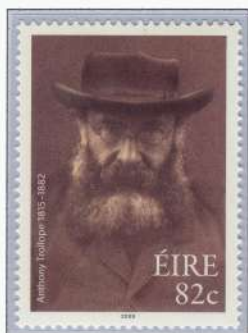


ANTHONY TROLLOPE: PILLAR BOX PIONEER!

INTRODUCTION: Though more famous as a novelist, Anthony Trollope also had a long career with the Post Office. He is widely regarded as the person responsible for the introduction of the roadside pillar box to the British Isles.



Fonts used:
Section headings are in bold, small caps.
The narrative is in normal font.
Descriptions are in italics.



1. TROLLOPE'S PLAN: Rowland Hill, the Post Office Secretary, sent Trollope to the Channel Islands in November 1851 to improve postal services there.

He found the public of St Helier had to walk up to a mile to the main post office to hand in their letters.



2. THE EXPERIMENTAL BOXES TAKE SHAPE: The design was hexagonal and included the 'V.R.' cipher of Queen Victoria and a coat-of-arms on the back.

Trollope proposed the use of roadside pillar boxes, imitating the system he knew existed nationally in France from his travels there.



'L' mark applied to a wrapper sent from Sains to Vervins on 20th March 1852. Rural letter boxes in France contained an identification handstamp, applied to items of mail by the collecting postman.



3. THE PILLAR BOXES ARE INSTALLED: Jersey opened four pillar boxes in November 1852; Guernsey followed with six in March 1853.



4. TROLLOPE CONTINUES TO INSTALL PILLAR BOXES: Trollope erected octagonal pillar boxes in the Western District of England in late 1853.

In 1855 he opened the first pillar boxes in Ireland: a square design imported from England.

