

Postal History of County Cork, 1696 to Universal Postal Union

The earliest Acts of Parliament relating to postage required that ships landing anywhere in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland would hand over their letters to the post office for onward delivery. The length of the County Cork coastline and the deep water ports outside Cork city, established Cork as a gateway for postage to Europe and particularly the United Kingdom.

Scope and Objective: The objective of the exhibit is to trace the postal history of Cork, city and county, from 1696, through the increasing postage rates to the rate reform period of 1839/1840 and the decreasing postage rates and there to the establishment of the UPU.

Importance: The location of County Cork as a central shipping hub and the remoteness of the location from London and Dublin, allows the full story of the development of the mail service in Ireland and Great Britain to be clearly illustrated,

Exhibit Plan

Section 1: Early Post Period from 1696 to 1784

Section 2: Independent Post Period 1784 to 1831

2.1 First Rate Period 1784 – 1797

2.2 Second Rate Period 1797 – 1805

2.3 Third Rate Period 1805 – 1810

2.4 Fourth Rate Period 1810 – 1813

2.5 Fifth Rate Period 1813 – 1814

2.6 Sixth Rate Period 1814 – 1826

2.7 Seventh Rate Period 1826 – 1827

2.8 Eighth Rate Period 1827 - 1831

Section3: Unified Post Period 1831 to 1839

Section 4 Postal Reform Period 1839– 1850

4.1 Interim 4d Rate 1839 – 1840

4.2 Uniform 1d Rate 1840 – 1850

5.0 Adhesive Stamp Period 1840 to 1850

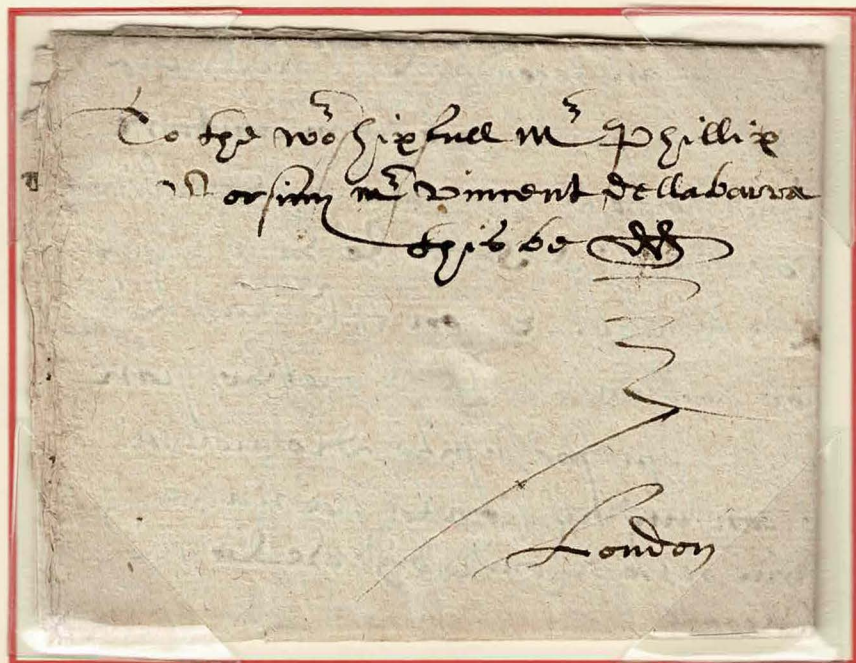
5.1 Adhesive Stamp Period 1850 to UPU

5.2 Adhesive Stamp Period Transatlantic Mail

6.1 Ship Letters 1d Rate 6.2 Ship Letters 6d Rate

6.3 Ship Letters 4d Rate 6.4 Ship Letters 8d Rate

6.5 Ship Letters Uniform 8d Rate without inland postage. Epilogue



Early Mail Prior to Rates being set.

1591 (June 9th) Entire letter from Cork to London. Most of the merchant post from the 16th century had no postal markings, such as this letter from Guglielmo Petala, who worked for Filippo Corsini, a London merchant who made his own arrangements to have his letters delivered.

The Corsini correspondence contained eleven letters from Ireland, this being the only one from Cork and the earliest known letter from Cork.

Bibliography

Feldman, D. and Kane, W., *Handbook of Irish Postal History to 1840*, Dublin, 1975.

Callan, B.T., *Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century County Cork Ship Letter Handstamps*, London Philatelist, Vol 132, pp 245-256, 2023.

Callan, B. T. (2023), *Cork City and County Postal History (Parts 1 to 5, Irish Philately, Volumes 1,3 (2023), 1,2,3, (2024).*

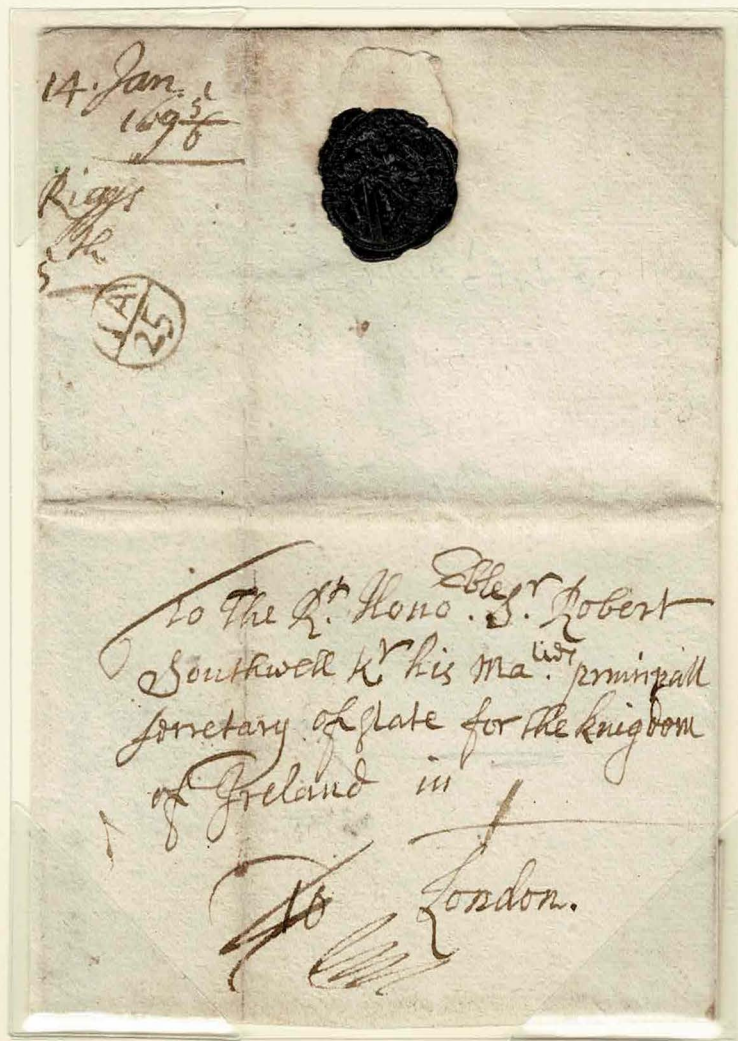
Rare items
outlined by
red box.

1. Early Post Period

1696 to 1784

The 1660 Act (12 Charles II c35) Established the rates for Ireland. These charges were in British currency and British miles.

Distance	Single	Double	Over 1 Ounce
Under 40 Miles	2d	4d	8d per ounce
Over 40 Miles	4d	8d	12d per ounce
Dublin to London	6d	1/-	2/-



1696 (Julian Calendar 1695/60 January 14th)

Letter "To the Rt. Honorable Sir Robert Southwell.....principal Secretary of State for the kingdom of Ireland in London", sent from Rigsdale, Cork, to London via Dublin. Letter from Mrs Riggs concerned with property and rental affairs.

Entire with clear 12mm JA/25 London Bishop Mark, applied on arrival at post office in London. Letter rated **10d** (4d to Dublin and 6d Dublin to London). Rate is then crossed out as recipient was entitled to Freepost.

1699 (June 29th) letter written in High Dutch, sent from Thomas Coppinger at Corke, to a merchant (Benedictus Garbe Coopman) at Brugge (now Bruges) with **post paid 10^d** to London (4d single to Dublin +6d to London). Cover has 6 stivers due on receipt in Bruges.

Earliest use yet recorded of **CORK** straight line townmark.

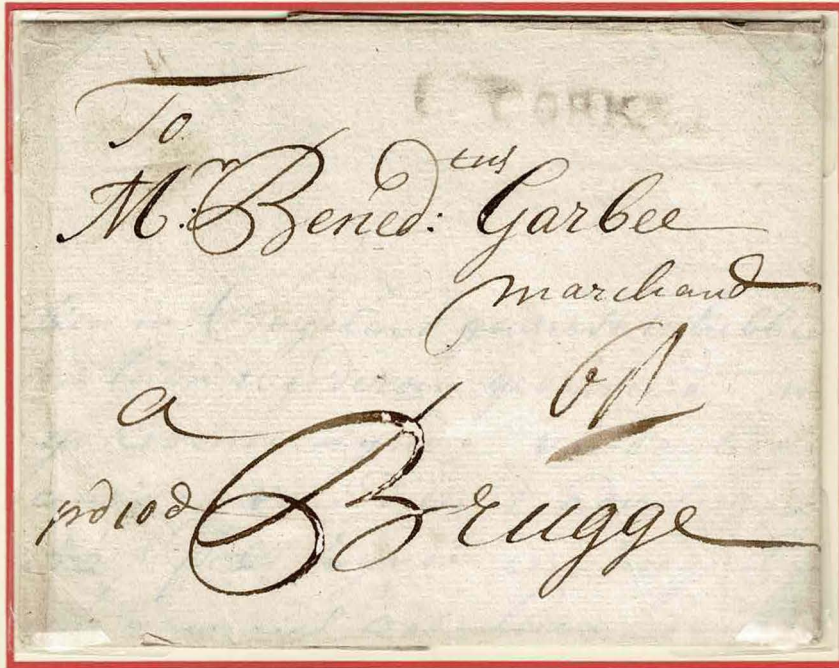


1. Early Post Period 1696 to 1784

The 1711 Act of June 1st (9 Anne c10) increased the one ounce rate to 16d for letters over 40 miles. Charges in **British** currency and distances in **British** miles.

1701 Cork to Bruges /1703 Cork to Dublin 1711 Youghal to Liverpool

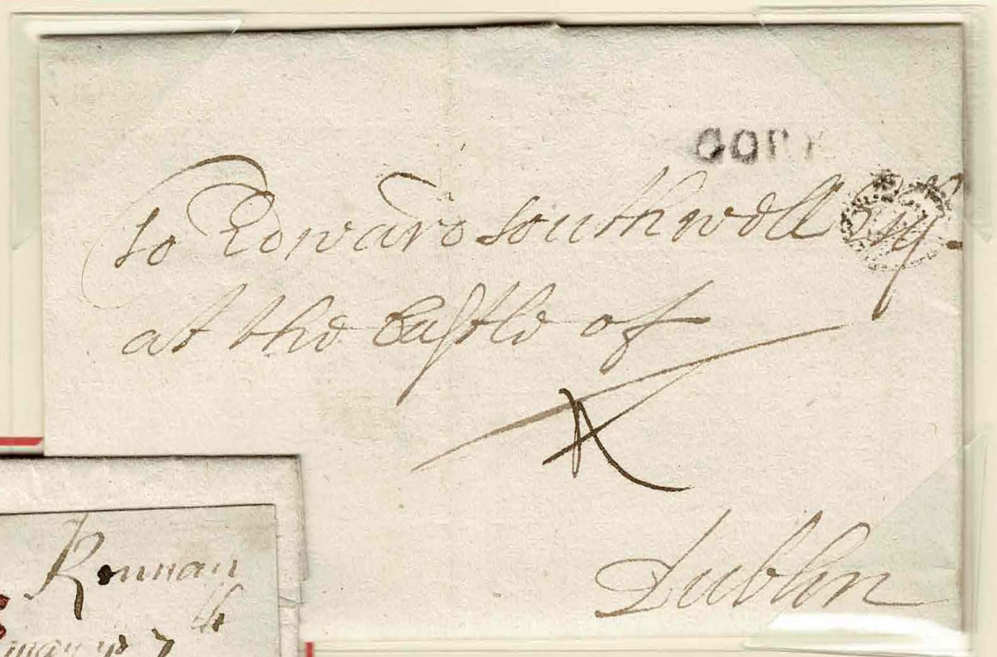
Distance	Single	Double	Over 1 Ounce
Under 40 Miles	2d	4d	8d per ounce
Over 40 Miles	4d	8d	16d per ounce
Dublin to London	6d	1/-	2/-



Left: 1701 (July 25th) letter from Cork to Bruges, rated **10d** (Cork to Dublin 4d + Dublin to London 6d) then charged 6 Schinnings to be paid on arrival. Face has first known CORK handstamp.

Second earliest use recorded of CORK straight line townmark. (earliest recorded by Feldman was 1703)

Right: 1703 (Oct 4th) Cork to Dublin, Bishops Mark OC/4 on reverse, early inspectors crown stamp (used in first year of use)

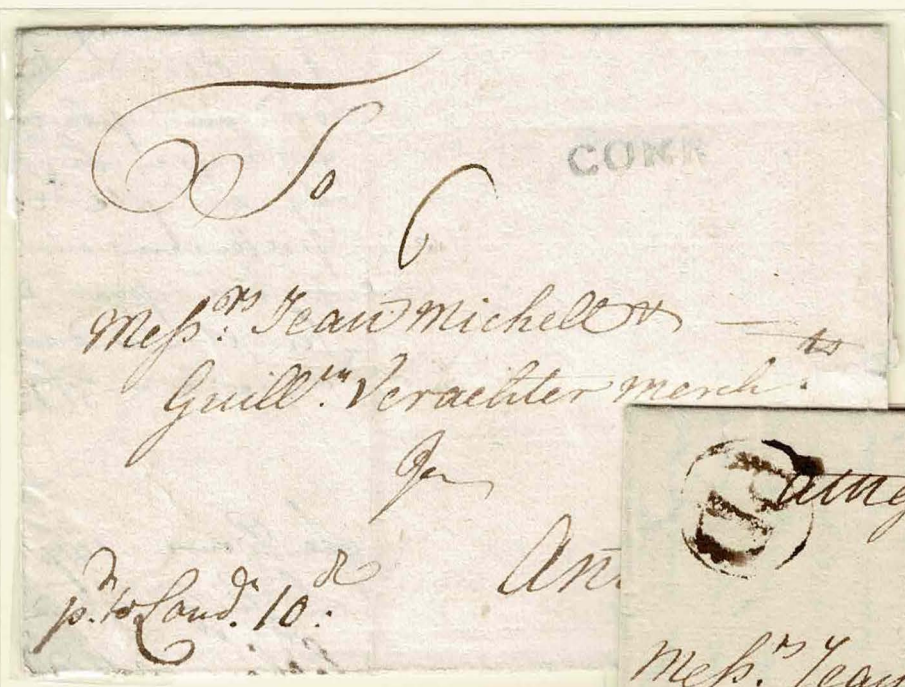


Left: 1711 (May 7th) letter from Youghal to Liverpoole, rated **10d** (Cork to Dublin 4d + Dublin to London 6d) then rerated **1N1** adding the 3d for London to Liverpoole.

Letter has rare contracted **Y•HAL** town stamp on reverse (shown here).

1. Early Post Period
1696 to 1784

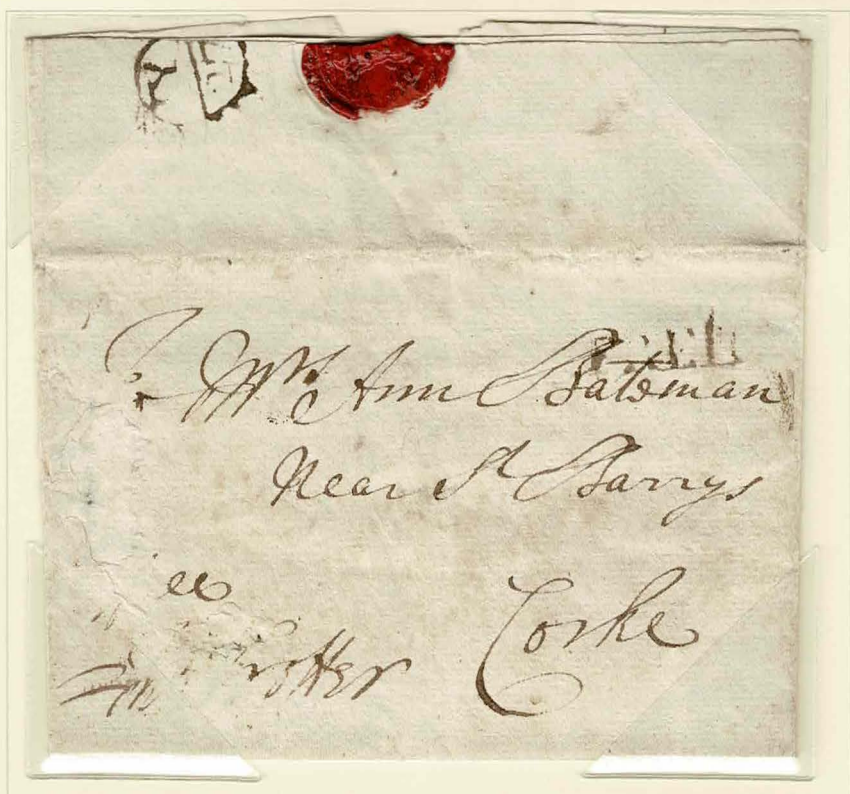
1715/1716 Cork to Antwerp
1723 Dublin to Cork



1715 (December 11th) letter from Cork to Antwerp with fine small **CORK** town stamp (3mm), manuscript *paid 10d* to London and manuscript 6 sous charge on receipt in Belgium(as per the aupin Treaty).



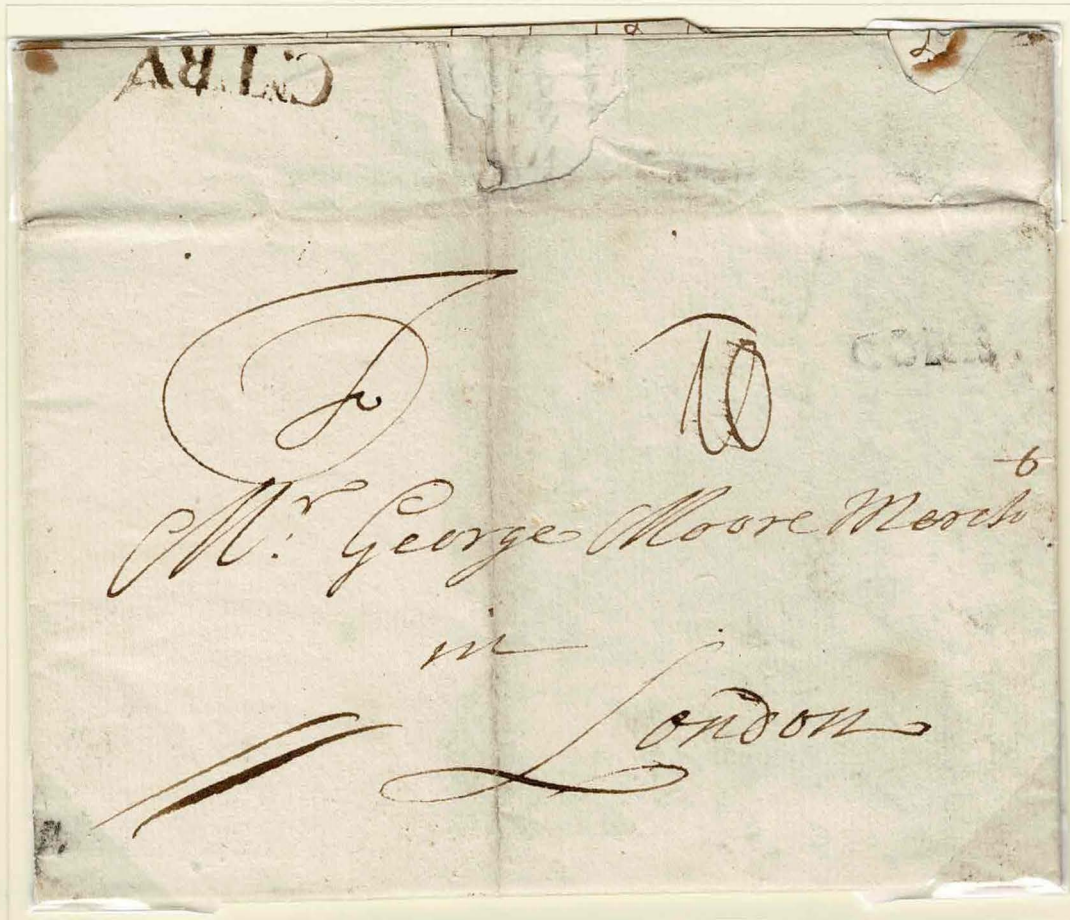
1716 (May 9th) letter as above, both from Hugh Mitchell to his wife Jean. Letter has **PD** stamp on face and Bishop Mark **28/MA** on reverse.



1723 (July 27th) entire from Dublin to Cork with early use of **FREE** handstamp, the privilege of politicians. Reverse has an example of an early Bishop's mark **27/JY**

1. Early Post Period
1696 to 1784

1722 Cork to London
1724 Glanworth to Dublin



1722 (May 7th) letter with fine very small **CORK** in black letters of uniform height (3mm) and a clear **C^NTRY** handstamp, applied at Dublin to mail sent to mainland Britain. Reverse also has Bishop Mark on 8/IV, confirming date of receipt. Letter face has manuscript *10d*, correct tariff to London.

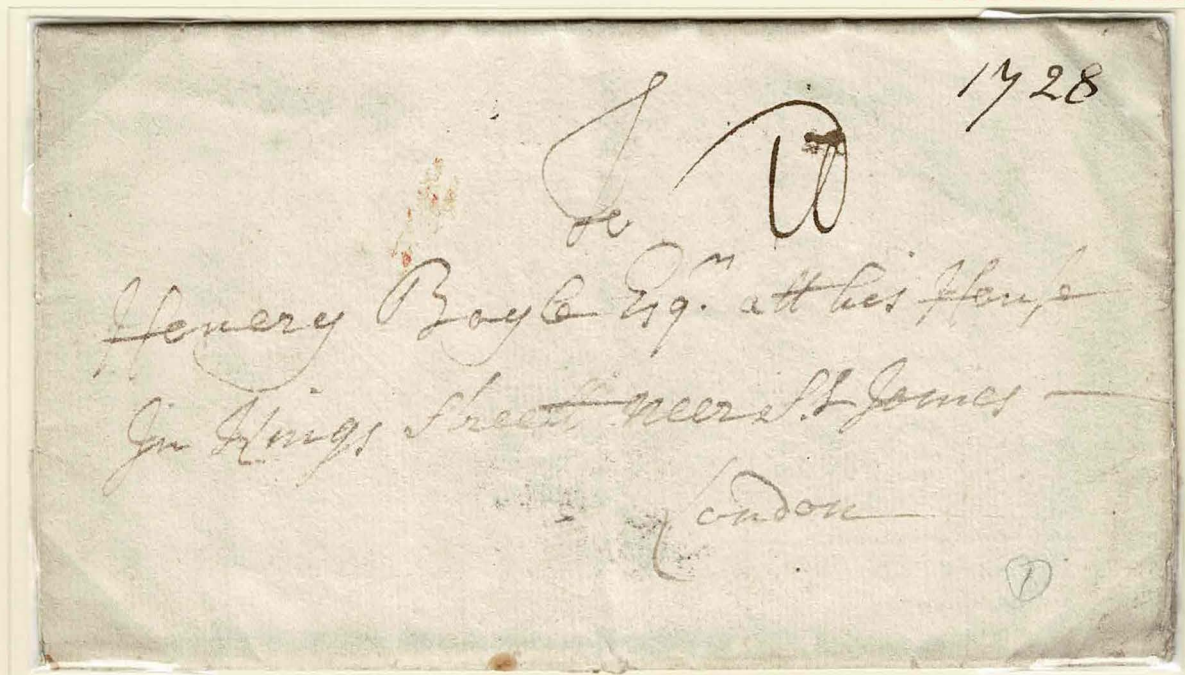
1724 (February 18th) letter from Glanworth via Mitchelstown to the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, Dublin. Letter carried **FREE**, with an excellent strike of the Abbreviated **M^TTOWNE** for Mitchelstown.

Reverse also has a very small Bishop Mark **FE/22**.



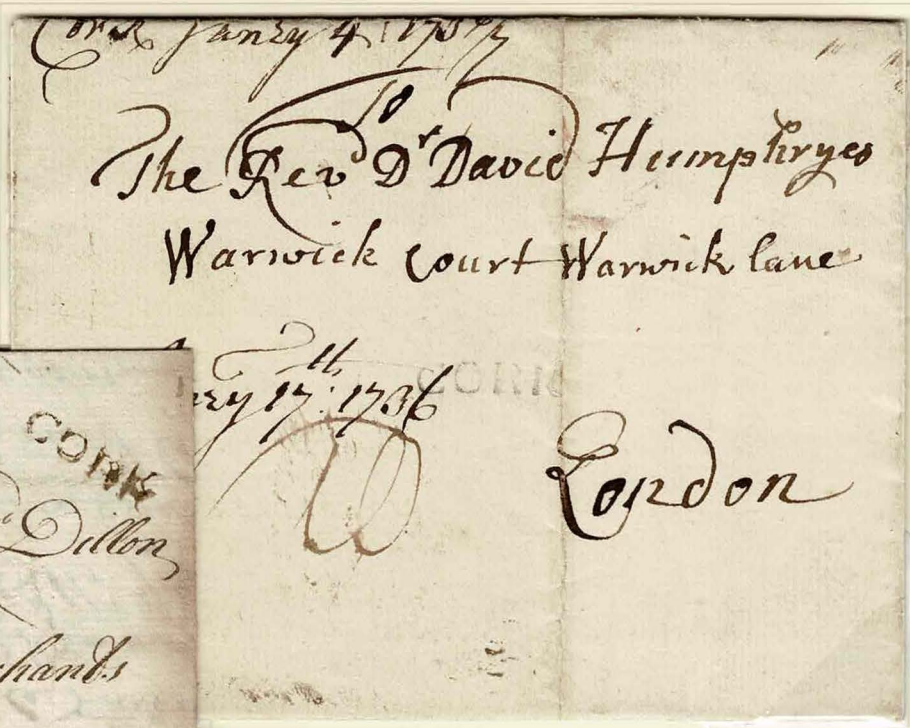
1. Early Post Period
1696 to 1784

1728 Castlemartyr to London
1734 Cork to Dublin
1736 Cork to London



1728 (May 13th) Entire letter from Castlemartyr to London, backstamped with straight line **M.TOWNE** (Mitchelstown) and **CNTRY** (Country). Reverse also had a bishops mark **24/MA** applied in London. Letter face has manuscript **10d**, correct tariff from Cork to London. Letter from Chris Markins to Henry Boyle.. Early and scarce provincial handstamp **M.TOWNE**.

1736 (January 14th) letter with very fine small **CORK** neatly struck in grey-black. With manuscript **10d** charge (4d to Dublin and 6d to London). Reverse has **C^NTRY** and clear but over inked London Bishop



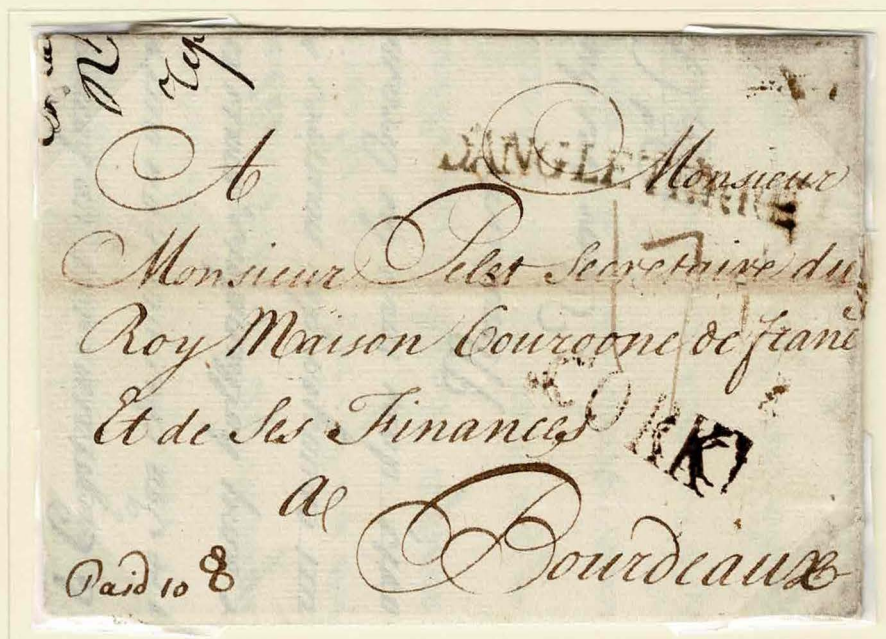
1734 (April 30th) letter with small **CORK** struck in black, with manuscript **4** charge (4d to Dublin). Reverse has small Dublin Bishop mark **MA/4**.

1. Early Post Period
1696 to 1784

1743 Cork to Bordeaux
1744 Cork to Bordeaux



1743 (September 16th) letter sent from Cork to Bordeaux, with black London transit Bishop Mark **20/SE**. Face has marking **PD** to destination) with manuscript *paid 10d.* and small black **CORK** line cancel (4 X 18mm). Rate was 4d to Dublin, then 6d combined rate from Dublin to London. Cover is marked with additional 17 deniers, to be collected on receipt in France.



1744 (May 27th) letter from Cork to Bordeaux, with **Tall CORK** marking (9.5 X 28mm), Bishop Mark **6/IV** at London and circular **PD** on reverse, with manuscript *10d* paid marking, and single line transit marking for **D'ANGLETERRE**. Cover is marked with additional 17 deniers, to be collected on receipt

1. Early Post Period
1696 to 1784

1747 Kinsale to Edinburgh
1763 Cork to Marseilles



1747 (May 5th) entire from Kinsale to Edinburgh via London. All mail from Ireland was directed via Dublin and for UK via London at this time.

Letter rated **10d** to London (scratched out in London and replaced with **1N2**, adding the additional **4d** rate to Edinburgh).

Reverse has COUNTRY handstamp applied at Dublin and small London Bishop Mark **11/MA**.

1763 (May 27th) entire from Cork to in Marseille with large **CORK** handstamp and London **PD** and London Bishop Mark **5/SE** on reverse.

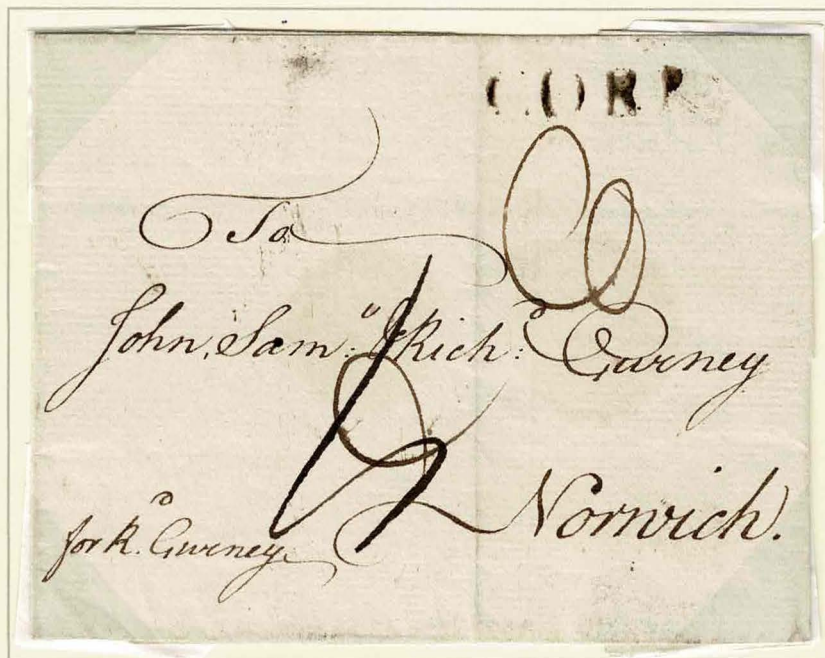
Sender paid **10d** to London and had manuscript **30 deniers** to pay on arrival.

Ex Field

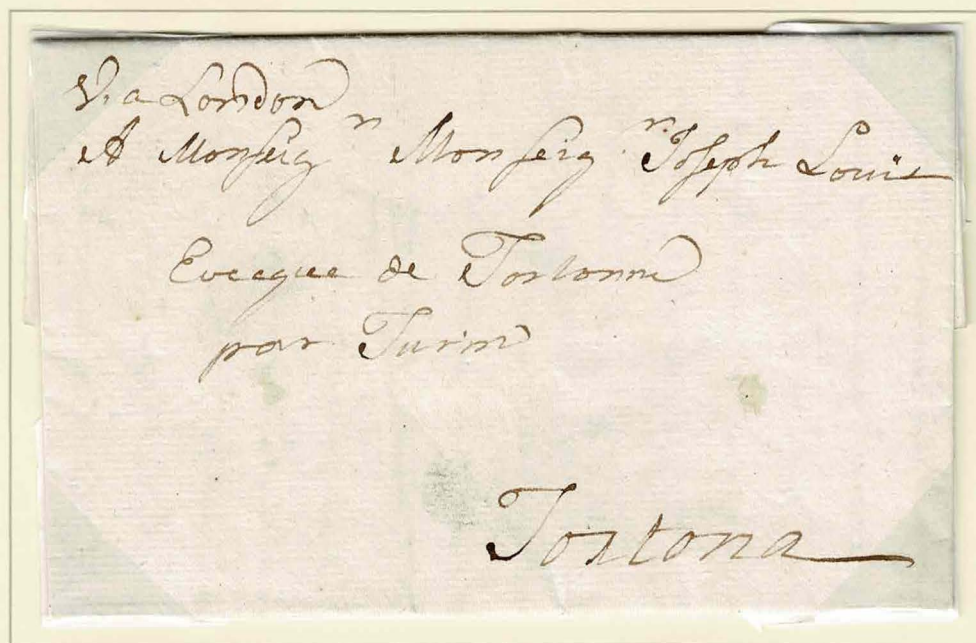


1. Early Post Period
1696 to 1784

1770 Cork to Norwich
1776 Cork to Tortona



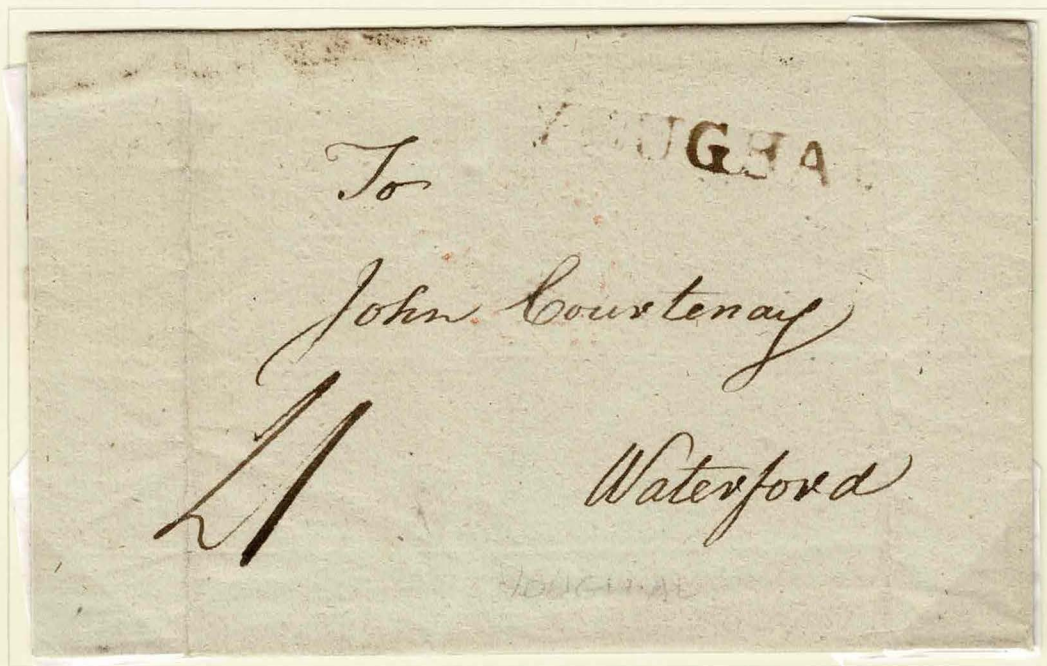
1770 (November 12th) letter sent from Cork to Norwich, with large **CORK** struck in black, manuscript *1/2* charge (4d to Dublin, 6d to London and 4d to Norwich). Reverse has large Dublin Bishop Mark **NO/15** and **COUNTRY** handstamp applied in Dublin.



1776 (February 22nd) letter from Cork to Tortona, Italy via London, sent by Joanna Flurrie. :Letter has manuscript *via London* and *par Turin* on face. There are no other markings on this letter, likely carried by personal messenger or friend.

1. Early Post Period
1696 to 1784

1777 Youghal to Waterford
1778 Cork to Glasgow



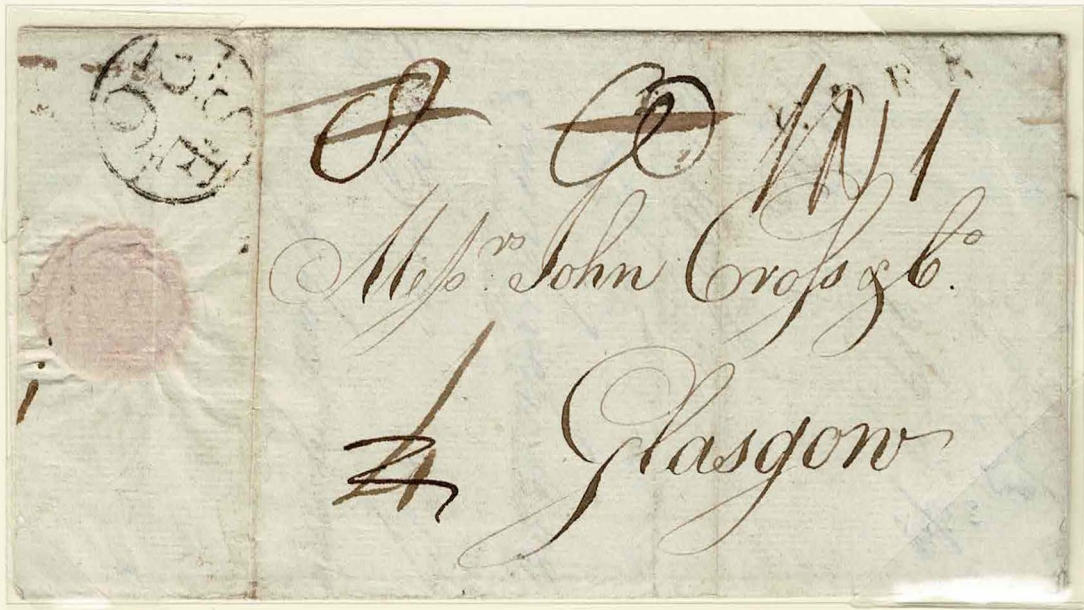
1777 (June 16th) wrapper sent from Youghal to Waterford, 46 British miles, rated at 1/- (over one ounce). Cover face has variably inked large black **YOUGHAL** straight-line handstamp (7 x 46mm). This strike is almost never found fully inked.



1778 (November 3rd) letter from Cork to Glasgow, with one line **CORK** handstamp (5 X 26mm) and Bishop Mark stamped in transit on 7 November (**NO/7**). Letter rate has been rerated from 8d to 10d on letter face (4d single sheet charge to Dublin and 6d rate to London). It has further been rerated in London to 1N2 by addition of 4d from London to Glasgow.

1. Early Post Period
1696 to 1784

1783 Cork to Glasgow
1783 London to Castle Martyr



1783 (Sept 23rd) entire from Cork to Glasgow via London. Letter rated 4d to Dublin (scratched out in Dublin and replaced with 10d to London, where a further 3d was added to pay tariff to Glasgow. Letter has large Dublin Bishop Mark (S•E/26 note the • between the S and E.), small CORK town stamp.



1783 Free letter from London to Earl of Shannon, Castlemartyr. Reverse has small London Bishop Mark 8/IV and very detailed wax seal.

2.1 Independent Post Period 1784 to 1831

FIRST RATE 1784 to 1797

1787 Cork to Bordeaux 1788 Mallow to Cork 1791 Cork to Bristol

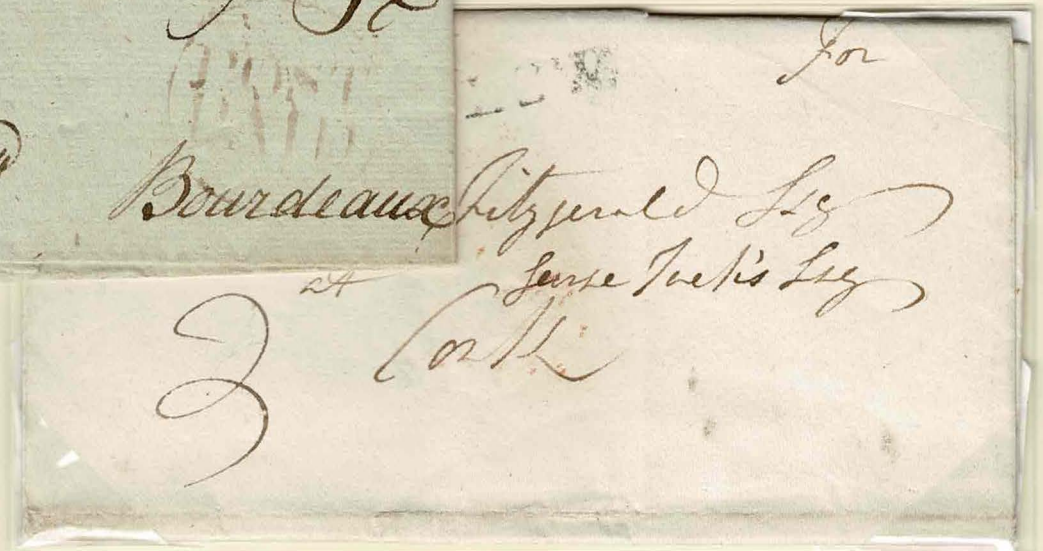
The Independent Irish Post Office was established by an Act of Parliament on 1st August 1784 and remained in place even after the 1801 Act of Union. Miles were set as **Irish miles** (1 Irish mile = 1.27 English miles) and rates were **Irish currency**.

Distance	Single	Double	Treble	Over 1 oz Per ¼ oz
Up to 15 Miles	2d	4d	6d	2d
15-30 Miles	3d	6d	9d	3d
Over 30 Miles	4d	8d	12d	4d

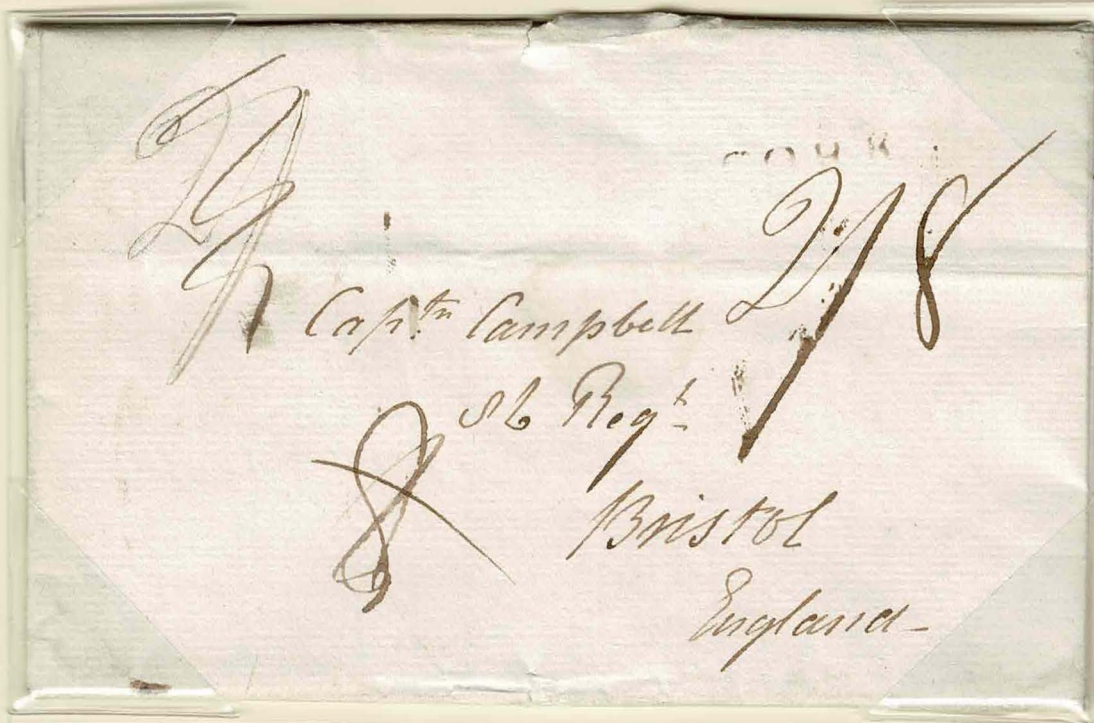


1787 (November 26th) entire from Cork to Bordeaux rated **10d** to London and 30deniers due on receipt in France.

Large/long Cork townsmark (25x 4.5mm) and circular POST PAID handstamp applied in London.



Right: 1788 (December 31st) entire from Mallow to Cork rated 3d for 6 miles. Large **MALLOW** townsmark.



1791 (August 2nd) entire from Cork to Bristol via London. Double sheet letter so cost from Cork to Dublin is 4 x 2 (8d scratched out in Dublin), Dublin to London is 6 x 2 (1/-) and cost London to Bristol is 6 x 2 for 100 mile (1/-) Total 2/8. Cork has faint **CORK** town stamp.

2.1 Independent Post Period
1784 to 1831

FIRST RATE
1784 to 1797

1792 Castlemartyr to Hague
1792 Cork to Nante

Distance	Single	Double	Treble	Over 1 oz per ¼ oz
Over 30 Miles	4d	8d	12d	4d

Composite rate from Dublin to London was 6d until 5th January 1797 – set by British Post Office



1792 (July 17th) letter to the Hague “Poste Restante” with contracted **C-MARTYR** townstamp in black. Letter has Dublin circular 24mm **POST/PAID/D** in claret and London **PAID JY 24 92** transit in red. Letter also has a faint **Bishop Mark JY/20** on reverse and is endorsed on face *British post pd 1/10d* (altered by postmaster in Dublin to “10” which is 4d to Dublin + 6d to London). A further charge of 12 stuyvers was added for the Netherlands. Letter is signed Shannon, being from Richard Boyle, Earl of Shannon, to his son Harry, Lord Boyle, then travelling in Europe and includes account of the latter’s horses.



1792 (April 10th) letter with faint but clear **CORK** in upper right corner (letters of uniform height), with manuscript *Pd 10d* (paid to London). Letter face has large red **LONDON PAID** in concentric circles and France straight line **ANGLETERRE** in black, with a further **28** (sous) charge for delivery in France.

2.2 Independent Post Period 1784 to 1831

The 1784 rates were extended in 1797 to increase the rate scale by a further two mileage increments. This was put in place on 25 March 1797 by another Act of Parliament. This second rate period remained in place from 1797 to 1805.

SECOND RATE 1787 to 1805

Distance	Single	Double	Treble	Over 1 oz Per ¼ oz
Up to 15 Miles	2d	4d	6d	2d
15 - 30 Miles	3d	6d	9d	3d
30 - 50 Miles	4d	8d	12d	4d
50 - 80 Miles	5d	10d	15d	5d
Over 80 Miles	6d	12d	18d	6d

1797 Cork to Guernsey 1800 Liverpool to Cork



1797 (August 28th) letter from Cork to Guernsey via Weymouth, with **CORK** light strike on cover face (4 x 28mm).

Charge of **5d** has been altered initially to **6d** for fee to Dublin (over 80 miles) then rerated to **2/1** (+2d packet to Holyhead + 8d to London (greater than 150 miles) + 6d to Weymouth (60-100 miles) + 2d packet to Guernsey (rate between 1794 and 1805) + 1d Post Office fee in Guernsey). Total 25d = **2/1**.

Manuscript note added that letter was received on 11 Sept. 1797.



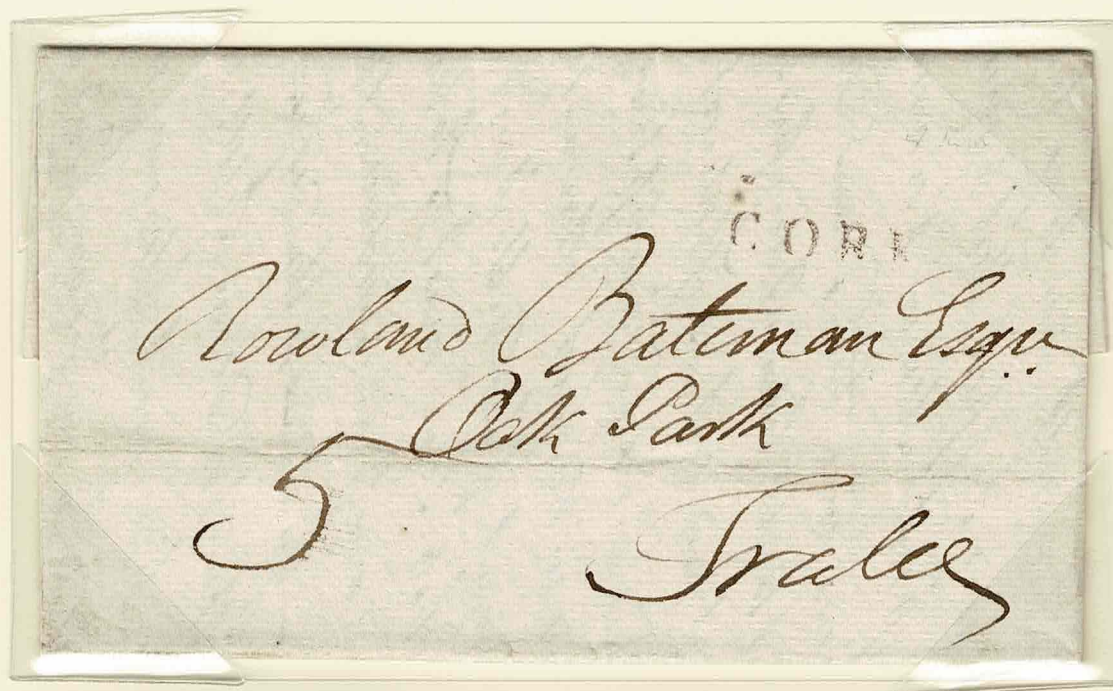
1800 (January 23rd) letter from Liverpool to Cork, to Lt. Col. Williamson, Fencibles, Letter then readdressed to Middleton, Co. Cork with manuscript "Missent to" along with **CORK** straight line handstamp (5 x 24mm) in black. Initial charge calculated as **1/2** but re-rated to **2/2** (8d Liverpool to London, +10d London to Dublin, + 6d Dublin to Cork + 2d Cork to Midleton, total of 26d = **2/2** i.e. 2 shillings and 2 pence). Letter has in transit circular date stamp on reverse (28 Jan. 1800).

2.2 Independent Post Period
1784 to 1831

SECOND RATE
1797 to 1805

1801 Cork to Tralee
1801 Cork to Dublin

Distance	Single	Double	Treble	Over 1 oz Per ¼ oz
50 – 80 Miles	5d	10d	15d	5d
Over 80 Miles	6d	12d	18d	6d



1801 (January 18th) letter from Cork to Tralee, with manuscript 5 (50 to 80 miles). Letter face also has **CORK** handstamp (5mm, medium size). Letter from Mr. Adderley Willcocks.



1801 (June 15th) letter from Cork to Dublin, with manuscript 6 (over 80 miles). Letter face has fine neatly struck **CORK** (small letters) in black with Dublin black CDS on reverse. Letter from Edward Barry.

2.3 Independent Post Period 1784 to 1831

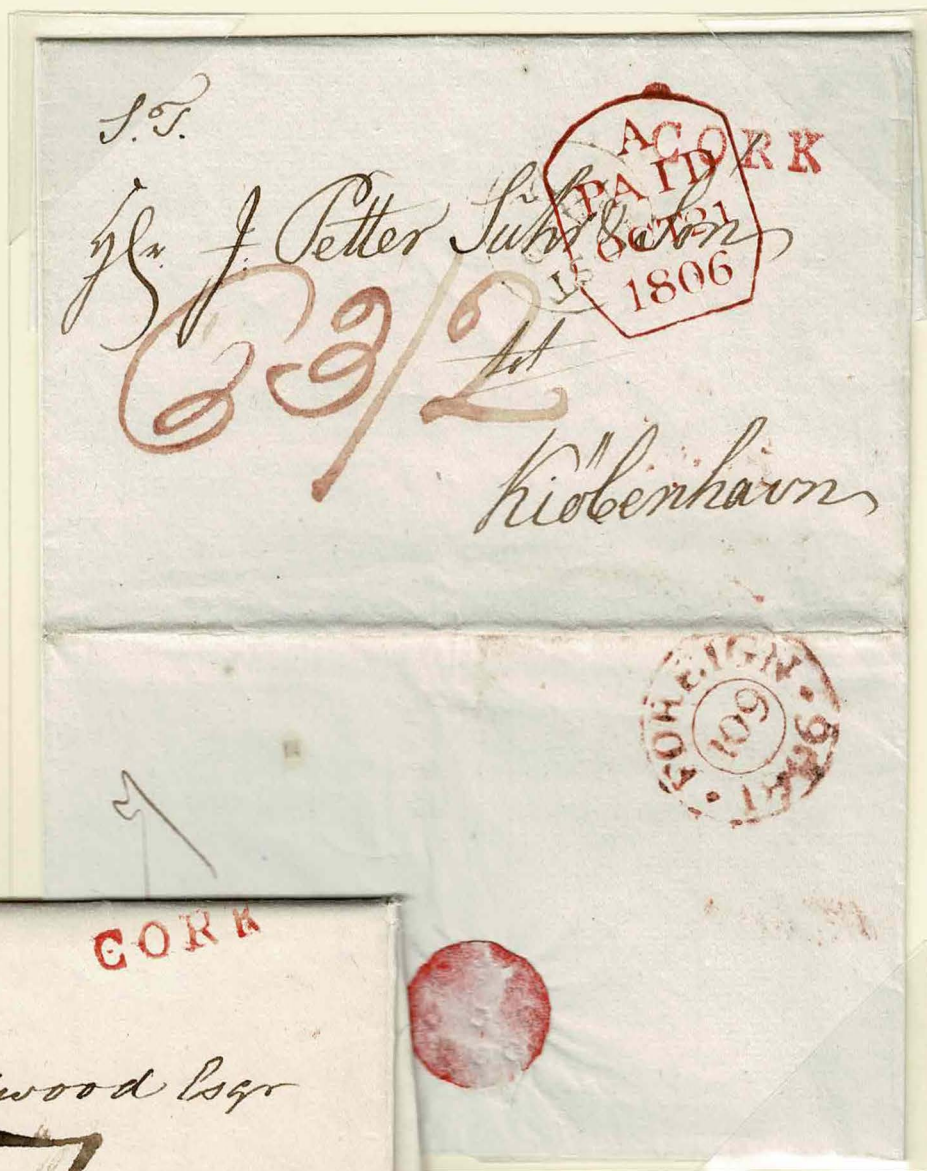
The Act of Parliament on 5th April 1805 raised the rates of all mileage increments by 1d per single sheet, 2d per double sheet etc. This period also saw the introduction of mileage townstamps, which had the distance in Irish miles to Dublin.

THIRD RATE 1805 to 1810

1806 Cork to Copenhagen 1807 Cork to Portarlington

Distance	Single	Double	Treble	Over 1 oz Per ¼ oz
Up to 15 Miles	3d	6d	9d	3d
15 - 30 Miles	4d	8d	12d	4d
30 - 50 Miles	5d	10d	1/3	5d
50 - 80 Miles	6d	1/-	1/6	6d
Over 80 Miles	7d	1/2	1/9	7d

1806 (October 9th) letter from Cork to Copenhagen, sent to Jacob Petterfen Luhr & Sons (in Danish). Letter has a single line red **CORK** (6 X 22mm) and a red double circle back stamp **FOREIGN 10 9 1806**. Letter face also has a faint black circular cancel **POST/ PAID/ D** (for Dublin) and is overstruck by a London tombstone **PAID OCT 21 1806**. Letter is prepaid with a red **3/2** rate (7d to Dublin + 1/1 to London + 1/6 to Denmark; total 38d = 3/2).



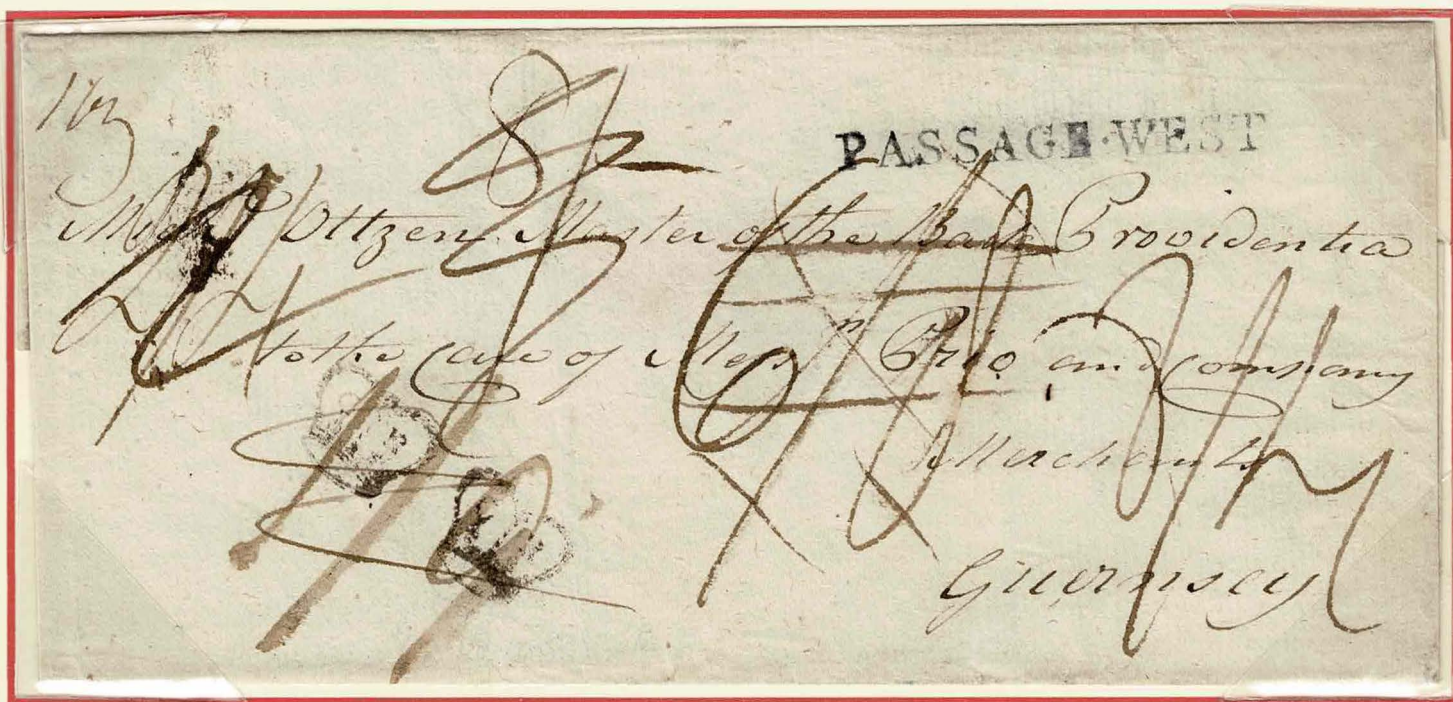
1807 (February 5th) letter from Cork to Portarlington, with clear **CORK** (5mm) struck in red. This is rated **7d** for distances over 80 miles but it has two sheets so should have paid **1/2**. Letter is to Ian Chetwood concerning his desire to revive an old family title which he believes he is entitled to.

2.3 Independent Post Period
1784 to 1831

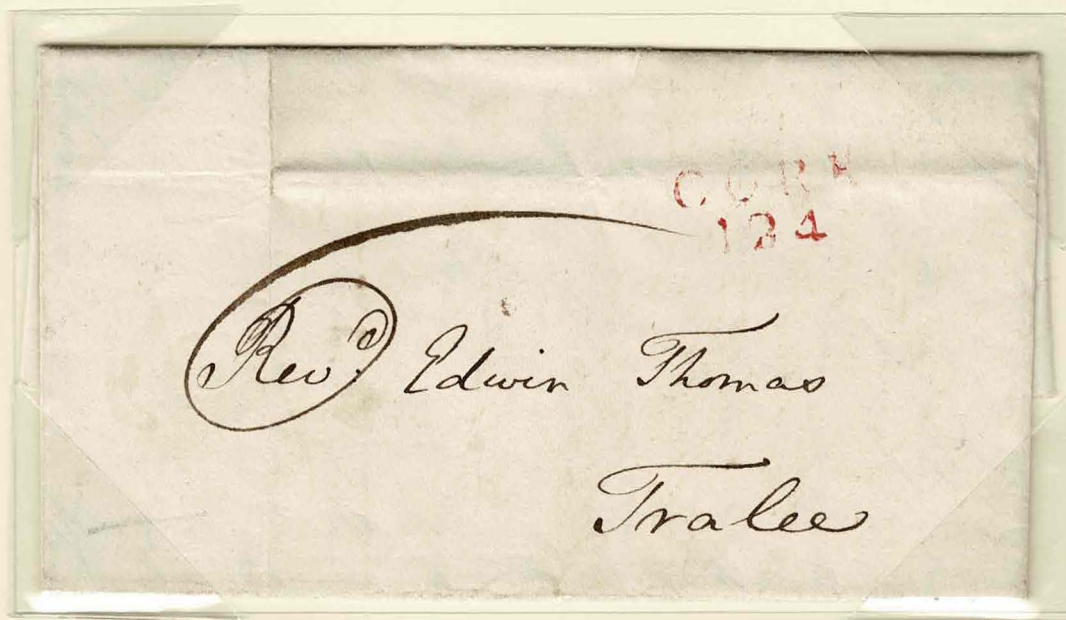
THIRD RATE
1805 to 1810

1807 Passage West to Guernsey
1808 Cork to Tralee

Distance	Single	Double	Treble	Over 1 oz per ¼ oz
50 – 80 Miles	6d	1/-	1/6	6d
Over 80 Miles	7d	1/2	1/9	7d



1807 (November 29th) letter showing linear **PASSAGE•WEST** to the *Master of the Barque Providentia* care of the forwarding agents *Prio & Company*, rated by weight "1 Oz" and charged 8/4 total (Passage West to Dublin 176 miles 7d per ¼oz X 4 = 2/4 + Dublin to Holyhead Packet 2d single X4 = 8d + Holyhead /London/Weymouth 394 miles 12dX4+=4/- +Weymouth to Guernsey 3dX4=12d or 1/- plus Guernsey Post Office 1dX4+4d . **Total 8/4**. Inspectors crown GR handstamps struck over the incorrect rate of 1/9 at Dublin. This is the only linear **PASSAGE•WEST** town name stamp yet recorded.

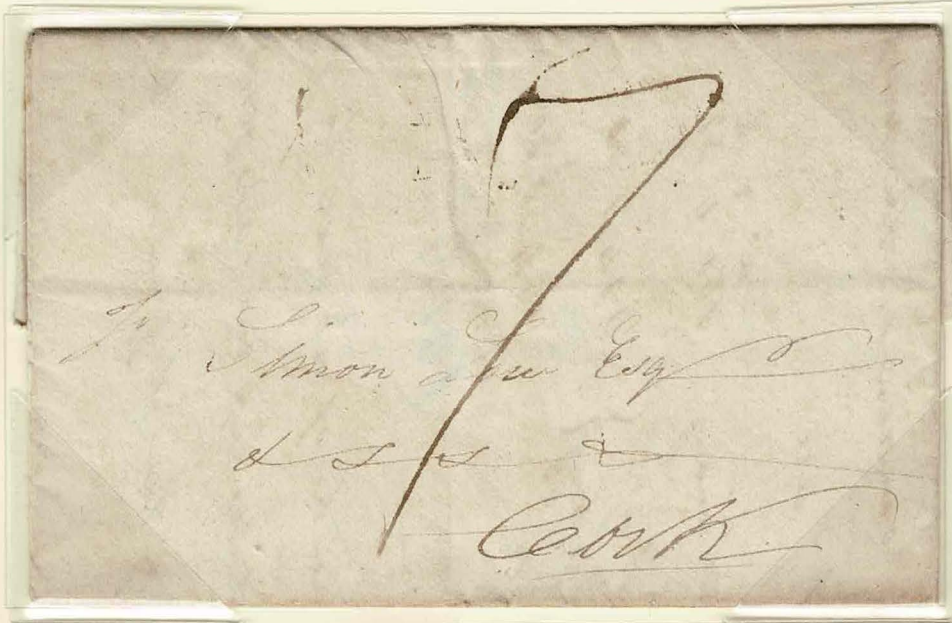


1808 (November 26th) letter sent from Cork to Tralee (50-80 miles), rated 6d.

2.3 Independent Post Period
1784 to 1831

THIRD RATE
1805 to 1810

1807 Cork to Dublin
1808 London to Cove
1808 Youghal to London



1807 (May 5th) Cork to Dublin,
rated 7d. Circular Date Stamp
MY 5 1807 on reverse.

1808 (Jan 9th) London to
Cove, addressed to Captain in
the 91st Regiment and
forwarded to Oban in
Scotland. Rated 1/1 London to
Cork (composite rate
including 2d packet) plus 7d to
Cove, total 1/8. London CDS on
reverse for 9 January 1808 and faint
mermaid for 14 January 1808,
applied in Dublin. Large red CORK
124 applied in Cork.



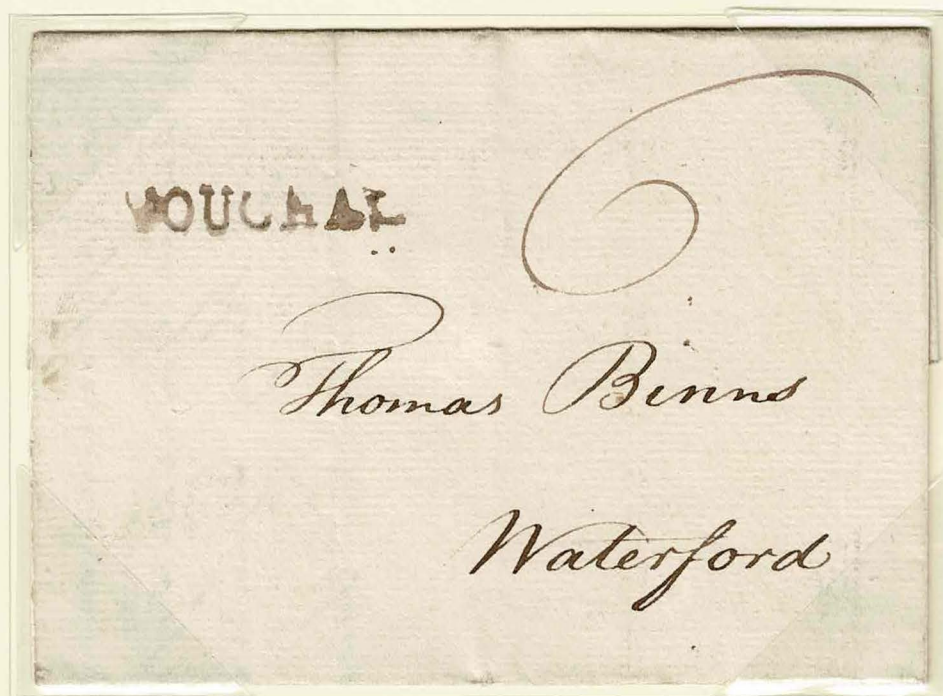
1808 (January 18th) letter from Youghal to London, with black **YOUGHAL** town stamp. Red CDS sta **JAN 25 1808**. Letter rated 6d to Waterford and rerated 1/7 in Waterford (+ 2d packet to Milford +11d to London).

2.3 Independent Post Period
1784 to 1831

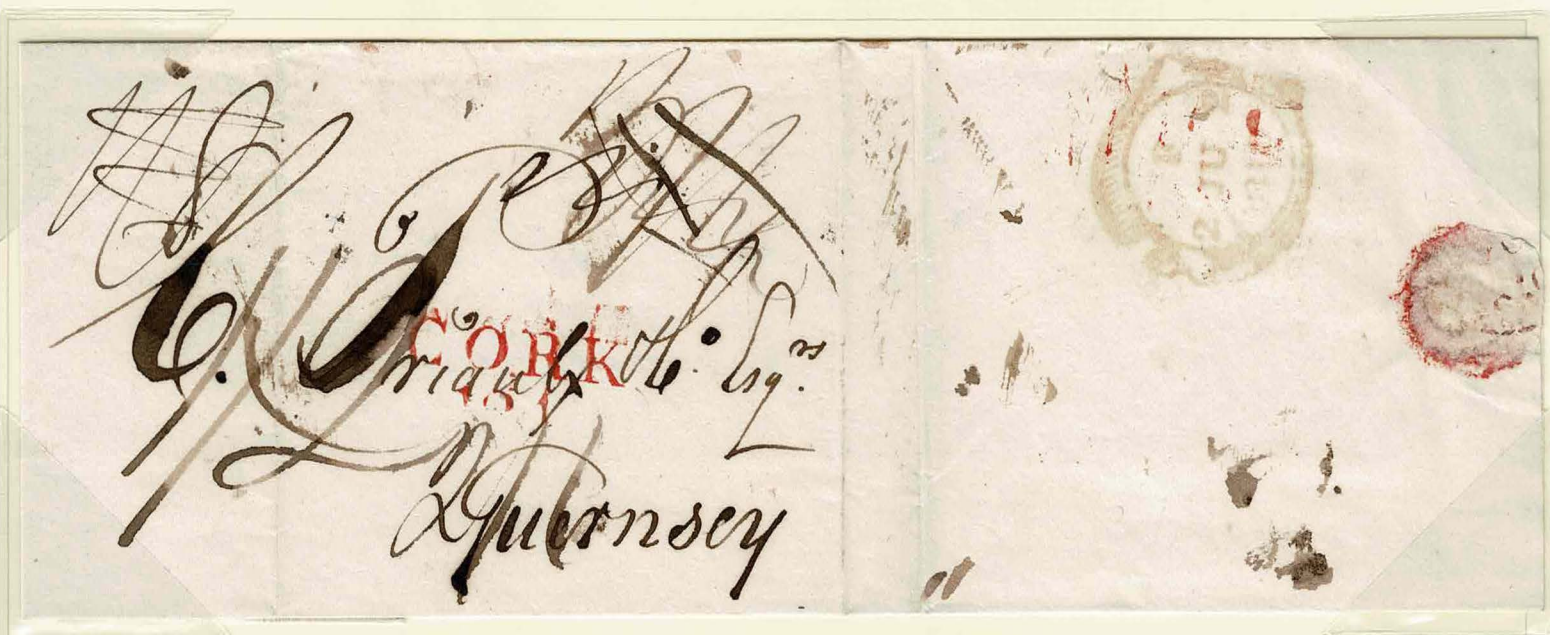
THIRD RATE
1805 to 1810

1808 Youghal to Waterford
1810 Cork to Guernsey

Distance	Single	Double	Treble	Over 1 oz per ½ oz
50 – 80 Miles	6d	1/-	1/6	6d
Over 80 Miles	7d	1/2	1/9	7d



1808 (April 5th) Youghal to Waterford, rated 6d.



1810 (May 31st) letter from Cork to Guernsey, carried via Dublin, London and Weymouth. Face has large red **CORK/124** (6mm): rated 1/2 to Dublin but then rerated to a single sheet at 7d with a new fee of 1/8 (+7 to Dublin, +2 to Holyhead + 11 Weymouth (394 English miles, sometimes charged 12d for 400 miles) + 3d packet to Guernsey. Total 2/1. Letter has red detailed Dublin mermaid date stamp **2 JU 1810** on reverse.

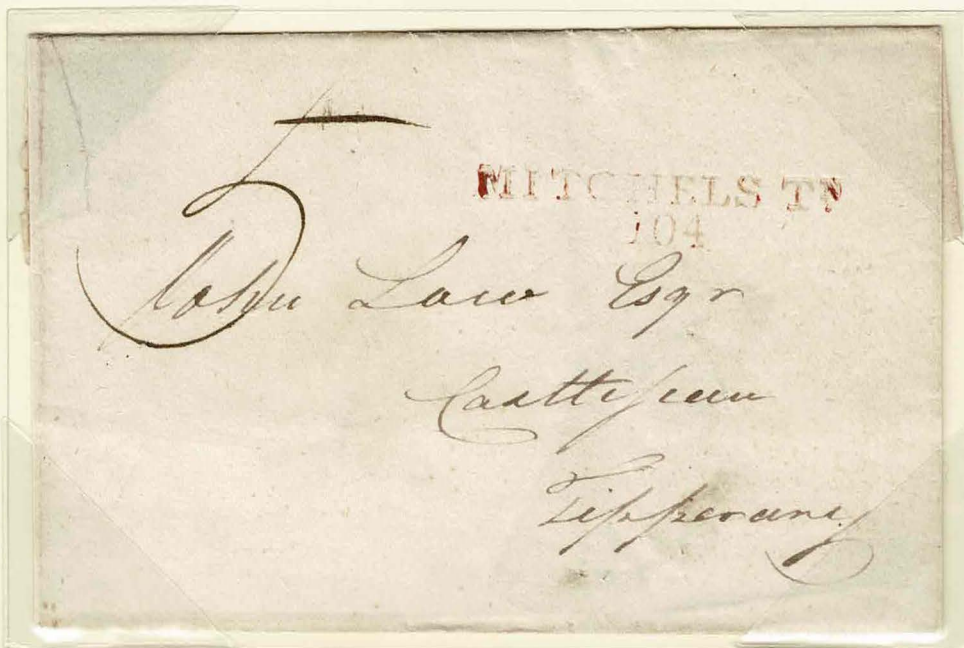
2.4 Independent Post Period 1784 to 1831

FOURTH RATE 1810 to 1813

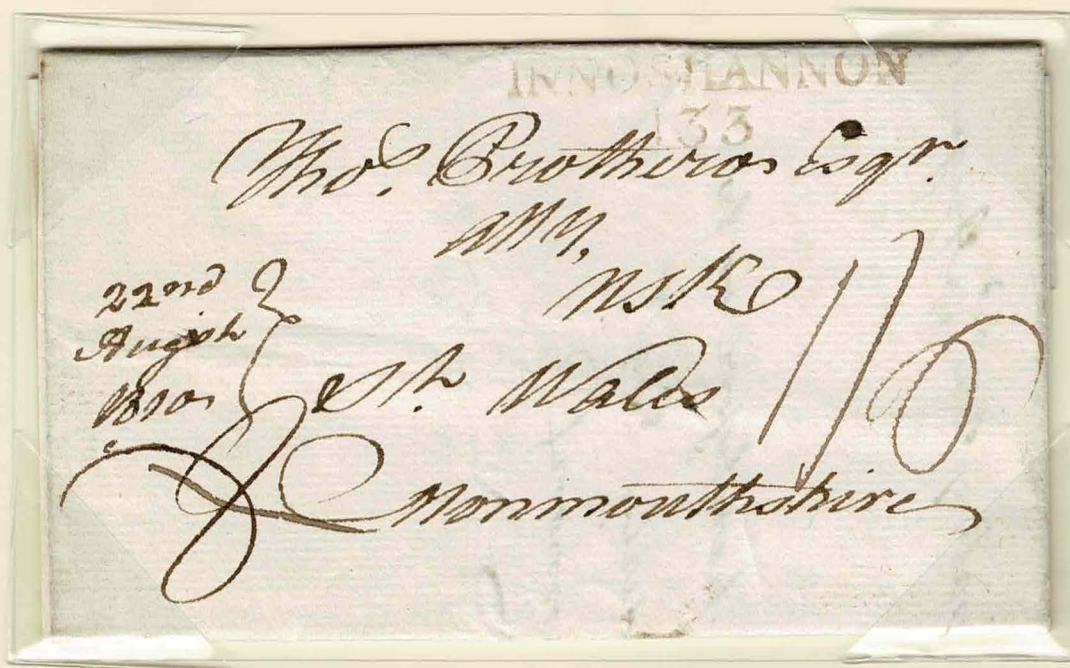
1810 Mitchelstown to Tipperary 1810 Innishannon to Wales

The Act of Parliament on 26th June 1810 raised the rates of all mileage increments by one penny for a single sheet and two pence for a double sheet (over the rates set in 1805).

Distance	Single	Double	Treble	Over 1 oz Per ¼ oz
Up to 15 Miles	4d	8d	4d	4d
15 - 30 Miles	5d	10d	1/3	5d
30 - 50 Miles	6d	1/-	1/6	6d
50 - 80 Miles	7d	1/2	1/9	7d
Over 80 Miles	8d	1/4	2/-	8d



1810 (July) letter from Mitchelstown to Tipperary, with red two line **MITCHELS TN 104** mileage mark (104 Irish miles from Dublin). Letter is rated **5d** (15 to 30 miles).



1810 (August 22nd) letter from Innishannon to Wales. with red two line **INNOSHANNON 133** mileage mark. Letter is rated **8d** to Dublin where it is rerated 1/6 (+ **2d** packet to Holyhead + **8d** to Monmouthshire).

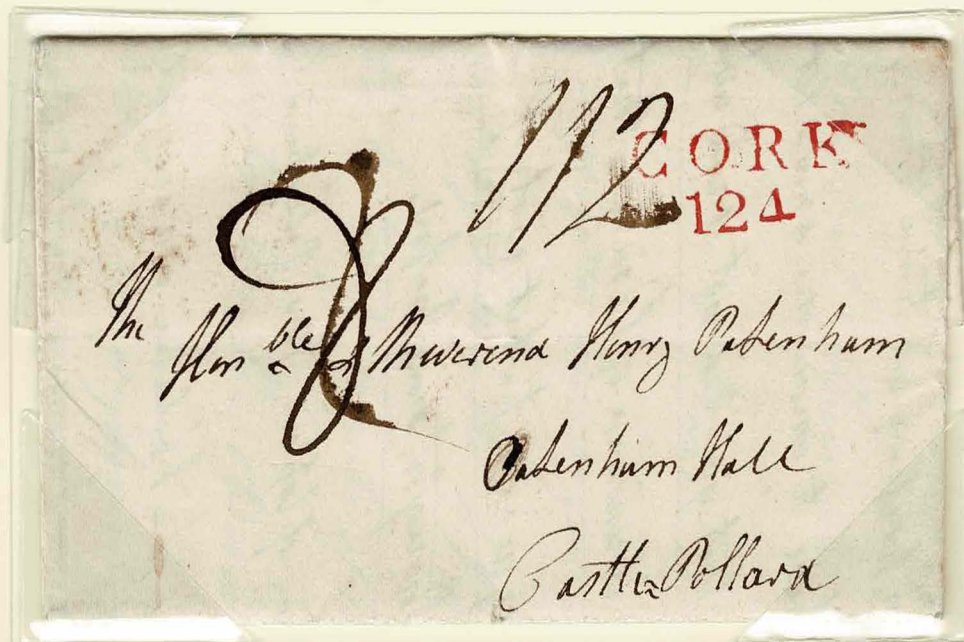
2.4 Independent Post Period 1784 to 1831

FOURTH RATE 1810 to 1813

1811 Cork to Castlepollard 1811 Armagh to Youghal

The mermaid date stamp was in use between 1808 and 1814, consisting of an inner circle with day, month and year. The circle is surrounded by an elaborate mermaid design (the awkward shape makes good impression difficult to find).

Distance	Single	Double	Treble	Over 1 oz Per ¼ oz
30 – 50 Miles	6d	1/-	1/6	6d
50 – 80 Miles	7d	1/2	1/9	7d
Over 80 Miles	8d	1/4	2/-	8d

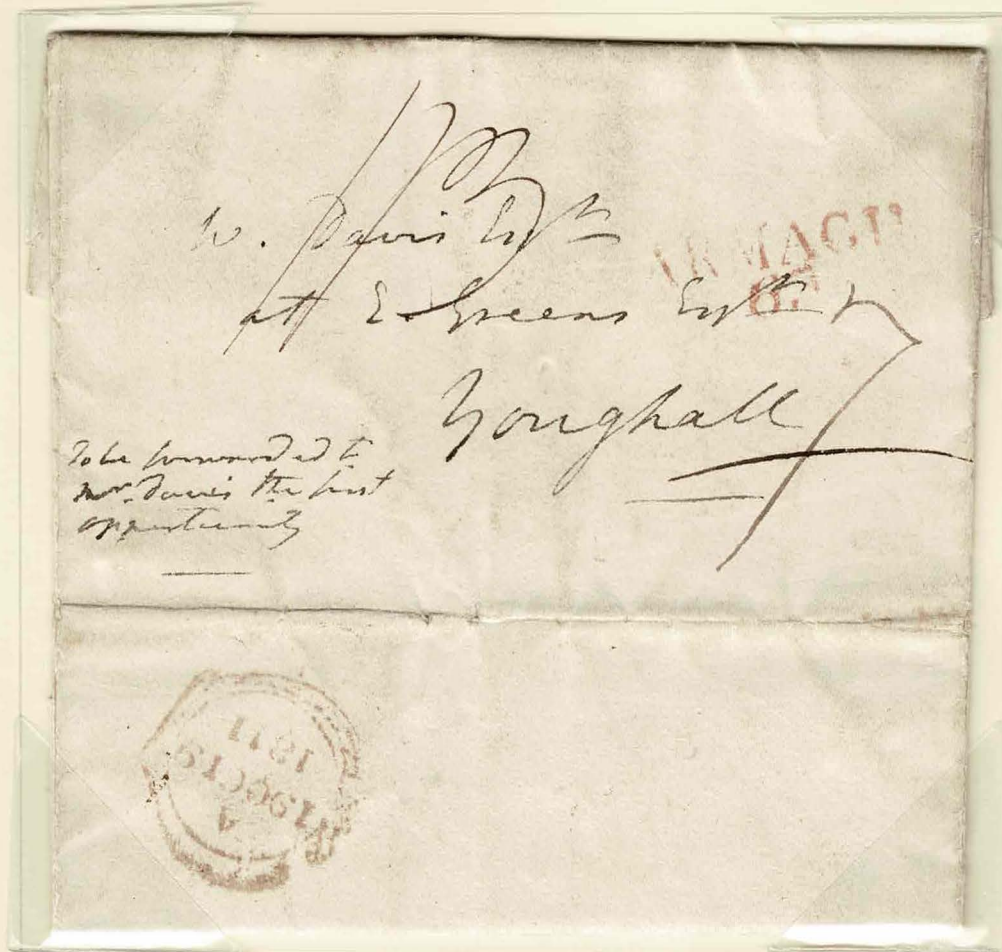


1811 (January 11th) letter from Cork to Castlepollard Co. Westmeath Letter face contains a large two line red **CORK 124** mileage mark and a faint octagonal framed mermaid cancel **F/ 21 JAN 21/1811**.

Letter is rated 1/2 : 8d Cork to Dublin + 6d Dublin to Castlepollard.

1811 (October 10th) letter Armagh to Youghal, with red two line town stamp with mileage mark **ARMAGH 65** and red mermaid handstamp **A/19 OCT 19/1811**.

Initial charge 7d, then re-rated to 1/3 (7d Armagh to Dublin + 8d Dublin to Youghal = 15d or 1/3). Reverse (upper fold) has faint mermaid cancel on 19 October 1811.



2.4 Independent Post Period 1784 to 1831

FOURTH RATE 1810 to 1813

1811 Killeagh to London 1811 Killeagh to London

Free franking was a system that allowed Members of Parliament and other prominent individuals to send their mail free of charge. The mermaid type of FREE handstamp was introduced in 1808.

Distance	Single	Double	Treble	Over 1 oz Per ¼ oz
Over 80 Miles	8d	1/4	2/-	8d
Composite rate for Post and Packet remained 1/1 from Dublin to London until July 9 th 1813				



1811 (January 30th) letter from Killeagh to London, then redirected to Godalming, with black two line **MIDDLE Tⁿ 122** mileage mark (Middleton), with red crowned circle **FREE** franks on 30 JA 1811 applied in Middleton and similar mark applied in London (date unclear), also a faint Dublin transit tombstone.



1811 (December 20th) similar to above but with red Dublin Mermaid **FREE** frank on 20 DE 1811, with corresponding deep red crowned circles **FREE** Frank on 2 JN 1812 (one single border circle and a second double circle, both same date).

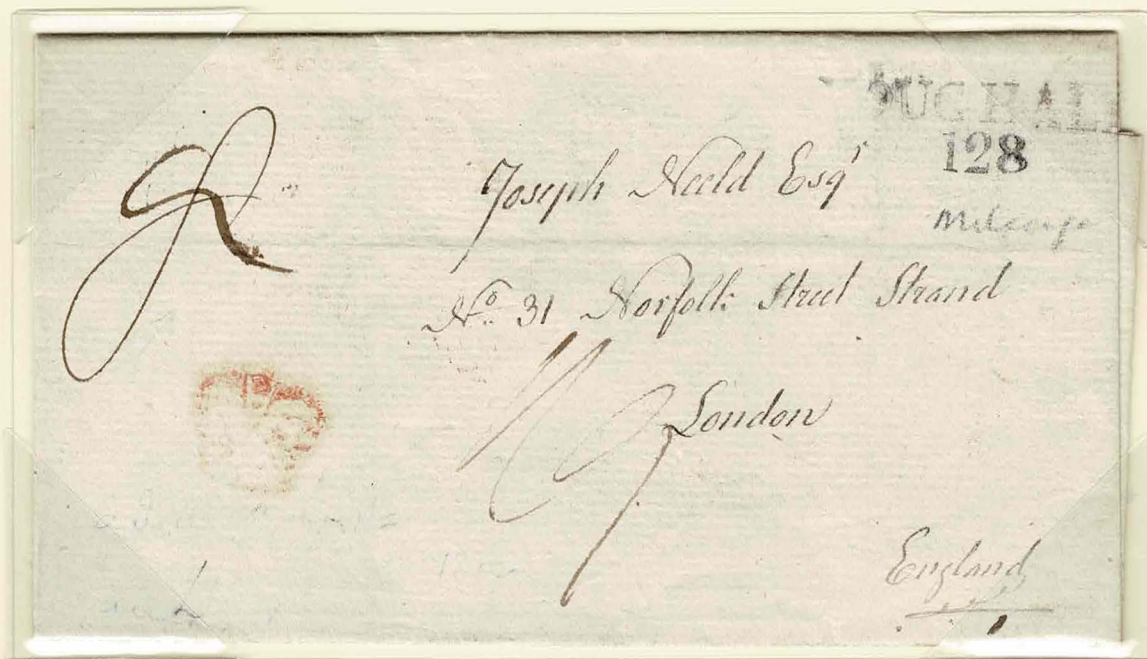
2.4 Independent Post Period 1784 to 1831

FOURTH RATE 1810 to 1813

1812 Youghal to London 1812 Cork to Buckinghamshire

The composite rate for Dublin to London (same as London to Dublin) was actually set by the British Post Office, so dates of use aligned with their postal rate changes.

Distance	Single	Double	Treble	Over 1 oz Per ¼ oz
Over 80 Miles	8d	1/4	2/-	8d



1812 (March 18th) letter from Youghal to London, with black two line **YOUGHAL 128** mileage mark. Reverse of letter has red Dublin Mermaid transit marking on **21 MA 1812** and London CDS on **28 MR 1812**. Letter from Elizabeth Williams, indicating plans to pay stamp duty that was overdue. Letter rated **8d** and rerated **1/9** (+ 1/1 fee from Dublin to London). Red inspectors crown (inspection mark) applied on letter face.



1812 (April 4th) letter from Cork to Buckinghamshire, with red two line **CORK 124** mileage mark and red Dublin Mermaid date stamp **7 AP 1812** on reverse. Letter rated **8d** to Dublin where it was rerated **1/9** to London.

2.5 Independent Post Period 1784 to 1831

The Act of Parliament on 14th June 1813 added additional mileage increments at both ends of the scale. This was the fifth rate change in this Independent Post Period.

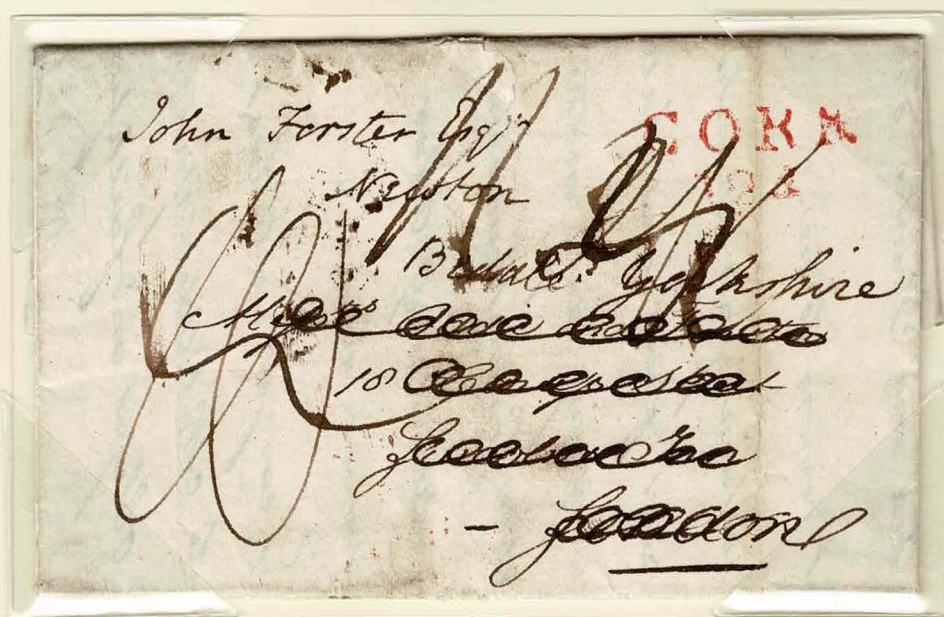
A new composite rate to London was set 9th July 1812 – 1/2 single sheet and 2/4 double sheet), set by British PO.

FIFTH RATE 1813 to 1814

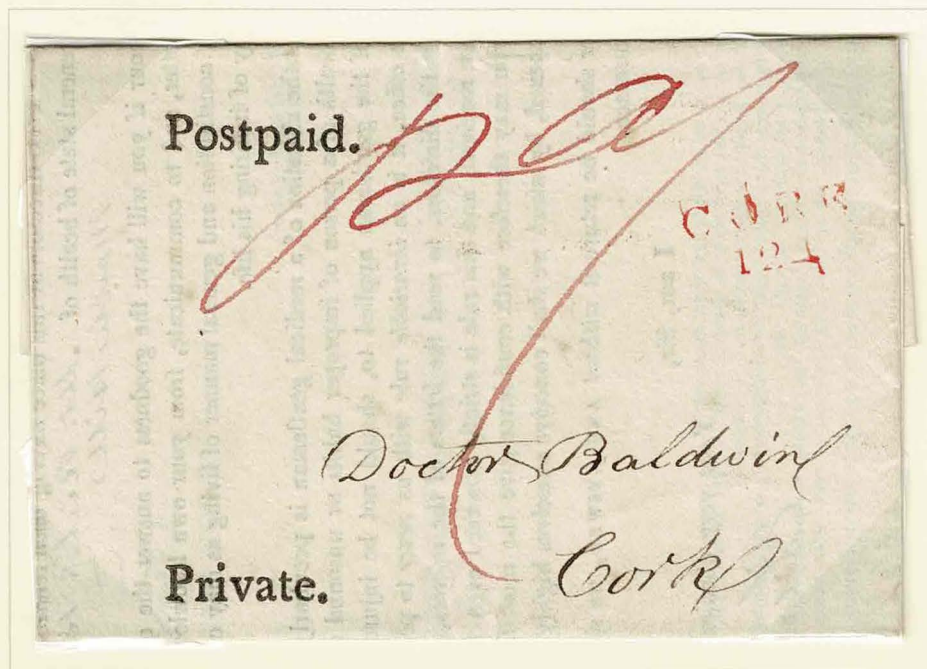
Distance	Single	Double	Treble	Over 1 oz Per ¼ oz
Up to 10 Miles	2d	4d	6d	2d
10 - 20 Miles	3d	6d	9d	3d
20 - 30 Miles	4d	8d	12d	4d
30 - 40 Miles	5d	10d	15d	5d
40 - 50 Miles	6d	12d	18d	6d
50 - 60 Miles	7d	14d	21d	7d
60 - 80 Miles	8d	16d	24d	8d
80 - 100 Miles	9d	18d	27d	9d
Over 100 Miles	10d	20d	30d	10d

1813 Cork to London 1814 Cork to London

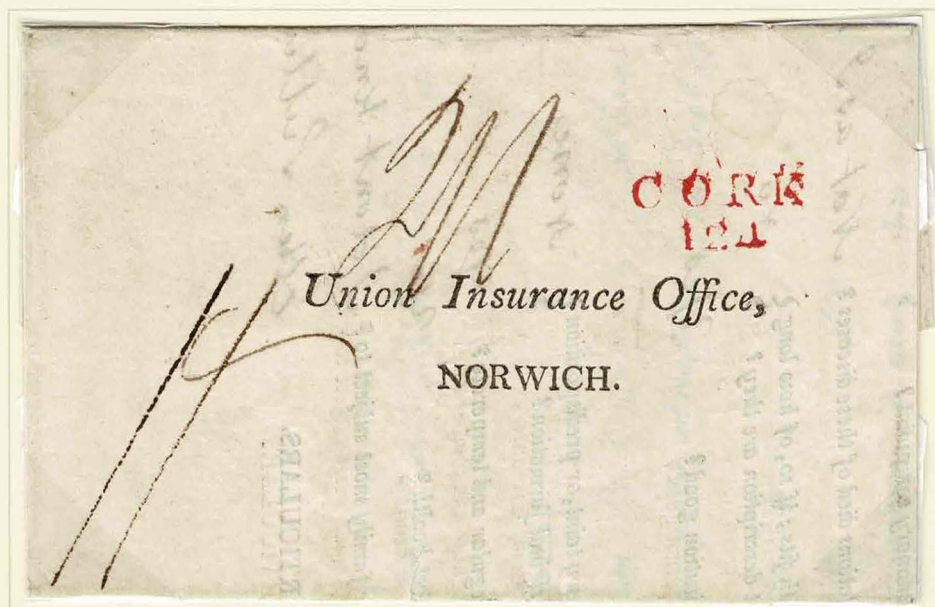
1813 (January 22nd) letter from Cork to Lisbon with **CORK 124** and mermaid date stamp on 1 FE 1813 applied at Dublin. Letter is marked *Double* and paid 4/- to Lonon (20d to Dublin + 2/4 to London). Manuscript *Received 8th March* on reverse.



1814 (August 10th) letter from Cork to London with **CORK 124** and Dublin transit date stamp S/14 AU 14/1814 on reverse (S indicates Sunday posting). Letter also has London double circle date stamp AU 1814. Letter is rated 2/- (10d to Dublin + 1/2 to London).



1814 Special Penny Post in Cork. It would appear from this cover that the Union Life Insurance Office in Cork had a special concession to have mail delivered locally for *1d*. This pre-printed letter was divided in two, one side with a letter to a local physician asking him to complete a set of questions on the health of one of his patients. The letter has **Postpaid** and **Private** preprinted on face, along with a small red two line **CORK /124** mileage mark and a manuscript **Pd 1**. The letter below, *Cork to Norwich*, is a completed form by one such physician and folded into a cover and returned to head office in Norwich.



1814 Union Insurance medical examination form, completed by Dr. Ellen Sullivan on behalf of Mrs Casey, sent from Cork to Norwich with small red two line **Cork/124** mileage mark. Reverse has dull red mermaid date mark **F/ 30 DE 30/ 1814**, which falls into the rate band on next page – Act of Parliament Aug. 1814), rated from **11d** to Dublin (120 to 150 Irish miles), 1/2 Dublin to London and 10d London to Norwich (120-170 English miles) = 35d = **2/11**.

2.6 Independent Post Period 1784 to 1831

SIXTH RATE 1814 to 1826

1815 Cork to Edinburgh 1817 Cork to Glasgow

The Act of Parliament on 3rd August 1814 was a fundamental change as the rate was now calculated from total distance within Ireland (Irish miles) or within Britain (English miles), rather than adding the increments to Dublin or London. The number of increments was also greatly extended.

1814 (Geo. III, c119) Act Irish Postal rate Increase

Distance miles	Single	Double	Over 1oz per ¼ oz
Up to 7	2d	4d	2d
7 - 15	3d	6d	3d
1815	4d	8d	4d
25 - 35	5d	10d	5d
35 - 45	6d	12d	6d
45 - 55	7d	14d	7d
55 - 65	8d	16d	8d
65 - 95	9d	18d	9d
95 - 120	10d	20d	10d
120 - 150	11d	22d	11d
150 - 200	12d	24d	12d
200 - 250	13d	26d	13d
250 - 300	14d	28d	14d
Over 300	15d	30d	15d



1815 (January 6th) letter from Cork to Edinburgh with two line red **CORK/124** mileage mark, octagonal cancel **MID IN/6 JA 6/1815**. The “MID IN” relates to midday mail associated with the Cork-Cashel-Dublin mail coaches. The octagonal framed date mark replaced the mermaid cancel in 1815. The letter face also has a circular receiving cancel at Edinburgh, a red circle **JAN/ B 9 E/1815**. Letter is rated at **2/1½**: **14d** from Cork to Donaghadee, **2d** packet, **9d** Portpatrick to Edinburgh and **½d** tax per sheet on mail carried by coach in Scotland (introduced 1813). Total $(14 + 2 + 9 + \frac{1}{2}) = 25\frac{1}{2}d = 2/1\frac{1}{2}$.

1817 (November 25th) letter Cork to Glasgow, with **CORK/ 124** mileage mark and Octagonal framed **MID IN/ 27 NOV 27/1817**.

Letter is rated at **4/-**, double rate (two sheets): **28d** Cork to Donaghadee, **4d** packet, **16d** Portpatrick to Glasgow. Total **48d = 4/-**.

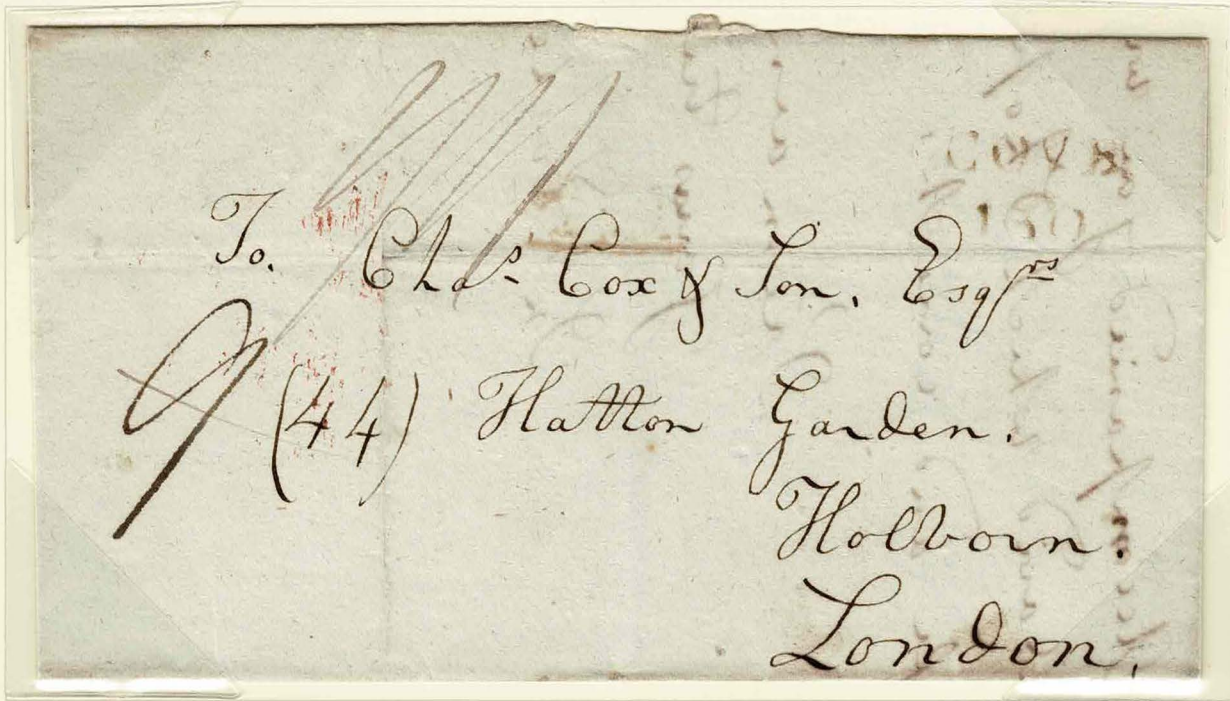
1d for wheel tax for two sheets omitted.



2.6 Independent Post Period
1784 to 1831

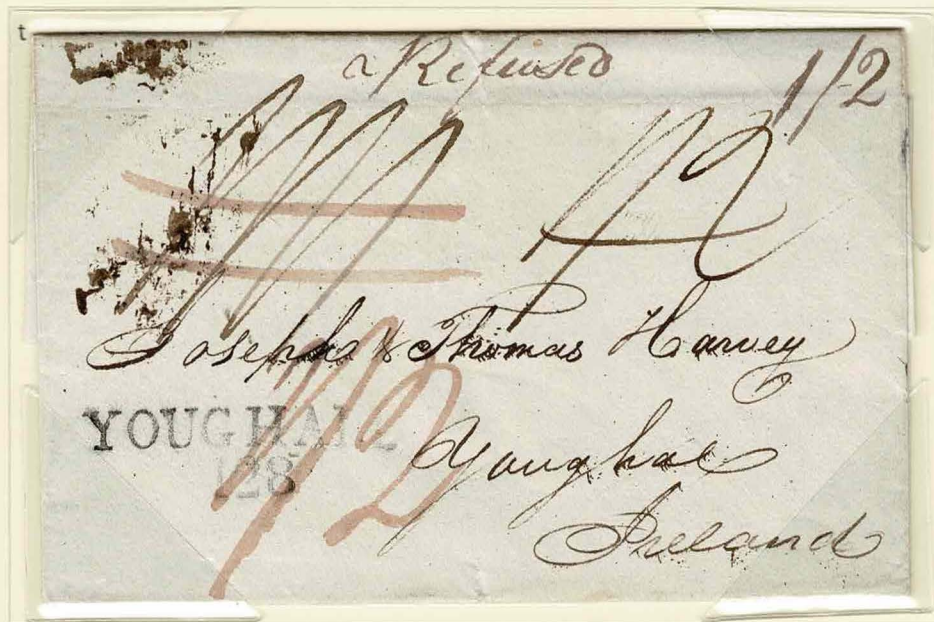
SIXTH RATE
1814 to 1826

1817 Cove to London
1818 London to Youghal



1817 (August 18th) Cove to London, with faint two line Cove mileage mark **COVE 120**. Reverse fold has red circular London receiving mark **F/25 AU 25/1817**.

Letter was sent to Waterford (9d for 70 miles), plus 2d (Waterford—Milford packet) and 1/- Milford to London (230-300 miles). Total cost **1/11**.



1818 (July 17th) from London to Youghal, but letter refused in Youghal where **YOUGHAL 128** one line handstamp was applied. Letter sent to Holyhead/Dublin/Youghal. Rates should be **1/-** to Holyhead, 2d packet and **11d** to Youghal (**2/1** total). Correctly rated **1/2** at London but then rerated **2/2** in Dublin, appears to be overcharged by 1d – letter refused on attempted delivery.

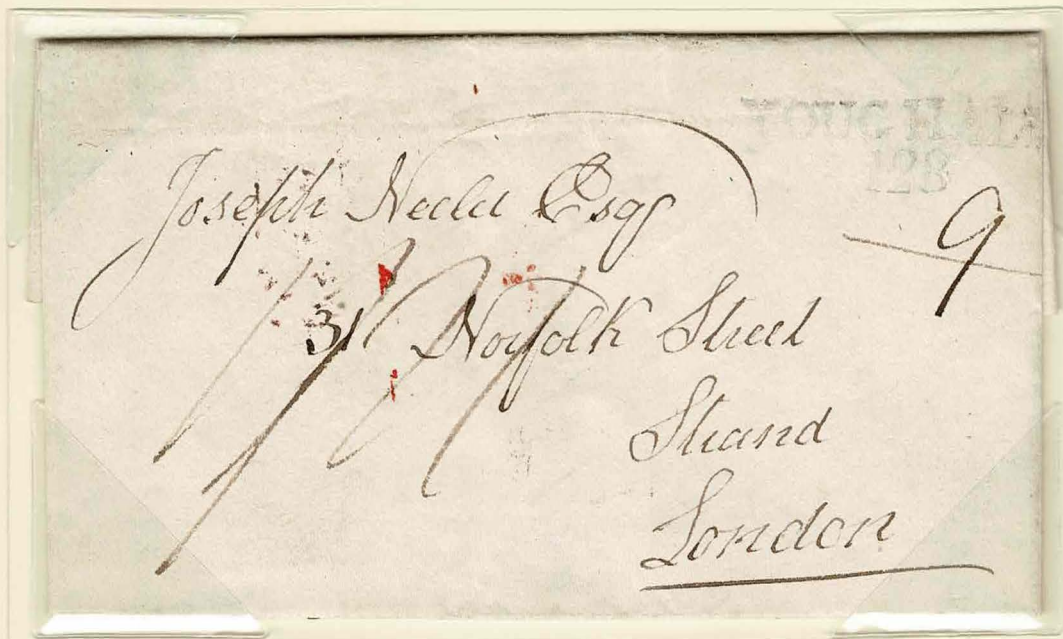
2.6 Independent Post Period
1784 to 1831

SIXTH RATE
1814 to 1826

1815 Dublin to Middleton
1815 Youghal to London



1815 letter from Dublin to Middleton, Co. Cork, paid 2/6 in Dublin with weak Dublin octagonal PAID. Letterface has a unique (only one known) Garter Revenue Paid stamp, with a previously unrecorded Crowned Garter REVENUE/PAID with neither date nor the initials "WS" and with a smaller crown than previously seen.. Rare as only one known to date.



1815 (November 8th) letter from Youghal to London via Waterford, with gray-black two line YOUGHAL 128 mileage mark. Reverse of letter has clear London arrival CDS in 14 NO 1815.

Letter to Waterford (9d for 65 miles), plus 2d (Waterford—Milford packet) and 1/- Milford to London (230-300 miles). Total cost 1/11. Letter face has initial 9d to Waterford scratched out and replaced with 1/11.

2.6 Independent Post Period
1784 to 1831

SIXTH RATE
1814 to 1826

1818 Cork to Dublin
1818 Cork to Lisbon



1818 Wrapper from Cork to Dublin, addressed to Post Office Secretary E.S. Sees in Dublin. Cover has a red **CORK 124** and a faint red **Free Frank**.



1819 (May 13th) entire from Cork to Lisbon with red **CORK 124** mileage mark and red Cork to Dublin mailcoach date stamp **MID OUT MY 14 1819**. Letter had manuscript 3/- fee: Cork to Dublin 11d, packet 2d, Holyhead to London 1/- and London to Lisbon 1/6.

2.6 Independent Post Period
1784 to 1831

SIXTH RATE
1814 to 1826

1820/22 Free Frank to to England
1824 Free Frank to London



1820 (December 23rd) Entire to Lord Viscount Middleton, from W.Welland at Killeagh Farm, Middleton, accepted locally without FREE Frank stamp. It does carry a claret London crowned circle FREE frank on 1 January 1821.

Letter details how the uncommon depression in the market has been the cause of the Estate payments being delayed beyond the usual time of receiving.

1822 (October 8th) Entire to Lord Viscount Middleton, from W.Welland at Killeagh Farm, Middleton, with red Free Frank stamp on 10 October and a claret London FREE crowned circle on 12 October 1822.



1824 (September 1st) Entire from George Elliot, Kinsale, addressed to His Majesty's Land Forces, London.

Letter has red two line **KINSALE 146** milage mark, and **CORK EVG MAIL**, indicating carriage on evening coach from Cork.. Finally, letter face has FREE Frank crowned black circle on 6 SE 6 1824.

2.6 Independent Post Period
1784 to 1831

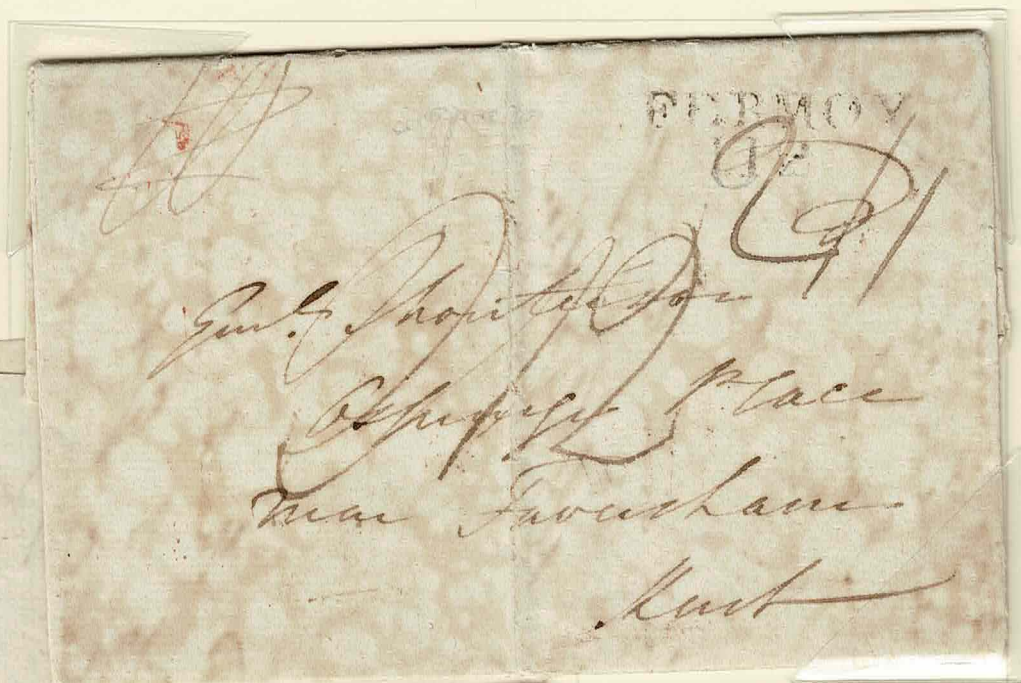
SIXTH RATE
1814 to 1826

1824 Dublin to Cork
1823 Cork to Kinsale
1824 Fermoy to Kent



1825 (January 6th) Dublin to
Cork with dated Free Frank.

Below: 1823 (October
8th) entire Cork to
Kinsale, 4d (15 – 25
miles) with large fine
CORK 124 (25 x 13mm).



Above : 1824 (April 26th)
Entire from Fermoy to
Faversham, Kent via Dublin.
Rated 10d to Dublin (95-120
miles) +2d packet + 1/1 to
Holyhead to Faversham
(300-400 miles) = 2/1. This is
scratched out and replaced
with 2/2, indicating a further
local penny post of 1d to
actual addressee.

2.6 Independent Post Period
1784 to 1831

SIXTH RATE
1814 to 1826

1820 Mitchelstown to Castlecomer
1825 Macroom to London
1825 Cork to London



1820 (January 4th)
 Mitchelstown to
 Castlecomer with two line
 mileage marker
MITCHELSTOWN 109.
 Manuscript Paid 9 (65-95
 miles).

1825 (January 7th) Entire
 from Macroom to London via
 Dublin. Rated 11d to Dublin
 (120-150 miles) +2d packet +
 1/1 to Holyhead to London
 (300-400 miles) = 2/2.

Macroom two line mileage
 mark and red serrated oval for
 Cork-Dublin mail coach
MIDDAY MAIL JA 7 1825.



1825 (Jmay 21th) Reverse of
 entire from Cork to London
 via Dublin. Showing mail
 coach handstamps with
 NOON and NIGHT cancels.

2.7 Independent Post Period
1784 to 1831

SEVENTH RATE
1826 to 1827

1826 Clonakilty to Dublin
1826 London to Macroom

A further Act of Parliament on 6th January 1826 replaced the Irish currency with that used in Great Britain and the rates shown in the 1814 scale were adjusted accordingly.

The currency exchange rates were laid out in Article 13 (table on right). In effect this reduced the 1814 rates by 1d.

1826 Act (6 George IV, c79)	
Irish Currency	Conversion to British Currency
¼d to 1½d	Same value British coin to be paid
1½d to 4¼d	British coins less ¼d to be paid
5d to 8d	British coins less ½d to be paid
8d to 11¼d	British coins less ¾d to be paid
11½d to 1/-	British coins less 1d to be paid

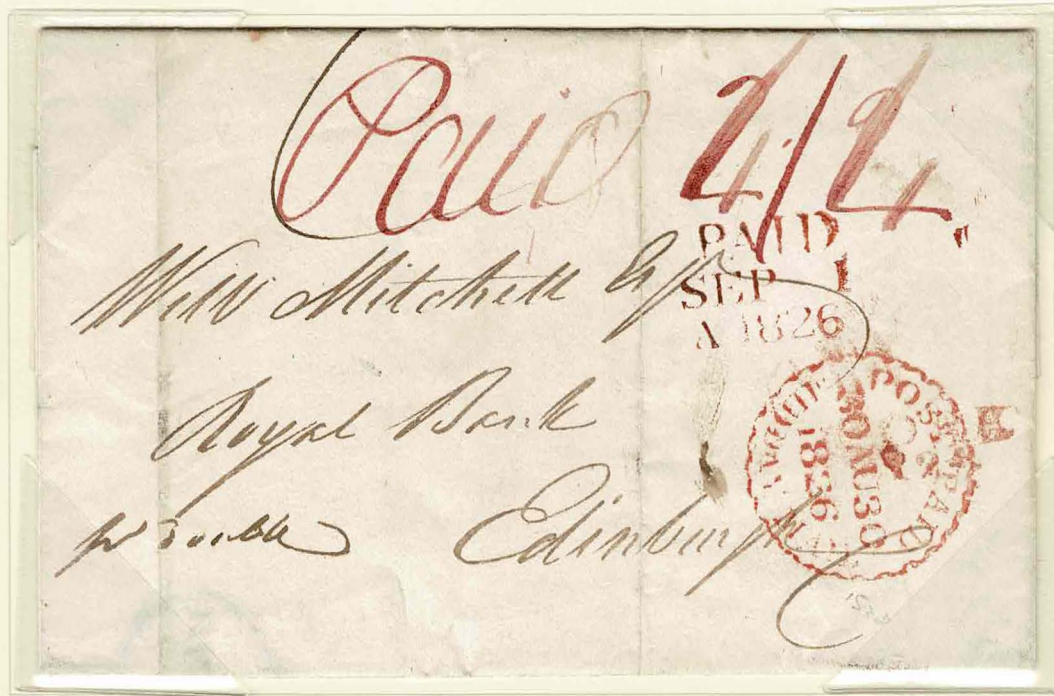


1826 (August 8th) Letter from Clonakilty to Dublin, carried on Dublin/Cork mailcoach service, with red scalloped oval **MIDDAY MAIL/8 AU/ 1826** and **CLOUGHNAKILTY 156** mileage mark. Lower flap has receiving Dublin black indented oval **6 O'CLOCK/ 8AU8/1826 PAID**. Letter is rated 1/- (150-200 miles).



1827 (March 27th) letter from London to Macroom via Dublin and Cork, with black London CDS on 26 March 1827 and red Octagonal Dublin date stamp on reverse (**2 AP 2/1827**) and two red **crown inspectors mark**, one of which contains the letter "F".

Initial charge was 1/3 to Dublin, the additional 10d to Macroom (2/1 crossed out) and additional 10d back to Dublin, total 2/11.



1826 (August 29th) letter from Cork to Edinburgh, carried initially on the Dublin/Cork mailcoach. Letter has red scalloped **POST PAID/MIDDAY MAIL/30 AU 30/1826**, uprated to 4/4 (initially 2/2) for double letter charge for two sheets. Printed **PAID SEP 1** added in transit.

Letter is rated at 4/4: 12d from Cork to Donaghadee, (1d less due to new Act) + 2d packet, +10d Portpatrick to Edinburgh Total (12+ 4+10) =26d = $2/2 \times 2 = 4/4$ for double sheet. Note—letter does not have the $\frac{1}{2}$ d tax Scottish wheel tax on mail carried by coach in Scotland, likely that it was carried on a two wheel coaches.



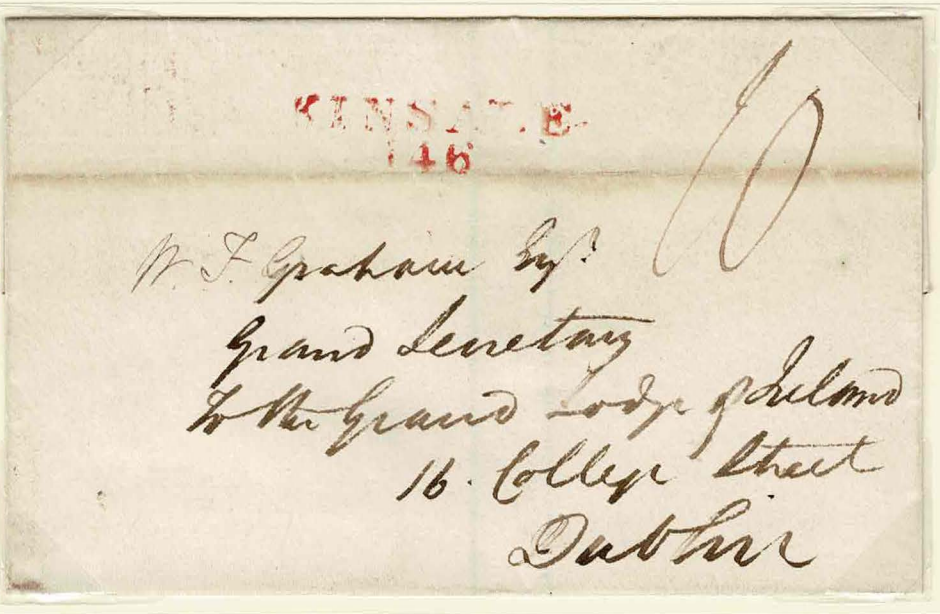
1826 (December 14th) letter from Cork to Edinburgh, with red two line mileage mark **CORK 124** with red scalloped circle **POST PAID/ 15 DE 15/1826/MIDDAY MAIL** and faint Dublin paid mark **PAID DE 1826**. Letter is rated at **4/4½** (12d from Cork to Donaghadee, +4 packet, +10 Portpatrick to Edinburgh and $\frac{1}{2}$ d tax per letter carried by coach in Scotland (introduced 1813). Total (12+ 4 + 10) =26d = $2/2 \times 2 = 4/4$ for double sheet., plus $\frac{1}{2}$ wheel tax = **4/4½**. (Wheel tax only applied for four wheel coaches)

1784 to 1831

1826 to 1827

1827 Mitchelstown to Dublin

1827 Mallow to England



1827 (February 19th)
Kinsale to Dublin, 10d (120
to 150 miles), 1d lower than
previous rate.

1827 (January 24th)
reverse of wrapper from
Mitchelstown to Dublin,
rated 1/6 for double letter
(95-120 miles).

Red Mail coach oval
MID.DAY.MAIL 24JA
1827 and black oval
TIME stamp
4.O'CLOCK 24JA24
1827.



1827 (January
27th) Mallow to
Stamford,
England, FREE
post, showing
scarce spade
framed Dublin
"FREE" date
stamp.

2.8 Independent Post Period
1784 to 1831

EIGHTH RATE
1827 to 1831

1828 Cove to Edinburgh
1828 Skibbereen to Castlecomer

1827 July (7&8 George IV c 21)

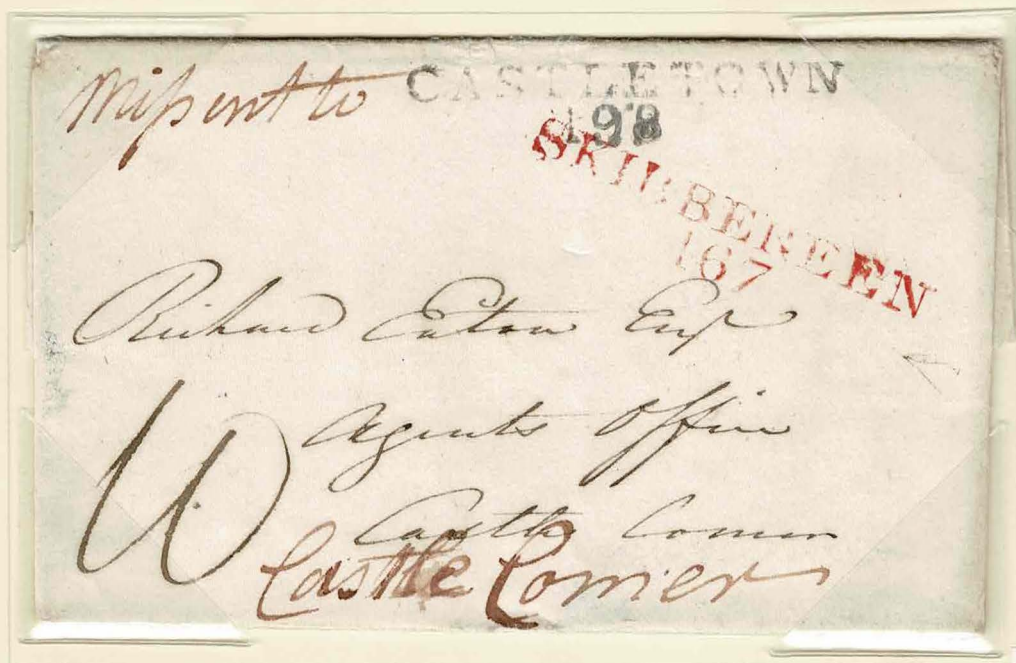
The 5th July 1827 Act repealed the requirement to pay separate rates in Ireland and Great Britain and introduced an overall distance from dispatch address to receiving address, **measured in English miles and paid in English money** (the legal currency within the United Kingdom). The Act also restored the 1d which the previous rate had removed and so the scale used in 1814 was restored (ie 6th rate restored).



Distance in British Miles	Charge for Single Letter
Up to 15	4d
15 - 20	5d
20 - 30	6d
30 - 50	7d
50 - 80	8d
80 - 120	9d
120 - 170	10d
170 - 230	11d
230 - 300	1/-
Each further 100 miles	1d

1828 (May 3rd) letter from Cove to Edinburgh, prepaid 1/6½, with prepaid hand stamps applied at Dublin and Edinburgh. This much cheaper rate is calculated as; total mileage Cove to Edinburgh 422 English miles (1/2 for distances 400-500 miles + New Packet cost of 4d to Portpatrick + ½d wheel tax. Letter face also has a hand stamp of **TOO PAY ONE PENNY** , which is for local Newhaven Penny Post.

1828 (October 24th) Letter from Skibbereen to Castlecomer, with red **SKIBBEREEN 167** and black **CASTLETOWN 198** mileage marks. These mileage stamps now serve only to identify the town and are no longer used to calculate rates. Manuscript *missent to* followed by **CASTLETOWN 198**. Letter is rated at **10d** for distance of 120 to 170 miles. Actual distance is 146 miles.



2.8 Independent Post Period
1784 to 1831

EIGHTH RATE
1827 to 1831

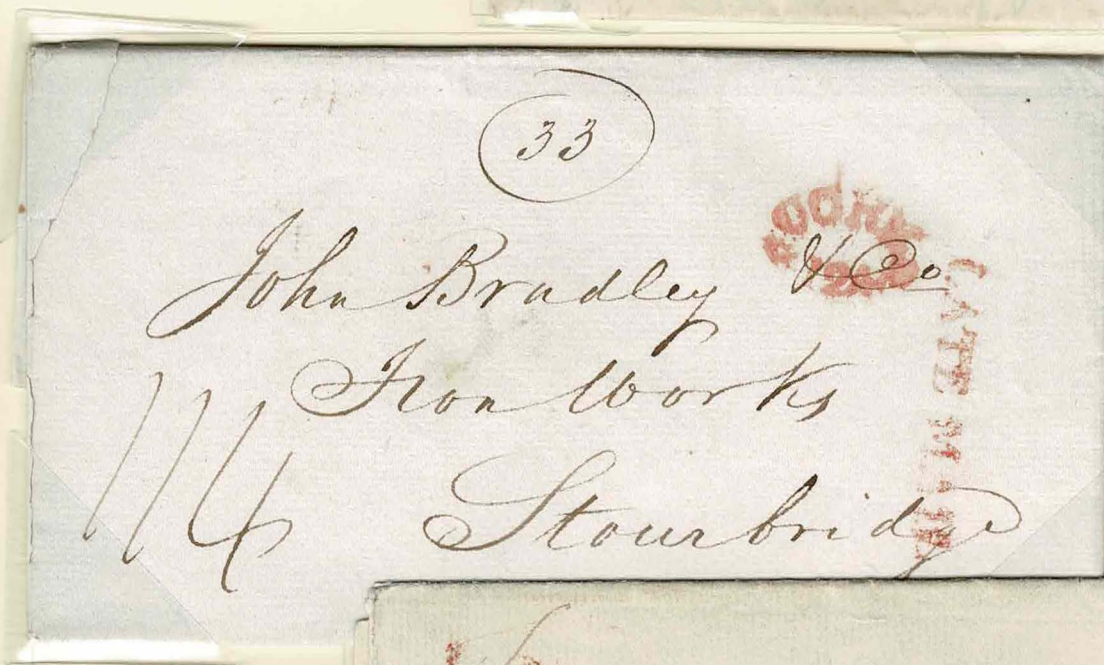
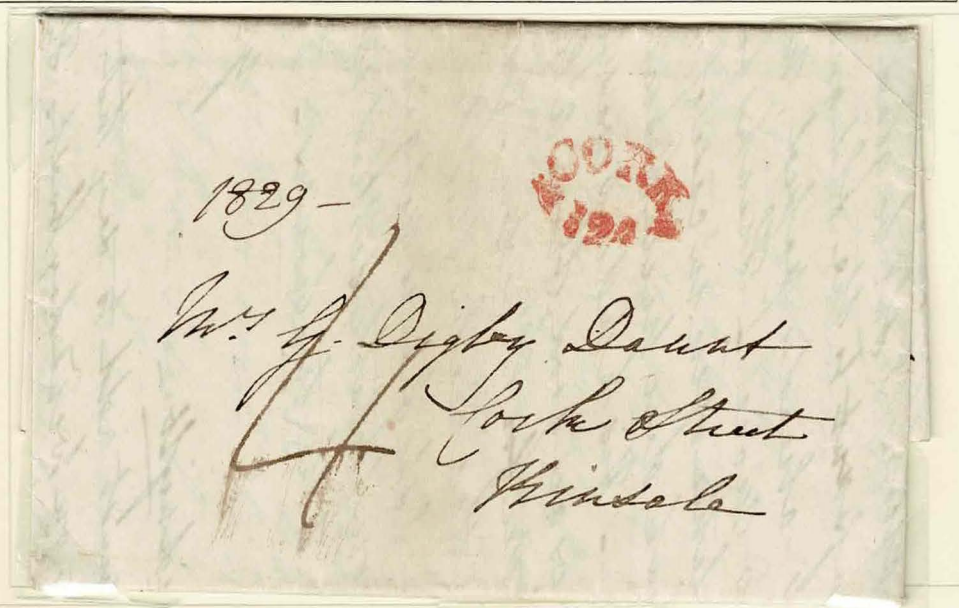
1829 Curved Town Stamp
1827 Menai Bridge Toll

1827 July (7&8 George IV c 21)

The other charge raised by this Act was to place a toll of 1d for each letter carried across the newly built suspension bridge at Menai Straits

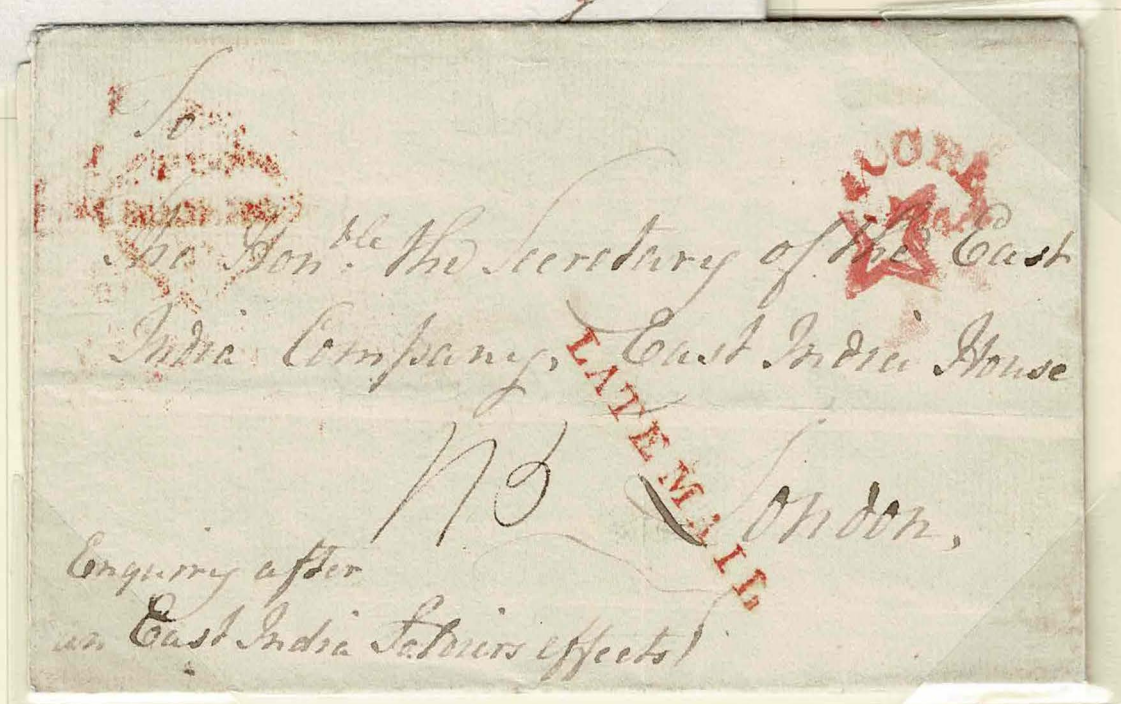
1829 (February 23rd) entire
Cork to Kinsale, 4d for 15
miles.

Cork was the only Irish
Town stamp to be curved



1829 (June 12th) entire
Cork to Stourbridge
with Cork LATE MAIL
handstamp and curved
town stamp. Rated 1/4 :
1/1 for 336 miles plus 2d
packet plus new 1d
Menai Bridge toll.

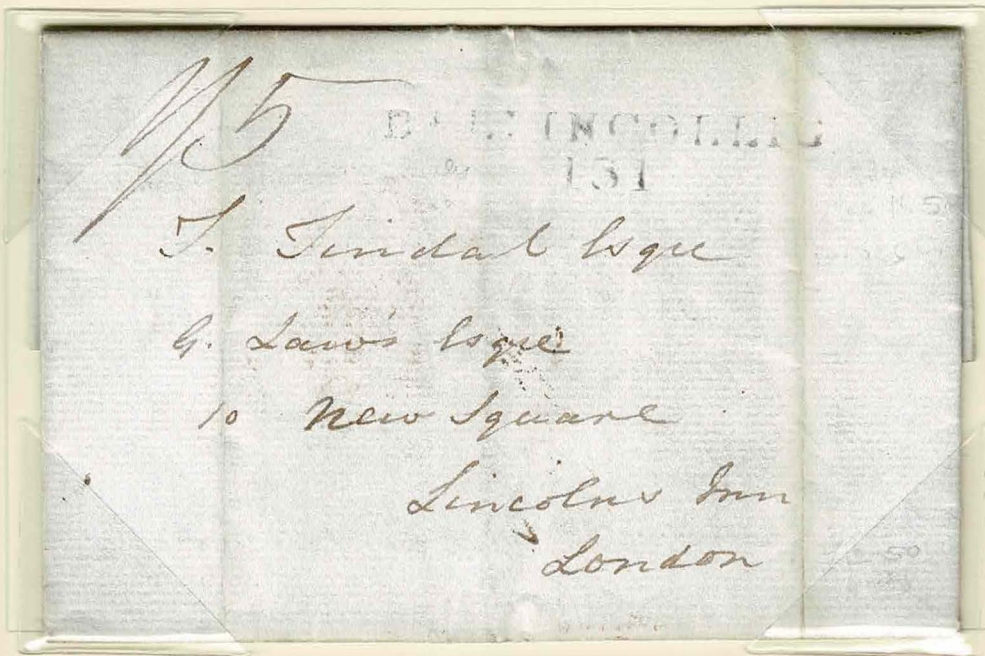
1829 December
22nd) Cork to
London. Red
LATE MAIL and
red star shaped
inspectors hand
stamp.



2.8 Independent Post Period
1784 to 1831

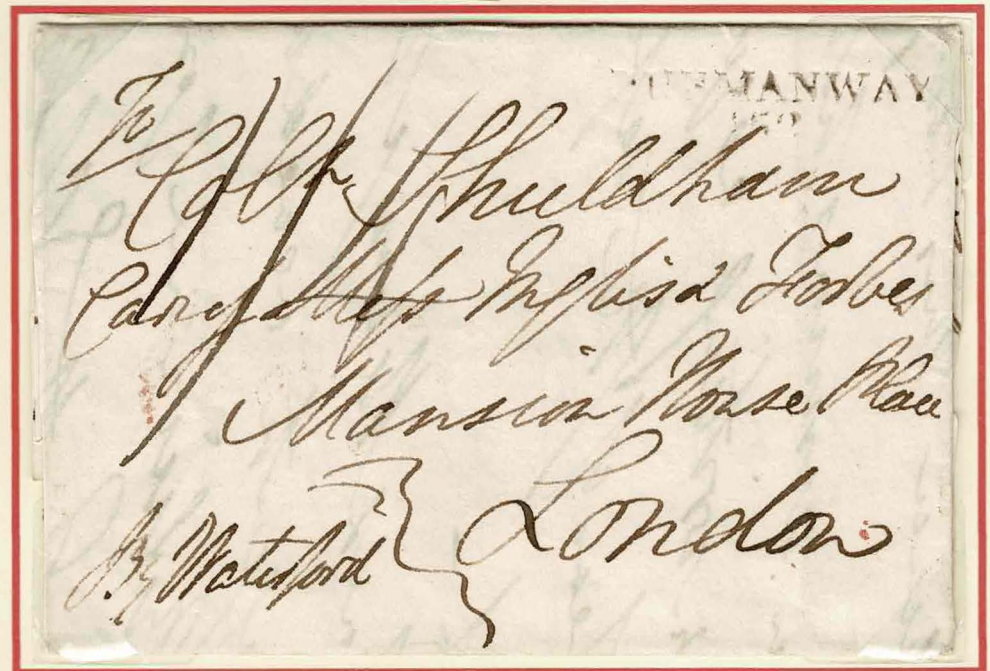
EIGHTH RATE
1827 to 1831

1829 Ballincollig to London
1829 Dunmanway to London
1830 Cork to S.Hampton



1829 (February 23rd) entire Ballincollig (Cork city) to London, rated 1/5; 477 miles plus 2d packet + 1d menai bridge. Scarce two line town handstamp, BALLINCOLLIG 152.

1829 (June 10th) entire Dunmanway to London endorsed on face via Waterford. Face has town mark DUNMANWAY 152 and dispatched via Dunmore on packet to Milford. Reverse has WATERFORD 74 mileage CDS for JU 14 1829. Rated 1/4 on face (413 English miles plus 2d packet = 1/4). No Menai bridge charge in error,



The Dunmanway Mileage Mark is six years earlier than previously reported.



1830 (March 13th) Cork to Southampton with experimental circular date stamp (CORKL/MR/13/1830), rated 1/6 (540 miles = 1/3, 2d packet, 1d Menai bridge).

2.8 Independent Post Period
1784 to 1831

EIGHTH RATE
1827 to 1831

MID DAY MAIL
HAND STAMP VARIETIES



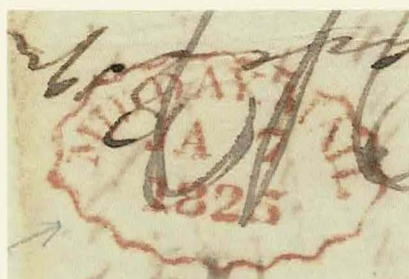
MID.DAY.MAIL

Dot between MID and DAY
 Space between 3 and JY
 Space between 2 and FE



MIDDAY.MAIL

No dot or space between MID and DAY
 No Space between 25 and DE
 Space between 3 and NO
 High dot between DAY and MAIL



MID DAY.MAIL

Space between MID and DAY
 No space between 14 and MR
 Space between JA and 7

Varieties of MID DAY MAIL handstamps
 Middle Left is most difficult to source

1830 (April 6th) entire Cork to London, correctly rated 1/5 and with a fine experimental CORK CDS struck lightly in red. MID.DAY.COAL / 3 AP on reverse. Face has large London G.P. (General Post) and oval 12.NOON/ AP 5/ 1830 on reverse.



2.8 Independent Post Period
1784 to 1831

EIGHTH RATE
1827 to 1831

1830 Cork to Plymouth
1830 Ballincollig to London

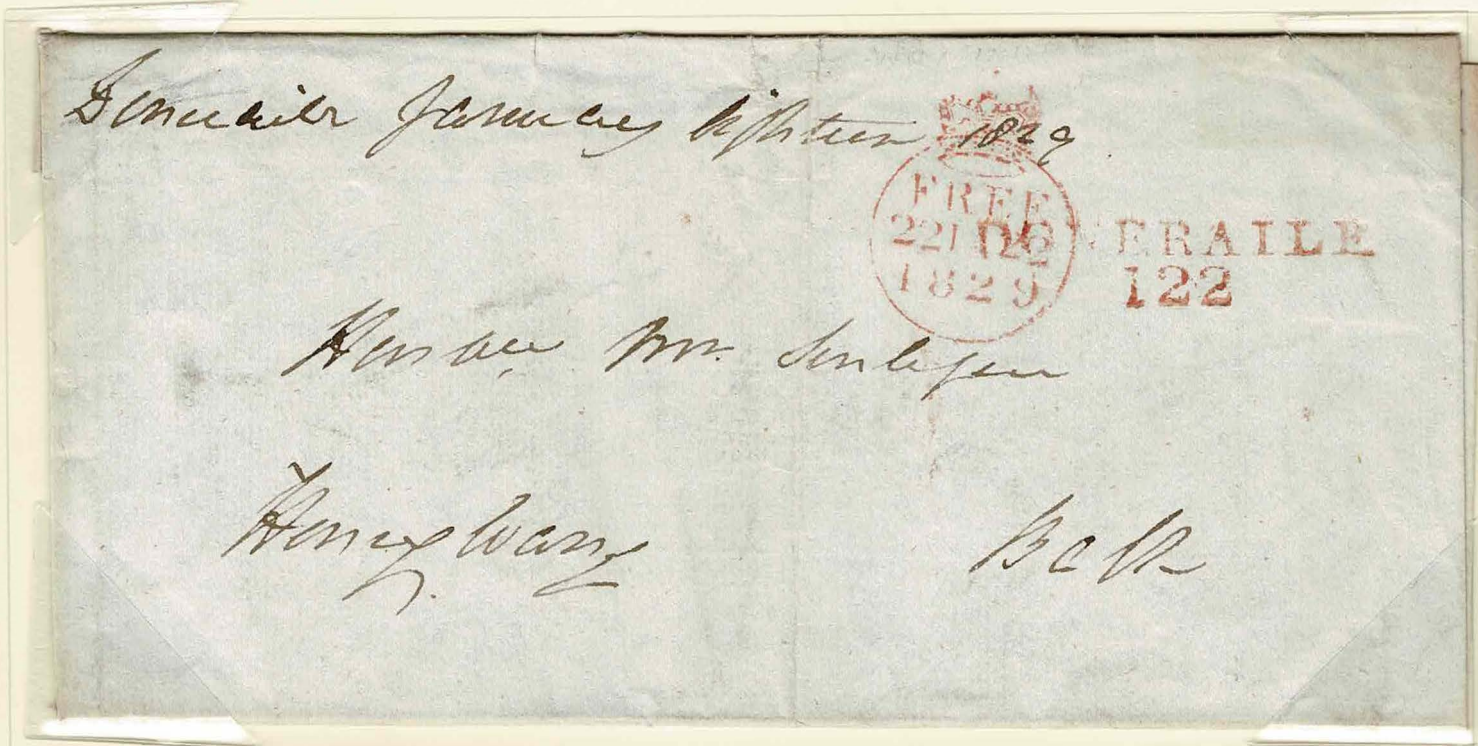


1830 (February 1st) letter from Cork to Plymouth, with red **LATE MAIL** stamp and experimental circular date stamp on 2 Feb. 1830 **CORK/ FE/2/1830**. Letter also has red scalloped oval for Cork to Dublin coach **MIDDAY MAIL/2 FE/1830** and Plymouth receiving stamp on 7 Feb. 1830.

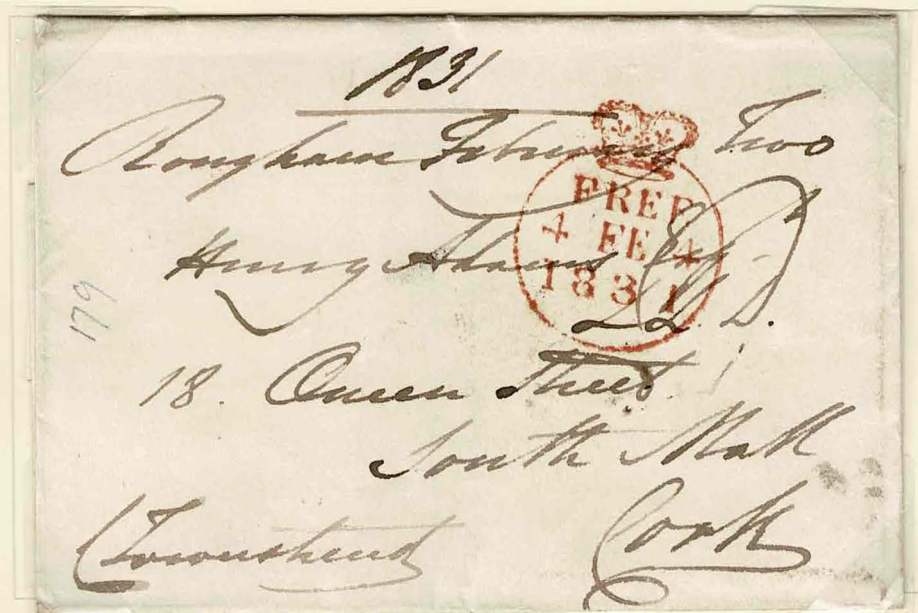
Letter is rated 1/6 (180 miles Cork to Dublin, 370 miles Holyhead to Plymouth, total miles of 550 which rates as 1/3 + 2d Packet + 1d Menai Bridge) total 1/6.



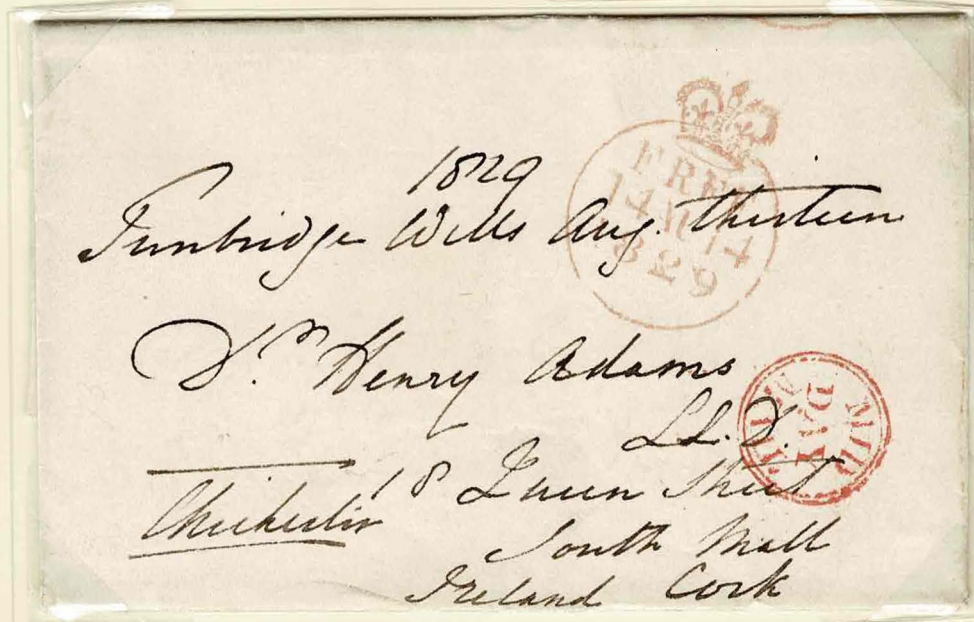
1831 (July 2nd) letter from Ballincollig to London, prepaid as 1/5, the correct rate from Cork to London (190 miles from Ballincollig to Dublin + 289 miles to London = 479 miles = 14d + 2d packet to Holyhead + 1d Menai Bridge toll) Face has dated prepaid marks applied at Dublin (6 JY 1831) and London (8 JY 1831).



Above 1829 (December 22nd) entire from Doneraile, Co Cork to Bath, England. Fine DONERAILLE 122 mileage mark and red crowned FREE FRANK.



Right 1831 (February 4th) entire from Dublin to Cork with crowned circle FREE POST hand stamp.



1829 (August 13th) FREE POST Tunbridge Wells to Cork showing a **FREE/14AU14/29** and the distinctive Cashel red **MID DAY MAIL** in a double circle.

3. Unified Post Period 1831 to 1839

Penny Post

1831 Local Cork Penny Post 1833 Cork to Roscrea

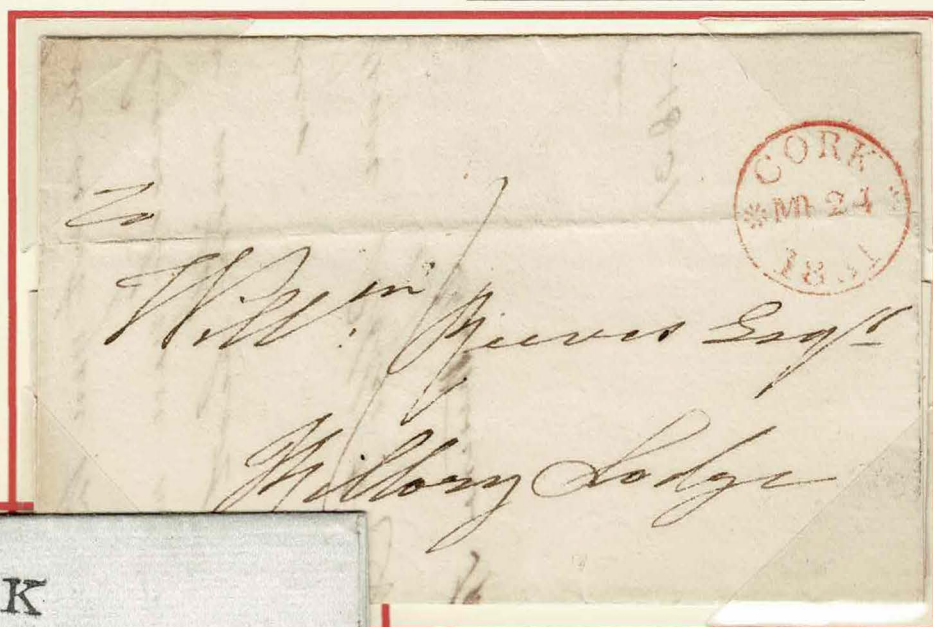
Distance in British Miles	Charge for Single Letter
Up to 15	4d
15 - 20	5d
20 - 30	6d
30 - 50	7d
50 - 80	8d
80 - 120	9d
120 - 170	10d
170 - 230	11d
230 - 300	1/-
Each further 100 miles	1d

An 1829 Parliamentary Report exposed a number of scandals within the Irish Post Office and two Acts were passed to bring the Irish Post Office back under the control of the British Post Office (i.e. amalgamation of the independent Irish Post Office with its British counterpart). The March 1831 Act appointed a Postmaster General for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. The second Act in 1832 allowed the new Postmaster General to regulate the privilege of Franking in Ireland. Repealing such things as previously facilitated abuse of the privilege.

Penny Post

The 1831 Act (2 William IV, c15) allowed a number of Provincial Penny Posts, such as Cork, to be set up in anticipation of legislation, which was subsequently passed on 24th March 1832. The 1d charge was in addition to the general postal charges, and applied also to letters otherwise free.

1831 letter sent locally in Cork to W. Reeves at Killroy Lodge with red **CORK/MR 24/1831** experimental CDS, charged 1 (1d). Apparently unofficial Penny Post prior to the authorised Cork PP of 1832. This is extremely early for such a post.



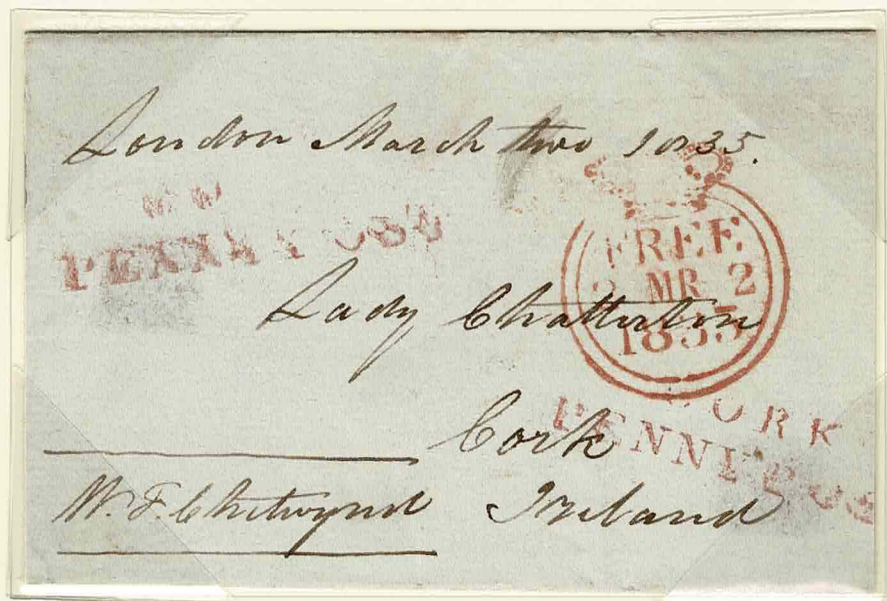
**CORK
PENNYPOST**

*James Hutchinson Esq
Roscrea*



1833 (February 11th) letter from Cork to Roscrea, back-stamped with a single-arc **CORK/FE 11/ 1833** CDS (used 1831 to 1835, a successor of the fixed-year type). Letter sent via Limerick, stamped with a weak **LIMERICK/ 12 FE/ 1833** CDS. Letter face has clear **CORK/PENNY POST** marking and is rated 10d to pay (1d penny post and 9d for 89 miles)). **Scarce single arc Cork date stamp**

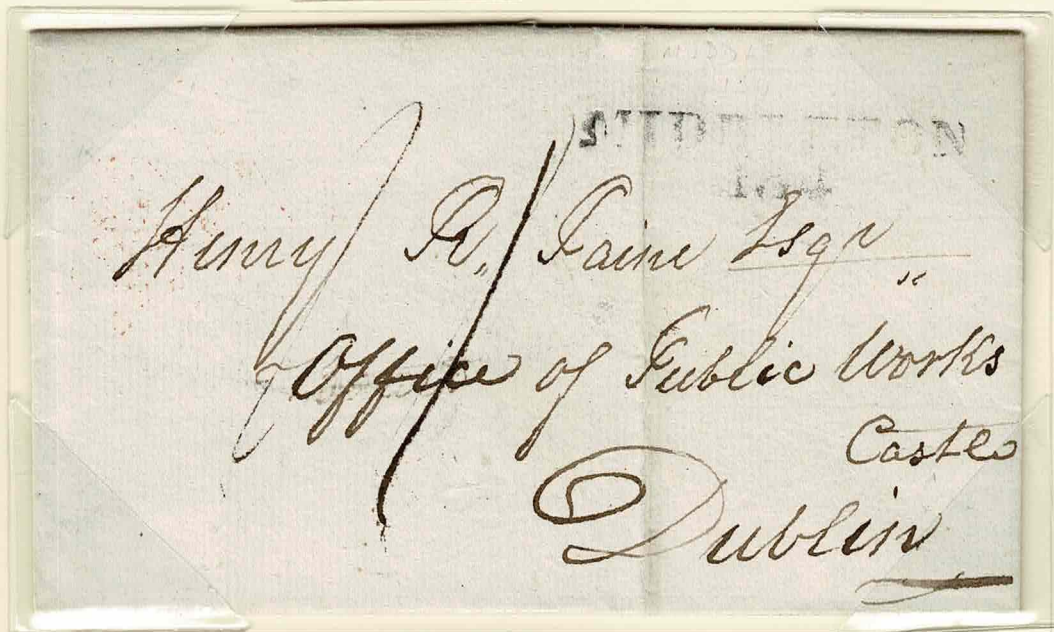
3. Unified Post Period
1831 to 1839



1833 Local Cork Penny Post
1832 Midleton to Dublin
1836 Schull to London

1833 (March 2nd) Carried
FREE POST to Cork and
charge of *1d* for local
delivery

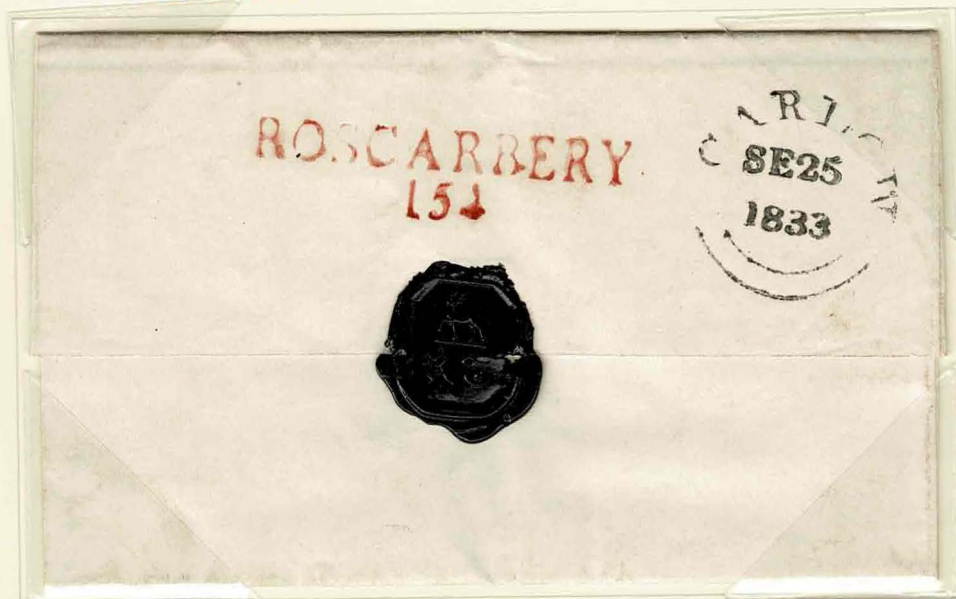
1832 (May 29th) letter
from Midleton to
Dublin, from John Long
to Henry R. Faine at the
Office of Public Works,
re works at Rathcourty
House. Letter rated 11d
for tariff to Dublin (170-
230 British miles),
reverse has red double
border Dublin diamond
MY 31 32.



1836 (May 5th) letter Schull to
London, showing **SKIBBEREEN
PENNY POST** and manuscript **Paid
2** in red. Letter is back stamped with
double arc **CORK/ MR 6/1836/E**
and double arc **WATERFORD
/MR 7/1836**. The Letter was sent as
a charity letter (2 **William IV Cap.
15**—2d per letter under 1 oz) but
was disallowed at London. A further
manuscript *1/1 to pay (300-400
miles)* and a double circle **MORE
TO PAY** handstamp of London was
applied. Payment made is indicated
by the tombstone **PAID/9 MR
9/1836**.

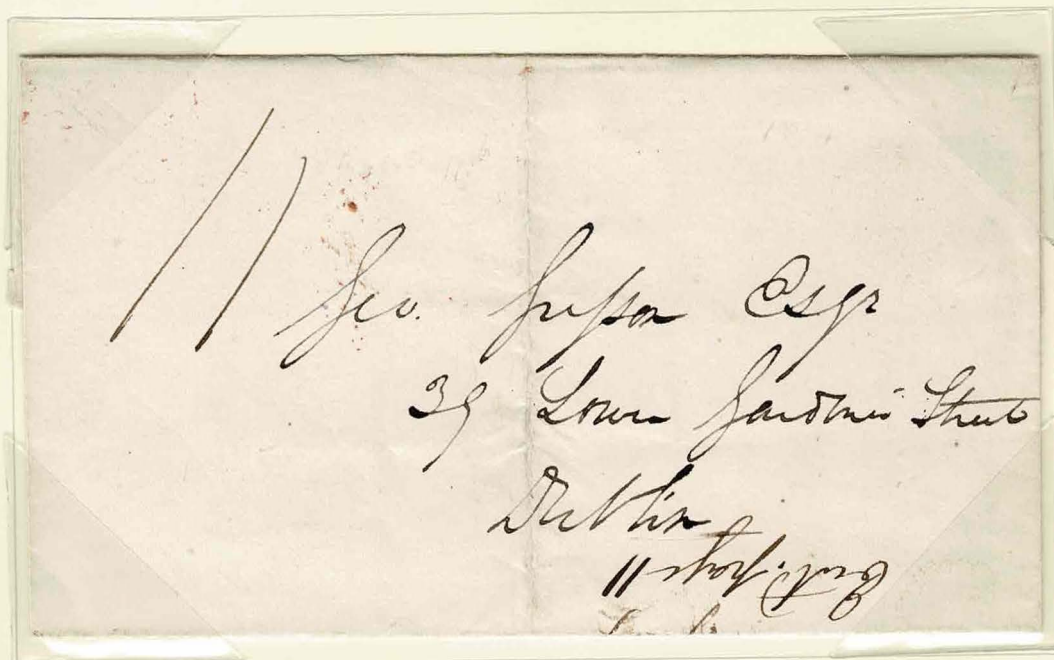
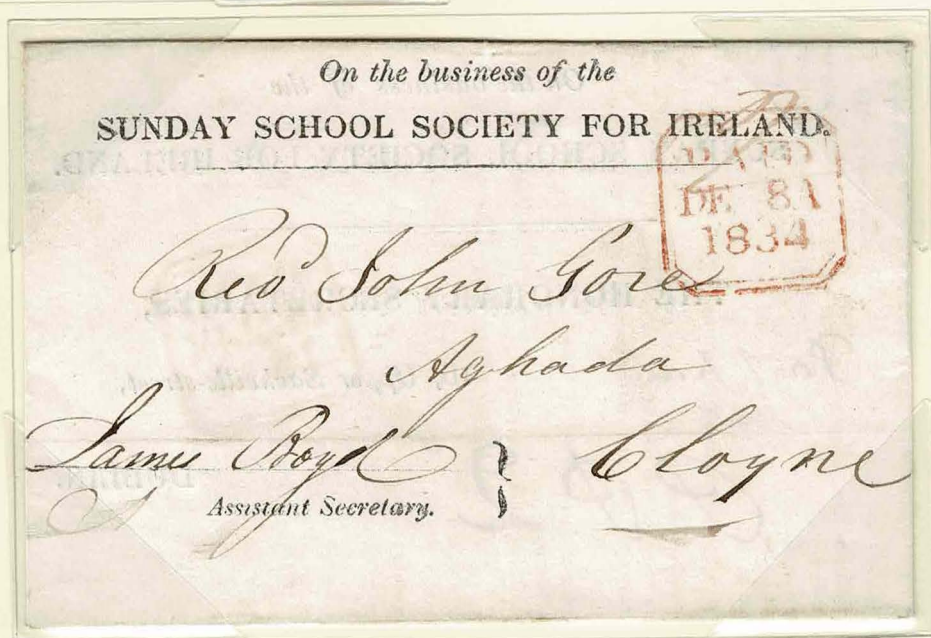
3. Unified Post Period
1831 to 1839

1833 Roscarbery to Castlecomer
1834 Dublin to Cloyne
1834 Midleton to Dublin



1833 (September 23rd) letter from Roscarbery to Castlecomer, rated 10d (for distance of 134 miles). Reverse has a very clear red **ROSCARBERRY/154** town stamp and double arc transit CDS at Carlow on 25th Sept. 1833.

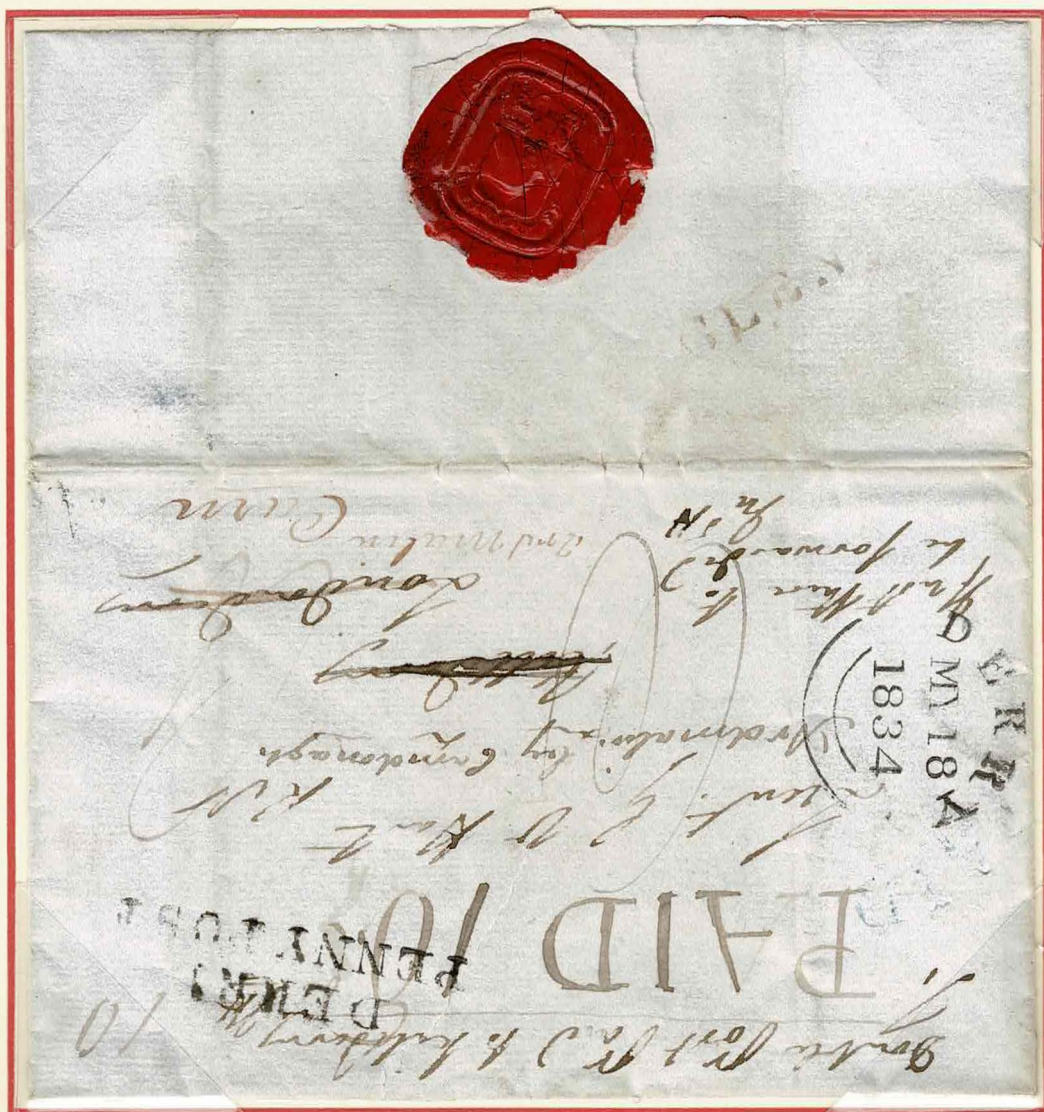
1834 (December 8th) charity letter from Dublin to Cloyne, Co Cork. Sunday School Society of Ireland printed form with manuscript *Post Paid PP2* on reverse. This 2d was the charity letter rate introduced in 1832.



1834 (January 26th) letter from Midleton to Dublin, with black two line **MIDDLETON 134** mileage mark on reverse flap. The cover is rated 11d for the distance of 170 -230 miles (the mileage marker refers to Irish miles and was no longer used). Cover has Dublin transit diamond on reverse JA 28 34.

3. Unified Post Period
1831 to 1839

1834 Glen, Cork to LondonDerry
1835 London to Cork



1834 (May 18th)
wrapper addressed to
Lieut. Hart, from Glen
(North Cork) to
LondonDerry with rare
one line GLEN linear
handstamp.

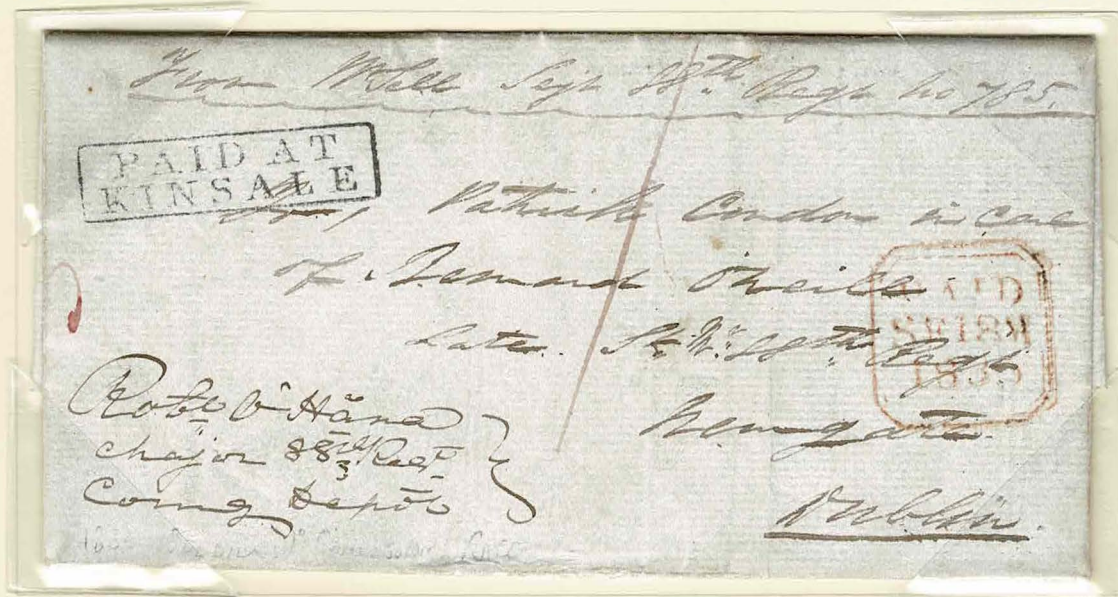
Face has Derry double
arc CDS (MY 18 1834)
and was redirected by
DERRY PENNY POST
to Ardmalin,
Carndonagh.

Manuscript PAID 10,
(should be 12d for
300miles).

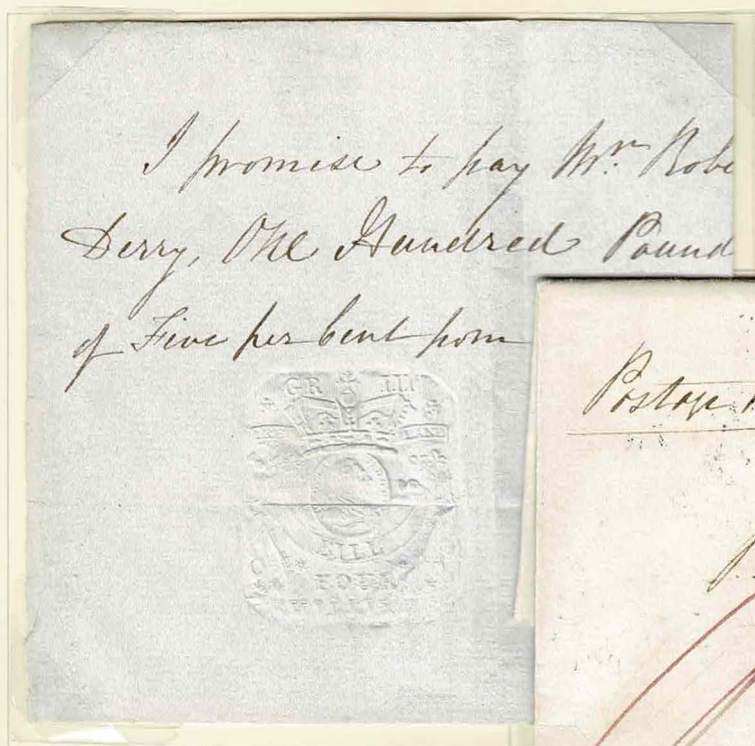
GLEN Receiving House
handstamp is very rare,
only one seen by
exhibitor.

1835 (November 30th) Free
Post from London to Cork.
Addressed to Lady
Chatterton at
Castlemahon, Cork with
faint **CORK/ PENNY
POST**. Postmarked with
crowned double circle
(**FREE/ 30 NO/ 1835**).





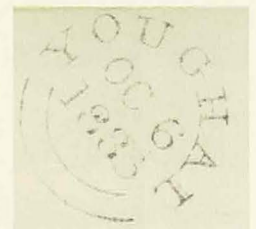
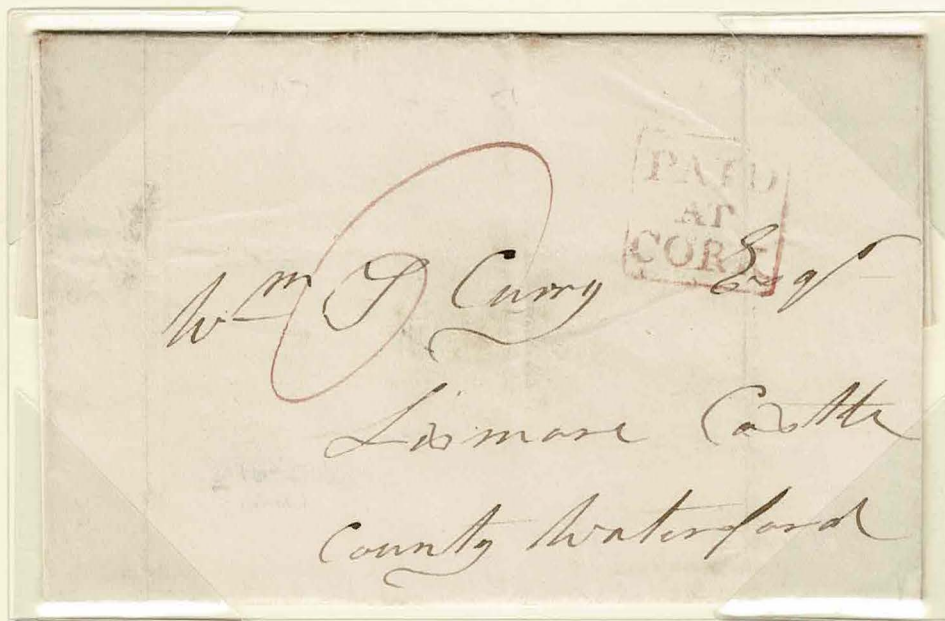
1835 (September 16th) letter from Kinsale to Dublin. This is a soldier's letter, from Robert Hand, Sargent of 88th Regt. at Fort Charles, sent to Newgate Prison in Dublin. Letter is prepaid one penny concession rate, counter signed by Major R. O'Hara and showing the usage of a framed **PAID AT/KINSALE**. Letter face also has Dublin red octagonal **PAID** cancel **PAID/SE18M/1835**. The M after date signifies morning post.



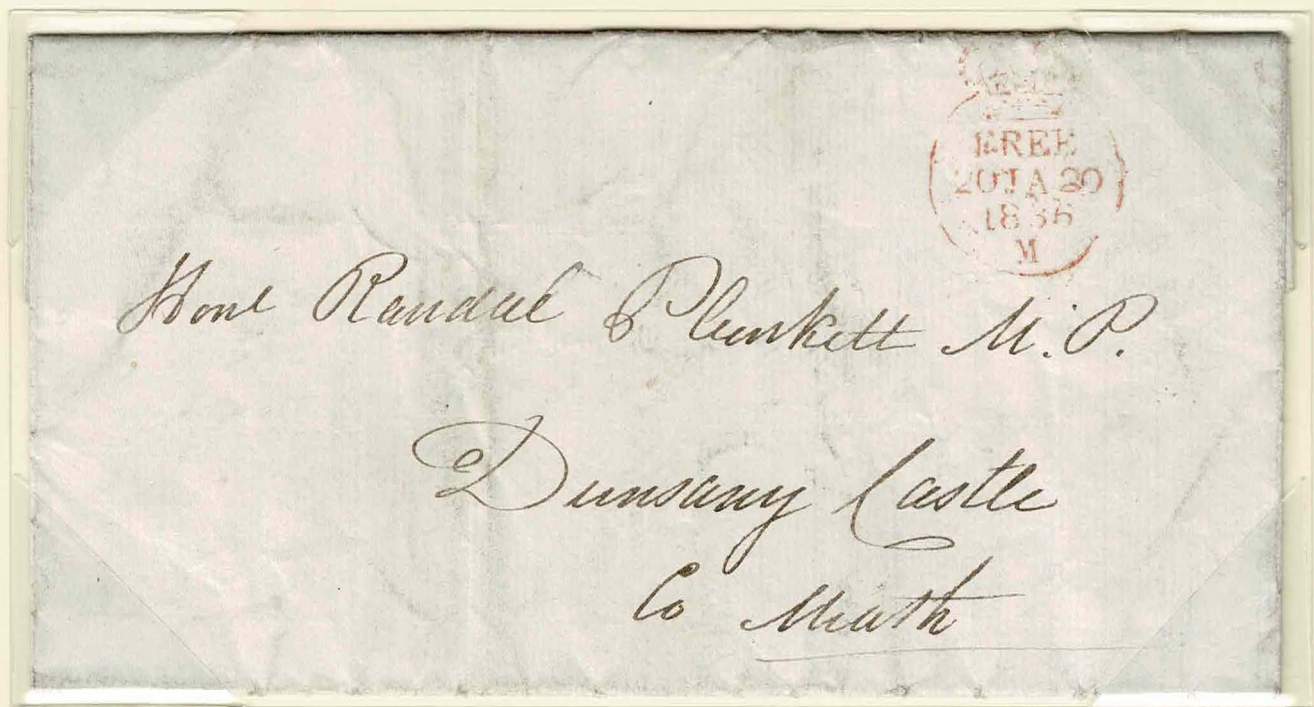
1836 (June 5th) letter from Cork to Londonderry, containing a promissory note (shown above) for £100 with embossed George III 4/- Revenue Stamp. Letter has a distinctive purple boxed **PAID/AT/ CORK** and a red Dublin octagonal **PAID/JU 6A/1836** where A after date is for afternoon post. Letter has a prepaid rate of 1/1 in red (300-400 miles), and is back stamped on reverse with circular double arc **CORK/JU 5/1836** and **DERRY/ JU 7/1836**.

3. Unified Post Period
1831 to 1839

1835 Cork to Lismore
1836 Bandon to Meath



1835 (October 6th) from Cork to Lismore, via Youghal. Letter from Mary Halahan acknowledging receipt of letter from William Curry enclosing half a five pound note (Post Office advised sending in two halves in order to avoid theft and waiting on confirmation of receipt before sending the second half). Letter had manuscript *6d* (20 to 30 miles) and claret boxed **PAID AT CORK**. Reverse has single arc Cork CDS **CORK OC6 1835** (code E for evening), and in transit Youghal CDS **YOUGHAL OC6 1835**



1836 (January 18th) letter from Bandon to Hon. Randal Plunkett M.P. at Dunsany Castle, Co. Meath, , back-stamped on reverse with double arc **BANDON/ JA18/ 1836**. Letter face is stamped with red crowned circle **FREE/20JA20/1836/M**.

3. Unified Post Period
1831 to 1839

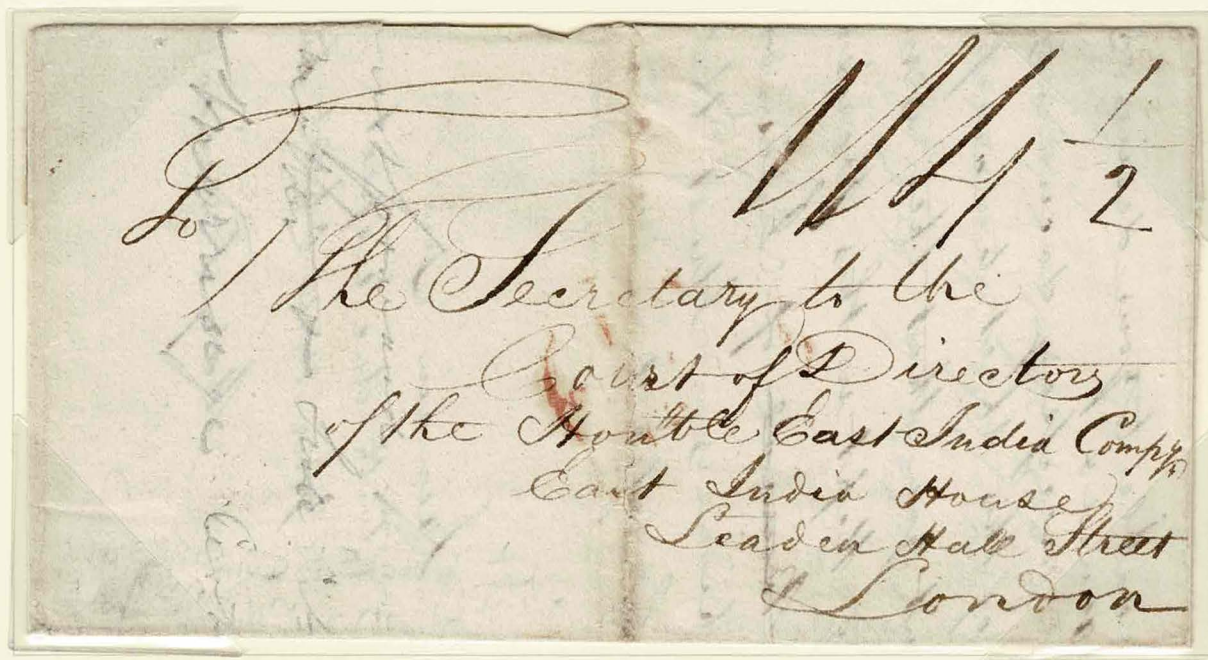
1836 Buttevant to Downpatrick
1836 Guatemala to:London

BUTTEVANT

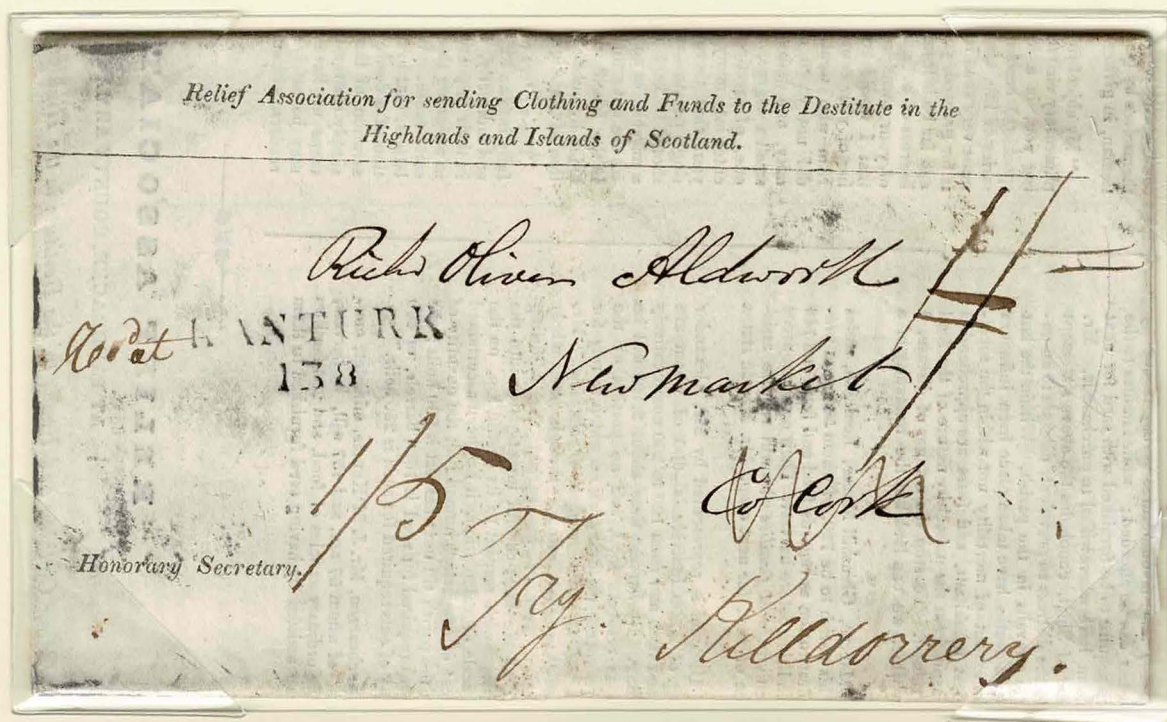


1836 (July 8th) Buttevant, Co Cork, to Downpatrick, showing a prepaid double rate of 2/- (235 miles) with a red **POST PAID** of Buttevant and a red Dublin octagonal **PAID/JY 10M/1836**. The letter is also backstamped with a black **BUTTEVANT** town stamp (shown).

The British Act of 21st June 1836 (The Welsh Additional Halfpenny 6&7 William IV c25) added a further halfpenny to the Waterford and Milford Haven route to pay for road improvements. The rate was per sheet.



1836 letter from Castletown, Bere Island to London, from Mary Driscoll to The Secretary of the East India Company in London, confirming details of burial of James Harrinton in local graveyard. Letter has one line **CASTLETOWN** town stamp and double arc **WATERFORD** CDS on AU 11 1836 with red London arrival CDS on 13 AU 1836. Manuscript charge of 1/4½ (1/2 Castletown to London (412 miles) + 2d Milford Haven packet + ½d Welsh tax).



1837 (April 12th) printed matter from Relief Association at Tandragee (just prior to Famine years in Ireland), sent initially to Newmarket (rated 1/- correctly for 243 miles) then redirected to Kildorrery and rerated 1/5 (additional 5d for extra 20 miles). Letter face has black two line **KANTURK 138** mileage marker, likely applied on rerouting from Newmarket. Reverse of letter has black double arc undated **TANDERAGEE** circular stamp and red Dublin transit diamond on MY 14 37.



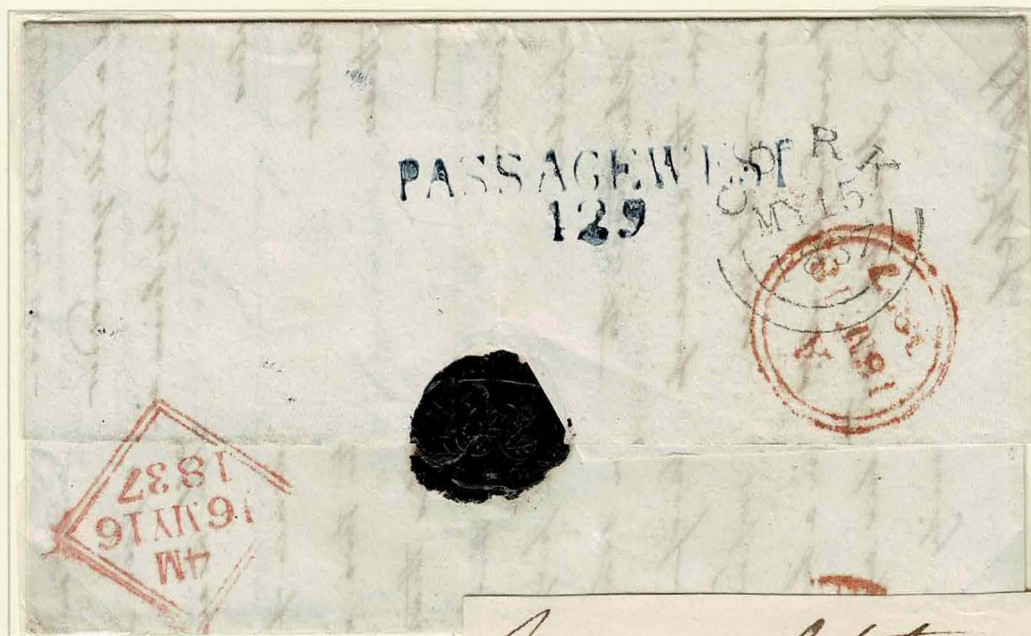
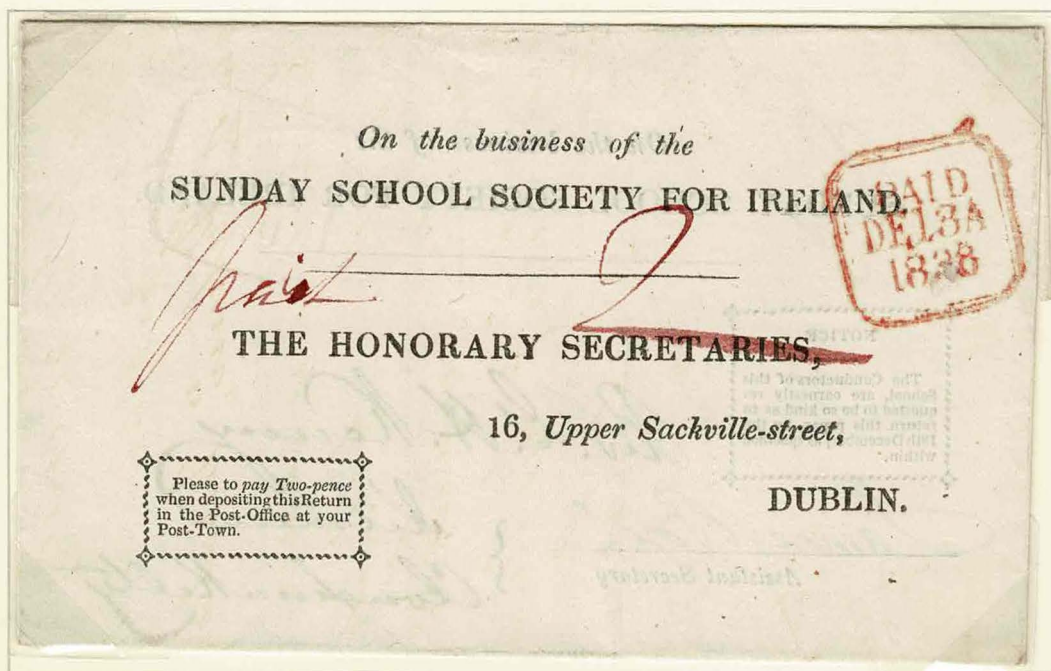
1837 (January 9th) entire Cork to London, rated 1/5 for single sheet. This is cancelled with fine inspectors crown and rerated 2/10 for a double sheet letter. Letter face also has a clear **CORK TOO LATE** handstamp and Cork double arc CDS on reverse.

3. Unified Post Period 1831 to 1839

1837 Clonakilty to Dublin
1837 Passage West to London
1836 Fermoy to Dublin

CLONAKILTY

1838 (December 13th)
Sunday School printed
matter from Clonakilty to
Dublin at a 2d charity rate.
Fine linear town stamp on
reverse.



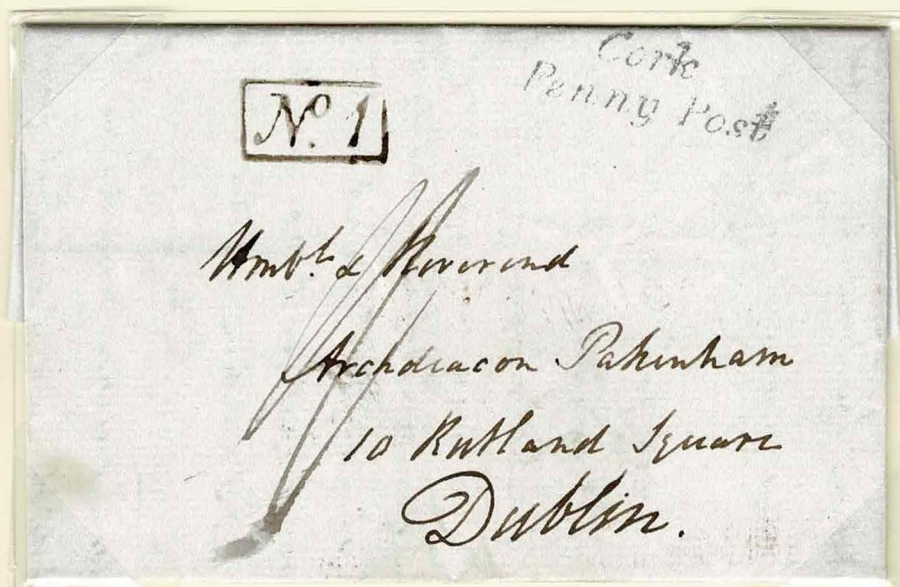
1837 (May 15th) entire
Passage West, Cork to
London, rated 1/5.
Reverse shows good
example of difficult to
source two line
PASSENGEWEST 129
town stamp.

1836 (October 3rd) FREE
POST Fermoy to Dublin,
with 1d Dublin Penny Post
applied in Dublin for local
delivery. Franked letters
were not carried free in the
Dublin Penny Post.
Endorsed by Earl of
Mountcashell.



3. Unified Post Period
1831 to 1839

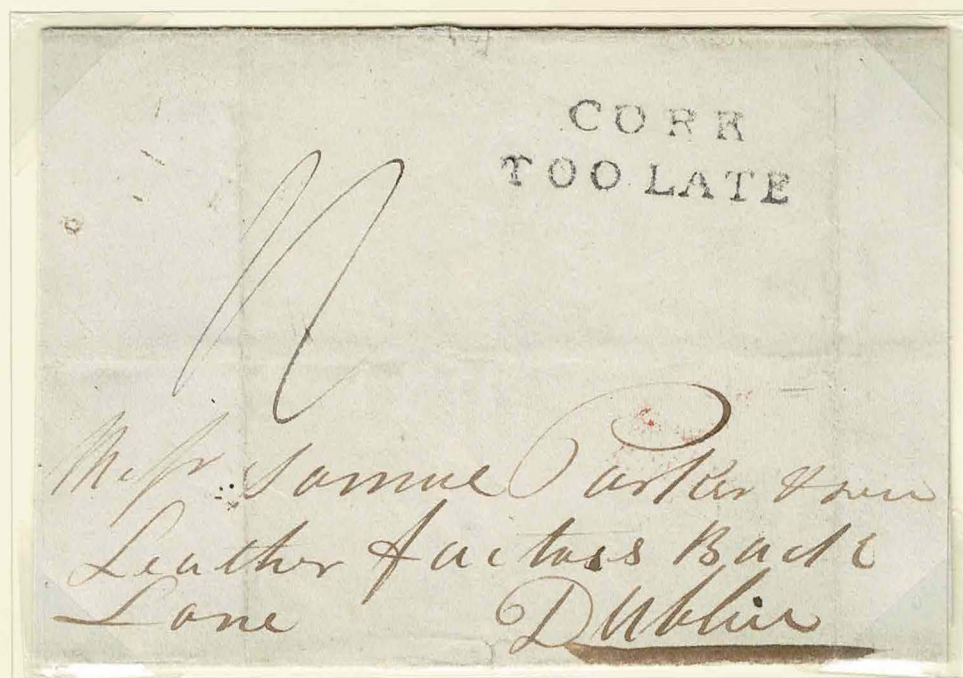
1837 Coolmore, Co Cork to Dublin
1838 Cork to Altyre, Scotland
1838 Cork to Dublin



1837 (July 18th) letter from Coolmore to Dublin, rated 11d (170 to 230 miles) and showing a framed 1 receiving house mark of Carrigaline and two line script type *Cork/ Penny Post*.

1838 (April 19th) letter from Cork to Altyre, Forres, Scotland, rated for postage at 1/6 (1/2 490 miles + 4d Packet to Portpatrick. Rate did not include the Scottish Wheel tax and letter face has handstamp Add ½.)

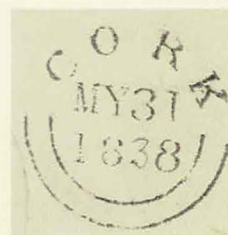
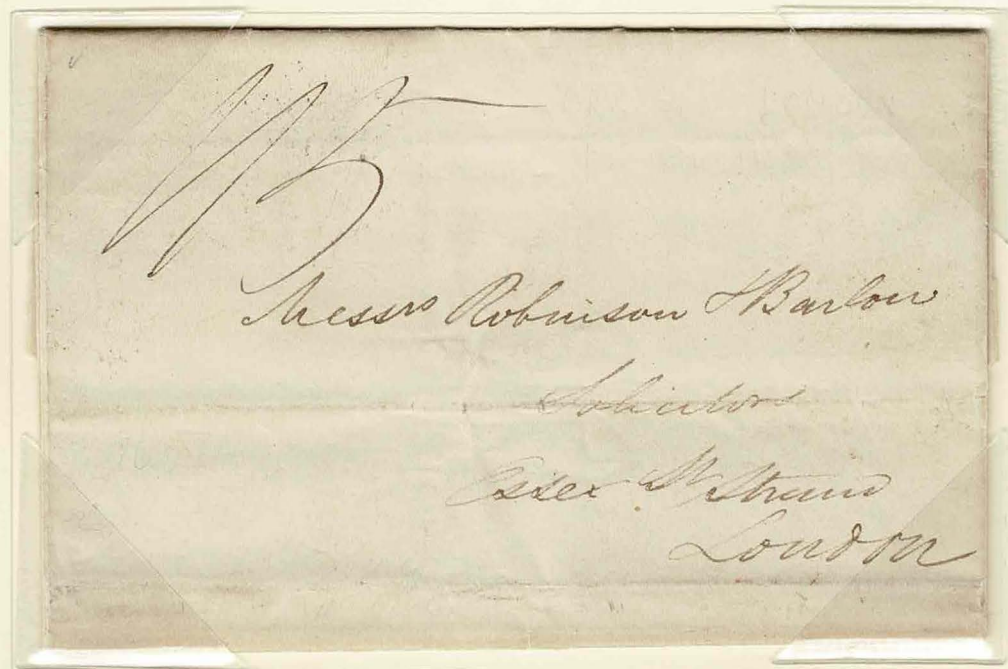
Reverse has **CORK CDS AP 21 1838**, red Dublin transit diamond **AP 22 38** and Scottish arrival CDS **APR 24 1838**.



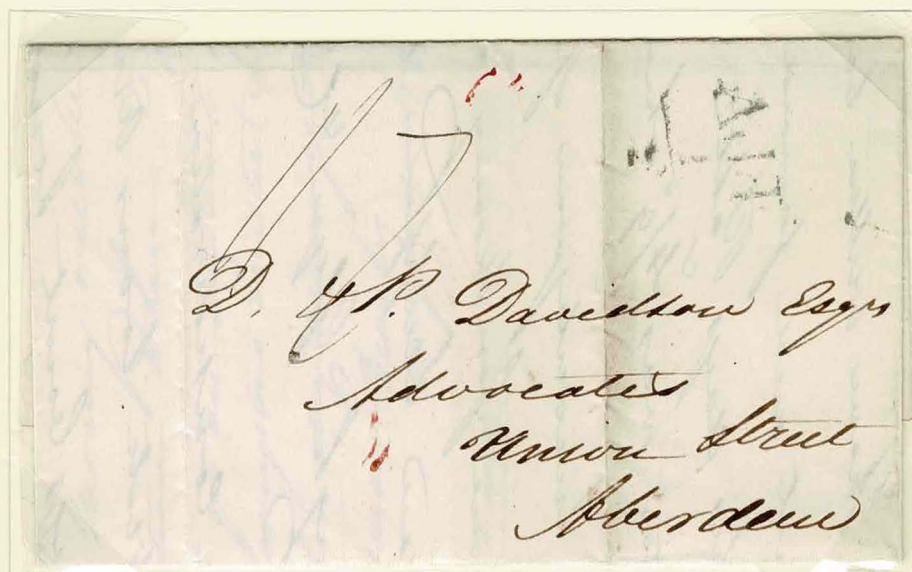
1838 (March 22nd) wrapper from Michael Lyons, with black Cork double arc CDS on **MR22 1838** and red Dublin receiving diamond on **MR24 38** and **CORK TOO LATE** hand stamp indicating reason for delay in delivery as missed evening mail in Cork). Manuscript 11d on letter face (170 to 230 miles).

3. Unified Post Period
1831 to 1839

1838 Cork to London
1839 Cork to Aberdeen



1838 (May 30th) letter from Cork to London with black double arc date stamp on reverse and red Dublin diamond **2M/JU 1/38**. Letter is correctly rated at $1/5$ ($1/2$ for 470 miles + 2d Holyhead packet + 1d Menai Bridge Toll). Letter to solicitors Robinson & Barlow, acknowledging receipt of £175 for benefit of the "child" and indicating investment intentions.



1839 (April 19th) letter from Cork to Aberdeen, rated for postage at $1/67$ ($1/3$ 510 miles + 4d Packet to Portpatrick. Rate did not include the Scottish Wheel tax and letter face has handstamp **Add $1/2$.**)

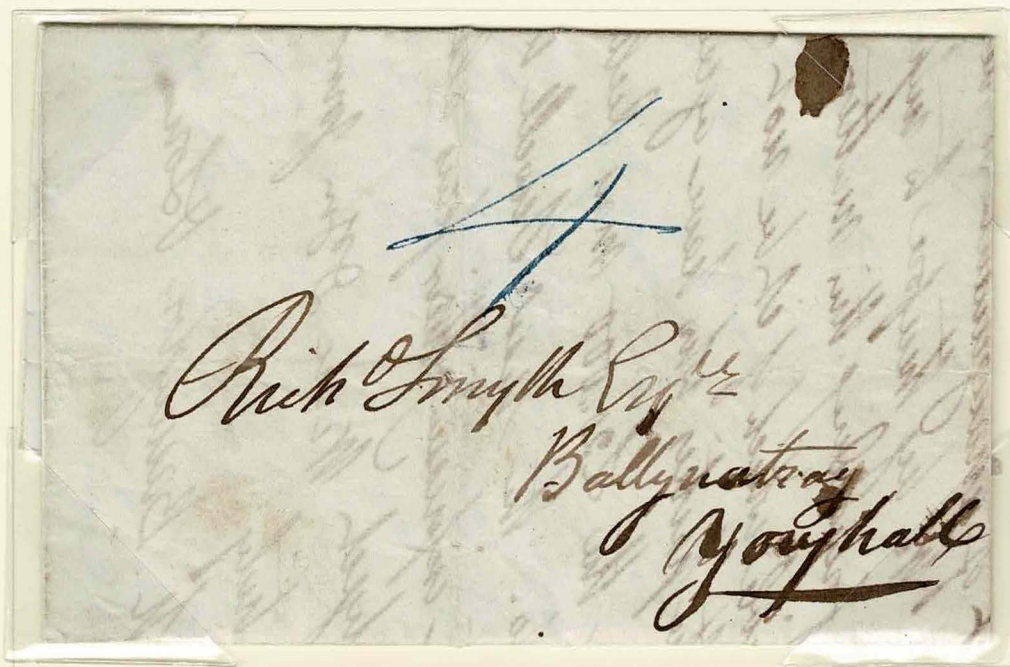
Reverse has **CORK CDS AP 17 1839**, with an **E** for evening post. red Dublin transit diamond **AP 18 39** and Scottish arrival CDS **APR 20 1839**.

4.1	Postal Reform Period	INTERIM 4d RATE	1839 Cappoquin to Youghal
	1839 to 1840	5 Dec. '39 to 9 Jan. '40	1839 Dunmanway to Bromley

First Uniform Rate within the United Kingdom

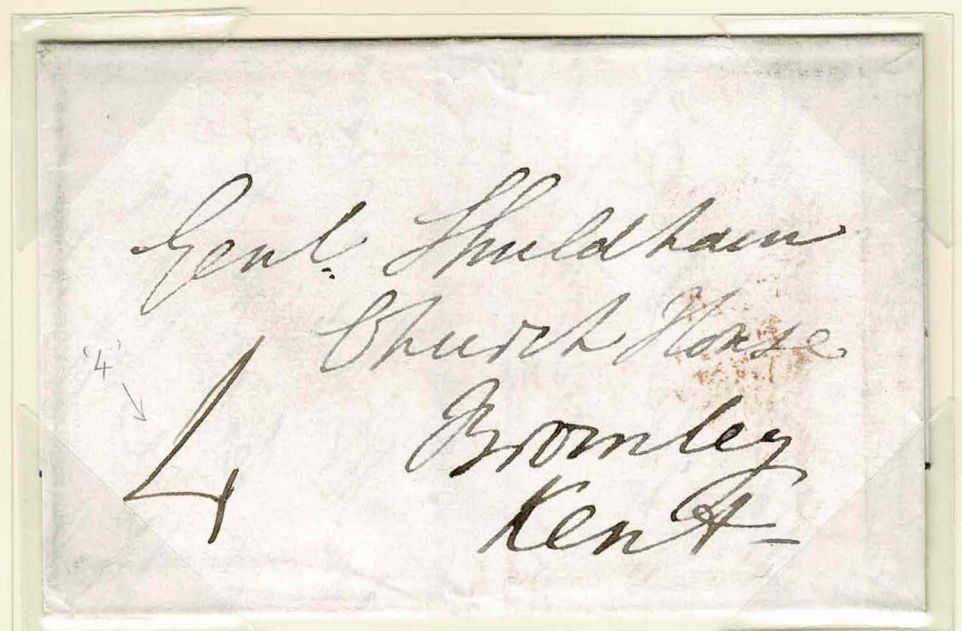
The next major postal reform took place on 5 December 1839 when a uniform postal rate of 4d was introduced for mail posted anywhere within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. This rate was for both prepaid and unpaid letters and the rate lasted only until 9 January 1840, when a uniform 1d rate was established.

The system of single/double/treble sheets was replaced with a weight scale. The 4d rate was for half an ounce (oz) and 1 oz, 8d for 1 oz, and 8d per oz above 1 oz, up to a maximum of £1, or 1s4d per oz. if not prepaid. The 4d rate represented the minimum rate at the time (less than 15 miles) unless a local penny post was in place, in which case the penny post charges remained valid.



1839 (December 5th) letter sent on first day of new rate, from Cappoquin, Co. Waterford to Youghal (20 miles). The previous rate for this letter would have been 6d (20 to 50 miles). Letter has black two line **CAPOQUIN/ 160** town stamp on reverse and Youghal double arc CDS on 5 December 1839. Letter face has blue manuscript **4**.

1839 (December 21st) letter from Dunmanway, Co Cork to Bromley, Kent. Letter has black **DUNMANWAY / 152** mileage marker and **BANDON DE 21 1839** cds on reverse, as well as London cds on 24th December 1839. Letter face has black manuscript **4**.

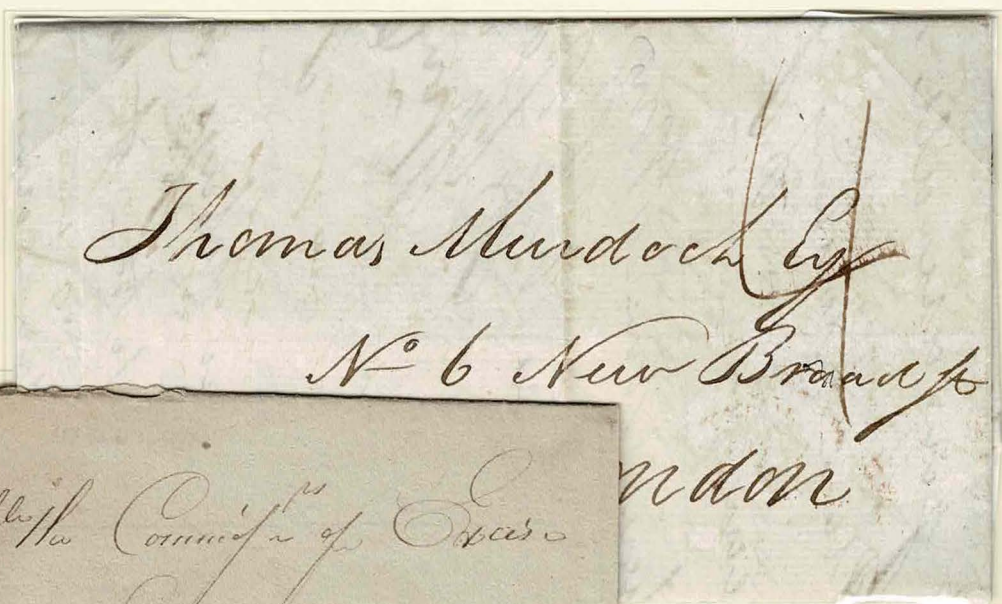


4.1 Postal Reform Period
1839 to 1840

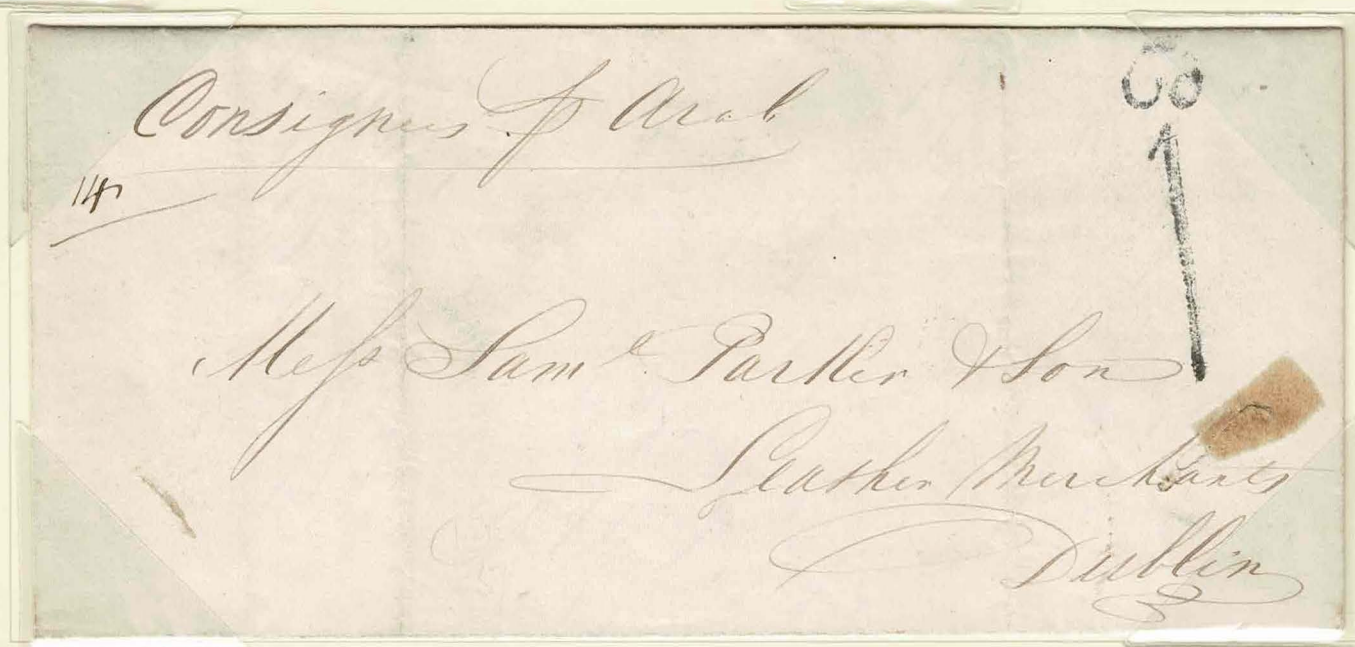
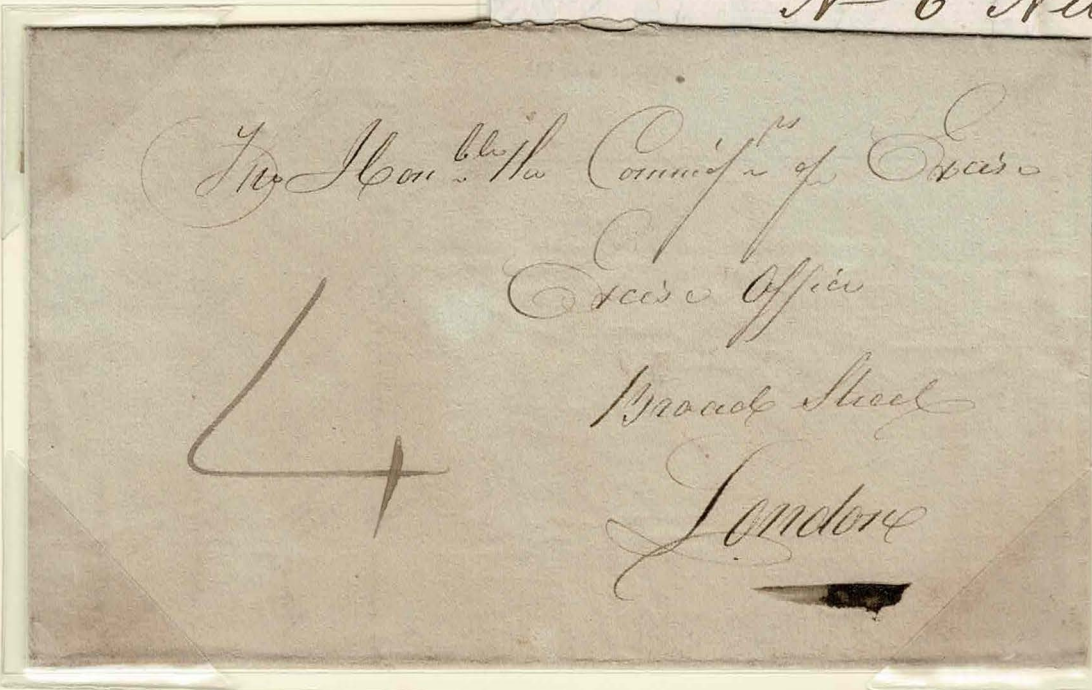
INTERIM 4d RATE
5 Dec. '39 to 9 Jan. '40

1839 Cork to London
1840 Macroom to London
1839 Consignee Letter, Cork to Dublin

1839 (December 28th) letter from Cork to London, with manuscript **4** on letter face and faint Dublin transit diamond on reverse **DE 28 39** and London arrival cds **30 DE 1839**.



1840 (January 6th) letter from Macroom, Co Cork, to London, with manuscript **4** on letter face and one line **MACROOM** town stamp & cds **A /6 JA 6 / 1840** on reverse.



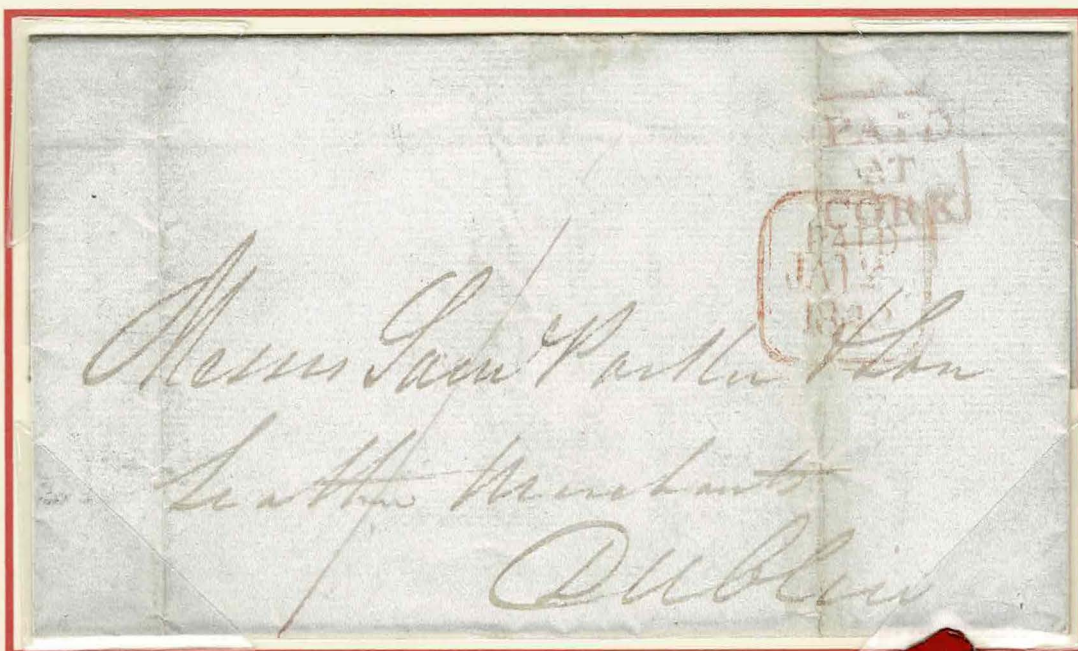
1839 (March 25th) this letter accompanied a consignment of goods by the same ship and did not incur the ship rate (Consignee Letter) . Sent from Cork to Dublin, endorsed Consignees p. Arab. Letter has tall **1^d** of the Dublin Penny Post for local delivery.

1d Uniform Rate within the United Kingdom

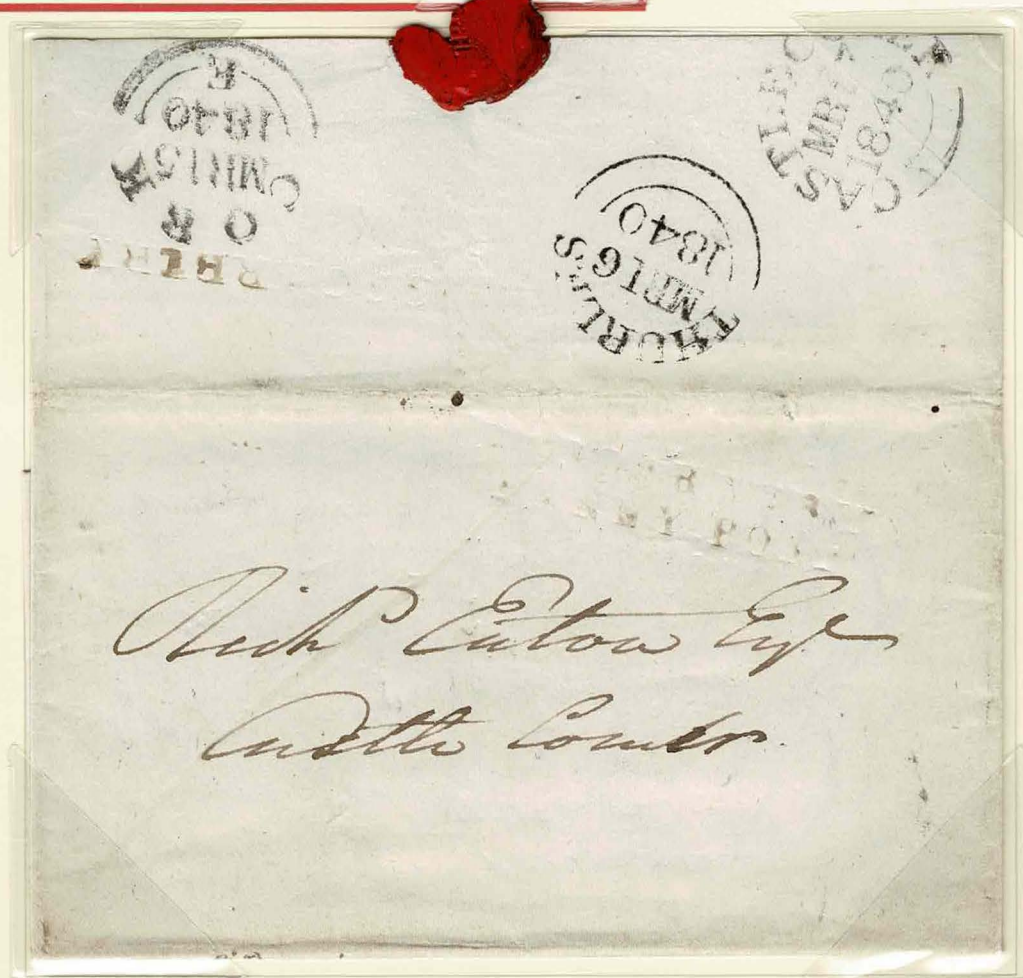
The uniform postage rate within the United Kingdom was revised to 1d per ½ oz. on 10 January 1840. This rate continued to be based on weight, with 2d per oz. up to 16 oz. These rates only applied if postage was prepaid and rates were doubled if not prepaid. All charges such as Menai Bridge toll, Conway Bridge toll, Scottish wheel tax etc were discontinued after initial uniform rate on 5 December 1839.



1840 (January 11th) letter from Cork to Dublin on second day of the Uniform Penny Post Rate, with manuscript *I* claret red framed **PAID AT CORK**, back stamped **CORK E JA 11** and red **PAID JA 12 1840** applied at Dublin. Early item of the great reform.



1840 (March 14th) letter from Union Hall, Co Cork to Castlecomer, Co Kilkenny - with faint "1" for new uniform penny post rate, faint **ROSSCARBERY** one line stamp and two line **ROSCARBERY PENNY POST**, cds **CORK MR 15 1840**, **THURLES MR 16 1840**, **KILLKENNY MR 16 1840** and **CASTLECOMER MR 17 180**.



4.2 Postal Reform Period
1840 to 1850

UNIFORM 1d RATE
10 January 1940

1840 Cork to Dublin
1840 Cork to Birmingham
1847 Cork to Wolverhampton



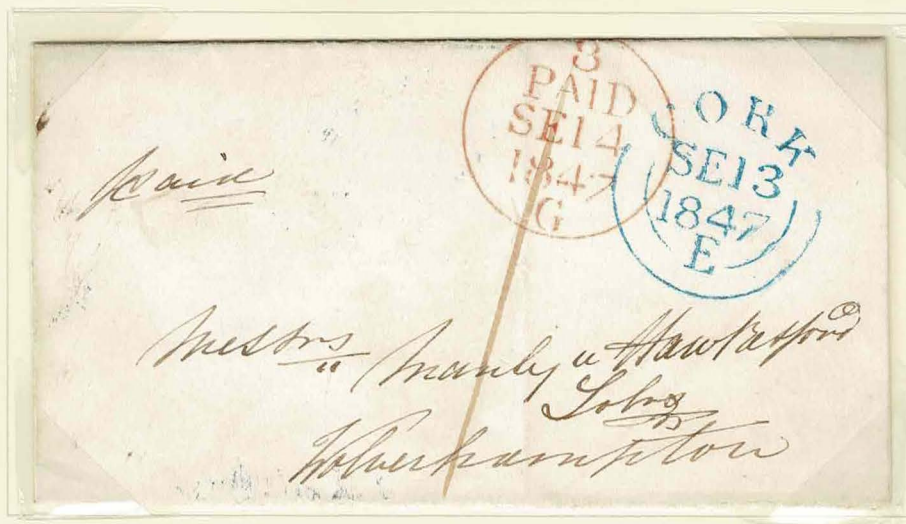
1840 (April 7th) letter
Cork to Dublin, with
manuscript *prepaid*, red
boxed **PAID AP 8 1840**
(applied in Dublin) and
manuscript *I*.

Letter face also has
double arc Cork cds on
CORK AP 7 1840.

1840 (April 10th)
letter Cork to
Birmingham, with
Cork cds on
CORK AP 11
1840 and clear red
boxed **PAID AP**
12 1840 applied in
Dublin and
manuscript *I*.



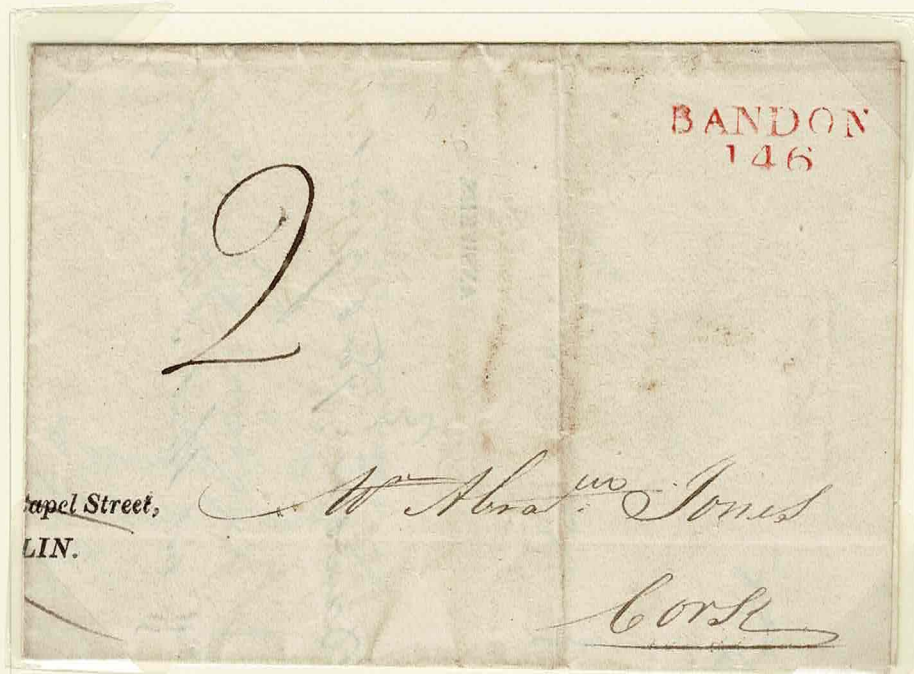
1847 (September 13th) letter
Cork to Wolverhampton, with
LIVERPOOL SP 16 1847 in
transit cds on reverse and red
circular **PAID SE 14 1847**
applied in Dublin.. Letter has
manuscript *I* on face and
manuscript *prepaid*.



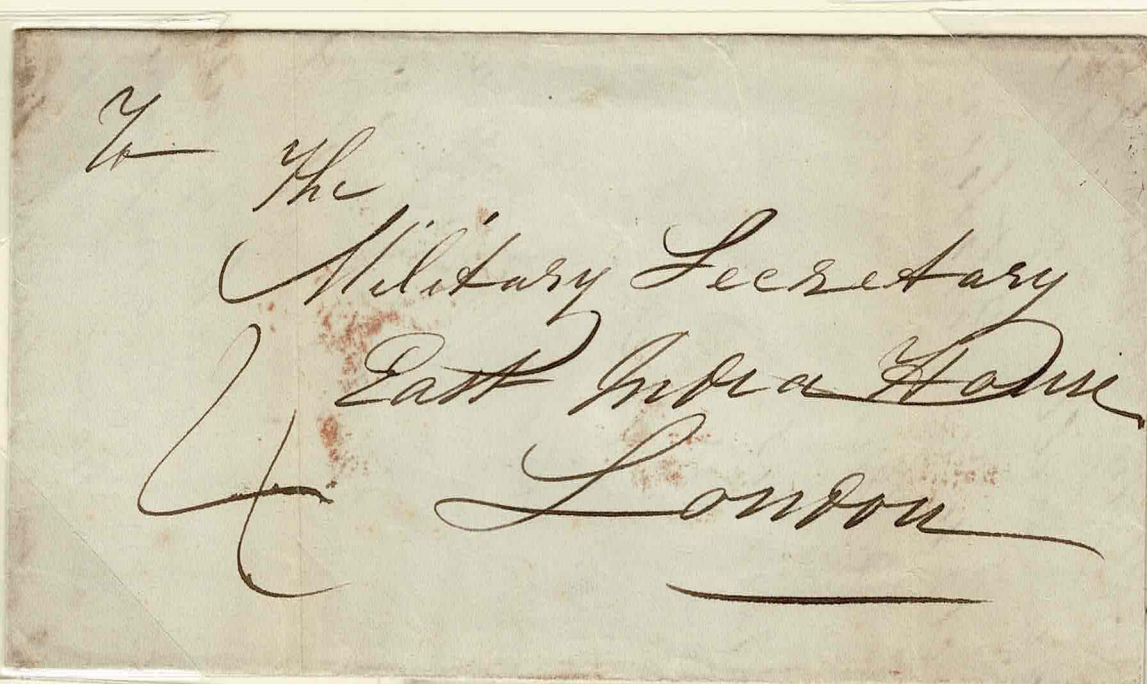
4.2 Postal Reform Period
1840 to 1850

UNIFORM 1d RATE
10 January 1940

1840 Bandon to Cork
1840 Cork to London
1841 Dublin to Kanturk

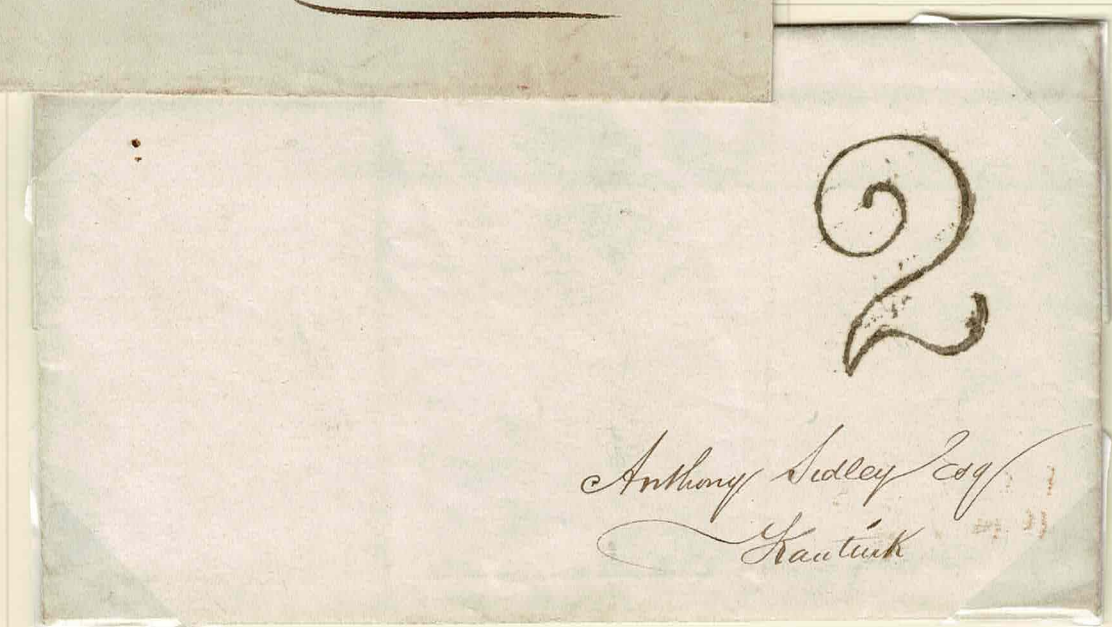


1840 (May) printed Norwich Union form, with two line red Bandon mileage marker and manuscript 2. Rate was 2d as printed form was not prepaid (as might have been expected with such forms that were sent to collect information on patients health).



1840 (January 31st) letter, Cork to London, with a manuscript 4 (one oz letter unpaid), to Military Secretary East India House, referring to enclosed partition for the Honourable Court of Inspectors. Double arc .CORK JA 31 1840 on reverse and London receiving date stamp FE 3 1840.

1841 (May 17th) letter Dublin to Kanturk with distinctive fancy 2 of Dublin (hand stamp) denoting the unpaid 1d postage. Reverse has Dublin Diamond 5E MY 17 41.



4.2 Postal Reform Period
1840 to 1850

UNIFORM 1d RATE
10 January 1940

1841 Cork to Basingstoke
1842 Cork to Dublin
1843 Cork to London



1841 (July 27th) letter from Cork to Basingstoke, England, with Cork cds **CORK JY 28 1841** and arrival cds **BASINGSTOKE AG 1 1841**.

Letter face has manuscript *I* and red paid tombstone and tablet in transit handstamps on 30 August and 31 August.

Reverse has clear black **CORK/TOO LATE** hand stamp.

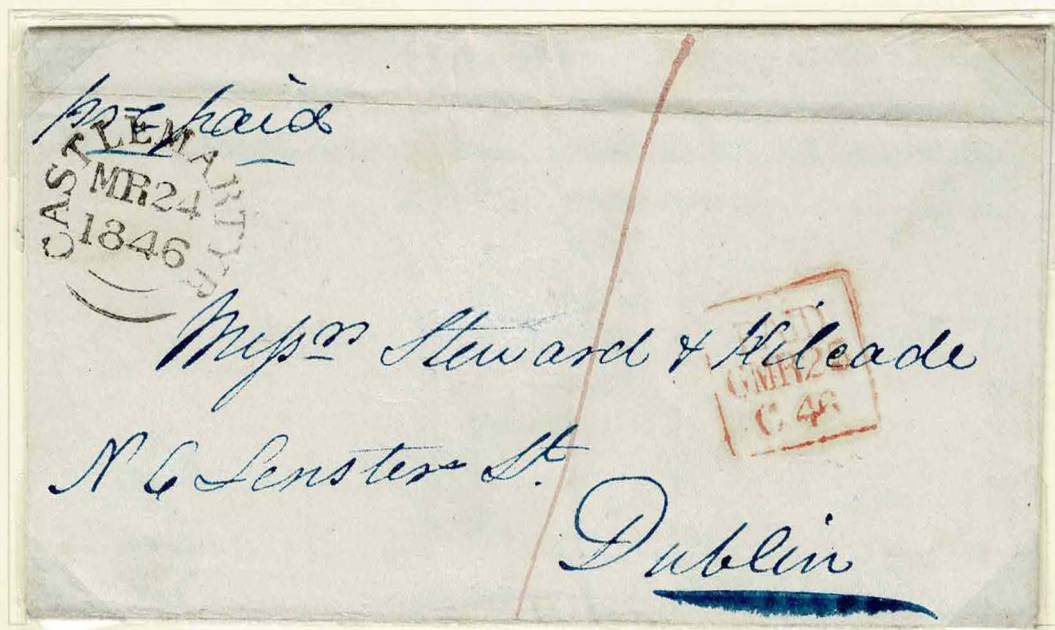
1842 (November 4th) Wrapper from Cork to Dublin, with Cork cds and red paid tablet **PAID NO 5 1842** and manuscript *I* on letter face.



1843 (June 3rd) Envelope from Cork to London, with red paid tablet **PAID JU 4 M 1843** and red tombstone **PAID 6 JU 6 1843**. Cover also has red tablet on reverse **JU 6 1843**. Cover has manuscript *I* and also manuscript *Free*, which was clearly not the case for this cover.

4.2 Postal Reform Period
1840 to 1850

1846 Castlemartyr to Dublin
1848 Innishannon to London
1848 Cork to London



1846 (March 24th)
entire from
Castlemartyr to Dublin
with double arc CDS
(MR24 1846).
Manuscript 1 and
prepaid.

1848 (November 23rd)
wrapper from
Innishannon to London
with double arc CDS
(NO23 1848).
Manuscript 1 and red
Dublin & London PAID
postmarks.

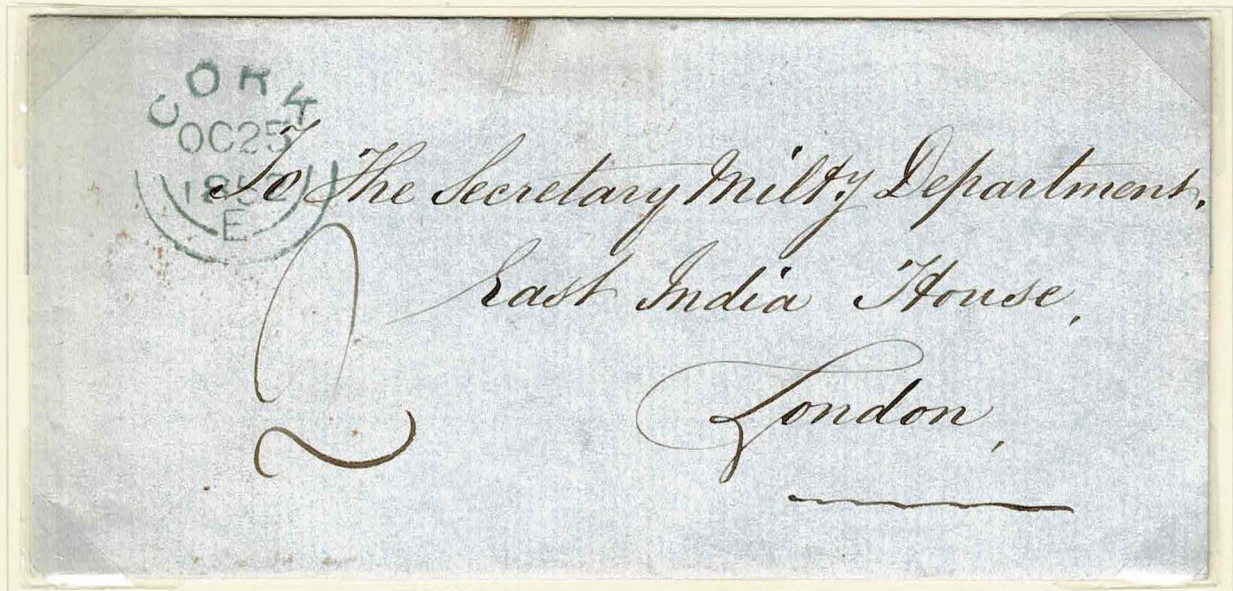


1848 (January 25th),
with blue Cork CDS,
red Dublin CDS and
London tombstone
date stamp.

4.2 Postal Reform Period Transition to Adhesive Stamps

1852 Cork to London
1859 Dublin to Cork

By 1850 the majority of postage was prepayment using adhesive stamps. However, payment without adhesive labels attached was still permitted but discouraged.



1853 (October 25th) wrapper from Cork to London. With manuscript 2 for unpaid letter.



1859 (January 11th), official 1859 printed double letter sheet of the solicitor of Inland Revenue in Dublin, used to Cork, with Free Frank handstamp of Malins with code I in orange-red detailed strike of the rare "Crowned" PAID and very small Cork arrival CDS on reverse.



4.2 Postal Reform Period

Packet Mail to North America

1841 Cork to New York

1852 Mallow to Brighton, US

The 1840 postal reform also included a uniform rate of 1/- per ½oz for mail sent from the United Kingdom to a large number of ports within the Americas and Caribbean islands. This now included the mail sent by various packets to the nominated destinations.



1841 (February 2nd) Cork to New York rated at the new prepaid uniform 1/-, carried on the steamship Britannia (British & North America Royal Mail Steam Packet Company). Departed Liverpool 4 February 1841, arrived Boston 22 February 1841. 39½cent due on delivery (2c ship and 37½c double inland rate – letter contained two sheets of paper).



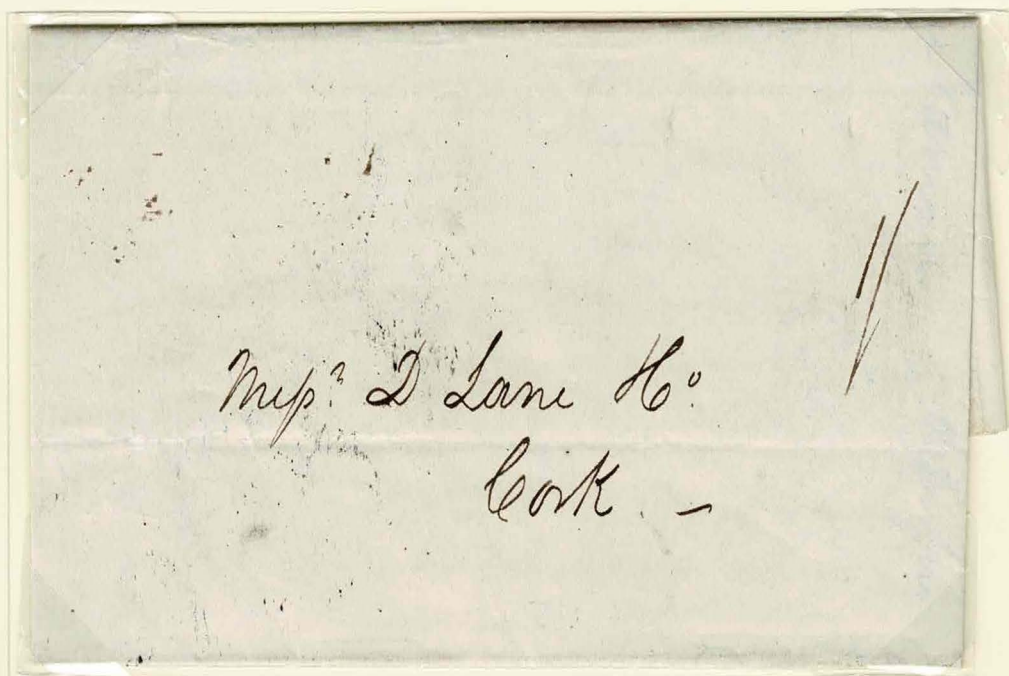
1852 (March 18th) Cork to Brighton, US, rated at the new prepaid uniform 1/-, sent via Dublin. Blue Mallow CDS (MR 18/1852), Dublin PAID hand stamp and US red PAID with 5cent inland postage required to be paid on delivery.

4.2 Postal Reform Period

Packet Mail

1846 Jamaica to Cork
1848 Cork to New York

Mail carried by Post Office Packet ships was not designated as ship letters as set tariffs applied and these did not receive ship letter handstamps. The 1835 Act had already created a maximum 8d rate for all outgoing mail by ship and a maximum inland charge of 4d from anywhere in the United Kingdom, which was confirmed as the new uniform rate in the 1840 Act..



1846 (September 6th) letter from Kingston, Jamaica, to Cork, sent by Southampton Packet and charged 1/- (one shilling), the rate from Kingston to UK between 1844 and 1847 (the rate from the rest of Jamaica was 1/2 in this period), with **KINGSTON/JAMAICA** and **CORK** cds on reverse (shown in scan).



1848 (September 28th) letter from Cork to New York via Dublin and Liverpool. Face has blue **CORK** cds and red manuscript **1/-** postage fee, circular red **PAID MY 24 1848**, applied in Dublin and black **L 25 MY 1848** applied in Liverpool (on reverse). Finally stamped with large red **6** for local deliverer in New York.



1855 (December 31st) Unpaid letter Cork to Newberry, Boston. Letter arrived in Boston on January 18 1856 where it was stamped with charge marking for 24 and 19 cents. Face also has double arc Cork CDS (DE 31/1855).



1863 (December 2nd) New York to Roscrea via Cork. Letter carried on NEW YORK ^B PK^I, posted unpaid and has manuscript 1/- (ship left Boston on July 22 and arrived in Queenstown on August 1. shilling to pay, single rate). Letter carried on steamship Asia (Cunard Packet) which left Boston on July 22 and arrived in Queenstown on August 1. Reverse has Cork CDS (AU 2/63) and Roscrea CDS (August 3/63).



1860 (August 28th) Unpaid letter Ballincollig to New York, carried on the steamship SS Bohemian (Montreal Ocean Steam Ship Company – The Allan Line). Cork city CDS (AU 28 60) on reverse, forwarded to Londonderry to meet the Allan Line Steamers coming from Liverpool. Bohemian departed Liverpool August **30**, picking up mail from Londonderry on August **31**.

Bohemian arrived in Quebec on September 10, transported to Portland September 13. The Portland Exchange Office handstamp indicated a postage due of 24c (US retained 16c for American packet plus 5c inland postage + 21c with 3c due for British inland postage).



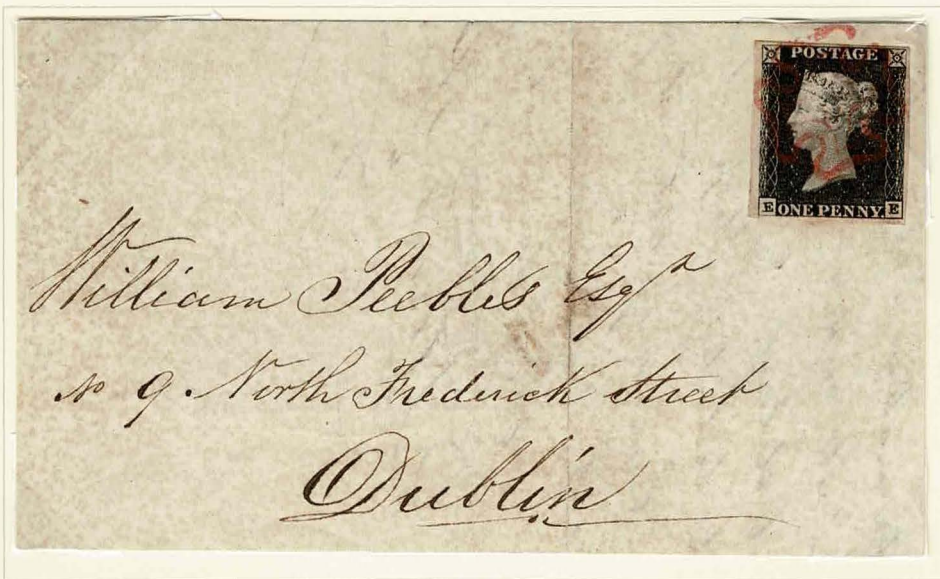
1864 (December 2nd) Passage West, Cork to Illinois, sent unpaid. Face stamped with charge marking for 24 and 19 cents. This is a very late unpaid letter sent abroad.

5.0 Adhesive Stamp Period
1840 to 1850

1d Penny Black
6 May 1940

1840 Cork to Dublin
1840 Cork to Dublin

The first one penny stamps were placed on sale on 1 May 1840 in Great Britain and became valid for postage on 6 May 1840, with the first Irish usage on 8 May 1840. The rates introduced on 10 January 1840 (Uniform 1d Post. Treasury Warrant) remained valid and there was a significant overlap of postage with and without adhesive stamps. Initial cancellations were made with a red Maltese Cross with the colour changing to black to prevent fraudulent use.



1840 (August 9th) cover Cork to Dublin, to William Pebbles from his son, with red Dublin diamond AU 10 40 on reverse, cancelled with red Maltese Cross. Penny Black stamp is position EE, **Plate 1a**.



1840 (September 5th) cover Cork to Dublin, from J Stack Murphy to William Ford, solicitor at 26 Aran Quay in Dublin. The penny black is from **Plate 2**, position AE and is cancelled with a red Maltese Cross. Cover has black double arc Cork CDS **CORK SE 6 1840** (Evening Duty) and red Dublin arrival diamond on **SE 7 40** (Morning Duty, code 3).

5.0 Adhesive Stamp Period
1840 to 1850

1d Penny Black
6 May 1940

1840 Fermoy to Cork
1840 Cork to Edinburgh

Up to ½ oz	½oz to 1 oz	Per additional oz or part oz
1d	2d	2d

1840 (September 21st) entire letter with two penny black adhesives from **Plate 6**, position FJ-FK, cancelled with red Maltese Cross, Reverse has Fermoy cds on **SE 21/1840** and Cork receiving cds on **SE 21/1840**.



1841 (February 10th) entire letter Cork to Edinburgh. The penny black is from plate 10, position TL, and is cancelled with two fine red Maltese Crosses. Red Maltese Cross cancellations are very scarce for stamps from plate 10.

Reverse has black Cork cds **CORK FE 10 1841** (Evening Duty), red Dublin diamond **FE 12 41** (Morning Duty, code 6) and circular Edinburgh arrival cds **FEB 14, 1841**. Reverse also has **CORK TOO LATE** stamp, which indicates that the letter arrived after the mail had been bagged up for dispatch and **TOO LATE** handstamp explained to the recipient why the letter was delayed in the post. Letter is from J. Franklin to Robert Meslop, ordering a "Hogshead of strong ale and four Hogheads of beer".

5.0 Adhesive Stamp Period
1840 to 1850

2d Penny Blue
10 May 1940

1840 Dublin to Doneraile

The **penny black** adhesive was issued on 1st May 1840, for payment of a letter up to ½ oz anywhere in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. A week later on 10th May the “**Twopenny Blue**” was issued was issued to pay the double rate. Post Offices were issued with Maltese Cross obliterators on 29th April 1840.

Up to ½ oz	½oz to 1 oz	Per additional oz or part oz
1d	2d	2d



1840 (November 20th) entire letter Dublin to Doneraile, Co Cork, showing a horizontal pair of 2d blues **Plate 1 QA-QB**, tied by red Maltese Crosses and with Dublin dispatch date stamp code 5E on reverse.

Rare early quadruple weight letter with red Maltese Cross, Ex Lady Mairi Collection.

Up to ½ oz	½oz to 1 oz	Per additional oz or part oz
1d	2d	2d



1841 (January 26th) wrapper from Dublin to Fermoy, Co Cork, with four margin 2d blue adhesive (double weight), from **Plate 2, position DB**, tied by lightly struck red Maltese Cross, wrapper also has red Dublin date stamp **JA 26/41** and Fermoy double arc date stamp on lower flap **JA 27/1841**.

5.0 Adhesive Stamp Period
1840 to 1850

Mulready Postal Stationery
Red Maltese Cross

1840 Dublin to Fermoy

The first postal stationery of this era was the Mulready letter sheets and envelopes, also released on 1 May 1840 but not valid for use until 6 May 1840. The Mulready design was subject to a lot of ridicule and the 1d envelope was withdrawn in January 1841 and the letter-sheets not replaced until 1844. The obliteration on Mulready stationery was required to be struck on the figure of Britannia.



1840 (May 19th) Mulready 1d letter sheet with cds **BRISTOL MY 19 1840** and double strike Cork arrival cds **CORK MY 22 1840** on reverse, with red Dublin in transit tablet **MY 21 1840**.



1840 (October 23rd) Mulready envelope (stereo plate A144) with both Bandon and Cork cds on this date. Red Maltese Cross cancel on both pieces above.

5.0 Adhesive Stamp Period
1840 to 1850

Mulready Postal Stationery
Black Maltese Cross

1841 Cork to Perth
1843 Bantry to Banbridge

The red ink of the Maltese Cross was difficult to see on the black design and it was easy to remove, both of which encouraged people to reuse cancelled stamps. Hence in February 1841, a switch was made from the penny black to the penny red adhesive stamp and the Maltese Cross ink changed from red to black, both of which made the ink harder to remove and offered "superior security under ordinary circumstances". Both these details outlined in the Post Office notice on previous page.



1841 (February 18th) Mulready 1d envelope (stereo plate A 149) from Cork to Perth, Scotland, with CORK FE18 1841 and red circular Perth arrival cds on 22 February 1841.

Earliest recorded use of Black Maltese cancel in Cork.



1843 (July 15th) Mulready 2d blue envelope Form a208, reverse with Dublin red transit date-stamps **JY 15/43** and blue Banbridge "open" double ring receiving CDS **JY 16/1843**. Late usage of Malteses Cross cancel. Rare example of 2d envelope used within Ireland, less than ten recorded, only one from Cork.

5.0 Adhesive Stamp Period
1840 to 1850

1d Penny Black
Black Maltese Cross

1841 Carrigaline to Cork
1841 Cork to Dublin



1841 (February 20th) letter sent from Carrigaline (No 1 Receiving House) to Cork city. Penny black stamp has good margins, **Plate 11, position FK**. Reverse has a black double arc cds on **CORK FE 20 1841**. Letter is from Michael Roberts to solicitors Richards, Finch and Exham, South Mall Cork, declining to speak on behalf of Major Black re "the unfortunate incident". Very scarce No 1 Receiving House marking.



1841 (March 1st). Letter from Cork to Dublin, with ya fine **CORK TOO LATE** hand stamp and a penny black, **Plate 6, position DE**, cancelled with a black Maltese Cross. Reverse of letter has double arc cds **CORK MR 1 1841** and red Dublin arrival diamond **MR 3 41** (Morning code 4).



1841 (April 6th) Wrapper sent from Cork to Dungarvan (75 km) but which travelled via Cork to Youghal (51 km) as expected, and then was diverted to Fermoy (44km) followed by Waterford (95 km) and finally to Dungarvan (47 km). This wrapper is franked with a good to large margined 1d penny black, **Plate 9, position NG**, tied by a black Maltese Cross cancel. On the reverse are circular date stamps for **Cork AP 6, Youghal AP 7, Fermoy AP 7, Waterford AP 8 and Dungarvan AP 8 1841**. The reason for this additional 162 km diversion was some storm damage to the 1542 feetbridge crossing the river Blackwater just east of Youghal (built in 1828). **Unique piece whose postmarks record the diversion require due to damage to bridge.**

5.0 Adhesive Stamp Period
1840 to 1850

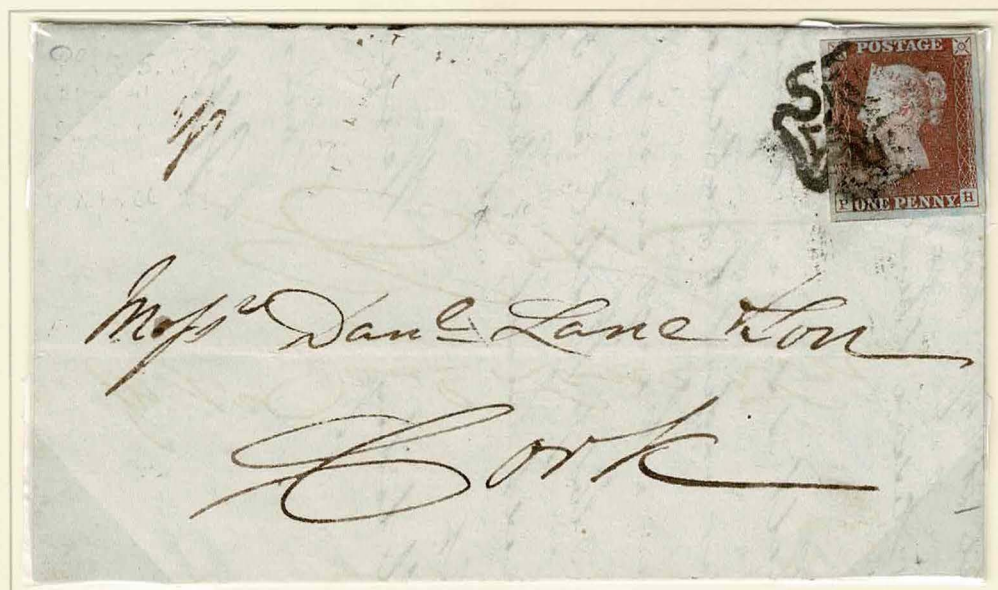
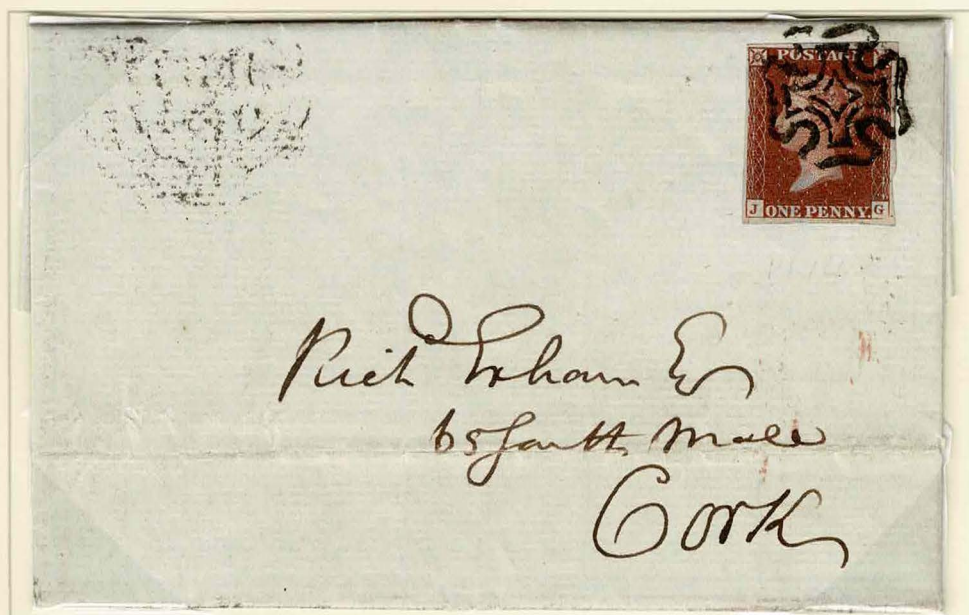
1d Penny Red
Black Maltese Cross

1841 Cork to Castletownshend
1841 Dublin to Cork
1841 London to Cork



1841 (June 4th) entire letter from Ballincollig, Cork, redirected to Castletownshend. Face has framed N^o 2 for Ballincollig, Receiving House of Cork Post Office. Reverse has cds for Cork and Skibbereen. Franked with 1d Penny Red, Plate 9, position JE.

1841 (June 29th) Entire letter Dublin to Cork, with 1d Penny Red label (Plate 14, position JG) and cancelled with black Dublin common type Maltese Cross. Reverse has Dublin diamond JU 29 41 and Cork arrival cds on AU 30 1841.

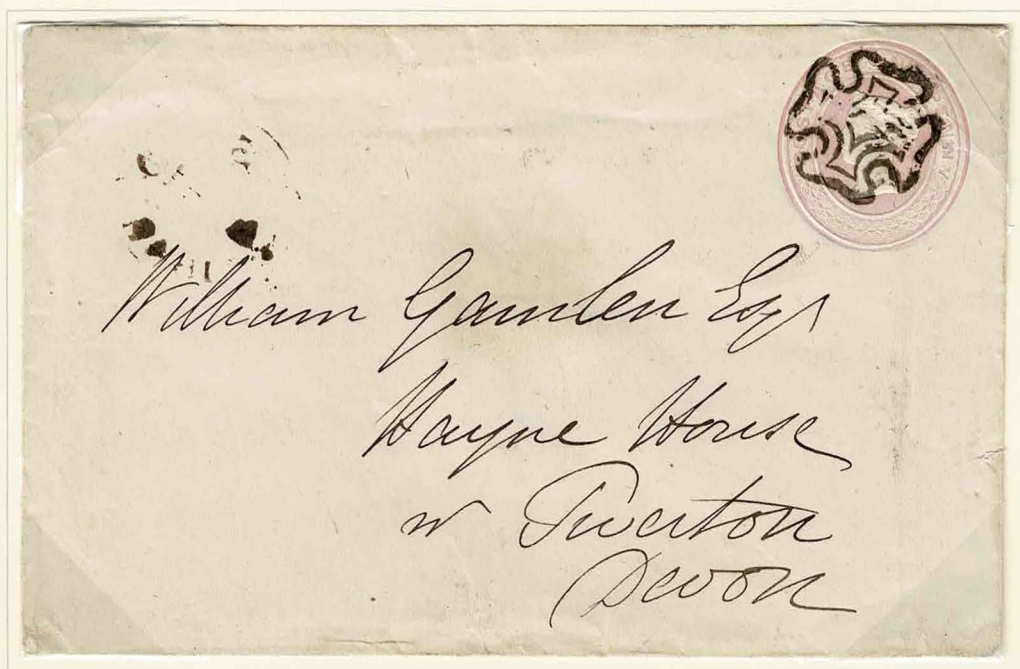


1841 (April 21st) letter London to Cork, with 1d Penny Red label (Plate 5, position PH), cancelled with black London Maltese Cross. Reverse has London cds on AP 21 1841.

5.0 Adhesive Stamp Period
1840 to 1850

1d Penny Red
Black Maltese Cross

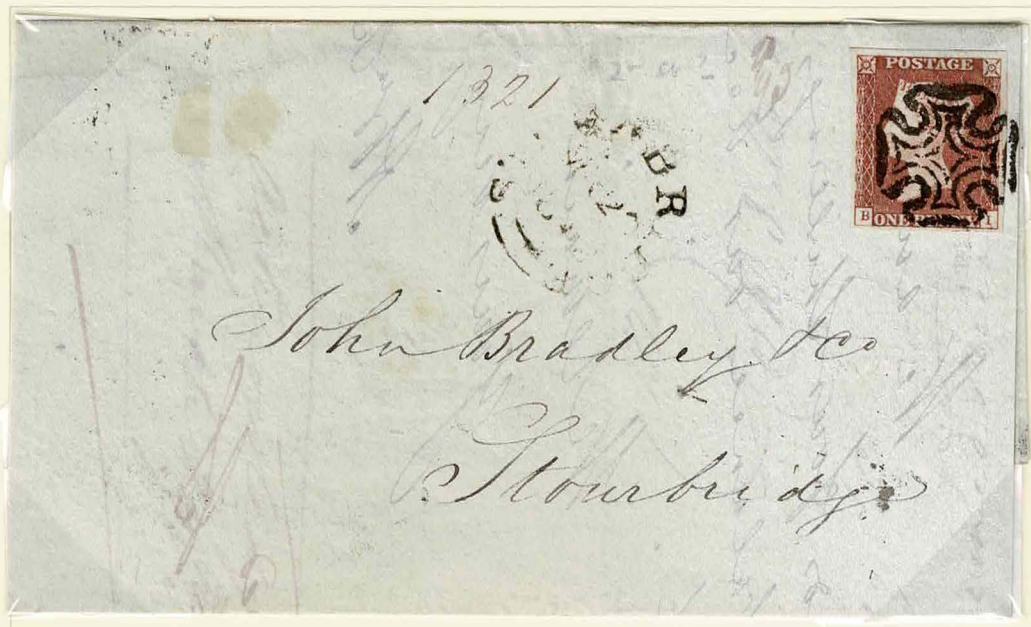
1842 Bantry to Devon
1842 Cork to Stourbridge
1843 Cork to Bangor



1842 (January 19th) cover Bantry to Devon, Pink 1d QV envelope which replaced the Mulready envelope. Reverse has cds JA 19 1842 and JA 20 1842.

1842 (March 26th) entire letter sent Cork to Stourbridge (black double arc Cork cds on reverse **CORK MR 26 1842** evening). Black Maltese Cross cancellation with very faint Stourbridge cds on letter face. Penny Red **Plate 17, position BL**.

Very good example of Cork Type I Maltese Cross, illustrated in Moxter Vol 1, p 80-81.

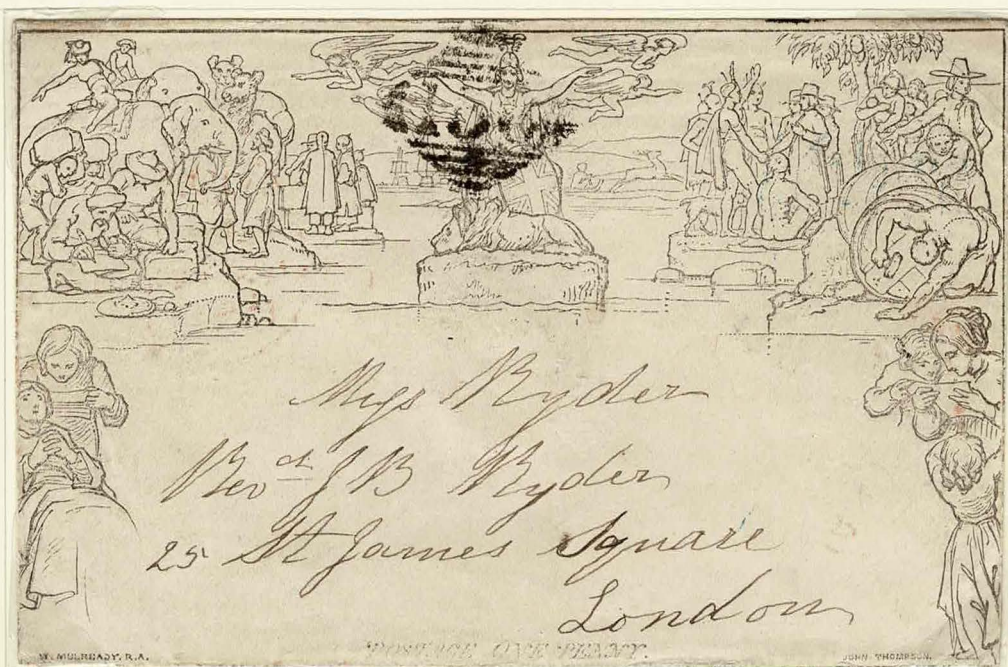


1843 (May 26th) cover Cork to Bangor, Wales, with Cork cds **CORK MY 26 1843** and Bangor arrival cds **BANGOR MY 28 1843** and in-transit Dublin Diamond **MY 27 43**. Penny Red 1d adhesive, **position DD** cancelled with good example of black Maltese Cross.

5.0 Adhesive Stamp Period
1840 to 1850

1d Rate
Black Diamond Numeral

1848 Cork to London
1845 Cork to Bristol
1848 Fermoy to Dublin



1848 (July 7th) cover
 Cork to London using
 Mulready 1d envelope,
 with a diamond Cork
 "156" obliterator.

Reverse has CDS at
 Cork (**JY 7 1848 E**),
 Dublin (**JY 8 1848**) and
 London (**10 JY 1848**).

1845 (November 24th) 1d
 pink size B envelope, Cork to
 Bristol, cancelled with
 diamond "156" numeral.
 Reverse had CDS at Cork
 (**NO 24**), Waterford (**NO 24**)
 and Bristol (**NO 26**).



1848 (December 23rd) cover
 Fermoy to Dublin, with Fermoy
 diamond "218" numeral. Reverse
 has CDS at Fermoy (**DE 23 1848**)
 and Dublin (**DE 24 1848**).

5.0 Adhesive Stamp Period
1840 to 1850

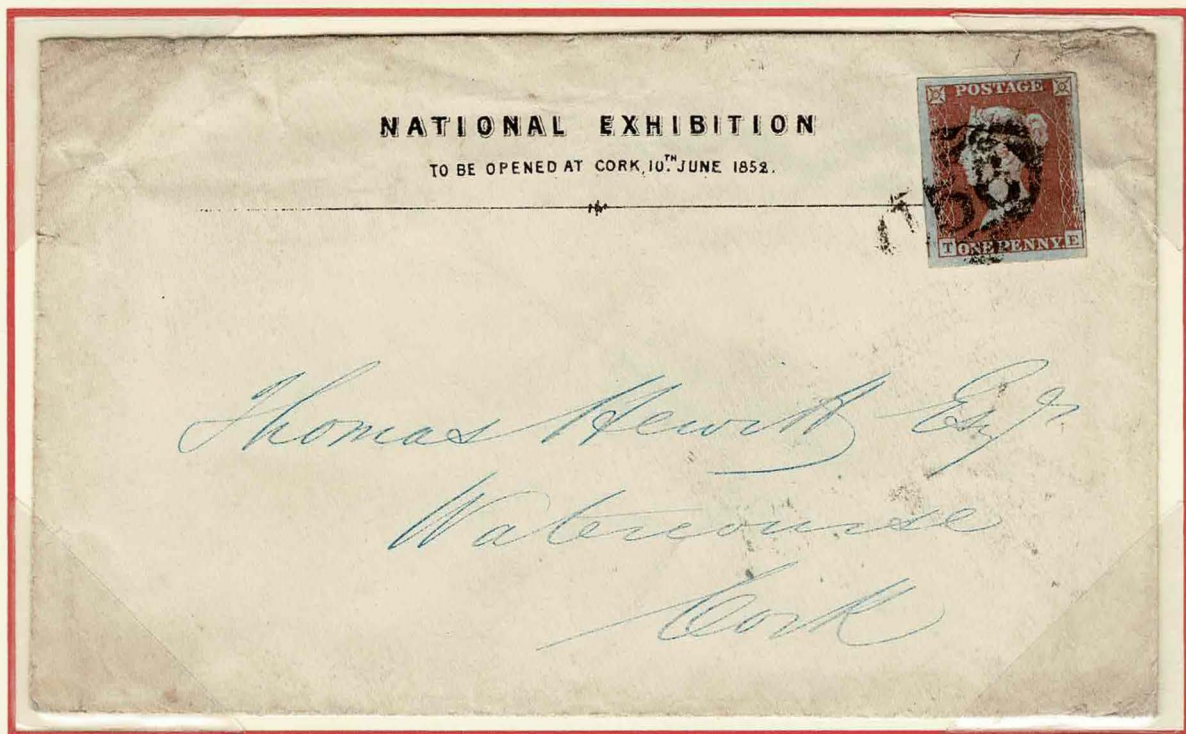
1d/2d Rate
Black Diamond Numeral

1846 Charleville to Dublin
1852 Within Cork



1846 (December 9th) double weight cover Charleville to Dublin using 2d blue adhesive, with a diamond Charleville “128” obliterator.

Reverse has blue CDS at Charleville (DE 9 1846), and red Dublin CDS (DE 10).



1852 (November 31st) cover sent within Cork, with Cork diamond “156” numeral. Reverse has CDS at Cork (NO 21). 1852 printed envelope, addressed to Watercourse in Cork.

Extremely rare unrecorded pictorial envelope, no other yet recorded.

Ex Thomas Field.

5.1 Adhesive Stamp Period
1850 to UPU

1d Rate
Cork Spoon

1856 Cork to Skibbereen
1855 Cork to Dublin

Previous cancels and date stamps required two separate operations but as the volume of mail increased, these two steps were combined into a single operation using a duplex cancel- with two distinct parts which included a date stamp and an obliterator. The first of these were used in 1853 in London and were introduced in Ireland two years later. Cork adopted the English spoon shaped duplex cancel.



1856 (September 10th) 1d embossed cover from Cork to Skibbereen, with a clear strike of the English type 4-3-4 Spook (**CORK/ SE 10/1856**) with “**156**” circular obliterator. This was used only from March 1855 to February 1857). Reverse has small blue Skibbereen double ring CDS.

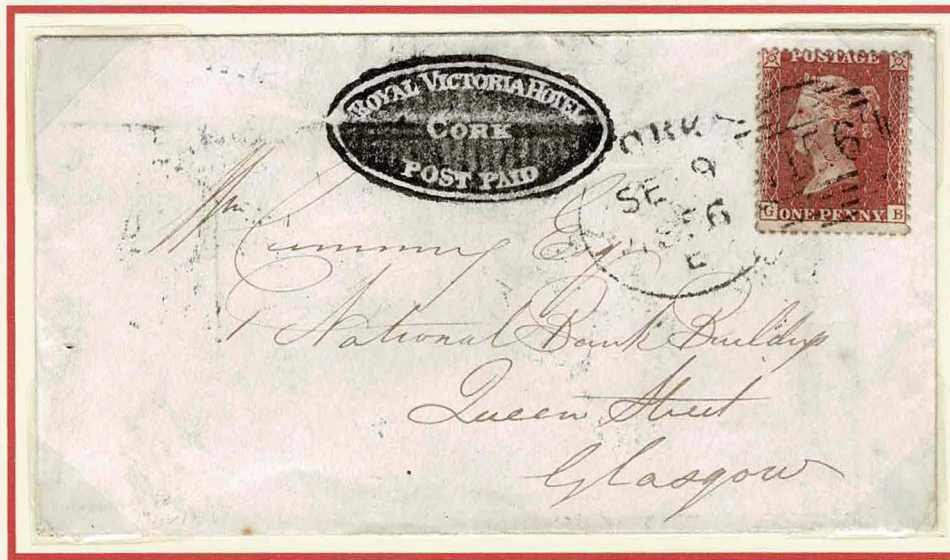


1855 (November 25th) entire from Cork to Dublin with 1d red adhesive (plate 8) tied with green English type spoon (**CORK NO 25 1855**) and circular “**156**” obliterator. Green coloured spoon is much scarcer than the black coloured spoon.

5.1 Adhesive Stamp Period
1850 to UPU

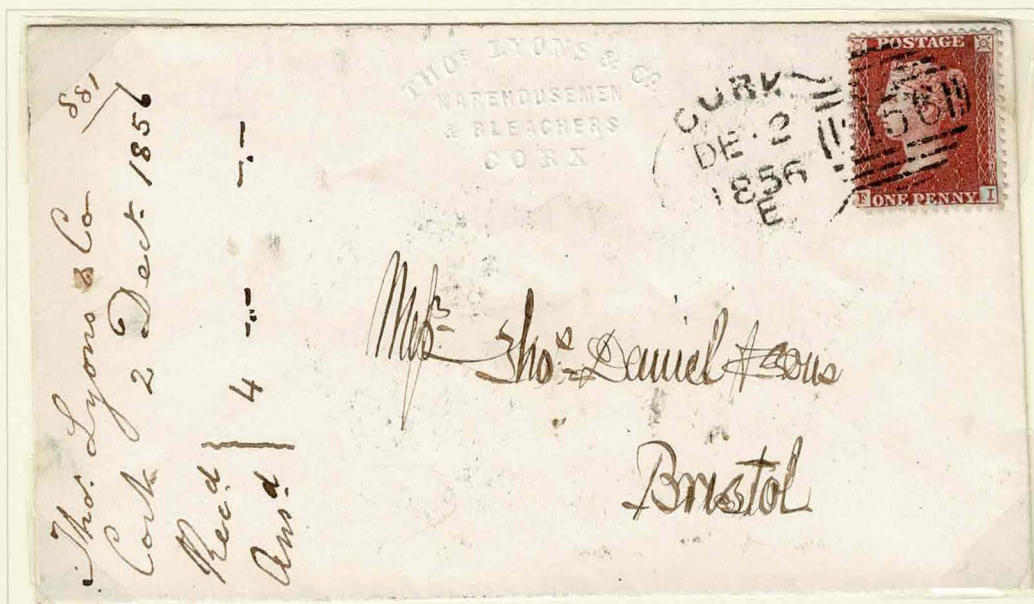
1d Rate
Cork Spoon

1856 Cork to Glasgow
1856 Cork to Bristol

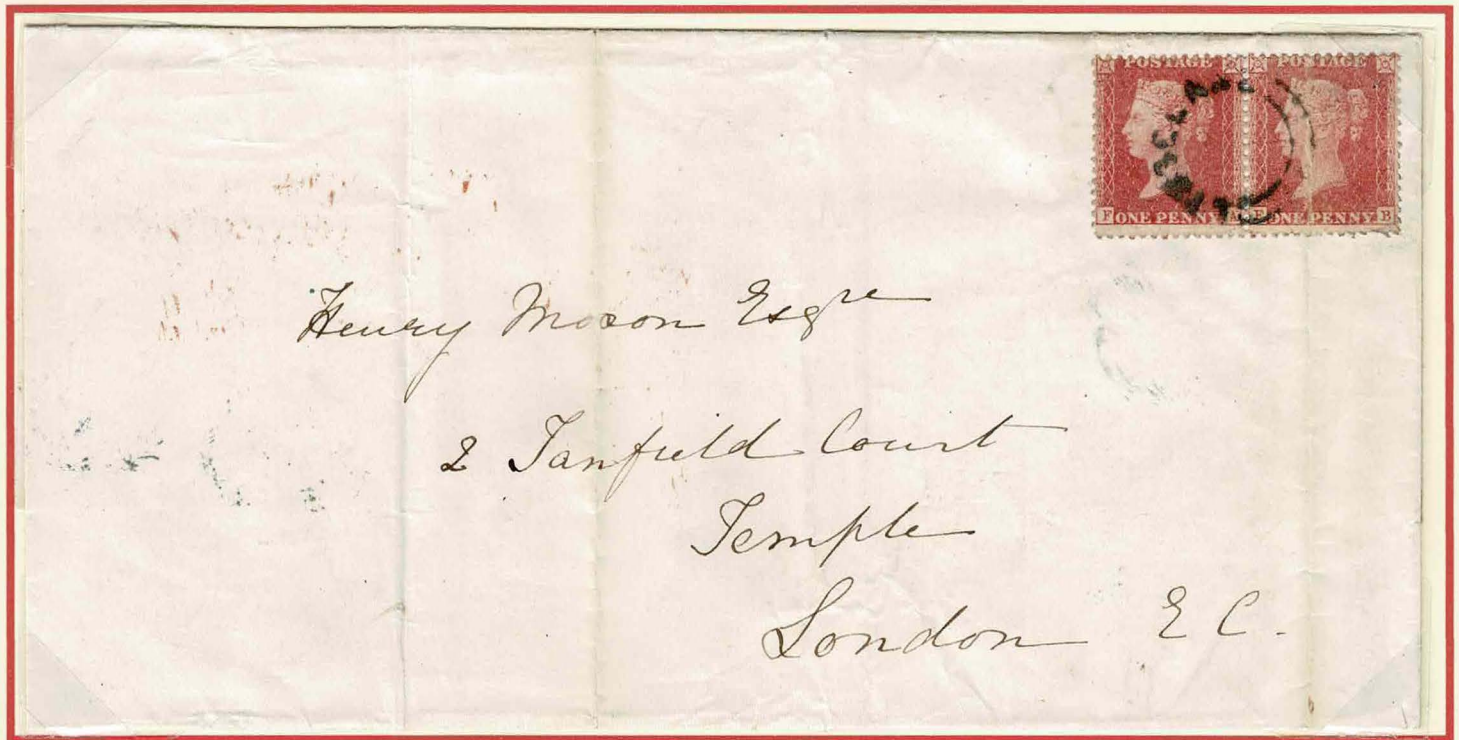


1856 (September 9th) Cork to Glasgow, with a clear strike of the English type 4-3-4 Spoon (**CORK/SE 9 /1856/ E**) with “156” circular obliterator. “E” denotes evening mail.

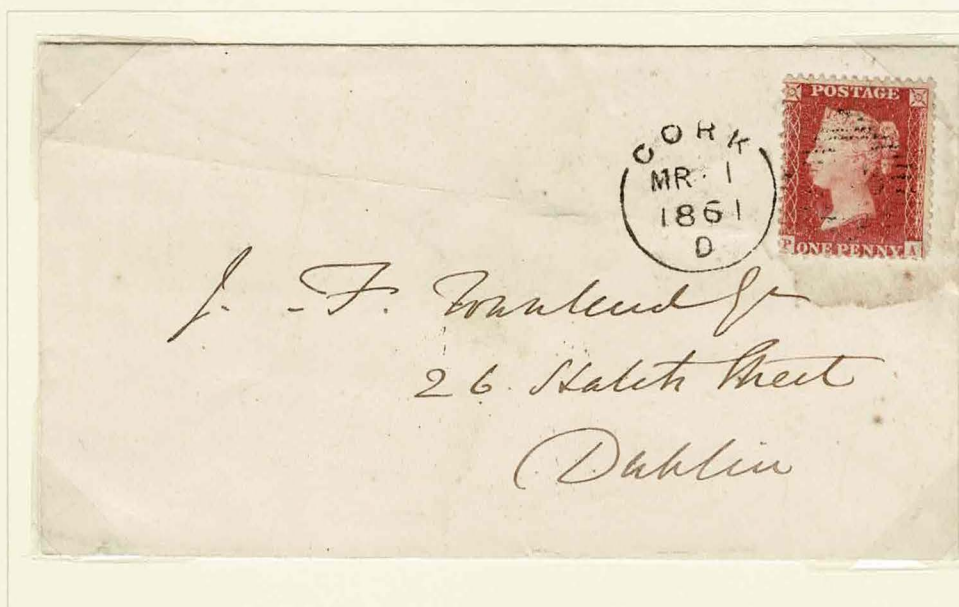
Cover has rare intaglio oval **ROYAL VICTORIA HOTEL/CORK /POST PAID**. Less than ten recorded to have survived.



1856 (December 2nd) cover from Cork to Bristol with 1d red adhesive tied with black English type spoon (**CORK DE 2 1856 E**) and circular “156” obliterator.



1859 (April 11th) entire Lisselane, Co. Cork to London. Double weight franked with two 1d red adhesives (1 oz.), tied with Lisselane double arc (sub office of Bandon, Co Cork). **This cancel is exceptional because receiving houses were not allowed to cancel stamps. Only one recorded as yet.** Reverse has Dublin transit CDS (AP 12 1859) and London arrival CDS (AP 13 1859). Lisselane post office only operated from 1852 to end of 1859.



1861 (March 1st) entire from Cork to Dublin with 1d red adhesive tied with small circular duplex cancel and circular "156" obliterator. This cancel replaced the spoon cancel in Cork Post Office.

5.1 Adhesive Stamp Period
1850 to UPU

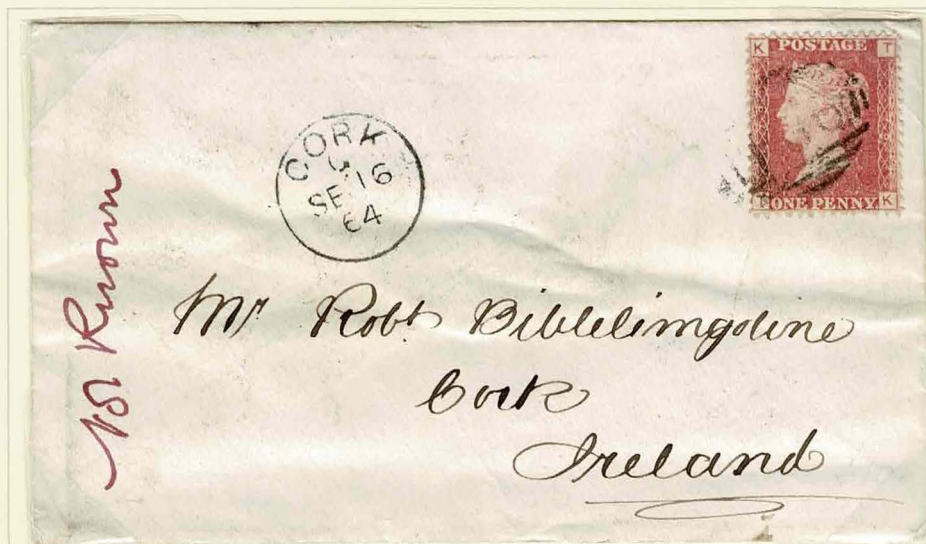
1d Rate
Adhesive stamp design change

1864 Cork to London
1866 Cork to London
1864 Cork to Cork



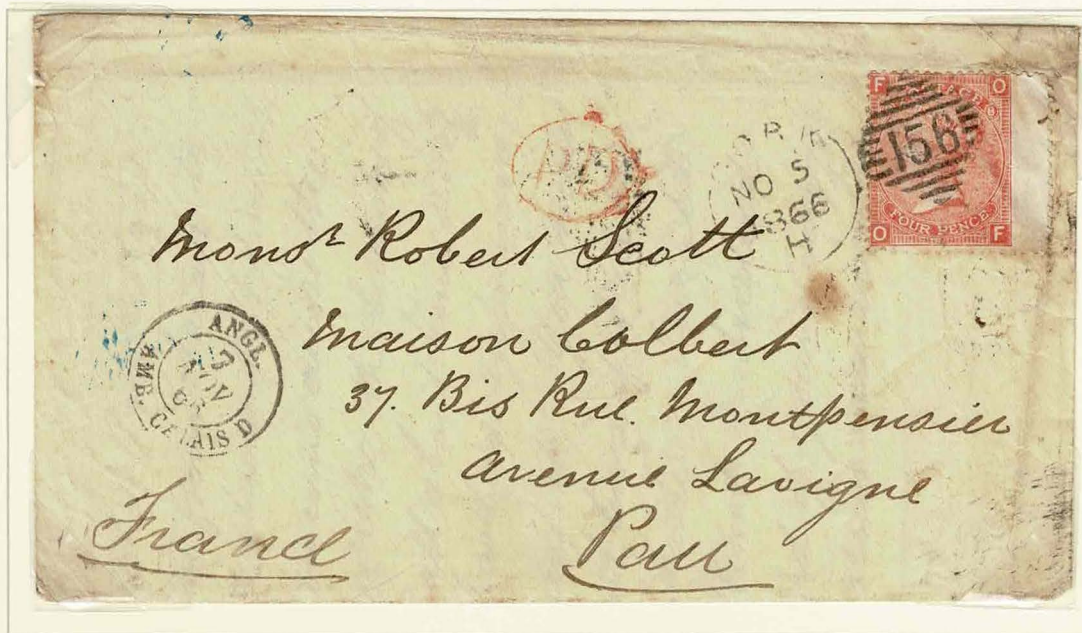
1864 (September 10th)
entire Cork to
London, double
weight (1oz), two 1d
penny red adhesives
tied by Cork circular
duplex (CORK SE 10
64) London arrival
CDS on reverse (SE
12 64). Penny red
stamps now has letters
in all four corners.

1866 (December 8th)
entire from Cork to
London with 1d red
adhesive tied with
small circular duplex
cancel and circular
"156" obliterator.
Penny red stamp now
has letters in all four
corners.



1864
(September 16th)
cover sent within
Cork with
insufficient
address, Reverse
has list of postmen
who handled cover
in an attempt to
deliver.





1866 (November 5th) entire Cork to France, with orange 4d adhesive tied by Cork 156 duplex. This was the correct rate (set April 1860). Reverse has blue London CDS (**NO 6**), Paris CDS (7 Nov), and Bordeaux CDS (8 Nov).



1652 (July 21st) cover from Cork to Pietra, Italy., with lilac 6d adhesive tied by Cork duplex cancel. Tariff reduced to 6d on 1st January 1865. Cover face has red LONDON CDS (**JY 22, 65**). Letter face has red **PD** (paid to destination).

5.1 Adhesive Stamp Period
1850 to UPU

1862 Queenstown to Amsterdam

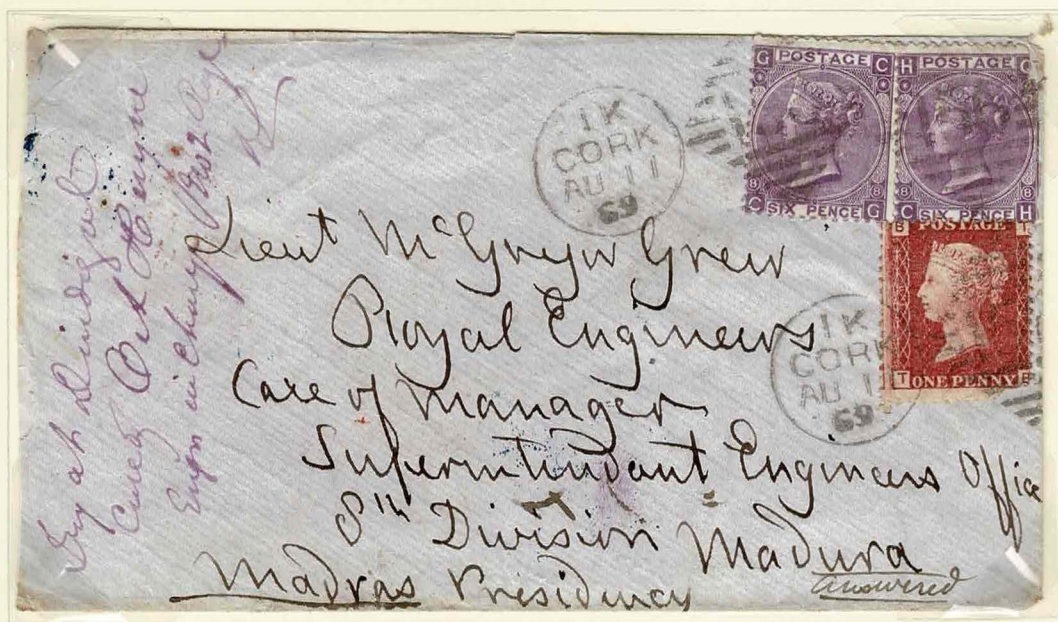
1869 Cork to India

1872 Cork to Lancaster



Left: 1862 (October 8th) wrapper Queenstown to Amsterdam, franked with a single 1d penny red, tied with the Queenstown 157 duplex cancel. Correct rate for cover is 1/- (½oz rate via France set in 1858), so there is a deficiency of 11d, which resulted in a requirement to pay 1/10 (double the deficiency), as per the manuscript fee due.

Right: 1869 (August 11th) cover from Cork to Madras, India franked with 1/1 in adhesives, tied with three Cork 156 duplex cancels. A new contract for a weekly service was signed by P&O on 19 November 1867 and it came into effect in February 1868. The rate was increased from 10d in February 1868 to 1/1, to offset the costs of this weekly service. Cover sent via Marseilles, one of seven routes used by P&O.

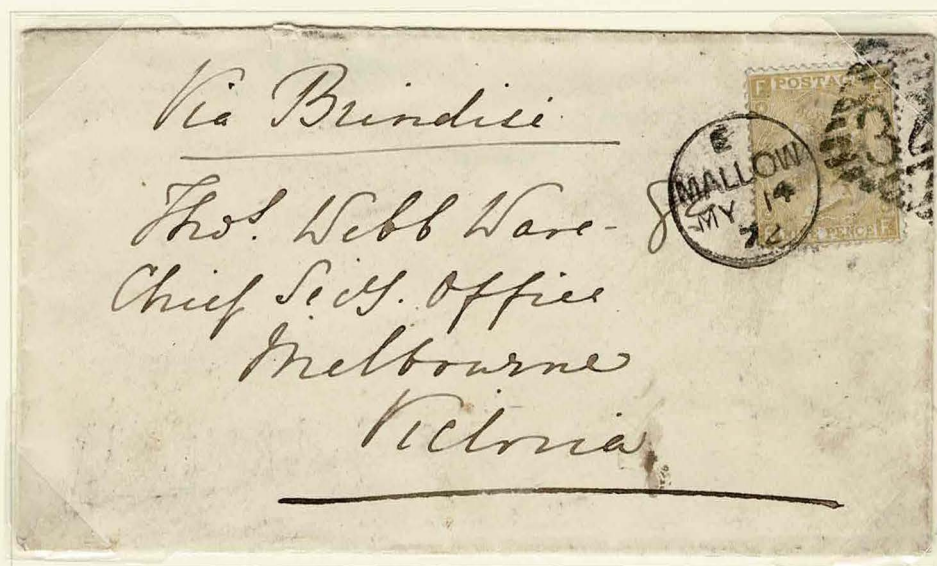


Left 1872 (July 29th) Cork to Lancaster, large circular date stamp (22mm diameter) on postal stationery post card.

5.1 Adhesive Stamp Period
1850 to UPU

1872 Bandon to New Zealand
1872 Mallow to Australia
1874 Cork to Neath

1872 (May 28th) cover
 Bandon to New
 Zealand, franked with
 lilac 6d adhesive.
 Carried by H&K packet
 via Solon & Suez, at
 rate set on 26th
 September 1866.
 Dunedin transit CDS on
 reverse (JU 29 1878).



1872 (May 14th) cover from
 Mallow to Victoria, Australia.
 Adhesive 9d pays correct rate
 issued on 16 Dec 1870, with
 cover endorsed "via Brindisi".
 Mail via Brindisi and Alex
 travelled on P&O packet.

1874 (November 21st) Cork
 to Neath, small circular
 date stamp (18mm).

Early usage of halfpenny
 wrapper at Cork.



5.1 Adhesive Stamp Period
1850 to UPU

1873 Cork to Bordeaux
1875 Queenstown to Norway



1873 (October 25th) cover Cork to Bordeaux, franked with a strip of three 1d penny reds, tied with three strokes of the Cork 156 duplex cancel. The rate from UK to France reduced to 3d in January 1874 (a fine of 3d per increment applied for any unpaid or underpaid letters). Cover has red PD (paid to destination) marking and CDS ANGL./AMP CALAIS 27 OCT 73.

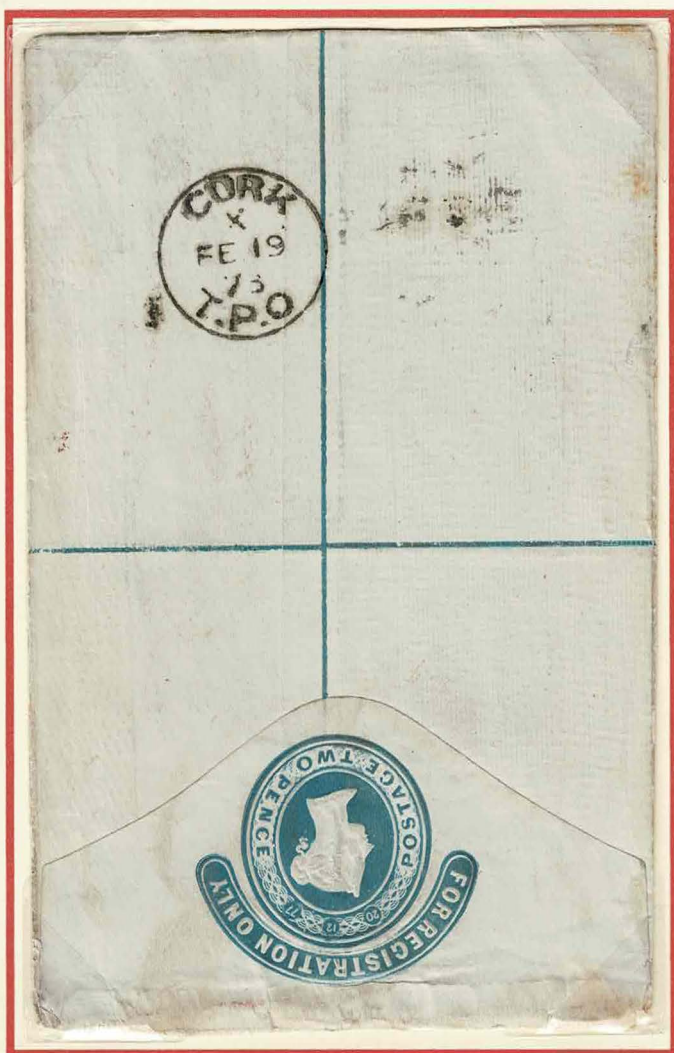


1875 (June 7th) cover from Queenstown to Norway, franked with 2d and 3d adhesives, tied with two strokes of the Queenstown 157 duplex cancel. UK mail to Norway was routed via Denmark and there was a steady decrease in rates from 1869. The rate of 5d was set on 1st January 1873, of which 2½d was retained by Denmark (hence the red 2½d hand stamp on face).

5.1 Adhesive Stamp Period
1850 to UPU

Cork/Dublin
Travelling Post Office

1878 London to Cork
1879 Australia to Cork

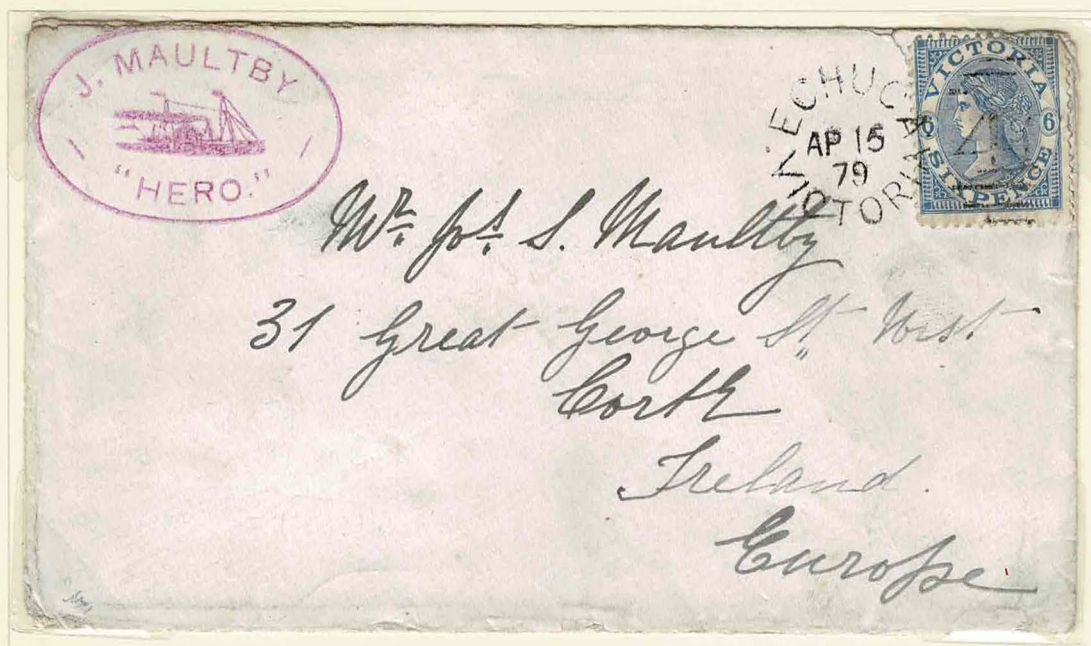
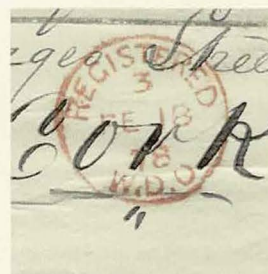


The port of embarkation for mail sent by the Cunard packets bound for Halifax and Boston, was changed from Liverpool to Queenstown in November 1859. The London mail travelled by train to Holyhead, packet to Kingston (Dublin) and by rail to Cork and Queenstown. This gave a saving of 24 hours in delivery times.

The first travelling post Office (TPO) as introduced in Ireland on the Cork Dublin route on 1st January 1855, where mail was sorted on route to destination.

Right: 1878 (February 19th) London to Cork registered letter using the new 2d embossed enveloped introduced two weeks previous to sending. Franked with 1d penny red with red REGISTERED dated stamp (FE 18 78) on cover face.

Early registered cover
 and scarce TPO stamp.



1879 (April 15th) cover Victoria, Australia to Cork, franked with blue 6d Victoria adhesive, tied by Echuca 4 duplex. The rate of 6d was set in January 1877 for mail routed via Melbourne and Southampton. Mail then routed via Dublin and by rail to Cork. Cover has Melbourne CDS (AP 16) and Cork TPO (JU 9) on reverse. Face has violet oval cachet "J. MAULTBY/HERO, a paddle steamer built in Echuca in 1874.

5.1 Adhesive Stamp Period

1850 to UPU

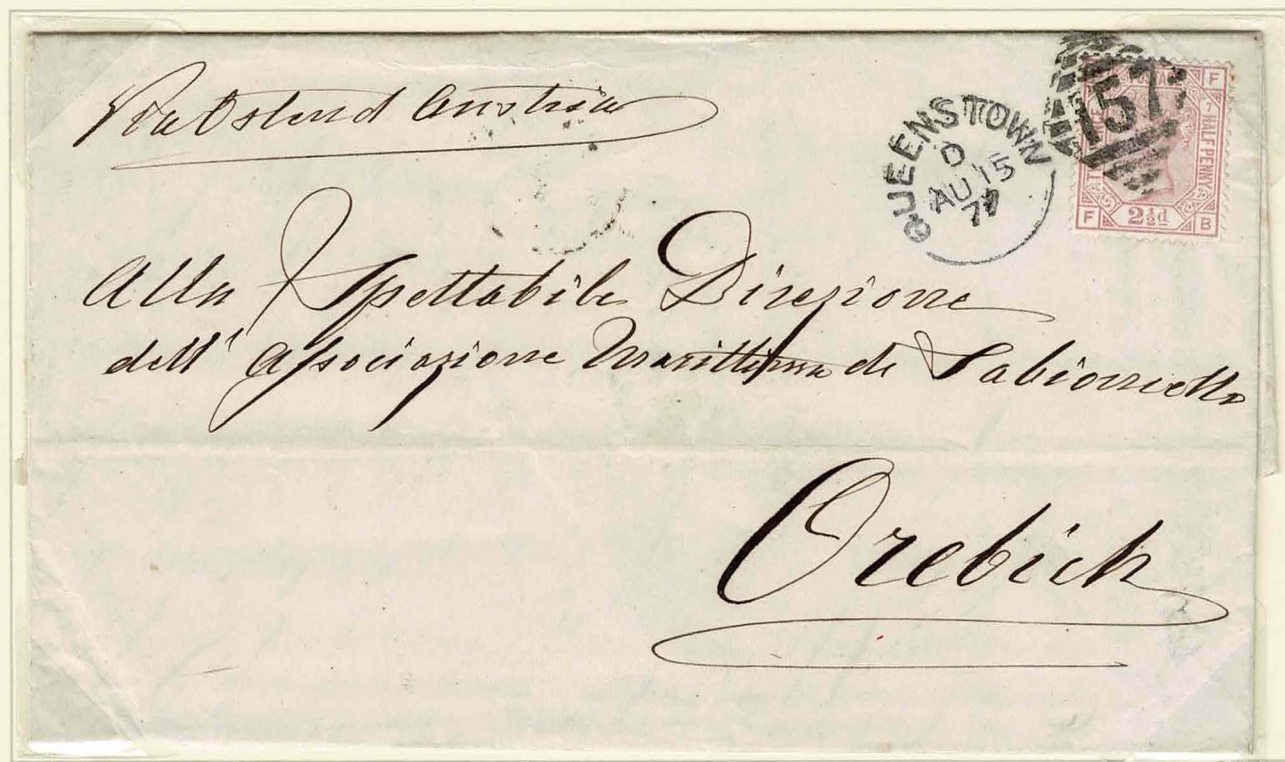
UPU

1874 Cork to Prussia
1877 Queenstown to Croatia

The 1878 Congress of Paris changed the name of the GPU to Universal Postage Union (UPU) and invited a number of other countries to become members. The most important output of this congress was to fix postage rates based on the French gold franc; 25 centimes for letters (less than ½oz), 10 centimes for postcards and 5 centimes for printed matter of 2oz/50g. The United Kingdom equivalent was 2½d for letters, 1d for postcards and ½d for printed matter.



1874 (June 9th) cover from Cork to Prussia, franked with a strip of three 1d penny reds, tied with two strokes of the Cork 156 duplex cancel. The rate to Prussia was reduced from 9d to 3d on 1st January 1870, when it was incorporated into the UK rate for all German States.



1877 (August 154th) entire Queenstown to Orebich (now Croatia), franked with red 2½d, tied by Queenstown 157 duplex. Arrival CDS on reverse **OBEBICH 24 8 77**.

Letter printed on headed paper of P.S. Minich, ship agent for Ottoman Vice Consulate at Queenstown

5.1 Adhesive Stamp Period

1850 to UPU

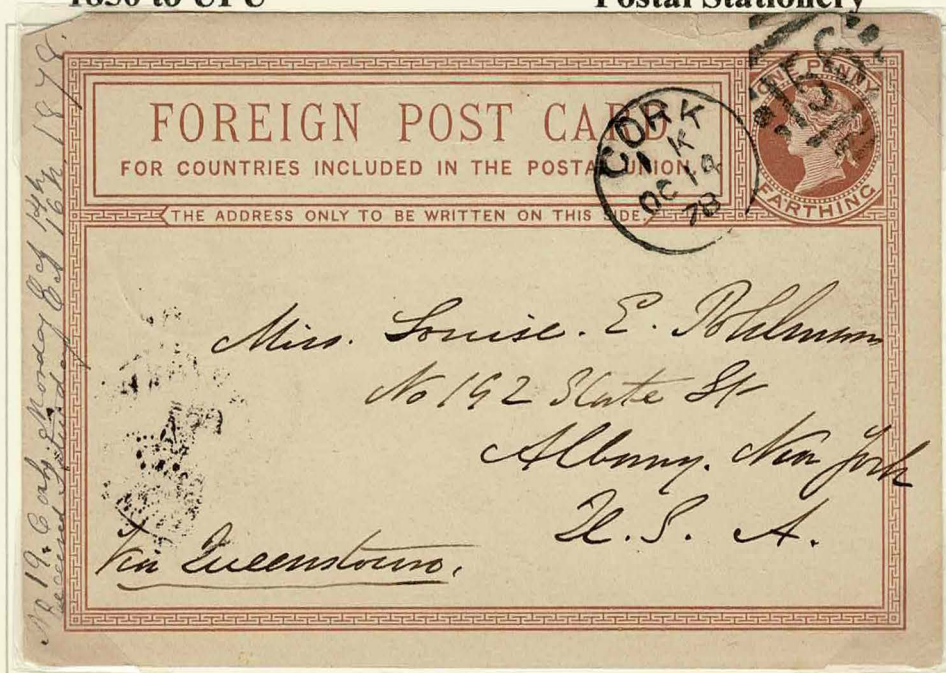
UPU

Postal Stationery

1778 Cork to Albany

1900 Cork to Algeria

1900 Cork to India

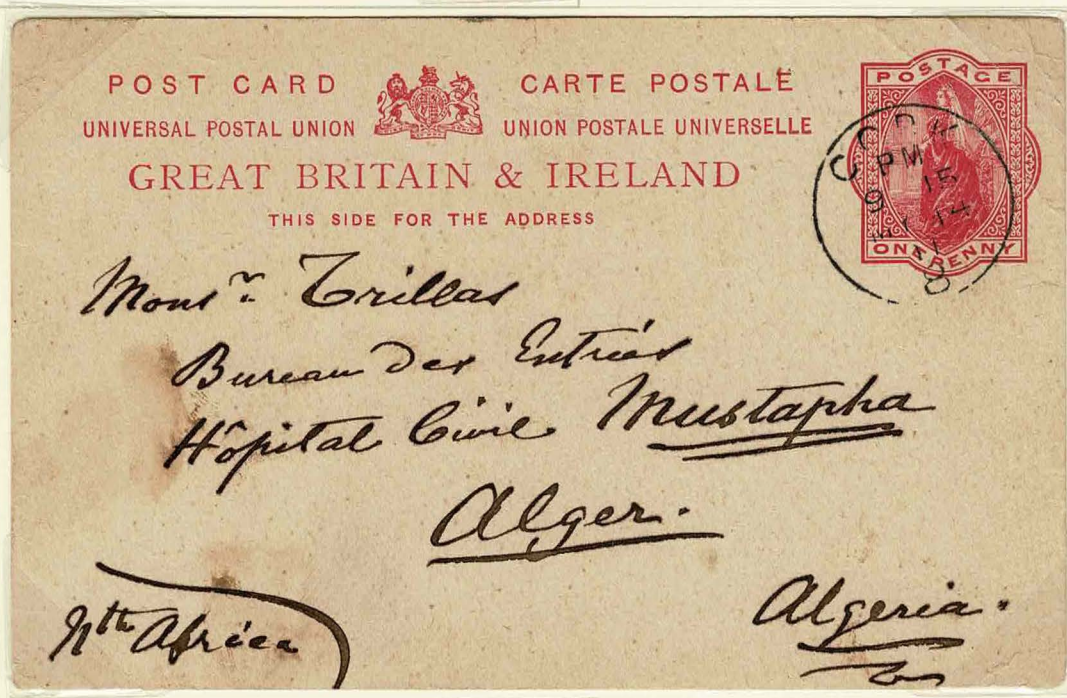


1878 (October 14th) Foreign 1¼d postcard, Cork to Albany, New York, cancelled with Cork 156 duplex.

Card produced to meet tariff for postcards sent beyond the UK.

1900 (May 14th)

Foreign 1¼d postcard, Cork to Algeria, cancelled with Cork skeleton CDS (MY 14 00), Foreign card with universal penny rate, issued November 1899.



1900 (March 16th) 1d lettercard from Cork to India, uprated with 1½d to meet UPU rate. Adhesives tied by circular skeleton date stamp (MAR 16 00).



1885 (May 27th) mourning cover Midleton, Co Cork, to Melbourne, franked with 6d adhesive, tied by MIDDLETON 326 duplex. Rate was 6d for Southampton to Melbourne route as Australia was not yet part of UPU. The British colonies of Australasia only became members of UPU on 1st October 1891 (due mainly to the higher cost of ocean transport from remote regions).

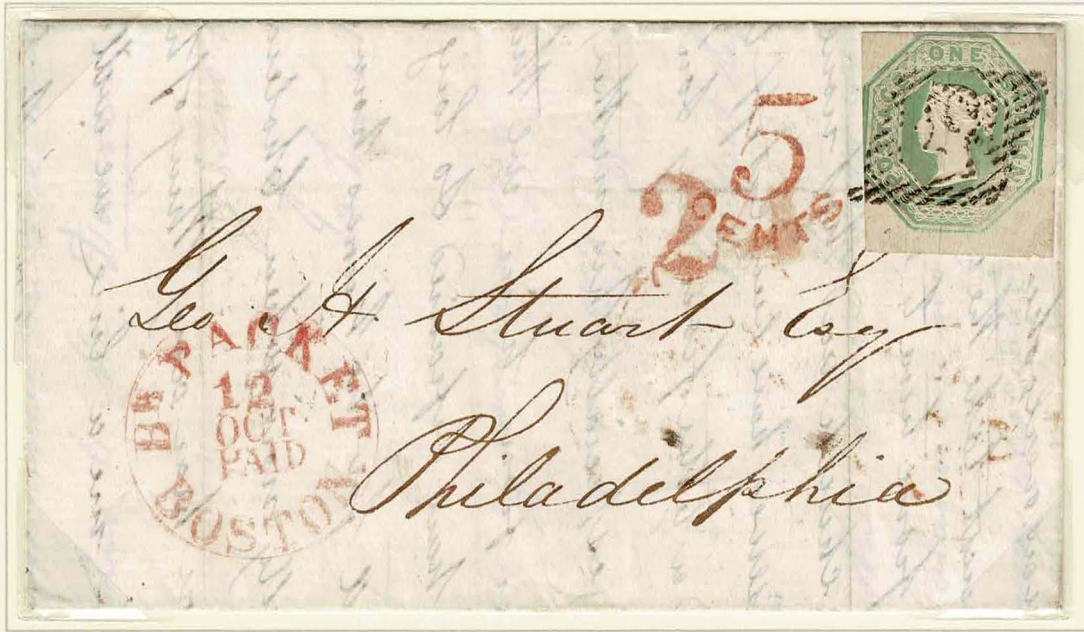
1897 (July 10th) cover from Midleton to Cape Colony, South Africa, franked with 2½d adhesive, tied by MIDDLETON double circle handstamp. Reverse has BALLINCURRA (Midleton) CDS (JY 10 97).

Cape Colony became a UPU country on 1st October 1891, when the rate from UK reduced from 6d to 2½d.



5.2 Transatlantic Mail Uniform One Shilling Rate 1850 Bantry to Philadelphia
Reform Post Period 1850 to UPU 1867 Cork to Providence

The transatlantic rate for all mail from the United Kingdom to The United States of America was set at 1/- per ½oz, on 4th January 1839, this rate extended to Canada in January 1840. This rate included the inland postage.



1850 (September 30th) entire Bantry to Philadelphia with 1/- green embossed cut out, tied with 61 barred diamond obliterator. Letter face has **BR PACKET/BOSTON** date stamp (**12 OCT/PAID**) and US accountancy marks set by the 1847 convention. Letter makes interesting reference to Missionary Association and Cholera. Correctly franked for anywhere in the United Kingdom to the US.



1867 (July 19th) cover Cork to Providence, US, with green 1/- adhesive tied by Cork 156 duplex cancel. Cover face is endorsed "via Queenstown" and has red New York transit CDS **NEW YORK M.PKT/JU**. Cover face also has a red **21 CENTS** accountancy mark due to the US.

5.2 Transatlantic Mail

Uniform One Shilling Rate

1860 Liverpool to New York

Reform Post Period 1850 to UPU

1864 Liverpool to Montreal

The port of embarkation for mail sent by the Cunard packets bound for Halifax and Boston, was changed from Liverpool to Queenstown in November 1859. The London mail travelled by train to Holyhead, packet to Kingston (Dublin) and by rail to Cork and Queenstown. This gave a saving of 24 hours in delivery times.

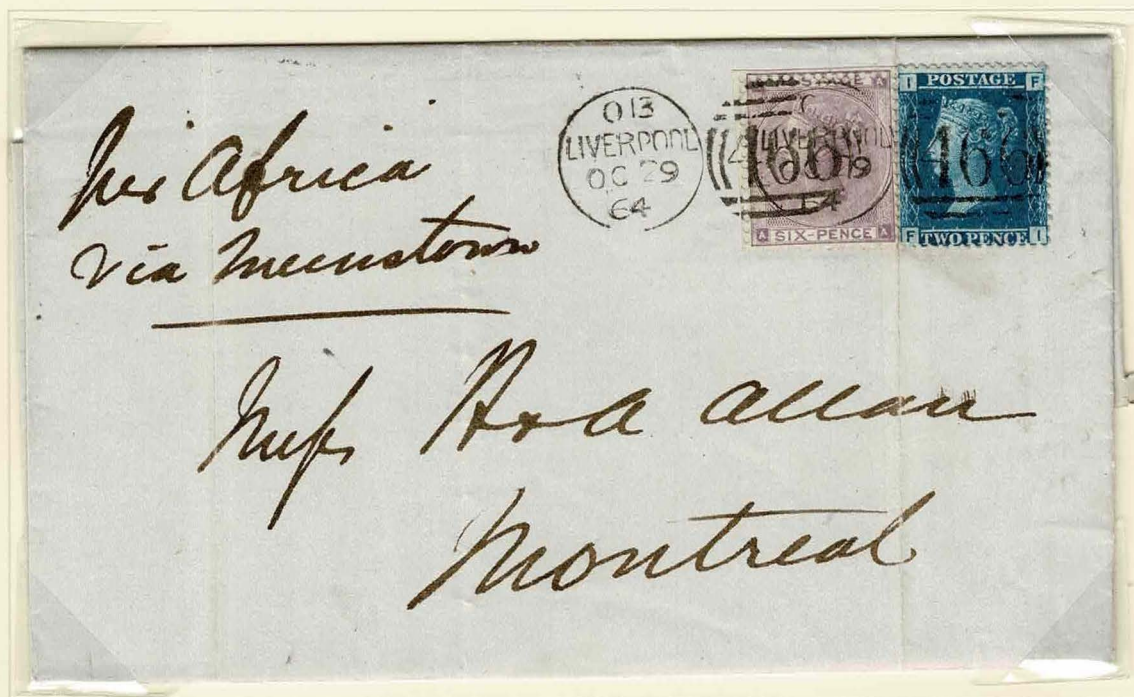
Arrangements were made for all British Packets to call at Queenstown for the purpose of embarking and landing mails to and from North America.

This cemented the critical location and importance of Cork in transatlantic mails.



1860 (October 6th) entire from Liverpool to New York, with manuscript "via Queenstown", to be carried by the "Arabia" ship. The US introduced an inland rate of 5 cents, as above, for all US States.

1864 (October 29th) entire from Liverpool to Montreal, carried per Cunard ship *Africa* and endorsed via Queenstown. Ship sailed from Liverpool on 29 October and arrived in Boston on 11 November 1864 (CDS on reverse). Letter is on Montreal Ocean Steamship Company stationery. Adhesive stamps pay 8d ship rate but no inland postage required.



5.2 Transatlantic Mail Uniform One Shilling Rate 1865 Cockermouth to New York

Reform Post Period 1850 to UPU 1866 Liverpool to New York



1865 (September 1st) entire from Cockermouth, Cumberland, to New York, with manuscript "*via Queenstown*". Adhesive 1/- stamp tied by Cockermouth 209 duplex. Face also contains the **5 cent** fee, marked PAID, for inland postage to any US State.



1866 (October 1th) entire from Liverpool to New York, carried on the ship “*China*” and endorsed as “*via Queenstown*”. Letter paid a double rate (1 oz) and is tied with the hand stamp of the Packet Letter Office.

5.2 Transatlantic Mail Uniform One Shilling Rate 1867 London to Philadelphia
Reform Post Period 1850 to UPU 1868 Dundee to Andover



1867 (January 26th) cover London to Philadelphia, carried by the “*Clushalasian*” with manuscript “*via Queenstown*”. Adhesive 1/- stamp tied by Cockermouth 209 duplex. Face also contains **the 5 cent** fee, marked PAID, for inland postage to any US State.



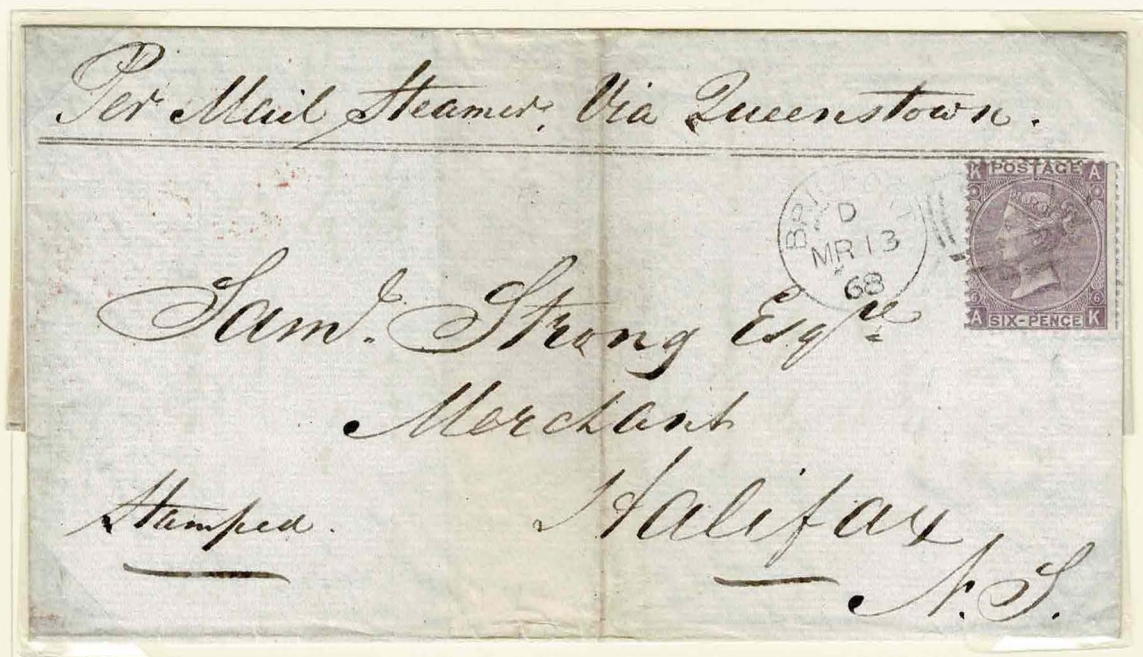
1868 (August 1st) entire from Dundee to Andover, Massachusetts, and endorsed as “*via Cork*”. New York paid handstamp on face. 1/- adhesive stamp tied by the Dundee duplex.

5.2 Transatlantic Mail
Reform Post Period 1850 to UPU

6d Rate

1868 Bridport to Halifax
1869 London to Boston

The transatlantic rate for all mail from the United Kingdom to The United States of America was reduced to 6d per ½oz, January 1868.



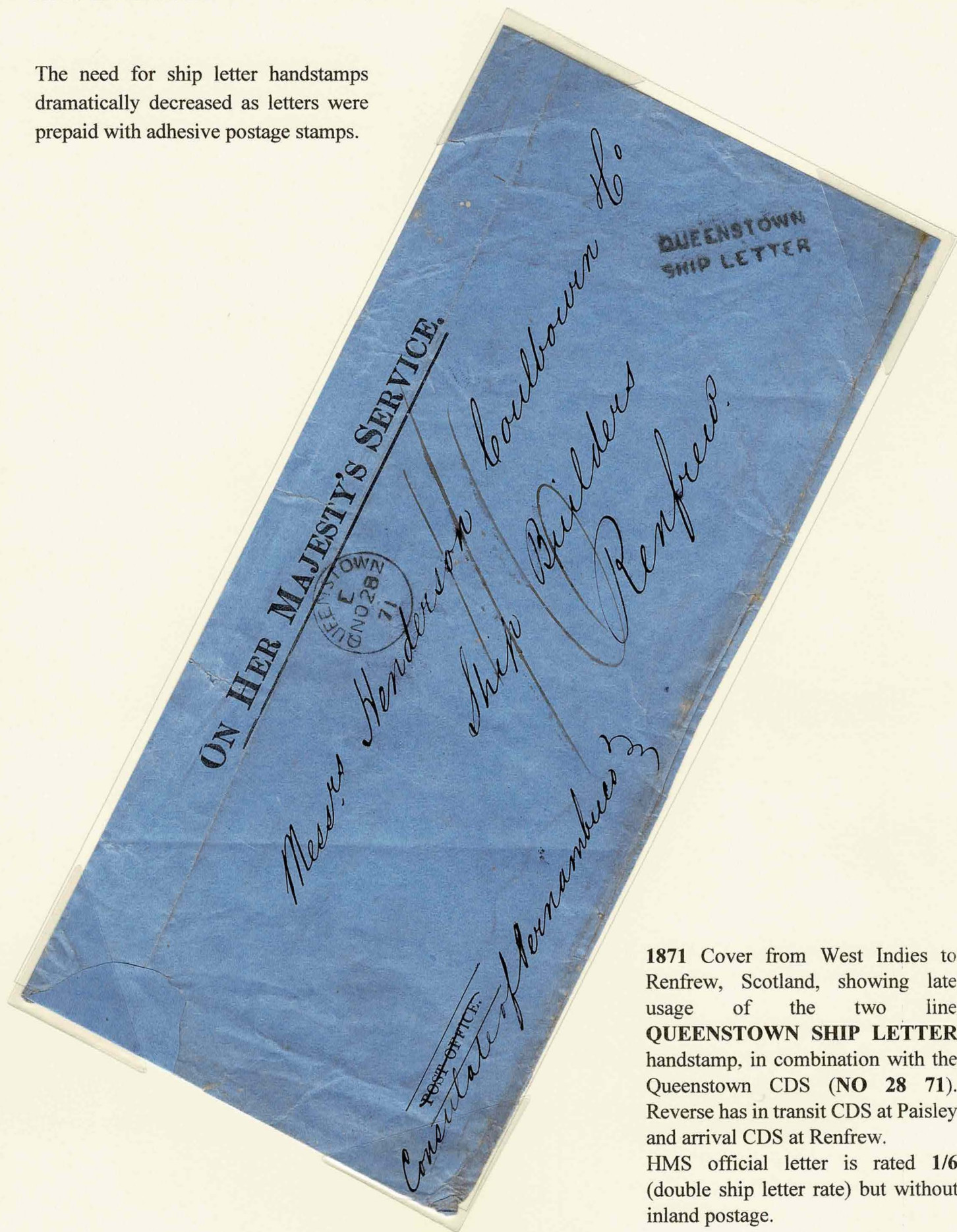
1868 (March 1st) cover from Bridport to New York, with manuscript "via Queenstown", to be carried by the "Mail" ship. New rate paid by 6d lilac adhesive tied by Bridport duplex.



1869 (December 7th) cover from London to Boston, with scarce "via Cork" hand stamp. Cover face had BOSTON PAID DEC 22 and it was carried on the Packet Tripoli 8th December to Boston, arriving 22nd December. New rate paid by 6d lilac adhesive tied by LONDON duplex.

Reform Post Period 1850 to UPU

The need for ship letter handstamps dramatically decreased as letters were prepaid with adhesive postage stamps.



1871 Cover from West Indies to Renfrew, Scotland, showing late usage of the two line **QUEENSTOWN SHIP LETTER** handstamp, in combination with the Queenstown CDS (**NO 28 71**). Reverse has in transit CDS at Paisley and arrival CDS at Renfrew. HMS official letter is rated 1/6 (double ship letter rate) but without inland postage.

The transatlantic rate for all mail from the United Kingdom to The United States of America was reduced to 3d per ½oz, 1st January 1870. The double rate was 6d for 1oz and 9d for 1¼oz.



1870 (June 16th) entire from Liverpool to Charleston, South Carolina, single rate paid by three 1d adhesives, tied by Liverpool 466 duplex. Face has red New York paid handstamp. Cover carried on "City of Paris" via Queenstown.



1872 (July 27th) entire from London to Boston, single rate paid by 3d adhesive, tied by London 96 duplex. Face has red Boston paid handstamp. Cover has manuscript "via Cork".



1873 (July 7th) cover

Queenstown to Maine, US, franked with a strip of three 1d penny reds, tied with two strokes of the Queenstown 157 duplex cancel. Cover also has cachet of Queenstown Shipping Agents John Dawson & Co.

1874 (August 26th) cover from London to Bristol, USA, with 3d adhesive stamp tied with London WC 6 Duplex. Cover endorsed "via Queenstown".



1875 (April 3rd) cover from London to New York, rated 9d for 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ oz (triple rate), tied by London 95 duplex. Cover endorsed "via Queenstown" and carried on the ship "Russia".

5.2 Adhesive Stamp Period
1850 to UPU

GPU 2½ Rate

1875 Cork to California

1875 Queenstown to Rhode Island

The General Postal Union was established by international treaty on 4th June 1875 where the states of Europe, USA and Egypt agreed lower common rates of postage on mail within their jurisdiction. The rates came into effect on 1st July 1875 except for France where the rates did not apply until 1st Jan 1876. The UK released a new rosy mauve 2½d adhesive stamp on 1st July 1875 to pay for the letter rates (less than ½oz) anywhere within the GPU.



1875 (July 10th) cover
Cork to California,
franked with rosy
mauve 2½d adhesive
to pay the new GPU
rate to USA, tied by
Cork 156 duplex.
Cover has red San
Francisco transit CDS
(**JUL 30**).



1875 (July 12th) cover from Queenstown to Providence, Rhode Island franked with rosy mauve 2½d adhesive to pay the new GPU rate to USA, tied by Queenstown 157 duplex. Face has red **BOSTON PAID JUL 23** entry CDS. Letter was carried by Cunard Packet "China" which departed Queenstown on 14th July 1875, landing at Boston on 23rd July.

Reform Post Period 1860 to UPU

1875 Liverpool to New York

1881 Queenstown to New York

1875 (July 15th)
cover London to New
York, single rate paid
by 2½d adhesive, tied
by London 95 duplex
and endorsed "via
Queenstown". Cover
carried on "City of
Richmond" steamer.
This cover was sent
15 days after the new
GPU rate was set.



1875 (October 30th) cover
from Liverpool to New
York, rated 7½d for 1¼oz
(triple rate), tied by
Liverpool 466 duplex.
Cover endorsed "via
Queenstown" and carried
on the ship "Russia".

1881 (January 1st) cover
from Queenstown to New
York, franked with green
½d and two red 1d
adhesives, tied by
Queenstown 157 duplex.
Reverse has New York
arrival CDS and circular
PAID B ALL hand stamp.



The 1878 Congress of Paris changed the name GPU to Universal Postage Union (UPU) and invited a number of other countries to join. The most important output of this congress was to fix postage rates based on the French gold franc; 25 centimes for letters (less than ½oz), 10 centimes for postcards and 5 centimes for printed matter of 2oz/50g. The United Kingdom equivalent was 2½d for letters, 1d for postcards and ½d for printed matter.



1881 (June 11th) entire Cork to Pennsylvania, franked with a strip of five ½d definitive stamps, tied with four strikes of Cork 156 duplex. Reverse has arrival CDS at **WILKES BARRA JUN 2**. Face also has small New York duplex **DUE 10 Cents/NEW YORK JU 23**. Cover also 25T indication that letter is a double weight and 25 cent is owed.



1888 (July 26th) cover from Cork to New York, franked with blue 2½d in adhesive stamps, tied by the Cork 156 duplex. Reverse has New York arrival CDS (AUG 5) and circular **PAID FOR ALL** hand stamp.

5.2 Adhesive Stamp Period
1850 to UPU

2½d UPU Rate
Paquebot

1894 Queenstown to Massachusetts
1897 Dublin to Baltimore, US

The UPU decreed in 1891 that all mail posted at sea should be prepaid by "*means of postage stamps and according to the tariff of the country to which the vessel belongs or by which it is maintained*". This decision was implemented by the British P.O. on June 8th 1892. The UPU followed this decision with a supplementary regulation that all such letters would also be endorsed with the word "**Paquebot**" in addition to the town name. This was implemented on January 17th 1894 in Great Britain and Ireland.



1894 (May 22nd) cover to USA, franked at new UPU rate of 2½d and cancelled at Queenstown with Paquebot handstamp, early use of this handstamp at Queenstown.

1897 (February 5th) Cover correctly franked with 2½d adhesive and carried from Dublin, sorted on the Dublin to Cork train and stamped with a clear Dublin & Queenstown TPO CDS. The cover also has the required **PAGUEBOT** handstamp, introduced after the Universal Postal Union was established. Reverse of cover has Baltimore CDS **BALTIMORE FEB 15 97 REC'D.**



6.1 Ship Letters

1d Ship Rate

1711 Philadelphia to Liverpool

Early Post Period 1696 to 1784



First Irish Ship Letter

Irish Ship Letter Rates	
British Act 1711	1d plus inland rates
British Act 1765	1d plus inland rates
Irish Act 1784	1d plus inland rates
Irish Act 1815	Single 6d plus inland rates Double 12d plus inland rates
British Act 1835	8d plus inland rates India Letters 4d plus inland rates
British Uniform Postage Act 1840	8d with no inland rate

The 1819 British Act also established a special 4d rate for India mail which did not apply in Ireland until rates were reconciled in the 1835 Act.

Inland Postage Rates

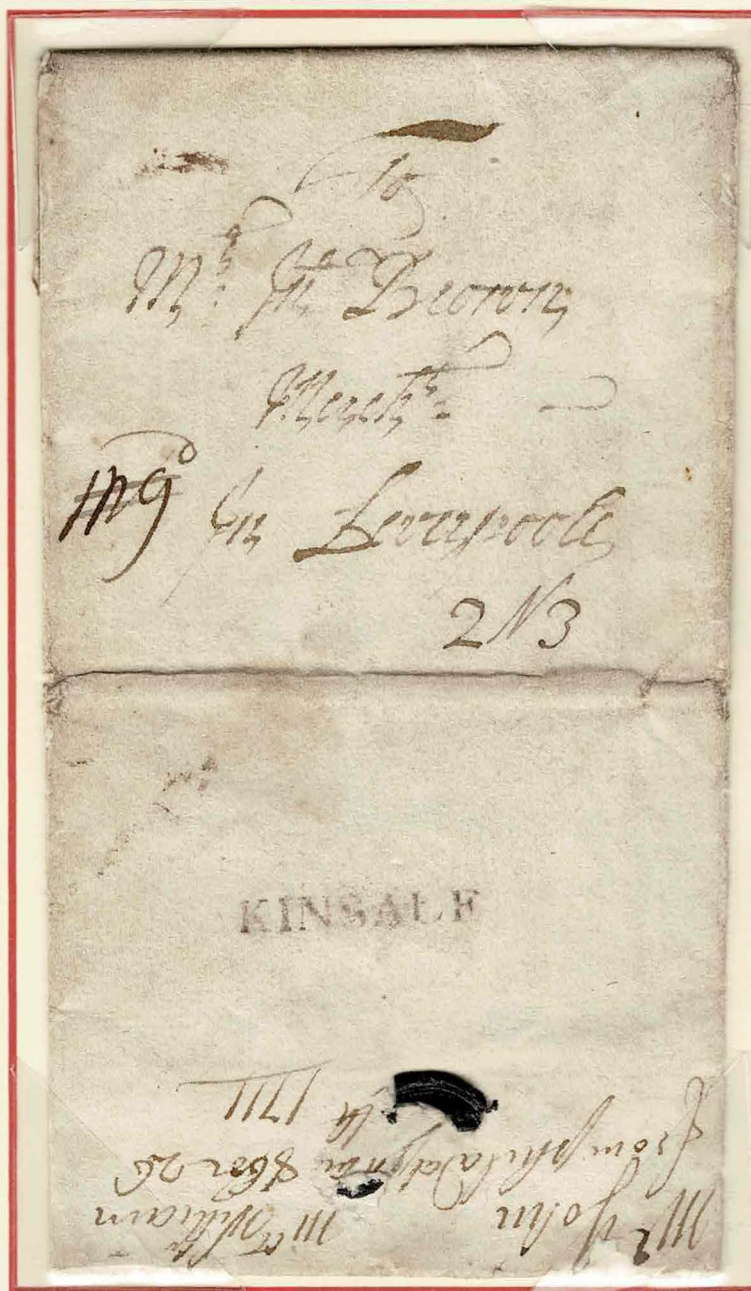
Distance	Single	Double	Over 1 Ounce
Under 40 Miles	2d	4d	8d per ounce
Over 40 Miles	4d	8d	16d per ounce
Dublin to London	6d	1/-	2/-

The Act of June 1st 1711 (9 Anne c10) introduced a 1d ship letter rate for inward letters handed in at a port of arrival. The 1d was recoverable by the person handing in the letter (usually the Ship Master) and the Post Office authorised the adding of the 1d to the inland rate from port to place of delivery.



1711 (Oct. 26th) entire letter from Philadelphia to Liverpool put ashore at Kinsale, with a straight line **KINSALE** handstamp and charged at a double letter probably at Dublin in manuscript *In^{9d}*. This charge was subsequently increased, probably at Chester, to 2N3 (4d Kinsale to Chester, + 6d Dublin to London composite +3d London to Chester = 2/2 + 1d Ship).

This is the earliest usage of the 1d ship rate yet recorded for Ireland.



6.1 Ship Letters

Early Post Period 1696 to 1784

1d Ship Rate



1750 Barbados to Bristol

Cork "SHIPP" Letter

The Act of June 1st 1711 (9 Anne c10) instructed the master of the ship to hand inward letters over at the port of arrival, be paid one penny for each letter, or face a penalty for evasion. During the 18th century the Post Office issued the first Shipp/Ship letter handstamps for postmasters at ports in Ireland, to identify the letter as a ship letter and also to identify the port of entry. This enabled the fee paid to the ship's master and the inland postage from port of entry to place of addressee to be calculated properly.

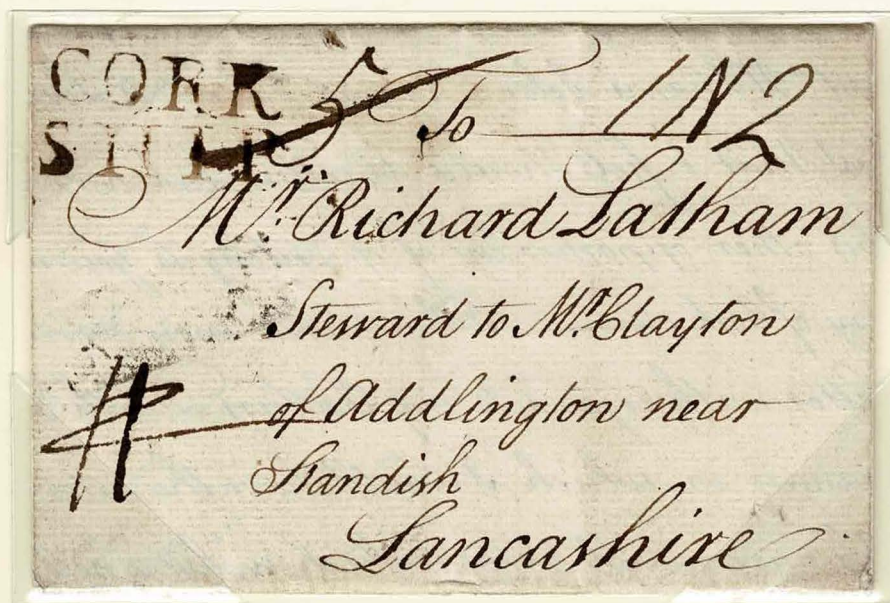


1750 (April 19th) entire letter from Barbados to Bristol *per Capt. Thomson*, landed in Ireland and showing the usage of an Irish **SHIPP** handstamp. The initial charge of 11 included (1d ship rate + 4d inland single + 6d combined rate), rerated to 1N3 (adding 4d London to Bristol, over 80 miles). The reverse of letter has a Bishop Mark 16/IV. The inland rate of 4d would indicate that the handstamp was likely in use at Cork.

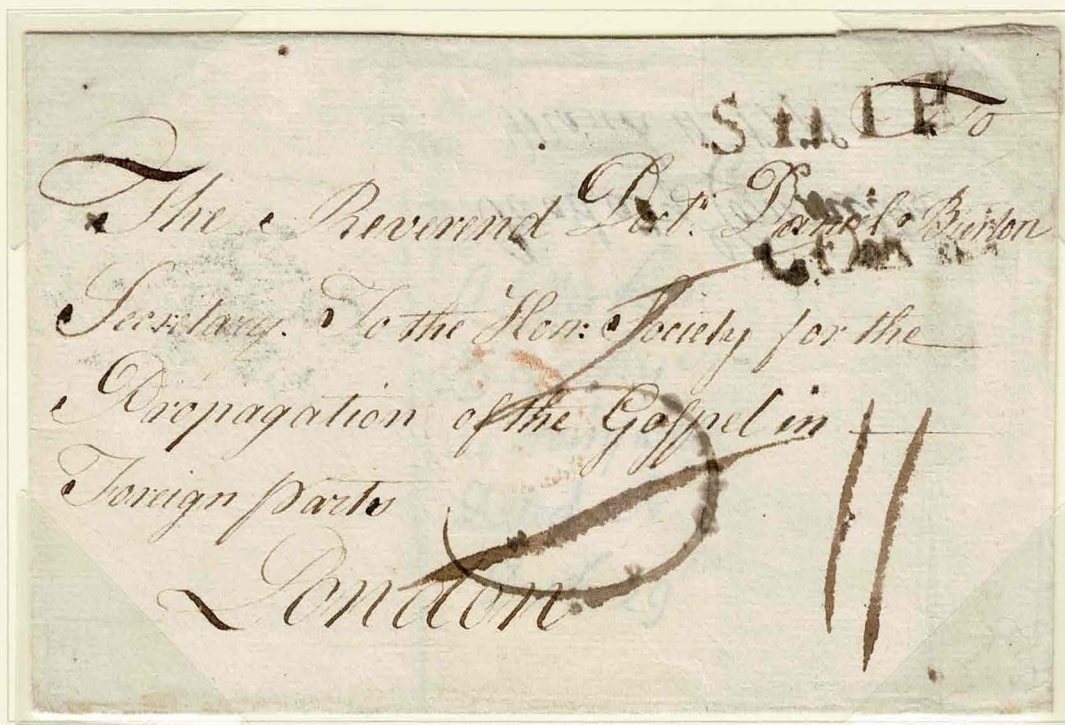
This one of three usages of the SHIPP handstamp yet recorded.



The transatlantic letter below shows the first year of usage of the Cork Ship handstamp (used 1761 to 1776) and the implementation of the 1711 Act of June 1st (9 Anne c10).



1761 (May 31st) letter from Philadelphia to Addlington, Lancashire, showing a **SHIP** (first year of usage) handstamp used in conjunction with a **CORK** town namestamp. The letter is rated 5 (1d ship rate + 4d Cork to Dublin single), rerated 11d (adding 6d Dublin to London composite rate) and further rerated 1N2 (adding 3d London to Addlington).



1770 (December 29th) letter from Homestead, New York to London, and landed at Cork city port. Face has separate **CORK** and **SHIP** hand stamps and was initially rated 5d for fee to Dublin (1d ship rate + 4d to Dublin), then rerated 11d (adding 6d rate from Dublin to London). It was carried by "Betty" (captain Wilkinson) from New York to Cork, arriving on 21st February 1771 and has Dublin transit Bishop Mark on reverse **FE/25** and a second smaller London Bishop Mark on 4/MR on arrival.



1771 (September 17th) letter carried on HMS Carrysfort (Man of War), with both **CORK** and **SHIP** handstamps in large letters (6 and 7 mm respectively). Letter has transit Dublin Bishop Mark on 19th December (**19/DE**). This ship letter hand stamp recorded by Robertson as used between 1761 and 1776.

Letter face has a manuscript 5 (1d ship rate + 4d fee to Dublin). The 5 is scratched out and replaced with 11, which adds the additional 6d fee from Dublin to London.

Letter is from Malcolm Lang to his solicitors in London (Jacksons) giving an account of how to Estate is performing—Cane has burnt down again this year before the arrival of rain.



1776 (January 13th) sent from Bordeaux to Dublin, landing at Kinsale, rated 9 with **KINSALE/SHIP LETTER** hand stamp. Face endorsed as carried by Captain Moses Welah. Letter initially charged 3d (1d ship letter gratuity and 2d for carriage to Cork, where it was rerated as a double weight to Dublin (1d ship plus 8d postage).

Earliest usage yet reported for the KINSALE/ SHIP LETTER handstamp, both Robinson and Tarbeart report the usage period for this hand stamp as 1781 to 1853.



1776 (January 16th) letter from New York to Edinburgh showing a black **SHIP** handstamp (last year of usage) used in conjunction with a smaller type **CORK** town handstamp. The four rate changes were 5 (1d ship rate + 4d to Dublin), 9 (5d + 4d Dublin to Donaghadee) + (2d Packet to Portpatrick) 11 and finally (11 + 4d Portpatrick to Edinburgh, single above 80 miles = 15d or 1N3

6.1 Ship Letters

1d Ship Letter Rate

Independent Post Period 1784 to 1797



1788 Cove to Ayr

1789 Barbados to Greenock

The Independent Irish Post Office was established by an Act of Parliament on 1st August 1784 and remained in place even after the 1801 Act of Union. Miles were set as **Irish miles** (1 Irish mile = 1.27 English miles) and rates were **Irish currency**.

Distance	Single	Double	Treble	Over 1 oz Per ¼ oz
Up to 15 Miles	2d	4d	6d	2d
15-30 Miles	3d	6d	9d	3d
Over 30 Miles	4d	8d	12d	4d



1788 (January 28th) letter from ship approaching Cove, Co. Cork, to Ayr, Scotland with **COVE** and **SHIP** handstamps and Dublin Bishop Mark JA/31. This is the earliest recorded use of this ship letter handstamp in Cove (Separate handstamps for COVE and SHIP). Letter initially rated 5d (Ship letter rate 1d + Cork to Dublin 4d). The letter was then uprated to 9d in Dublin (Dublin to Donaghadee additional 4d). The final rate was 1N2 (Packet 2d + Portpatrick to Ayr 3d, total 14d = 1N2).

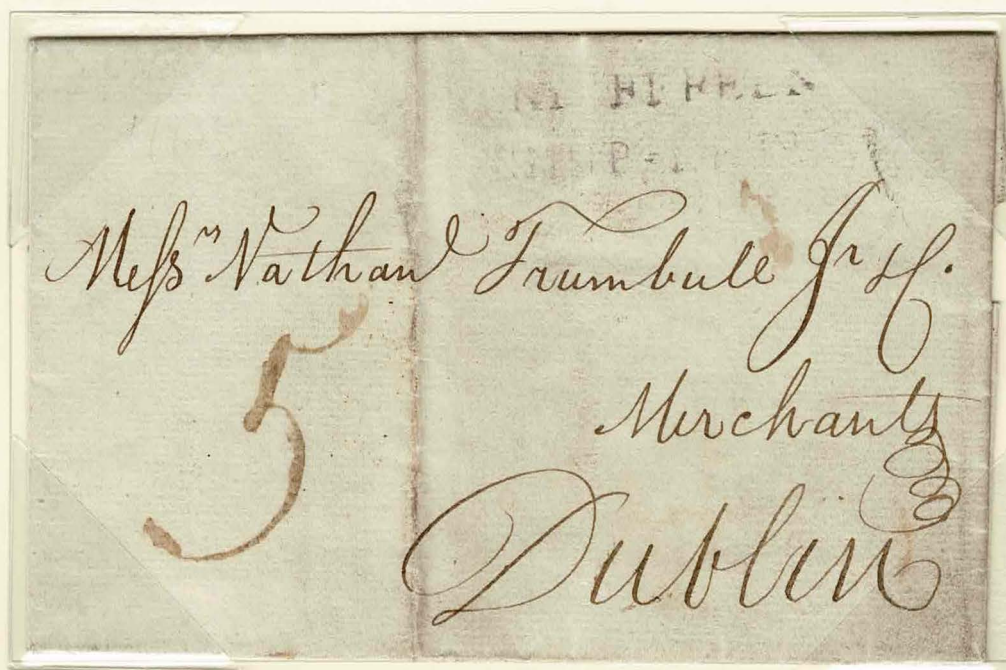
Letter from William Thompson, requesting payment for 100 barrels of herring.



1789 (June 8th) from Barbados to Greenock, by private ship, landed at Cork. Letter has a black unframed **CORK SHIP LETTER** and in manuscript *via Donaghadee*, initially rated 9d double rate (Ship letter rate 1d + Cork to Dublin 4d x 2). The letter was then uprated to 1/5 in Dublin (Dublin to Donaghadee 4d x 2, total 8d + 9d = 1/5). The final rate was 2/7 (Packet 2d x 2 = 4d + Portpatrick to Greenock 5d x 2 = 10d, total 14d + 1/5 = 2/7 double ie 2 shillings and 7 pence).

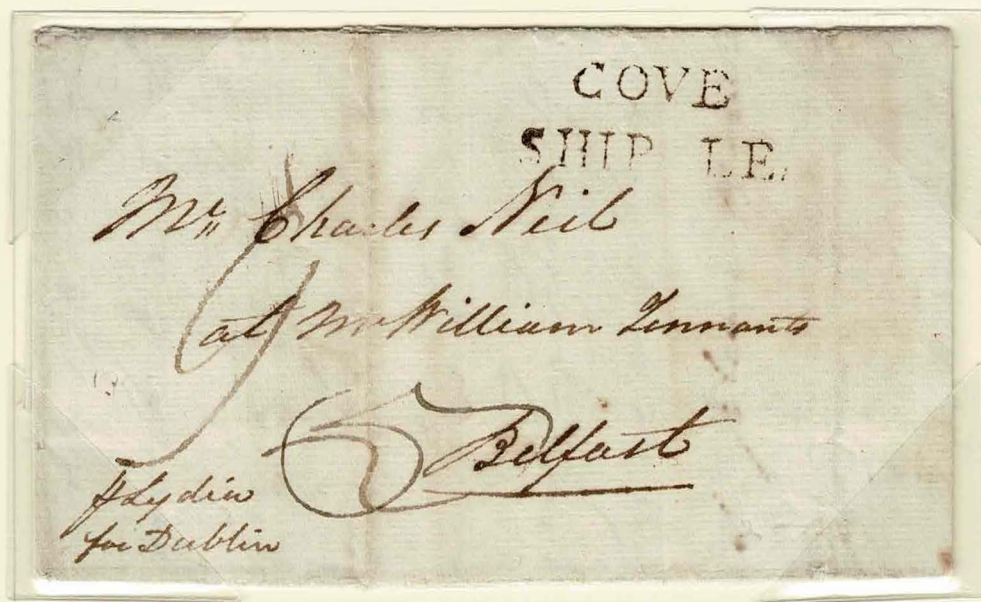
The letter was backstamped with a small **IRELAND**, in black.





1793 (September 8th) letter from Jamaica to Dublin, carried by private ship and landed on Skibbereen coast. Letter face has faint two line **SKIBBEREEN SHIP—LET^r**. Reverse has large Dublin Bishop mark **DE/11** on arrival and letter is rated “5” on face (1d ship letter rate + 4d for over 40 miles).

Letter is from representative of Shaw, Cambell and Kirkpatrick, thanking Nathaniel Thumbull for his recent business deals with the company.



1797 (January 6th) sent from Boston to Belfast via Cove and Dublin, by Thomas Neil and carried per ship *Lydia* for Dublin.. Face has ship letter hand stamp **COVE/ SHIP LE.** (used 1788 to 1812) and is initially rated 5 (1d ship rate and 4d fee to Dublin) and re-rated 9 in Dublin, adding additional 4d fee for carriage to Belfast. Letter details expected travel arrangement of recipient to Boston with expected arrival there in late March or early April.



Distance	Single	Double	Treble	Over 1 oz per ¼ oz
Over 80 Miles	6d	12d	18d	6d

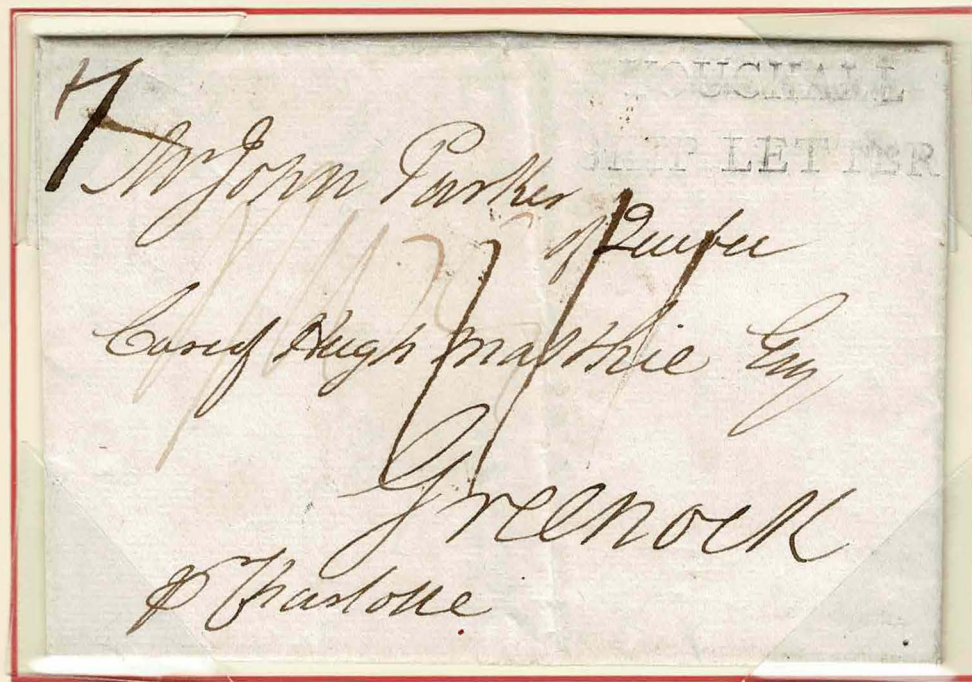


1800 (April 1st) letter from Portsmouth, Virginia to Dublin, landed at Cove. Letter has a circular Dublin arrival date stamp **MY/27/1800** and the double line Ship Letter marking is unframed **COVE/ SHIP LE.** This type of handstamp was used from 1788 to 1812 at Cove. The only other use of this type of ship letter "LE" abbreviation was at Dingle (Co. Kerry).

Letter is rated **7d** (1d ship rate + and 6d Cove to Dublin (greater than 80 miles)).



The Youghal ship letter mark is very rare, used from 1802 to 1834. Robertson describes as rare, primarily due to the reduced traffic at Youghal because of closeness of much deeper harbour at Cork and the large sand bank at Youghal.



1801 (November 10th) letter from Quebec, Canada, to Greenock, Scotland, carried on the ship *Charlotte*. Letter has in transit back stamp at Dublin on 11 Jan. 1802. Letter has a black unframed two line unframed **YOUGHAL SHIP LETTER**. (less than ten know/ recorded).

Final letter is rated 1/10 (1d ship rate + 6d Cork to Dublin + 6d Dublin to Donaghadee (greater than 80 miles) + 2d packet to Portpatrick, + 7d Portpatrick to Greenock (less than 120 miles), total 22d = 1/10 (ie 1 shilling and 10 pence). This was actually a double page letter so correct rate should have been 3/7 (1d ship letter and double each of the increments).

6.1 Ship Letters

1d Ship Letter



1802 Norfolk to London

Independent Post Period 1797 to 1805

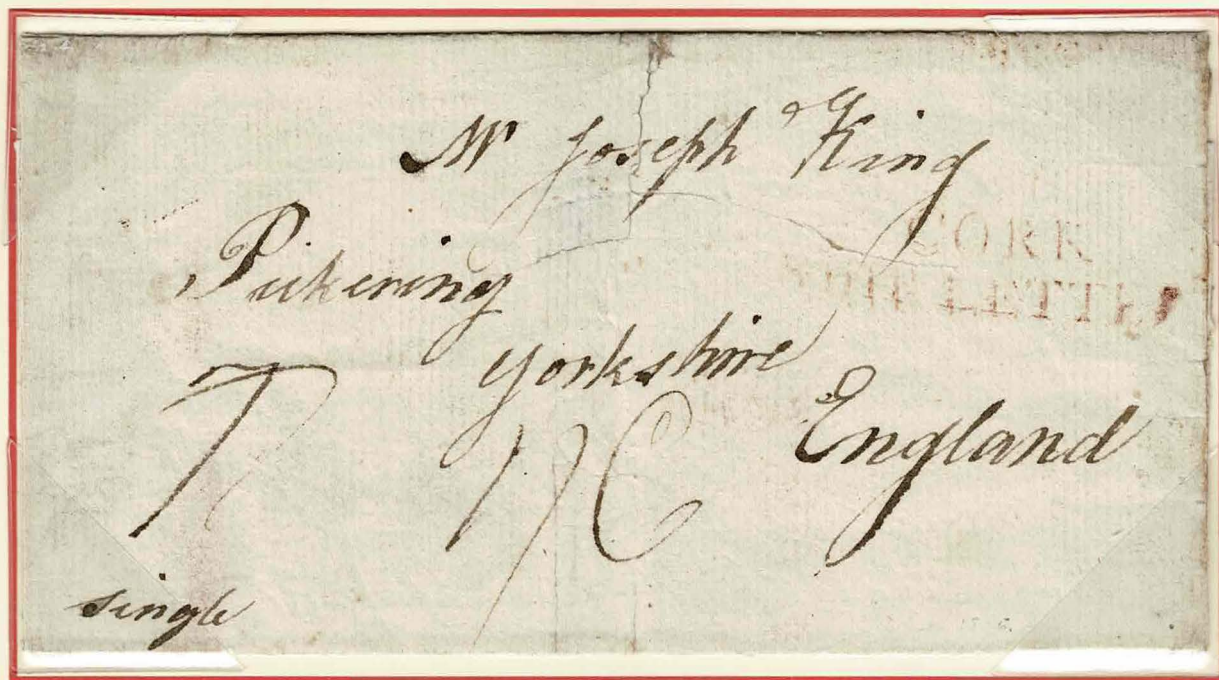
1804 Baltimore to Yorkshire

Distance	Single	Double
Over 80 Miles	6d	12d



1800 (April 19th) letter from Norfolk US, to London, with unframed black CORK SHIP LETTER (used 1779 to 1804). Letter rated 7d to Dublin (1d ship letter + 6d), then **rerated 1/5** in Dublin with composite 10d rate to London. Letter has red Sunday arrival CDS on reverse **S/JUN/13 1802**.

Cover shows a faint claret red unframed two line CORK SHIP LETTER, reported by Robertson as used between 1805 and 1823. This is the earliest as yet recorded use of this handstamp.



1804 (November 10th) letter from Baltimore, US to Pickering, UK with **single** written on lower left of letter face, when in reality it was a double sheet. Postage is rated as per the single sheet, initially 7d (1d ship rate + 6d to Dublin) and rerated 1/6 in Dublin (+ 2d packet Dublin to Holyhead + 9d to Pickering, Yorkshire (9d for 170 to 230 English miles)

Letter is from J. King to his mother and records "Here is a rumour that war has been declared between England and Spain". War had in fact recommenced in 1804 with the Spanish forces allied with Napoleon and the Battle of Trafalgar took place in 1805.



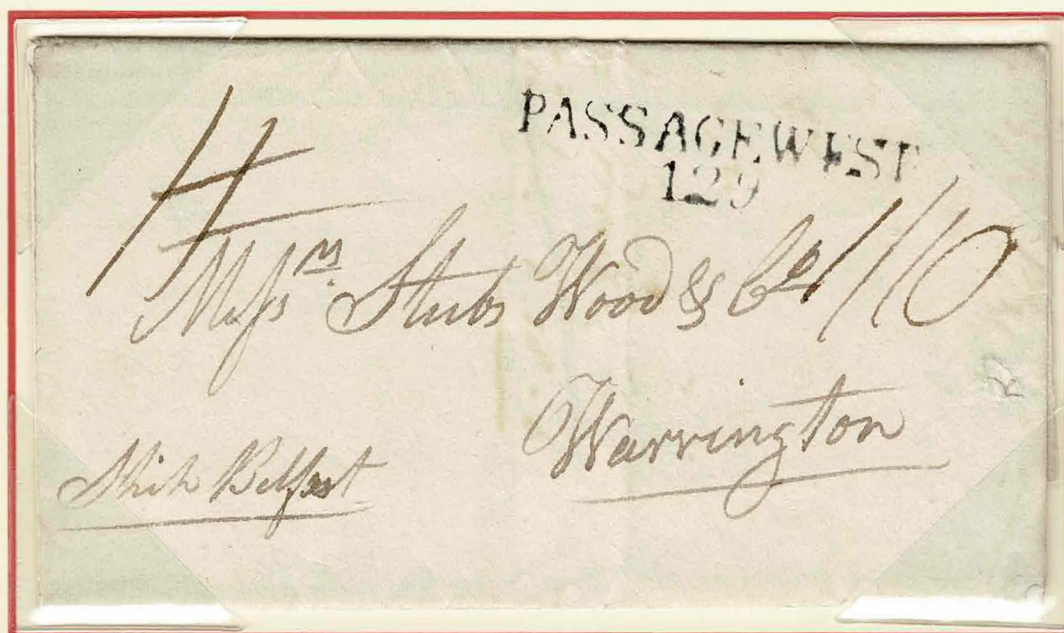
1793 (September 2nd) Jamaica to London, carried by private ship and landed at Kinsale. Letter face has two line **KINSALE SHIP-LETTER**. Reverse has large Dublin Bishop mark **NO/15** on arrival and letter is rated "5" on face (1d ship letter rate + 4d for over 40 miles), replaced by 11 to include 6d to London where it was uprated to a double letter (1d + 8D + 1/- = 1/9). First Irish rate.



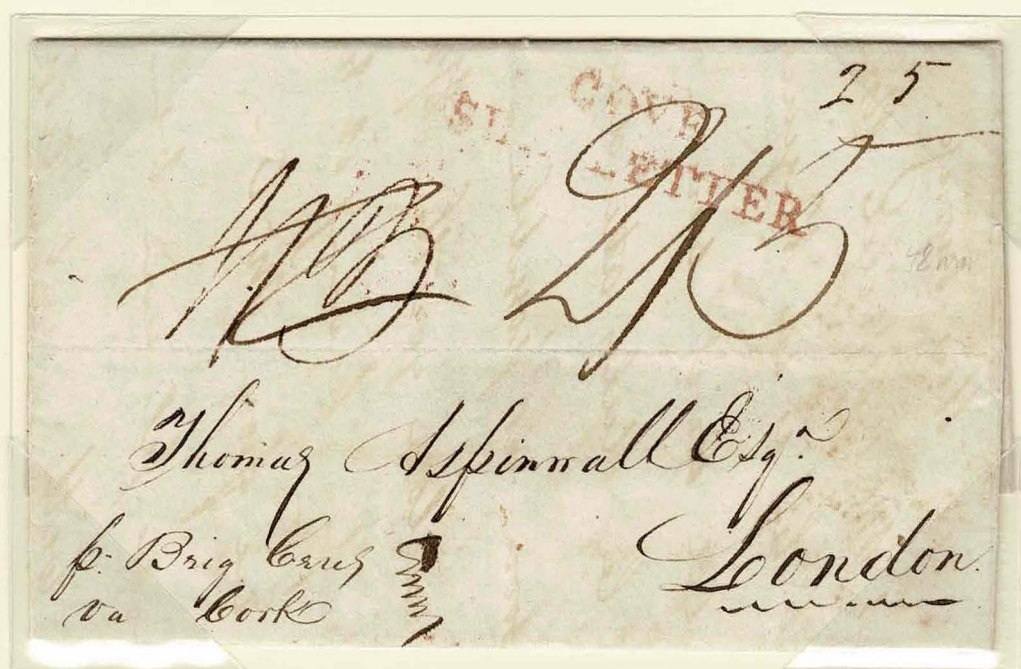
1809 (May 16th) letter from St John's, New Brunswick to Liverpool *per Swift*. Put ashore at Cove, with abbreviated two line **COVE SHIP LE** and endorsed *Ship Letter Office, Cove, Foreign Letter* and signed *J. Berry*. The letter is rated *8d* (Ship Letter 1d + Cove to Dublin 7d) uprated to *1/7* (Holyhead Packet 2d + Holyhead/Chester/Warrington/Liverpool over 120 miles 9d) making a total of 11d+8d= *1/7*. Third Irish rate.



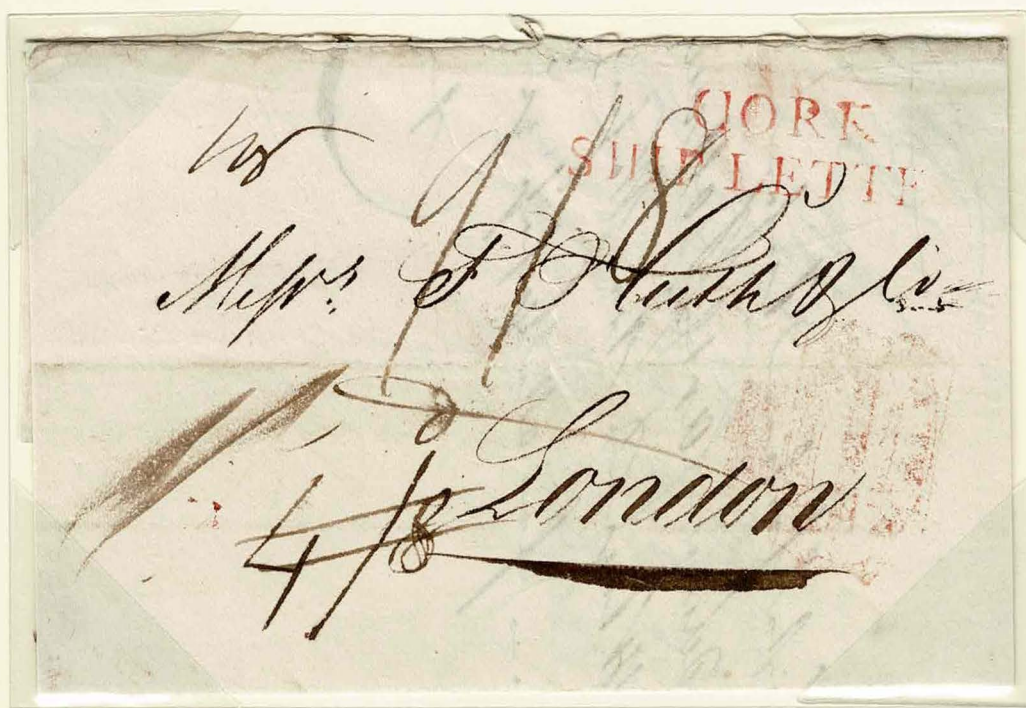
The new ship rate of 6d was introduced in the 1814 Act (6d for a single sheet plus inland postage costs)/. The ship ,master gratuity (for handing over the letters at first port) was 2d at this time.



1817(February 5th) letter from New York to Warrington landed at Passage West, a small port in Cork Harbour en route to Cork city port. This port did not have a ship letter hand stamp as ships did not normally dock here. Letter carried per ship *Belfast* bound for Cork port, **Robertson does not report any ship mail landed at Passage West. Rare landing point.** Letter face has two line mileage marker **PASSAGEWEST 129** and black octagonal date stamp **28 MR 1817** on reverse flap. Letter rated **1/10** (11d single sheet to Dublin, 2d Holyhead Packet and 9d to Warrington (80-120 English miles)). **Absence of Ship Letter hand stamp resulted in no ship letter charge being applied in error.**



1819 (July 9th) letter from Baltimore, US to London, with faint red **COVE SHIP-LETTER**. Letter is endorsed as carried by *P. Brig Cruz via Cork* and has red Dublin in transit CDS **14 AU 1819**. Letter has manuscript rate of $1/3$ (6d ship rate + 9d to Waterford) which is scratched out and replaced with $2/5$ (adding +2d Packet to Milford + 1/- Milford to London). Total = 27d = $2/5$. Letter from R.H.Good to Thomas Spinnall, detailing the *unfortunate embarrassment arriving from behaviour of his brother*.



1821 (July 24th) letter with manuscript 1 oz, a quadruple rate. Face has red two line **CORK/ SHIP LETTER** and a faint **Dublin Ship Letter**. Letter marked initially with **II**, a single rate to Dublin. This was corrected to **4/8**, to include 4 X 11 and 1/- max ship letter rate (unique to Ireland). This was further corrected in Dublin to include a quadruple rate of 1/3 x 4 to London, to give the final rate of **9/8**.

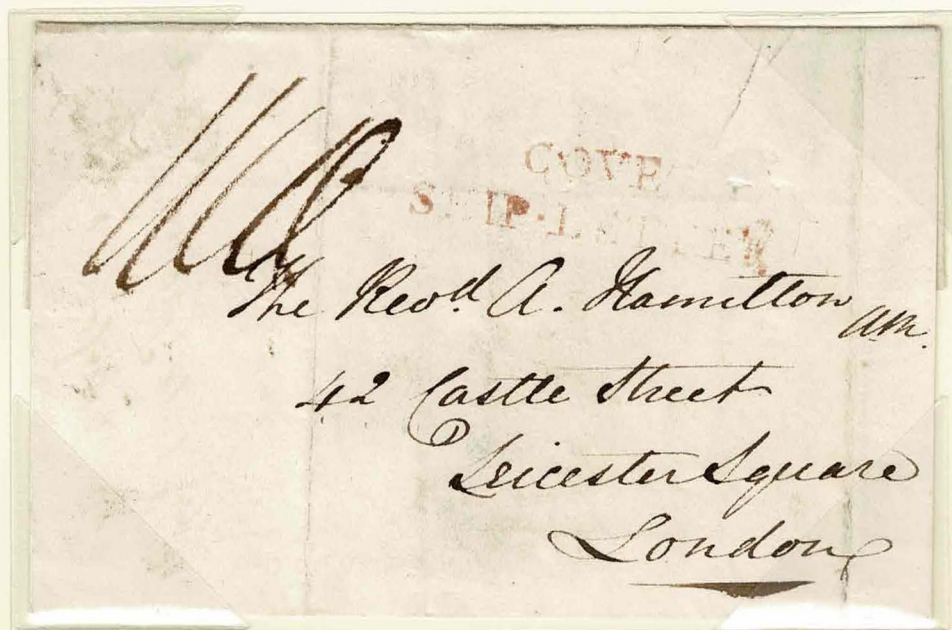


1825 (October 21st) Double sheet with red two line **CORK/ SHIP LETTER**, carried per Brig Ann Morgan to Cork. Letter is back stamped with **Commercial Rooms** (unofficial forwarding agency for letters) and has a Dublin transit stamp **SUNDAY 23 DE 1825**. The letter is rate **5/4** (6d x2 ship rate + 11d X 2 to Dublin + 2dx2 to Holyhead + 13d x 2 to Ashbourne, Derbyshire (300 to 400 miles) (12d+22d+4d+ 26d= 64d = **5/4**). Initial rate of **2/10** to Dublin is scratched out and new rate to Derbyshire applied.

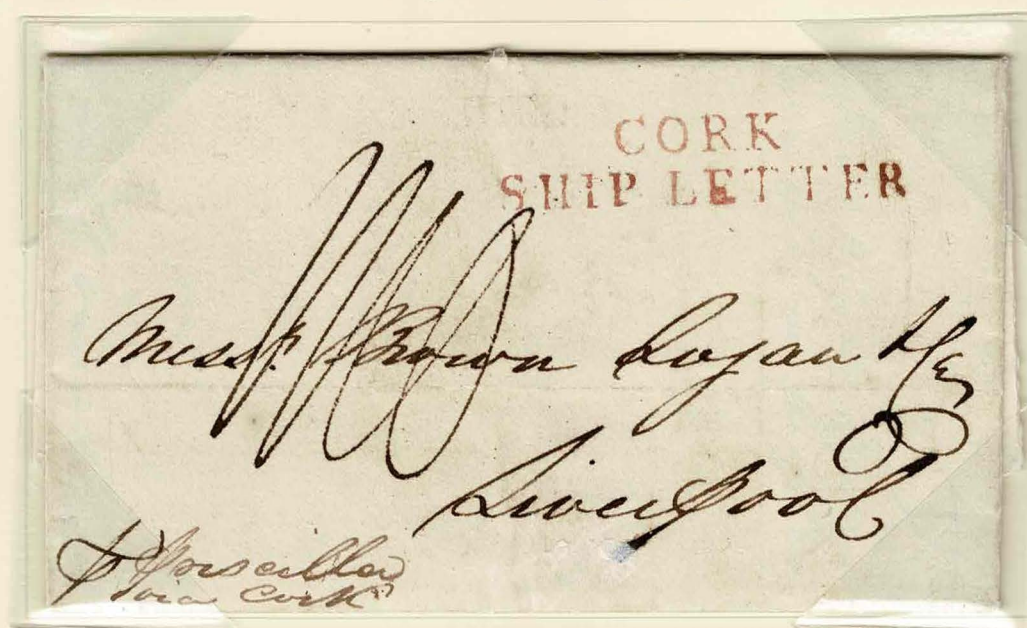


1827 July (7&8 George IV c 21)

The 5th July 1827 Act repealed the requirement to pay separate rates in Ireland and Great Britain and introduced an overall distance from dispatch address to receiving address, **measured in English miles and paid in English money** (the legal currency within the United Kingdom). This was technically the start of the Unified Post Period (unified distance calculation, unified mileage and unified currency). The Act also restored the 1d which the previous rate had removed and so the scale used in 1814 was restored (ie 6th rate restored) **Ship Letter rates remained at 6d for a single sheet, 1/- for a double sheet, with maximum fee set at 1/-.**



1827 (September 12th) West Indies to London, landed at Cove, back stamped with black CDS (C/29OC29/1827). Letter has distinctive Cove ship letter handstamp in red **COVE/ SHIP-LETTER**. This hand stamp was used from 1814 to 1834. Letter is rated 1/10 (6d ship rate +195 miles to Dublin and 289 miles to London, total 484 miles = 1/2 + 2d packet to Holyhead), total 1/10.



1828 (June 10th) letter sent from Quebec, Canada to Liverpool, showing a two line unframed red **CORK SHIP LETTER**, endorsed Priscilla via Cork. Letter is back stamped **MID.DAY.MAIL/3 JY/ 1828** and rated 1/8 (6d ship rate + 180 miles to Dublin and 95 miles to Liverpool = 275 miles = 1/- +2d to Holyhead).



1830 (April 5th) British Honduras to London, carried by the ship *Eliza*, landed at Cove. Face has red two line unboxed **COVE/SHIP LETTER** and reverse has Waterford CDS **9 JY 1830**. The original charge of 1/9 was cancelled with a faint black inspectors crown. Final rate is 3/10 (6d Ship letter + 14d (484 miles) + 2d packet = 1d Menai Bridge toll = 23d x2 as it is a double letter = 46d = 3/10).



1834 (September 26th) letter from J. Whitehouse at Commercial Buildings. From Jamaica to London, landed at Kinsale. Reverse receiving London CDS on **28 NO 1834**. Cover is endorsed as carried by "*Rival for Liverpool on 26 Sept. 1834*" and has very scarce yellow **KINSALE SHIP-LETTER** stamp and manuscript rate of $1/10\frac{1}{2}$ (6d ship letter + 14d Kinsale to London (400-500 miles) + 2d packet to Holyhead + $\frac{1}{2}$ d Welsh road tax per letter). **Less than 10 Kinsale yellow ship letter cancels recorded.**

6.3 Ship Letters 1831 to 1839

4d India Ship Letter

1836 India to Hampshire

1839 Cape of Good Hope to London

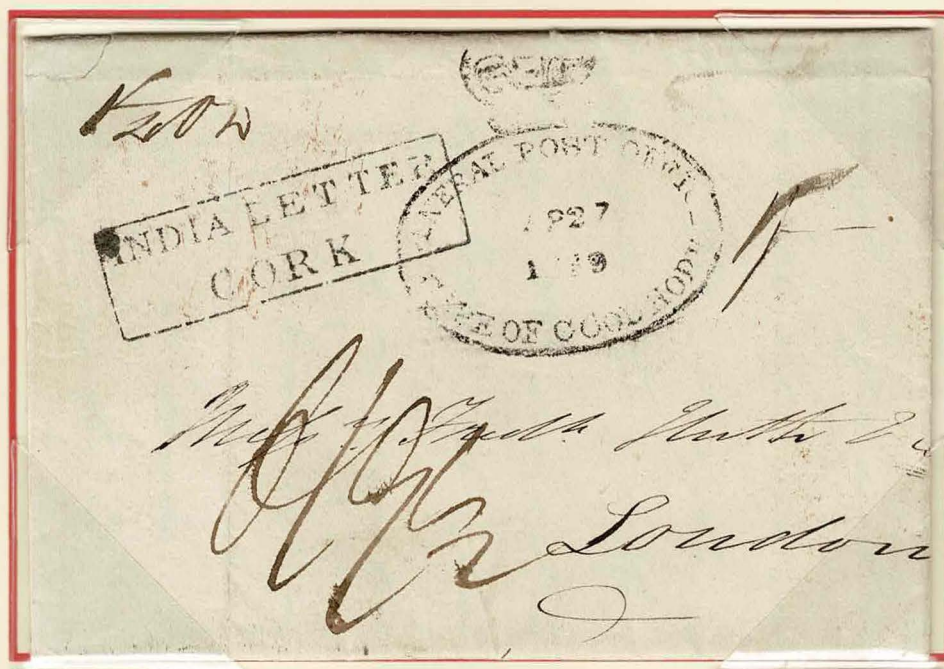
The 1819 British Act established a special rate of 4d for ship letters from India, Mauritius and Cape of Good Hope coming to Great Britain. This rate applied to letters up to 3 oz and was added to the inland postage rate. The rate was not introduced in Ireland until the 1835 British Act., which also created the new 8d ship letter rate.

Less than
10 recorded
usage of the
boxed two
line INDIA
LETTER /
CORK
handstamp.



1936 letter from India to Hampshire, landed at Cork where the 4d special ship letter was applied. Letter rated 1/7 (4d ship letter + 1/1 for distance of 375 miles, +2d Milford Haven Packet) Total 19d = 1/7.. Reverse has double arc date stamps at Cork (28 AP 1836) and Waterford (29 AP 1836). Welsh toll tax was not applied to this letter in error.

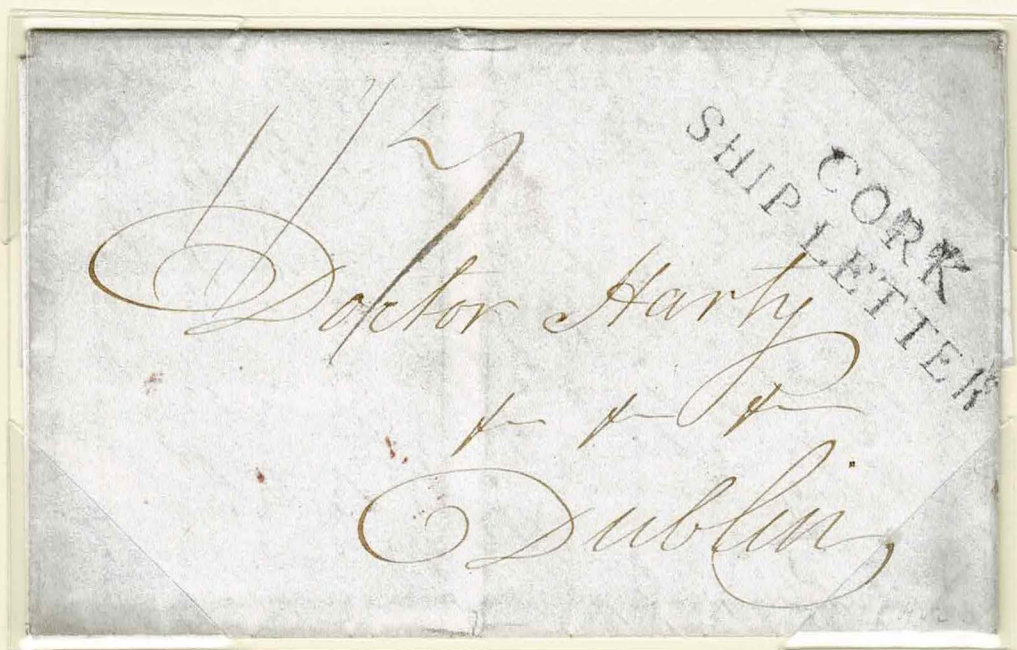
Less than
10 recorded
usage of the
boxed two
line INDIA
LETTER /
CORK
handstamp.



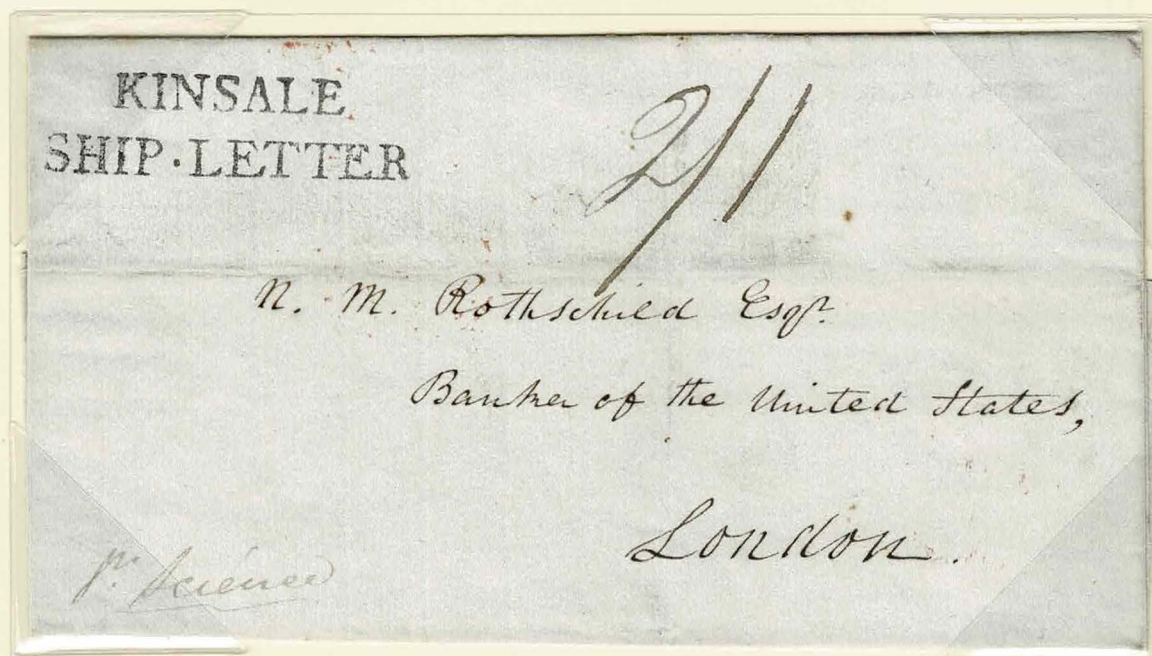
1839 (April 26th) letter from the Cape of Good Hope to London, landed at Cork.. The letter is stamped with a crowned **GENERAL POST OFFICE CAPE HOPE AP 27 1839** via Waterford & Milford route, with a framed **INDIA LETTER CORK**. It was rated 6/9½ at London and acknowledged with a weight notation of 1¼ oz at top left (4d india letter (less than 3 oz) + quintuple 375 miles = 65d + quintuple Milford Haven packet = 10d + quintuple Welsh additional ½d = 2½d) Total 81½ or 6/9½.



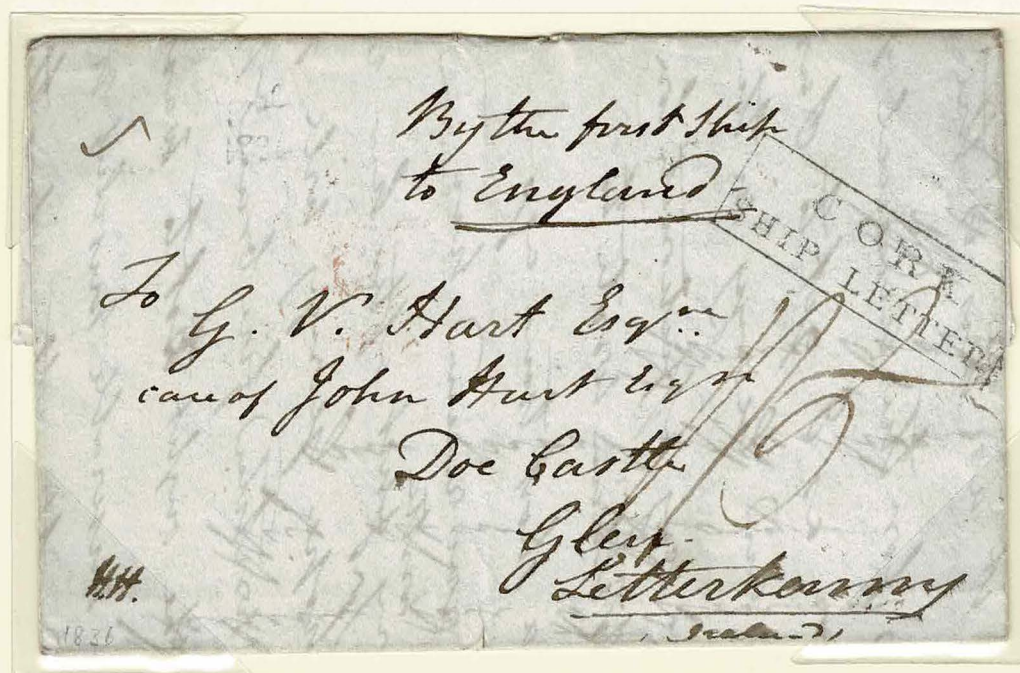
Irish Ship Letter Rates	
British Act 1835	8d plus inland rates India Letters 4d plus inland rates



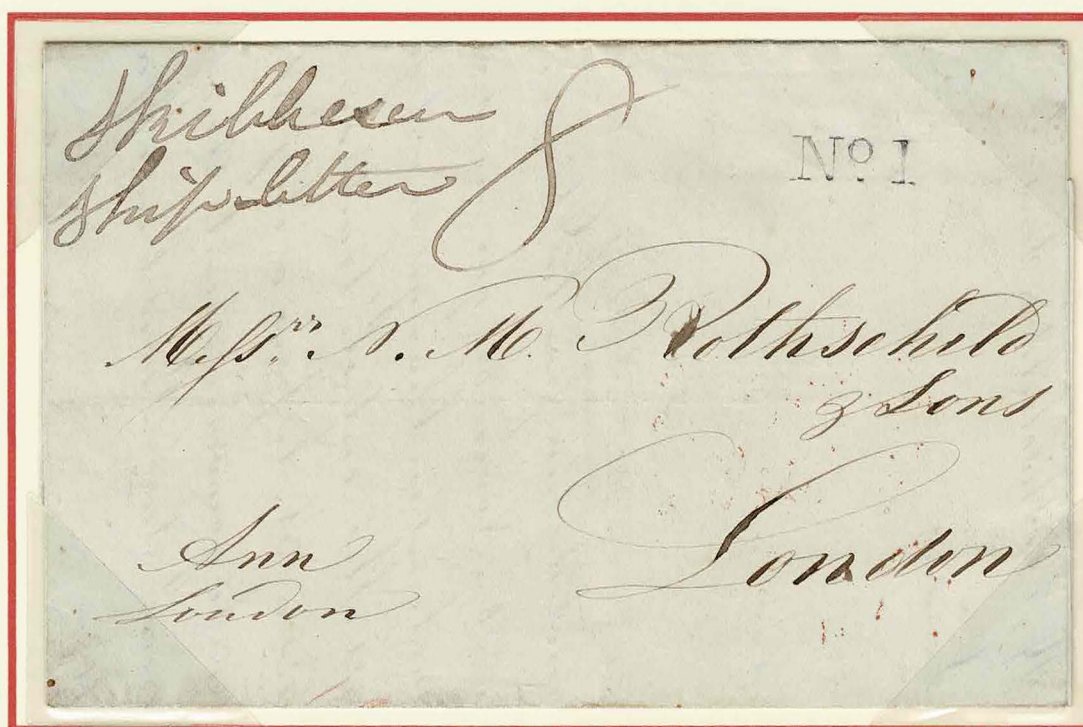
1835 (July 22nd) letter from Callao, Peru to Dublin, landed at Cork and showing a two line unframed **CORK SHIP LETTER**. This is rated 1/7 (8d ship rate + 11d to Dublin).



1836 (December 16th) letter from Guatemala to London, landed at Kinsale. Letter endorsed as carried *per Science* and showing a black two line **KINSALE/ SHIP-LETTER**. The letter has been rated 2/1 in manuscript (8d ship rate + 14d Kinsale to London (400-500 miles) + 2d Holyhead Packet + 1d Menai Bridge toll). The reverse has a red Dublin Diamond **21 JA 21/1837** and a red London arrival date stamp on 23 Jan. 1837. This ship mail hand stamp was used from 1771 to 1846 but it is still scarce as commercial trade was dominated by the ports at Cork and Cove (Queenstown).



1836 letter from Buenos Aires to Letterkenny, landed at Cork. Letter has a two lined framed CORK SHIP LETTER and is endorsed "By the first ship to England". Letter is rated $1/8$ (8d ship letter + 1/- Cork to Letterkenny (258 miles). Reverse has CDS CORK AP 13 1836 and LETTERKENNY AP 15 1836.

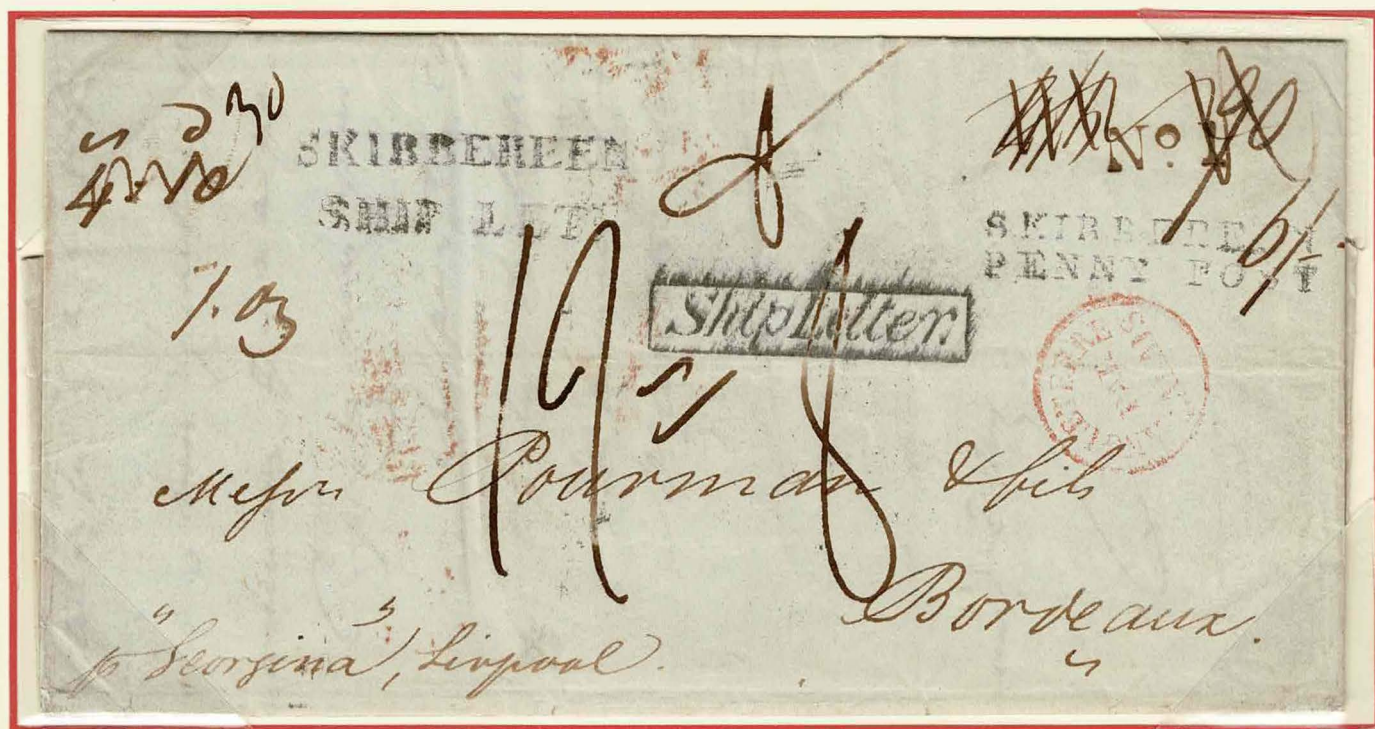


1839 (December 7th) wrapper sent from Rio de Janeiro to London showing in manuscript a *Skibbereen / Ship Letter/ 8* and per ship *Ann London*. The letter was landed at Schull the *Nº 1* receiving house of the Skibbereen Penny Post. The letter was posted on the 3rd day of the new Uniform rate (Treasury Warrant 5.12.39) and landed on March 7th 1840, when only the ship letter rate of *8d* applied with no further inland postage charge. **This is the only manuscript Skibbereen Ship Letter yet recorded** (The use of a manuscript Ship Letter occurred because handstamp had probably been misplaced).



A French ordinance of the 26th June 1836 set new French inland rates after 15th July 1836 in conjunction with the 30th March 1836 Anglo French Convention. Distance was the straight line distance from port of entry to destination (Calais – Bordeaux = 680km approximately). Letters were rated by weight and distance in kilometres within France and charged in decimes (one decime = 1d sterling) as per table blow.

	25 km	25- 50 km	50- 80 km	80- 115 km	115- 160 km	160- 220 km	220- 300 km	300- 400 km	400- 500 km	500- 600 km	600- 750 km	750- 900 km	Over 900 km
Under 7.5 gram	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
7.5 – 10 gram	6	8	9	11	12	14	15	17	18	20	21	23	24
10 – 15 gram	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32
15 – 20 gram	10	13	15	18	20	23	25	28	30	33	35	38	40
Per extra 5 gram	2	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8



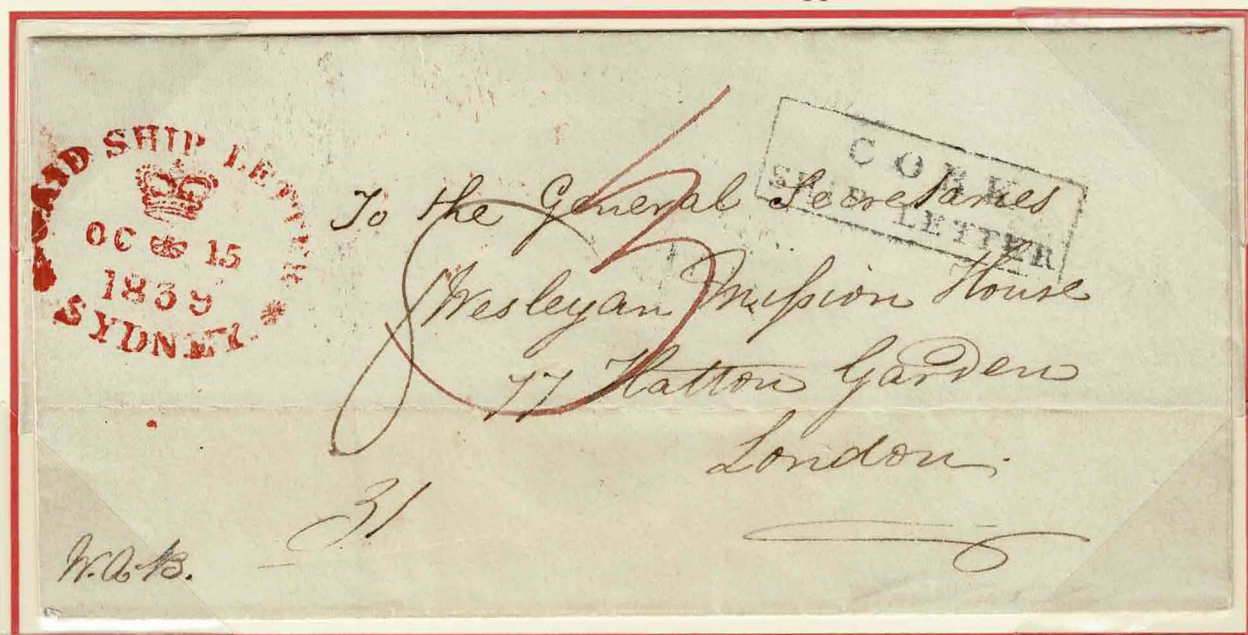
1838 (March 9th) letter sent from Valparaiso to Bordeaux per ship *Georgina of Liverpool*, landed at Skibbereen and routed via Cork, Waterford, London and Calais. Letter is rated **12=8** (12 francs 8 decimes) equivalent to **10/8** sterling. The French inland rate by weight was 30g (top left of letter face) and the distance from Calais to Bordeaux was 680km, costing 56 decimes, leaving 72 decimes or **6/-** debit marking (across penny post) due to the UK. The UK rated this letter as 1oz (toward left) quadruple rate (**8** (ship rate) + **10d** to Calais) = $1/6 \times 4 = 6/-$. Letter also shows a **SKIBBEREEN / PENNY POST**, a black receiving house **Nº 1** of Schull and an abbreviated **SKIBBEREEN / SHIP LET^R**. The letter also contains a London framed **SHIP LETTER**, applied as the UK calculated rates were completely ignored.



The 1835 Act raised the rate of ship letters received in Ireland and Britain to **8d** plus inland postage rate. The Samoa and Tin Can Island letters below, were posted before Treasury Warrant was issued of the Uniform rate (5.12.39) but arrived after its enactment, hence there was no additional inland postage.



1839 (May 13th) letter from Upola (Samoa) to London, collected by trading schooner and arrived in Sydney 128 days later on September 18th where a manuscript **3** colonial postage and two strikes of the oval **PAID SHIP LETTER / crown / SE* 18 / 1839 / SYDNEY** were applied, one of which has the year date omitted. The letter was then sent to London by ship, landing in Cork where a manuscript **8** ship letter rate and a framed two line **CORK / SHIP LETTER** were applied.



1839 (May 31st) letter from Niuafu'ou (Tin Can Island) Tonga, to London. This arrived in Sydney where a manuscript **3** colonial postage and the oval **PAID SHIP LETTER / crown / OC 15 / 1839 / SYDNEY** were applied. On landing in Cork, a manuscript **8** ship letter rate and a framed two line **CORK / SHIP LETTER** were applied. **Both letters above from rare originals.**

6.5 Ship Letters

UNIFORM 8d SHIP RATE

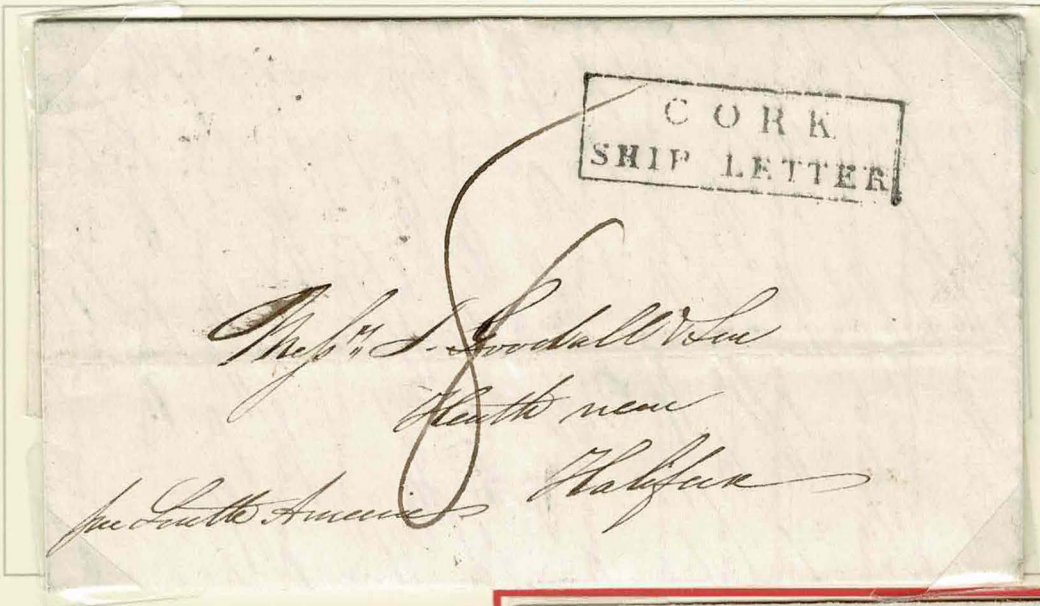


1840 New York to Halifax UK

Postal Reform Period 1840 to UPU

1841 India to Liverpool/Cove to New York

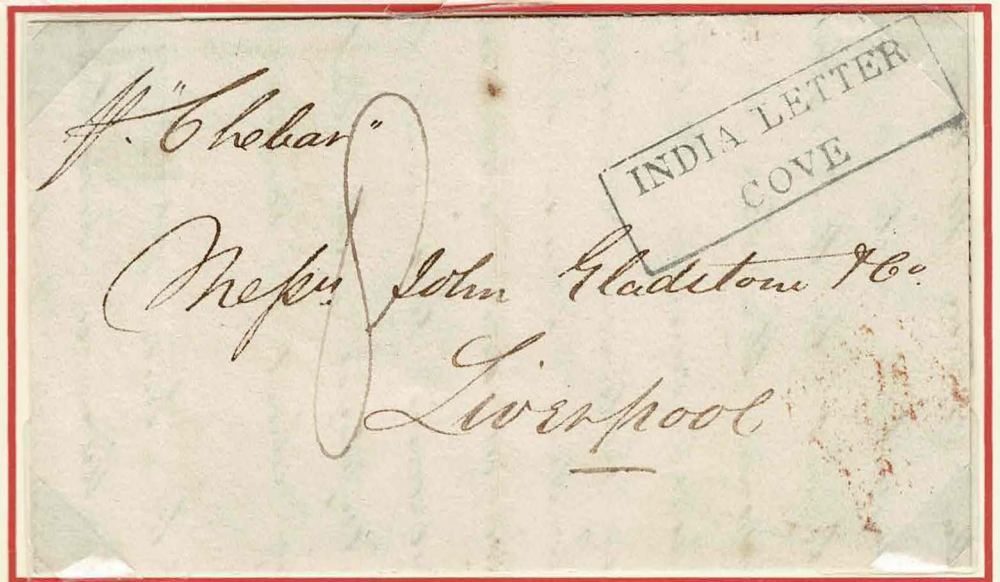
The 1840 Uniform postage Act also set a uniform rate of 8d per ½ oz for all incoming ship letters, with no further inland postage charges. The special India ship letter rate of 4d was also abolished. The cost of sending mail abroad was also standardised at 1/- per ½oz from anywhere within Great Britain and Ireland.



1840 (Feb. 21st) letter New York to Halifax (UK) with framed **CORK/SHIP LETTER** and manuscript 8d ship letter rate. Letter carried per "South Africa" ship.

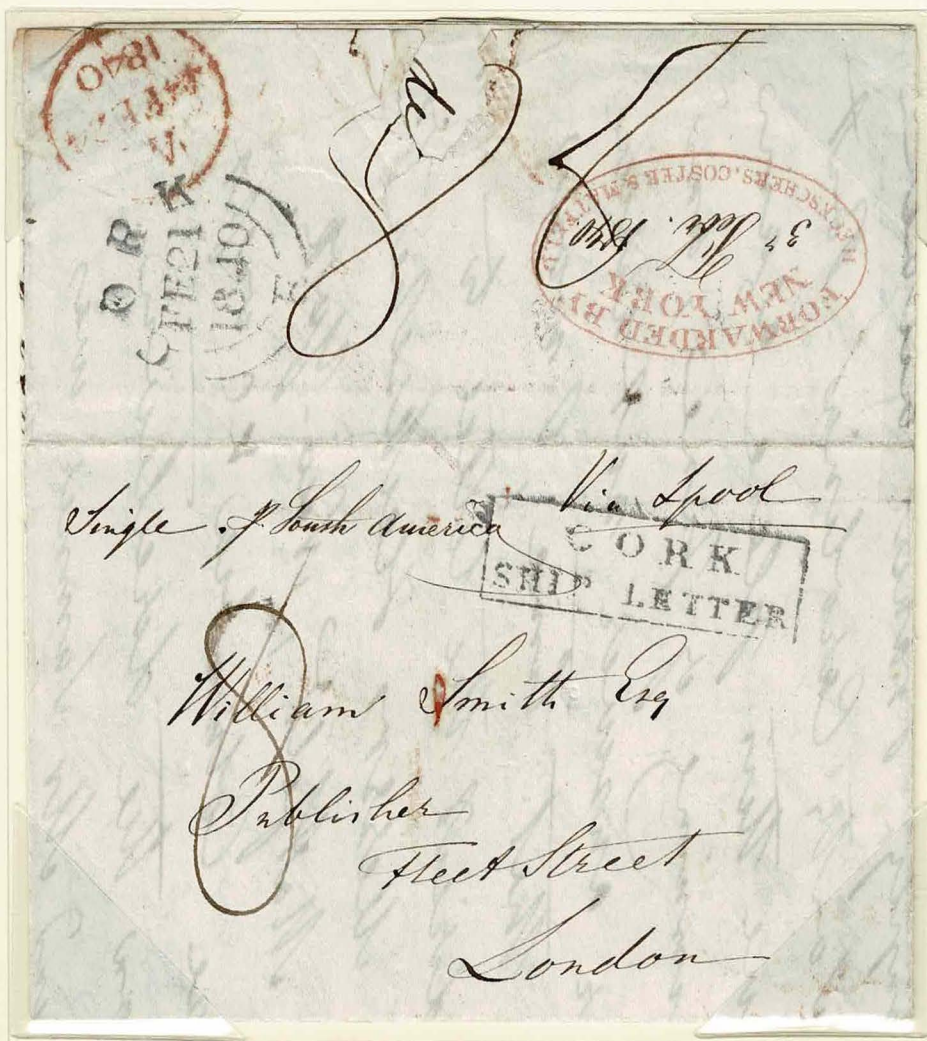
Early Usage of new rate

1841 (November 28th) letter from India to Liverpool landed at Cove, CDS COVE NO28 1841 with scarce framed two line **INDIA SHIP LETTER** and manuscript *hooked 8* of Cove. Letter carried per "Cheliar" and has Dublin Diamond on NO 30 and Liverpool receiving cancel on DE 2. Special India 4d rate abolished.



1841 (May 26th) letter from Cove to New York prepaid at double rate of 2/- by Boston Packet, showing **POST PAID** of Cove. Letter sent by *Cunard Columbia* from Liverpool but rated as a treble letter in the US and charged 58¼ (2c cent ship plus thrice 18¾ cent). Reverse has cds **COVE MY 26 1841** and letter face has red **PAID MY27 1841**.

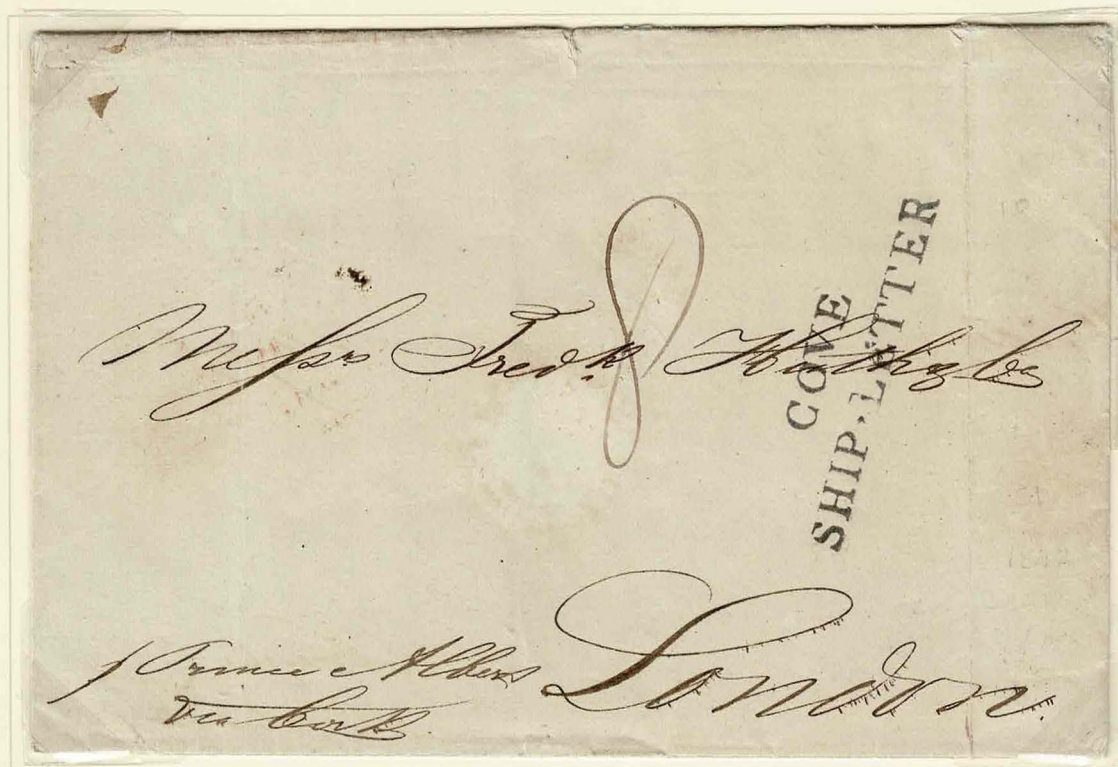


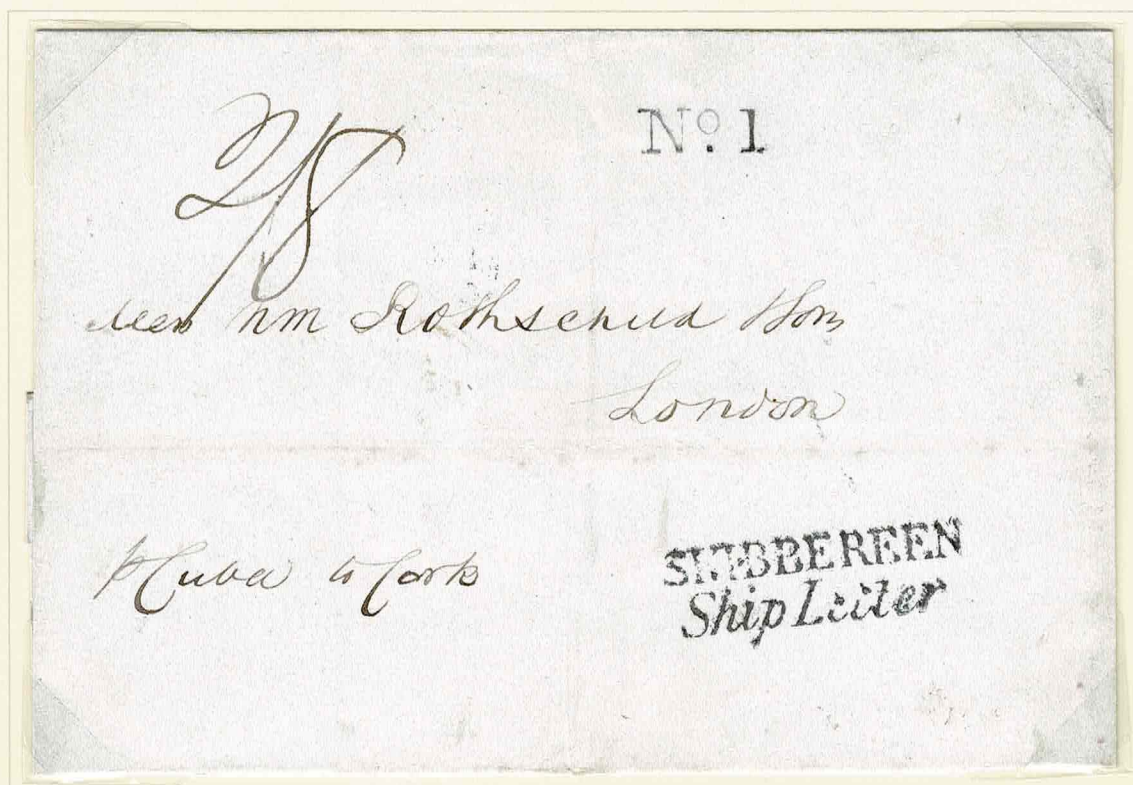


1840 (January 27th) entire letter from Columbia to London, landed at Cork. Face has black framed **CORK/SHIP LETTER** handstamp and manuscript 8 fee. Reverse has cds **CORK FE21 1840** and London arrival cds **FE 24 1840**. Letter flap also has New York Forwarding Agent's cachet in a red oval dated 3 February 1840.



1842 (April 21st) letter from Pernambuco, Brazil to London, landed at Cove, endorsed as carried by *P Prince Albert* via *Cork* and showing the black two line **COVE SHIP • LETTER**. Letter face has the manuscript *hooked 8* of Cove. Letter is part of the *Fred Huth* correspondence



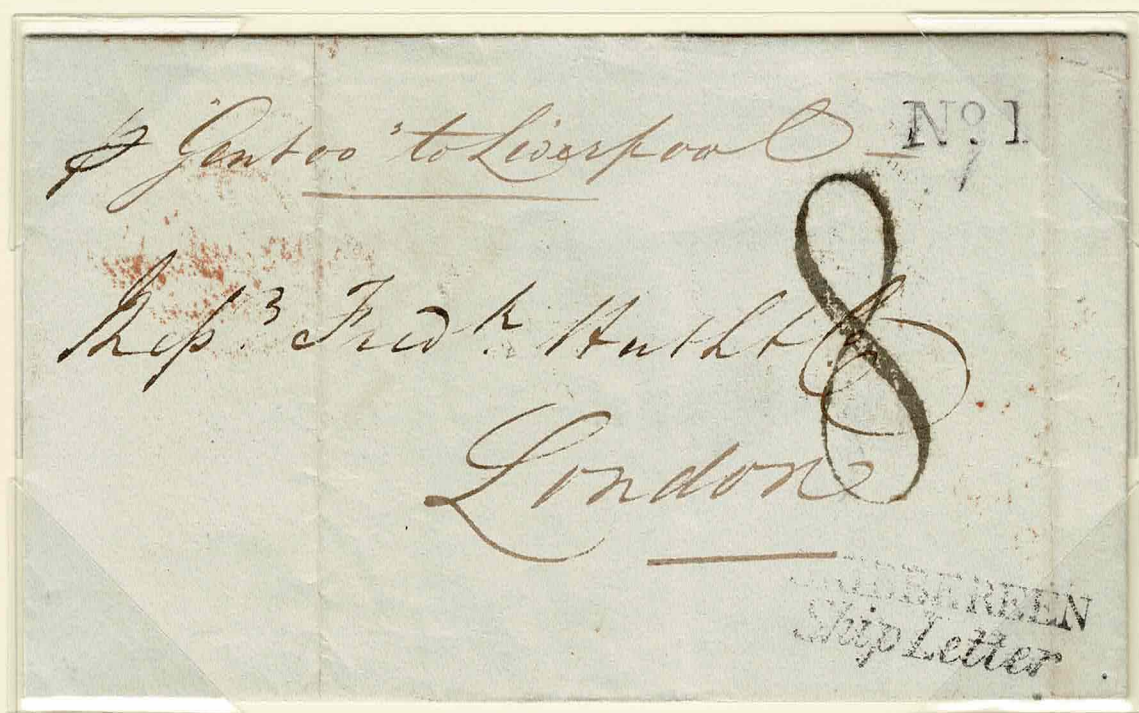


1842 (February 15th) from Havana, Cuba to London and back stamped **SKIBBEREEN AP 16 1842**, with a red Dublin diamond **AP 17 42** and London arrival stamp **19 AP 19 1842**. Letter has mixed typeface **SKIBBEREEN Ship Letter** and was landed at Schull, the N^o1 receiving house of the Skibbereen Penny Post and forwarded to London at quadruple rate of $\frac{2}{8}$ ($8d \times 4 = \frac{2}{8}$). The letter rate was 8d per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and two extra rates for every oz. or part oz. over 1 oz. Letter is endorsed *per Cuba to Cork*. This ship letter handstamp was used 1840 to 1844 (a version in blue print was used in 1847).



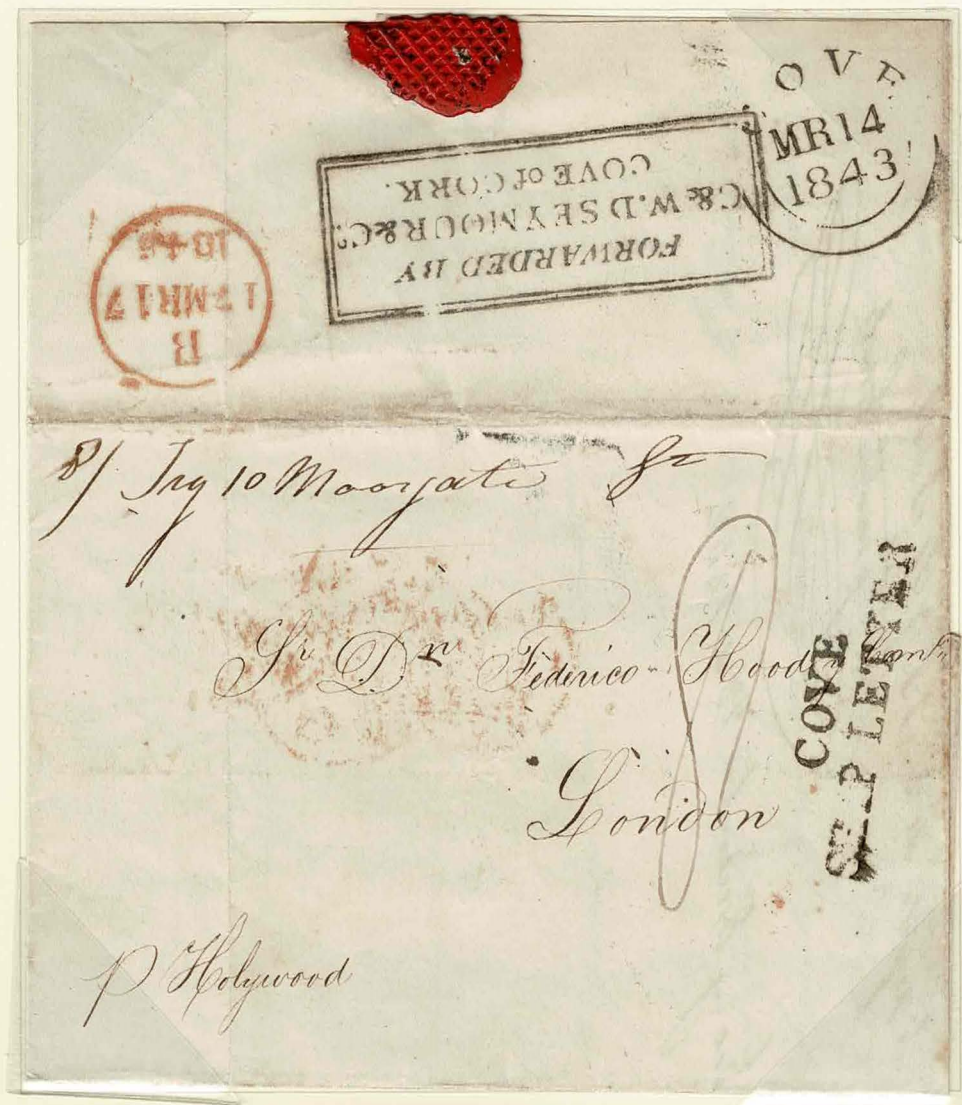
1842 (March 14th) letter from Calcutta, *per Gentoo to Liverpool*, except it was landed at Schull. Ship stamp and N^o 1 as above, Skibbereen cds on reverse **SKIBBEREEN OC2 1842**.

Part of Huth correspondence.





1843 (December 28th) letter from Montevideo, Uruguay to London, landed at Cove, endorsed as carried *p* **Hollywood** and showing a black two line **COVE SHIP LETTER** and the manuscript *hooked 8* letter rate. At Cove, the forwarding agents sent the letter to London applying the boxed double framed cachet in black **FORWARDED BY C & W.D SETMOUR & CO, COVE of CORK.**

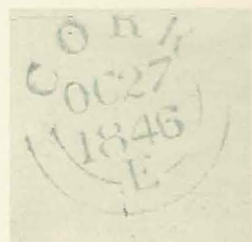


1844 (September 1844 28th) letter from Valparaiso, Chile to London via Cove, written on board the Barque Brougham by Mr R. Stokes (ship sailed from Valparaiso and Talcahuano after a prosperous voyage with a quantity of Alfalfa seed). Reverse has cds on landing at Cove, **COVE NO 12 1844**, Dublin transit **NO 14 44** and London arrival **15 NO 1844**. Letter is rated *1/4* which is a double rate for 1 oz. weight. Letter face has faint black two line **COVE SHIP LETTER**





1845 (April 1st) entire letter From Buenos Aires, back stamped with black cds **COVE MY 13 1845**, a red Dublin diamond **MY 15 45** and a London arrival date stamp **17 MY 1845**. Letter is stamped with the black handstamp **COVE SHIP LETTER** and manuscript *hooked 8* which was the *all in* rate per ½ oz. Letter face is endorsed as carried *per Elizabeth*. **Discovery:** This letter is from the Huth correspondence of 1820 to 1850, of which 10,000 letters are known to Fredrick Huth in London but only 320 come from Irish ports and 200 of these came via Cove.



1846 (September 28th) Entire letter from St John's, New Brunswick, to Devon, back stamped with cds **CORK OC 27 1846** and **LONDON OC 30 1846**. This blue ship letter handstamp was used in 1846, making it the earliest recorded use to date (previously reported from 1847). Letter has a blue unframed two line **CORK/SHIP LETTER** and a black manuscript *8d* ship letter rate.



1847 New Orleans to London via New York and Cove

Entire from New Orleans to New York, on 6 April 1847, where it was readdressed to London. Letter has black New Orleans date stamp and 10 cent for inland postage to New York. The letter is endorsed *p 1st Liverpool packet p Yorkshire* and shows a blue two line **COVE SHIP LETTER** and blue *hooked 8*. The letter was landed at Cove on 5 May 1847 (CDS on reverse) and arrived London on 6 May 1847.



Right: 1849 Barbados to Bristol via Cove

Wrapper from Barbados dated 21 May 1849 with black CDS **COVE JY18 1849**, on reverse, red Dublin transit CDS **JY 19 1849** and black Bristol arrival CDS **JY20 1849**. Cover face has expected *hooked 8* charge.



1848 (June 6th) Entire from Mauritius to Bordeaux, back stamped with CDS **COVE JU 30 1848**, London CDS on **JY 1 1848** and Bordeaux receiving CDS **6 JUIL 48**. Letter face has blue two line **COVE/ SHIP LETTER** with blue manuscript *hooked 8* and a red framed **COLONIES & ART 13**. The latter mark was applied by the Foreign Branch of GPO in London and it relates an 1843 Anglo French Convention which applied to unpaid or in sufficiently paid mail passing through Britain to France. Art 13 in particular refers to timeline January 1846 to December 1855 and the bulk rates for mail. Letter face also has oval forwarding agent cachet for **GAY ROU FILS PORT LOUIS**. Letter endorsed as carried *p Thomas Blyth* steamer.



1847 (December 18th) Entire from Mauritius to Bordeaux, back stamped with blue COVE CDS (**MR25 1848**), red London CDS **MR 26 1848** and Bordeaux receiving CDS on 28 MARS 48. Letter face has a two line COVE/SHIP LETTER and a blue manuscript *hooked 8* and a red framed **COLONIES & ART 1**. Carried by *Pincess Royal* steamer.





1849 (November 7th) wrapper from Buenos Aires to London, landed at Queenstown, showing a blue-green two line **COVE/ SHIP LETTER** and a faint double arc matching cds **QUEENSTOWN JA28 1850** on reverse and *hooked 8* of Cove. Cover also has red Dublin cds **JA 29 1850** and red London arrival cds **30 JA 1850** on reverse. Cover carried *per Elizabeth* steamer.

Cove was renamed **Queenstown** in 1849 after a visit from Queen Victoria but the Ship Letter handstamp was not changed until 1850. Letter above comes in the short period where the two hand stamps were in use at the same time and this is the latest recorded copy.



1850 (December 31st) letter from Mauritius to Bordeaux, landed at Queenstown, showing a blue two line **QUEENSTOWN/ SHIP LETTER** and a double arc matching **QUEENSTOWN** cds on 14 August 1851. Cover also has London cds on 15 August 1851 on reverse and a red framed **COLONIES & c ART 13** on cover face, as well as shipping agent's cachet **AUGte SEURIN PORT LOUISE (ILE MAURICE)**. The ship letter rate of 8d was applied at Queenstown but was subsequently recharged at 15 decimes in France. This blue ship handstamp was used from 1850 to 1853 (used in black from 1850 to 1873).



1848 (June 6th) Entire from Mauritius to Bordeaux, back stamped with CDS **COVE JU 30 1848**, London CDS on **JY 1 1848** and Bordeaux receiving CDS **6 JUIL 48**. Letter face has blue two line **COVE/ SHIP LETTER** with blue manuscript *hooked 8* and a red framed **COLONIES & ART 13**. The latter mark was applied by the Foreign Branch of GPO in London and it relates an 1843 Anglo French Convention which applied to unpaid or in sufficiently paid mail passing through Britain to France. Art 13 in particular refers to timeline January 1846 to December 1855 and the bulk rates for mail. Letter face also has oval forwarding agent cachet for **GAY ROU FILS PORT LOUIS**. Letter endorsed as carried *p Thomas Blyth* steamer.



1852 (February 25th) showing the blue two line **QUEENSTOWN SHIP LETTER** and the blue CDS **QUEENSTOWN MY15 1852**. Letter face also shows black crowned GPO date stamp **MAURITIUS FE23 1852**. The letter face is endorsed as carried *per Good Luck* **MY 17 1852**.



Epilogue: The postal rates within the United Kingdom and Ireland rose steeply between the initial rates of 1657 and the rates reached in 1839. They fell steadily between 1839 and 1875 when the UPU rates were set. The UPU rate was extended to all countries on 1st July 1892. Because Cork was the most postally distance location within the United Kingdom, and because of its critical location in terms of shipping routes, it provides a very transparent story book of rates and routes withing this important postal region. The move to pre-paid covers also removed the need for ship letter handstamps. Much transatlantic mail was also taken by road and rail to Cork, to reduce delivery time on steamers.