

The £1 Irish Architecture Definitive Stamp

Aim

This exhibit displays the development of the £1 Irish Architecture definitive stamp from the initial Cahir Castle horizontal design to the Killarney Cathedral vertical reissue, detailing the reason for a second issue: the infamous £1 forgery.

Two £1 Stamps and a Forgery

Twenty-eight Architecture definitives were issued from 15th December 1982 until 1st June 1990. With values ranging from 1p to £5, only one value, the £1 exists in two different designs. Extensive forgery of the £1 Cahir Castle brown and grey stamp led to the withdrawal from sale of the stamp from all post-offices. The £1 stamp was valid for the use on savings cards used to pay for television licences and telephone bills and it was this fiscal use that prompted the forgers.

The £1 was then replaced on 27th June 1985 with a different design and format, using the vertical Killarney Cathedral design already used for the 44p black and grey stamp, but in blue and grey.

Exhibit Contents

Highlights include a unique dry print ghosted block of the Cahir Castle £1, the two printings of the infamous £1 forgery, including line perforated and imperforate blocks along with great rarities of both fiscal and postal usages.

All paper and perforation types of the issued stamps are also exhibited.

Items of the greatest importance are highlighted in **dark red ink or background**.



Cahir Castle, Co. Tipperary 1142
£1 Brown and Grey – issued 15th December 1982



Black and white stamp sized **press production**
of the £1 Cahir Castle



£1 Brown and Grey – **Forgery imperforated pair**.
The forgeries resulted in the recall of all £1 Cahir Castle stamps.



Killarney Cathedral, Co. Kerry 1855
£1 Blue and Grey – issued 27th June 1985

Sources

An Post., *Irish Post Stamp Definitive Series*, Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O Dublin 1

Whyte I W., "The New Definitives" *Irish Stamp News*, No. 13 Nov-Dec 1982.

Jung O., *The Irish Architecture Definitives*, FAI Forschungs-und Arbeitsgemeinschaft Irland, 1992

Hamilton-Bowen R. et. Al., *Hibernian Handbook and Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Ireland*, Rodgau Philatelie, 2022

Warren B et al., The Architecture Definitives, Series No 1 to 5, *Irish Stamp News* 1983 to 1988

Design and Format

Michael Craig was commissioned by the Stamp Design Advisory Committee to produce nine different designs. The twenty-eight stamps were litho-printed by Irish Security Stamp Printing Limited. Each design illustrated buildings of a particular period; early Christian; Romanesque; mediaeval; eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The low value 1p to 39p were small sized 23 x 19 mm (horizontal, perf. $14\frac{1}{4} \times 14\frac{3}{4}$), or 19 x 23mm (vertical perf. $14\frac{3}{4} \times 14\frac{1}{4}$), and the high value 44p to £5 were large sized 40 x 23 mm (horizontal, perf. $14\frac{3}{4} \times 14\frac{1}{4}$), or 23 x 240mm (vertical perf. $14\frac{1}{4} \times 14\frac{3}{4}$).



Black and white oversized press productions of the small and large format denominations issued on 15 December 1982 on gloss card, including the £1 Cahir Castle horizontal along with the 44p Killarney Cathedral vertical that would be reused with a £1 denomination to replace the forgery of the £1 Cahir Castle.



17 August 1984 – Inland parcel post tag.

29 + 2p + £1 Cahir Castle = £1.31 for £1.05 postage (1 kilo) and 26p express fee.

Perforations (G1), Sheet Margins & Printers Blocks – Large Format High Values

Four different sheet perforations were applied for the full series, which are provable with marginal blocks only. All stamps perforated 14 x 14 ¾, on a sheet fed two row comb Grover perforator.

The different perforations are labelled starting with a **G** (Grover machine) and following on depending in the number of perimeters that are perforated; one margin, two margins, three or all four margins. Only three different perforations were used on the large format higher value stamps. There is no G2 (two perimeters) perforation in the large format stamp sheets.



CCP1 **G1** Block 1A1A

Plate Block 1A1A (from the A sheet), IRISH SECURITY STAMP PRINTING LIMITED Imprint Block and outer corner blocks of the 'horizontal' large format stamps of the £1 Brown and Grey issued on 15 Dec 1982.

CCP1 Grover Perforation Type 1
Only one margin is perforated through.

The bottom horizontal margin is perforated, the left and right margins have one extension hole, the top margin is imperforate.

Perforations (G3), Sheet Margins & Printers Blocks – Large Format High Values

Perforations **G1**, **G3** and **G4** were used on the large format high values stamps. Printer's full uncut sheets comprising of 400 (small format) or 200 (large format) stamps are bisected in a left-hand A and a right-hand B counter sheet and every sheet has an additional number, which changes when a new cylinder is used.

The number is doubled on the high value bicolour large sized stamps, e.g. left sheet 1A1A and 1B1B right sheet.



CCP3 **G3** Block 1A1A

Plate Block 1A1A, ISSP Ltd. Imprint Block and outer corner blocks of the 'vertical' large format stamps of the £1 Killarney Cathedral Blue and Grey issued on 27 June 1985 to replace the £1 Brown and Grey.

CCP1 Grover Perforation Type 3 (**G3**) – three margins are perforated through.

The left margin imperforate only on the A sheets, with a single extension hole, and on the B sheets, with a single extension hole reversed on the B Sheet, with the right margin imperforate with a single extension hole.

Perforations (G4), Sheet Margins & Printers Blocks – Large Format High Values

Numbers are placed on the left sheet margin beside the last on the large format stamps. The larger size stamps, in either horizontal or vertical designs were issued in sheets of 100 without a gutter.

The printer's imprint 'IRISH SECURITY STAMP PRINTING LIMITED' is found on the right-hand margin opposite the cylinder number beside the last on the large format stamps.



CCP1 Grover Perforation
Type 4 (G4) – all four
margins are perforated
through.

CCP3 G4 Block 1B1B

Plate Block 1B1B, IRISH SECURITY STAMP PRINTING LIMITED Imprint Block and outer corner blocks of the 'vertical' large format stamps of the £1 Brown and Grey issued on 15 Dec 1982.

Paper Types Three gum / paper combinations were used during the full Architecture series:

Clay Coated Paper 1 – The original Clay Coated Paper 1 (CCP1), opaque, with a slightly mottled gum in shades of pale blue and green. This paper has a strong UV reaction from the front. CCP1 was supplied by Harrison & Son.

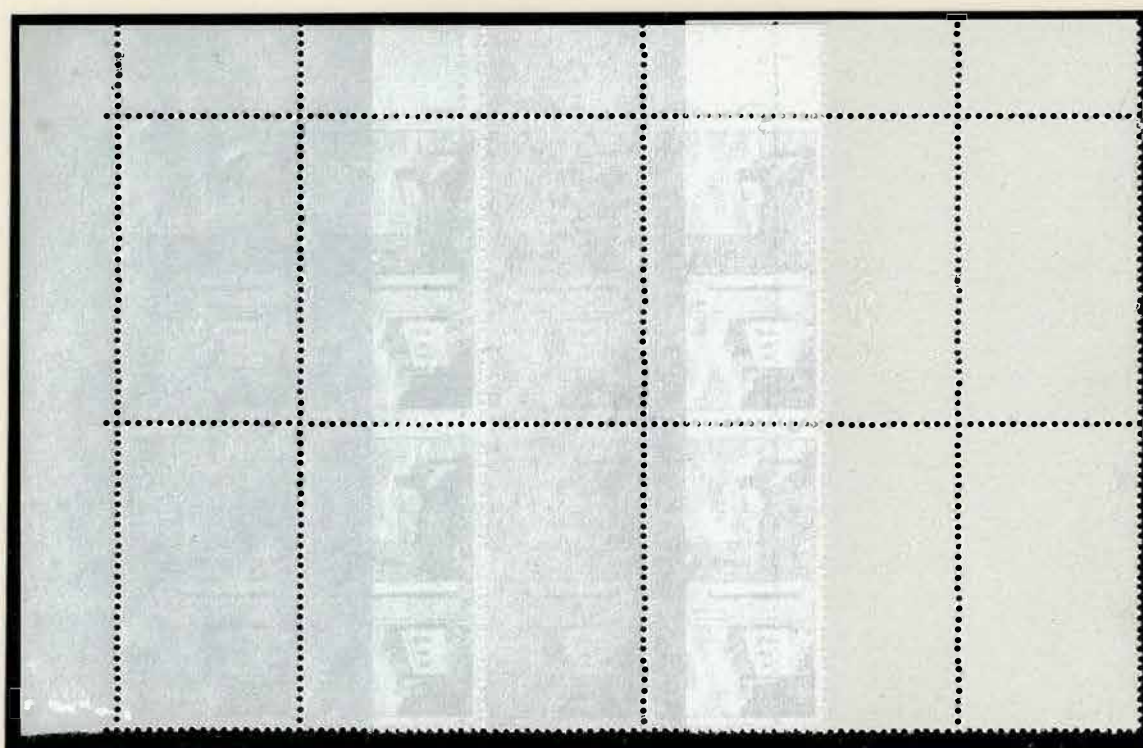
Clay Coated Paper 2 – A similar Clay Coated Paper to CCP1, but with a brilliant white gum. This paper has a strong UV reaction from the front. CCP2 was supplied by Harrison & Son. **CCP2 was only used for one of the £1 Cahir Castle printing**

Clay Coated Paper 3 – A replacement Clay Coated Paper 3 (CCP3), thick opaque, with an off-white to cream coloured, mottled gum. This paper has virtually no reaction to UV from the front. CCP2 was supplied by Coated papers Ltd.



£1 Cahir Castle Brown and Grey CCP1, **CCP2** and CCP3 Imprint blocks – front.

The £1 Cahir Castle was the only stamp in the series that used all three papers CCP1, CCP2 and CCP3.



£1 Cahir Castle Brown and Grey CCP1, **CCP2** and CCP3, top right corner blocks – rear.

£1 Cahir Castle Brown and Grey



15 Dec 1982 – CCPI G1 Block 1A1A



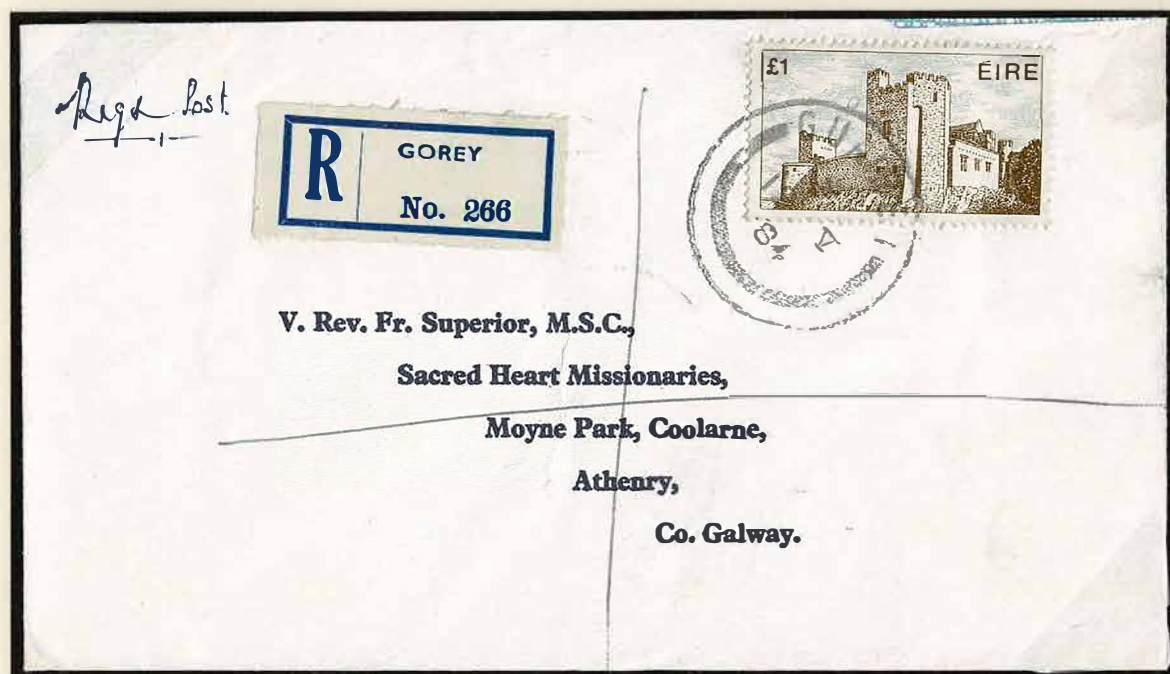
15 Dec 1982 – CCPI G1 Block 1B1B



Sept 1984 – CCP3 G3 Block 1A1A



Sept 1984 – CCP3 G3 Block 1B1B



12 May 1984 – Registered letter from Gorey, Co Wexford to Co. Galway

£1p. Inland letter rate from 1 April 1982 to 24 February 1985: 26p
+ registration rate, same period: 70p, totalling 96p, 4p overpaid.

£1 Cahir Castle Brown and Grey

Clay Coated Paper Type 2 was only used for one printing in the series: £1 sheets (CCP2 G3 1A1A and CCP2 G3 1B1B)



Oct 1983 – CCP2 G3 Block 1A1A



Oct 1983 – CCP2 G3 Block 1B1B



1982 Cahir Castle £1 on CCP3, bottom left corner block of 15

Almost complete **dry-print of brown affecting** four stamps in the centre and three stamps on the top row, leaving only a hint of par Castle. As the four stamps affected show a very faint "ghosting" of the brown print, it must be assumed that some drops of an ink-repell fell on the cylinder during rotation. The right-hand side of the block is unknown. **This block is unique.**

£1 Cahir Castle Brown and Grey - **Forgery**

The printing of the £1 Cahir Castle brown and grey stamp was short lived and was withdrawn without advance notice, on November 1984. The forgeries of the £1 stamps were not used for postal services but were used as stamps in telephone account and television licence savings schemes in the stamp saving books.

Suspension of Savings Stamps Schemes

If you have a savings stamps book containing £1 or 50p postage or savings stamps, please bring it to any Post Office before 1st December. It will cease to have any value after that date.

The Post Office will give you an acknowledgment and send your saving stamps book for inspection. The full value of your stamps will be refunded to you directly by post within two weeks, provided the stamps are valid.

Stamps are no longer being accepted as payment of telephone accounts or television licences. Please use the Post Office Savings Bank deposit book service if you wish to save for these payments.

We are suspending telephone account and television licence savings stamp schemes because forged stamps have been used in savings books.

 **POST**
An Post
The Post Office



Issued stamp.



Forgery stamp 1st printing

Stuck down to part of savings book. All known saving books were destroyed after return to the Post Office

Line perforation 12 x 12, issued stamp 14 x 14 ¾



Forgery stamp 2nd printing.

Line perforation 15 x 15, issued stamp 14 x 14 ¾

Scan of Newspaper Notice – Nov 1984

'We are suspending telephone account and television licence savings stamp schemes because forged stamps have been used in savings books'



Imperforated left top corner forgery block from one of the two known uncut proof sheets.

£1 Cahir Castle Brown and Grey - **Forgery**

The £1 Cahir Castle brown and grey stamp was eventually replaced by the £1 Killarney Cathedral blue and grey stamp on 2 June 1985. Initial printing of the forgery was line perf. 12 x 12 as compared to the comb perf. 14 x 14 on the genuine stamp.

Paper colours do not match. The foot of the '1' of the '£1' is uneven on the forgery whereas it has a neat square appearance on the genuine stamp.



1982 Cahir Castle £1 **Forgery** complete sheet of 20. Colour variations can be observed throughout.

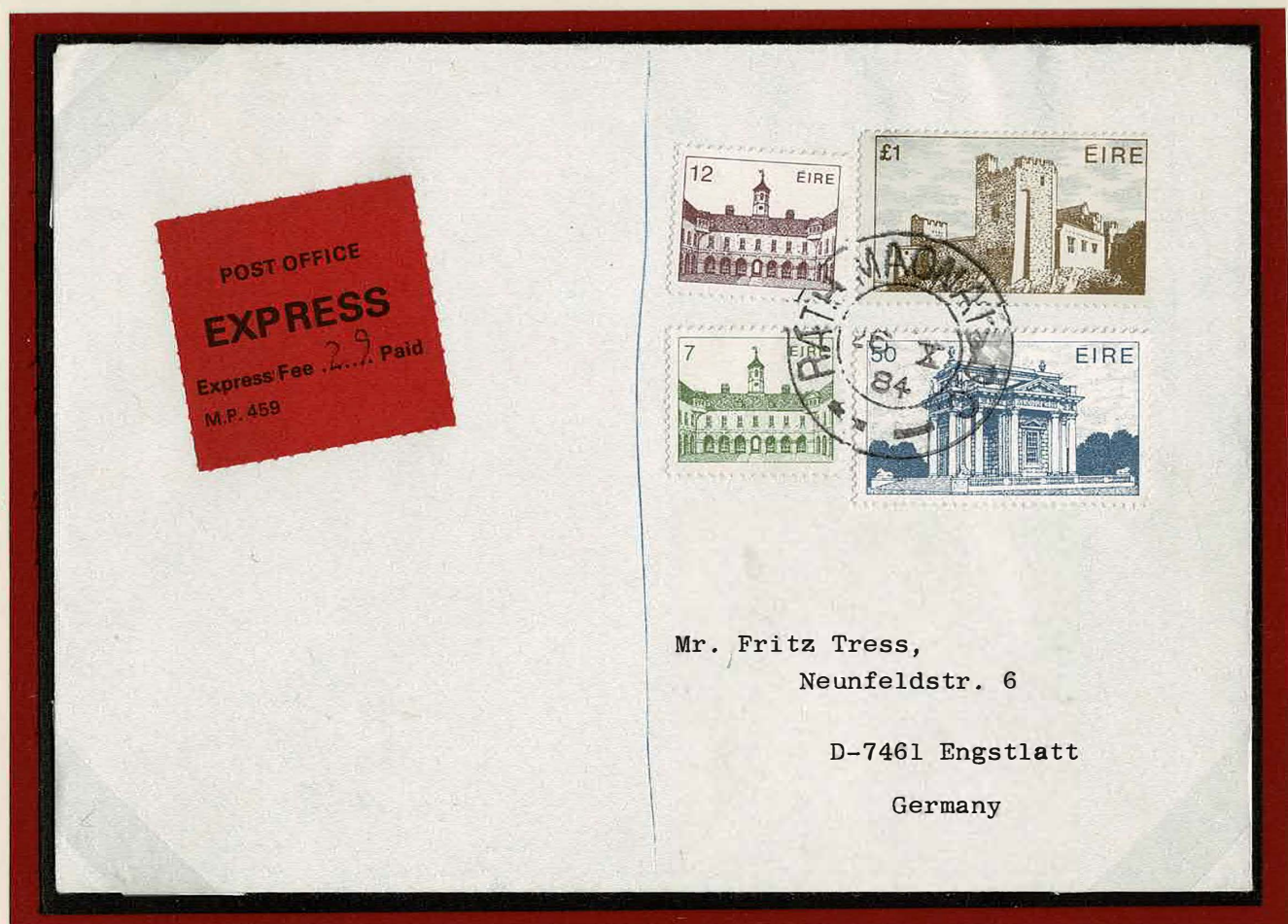


Comb perforation of the original



Mis-aligned line perforation of the forgery

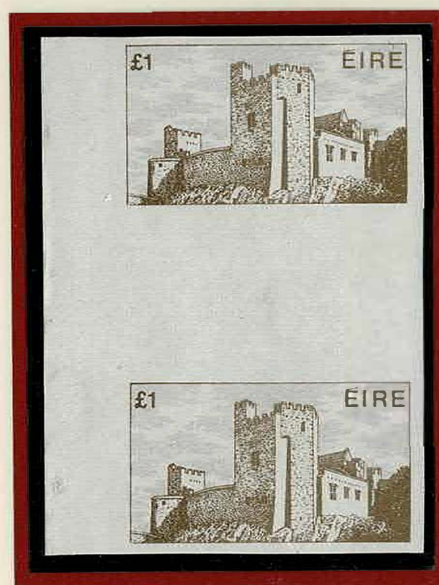
£1 Cahir Castle Brown and Grey - Forgery



1982 Cahir Castle £1 **Forgery** 1985 – Express letter to Germany.
Only a handful known used postally.



Imperforated bottom margin pair.



Imperforated 'T' shaped gutter pair
from one of the two known uncut proof sheets.
The issued large size stamps did not have a gutter.

£1 Killarney Cathedral Blue and Grey

£1 Killarney Cathedral blue and grey replaced the £1 Cahir Castle brown and grey stamp on 27 June 1985.



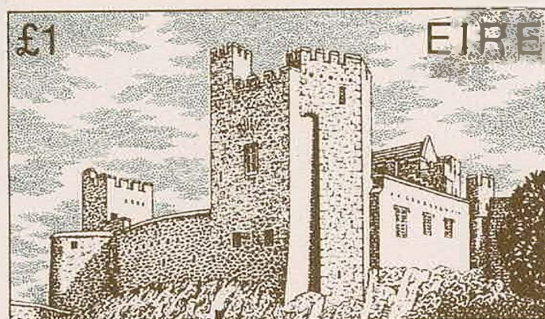
The original £1 stamp (Cahir Castle) has been withdrawn from sale and has been replaced by the Killarney Cathedral design with effect from 27th June 1985.

This stamp replaces the previous £1 definitive (Cahir Castle) which was withdrawn from sale in November 1984.

An Post publicity card promoting the new £1 stamp.

The card refers to Killarney Cathedral replacing the Chair Castle.

Third Definitive Series



ÉIRE CLÚDACH CHÉAD LAE

post

First Day Cover for the new £1 Killarney Cathedral, IRISH SECURITY STAMP PRINTING LIMITED Imprint Block and cancel along with the insert card confirming the replacement of the previous £1 definitive (Cahir Castle) stamp.

An Post's publicity material does not mention the reason for the replacement.

£1 Killarney Cathedral Blue and Grey



27 Jun 1985 – CCP3 G3 Block 1A1A



27 Jun 1985 – CCP3 G3 Block 1B1B

The new £1 Killarney Cathedral Blue and Grey issued on 27 June 1985 to replace the £1 Brown and Grey.



11 February 1987 – Registered aerogramme from Killarney to England.

£1 + 1p + 22p = £1.23. Not changed at airletter rate of 40p, but at inland letter rate (incl G. B) from 3 March 1986 to 1 January 1990: 28p + registration rate, same period: 95p, totalling £1.23p

£1 Killarney Cathedral Blue and Grey



Aug 1987 – CCP3 G4 Block 1A1A



Jan 1988 – CCPI G4 Block 2A1A



Jan 1988 – CCP1 G4 Block 2B1B

Postage
will be
paid by
Licensee

ENV BR8(F)

On Her Majesty's Service

Do not affix Postage Stamps if posted in
Britain, Channel Islands, N. Ireland or
the Isle of Man.

BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE
Licence No. PHQ 1

R Carrag Dhubh
Co. Baile Atha Cliath
No. 876

HM Inspector of Taxes Taunton 1
Michael Paul House
Corporation Street
TAUNTON
Somerset
TA1 4BR



ENGLAND

24 June 1987 – Registered GB 'Postage will be paid by Licensee' envelope from Dublin to England
7p + 20p = £1 = £1.27. Registration fee 95p + 32p for Inland postal rate (including GB)
for 2nd weight step (50g) from 3 March 1986 to 31 Dec 1989.

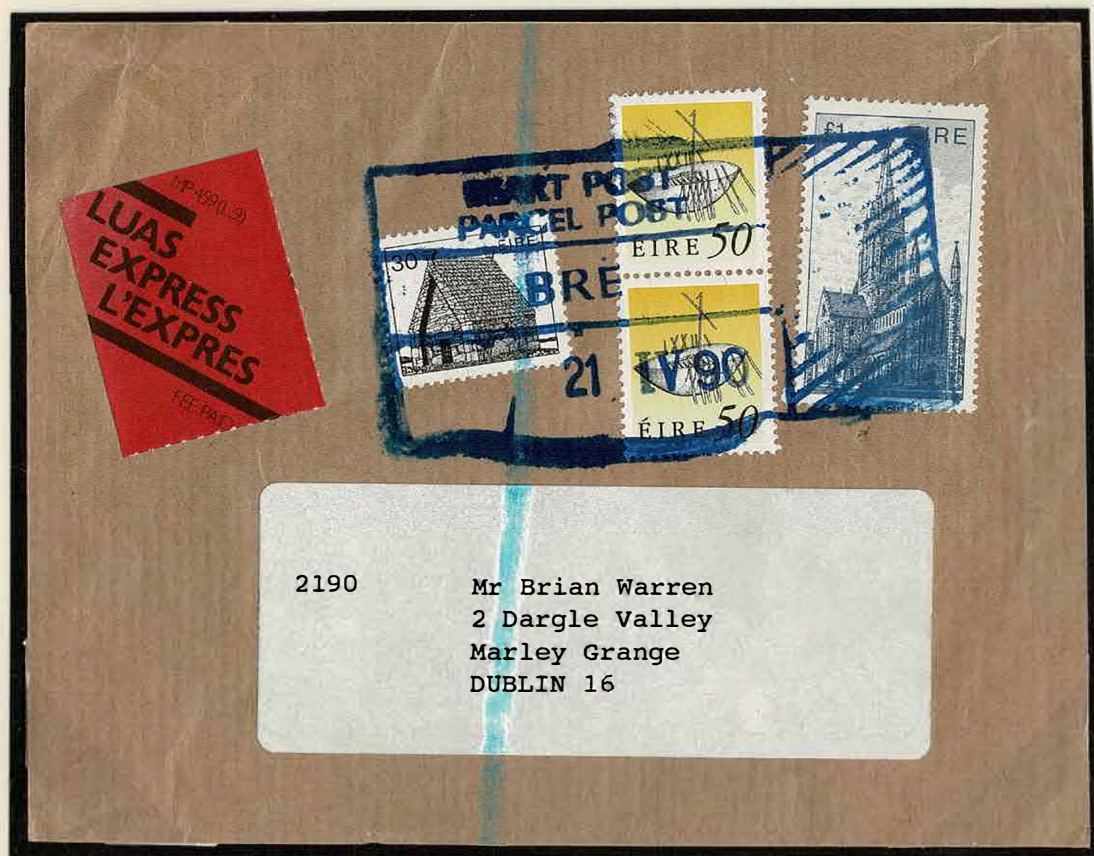
£1 Killarney Cathedral Blue and Grey



Dec 1988 – CCP3 G4 Block 2A1A



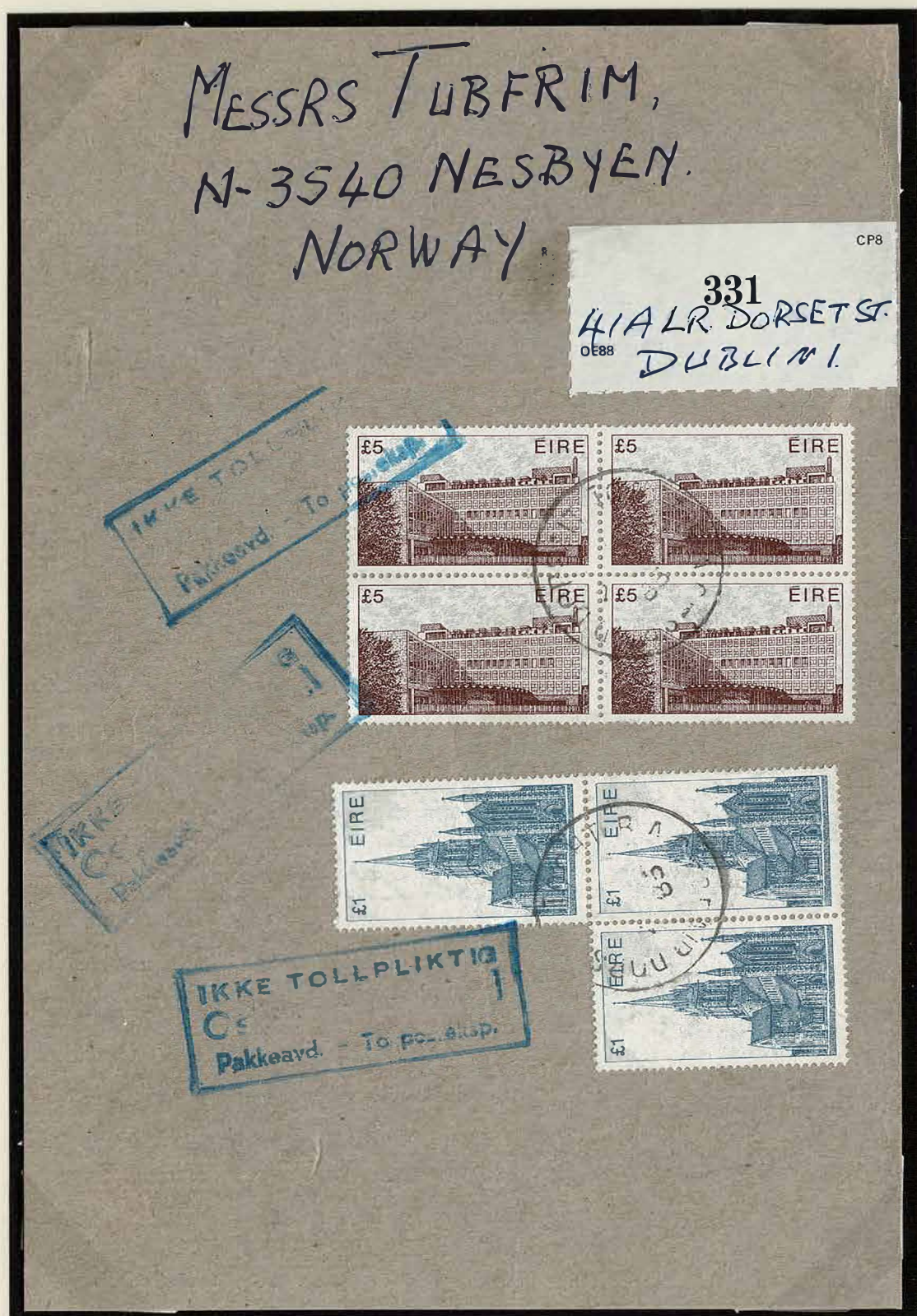
Dec 1988 – CCP3 G4 Block 2B1B



21 April 1990 – Express Parcel Post from Bray to Dublin.

£1 + 30p + 50p x 2 = £1.75 for inland letter rate postage plus 3rd weight step (300g to 400g) from 1 January 1990 to 2 February 1991 + express rate, same period: 55p, totalling £2.30p

£1 Killarney Cathedral Blue and Grey



1985 – Parcel cover from Dublin to Norway

$£5 \times 4 + £1 \times 3 = £23$. Foreign parcel rate to Europe from 25 February 1985 to 2 March 1986 for 6th weight step (20kg to 25kg): £23.00