

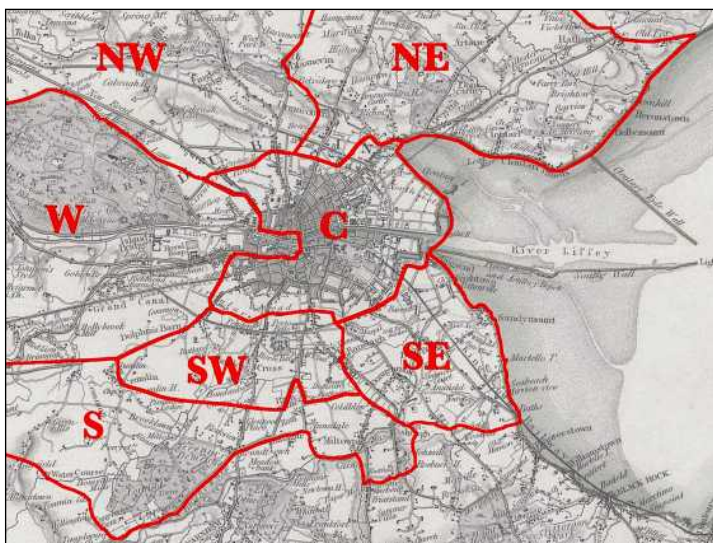
# Dublin Postal Delivery District Initials and Numbers (1927-1933)

## Purpose

To show Dublin's first post code address numbering scheme intended for more efficient mail sorting and money saving by the Dublin Postal area Sorting Offices.

## Importance

Instituted in 1927, by the newly independent Irish state, it divided the capital city's mail sorting directly into Postmen's walks similar to that in use in London and Glasgow. Occasional uses are seen into the 1950s and a new simpler system started in the 1960s



Map of Dublin showing the basic layout of the areas covered by the different sorting offices with their postal initials

Irish language addresses used different initials

## Scope

The display shows mail to and from six of the seven Dublin Sorting Offices with their Initials and Numerals. A selection of postman's walks are displayed and the initial 1927 street initials and numbers booklet. All walk numbers are not shown because covers are difficult to find. The Central Office in Pearse Street, being the largest, had most walks needing circa 45% of the exhibit. One cover in Irish, of two known to me, is displayed but has address errors. Forerunner examples of the 1917 London and 1924 Glasgow systems are shown.

## Organisation

The exhibit is divided by sorting office, location and walks. The largest, in the city centre, had the most postmens' walks The smaller offices had fewer:

Central	Pearse Street	19
West	James' Street	7
North East	Fairview	6 (7)
North West	Phibsboro	6
South	Rathgar	4 (5)
South West	Rathmines	9
South East	Ballsbridge	6

## References

*Dublin District Initials and Numbers*, Winkelmann, August 2024, *Irish Philately*  
*The Post Office in Ireland*, Ferguson, 2016, p371, IAP  
Official documents from the Irish National Archives



1917 Army Post Office R.34 cds to LONDON S.E with "1" added in manuscript - WWI censored

Mr. H. K. OLNEY,  
Superintendent,  
Haddon Hall Sunday School,  
Tower Bridge Road,  
LONDON, S.E.1

ENTS, LTD.

133 QUEEN STREET  
GLASGOW, C.1.

Forerunner covers with postal codes of London and Glasgow

# Dublin Postal Delivery District Initials and Numbers (1927-1933)

## Synopsis: Minnesota 2025

Ireland's first attempt at a post code system was initiated in 1927, just five years after independence. The purpose was an attempt to **save money and make sorting more efficient** in the seven Dublin Sorting Offices.

In November 1925, when the state was barely three years old, the Controller of the Dublin Postal District suggested this system **similar to those in operation in London since 1917 and Glasgow since 1924**. The idea was to assign initials representing the delivery areas, and numbers designating the postman's walks. The scheme would allow the mail to be sorted directly into the routes of the individual group of postmen.

The exhibit shows a selection of mail to and from the Dublin sorting offices collected over 25 years. While 57 **"Walks" were suggested** in the proposal but with the **difficulty of finding such, mostly commercial mail, six of the seven** offices are represented and not all walks are shown. Some senders continued to use the system long after it had been discontinued.

Pearse Street, known as the Central Office, was the largest dealing with the city centre.

Changes in the distribution of street **initials and numbers were reassigned in 1929** and no new booklets were issued but in the 1931-2 Eolai an Phoist (Irish Post Office Guide) a fully revised list was published.

**Changes to street designations are noted in red on the exhibit pages.**

### The seven Dublin Sorting Offices

C	Pearse Street	19	M
W	James's Street	7	I
NE	Fairview	6	O-T
NW	Phibsborough	6	I-T
S	Rathgar	4	D
SW	Rathmines	9	I-D
SE	Ballsbridge	6	O-D

**Irish language initials shown at right**  
**Numbers of "Walks" shown per office**

### Noteworthy items

Only recorded copy of 1927 street book listing known to me. (Sheet 2)

"Condemned and Released" cover from Portugal in 1942 was released by British censorship in March 1946. (Sheet 10)

A rather late use of codes on cover from India to Dublin in 1954 (sheet 11).

Two Irish language covers are known to me. One of these is exhibited. (Sheet 13)

German Customs Control cover sent to a house name that was identified as being in Zion Road, originally S.2 in 1927 but S.5 in 1931. Now the house is *The High School*. (Sheet 14)

Cover showing reintroduced post code system dated 1966 from Belfast to **Dublin 6** (Sheet 16).

### Reference Sources:

*Dublin District Initials and Numbers*,  
Winkelmann, Aug. 2024, Irish Philately, p 54  
- Available at APS Library  
*The Post Office in Ireland*, Ferguson, 2016,  
p 371, Irish Academic Press  
Official Irish National Archives documents

### Recent Changes:

*Based on recent Judge's EEF critiques*  
**Synopsis:** add details of exhibitor being the author of the first published article and highlight challenge in finding material  
**Headers:** Now show new sections clearly  
**Street booklet:** Unique example now noted