Barred Numeral Cancellations of Ireland Scarcity Ratings and Coloured Cancellations



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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Introduction	2
Assessment of Scarcity	2
Coloured Cancellations	4
Sources of Data	4
Spelling of Place Names	4
Feedback	4
Checklist	5

Introduction

The Maltese Cross obliterators served for almost four years before they were superseded, in 1844, with "barred numeral" obliterators, so called as they comprised a series of horizontal lines with a number in the centre to signify the Post Town that had cancelled the stamp. Due to the high number of Post Towns requiring a unique obliterator, five different designs were adopted.

The format for Irish Post Towns was that of a diamond with the number in the centre.

Initially, numbers in the range 1 to 450 were allocated with twelve being omitted so as not to cause confusion if viewed inverted. The earliest recorded usage is from Dublin (186) on 20 June 1844.

The purpose of this project is:

- To establish and publish a relative scarcity scale for the 1844 Barred Numeral cancellations allocated to Irish Post Towns used on the 1d red-brown imperforate stamp of Great Britain [SG 8-12], and
- 2. to provide an update to the lists of coloured numeral cancellations contained in *The Cancellations* of the 1841 Penny Red (Danzig and Goldsmith, 1991)

A logical extension to the project would be to collate the earliest recorded usage of each obliterator and this may be incorporated at a later date.

Assessment of Scarcity

It is acknowledged that any method of assessing the scarcity of cancellations will encounter difficulties, but it is hoped that by having a transparent process any reservations individuals may have can be minimised.

The initial phase of the project has been to collate information for each Post Town allocated a numeral from a wide variety of contemporary sources (see below). The data includes :

- The population of each town/village in each of the census years from 1821 to 1871
- Whether the office is a Post Town, a sub office or has been upgraded/downgraded
- The presence of professional and civic services / amenities, including:
 - o Legal (solicitors, magistrates, courts, prisons)
 - Clergy and churches
 - Military and Constabulary
 - o Newspapers
 - Banking
 - o Poor Law Union and Register offices
 - Medical (Doctors, Hospitals and Asylums)
- Proximity to a country seat

It is noted that the population figures are not those of the area served by the Post Town; just that of the town's immediate area but as a consistent approach has been taken this is believed to be a satisfactory starting point.

The first stage has been to group towns of similar size (by population) and based upon this allocate one of the scarcity ratings A to H.

Dublin, being the capital of Ireland, quite naturally has the largest population and the largest concentration of civil institutions so has been allocated a rating of "A" and is the only city/town to have been so-classified.

The scale runs from A (the most commonly encountered) to H (the scarcest)

- A Abundant reserved for Dublin (number 186)
- B Very Common main towns/cities
- C Common mainly larger market towns
- D Less Common
- E Scarce
- F Very Scarce
- G Rare
- H Very Rare

The second stage has been to re-assign a small proportion of places to an alternate rating (either upwards or downwards) due to them having a disproportionate number of services/amenities compared to other places of a similar size.

An example would be Cavan (number 126) which from the population alone would receive a rating of "D" but unlike many other places of a similar size, it

- is the head of a Poor Law Union with a workhouse and hospital
- has a courthouse, assizes and prison
- is the seat of a diocese with multiple clergy residing in the area
- has a bank and newspaper

which should be indicators that more post would originate from here, suggesting that an upgrade to a "C" rating would be appropriate.

Without going into specific detail for anywhere else, this is the type of consideration that has been undertaken for each place.

Many of places rated as "H", following this stage, appear to have no special requirement for a Post Office over other villages/hamlets throughout the rest of the Country. The fact that a Post Office (usually a sub office) exists at all would appear to be mainly due to the presence of one or more country seats of the gentry/nobility or its geographical location to facilitate the operation of the postal system.

At this stage of the project, the scarcity ratings were only provisional and it was not considered appropriate to publish them. Therefore, an appeal for additional information was made to members of the Mulready Group (October 2013) and also to the wider GBPS membership (November 2013).

The responses received have resulted in a few, but minor, re-assignments of some ratings, and we are now ready to publish the first version.

From the project's inception, it was decided to make the results available to download, in PDF format, from the GBPS Website so that subsequent revisions, as more data becomes available, could easily be distributed.

The latest version, including this overview, is available at www.gbps.org.uk/information/downloads.php

Coloured Cancellations

The Cancellations of the 1841 Penny Red contains four lists detailing those numerals recorded using blue, green, red and brown inks. Permission has been granted by Robert Danzig to update these lists and include the revised data within the project. Our thanks to him too for providing updated information which has been incorporated within our listing in addition to information from other sources. We have not however attempted to categorise the enhanced range of coloured numerals according to their relative scarcity at this stage and reference should be made to *The Cancellations of the 1841 Penny Red* for this in so far as it relates to those recorded at the time of publication of that work.

Sources of Data

The following publications have been used to collate the data.

The Gentleman's and Citizen's Almanack, John Watson Stewart, 1783, 1812, 1814, 1818, 1822, 1829 The Post Chaise Companion, 1786

A List of Post Towns and Principal Places, Joseph Hartnell, 1830

The Dublin Almanac and General Register of Ireland, Pettigrew and Oulton, 1835, 1836 and 1845 Returns to the House of Commons, 1836 and 1837

A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, Samuel Lewis, 1837

The Post Office Annual Directory and Calendar, John S Folds, 1843; Alexander Thom, 1858

The Parliamentary Gazetteer, A. Fullarton & Co, 1846

Thom's Irish Almanac and Official Directory, Alexander Thom, 1850, 1852, 1857, 1868, 1877

British Postal Guide, Eyre and Spottiswoode, No. 1, May 1856, No. 3 Jan 1857

The Cancellations of the 1841 Penny Red, Robert Danzig and David Goldsmith, 1991

Spelling of Place Names

The spelling of Irish place names in this period is not consistent even in the same publication in consecutive years, nor even within different editions of the official Post Office lists. The convention adopted is to use the official spelling supported where necessary by *The Parliamentary Gazetteer*, published in 1846.

Feedback

We are continually seeking to refine this listing and add as much data as possible to it and would welcome dialogue with any collector upon the subject. The authors may be contacted by email as follows: Andrew Chappell (qvp@btinternet.com) or Chris Jones (chris@gbimperf.org).

Scarcity Ratings and Coloured Cancellations

The scarcity scale runs from A (the most commonly encountered) to H (the scarcest)

- A Abundant reserved for Dublin (number 186)
- B Very Common main towns/cities
- C Common mainly larger market towns
- D Less Common
- E Scarce
- F Very Scarce
- G Rare
- H Very Rare

The rating relates to cancellations in black ink on the 1d red-brown imperforate stamp of Great Britain [SG 8-12]

Numeral	Town	County	Scarcity	Blue	Green	Red	Brown
1	Abbeyleix	Queens Co	E				
2	Adare	Limerick	G				
3	Ahascragh	Galway	F				
4	Ardara	Donegal	G				
5	Ardee	Louth	D				
6	Ardglass	Down	F				
7	Ardrahan	Galway	F				
8	Armagh	Armagh	С				
10	Arklow	Wicklow	D				
11	Arthurstown	Wexford	F				
12	Arva	Cavan	F				
13	Ashbourne	Meath	G				
14	Ashford	Wicklow	G				
15	Athboy	Meath	G				
16	Athenry	Galway	Н				
17	Athleague	Roscommon	Н				
18	Athlone	Westmeath	С				
20	Athy	Kildare	D				
21	Aughnacloy	Tyrone	E				
22	Aughrim	Galway	G				
23	Antrim	Antrim	D				
24	Askeaton	Limerick	Н				
25	Bagnalstown	Carlow	Е				
26	Bailieborough	Cavan	Е				
27	Balbriggan	Dublin	D				
28	Ballaghadireen	Mayo	G				
29	Ballina	Mayo	С				
30	Ballybay	Monaghan	Е				
31	Ballinakill	Queens Co	Е				
32	Ballinasloe	Galway	D				
33	Ballincollig	Cork	Е				
34	Ballinderry	Tipperary	Н				
35	Ballingarry	Limerick	Е				
36	Ballinrobe	Mayo	D				
37	Ballycastle	Antrim	Е				

Numeral	Town	County	Scarcity	Blue	Green	Red	Brown
38	Ballyclare	Antrim	F				
39	Ballyconnell	Cavan	G				
40	Ballybrittas	Queens Co	G				
41	Ballygawley	Tyrone	G				
42	Ballyglass	Mayo	Н				
43	Ballyhaise	Cavan	F				
44	Ballyjamesduff	Cavan	F				
45	Ballymahon	Longford	Е				
46	Ballymena	Antrim	С				
47	Ballymoe	Galway	Н				
48	Ballymoney	Antrim	D				
49	Ballymore	Westmeath	F				
50	Ballymote	Sligo	Е				
51	Ballinacargy	Westmeath	G				
52	Ballinahinch	Down	F				
53	Ballinamore	Leitrim	F				
54	Ballyragget	Kilkenny	Н				
55	Ballyshannon	Donegal	D				
56	Ballytore	Kildare	G				
57	Banagher	Kings Co	E				
58	Banbridge	Down	D				
59	Bandon	Cork	С				
60	Bangor	Down	Е				
61	Bantry	Cork	D				
62	Belfast	Antrim	В				
62	Belfast - split	Antrim	Е				
63	Bellaghy	Derry	F				
64	Belmullet	Mayo	F				
65	Belturbet	Cavan	Е				
66	Broadford	Clare	G				
67	Blackwatertown	Armagh	Н				
68	Blackrock	Dublin	Е				
69	Blessingtown	Wicklow	G				
70	Boyle	Roscommon	D				
71	Booterstown	Dublin	F				
72	Bray	Wicklow	D				
73	Broadway	Wexford	Н				
74	Brookborough	Fermanagh	G				
75	Broughshane	Antrim	G				
76	Bruff	Limerick	Е				
77	Buncrana	Donegal	F				
78	Bunratty	Clare	G				
79	Burren	Clare	Н				
80	Borris o' Kane	Tipperary	Е				
81	Borris o' Leagh	Tipperary	Н				
82	Borris in Ossory	Queens Co	F				
83	Bushmills	Antrim	F				

Numeral	Town	County	Scarcity	Blue	Green	Red	Brown
84	Buttevant	Cork	Е				
85	Baltinglass	Wicklow	Е				
86	Cabinteely	Dublin	Н				
87	Cahirciveen	Kerry	G				
88	Cahirconlish	Limerick	F				
90	Cahir	Tipperary	D				
92	Caledon	Tyrone	F				
93	Callan	Kilkenny	D				
94	Camolin	Wexford	F				
95	Cappoquin	Waterford	E				
96	Carlingford	Louth	F				
97	Carlow	Carlow	С				
100	Carn	Donegal	F				
101	Carnew	Wicklow	F				
102	Carrickfergus	Antrim	D				
103	Carrickmacross	Monaghan	E				
104	Carrick on Shannon	Leitrim	D				
105	Carrick on Suir	Tipperary	С				
106	Cashel	Tipperary	С				
107	Castlebar	Mayo	D				
108	Castlebellingham	Louth	F				
110	Castleblakeney	Galway	Н				
111	Castleblayney	Monaghan	D				
112	Castlecomer	Kilkenny	E				
113	Castleconnell	Limerick	F				
114	Castledawson	Derry	F				
115	Castlederg	Tyrone	F				
116	Castledermot	Kildare	G				
117	Castlefin	Donegal	F				
118	Castlemartyr	Cork	F				
120	Castlepollard	Westmeath	Е				
121	Castlerea	Roscommon	D				
122	Castletown	Cork	F				
123	Castletown Delvin	Westmeath	G				
124	Castletown Roche	Cork	Н				
125	Castlewellan	Down	F				
126	Cavan	Cavan	С				
127	Celbridge	Kildare	E				
128	Charleville	Cork	D				
129	Church Hill	Fermanagh	Н				
130	Clane	Kildare	Н				
131	Clara	Kings Co	F				
132	Clare	Mayo	E				
133	Clashmore	Waterford	Н				
134	Clifden	Galway	Е				
135	Cloghan	Kings Co	G				
136	Clogheen	Tipperary	Е				

Numeral	Town	County	Scarcity	Blue	Green	Red	Brown
137	Clogher	Tyrone	F				
138	Clonakilty	Cork	D				
139	Clonard	Meath	G				
140	Clonee	Meath	Н				
141	Clones	Monaghan	D				
142	Clonmel	Tipperary	В				
143	Clough	Down	G				
144	Cloghjordan	Tipperary	F				
145	Cloyne	Cork	E				
146	Coachford	Cork	Н				
147	Coal Island	Tyrone	Н				
148	Colehill	Longford	Н				
149	Coleraine	Derry	С				
150	Collon	Louth	F				
151	Collooney	Sligo	F				
152	Cong	Mayo	Н				
153	Comber	Down	Е				
154	Cookstown	Tyrone	D				
155	Cootehill	Cavan	D				
156	Cork	Cork	В				
157	Cove	Cork	D				
158	Carrigart	Donegal	G				
159	Craughwell	Galway	Н				
160	Creeslough	Donegal	Н				
161	Crookstown	Cork	Н				
162	Crossakeel	Meath	Н				
163	Crossdoney	Cavan	G				
164	Crossmolina	Mayo	Н				
165	Croom	Limerick	E				
166	Crumlin	Antrim	G				
167	Corofin	Clare	F				
168	Cushendall	Antrim	G				
170	Dangan	Galway	Н				
171	Delgany	Wicklow	G				
172	Derry	Derry	В				
173	Dervock	Antrim	G				
174	Dingle	Kerry	G				
175	Donaghadee	Down	Е				
176	Donegal	Donegal	Е				
177	Doneraile	Cork	Е				
178	Downpatrick	Down	D				
179	Drogheda	Louth	В				
180	Dromod	Leitrim	Н				
181	Dromore	Down	Е				
182	Dromore West	Sligo	F				
183	Drumcree	Westmeath	Н				
184	Drumsna	Leitrim	G				

Numeral	Town	County	Scarcity	Blue	Green	Red	Brown
185	Draperstown	Derry	Н				
186	Dublin	Dublin	Α				
187	Dundalk	Louth	В				
188	Dunfanaghy	Donegal	F				
190	Dundrum	Dublin	Н				
192	Dromaragh	Down	Н				
193	Dungannon	Tyrone	D				
194	Dungarvan	Waterford	С				
195	Dungiven	Derry	F				
196	Dunlavan	Wicklow	F				
197	Dunleer	Louth	F				
198	Dungloe	Donegal	G				
200	Dunmanway	Cork	Н				
201	Dunmore	Galway	F				
202	Dunmore East	Waterford	G				
203	Dunshaughlin	Meath	F				<u> </u>
204	Durrow	Queens Co	E				
205	Edenderry	Kings Co	E				
206	Edgeworthstown	Longford	F				
207	Elphin	Roscommon	E				
208	Emo	Queens Co	G				
209	Emyvale	Monaghan	F				
210	Enfield	Meath	G				
211	Ennis	Clare	С				
212	Enniscorthy	Wexford	С				
213	Enniskerry	Wicklow	G				
214	Enniskillen	Fermanagh	С				
215	Ennistymon	Clare	E				
216	Eyrecourt	Galway	E				
217	Ferbane	Kings Co	F				
218	Fermoy	Cork	С				
219	Ferns	Wexford	F				
220	Fethard	Tipperary	G				1
221	Fethard	Wexford	G				1
222	Fintona	Tyrone	E				1
223	Fivemiletown	Tyrone	F				1
224	Florencecourt	Fermanagh	Н				1
225	Flurrybridge	Armagh	Н				
226	Forkhill	Armagh	Н				
227	Foxford	Mayo	Н				
228	Foynes	Limerick	Н				
229	Frankford	Kings Co	Е				
230	Frenchpark	Roscommon	G				
231	Freshford	Kilkenny	E				
232	Galway	Galway	В				
233	Garvagh	Derry	F				
234	Geashill	Kings Co	Н				

Numeral	Town	County	Scarcity	Blue	Green	Red	Brown
235	Gilford	Down	E				
236	Glasslough	Monaghan	Н				
237	Glenarm	Antrim	F				
238	Glenavy	Antrim	G				
239	Glin	Limerick	E				
240	Golden	Tipperary	Н				
241	Golden Ball	Dublin	Н				
242	Gort	Galway	D				
243	Gorey	Wexford	D				
244	Gowran	Kilkenny	E				
245	Graigue	Kilkenny	E				
246	Granard	Longford	Е				
247	Grey Abbey	Down	Н				
248	Goresbridge	Kilkenny	F				
249	Headford	Galway	G				
250	Hillsborough	Down	E				
251	Hollymount	Mayo	G				
252	Hollywood	Down	E				
253	Howth	Dublin	G				
254	Innistiogue	Kilkenny	F				
255	Innisshannon	Cork	F				
256	Johnstown	Kilkenny	F				
257	Kanturk	Cork	D				
258	Keady	Armagh	E				
259	Kells	Meath	D				
260	Kenmare	Kerry	E				
261	Kilbeggan	Westmeath	E				
262	Kilcock	Kildare	E				
263	Kilconnel	Galway	Н				
264	Kilcullen	Kildare	E				
265	Kildare	Kildare	E				
266	Kildorrery	Cork	G				
267	Kildysart	Clare	F				
268	Kilkeel	Down	E				
269	Kilkenny	Kilkenny	В				
270	Killalla	Mayo	Е				
271	Killaloe	Clare	E				
272	Killarney	Kerry	С				
273	Killinardrish	Cork	Н				
274	Killeagh	Cork	Н				
275	Killucan	Westmeath	Н				
276	Killybegs	Donegal	F				
277	Killyleagh	Down	Е				
278	Killenaule	Tipperary	Н				
279	Killeshandra	Cavan	G				
280	Killinchy	Down	Н				
281	Killough	Down	Е				

Numeral	Town	County	Scarcity	Blue	Green	Red	Brown
282	Kilmacrenan	Donegal	Н				
283	Kilmallock	Limerick	E				
284	Kilree	Derry	Н				
285	Kilrush	Clare	D				
286	Kilworth	Cork	E				
287	Kilmacthomas	Waterford	F				
	Kingscourt	Cavan	E				
289	Kingstown	Dublin	С				
290	Kinsale	Cork	С				
291	Kinnegad	Westmeath	F				
	Kinnitty	Kings Co	G				
	Kirkcubbin	Down	F				
	Kesh	Fermanagh	G				
	Knock	Clare	G				
296	Knocktopher	Kilkenny	Н				
	Kinvarra	Galway	Н				
298	Lanesborough	Longford	Н				
299	Larne	Antrim	D				
300	Leighlinbridge	Carlow	E				
	Leixslip	Kildare	G				
302	Letterkenny	Donegal	D				
303	Limerick	Limerick	В				
303	Lisburn	Antrim	D				
305	Lismore	Waterford	E				
306	Lisnaskea	Fermanagh	F				
307	Listowel	Kerry	D				
308	Littleton	Tipperary	G				
309	Longford	Longford	С				
310	Loughbrickland	Down	F				
	Loughgall	Armagh	G				
312	Loughrea	Galway	D				
313	Lowtherstown	Fermanagh	G				
314	Louth	Louth	Н				
315	Lucan	Dublin	G				
316	Lurgan	Armagh	D				
317	Macroom	Cork	D				
318	Maghera	Derry	E				
318	Magherafelt	Derry	E				
320	Malahide	Dublin	F				
321	Mallow	Cork	C				
321	Manorhamilton	Leitrim	G				
	Markethill	Armagh	G	-			
323		Queens Co	D				
	Maryborough		E				
325 326	Maynooth Middleton	Kildare Cork	D				
327	Millstreet	Cork	E				
328	Milltown	Dublin	F				

Numeral	Town	County	Scarcity	Blue	Green	Red	Brown
329	Milltownmalbay	Clare	E				
330	Mitchellstown	Cork	D				
331	Moate	Westmeath	E				
332	Mohill	Leitrim	G				
333	Moira	Down	F				
334	Monaghan	Monaghan	С				
335	Monastereven	Kildare	E				
336	Moneygall	Kings Co	F				
337	Moneymore	Derry	G				
338	Mountmellick	Queens Co	D				
339	Mountnugent	Cavan	G				
340	Mountrath	Queens Co	E				
341	Mount Talbot	Roscommon	Н				
342	Moville	Donegal	F "				
343	Moy	Tyrone	F F				
344	Moynalty	Meath	Н				
345	Mullingar	Westmeath	C				
346	Naas	Kildare	D				
347	Narin	Donegal	Н				
348	Navan	Meath	D				
349			С				
	Nenagh	Tipperary	Н				
350 351	New Birmingham Newbliss	Tipperary	Н				
		Monaghan					
352	Newbridge	Kildare	E				
353	Newcastle	Limerick	D				
354	Newmarket on Fergus	Clare	E				
355	Newport	Mayo	E				
356	Newport	Tipperary	E				
357	Newry	Down	В				
358	Newtown Ardes	Down	С				
359	Newtown Barry	Wexford	E				
360	Newtown Forbes	Longford	G				
361	Newtown Hamilton	Armagh	E				
362	Newtown Limavady	Derry	D				-
363	Newtown Mount Kennedy	Wicklow	F				-
364	Newtown Stewart	Derry	G				
365	Nobber	Meath	Н				<u> </u>
366	Oldcastle	Meath	G				
367	Omagh	Tyrone	С				
368	Oranmore	Galway	F				
369	Pallasgreen	Limerick	Н	ļ			
370	Pallaskenry	Limerick	Н	ļ			
371	Parsonstown	Kings Co	С				
372	Passage West	Cork	Н				
373	Philipstown	Kings Co	E				
374	Pilltown	Kilkenny	F				
375	Portadown	Armagh	E				

Numeral	Town	County	Scarcity	Blue	Green	Red	Brown
376	Portaferry	Down	E				
377	Portarlington	Queens Co	E				
378	Portglenone	Antrim	F				
379	Portlaw	Waterford	E				
380	Portumna	Galway	E				
381	Ramelton	Donegal	E				
382	Randalstown	Antrim	F				
383	Raphoe	Donegal	E				
384	Rathangan	Kildare	G				
385	Rathcoole	Dublin	F				
386	Rathcormack	Cork	E				
387	Rathdowney	Queens Co	E				
388	Rathdrum	Wicklow	E				
389	Rathfarnham	Dublin	F				
390	Rathfriland	Down	E				
391	Rathkeale	Limerick	D				
392	Rathowen	Westmeath	G				
393	Red Hills	Cavan	Н				
394	Rich Hill	Armagh	F				
395	Rochfort Bridge	Westmeath	G				
396	Roscommon	Roscommon	С				
397	Roscrea	Tipperary	D				
398	Ross	Wexford	C				
399	Roscarbery	Cork	E				
400	Rostrevor	Down	F				
	Ruskey	Roscommon	Н				
402	Saintfield	Down	F				
403	Scariff	Clare	Н				
404	Scrabby	Cavan	Н				
405	Shanagolden	Limerick	Н				
406	Shinrone	Kings Co	F				
407	Sixmilebridge	Clare	G				
408	Skibbereen	Cork	G				
409	Slane	Meath	G				
410	Sligo	Sligo	В				
411	Stewartstown	Tyrone	E				
412	Strabane	Tyrone	D				
413	Stradbally	Queens Co	E				
414	Stradone	Cavan	Н				
415	Strangford	Down	F				
416	Stranolar	Donegal	F				
417	Strokestown	Roscommon	Е				
418	Stoneyford	Kildare	G				
419	Summerhil	Meath	G				
420	Swineford	Mayo	Е				
421	Swords	Dublin	Е				
422	Taghmon	Wexford	G				

Numeral	Town	County	Scarcity	Blue	Green	Red	Brown
423	Tallaght	Dublin	G				
424	Tallow	Waterford	Е				
425	Tanderagee	Armagh	E				
426	Tarbert	Kerry	F				
427	Templemore	Tipperary	E				
428	Thomastown	Kilkenny	E				
429	Thurles	Tipperary	С				
430	Tinehely	Wicklow	F				
431	Tipperary	Tipperary	С				
432	Toome	Antrim	Н				
433	Tralee	Kerry	В				
434	Trim	Meath	D				
435	Tuam	Galway	С				
436	Tobbermore	Derry	G				
437	Tulla	Clare	E				
438	Tullamore	Kings Co	С				
439	Tullow	Carlow	D				
440	Tynan	Armagh	Н				
441	Tyrrel's Pass	Westmeath	F				
442	Valentia	Kerry	Н				
443	Virginia	Cavan	G				
444	Warrenpoint	Down	E				
445	Waterford	Waterford	В				
446	Waringstown	Down	F				
447	Westport	Mayo	D				
448	Wexford	Wexford	В				
449	Wicklow	Wicklow	D				
450	Youghal	Cork	D				

Originally recorded in "The Cancellations of the 1841 Penny Red"		
Examples recorded since the original publication in 1991		