

THE COLLECTION OF POSTAGE DUE FEES IN IRELAND FROM 1914 TO 1925

The Exhibit demonstrates the use of Labels and Stamps to collect the additional monies due the Post Office in Ireland for the delivery of Postcards, Letters and Parcels from 1914 until 1925. Three reasons for Postage Due collection are shown : Items mailed without Prepaid Postage; Underpaid Postage and Service Fees; and Customs and Delivery Fees on Parcels from Abroad.

Postage Due Labels were issued in Great Britain and Ireland on April 20 1914 and were used in Ireland until February 1925 when Irish Labels were introduced. Ireland was part of the United Kingdom in 1914 and under the British Post Office until April 1 1922 when the *Irish Free State* Post Office took control in the 26 counties of Southern Ireland. The 6 counties in Northern Ireland remained part of Great Britain and under control of the British Post Office. British Labels continued to be used in the *Irish Free State* until the late 1920s when stocks ran out. The 1/2d, 1d, 2d and 5d labels were issued in 1914 with a Simple Cypher watermark of George V. The 3d value was issued in 1918, 1s value in 1915, 4d value in 1920, 1 1/2d value in 1923 and the 2s/6d in 1924. **Several Labels issued in Great Britain found limited or no Use in Ireland --5d (very limited use), 1 1/2d (very limited use), 1s (used mostly to collect custom fees) and 2s6d (no recorded used in the Irish Free State).** The watermark of the British Labels was changed to **Block Cypher** in 1924 and British Postage due labels with this watermark used in the *Irish Free State* are very scarce due to the pending issue of Irish Labels.

The Exhibit is organized as Follows

- Postage Due Fees Collected For Return to Sender Service And When No Stamps were available.
- Postage Due Fees for Unpaid and Underpaid Letters and Service Fees for Registered letters Posted *Out of Course*
- Postage Due Fees for Underpaid Postcards and Printed Matter Envelopes Subject to the Letter Rate
- Postage Due Fees for Insufficient Postage from Abroad on Postcards and Letters
- Postage Due Labels Used to Collect Custom Duties and C.O.D. fees on Parcels from outside the Irish Free State
- Postage Due Fees and the Change from British to Irish Post Office Administrations
- Postage Due Fees and The Irish Post Office Administration
- Epilogue: The Transition from British to Irish Postage Due Labels

This is *not* a study of the individual labels used to collect Postage Due. *The Exhibit reviews the various situations in which the labels were used to collect additional monies for Deficient Postage or Custom and Delivery fees, particularly during the turbulent period of Irish History from 1916 to Irish Independence (Irish Free State, December 6 1922) and the Irish Civil war (1922- 1923).* The exhibit concludes with the issue of Irish Postage Due labels in 1925

Several Scarce and Interesting Items are shown in the Exhibit with a **Green Background**



2d Postage Due Label used on the Second Day Of Issue. Letter posted unpaid from Dublin to Ardmore Youghal. Dublin 2D handstamp and handwritten to pay. Postage Due for twice the 1d letter rate collected by 2d label cancelled 21 April 1914



Scarce use of British 1 1/2d Labels in the *Irish Free State*. labels cancelled SR SHEAMUS A CLIATH (James Street, Dublin) 8 AU 24



1 shilling Postage Dues used to collect Customs Fees. Cancelled Monaghan 1 Feb 24



5d Postage Due Label cancelled Belfast 1921.

Postage Due Collected for Return to Sender



Local Dublin *Commercial Post Card* from the Sun Life Assurance Society mailed to a customer to set up a meeting. The Post Card was refused and **Returned to Sender** Postmarked Dublin 21 APR 14

Hand Stamped 1/2d Postage Due For Return to Sender. The 1/2d postage due label postmarked Dublin 23 AP 14 **Three days after the Labels were issued.**

The 1/2d return to sender rate remained until June 1921 when it was raised to 1d

Few Post Cards with this fee have survived and less than 10 are known

Postage Due Collected When NO Stamps Were Available



Soldiers Mail sent Postage Unpaid. The recipient was only charged the normal 1/2d postcard rate. **Military Mail from abroad was not charged twice the deficient postage from 11 August to Sept 1 1914** After Sept. 1 1914 Soldiers mail from Abroad was sent free of charge Postcard from a Sergeant in the BEF, France to Hollywood, Belfast. **The card was sent shortly after the beginning of World War I., 5th August 1914** Handstamped 1/2d I.S. Q (Inland Service inspector Q) and Passed by Censor **Postage Due Label cancelled Hollywood 21 AU 1914**