

COUNTY NOTES - COUNTY CORK

The Former Bandon Head Office Area

As noted previously ~~the~~^{to} cover the whole of County Cork would exceed an entire issue of Irish Philately, hence I am splitting Cork into what I hope will prove to be manageable 'chunks'. The first of these covers the former Bandon head office area which until it was stripped of its status (c2000) covered the Clonakilty and Dunmanway areas, but not Kinsale. Many of the rural offices have been closed in recent years and others will surely follow as An Post reduces the network. Since c2003, no office in the area cancels outgoing mail. I will follow the format used for previously for County Carlow and as ever welcome comments.

Ardfield A 'rubber office' until c1950 – at least 9 different were used post 1922 the most interesting of which gave an almost egg shaped impression - seen October 1928 to May 1930 (fig 1)



fig 1

Ballinacarriga
2002 (see below)

Closed 1967 and never common. The former office was unmistakable when visited in



Ballinadee

A hard mark to find and all strikes seen in recent years are poor.

Ballinascarthy

Only two postmarks appear to have been used after 1922.
Closed in July 2001.

Ballineen

Possibly issued with a duplex (462) immediately on its opening in 1858-59; this was one of the thin bar types (fig 2 overleaf). Brumell's date of 1874 for this is far too late. RSO postmark in use 1901-08.



fig 2

Bandon Head Office

A very old office, open by 1659 with postmarks known from c1703. At least six skeleton marks are known in the years 1906-15 and the triangle 'BYS' was in use until to the mid 1960s. That said, I have found no unusual marks from this former head office.

Bandon - Kilbrogan TSO

Closed c1994, it was situated in a side street at the top of Kilbrogan Hill and the site can still be identified thanks to a postbox in the wall of a house. The postmark is only found on parcels and registered mail and in consequence is scarce.

Bredagh Cross

Not opened until 1953, it was closed c1991. The mark is however relatively easy to find.

Butlerstown

A 'rubber' office, 8 different noted between 1912 and 1950 (fig 3). A skeleton was in use in 1973.

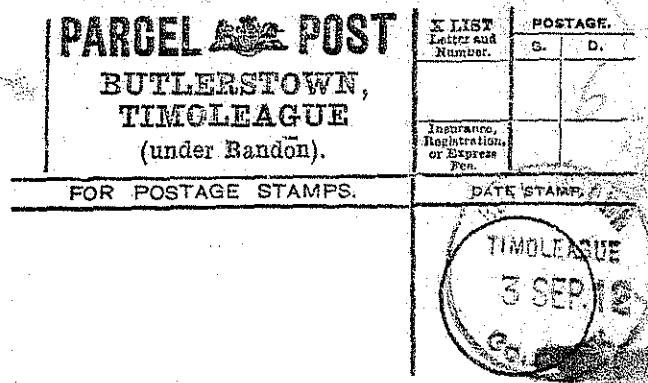


fig 3

Caheragh

Another 'rubber' office, 9 being noted between 1918 and 1943 including a rubber skeleton in 1926-7 (fig 4) which apparently lasted 15 months (so much for the rubber skeletons only being in use for a few days (!) although that was often the case). The replacement mark known from December 1927 has unusually small lettering (fig 5).

fig 4

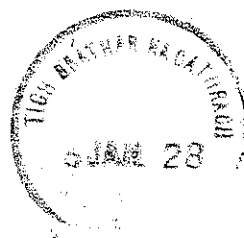
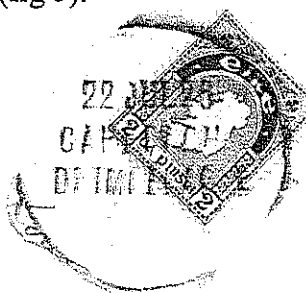


fig 5

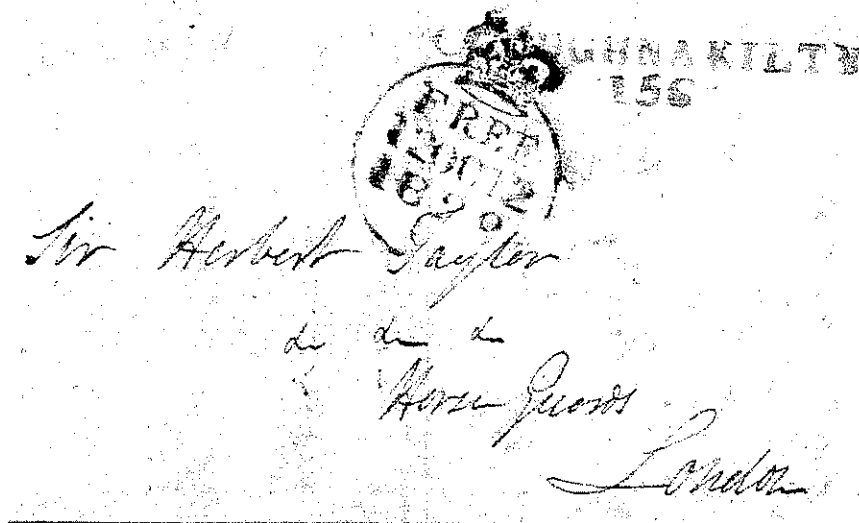
Carey's Cross Open between 1877 and 1891, it supposedly had a numeral postmark. Has anyone ever seen it?

Castlefreke Usually known locally by its Irish name of Rathbarry. I have recorded only one postmark which was in continuous use from 1929 until at least 1987.

Castletown Kinneigh 7 rubber postmarks are recorded between 1921 and 1950. Purple ink has been noted in 1985-87.

Clonakilty The present post office is in a disused Presbyterian church. Prior to 1847 postmarks read Cloughnakilty (fig 6). Goodbody records a RSO mark; this is scarce, the only example seen (1911) being on registered mail which indicates it was used only on the counter. The universal machine read Clanna Chaoilte from 1971 to 1977, thereafter Cloich na Coillte and is known with a local publicity slogan in the early 1980s.

fig 6



Coolkellure Closed in 1912, no live postmark is recorded for this office.

Coppeen A simple postmark history; rubbers until c1951 (7 noted including the proof book strike of 1900) thence a steel handstamp which was still in use in 1991.

Courtmacsherry Surprisingly closed in 2000. A double ring mark with time in code is found from 1894 to 1901 and then the same mark is found without code used as late as May 1930 (figs 7 and 8). Meanwhile a RSO mark is noted 1907-11.

fig 7

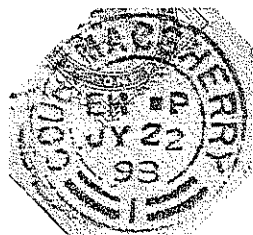
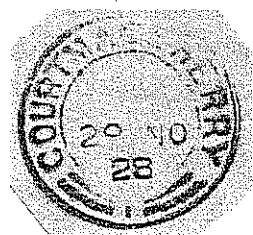


fig 8



Derinacarah Closed c1998, rubber marks were used until c1950. The postmarks are easy enough to find.

Desertserges Another 'rubber' office, there is little of note to report.



fig 9



fig 10



fig 11

Drimoleague The double ring postmark showed time in code until at least 1905. A skeleton is noted for 1925-27 (fig 9), thereafter there is nothing of note.

Drinagh The earliest mark I have recorded is a steel mark reading Drinagh/ Dunmanway RSO which I have seen used 1922-25 but must date from prior to 1905 (when RSOs were abolished) (fig 10). Rubber marks were then used 1928 to 1938 (fig 11 shows an example struck in bright violet) and a skeleton is recorded in January 1940.

Dunmanway An RSO mark was used 1904-11 and is common. Scarcer is the '200' triangle known used c1930-50; Dunmanway may have been the only town in Ireland to have shown the old 1844 series office number in its triangular postmark rather than the telegraphic code letters (fig 12).



Messrs. Ogilvie & Moors Ltd.,
Parnell Place,
Cork.

fig 12

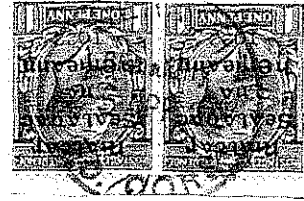
Enniskean The twin village to Ballineen, a straight line mark is recorded in 1855. A fine lined duplex is known used 1866-80 (but assumed introduced in 1858-9). The RSO mark is recorded 1905-15 and a skeleton is recorded for 1936. Modern marks are very common, thanks to a postmaster who appears to have taken care to ensure all outgoing mail received a clear postmark.

Gaggin Open 1947, closed 1987 and in consequence hard to find. A skeleton is noted used on 3 December 1947 and then a huge rubber postmark (41mm diameter) in 1949-50. Sadly I do not have a copy fit for display but this is shown in Mackay's book on Irish rubber cancellations. The Head Postmaster at Bandon was however kind enough to provide me a last day strike of the steel postmark (fig 13 overleaf).

fig 13



fig 14



Geragh

Closed by 1925, I have only ever seen one postmark (fig 14). I hope it illustrates well and suspect it is scarce!

fig 15



fig 16



Howes Strand

Although closed by 1962 this is not especially scarce. 5 different rubber cancellations have been noted between 1922 and 1951, one of which is unusual in having lower case lettering at the top and capitals at the base (fig 15).

Kilbrittain

A numeral postmark <264> was issued c1885 but is not recorded in use. The RSO mark, used 1902-12 is however not rare. A small double ring postmark is recorded 1922-37 (fig 17) and is one of the later uses of an English language postmark in the County.

Kilmacsimon Quay

A charmingly situated office adjacent to the Bandon River, the postmarks are hard to find, that of 27 November 1981 reading IX 81/ 27.

Lackenduff

No live postmark recorded and closed in 1923.

Lisbelad

7 rubber postmarks are noted in use between 1922 and 1950, the majority of which can be found struck in purple. The office closed c1999 and I was greeted most pleasantly by the former postmistress when I visited in 2002. (see below).



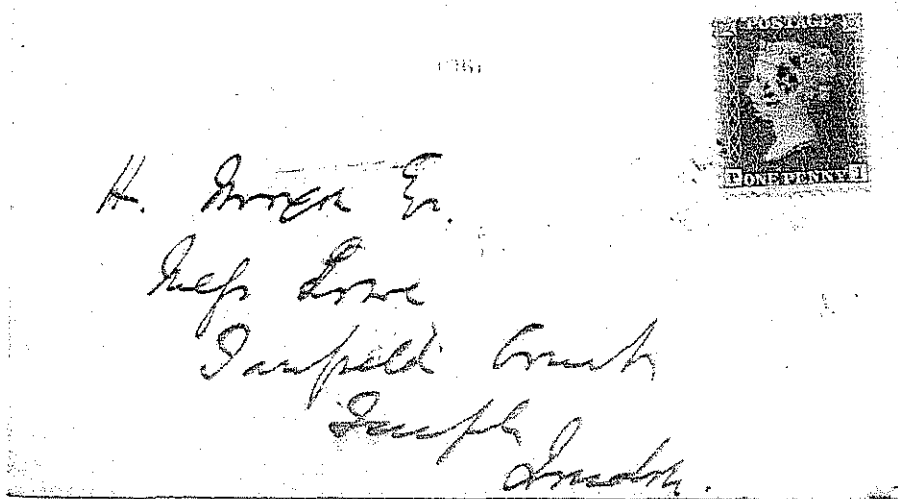
Lislevane
1992. Not scarce.

The English mark was in use until 1928 and the replacement Irish mark until at least

Lisselane

Open for just 4 years c1855-59 this office was just one of a handful known to have used its straight line 'village' namestamp to cancel stamps. The example shown (fig 17) is poor but perhaps no more than three such covers are known. It is interesting to speculate why this tiny office cancelled stamps. It is known that the Skibbereen to Bandon mail coach passed the door and it must be assumed mail was sent direct to Cork and beyond, bypassing the head office at Bandon thus necessitating 'local cancellation'. The office was replaced by BallinacCarthy c1859.

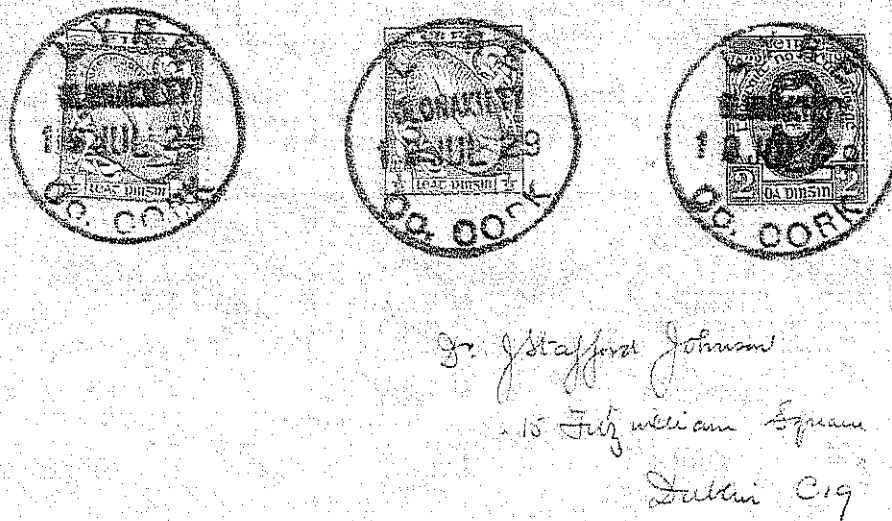
fig 17



Lyre (Clonakilty)

Shown is a rare cover addressed in his hand to Dr Stafford Johnson, the legendary postmark collector of the 1920s and 30s (fig 18). He appears to have kept very few covers so possibly thought of this postmark as being 'scarce'. In fact 4 different rubber cancellations have been seen used between 1928 and 1947 and the replacement steel mark used 1952 until closure is not especially rare.

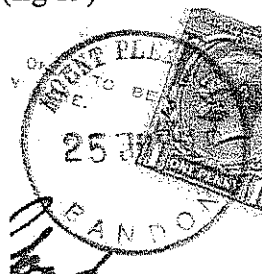
fig 18



Mount Pleasant

Closed 2003, it lay on a back road to the north west of Bandon (not marked on the Ordnance map) and is a tough mark to find (fig 19)

fig 19



Newceston The postal address was, for many years, Newceston, Enniskean and a mark reading Baile na Lústasaigh./INIS CHÉIN – mixed case and mis-spelled (Lústasaigh for Iústasaigh) is known used in 1929 (fig 20 on back page).

Reenascreena A tough mark to find, but 7 different rubber cancellations are known used between 1922 and 1945, the last variant (seen in 1943 and 45) has the year in four figures.

Rosscarbery The mileage mark used 1822 to 1834 uses just one ‘S’ in the town name (fig 21 on back page). Time in code is noted in the double ring datestamp used 1895 to 1900. A skeleton was in use in the spring of 1929. The replacement handstamp was still in use in 1998 by which time the outer rim had totally disappeared (fig 22 on back page). A self inking datestamp in the modern scalloped style had also arrived by this date.

Rossmore Ballineen served as the post town at one point and the 1922 mark reads Rossmore/ Ballineen SO; by 1927 a skeleton was in use and by May 1928 the first of two Irish language postmarks used since. The office appeared very run down when I visited in 2002.

Shanlaragh Closed Christmas 2000, this is a hard mark to find pre-1950. The replacement for the 1950s steel handstamp introduced in 1991 and presumably in use until closure may prove harder still to find (fig 23 on back page).

Templemartin Closed September 2003, I was lucky enough to stumble across this office (not marked on a map) some years earlier. Three rubber postmarks are recorded used to 1948 and then just one steel postmark. This office may have only used its mark on parcels and registered mail during its last thirty years of operation. (fig 24 on back page).

Timoleague Used in English until at least 1936, but be careful. The double ring mark seen in 1899 was recut at some point (figs 25 and 26 on back page); note shorter ‘T’. Marks from recent years are common, but I have seen a circular undated packet stamp with vertical bars at top and bottom used c1930.

Prop Carbery January 1826

fig 21

Mr Jas Carbery

fig 22

MOSSABBERTY
154
Carbery
Co Cork

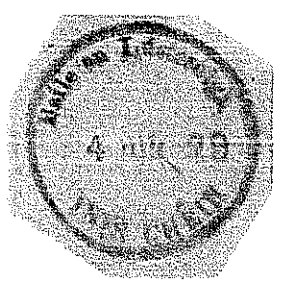


fig 20

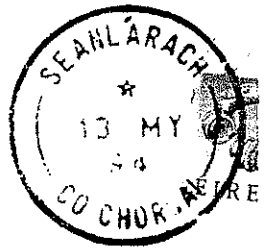


fig 23

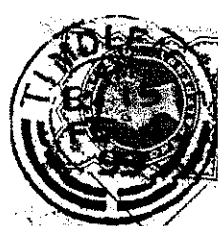


fig 25



fig 26

Do: R Templemartin (The Office) No. 20	LITIR CHLÁRAITHE (REGISTERED LETTER) Litir seo a thabhairt Poist le clárú, agus fháil uirthi THIS LETTER OF THE POST MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICE OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED AND OBTAINED FOR IT Caithfeadh an seoladh a scríobhadh an taobh seo. THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THE SIDE	
Táille íoctha FEE PAID	<i>Central Office, J. C. A., 23 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin</i>	

fig 24