

The Establishment of the General Post Office at Dublin in 1782

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In an April 25, 1999 Philatelic Literature Postal Auction, Cavendish Philatelic Auctions of Shrewsbury, England sold a 1782 leather backed ledger to the Collectors Club of New York. The handwritten ledger (105 pages) contains the names, positions, salaries, etc. of those people working for the General Post Office in the United Kingdom, the West Indies and Quebec. In it can be found much interesting information concerning the Secretaries, Accountants General, Letter Carriers, Inland and Foreign Post

Office employees as well as those employed by the Penny Post and Cross Post offices. Three pages (pp. 35-37) list the names of the employees at the GPO in Dublin, their titles and emoluments. The listing is of interest to students of Irish postal history since it allows us to put a name to some of the interesting positions in the GPO at Dublin and to see, based on their salaries, the important roles they played in conveying the mails throughout Ireland. I hope the following listing will be of interest.

Title	Name	Salary per position (£ Sterling)	Total Annual Salary (£ Sterling)
Deputy Postmaster General and Treasurer	William Henry, Earl Clermont	800 (as Deputy PMG) 200 (as Treasurer)	1000
Secretary and Comptroller	John Armit, Esq.	200 (as Secretary) 100 (as Comptroller)	300
Clerk to the Deputy	Robert Shaw		170
Postmaster General Accountant	Thomas Goodwyn, Esq.		200
Clerk to the Treasurer and Store-Keeper	James Armit	60 (as Clerk) 20 (as Store-Keeper)	80
Assistant to the Accountant	John Julian		40
Inspector of Dead and Missing Letters	Patrick Thompson		60
Clerks of the Roads			
<i>The Munster Road</i>	William Maturin ¹		60
<i>The Connaught Road</i>	Henry Harrison		40
<i>The North Road</i>	Richard Boulger		40
Assistants to the Clerks of the Roads			
<i>The Munster Road</i>	James Twigg		30
<i>The Connaught Road</i>	Sheff. Hamilton		70
<i>The North Road</i>	Samuel Jones		35 ²
Alphabet Keeper	William Maturin		40
Window Man	Alexander Boswell		45
Assistant Window Man	James Twigg		40
Sorters	Samuel Jones		30
Inspector of Franks	Thomas Small		30
Assistant Inspector of Franks	Digby Brooke		25
Inspector of Letter Carriers	Richard Boulger		50
Four Stampers, Facers & Porters	Walter Hickman		40
Fourteen Letter Carriers for General and Bye Days including £10 a year to each for an Assistant.	Thomas Bond		50
Two additional Assistant Letter Carriers at 8/ per week			87 & 4/
Housekeeper	Rebecca Fortiscue		464 & 16/
Bye Day Officers			41 & 12/
Clerk of the Bye Nights and of the Munster Road	Henry Harrison		20
Clerk of the North Road	Robert Shaw		60
Assistants	John Gyles		50
Sorters	Michael Ecklin		40
Window Man	John Palmer		40
Inspector of Franks	Charles Moore		40
Two Stampers and Facers of Letters at £20 a year each.	Frances Hopkins		25
Bye Letter Office	Sheff. Hamilton		25
Comptroller and Resident Surveyor	Robert Smith		40
Assistant	William Fortescue, Esq.	50 (as Comptroller) 250 (as Resident Surveyor)	300
Clerk to the Comptroller	Francis Thetford		30
	Arthur Kemphill		30

¹The reader will note that several positions were held by the same individual. Many of these positions could be performed separately or there was an assistant to do the work.

²It would be interesting to know why there is such a discrepancy between the per annum salaries of the Assistants to the Clerks of the Roads. A £5 difference between Samuel Jones and James Twigg could be explained by seniority or years of service or the complexity of the North Road, but how do you explain that Sheff. Hamilton earns double Samuel Jones' salary (£70 vs. £35)?

