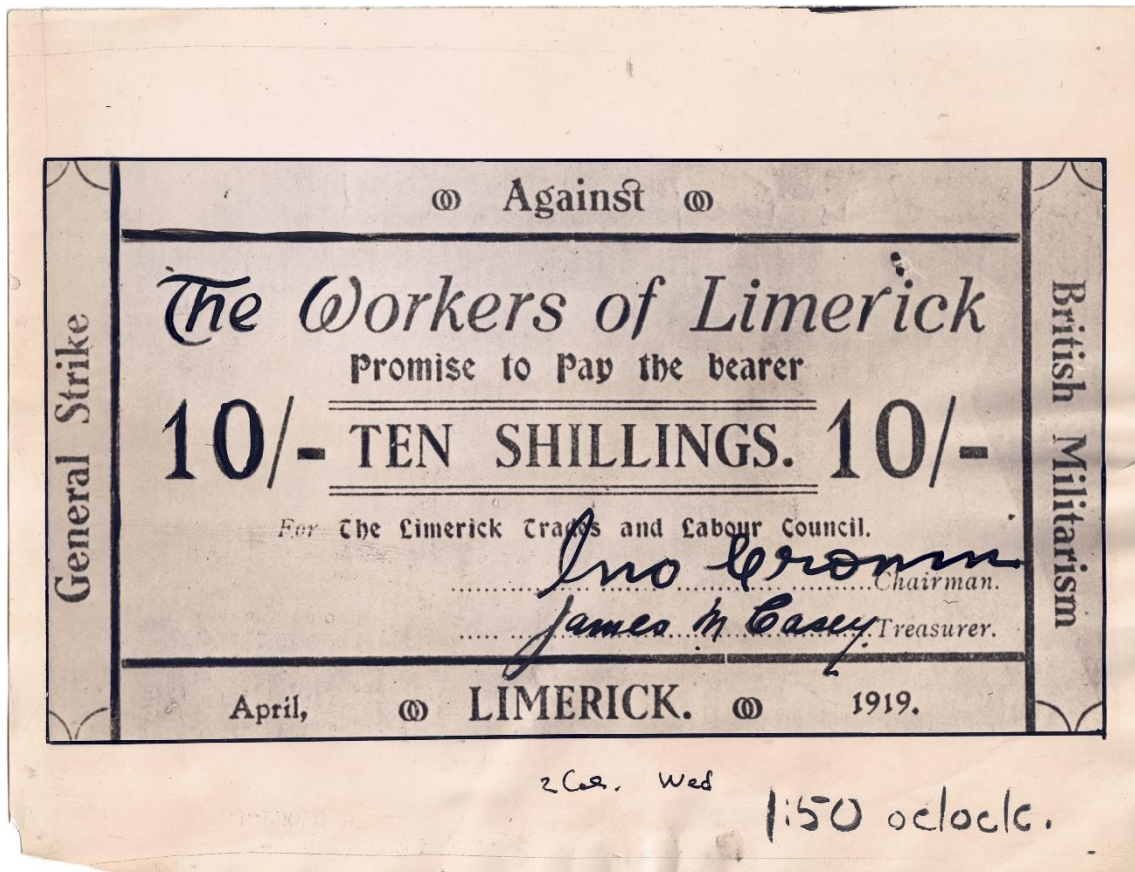


A Trial Note From The Limerick Soviet in April 1919

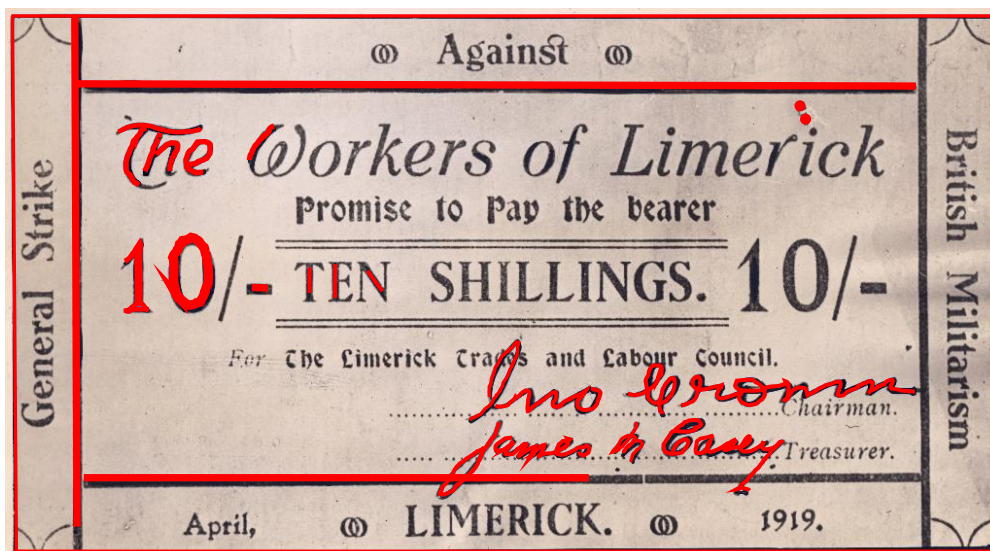
Gary Oddie

A previous note on the BNS Blog described the notes issued by the Committee of the Limerick Soviet between the 15th and 27th April 1919 and the notes issued by an artists' collective to mark the centenary of the siege.⁽¹⁾

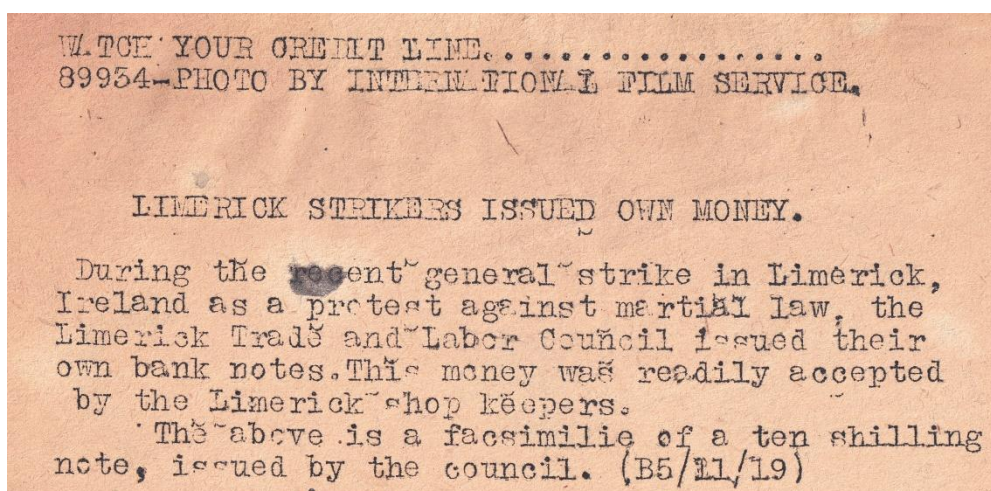
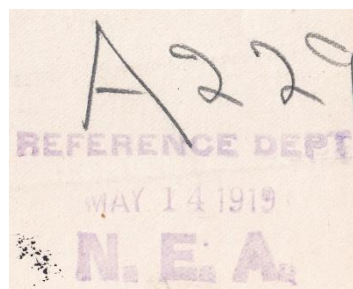
Recently, a contemporary press photograph of a 10/- note has been seen and is shown below. The note in the photograph is 202×110 mm (aspect ratio 1.84:1) and has been scaled to 70%.



Close inspection of the photograph reveals that certain parts of the design have been inked in using black ink. The ink has been used to darken areas of the photograph that are quite faint. The modifications have been highlighted in red below.

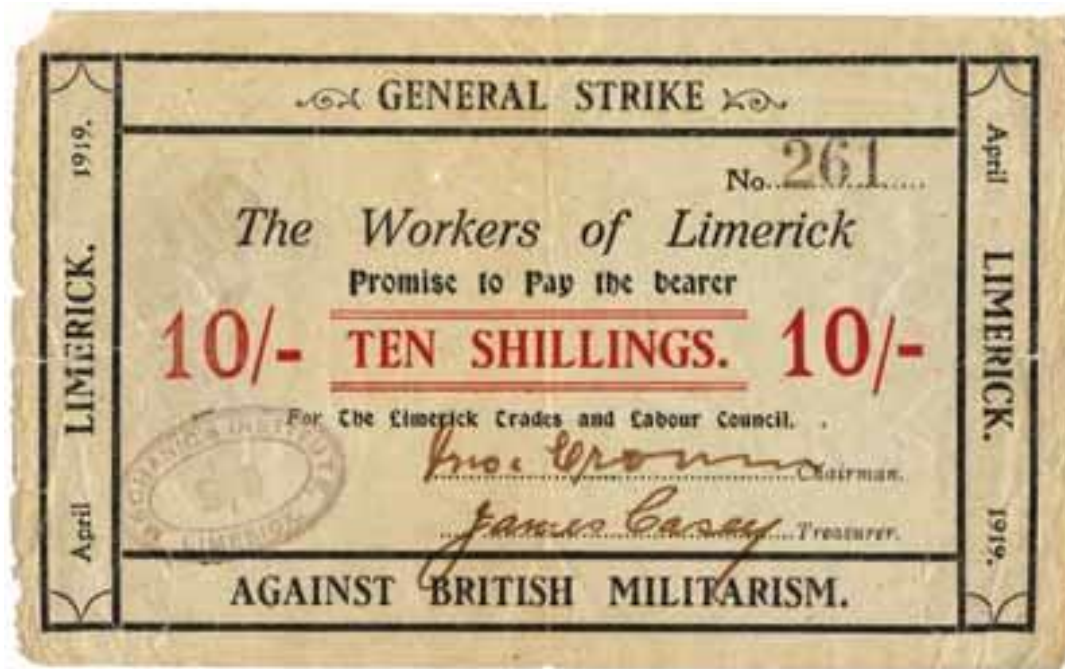


On the reverse of the photograph are various inked stamps, a glued-on credit line notice and a modern sticker from the present vendor, all shown below full size.



These are typical of the labels and stamps found on old photographic images used by the press. These items are now becoming available as the old archives are dispersed in this new digital age. It is interesting to note that the stamps are from the USA and one includes the date May 14 1919, just two weeks after the end of the Limerick Soviet.

The image blow is of a surviving 10/- note, shown full size (141x86 mm, aspect ratio 1.64:1).



Whilst the designs shown on the photograph and issued note are similar, there are several differences as follows:

- (1) The aspect ratio has been changed, the note is relatively taller, thus allowing space for the serial number to be included,
- (2) The typeface for *The Workers of Limerick* has been changed and made smaller, again releasing space for the serial number.
- (3) The text around the perimeter of the note has been rearranged, with most of the words upper case.
- (4) The issued note has the Mechanic's Institute rubber stamp in the lower left, and
- (5) The signatures are slightly different, but they do vary on the issued notes, with Casey's middle initial not always present.

It is thus likely that the photograph is of a trial design, made sometime around 14th April 1919. The design was revised to include a serial number and rubber stamp of the Mechanic's Institute added for the notes issued after 15th April.

If there are any alternative suggestions, or if anyone has seen a note similar to the one shown in the photograph, or indeed the publication in which the photograph was used, please could they get in touch via the BNS Blog.

Reference

- (1) <https://britnumsoc.files.wordpress.com/2022/03/242-limerick-soviet-oddie-blog-001.pdf>

