of FPO 3.K that had been made up but not used during the war. It is recorded as used from the opening day until May 1922. The third APO was located at Victoria Barracks in Cork. It used an old cds inscribed FPO T.29 from June 1921 to October 1922. The fourth and final APO of the initial group was established in Dublin. It used a cds inscribed FPO W.16 which is recorded as used between December 1920 and November 1921.

Additional Office for Dublin

Because of the relatively heavy flow of mail sent out from the British headquarters, a second postmark was sent to Dublin. It was inscribed FPO D.41 and is recorded as used between November 1921 and March 1923. See Figure 3.



Figure 3. This cover was sent from the Command Pay Office through the fourth British APO in Dublin. Postmarked "Field Post Office D.41" on February 9, 1922 with the appropriate unit cachet applied.

Brigade HQ Offices

During 1921, new military post offices were established at some of the Brigade headquarters in the field. Some of these received postmarks of a new type (already being used by the British occupation forces in Turkey). These were of a single-circle design with "Field Post Office" around the top and numbered from 5 to 10 at the bottom of the dial. FPO 5 was located at Barrykinler Camp in Northern Ireland, and FPO 10 was in Belfast. (See example of the latter in Figure 4.)



Figure 4. Reused cover from Barrykinler in Northern Ireland to the Chief Constable in Warrington. This example shows FPO 5's "Turkish-style" postmark used on December 15, 1922.

New Brigade Markings

In due course, an entirely new set of postal markings unique to the forces in Ireland was provided to the various Brigade Headquarters. This new type was made of rubber and inscribed "Field" at the top, with "Post Office" at the bottom, with the number inserted below "Field." FPO 5 was used at Athlone, County Westmeath, and FPO 6 at Galway. They are noted as "Not known" in Kennedy & Crabb and as "Not Seen" in Proud, but one example has subsequently turned up of the latter, dated August 3, 1921. Similarly,

a discovery example of the FPO 7 from Buttevant, County Cork was found recently. (See Figure 5.)



Figure 5. This cover is the discovery example of the new-style postmark of FPO 7 (with the number under "Field" that was used at Buttevant, County Cork. No other mail with this marking has yet been reported.

Three other markings of this type were provided. One was assigned to FPO 8 at Fermoy, County Cork, and used from March to October 1921. Only a few examples of the cancel of FPO 9 at Limerick are recorded, with dates from May 1921 to September 1922. The final postmark in this series was FPO 10 which is recorded as being used in Belfast between May and December 1921.

IRA Interference with Mail

During its attacks, the IRA would sometimes raid trains, vans and other transportation in order to capture mail sacks. They would then look through the letters for ones possibly containing clues as to British Army movements and other interesting information. When the bags were recovered later, they were sometimes marked



Figure 6. Cover that was recovered after falling into IRA hands. It was duly marked "Censored by I.R.A." in manuscript and then officially sealed by the Post Office in Dublin after recovery.

to explain the delay in delivery.

The cover shown as Figure 6 was sent from England to the Officer in Charge at Island Bridge Barracks in Dublin, but intercepted and examined -- note manuscript "Censored by I.R.A." After recovery, it was officially sealed with a Post Office tape on the reverse which was postmarked "James's Street Dublin" on 23 August 1920.

Summary

The items discussed above are philatelic memorabilia of the turbulent period that led to the birth of the Irish Republic. Covers similar to those described here become available on the philatelic market from time to time -- if one is willing to search. A few of the numbers are very elusive, with only one or two examples having been recorded, so that collectors are fortunate to ever find one.

References

- History of British Army Postal Service, Vol. II -- 1903-1927* by E. B. Proud, Published by Proud-Bailey Co. Ltd., Brighton.
The Postal History of the British Army in World War I -- Before and After -- 1903 to 1929 by Alistair Kennedy and George Crabb, Published by George Crabb, Epsom, 1977. ♣

The 2d Map Stamp in Blue?

by Joseph E. Foley

Dave Brennan recently passed on a query he received from a collector regarding the 1922 2d definitive that appeared to have been printed in blue ink. The collector had shown it to a dealer who suggested that it was not a changeling, but "definitely 'blue.'" The collector also sent a scan of his blue stamp alongside a normal green.

This "blue" stamp reminded me of a few I had tucked away on a stock card along with duplicate Scott #68s. After acknowledging the first email, I did a little checking of my files and sent the following email:

I've located my reference to the blue Scott 68. It's in an article by the late Malcolm O'Reilly (then president of the Eire Philatelic Association) that was published in the May-June 1954 issue of the Association's journal *The Revealer*. The quote is: "The reissue copies, printed in Ireland, are a deep blue-green and have a strong bluish tint when held to the sunlight. Used stamps, if soaked, lose their green appearance and tend towards blue." This was subsequently noted in a composite article in the April 1975 issue of *The American Philatelist*.

I have come across many used examples of #68 and only a very few are what I would consider blue, so I think that there can be some reasonable doubt on Mal's contention. I have never seen a mint "blue" 68, so I think it's likely that some small portion of the 2d stamp was printed with an ink that was susceptible to change -- what caused that change is an open question.

After a further exchange with the collector during which he asked my advice on having his stamp expertized, I decided to experiment a bit. The result is in this email:

As a little test, I took four very similar and very green used examples of #68 (the "se" watermark). I soaked two for ten days and exposed two to Northern sunlight for ten days. The two exposed to sunlight retained their green color but lost a little intensity. The ones soaked were more interesting. One retained its green color, the other definitely changed considerably toward blue, one that matches fairly well to the Stanley Gibbons Color Key as "deep turquoise-blue." The normal green matches Gibbons "deep blue-green." I'm using the 1979 Gibbons Color Key, their item #2530. For comparison, I'm using the solid mass of color in the

arc in which "eire" is inscribed.

Here are my thoughts on the blue: The stamp was in print from 1922 to 1940. It's possible, and maybe probable, that at some point during those 18 years an ink was used that was susceptible to a color change from green to blue through soaking. (Incidentally, a similar change for the Great Britain half-penny of 1900 has been noted.) It's also possible that some of the blue stamps could be chemically induced "changelings." Another important factor to consider is that, to the best of my knowledge, a mint example of #68 in blue has not been reported. While it's quite possible that different inks were used during the 18 years, I think that the initial appearance of all of the inks were basically the same shade of green.

The decision to have the stamp expertized is really up to you. I do some expertizing for the American Philatelic Society and, having expressed an opinion, ethically have to disqualify myself. I think I may prepare a short article for our journal and we can see if the question draws any further comment.

This brief article is the result. Comments should be sent directly to the editor. If any member has a mint example of Scott #68 in blue it would be very important. ♣

BOOK REVIEW

by Joseph E. Foley

Discovering Seahorses, King George V High Values by Bryan Kearsley, The Great Britain Philatelic Society, GB Philatelic Publications, Ltd., 2005, 278 + vi pages & 8 color plates, 8-1/2" x 11", hard cover, illustrations, bibliography, errata & corrigenda sheet, £60 + £8 postage & packing to U.S. (£12 by air), credit cards accepted, from Ian Harvey, GBPS, 27 Landford Rd., Putney, London SW15 1AQ, UK, ISBN: 0-907630-20-0.

Great Britain's Seahorses in overprinted form served as Ireland's high-value stamps for fifteen years, longer than any other overprints. Long considered one of Great Britain's most attractive series of stamps, the Seahorses have inspired numerous collections and some very fine exhibits. First issued in 1913, they lasted until the onset of the King George VI high value definitives, a little more than twenty-five years later. During this time there were differences in printers, printing process, papers, shades and varieties. Oddly enough, the literature is less extensive than would be expected for this series. It's been almost fifty years since the RPSL published Beaumont and Stanton's work, *The Postage Stamps of Great Britain, Part Four, The Issues of King George V*.

The author has treated the subject in considerable depth. He begins with the genesis of the design, and goes on to describe the various essays and proofs. This is followed by contemporary chronicles of the printers. Next, the production of the stamps and their usages are covered, the latter containing some particularly fascinating information.

Perhaps the most useful sections deal with varieties, re-entries and the like. Truly outstanding black and white illustrations together with tables and charts greatly enhance the understanding of these intriguing aspects of the issues. Each printing is taken in turn chronologically. Many of us, particularly collectors of Ireland, have become used to such terms as "inverted T" on the 5/ frame line or the "Runnals" re-entry on the 10/. The author has, perhaps wisely, abandoned this terminology in favor of more specific descriptors.

In addition to Ireland, the Seahorses were overprinted for use

(continued on page 51)

Experimental Duplex Spoon Cancels

Harry Layne turns his attention to the Irish Spoons and the distinctive Dublin Diamond.

Reprinted with permission of the author, Harry Layne, and the publisher, Stanley Gibbons. This article appeared in GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY, Sept. 2005, p 36-39.

Unlike English Spoons, there are no Irish archives to access for information regarding Irish Spoons, which probably makes the collection and study of these postmarks more interesting. It has always been something of an irritant knowing that the data concerning these marks was destroyed in the GPO during the Easter Uprising of 1916. These words have become almost a catchphrase for authors when writing about Irish postal history. Although there are some files relating to Irish postmarks in the British archives, the writer drew a blank in the search for Irish Spoons, and therefore has had to rely on other previously published data for information, much of which is in need of updating. Since the publication of *The Spoon Experiment*, much new information has come to light, and new finds are still being made, even today. These Irish Spoons were part of the same experimental process to speed up the handling of mail as that being carried out in Ireland, and even then on a limited scale.

Classification

These marks are separated by collectors into two distinct groups, which were issued to provincial offices only.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Thirty-Two Irish Offices received spoon cancels, which at first were very similar to the English types (E) (group 1), the obliterator portion having an oval pattern of bars (Fig 1), in place of a diamond-shaped pattern (group 2) (Fig 2), which was the usual shape for Irish obliterations (I). Early in 1857, it was decided that the English-type obliterator would be recut into a true Irish diamond pattern. The English type was phased

out quite quickly and most offices were using their new replacements by May 1857.

The Irish towns issued with Spoon cancels were as follows: Athenry, Athlone, Ballina, Ballinasloe, Ballymoney, Belfast, Carrick-on-Shannon, Clonmel, Cork, Dalkey, Derry, Drogheda, Ennis, Enniskillen, Galway, Kilkenny, Killarney, Kingstown, Limerick, Mallow, Mullingar, Newry, Omagh, Oranmore, Roscrea, Sligo, Strabane, Tuam, Tullamore, Waterford, Westport and Wexford.

All the above offices, except Omagh and Westport, were issued with both 'E' and T types, although not concurrently, as there is no overlap in the periods of usage between any English or Irish type. The rarest Irish spoon is possibly that from Omagh (Fig 3). It was probably issued late in 1869 and it may be that the postmaster didn't bother to use it much, especially since most other offices

had already started using the standard type of duplex issued in the early 1860s (Fig 4). Most offices had ceased using the spoon by about 1860 although a few lingered on into the mid-1860s, and by 1869, the spoon was in use at two offices only.

Irish Codes

There were far fewer code letters used in the Irish Spoons than there were in the English series. Many of the group 1 (E) stamps had only one or two code letters, while those of group 2 (I) had three or more on average, mainly consisting of the letters A, B, C or D, although Newry and Waterford had no less than nine codes each. Stamps are also found without a code letter, but, as in England, omission was probably accidental rather than intentional.

The principle behind both the English and Irish number coding was to recognize the person applying the stamp. Stampers signed for their stamp when they came on duty and all letters stamped by a particular clerk were identifiable by their number, should problems arise.

Generally, the code letters within Spoons indicated the time of dispatch or collection, and although some office codes were similar, many offices had their own sequence of letters. Stamps from some offices are seen with both the time code and the stamper's number. Due to the number of codes in use, they will not be listed here.

Colours

Many of the earlier Irish spoons are found in coloured inks. Some of these are in a rather indeterminate bluish-green or greenish-blue, but the majority of all the green stamps in the British Isles are Irish.

In many cases green or blue ink was used in the first instance, after which time (about mid-1856) black became the dominant colour. Many of the blue cancels are quite bright (a few Liverpool spoons are also known in blue).

The writer has seen most of the English type spoons of Ireland (group 1) in either blue or green inks. Those not seen in coloured inks are: Drogheda, Ennis, Enniskillen and Strabane, which appear in black only. Conversely, only one office (Galway), of the Irish type (group 2) has been seen in a bluish-green colour, late in 1859.

Stamps from Belfast are seen in green and blue between December 1855 and February 1856, but before and after this period, impressions usually appear in black.

These coloured cancels are keenly sought and when on piece only; a half-dozen to the page are quite pleasing to the eye.

Abnormals

A few oddities may also be found which always add a little more interest to a collection.

The Irish-type Ballina Spoon shows an interesting error. It was originally allocated the office number '29', the English version (group 1) being correct (Fig 5), but the vertical bar of the obliterator portion next to the number '9' resembled a '1' and when the stamp was recut to produce the Irish type



Fig. 3

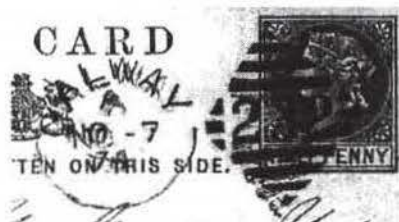


Fig. 4



Fig. 5

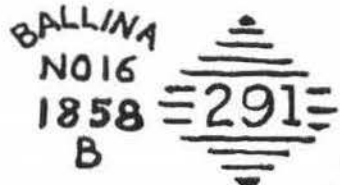


Fig. 6

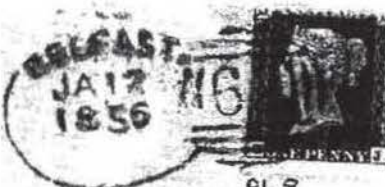


Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

(group 2), the number was mistaken for '291', producing the error (Fig 6)

Belfast was issued with two slightly different English-type Spoons (group 1), both being later recut into the Irish types (group 2). This produced four different Belfast spoons which are known as E(a), E(b), I(a) and I(b). In type E(a), the oval frame of the datestamp is joined to the second horizontal obliterating bar from the bottom (Fig 7), and the width of the obliterator between the outer vertical bars on each side is 21mm. In type E(b), the frame is joined to the third bar from the bottom (Fig 8), and the width of the obliterator is 20mm.

The T types are easily identified by the bars to the left of the obliterator number (Fig 9). In type I(b), which is E(b) recut, the bars are clearly doubled (Fig 10). Generally, the Belfast spoons are seen without code letters and numbers being scarce.

The bars below the

obliterator number (232) in the Irish-type Galway stamps, became damaged (Fig 11) and were not repaired. The damage can be seen on stamps dated between 13 August 1857 and 6 October 1857. All the English-type (group 1) stamps of Galway in 1857 show the year as '187', the '7' being omitted. Similarly, Tullamore (I) has the second '8' omitted from all 1858 dates, and all the English-type stamps of Tullamore (438) showed the year as '1875' during 1857.

Kingstown (289) may be found with the first two year figures transposed, i.e. '8158' for '1858', from early April to early May 1858. Similarly, Mullingar (I) omitted the figure '5' from the obliterator (Fig 12), on the odd occasion.

There may be more of these small variations lying unnoticed in collections, waiting to be discovered, but alas, even when they are recognised, many collectors do not bother to report them, maybe because they are unsure where to send the information. If you feel you have a postmark with an abnormality, the writer would be pleased to hear from you, c/o the Editor.

The Dublin Diamond

This relatively common cancellation can form a most interesting study, without putting a strain on your bank account, as many of these marks are not expensive to acquire.

Although The Dublin Diamond is not a true Spoon, being issued within the same period of time as the Spoons, they are undoubtedly Dublin's equivalent cancellation (Fig 13).

The obliterator portion, as with the group 1 Irish spoons, is in the shape of the English oval and was never changed or recut into an Irish-type diamond, possibly because the date-die, being of this



Fig. 11



Fig. 12

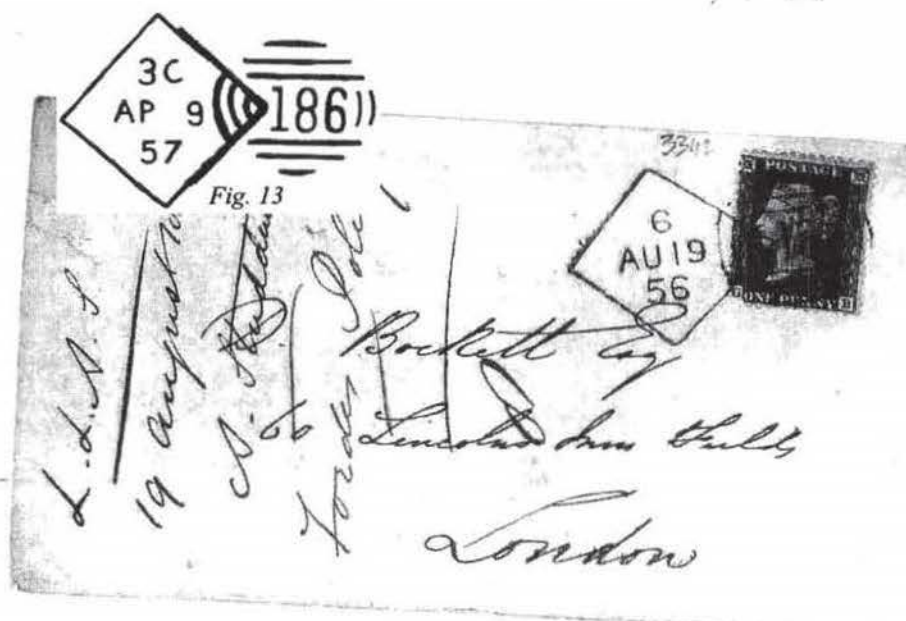


Fig. 14

shape, made its origin clear.

The bars in the cancelling portion are not symmetrical and are found in differing combinations, allowing cancellations to be differentiated by the sequence of bars in the top section/lower section/left side/right side, the left side forming part of the date die. Thus, a specific stamp may be listed as 4433 and would refer to the obliterator portion as having four bars at the top and bottom of the cancelling portion, and three at the left and right sides, surrounding the office number 186, with the left bars being found rather unusually inside the date-die diamond (Fig 14, diagram only).

All the impressions of this marking conformed to the practice of the three capital cities at that time (Dublin, Edinburgh and London), by omitting the town name. Dublin is well known for its variety which incorporated the word 'PAID'. Hence, there are two basic types, i.e. those with the word 'PAID' incorporated, and those without it. They are now known as type A, which has three lines of information in the date-die, and type B, which has four lines and included the word 'PAID'. These are described as follows:

Type A.

First Line. This showed the code number only, (a few examples are found with a letter also).

Second line. This showed the date, the month being abbreviated to two letters, i.e. MA for March

Third line. This showed the year, which is always in two figures only, i.e. 56 = 1856.

Type B.

First line. This showed the code number only (examples are known with 'X' or without a code)

Second line. This showed the word 'PAID', which was later removed and known as 'Ex PAID'.

Third line. This showed the date, the month being abbreviated to two letters, i.e. 'MY' for May.

Fourth line. This showed the year, which is always in two figures only, i.e. 56 = 1856.

There has been much speculation among both writers and collectors as to why a 'PAID' stamp was ever issued, since all mail had to be pre-paid from 1853. A number of theories have been put forward, unfortunately none of which supply the answer. The writer has nothing to add to this problem (although his father dismissed them as 'unwanted Paid Official stamps, put to use on ordinary mail') which is unlikely to be resolved unless more information comes to light.

Type A, three-line Spoons

Although the stamps are known with non-symmetrical obliterator bars, noted above, these can generally be ignored as each stamp had its own unique number, and only stamps numbered 4 and 8 are found with the same obliterator bar configuration.



Fig. 15



Fig. 16

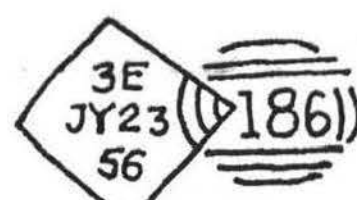


Fig. 17



Fig. 18



Fig. 19

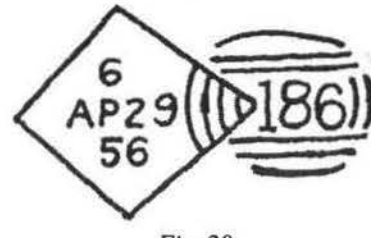


Fig. 20

Stamps numbered 1 to 3 and 5 to 7 are always seen with their own individual pattern of bars. The codes and bar structures of all the stamps are noted below, together with the earliest and latest recorded dates of use of each numbered stamp in G (green) or B (black) ink.

Where a code has become worn or under-inked and is unreadable, if the cancelling bars are intact then the code number can be allocated using the bar structure, which is also useful for the identification of unrecorded examples.

From the table below, it is noticeable that although the stamps have sequential code numbers, they were not put to use in numerical order (according to the earliest known dates of stamp codes in use). Number 3 appears to have been the first to be put into service, followed by the others over a period of five months.

All eight initially appeared in green ink, but from early October, this colour was gradually phased out. By 12 November 1855, all were usually struck in black.

Their use during this experimental period was quite infrequent and some codes saw very little use. Code numbers 3 and 5 are scarce in green, and very few examples are known with codes 4 and 6 in green, but all codes are known in use (in black) during 1857, three of which were still giving service in October of that year.

Type B, four-line Spoons

The four-line spoons tend to be a little more complex than the three-line types. As well as being found with and without the word 'PAID' in the second line, there is also no connection between the bar structures and the code numbers as in the three-line types, although a rough picture can be formed by checking the earliest and latest known dates.

As there were eight three-line stamps, it is generally assumed that there were eight matching four-line 'PAID' stamps, and while this may be correct, it is difficult to support the view on the evidence available, as there appear to have been ten codes in use, including No Code, and the numbers 1 to 8, and X. More importantly, only four distinct bar structures are known, some of which were in use concurrently with other handstamps.

The 'Ex PAID' type is easy to recognise as the word 'PAID' has been removed, leaving a noticeable gap between the code and the date. Code 5 is unknown in either type, only 1, 3, 8 and X have been recorded from the 'Ex PAID' type, while No Code and

Code X are not known in the 'PAID' type, but it is possible that all the unknown codes exist and may come to light in the future. Fig 28 was recently discovered by the writer and at present is the only example known, as a search revealed that it has not been documented anywhere until now.

All of these four-line types, including the 'Ex PAIDS', may possibly exist in both green (G) and black (B) inks, as will become apparent from the following list, which includes the known bar structures as well as early and late dates of use for each type.

Type A	Three-Line Spoon				
Spoon Code	Bar Structure	Ink	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Example
1	4442	G	3 Jun 1855	18 Sep 1855	Fig 15
1	4442	B	24 Oct 1855	5 Sep 1857	"
2	3323	G	17 Aug 1855	5 Oct 1855	Fig 16
2	3323	B	5 Oct 1855	17 Jul 1857	"
3	3332	G	27 May 1855	31 Aug 1855	Fig 17
3	3332	B	3 Dec 1855	13 Sep 1857	"
4	4433	G	11 Jul 1855	Not Known	Fig 18
4	4433	B	6 Nov 1855	4 Sep 1857	"
5	4443	G	4 Sep 1855	27 Sep 1857	Fig 19
5	4443	B	4 Oct 1855	20 Oct 1857	"
6	3342	G	10 Sep 1855	Not Known	Fig 20
6	3342	B	10 Nov 1855	2 Jul 1857	"
7	3333	G	28 Aug 1855	29 Oct 1855	Fig 21
7	3333	B	10 Nov 1855	18 Sep 1857	"
8	4433	G	12 Sep 1855	8 Nov 1855	Fig 22
8	4433	B	12 Nov 1855	9 Sep 1857	"

Type B	Four-Line Spoon					
Type	Spoon Code	Bar	Ink	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Example
PAID	1	3332	G	16 Aug 1855	6 Dec 1855	Fig 23
Ex PAID	1	3332	B	15 Jan 1856	13 Jun 1857	Fig 24
PAID	2	3332	G	11 Aug 1855	14 Aug 1855	Fig 25
Ex PAID	2			Not Known		
PAID	3	4433	G	8 Aug 1855	8 Sep 1855	
PAID	3		B	16 Sep 1855	16 Sep 1855	Fig 26
Ex PAID	3	4333	B	8 Dec 1856	13 Dec 1856	
PAID	4	3332	B	30 Oct 1855	31 Oct 1855	Fig 27
Ex PAID	4			Not Known		
PAID	5			Not Known		
Ex PAID	5			Not Known		
PAID	6	3323	G	25 Aug 1855	25 Aug 1855	Fig 28
Ex PAID	6			Not Known		
PAID	7	3333	G	12 Sep 1855	12 Sep 1855	
PAID	7		B	19 Nov 1855	9 Dec 1855	Fig 29
Ex PAID	7			Not Known		
PAID	8	4333	G	4 Aug 1855	24 Sep 1855	Fig 30
PAID	8	4333	B	5 Oct 1855	11 Dec 1855	
Ex PAID	8	4333	B	4 Jan 1856	8 Oct 1857	Fig 31
PAID	X			Not Known		
Ex PAID	X	3332	B	8 Jan 1857	6 Oct 1857	Fig 32
PAID	None			Not Known		
Ex PAID	None	3332	B	13 Aug 1856	11 Jan 1857	Fig 33

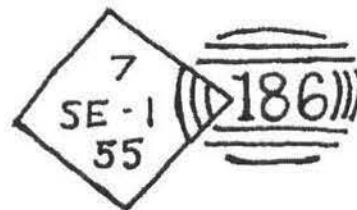


Fig. 21

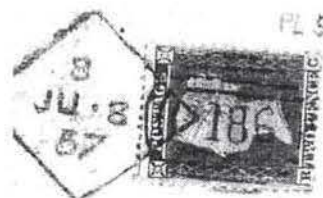


Fig. 22



Fig. 23



Fig. 24



Fig. 25



Fig. 26



Fig. 27



Fig. 28

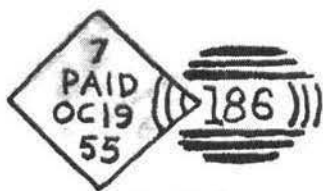


Fig. 29

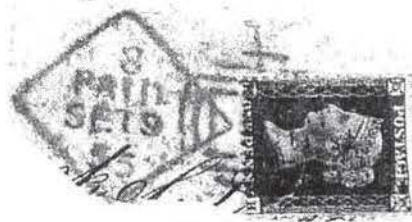


Fig. 30



Fig. 31



Figure 32



Fig. 33



Fig. 34

may have been recut. Compared with the 1844-type obliterations which lasted for ten years or more without recutting, these stamps were only in use for two years, and being made of metal, as well as having a fairly limited usage, it is unlikely that any recutting was necessary.

It is possible that stamps were cleaned from time to time to free up dried ink that became lodged in the crevices, making the cancel more legible and giving the impression that the stamp may have been recut.

Book Review

(continued from page 46)

in Bechuanaland, Levant, Morocco and Nauru. The chapters in these sections deal with the stamps and printings used for the overprinted issues, but not the variations of the actual overprints. So we will not find missing accents, broken letters, "S" over "e," etc.

The book concludes with very useful appendices and an extensive bibliography. An index would have improved the ease of using the book. While the black and white illustrations are excellent, the quality of the color plates is somewhat inconsistent. Any collector having the slightest interest in any aspect of the Seahorses will welcome this book and find it an indispensable reference.

Varieties

On a few occasions a distinctive blue ink was used. This does not appear to be a variation of green but probably is due to the stamper using the wrong ink pad. Greenish black may also be found during the period when the change from green to black was made.

When two digit codes (1A, 1B, 1C, etc) were used (Fig 34), these are sometimes seen reversed (A1, E1, etc), and a few inverted letters (Fig 1), and numbers (Fig 10) are also seen, but they are not common. Obliterator numbers may also be found omitted (Fig 12) but these are rare. Worn numbers often cause problems of identification, where a worn 8 can appear as a 3, 5 or 6. Likewise, a worn 4 or 7 might appear as a 1. Distorted 2's, 3's, and 5's, can also be confusing.

Unlike many of the English spoons, these stamps were never recut, although the writer has been shown some very sharp impressions which looked as though they

Conclusion and References

Much more information could be added to the notes above, but this would be more at home in a specialised society journal. However, it is hoped that the information given will encourage the collection of these most interesting cancellations. Further information may be found in the booklet *The Spoon Experiment* by R M and R W Willcocks and Wilfred Bentley, published 1960, and the 1980 revised version by Willcocks and Sedgewick. There is also a booklet titled *The Dublin Spoon* by the late Dr. C. I. Dulin, published 1992, which is a near exhaustive survey, and has become the definitive work on this cancellation. These works are all out of print but are sometimes available through auctions or sales lists. The writer is in possession of letters from both authors authorising the use of information and lists from these works, some of which have been used in these notes. Photocopies of Early and Late date lists, etc., are available at cost plus postage, please.

Other information has been obtained from articles in the Philatelic press from time to time and the writer's father's notebooks Nos. 4, 6 and 7.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ireland ... Transition

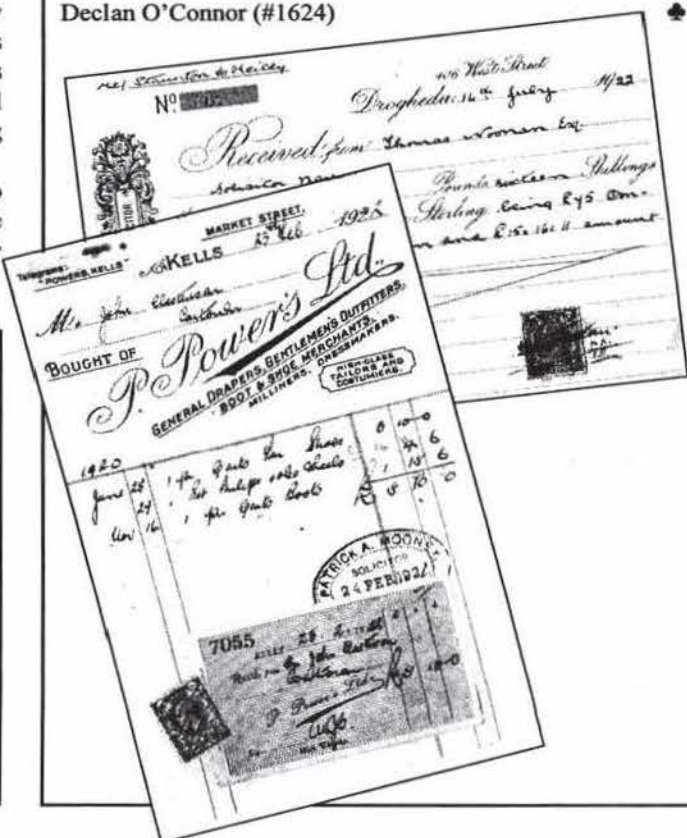
Dear Sir,

Could any reader help in relation to the legal status of GB stamps which were used to receipt paid invoices in the post-Transition period.

See the enclosed copy examples from during and after that period.

Sincerely,

Declan O'Connor (#1624)



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