

THE DUBLIN CENSOR OFFICE 1939-1945

IRISH CIVIL CENSORSHIP: "THE EMERGENCY"

Phoenix Hall, Exchequer Street, Dublin

PURPOSE: To showcase Irish civil postal censorship as carried out by the Dublin Censor Office during *The Emergency*, as World War II, 1939-1945, was known in Ireland.

SCOPE: To display the most comprehensive part of a thirty five-plus year study and collection of all aspects of Ireland's civil postal censorship.

INTRODUCTION: Censorship of communications, including mail, was established on 3rd Sept 1939 under the *EMERGENCY POWERS ORDER, 1939*, following the Prime Minister, Éamon de Valéra's, neutrality address to Dáil Éireann (Irish Parliament) on 2nd September, in which he said: *It is necessary at every step to protect our own interests in that regard, to avoid giving to any of the belligerents any due cause, any proper cause, of complaint.*

The Irish Government had a Censorship Committee since March 1937 and an *Handbook for the use of Postal Censors* printed in Sept 1938, and by 10 July 1939 "... had accommodation and key personnel earmarked": and "the necessary orders, warrants, forms etc, ... ready for issue at short notice."

IMPORTANCE: Censorship was the most significant and publically notable development of the Irish postal service in the 20th century since the state was founded in 1922. It was planned, despite Ireland remaining neutral and effectively remote from the belligerents. Much of the material and information has added to the philatelic and research knowledge, and builds on the previous fifty years of published works.

ORGANISATION: The exhibit has six main sections from the beginning until the termination of the censorship as shown in below.

Organisation:	
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Postal Handstamps	78 - 79
Termination of Censorship	80

Typical early censor cover posted 5 X 39 for airmail (double the 1/3 all-up rate).

Intended for flying boat Northern Route from Foynes to New York by Pan-Am *Yankee Clipper* scheduled to depart 4th October: inbound flight was delayed due to fog. Departed 7 October as the last direct Foynes to US flight in 1939.

G.P.O. weekly censor and airmail reports confirms delay while Aitink & Hovenkamp show scheduled date.



* **Discovery and other notable items have a thin keyline around the cover. and associated text box.**

Note: To avoid damage, some illustrations of pink censor labels are same-size photocopies on pink paper.