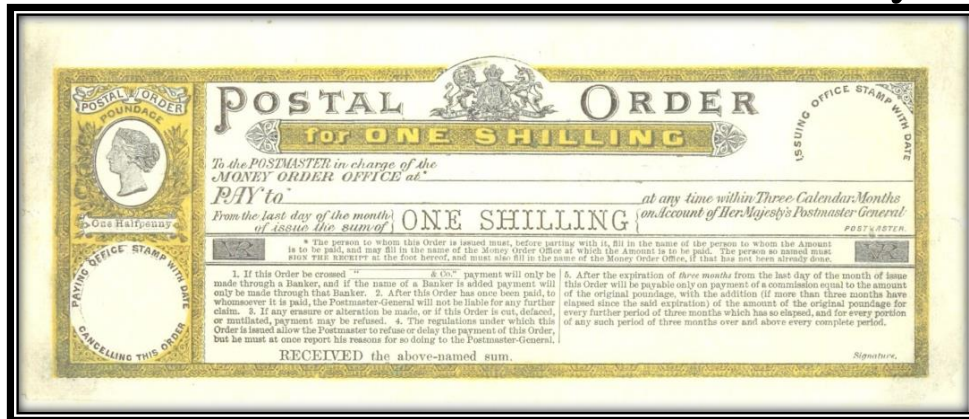


# POSTAL ORDER NEWS

Journal of The Postal Order Society



(Reproduced by kind permission of the Post Office Archives)

Member of the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS)  
Affiliated to the American Philatelic Society (APS)

JANUARY 2018

Price £5.00

NUMBER 127

## CONTENTS

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| British Postal Orders £1 to £250. (Part III) | Michael Brill |
| Robbery of the Astoria, N. Y. - P.O. 1887    | Bob Laub      |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Time lucky!                  | Ross Pratley  |
| Irish overprints on UK Postal Orders         | John Gledhill |



The Postal Order Society is a non-profit making organisation founded 1st May 1985 and devoted to the pursuit and study of Postal Orders of the World and related material. Membership is open to any interested individual of reputable standing. Applications should be addressed to the Secretary or US Representative (JH). Annual subscriptions are £5 UK, £9 Overseas standard, £6 Overseas economy and £7 Europe, which covers all privileges of membership including all issues of Postal Order News. **Please note 2017-18 again free for current members. [NEW MEMBERS £10 JOINING FEE.](#)**

**CHAIRMAN** - Tony Whitehead, 205 Station Lane, Lapworth, Solihull, West Midlands B94 6JG ☎ 01564-785664  
[gillwhitehead205@gmail.com](mailto:gillwhitehead205@gmail.com)

**TREASURER** - David Payne, 17 Major Street, Todmorden, Lancs., OL14 5BY  
[daverpayne@hotmail.com](mailto:daverpayne@hotmail.com)

**SECRETARY** - Mark Rollason, 40 St. Christian's Road, Cheylesmore, Coventry, CV3 5GX  
[mark.rollason@tesco.net](mailto:mark.rollason@tesco.net)

**EDITOR** - Ross Pratley, "Waratah House", 223 Waratah Road, Mangrove Mountain, NSW 2250, Australia  
☎ 0427 100050 [waratahquilts@gmail.com](mailto:waratahquilts@gmail.com)

**AUCTIONEER** - John Gledhill, 4 Valletta Way, Wellesbourne, Warwick, CV35 9TB.

☎ 01789 842112 [jmgstamps@jgledhill.me.uk](mailto:jmgstamps@jgledhill.me.uk)

Assisted by Richard Solly, 23 Crescent Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 6NF. ☎ 020 8650 3628  
[resolly@btopenworld.com](mailto:resolly@btopenworld.com) (Lots always wanted)

#### OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES

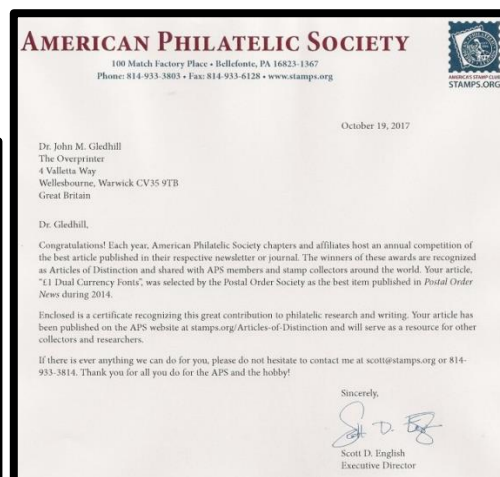
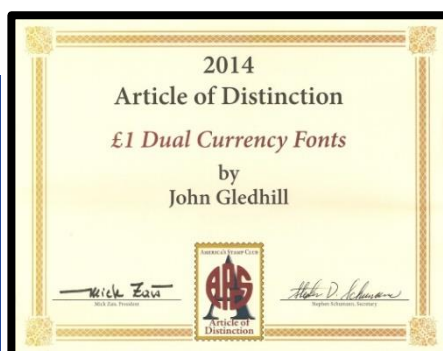
Jack Harwood, 4641 Windsor Park, Sarasota FL 34235-2604, USA. [jharwood222@verizon.net](mailto:jharwood222@verizon.net)  
John Eccles, PO Box 1174, Wellington, New Zealand & Ross Pratley, Australia (see EDITOR above)

POSTAL ORDER NEWS COPY DEADLINES 1<sup>st</sup> day of Mar, June, Sep & Dec

<http://postalordersociety.blogspot.co.uk>  
<http://postalorders.informe.com>

© POSTAL ORDER SOCIETY 2018

Front cover illustration: United States of America Postal Note Type II, issued 1<sup>st</sup> March 1886, printed by Homer Lee Bank Note Co.NY.



Always nice to have your work recognised and appreciated by your peers. Our sincere congratulations to Dr. John Gledhill a prolific contributor to our journal. The particular article appeared in PON 114, p.16-18 and thank you to the anonymous member who submitted John's article.

The American Philatelic Society lists other member's award winning, "Articles of Distinction" at <https://stamps.org/articles-of-distinction>  
Including; Garrie Oddie - 2010 article "The Poundage Printing Mechanism for Machine Issued POs" & 2011 article "Counterfeit Postal Order"  
Jack Harwood - 2012 article "Postal Orders and Postal Notes of Australasia".

## Chairman's Report

As a member of this society since 1985 I have seen many changes over the years, and now there is yet another change. Lloyds Bank have notified me about Cheque Imaging, where you can deposit sterling cheques payable from another Lloyds Bank account or participating UK bank or building society into my Lloyds personal current account. You cannot use cheque imaging to deposit the following, traveller's cheques, bank giro credit, electronic vouchers and other non-standard cheques. Your app will tell you if the cheque deposit process was successful, it does not mean the cheque itself is problem-free or that it will be paid. While the cheque is being processed its status will be shown as pending and you are advised to keep the cheque until showing funds available in your deposit history. This was discussed at last year's Banking History Society's AGM namely that Barclay's Bank have had trials regarding cheque and postal order imaging. When I have more information I will inform members.

Howard Daniel will be holding a POS meeting and talk on postal financial instruments at Thailand 2018 World Stamp Exhibition and 1st Thailand International Expo from 28th November to 3rd December 2018. Do give Howard your support if you are visiting this exhibition. Date and time of meeting to be confirmed.

## COMPETITION RESULTS 2016 & 2017

Last year's competition to vote for the best article was won by **Chris Mearns**, vote later this year when Mark Rollason sends you a voting slip for this year's best article.



to everyone! TONY

Article description	Author	No of Votes
<b>British Postal Orders £1 To £250</b>	<b>Michael Brill</b>	<b>6</b>
Australian Post – T.M. Orders	Ross Pratley	1
Eritrea postal order surprise!	J. Gledhill	2
POs 10/- to 19/6 (Part 2)	Michael Brill	3
POs of the S. A. Homelands	J. Harwood	2
Stolen five Bob Postal Order	Ross Pratley	1
Unique Collection Uncovered	Ross Pratley	1



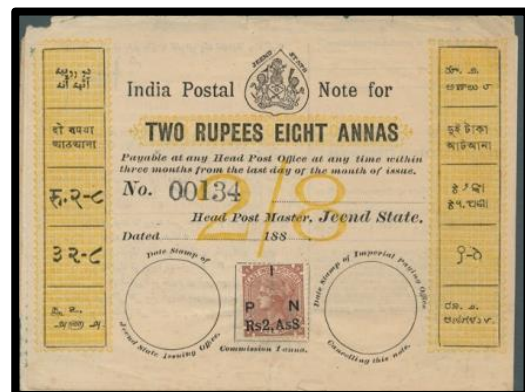
**A sincere welcome to Mr. Wilson Ilbery of Greenwich, N S W. Australia.** Wilson's interests include Postal Notes/Orders, Int. Reply Coupons, Petrol ration coupons and War Savings certificates.



PLEASE NOTE: ILLUSTRATIONS THROUGHOUT POSTAL ORDER NEWS ARE NOT ACTUAL SIZE.



These two India Postal Notes Circa; 1880 featured in PON 126 "Q & A". Information from J.Harwood says these are ones from the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue and that Indian Postal Notes were issued only from 1883-1886. Less than 4 years.



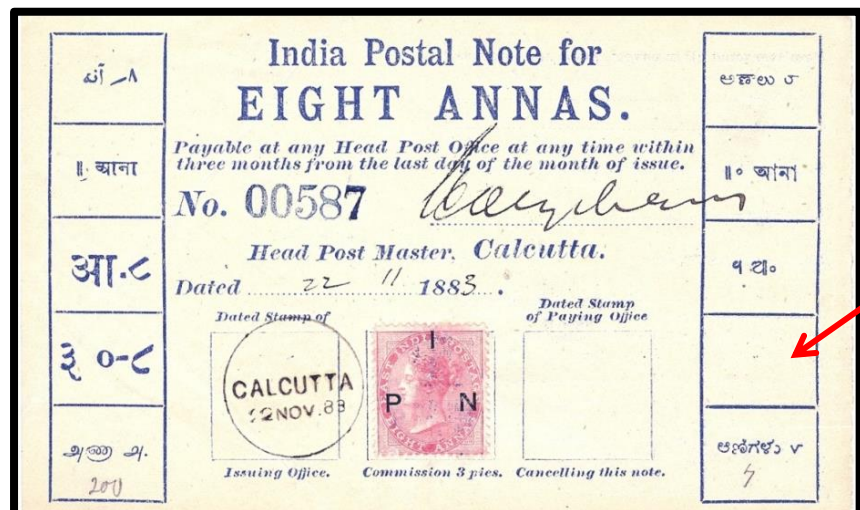
Furthermore Jack contacted his friend, Sandeep Jaiswal who includes postal notes in his postal stationery collection and kindly provided the following images of the 1<sup>st</sup> issue of postal notes from India (*ex J.Harwood collection*).



Jack advises Sandeep Jaiswal specializes in India. He has a nice holding of IPNs that he includes in his philatelic exhibit of Indian Postal Stationery. His 8 frame "QV Postal Stationery collection" was exhibited and awarded a Large Gold medal and Special Prize at the recent Bandung, Indonesia, International Exhibition. The award being the highest in the class. Congratulations to Sandeep from the Postal Order Society.

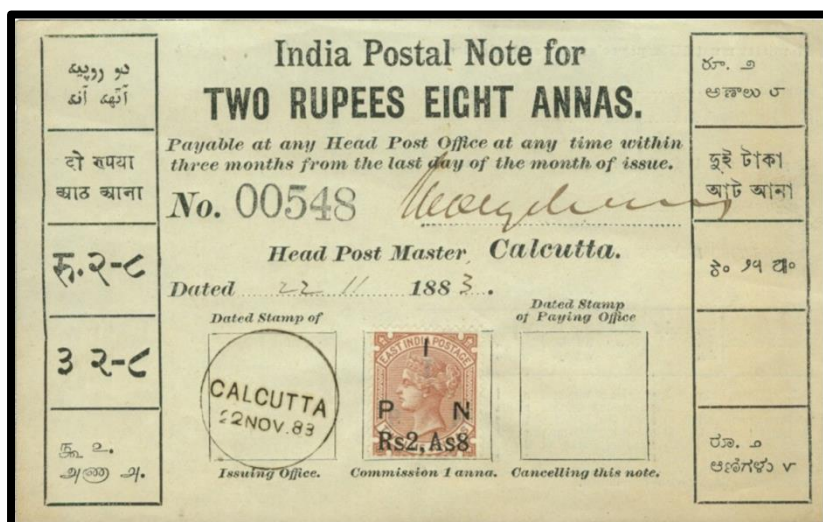
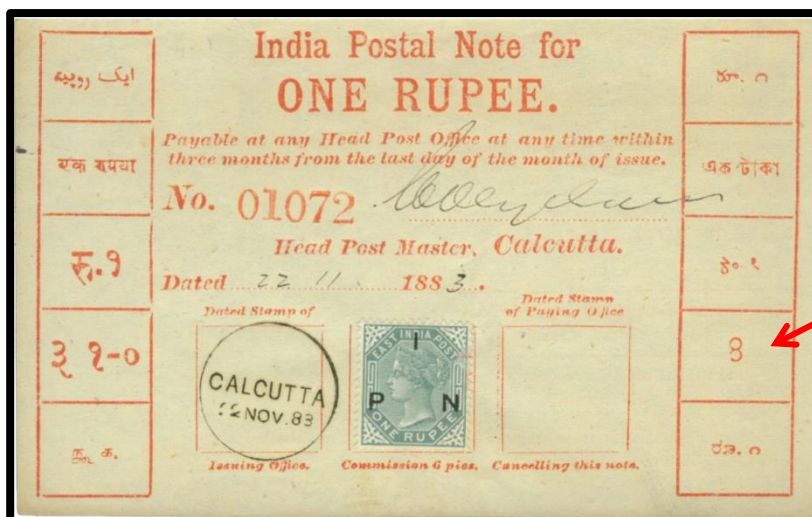
Sandeep Jaiswal.

**Front:** 1<sup>st</sup> issue Eight Annas, Commission 3 pies, issued "22 NOV 83 (22<sup>nd</sup> November 1883), CALCUTTA"  
JH advises that Serial Numbers below 1000 are missing the Burmese character in the fourth box (see **arrow**).



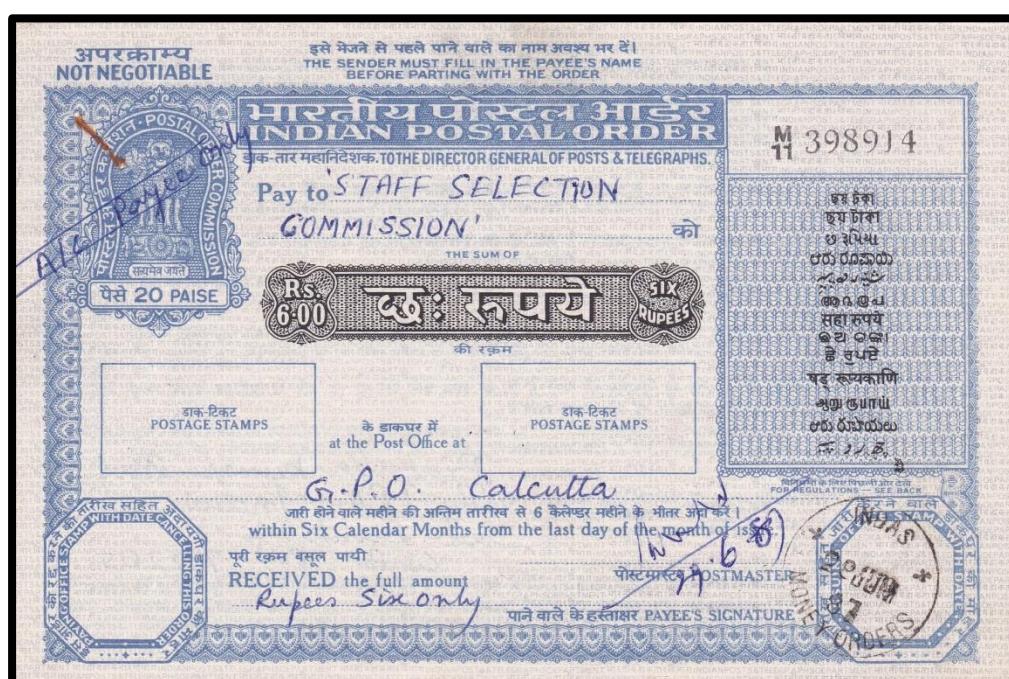


**Front:** 1<sup>st</sup> issue One Rupee, Commission 6 pies, issued "22 NOV 83 (22<sup>nd</sup> November 1883), CALCUTTA". JH advises that Serial Numbers above 1000 show the Burmese character in the fourth box (see **arrow**).



**Front:** 1<sup>st</sup> issue Two Rupees Eight Annas, Commission 1 Anna, issued "22 NOV 83 (22<sup>nd</sup> November 1883), CALCUTTA".

**Front:** Indian Postal Order Six Rupees, Commission 20 Paise, issued "28 JUN 87" (28<sup>th</sup> June 1987), CALCUTTA".





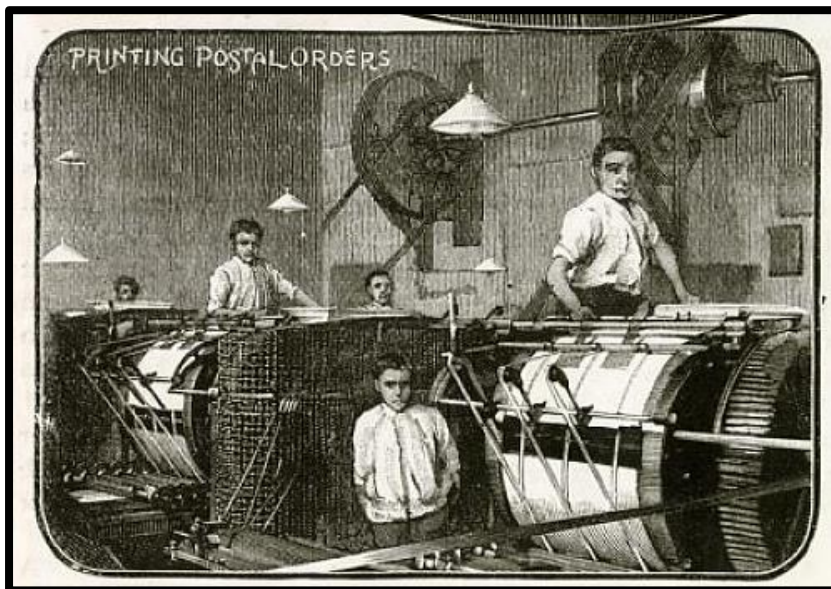
*Indian Postal Orders came into being at Independence in 1947. Prior to that, only BPOs and Indian Money Order forms were available.*

This Indian sign appears from time to time on eBay. Unaware whether it is the same seller offering the same sign, or whether there may be more than one available.



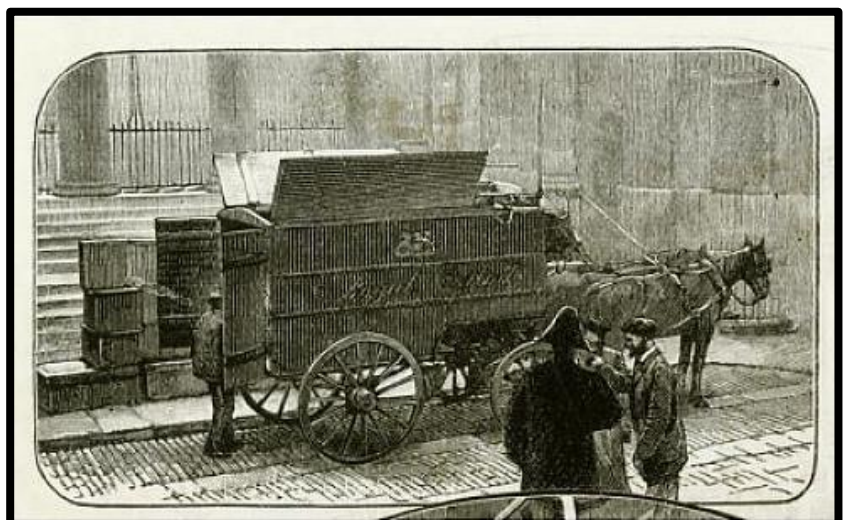
Indian Postal Order enamel sign on metal with 3 languages. Top: Hindi. Centre: English. Bottom: Tamil.

Size: Approx. 560mm x 185mm. Weight: 1130grams. On eBay 10/17 "BUY IT NOW" \$153.95



Printing Postal Orders at the Bank of England, City of London in 1899.

Loading and transporting Postal Orders from the Bank of England by Royal Mail in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



# British Postal Orders £1 to £250.

## Part III. (King George VI)

Michael Brill

Early 20/- postal orders for George VI were still letter over number. However, this series was soon completed at <sup>W</sup>/<sub>99</sub> and a numeral added after the letter. So we have <sup>W1</sup>/<sub>72</sub> issued in 1942 still with regulations in stamp box stating up to 5d. Later issues had added "up to 11d" for values above 4/6 as odd values above 5/- apart from 7/6 were discontinued. Poundage was changed to sans serif 24<sup>th</sup> December 1946 and the 21/- has nearly completed its series up to <sup>X</sup>/<sub>99</sub> in 1949.

Prefix:  
W1

NOT NEGOTIABLE. THE SENDER MUST FILL IN, IN INK, THE PAYEE'S NAME BEFORE PARTING WITH THE ORDER. <sup>W1</sup>/<sub>72</sub> 490 531

**BRITISH POSTAL ORDER**  
To the Postmaster General

Pay *Mrs New*  
the sum of **20 TWENTY SHILLINGS 20**

at \_\_\_\_\_  
within Six Calendar Months from the last day of the month of issue.

**TWO PENCE**

For Regulations—see back.  
**RECEIVED the sum due**

**Postage Stamps**  
not exceeding two in number or 5d. in total value may be affixed in these spaces but not elsewhere, to make up a broken amount (excluding an odd half-penny).

SIGNATURE. \_\_\_\_\_

Post Office  
POSTMASTER.  
ISSUING OFFICE STAMP  
H 19 DE 42  
LANES  
WITH DATE

NOT NEGOTIABLE. THE SENDER MUST FILL IN, IN INK, THE PAYEE'S NAME BEFORE PARTING WITH THE ORDER. <sup>X</sup>/<sub>96</sub> 019 572 15

**BRITISH POSTAL ORDER**  
To the Postmaster General

Pay *National Federation of Syl. Postmasters*  
the sum of **21 TWENTY-ONE SHILLINGS 21**

at *Grimsley*  
within Six Calendar Months from the last day of the month of issue.

**TWO PENCE**

For Regulations—see back.  
**RECEIVED the sum due**

**Postage Stamps**  
not exceeding two in number may be affixed here but not elsewhere  
(i) up to 5d. for orders up to 4s. 6d.  
(ii) up to 11d. for orders above 4s. 6d.  
Odd halfpennies are not permissible.

SIGNATURE. \_\_\_\_\_

Post Office  
POSTMASTER.  
ISSUING OFFICE STAMP  
LUDFORD B  
MR 16  
4.9  
LINCOLN

Prefix:  
<sup>X</sup>/<sub>96</sub>



The first **BOLD** prefixes were introduced in 1951 with the last of the 20/- with normal watermark and first of the 20/- with sideways watermark and pink colour occurring in this brief series which finished 1<sup>st</sup> August 1952. Also in this series were the first 40/- postal orders with FOUR PENCE poundage. These were introduced December 1951  $\frac{Y}{1}$  series. It could be that all **BOLD** prefixes started at this time.

**Y 8 348952** NOT NEGOTIABLE. THE SENDER MUST FILL IN, IN INK, THE PAYEE'S NAME BEFORE PARTING WITH THE ORDER. **Y 8 348 952**

**COUNTERFOIL.**

To be detached and kept by the Sender.

The Postmaster General does not undertake to consider any application respecting an Order which has miscarried, or has been lost or destroyed, unless the counterfoil is produced.

Postal 40/- Order  
To whom payable:—

At what Office:—

Whether crossed }  
Date }  
sent }

**BRITISH POSTAL ORDER**  
To the Postmaster General

Pay the sum of **40 FORTY SHILLINGS 40**

at \_\_\_\_\_ Post Office

**FOUR PENCE**

within Six Calendar Months from the last day of the month of issue.

For Regulations—see back.  
**RECEIVED** the sum due

**Postage: Stamps**  
not exceeding two in number may be affixed here but not elsewhere  
(i) up to 5d. for orders up to 4s. 6d.  
(ii) up to 11d. for orders above 4s. 6d.  
Odd halfpennies are not permissible.

**SIGNATURE.**

**POSTMASTER.**

**ISSUING OFFICE STAMP**  
WITH DATE

#### FOUR PENCE poundage

1<sup>st</sup> Aug 1952 poundage increased for 6/- to 21/- to THREE PENCE and 40/- to SIX PENCE.

**NOT NEGOTIABLE.** THE SENDER MUST FILL IN, IN INK, THE PAYEE'S NAME BEFORE PARTING WITH THE ORDER. **Y 20 749 694**

**BRITISH POSTAL ORDER**  
To the Postmaster General

Pay the sum of **40 FORTY SHILLINGS 40**

at **H. E. O. W. Kne, Japan.** Post Office

**SIX PENCE**

within Six Calendar Months from the last day of the month of issue.

For Regulations—see back.  
**RECEIVED** the sum due

**Postage: Stamps**  
not exceeding two in number may be affixed here but not elsewhere  
(i) up to 5d. for orders up to 4s. 6d.  
(ii) up to 11d. for orders above 4s. 6d.  
Odd halfpennies are not permissible.

**SIGNATURE.**  
*S. A. Kargos*

**POSTMASTER.**

**ISSUING OFFICE STAMP**  
WITH DATE

#### SIX PENCE poundage



The last George VI postal orders had Elizabeth II watermarks from October 1956.

All 20/- postal orders are either pink or red and have a sideways watermark.



Elizabeth II watermark

To be continued in PON No. 128 April 2018.



**New Member Profile:** Mr. Wilson Ilbery joined his first stamp club in 1958. In November 1974 he found some 6d war savings stamps in plate blocks for \$10 each, which started his interest in "Cinderellas", broadly defined as any non-postage stamp. His main collections in this area include railway parcel stamps of NSW, war savings certificates and postal notes/orders. Wilson is the President of the Cinderella Club and a tireless worker for Philas Auctions.

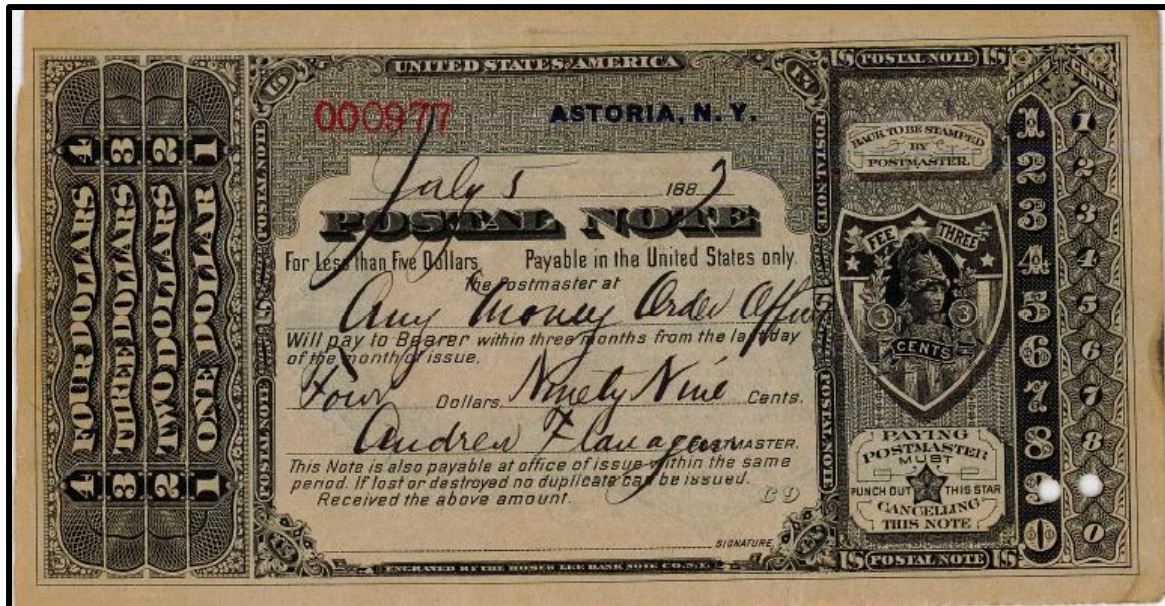
## The Robbery of the Astoria, New York, Post Office, 5<sup>th</sup> July 1887

Bob Laub

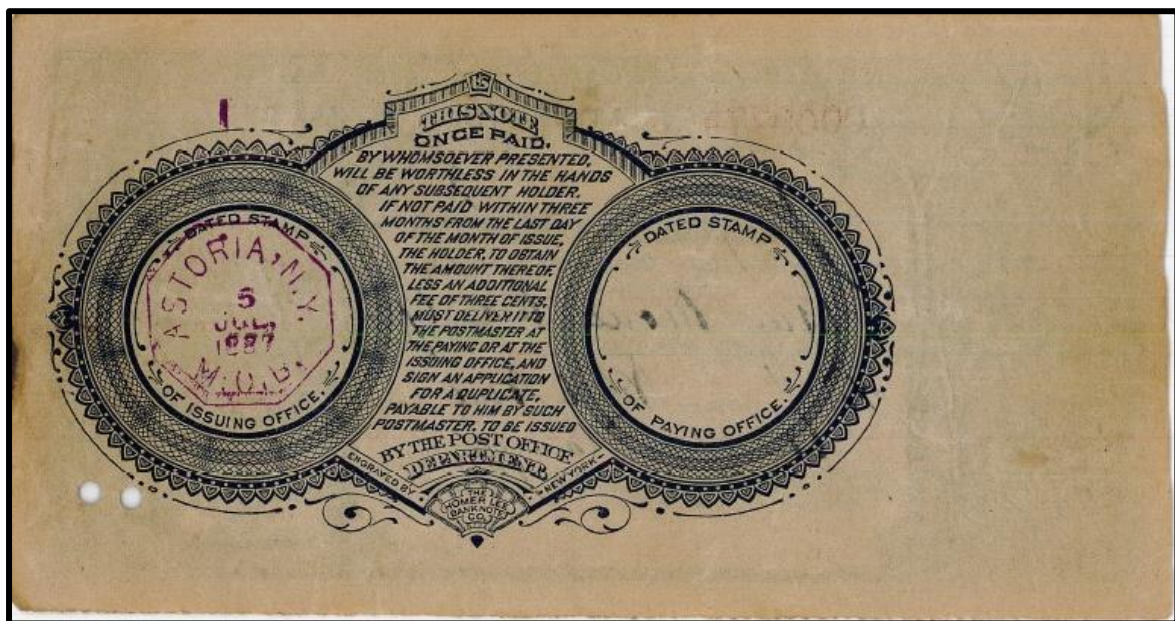
### Background:

Several years ago (let's say 15), I was fortunate enough to be offered a most incredible Postal Note which is pictured on next page. This note is what I call Type II-a.1, which will be explained later in the article. This note is currently the only known survivor of the Postal Note robbery of the Astoria, NY, Post Office. Its survival is probably due to being held in an evidence locker or the court case, most likely discovered years later, long after the case had been settled. When I first purchased the Postal Note, there was not a hint of a story to be told. The story came years later while searching through *New York Times* archives for

anything related to Postal Notes. Imagine the look on my face when a number of articles began to appear relating to a robbery at the Astoria Post Office.



**Front:** Astoria, N.Y., P N, Serial No.000977 for \$4.99, stolen from the P O in 1887.(Type II-a 1)



**Back:** of stolen Postal Note.

This surviving Postal Note was intended to be issued in the normal course of business at the Astoria Post Office, but was instead “unofficially” issued by the robbers. On Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> July 1887, early afternoon, two young thieves entered the Post Office. This was the time of day when the postmaster would occasionally take a pail of beer into the back room for some refreshment. The thieves, who had been watching the postmaster’s activities for a few days, seized the opportunity. They made off with a partial booklet of Postal Notes, serial numbered 957-1000, which had been left on the desk. Postal Note booklets contained 100, 200, 300 or 500 unissued notes. As supply declined, the postmaster placed an order for a new booklet. Also stolen during the robbery were the hard rubber date stamper and the conductor’s punch, the latter used to punch out the issue month and year, and the dollar



and cents amount of the note. The date stamper was custom ordered by each postmaster. The conductor's punch was provided by the Post Office. The thieves now had all the elements needed to go into business for themselves. The only missing element was finding local shop keepers where the stolen Postal Notes could be peddled. This proved to be the thieves' ultimate downfall. The note shown is issued in the amount of \$4.99, the maximum allowable under the regulations. I suppose if your plan was to steal them, you would want to obtain as much as possible for them. No doubt the young thieves attracted a good deal of attention as they attempted to negotiate the notes. In 1887, \$4.99 was a tidy sum, especially for two young boys. Today it would hardly warrant a second glance.

### **A Brief History**

Each Type I and Type II Postal Note was made payable in a specific city and state, as designated by the purchaser of the note. This feature was designed to increase the probability of the note getting to the correct recipient for redemption.

Type II-a notes were transitional notes. They were the first type to be payable at Any Money Order Office. As transitional notes, they had **Any Money Order Office** either hand stamped or entered by hand on the line where the city and state were previously to be entered. Type III, which followed, had those words already engraved into the design. I designate the hand stamped version as Type II-a, and the hand written version as Type II-a.1. This is important because the hand written variety, Type II-a.1, is prohibitively rare.

### **Transcripts of the *New York Times* articles**

#### **Frank Sweeny Arrested:**

United States Deputy Marshal Biggart went from Brooklyn to Astoria yesterday and arrested Frank Sweeny, an employee of the post office there. He was taken to the United States Court and held for examination. District Attorney Wilber and his assistants were strangely reticent about the case, and refused to allow anyone to see young Sweeny. He had been arrested, they said, in connection with the theft of Postal Notes from the Astoria Post Office, some of which Howard Warner tried to sell to a Bowery storekeeper a few days ago, and was arrested. The amount of money involved in the theft is small. Sweeny is the son of General George J.J. Sweeny, to whom the city of Brooklyn presented a sword in 1862. *[Published 13<sup>th</sup> July 1887]*

Frank Sweeny, who was arrested on Tuesday in connection with the theft of Postal Notes from the Astoria Post Office, stated that he never was a clerk in that office. *[Published 14<sup>th</sup> July 1887]*

Frank Sweeny, who was arrested on charges of stealing 43 Postal Notes from the Astoria Post Office and forging the signature of Postmaster Flannagan to them, was held for trial on \$4,000 bail yesterday. His father, Timothy Dale and William Hoffman furnished his bond. *[Published 15<sup>th</sup> July 1887]*

#### **Young Warner Confesses. How Two Boys Robbed the Astoria Post Office:**

The examination of Frank Sweeny, the son of General Sweeny, who was arrested for stealing a package of Postal Notes valued at \$4.99 [each] from the Astoria Post Office, was begun before United States Commissioner Morie, in Brooklyn yesterday. His associate, Howard Warner, testified against him. Sweeny is 19 years old and Warner is 16. The latter said that he frequented billiard rooms and beer saloons with Sweeny. On the night of July 2<sup>nd</sup> [1887], the witness visited Sweeny's house and was introduced by the prisoner to a nephew of Davis the Sawdust-Swindler. This young man is known as the "Fakir". At this meeting, the "Fakir" proposed a trip to Meriden, Connecticut, and young Sweeny asked the witness if he knew

where any money could be obtained. The latter said there was a little over \$4.00 in a drawer containing Postal Notes at the post office. Sweeny wanted to know if there was any chance to steal the notes, and the "Fakir" called him a fool for risking his reputation for such a small amount. [*"Fakir", Arabic origin, literally "poor man", first used in 1609, synonyms: chiseler, confidence man, impostor, scammer, swindler, trickster*]

The next day the witness saw the "Fakir" and young Sweeny in Schwartz's saloon, in Astoria, talking to young Flannagan, the son of the Postmaster. The question of going to Meriden was again broached, but not settled, and on July 5<sup>th</sup> the witness met Sweeny and Flannagan outside the door of the Post Office. The Postal Note book was lying on a desk near at hand, and when [Postmaster] Flanagan sent for some beer and went into an outhouse to drink it, Sweeny picked up the Postal Note book and [postal] stamp and calling to Warner to take the [conductor's] punch, ran off. The witness took the punch and met Sweeny at the Ninety-second Street ferry. Warner identified the notes found on Sweeny as the ones stolen, and the hearing was adjourned. [*Published 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1887*]

Frank Sweeny, son of General Sweeny, of Astoria, who was arrested on the charge of stealing Postal Notes from the Astoria Post Office, has been discharged by United States Commissioner Morie, who decided that there was no evidence upon which to hold him. [*Published 30<sup>th</sup> September 1887*]

---



Imagine what 2,000,000 postal orders look like!

Every week about that many were used for "Pools" coupons and processed by the Money Order Department at Holloway Road, London, then destroyed.



Even mugs have been produced. Members not to be offended! A must for the collector of Postal Orders!

eBay item 10/17 A\$36.98  
(£Stg 22)



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Time lucky! -Patience is a virtue!

*Ross Pratley*

**2014** was the first time I spotted this rare postal note in a Melbourne sale where I purchased a number of superb items (*mostly ex J. Harwood collection*). This Papua PN was of interest to me and I was the under bidder at \$600.00 + the extras. Following the sale I noted it did not appear in the unsold list and I was disappointed I had not bid more. The catalogue description was as follows:

“ c 1940 with PAPUA in Green, 6-Digit Serial Numbers in Black and John Ash Imprint at the Base 5/-, double circle POST OFFICE/9/SEP/1941/PORT MORESBY, PAPUA cds in violet, BNSW BRISBANE/NOT NEGOTIABLE cachet in red. Estimate \$400”

Three years later in response to my article on Papua, “Unique collection! Down Under” in PON 123, Jan. 2017 a member, Peter Cockburn, advised me of a nice Papua PN he had noticed in a recent Spink sale, in London. I was truly grateful to Peter, as with so few of these PNs known, they are worth recording. To my surprise it was the same Papua PN that had sold in Melbourne a few years earlier, with an increased estimate and described as follows:

Postal Note	
x1691 ○	c.1940 5/- in green and black with “PAPUA” at top and six digit number in top corners and Ash imprint at foot, issue in Port Moresby (9.9.41) and redeemed at Brisbane, showing “B.N.S.W. BRISBANE/NOT NEGOTIABLE” cachet in red and with two triangular punctures at top. Extremely rare, and the first example we have seen. Photo
	£800-1,000

In Sydney, Oct. '17 I volunteered to represent our local IBNS chapter at a Stamp & Coin fair, where a dealer referred me to an upcoming sale in Melbourne with another Auction firm who were in attendance and had a small number of Postal Notes included. You guessed it, the very same Papua Postal Note was again being offered. The auction firm only had a proof of the catalogue at this time but assured me they would send me a copy. Alas nothing received and with a very busy November I overlooked the sale which was held 15<sup>th</sup> November. About a week later I remembered the PN and contacted the firm, who advised the item was unsold and available at the opening price of \$380.00 + charges, totalling \$473.60. I more than gladly accepted. Wow! Finally, after three auctions and a few years, an important addition to our collection was made. Catalogue description this time read:

**Lot 227 of 409: POSTAL NOTES: PAPUA, 5/- c.1940 with 'PAPUA' in Green, 6-Digit Serial '010300' in Black, double-circle 'POST OFFICE/9/SEP/1941/PORT MORESBY, PAPUA' cds in violet, 'BNSW BRISBANE/NOT NEGOTIABLE' cachet in red, and John Ash Imprint at the Base, VF. Scarce. Estimate \$500.00**

**Now tell me was this fate, good luck or a just reward for being persistent?**

It does illustrate that one can still obtain a bargain from time to time.

Why is this Papua postal note important?

For starters any paper item to survive the tropical climate of Papua New Guinea can be considered scarce to extremely rare. However this PN has more significance as you will note it was deposited by "Drouen & Drouen", (*leading concert drum manufacturers in Queensland who gained important military contracts*), to their bank account with the Bank of New South Wales, Brisbane branch who then redeemed it with the Money Order Office, Brisbane. (See Fig. 1. "STAMP OF PAYING OFFICE.") The PN was issued during WWII, is amongst the finest known of the final issue in 1941, from the Territory of Papua and was saved prior to destruction, from the furnace. Less than five known of this type.

*Postal Notes are rarely found with the stamp of the paying office.*

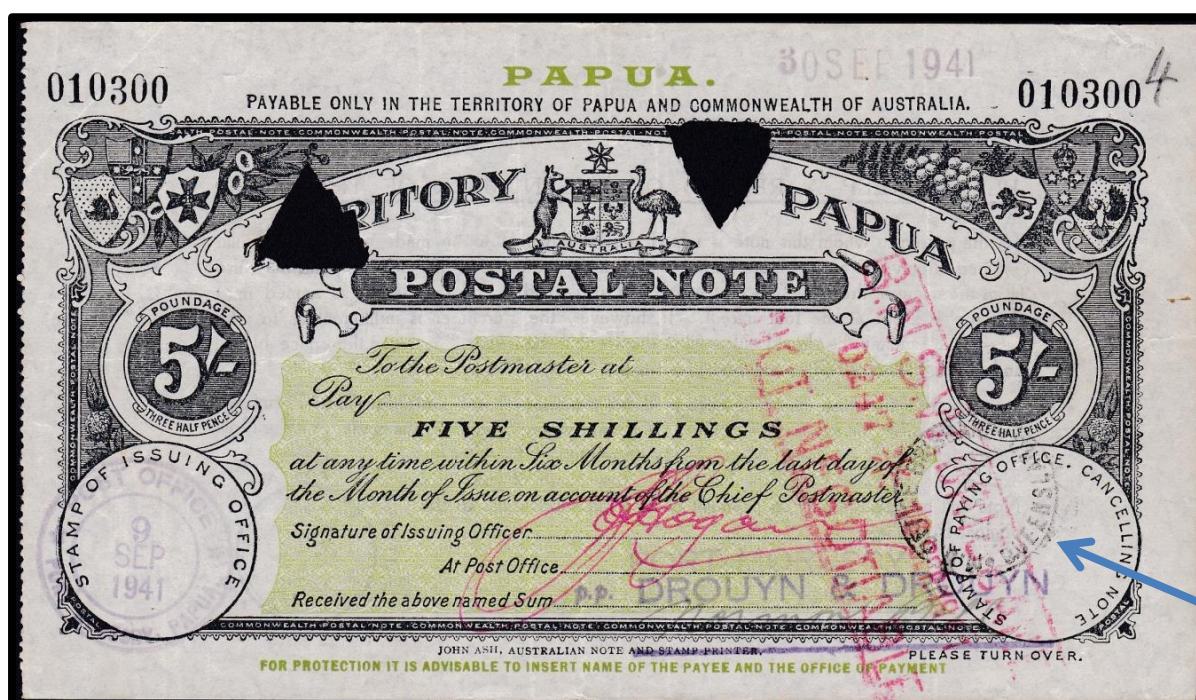


Fig.1: Circular "PAYING OFFICE" stamp: "M.O. BRISBANE QUEENSLAND" (see arrow). NB; two triangular hole punches which are typical cancellation punches used at Accounting Offices.

**A small number of GB Post Office circulars, dated 1963-69 were supplied to Jack Harwood who extracted for the benefit of members anything relating to postal orders/notes. These are continuing as space fillers in this and future PON issues.**

**POST OFFICE CIRCULAR 12 January 1966 No. 1220 Page 12 DF122**

### **Payment of Postal Orders**

Paying officers are still refusing payment of postal orders which do not bear an issuing office date-stamp even though there is no reason to doubt the title of the persons presenting the orders. Attention is directed to POR C2 (a) IV I (iii) NOTE which defines the conditions under which such postal orders may be paid.



The fact that such orders may be paid in no way detracts from the importance of issuing officers making a clear impression of the office date-stamp in the space provided at the time of issue.

---

## Irish overprints on UK postal orders.

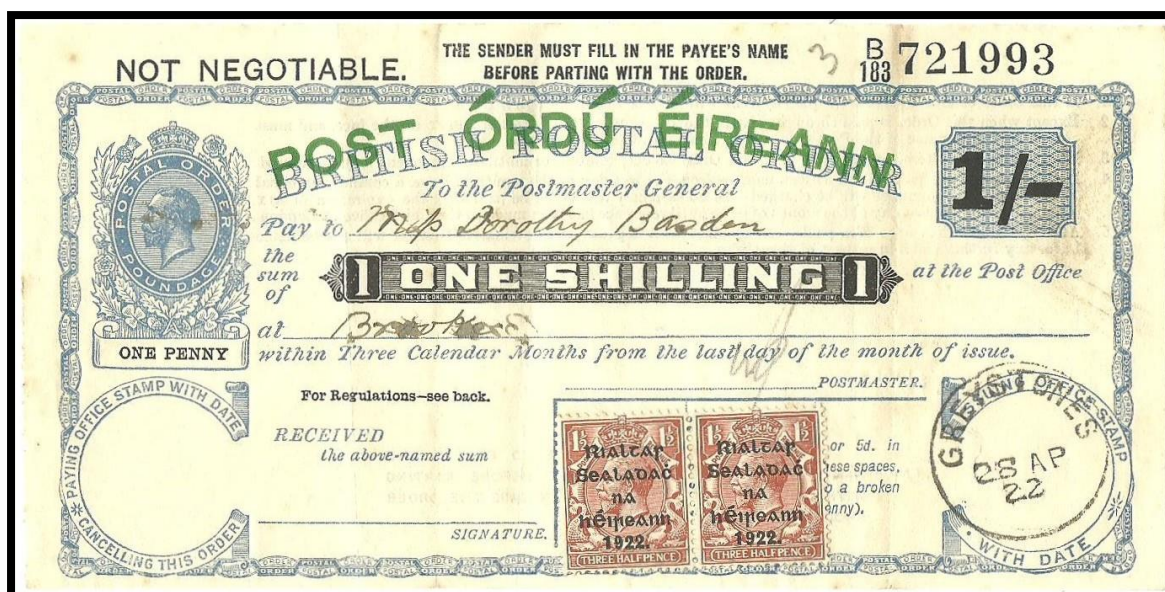
John Gledhill

Back in 2010 all the then-current paid-up members of the Postal Order Society received a free copy of the “**Directory of Overprinted British Postal Orders**”, the very first list of all countries known to have overprinted British postal orders. Two new countries have since been discovered. A 2<sup>nd</sup> edition is overdue, as I have about twice as many images now.

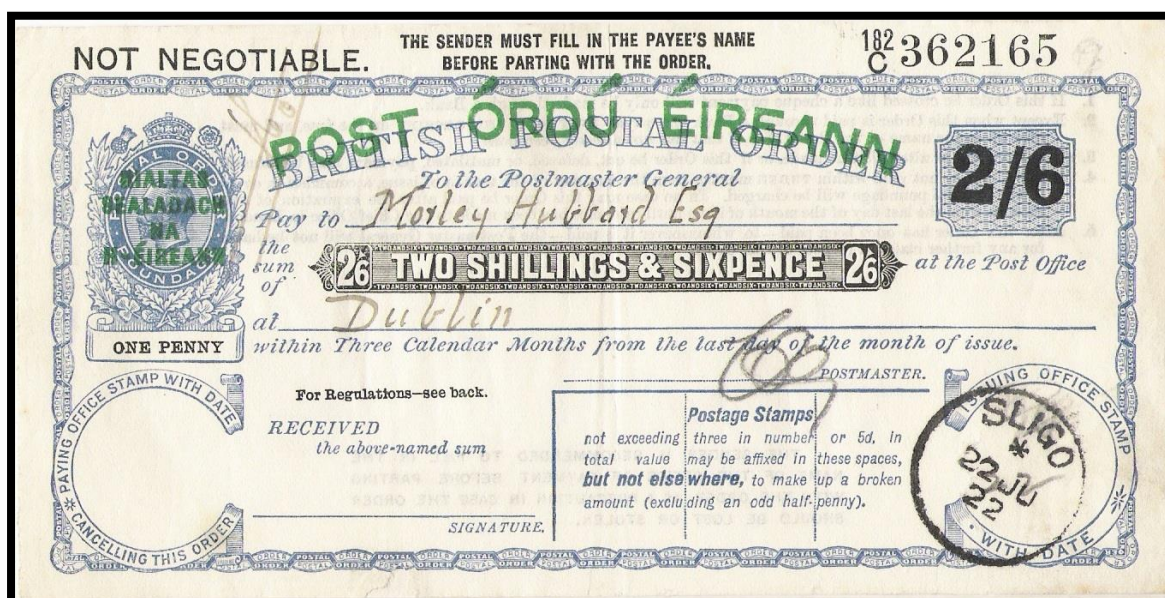
In the light of Michael Brill’s helpful notes in PON 125 (p.4), drawing on the illustrations which I used (*incorrectly identified, but clearly showing the differences*) in my article in PON 121 (p.18), I have now revisited the King George V British postal orders overprinted for the newly independent Ireland. Some interesting points have now arisen in the light of this information. There have been reports that a collector bought two copies, at least, of a complete set of every denomination from Harcourt Street dated 12 April 1926. At least one of the sets remains intact, so some unusual values are available (*all examples seen with this date stamp are with overprint type K5, tying in with the 1926 date*), which explains type K5 being the most commonly seen. It does not prove that they were the most commonly issued, however - non-philatelic items are scarce in all types.

**1. The different overprints.** The “Directory” identifies 5 overprint layouts issued between 1922 and 1926. These are the types as shown in the “Directory” but here shown in colour where possible and with the earliest known date (“*ekd*”) indicated.

All the overprints show the Irish wording “POST ORDÚ ÉIREANN” (*“Irish Postal Order”*) covering the heading “British Postal Order”. Similar overprint types are also applied to the counterfoils. (*Most are not shown here as few examples have been seen*).

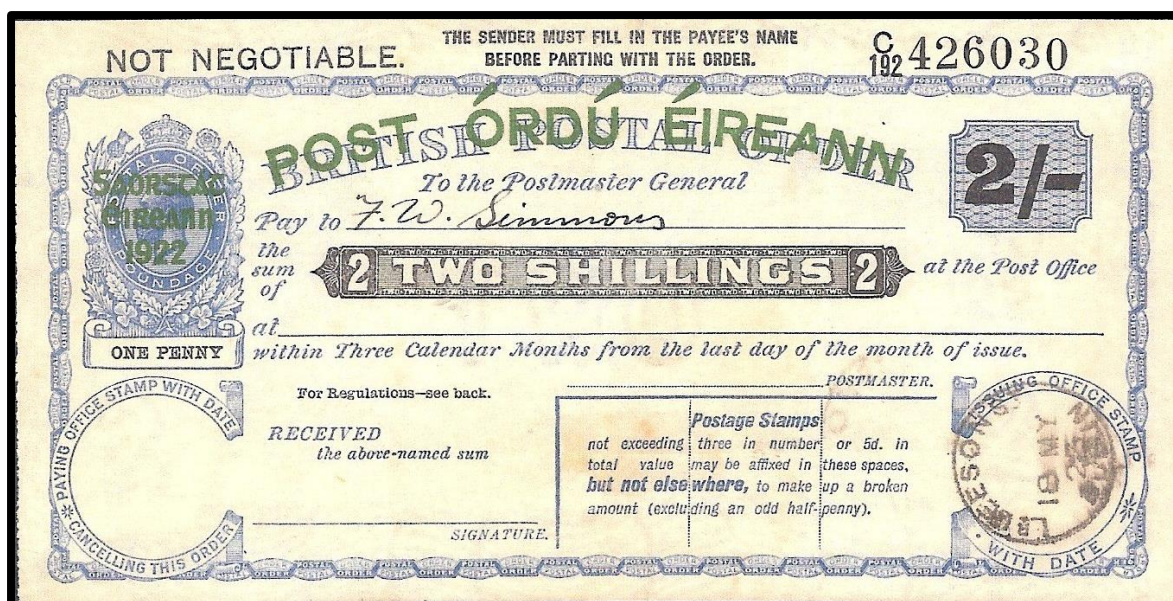


K1: No overprint over the King's head. (ekd 4 April 1922, reported to have been issued on 1 April 1922) All considered scarce.



K2: Apparently same font as type K1, but the King's head overprinted "RIALTAS SEALADACH NA H-ÉIREANN". ("Provisional Government of Ireland") (ekd 12 June 1922)

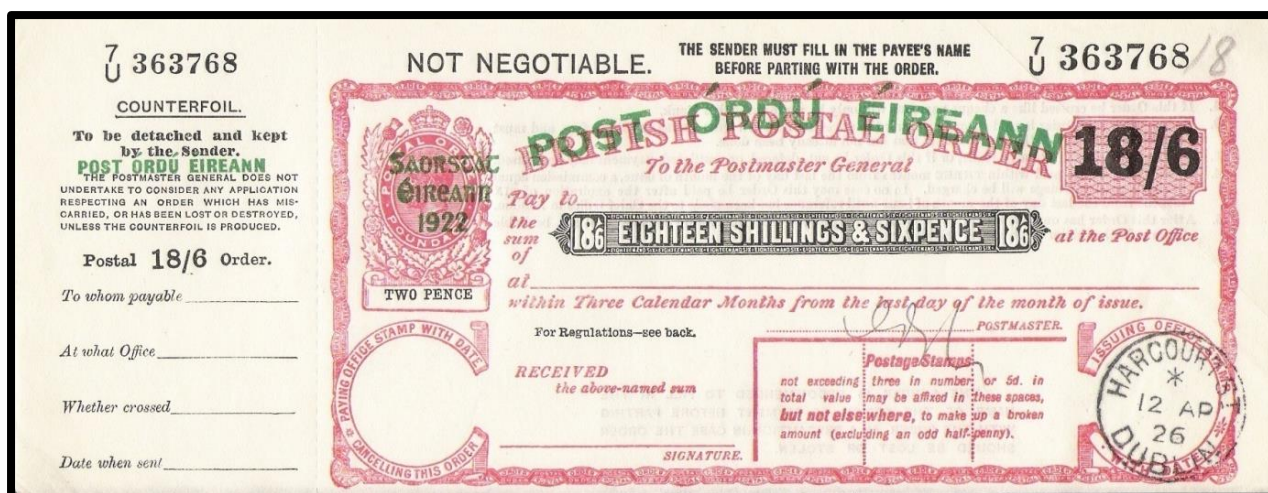




**K3:** King's head overprinted "SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN 1922" in Irish Gaelic uncial font (Irish Free State: this political status changing on 22 December 1922) in 3 lines. Otherwise as type K1 & K2. (ekd 18 May 1926).



**K4:** Small font overprint: oval "O", very large accents, accents on "O" and "E" start near the left of the letter. (One copy only seen todate.) (ekd 26 July 1924) Uniquely, the "POST ORDÚ ÉIREANN", repeated on the counterfoil in serified letters without accents.



**K5:** Reversion to large overprint: circular “O”, bold thick font, small accents. Accents start just right of the middle of the letters. (*ekd 20 July 1925 - month unclear, could be Dec*).

**2. The different underlying issues.** As described in the previous PON articles mentioned in the second paragraph at the start of this article, the following changes can be identified, from the bottom corners, though there are other differences throughout the design. (*Some of which are shown in PON 121, p.18*). The “types” referred to here are not part of the Brill catalogue categories, but are used here to show 3 types of three stamp boxes at the right, other than Downey heads.

**(a)Type 1:** original 1922 issue.

(i) BPO7.2.1 original poundages all values, Eire overprints only values from 3/- upwards.

(ii) BPO7.2.3 increased poundages 6d-2/6d only.



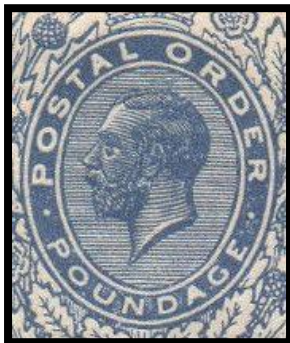


**Type 1:**

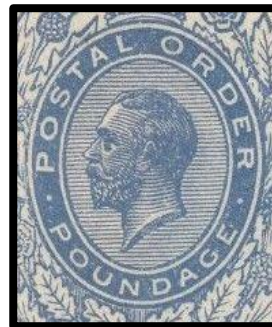


**b)Type2:**

Low head, corners as Type 1:  
BPO7.3 (25 May 1920).



**Types 1 and 3: Central head.**



**Type 2: Low head**

**(c)Type 3:** Whole postal order redrawn. (i) BPO7.4.1 counterfoil reads "... does not undertake to make good the value ...". (ii) BPO7.4.2 counterfoil reads "... does not undertake to consider any applications...". (iii) BPO7.5 as (ii) but multiple "GVR" watermark (rare; is known with "India" overprint, "specimen").



**Type 2:**



**3. Overprint types and postal order types:** Overprints K1, K2, K3: postal order type 1, BPO7.3. Overprint K4: postal order type 3(i), BPO7.4.1. Overprint K5: postal order type 3(ii), BPO7.4.2

**References:** 1. British Postal Orders 1881 to 2005, Michael Brill, 2005. (*ringbound*)  
2. Directory of Overprinted British Postal Orders, John Gledhill, 2010, limp bound, Postal Order Society and GB Overprints Society. 3. Postal Order News, 121 p.18 and 125 p.4.  
4. Comments and advice from Michael Brill, 2017.

**Source of images;** with thanks: K1: (POS member), K2: (POS member), K3: MacDonnell Whyte auction 2008, K4: PON 81, K5: (POS member).



## Vietnamese design for new IRC:



*The latest International Reply Coupon.*

**A VIETNAMESE** design has been chosen for the ninth version of the International reply coupon (IRC), first issued 110 years ago. The concept, designed by graphic artist Nguyen Du, was selected as part of the UPU's IRC design competition held during the 26<sup>th</sup> Universal Postal Congress in Istanbul. Guided by the theme 'the Post and sustainable development', the new IRC features a dove and welcoming hands against an Arctic backdrop, representing the sustainable development of the postal sector. The image of the vibrant yellow stamp against the blue background represents the postal sector's exciting prospects. As tradition dictates, the 2017 IRC bears the name of the latest congress host city. The Istanbul IRC went on sale on September 1, 2017. It will be valid until the end of 2021. The eighth, Doha, design of the IRC was withdrawn from sale on August 31, 2017, but could still be exchanged until December 31, 2017.

Using an IRC, a sender provides the means for an International recipient to reply to his or her message. IRC's can be exchanged in post offices for the minimum postage required to send a regular priority letter or airmail item abroad. Ten years of sales figures show that IRC's are both in demand and widely used across the world. Between 2009 and 2016, 120 Posts worldwide had issued more than six million IRCs in February, Royal Mail claiming that the average post office sold less than one a year.

They are available from local post offices and certain operators. Even if a designated operator of a member country does not sell IRCs, it is still obligated to exchange them. If a national operator does not sell IRCs, customers can buy from a post office of a neighbouring country.

**Thank you Mal Tedds, Life Member, for submitting this recent article which appeared in the "Philatelic Exporter".**