

POSTMARKS

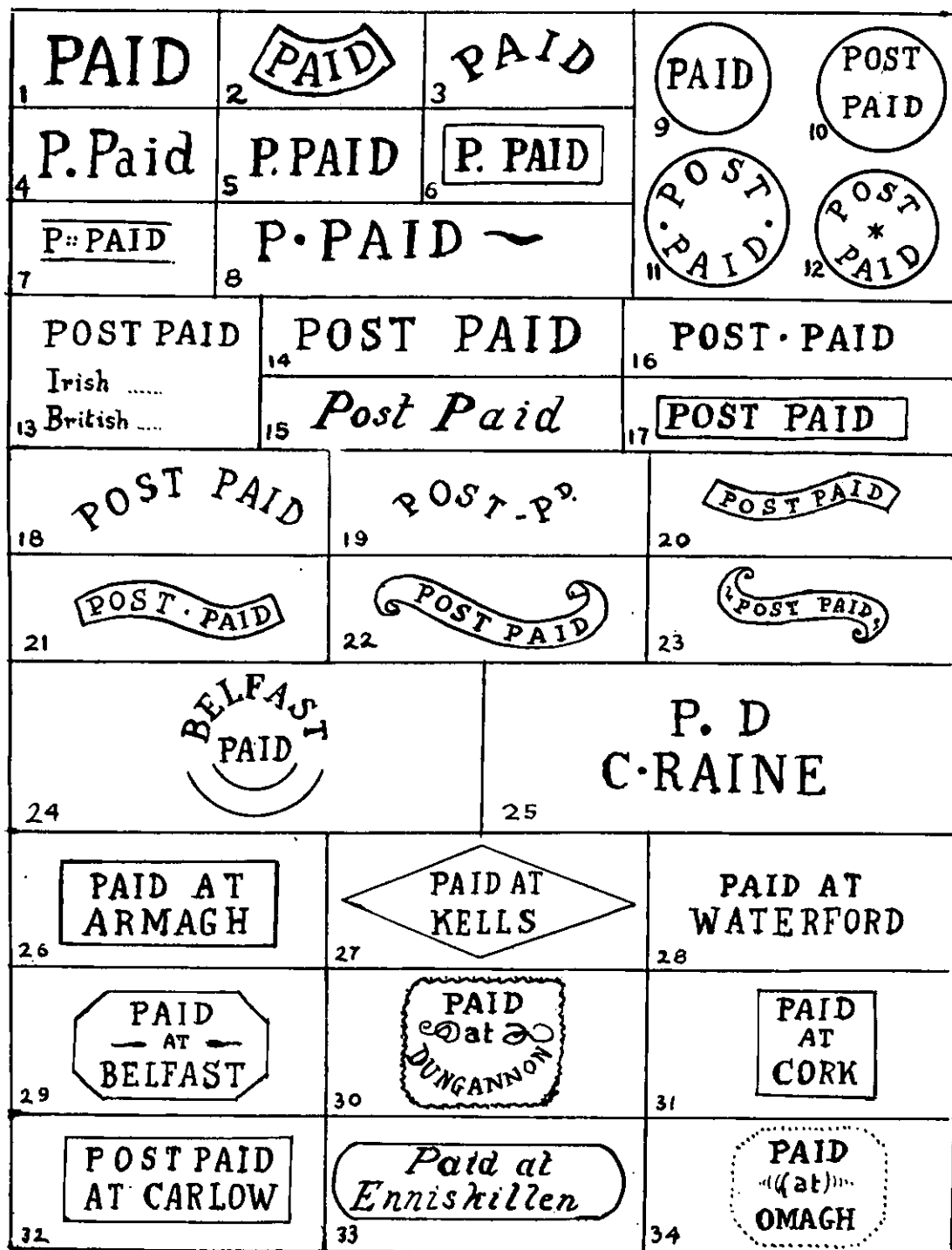
Irish Provincial Post Office Stamps on Prepaid Letters

by F. E. DIXON

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EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

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Until the postal reforms of 1839-40 most letters in Great Britain and Ireland were sent "carriage forward", the addressee paying the postal charges incurred in successive stages of the journey. Payment by the sender was, however, permitted and naturally special stamps were employed to distinguish them. London had such stamps from 1713; Dublin was the next, in 1763, and the first Irish provincial town was Belfast in 1790. Other places were slow in following the lead and it was only from the 1820s on that many more names were added to the list.

The types used were rather varied, many of the handstamps obviously being designed and made locally. The types with the name of the office incorporated, popularly styled the "Paid Ats", did not appear until the 1830s. They were thoroughly studied by the late J. S. Preston and the results of his studies were serialised in early numbers (1960-62) of the Journal of the Irish Philatelic Study Group. For completeness the "Paid Ats" have been incorporated in my lists, but I have used a simplified classification of the types and have not attempted to assign dates for the changes in ink.

The later types, introduced 1840, with 1 and 1D. incorporated, are not included here. They are comprehensively dealt with in Vol. I of Robson Lowe's "Encyclopedia", the section being based on the Catalogue of the David Miller Brown collection, published by the Postal History Society in 1948.

Prepayment in cash, instead of by the new-fangled postage labels, was abolished in 1850. It was later re-introduced, but only for the posting in bulk - but that is another story.

My notes were circulated in the early days of the I.P.S.G. and I am very grateful to several members, especially the late T. E. Field for many useful comments and additions. And I shall be equally grateful for such further information as any of our readers can supply.

<u>Town</u>	<u>Type No.</u>	<u>Dimensions (mm)</u>	<u>Colour</u>	<u>Dates</u>
ANTRIM	8	48 x 6	red, black, green	1826-44
ARDEE	14	37 x 4	red	1830-31
ARKLOW	14	42 x 5	red	1823-30
"	26	34 x 12	red	1834-40
ARMAGH	26	33 x 12 1/2	red	1834-40
ASHBOURNE	21	43 x 11	black	1840
ATHBOY	26	33 x 12	red, green, blue	1840-48
ATHLONE	26	36 1/2 x 13	blue, red, green, black	1837-43
BALLINA	26	37 x 13	black, red, blue, green	1835-50
BALLYCASTLE	26	41 x 12 1/2	red	1840
BALLYCLARE	5	23 x 4	black	1840-50
BALLYCONNELL	26	44 x 12 1/2	green	1845
BALLYMENA	26	37 x 11 1/2	black, red, green	1837-47
BALLYMONEY	21	43 x 11	red	1826
"	26	39 x 12 1/2	black	1836-38
BALLYSHANNON	26	43 x 13	red, black, blue	1835-42
BANAGHER	14	43 x 3	red	1825
BANBRIDGE	26	36 x 12 1/2	red	1837-40
BANDON	26	35 x 12	black	1840
BELFAST	4	22 x 5	red	1790-92
"	5	24 x 5	red	1797-99
"	13	43 x 20	red	1804-06
"	20	48 x 20	red, black	1806-23
"	6	25 x 6 1/2	red, black	1824-32
"	29	30 x 18	red, black	1832-44

<u>Town</u>	<u>Type No.</u>	<u>Dimensions (mm)</u>	<u>Colour</u>	<u>Dates</u>
BELFAST	24	diam. 30	red	1839-43
"	1	18 x 4	black	1840
BELTURBET	26	42 x 13	red,black,blue	1836-46
BLACKWATERSTOWN	1	22 x 5	red	1834
BOYLE	14	41 x 4	red,black	1826-31
"	26	28 x 13	red,black	1835-51
BROOKBOROUGH	26	42 x 11 1/2	red	1834-42
BUNCRANA	26	33 x 12	red	1842
BUNDORAN	26	28 x 11	red	1844-50
BUSHMILLS	14	43 x 5	red	1829
BUTTEVANT	14	41 x 4 1/2	red	1830-36
"	26	35 x 12	black	1837-46
CAHIR	14	41 x 4 1/2	black	1839-40
"	26	32 x 14	black,red	1839-40
CARLOW	32	37 x 14	red,black	1834-41
CARNEW	26	34 x 10	black,blue	1840-47
CASHEL	14	45 x 4	red	1827
"	14	44 x 4 1/2	red,black	1834-40
CASTLEBAR	26	34 x 9 1/2	black,blue	1840-47
CASTLEBLAYNEY	26	41 x 12 1/2	red,black	1840-44
CASTLECOMER	14	43 x 4 1/2	red	?
CASTLECONNELL	14	42 x 4	black	?
CASTLEFIN	14	38 x 3	red	1832
CAVAN	26	34 x 12 1/2	black	1840
CLONES	26	33 x 12	black,green	1840-44
CLONMEL	16	41 x 3	black	1824
"	16	41 x 4 1/2	red,black	1828-34
"	16	40 x 4	red	1835
"	26	33 1/2 x 12 1/2	black	1835-40
COLERAINE	2	25 x 9	red	1818-29
"	26	42 x 11	black,red	1837-38
"	26	32 1/2 x 12	black,blue,green	1841-44
"	25	37 x 13	green,blue	1845-48

The space between "P" and "D" was intended for the insertion of the amount of postage in pence.

COOKSTOWN	36	39 x 13	blue,green	1846-48
CORK	31	20 x 20	red,black	1833-39
COVE	16	42 x 4	black	1836-41
CROSSDONEY	26	42 x 11	blue	1841
DERRY	1	20 x 6	black,red	1818-32
"	26	36 x 13	red	1836-47
DINGLE	26	26 x 11	blue	1848
DONAGHADEE	26	42 x 12 1/2	red	1838-39
DONEGAL	26	33 x 12	black,red,blue	1838-49
DOWN	26	34 1/2 x 13	red,black,green	1840-43
DROGHEDA	10	diam. 23	black,red	1814-33
"	26	37 x 13	red	1834-48
DUNDALK	10	diam. 25	red	1815-16
"	16	38 x 4	black,red	1816
"	14	41 1/2 x 4 1/2	black,red	1831-34
"	26	37 1/2 x 13 1/2	red,black	1834-47
DUNFANAGHY	26	40 x 12	red	1838
DUNGANNON	30	29 x 24	black,red	1835-42
DUNGARVAN	14	53 x 5	red	1822
"	26	37 x 13 1/2	red	1835-40

<u>Town</u>	<u>Type No.</u>	<u>Dimensions (mm)</u>	<u>Colour</u>	<u>Dates</u>
DUNLEER	11	diam. 24	red	1826-34
ENNISKILLEN	22	39 x 12	black, red	1828-33
"	33	46 x 12	black, red	1835-43
EYRECOURT	1	26 x 7	black, red	1840-47
FERMOY	26	33 x 13	black	1840
FETHARD (Tipperary)	16	45 x 4	black	1838-40
GALWAY	26	33 x 12 1/2	black, blue, green	1840-50
GORT	14	43 x 4	black	1828
"	26	33 x 12 1/2	black, red, blue, green	1839-50
HILLSBORO (with stop)	14	37 x 4	green, blue, red	1834
"	26	35 x 12 1/2	black, blue	1838-40
HOLLYWOOD	1	35 x 4	black	1840
JOHNSTOWN	14	37 x 4	red	1833
KELLS (hyphen)	16	40 x 4	red	1832-34
"	26	30 x 12	red, black, blue	1836-43
"	27	45 x 17	black, blue	1846-50
KILCOCK	14	41 x 4	black	1836-42
"	26	28 x 12	blue, green	1848
KILDORRERY	14	42 x 4 1/2	red	1834
KILKENNY	16	45 x 4	red	1824-33
"	26	33 x 15	black	1834-38
KILLESHANDRA	26	40 x 12	green	1849
KILLYGORDON	14	Recorded by Alcock & Holland, but not confirmed, and unlikely to exist.		
KINSALE	26	39 x 10	black	1840
LETTERKENNY	3	25 x 6	red	1832
"	26	42 x 10	black	1836
LIMERICK	14	43 x 5	red	1822-31
"	26	35 x 12	black, green, red	1834-39
LISMORE	21	21 x 6	red, black	1825-40
LISNASKEA	26	38 x 10	black, blue, green	1840-48
LISTOWEL	26	34 x 12 1/2	black	1838
LONDONDERRY (see DERRY)				
LONGFORD	26	33 x 10	black, blue, green	1837-48
LOUGHREA	1	21 x 6	black, red	1833-40
LURGANGREEN	10	diam. 23	red	1836
MANORHAMILTON	26	45 x 11	green	1849
MARYBOROUGH	7	24 x 4 1/2	black, red	1826-33
MONAGHAN	14	46 x 4	red	1828
"	26	37 x 12	red, black	1834-40
MONASTEREVAN	14	48 x 4 1/2	black, red	1828-38
MONTRATH	5	27 x 5	red	1815-40
MOUNTMELICK	26	24 1/2 x 12 1/2	blue	1838-47
MULLINGAR	14	44 x 4 1/2	black, red	1824-30
"	16	43 x 4 1/2	red	1832-34
"	26	40 x 10	black, red, blue, green	1835-43
NAAS	1	19 x 5	black	1826-40
NAVAN	5	31 x 6	black	1824-26
"	14	48 x 4 1/2	black	1826-37
"	26	33 1/2 x 12	black, blue	1840-49

<u>Town</u>	<u>Type No.</u>	<u>Dimensions</u> (mm)	<u>Colours</u>	<u>Dates</u>
NEWCASTLE	26	38 x 12	blue	1838
NEWRY	23	30 x 9	black	1821
"	14	43 x 4	red	1825-26
"	14	20 x 4	red	1832
"	26	31 x 12	red, black	1834-37
"	26	33 x 12	red	1838-39
NEWTOWNARDS	17	48 x 9	red, black	1833-41
NEWTOWNLIMAVADY	26	50 x 10	blue	1847
NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY	14	35 x 3 1/2	black, green, red, blue	1840-48
NEWTOWNSTEWART	26	46 x 14	blue	1849
OMAGH	34	28 x 18	red, blue	1833-45
PORTAFERRY	18 (with stop)	39 x 7	black	1834
PORTARLINGTON	14	45 x 4	red, black, blue	1827-45
PORTGLENONE	14	35 x 4	red	1832-40
RAMELTON	14	41 1/2 x 4 1/2	black	1837-40
RANDALSTOWN	14	42 1/2 x 4 1/2	green, black	1837-40
RAPHOE	26	33 x 12 1/2	red	1840
RATHANGAN	9	diam. 22	red	1822-39
"	16	39 x 4	red	1839
RATHFRILAND	26	40 x 11	red	1843-46
ROSS (New Ross)	19	35 x 4	red	1816
"	1	23 x 5	red	1817-18
"	16	42 x 4	red, black	1831-37
"	26	32 1/2 x 12 1/2	red, black	1840
ROSTREVOR	1	19 x 4	black	1839-40
SAINTSFIELD	1	14 x 3	blue	1838
SKIBBEREEN	16	46 x 5	black	1834
SLIGO	14	40 x 4	red, black	1826-34
"	26	31 x 11	red, black	1834-40
"	26	32 1/2 x 12	red	1840-47
" (sans serif)	26	26 x 10 1/2	red	1847-50
STRABANE	1	?	?	1820
"	20	37 x 12	red, black	1835-38
TALLOW	14	43 x 4 1/2	black, red	1832-33
TANDRAGEE	26	35 x 12	blue, green	1845-47
TEMPLEMORE	15	48 x 10	?	1832-35
TIPPERARY	26	37 x 13	black, blue	1834-40
TRALEE	32	37 x 14	black	1835-40
TUAM	26	29 x 10 1/2	black	1836-42
TULLAMORE	12	diam. 19	red, black	1832-35
"	26	38 x 10	blue, green, red, black	1835-47
VIRGINIA	14	40 x 5	green, red, blue	1834-47
WARRENPOINT	26	45 x 13	blue	1847
WATERFORD	14	38 x 5	red	1812-18
"	13	?	red	1820
"	26	37 x 11	black	1835-38
"	28	?	black	1839-40
WESTPORT	26	38 x 12	black, red	1835-43
WEXFORD	18	39 x 10	red	1824
"	26	37 x 13	black	1834-40

(Concluded)

TRIANGULAR CANCELLATIONS

BY Neil Stack

(Reprinted from The Revealer, March-April, 1954, page 158)

The small triangular cancellation found on the lower postage values was first used in Ireland in the late '90s; it was used to postmark (cancel) stamps on printed circulars. They were applied only at head offices or the larger branch offices. There were specific regulations for defining mail of this character (circulars) and these have been modified since they were first introduced in 1895.

The cancel itself was usually an isosceles triangle, the legs of which were approximately one inch in length. The method of identity was to use, within the triangle, the telegraph code letters of the office. All varieties of this type of cancellation used BLOCK LETTERS without periods. The cancellation device itself, is usually of brass.

IRISH TRIANGULAR CANCELLATIONS

(Reprinted from The Revealer, January-February, 1954, p.152,181)

By Michael Leonard

I am indebted to the Department of Posts and Telegraphs of Ireland for the assistance given me in the compilation of the following alphabetical and numerical Irish Triangular Post Office Cancellations:

AKC = Abbeyleix	CTU = Carrick-	EJ = Edgeworths-	MRY = Mountrath
ALB = Arklow	macross	town	MSI = Mullingar
ALR = Athenry	CTV = Carrick-on-	ES = Ennis	MUB = Muine Bheag
ALT = Athlone	Shannon	FE = Ferns	MW = Mallow
ALV = Athy	CTW = Carrick-on-	FY = Fermoy	NIG = Naas
ANU = An Uaimh	Suir	GA = Galway	NIL = Nenagh
ARD = Ardee	CUA = Cashel	GF = Gorey	NJE = New Ross
BAC = Dublin	CUV = Castlebar	GS = Greystones	PJU = Portarlinton
BJ = Ballinasloe	CUY = Castleblay-	KGT = * [see note]	PTL = Port Laoghaise
BQ = Birr	ney	KHH = Kilkenny	RIG = Roscommon
BWY = Ballina	CV = Avoca	KHR = Killashandra	RK = Roscrea
BXY = Ballyhaunis	CVI = Castlerea	KHX = Killucan	RLU = Rath Luirc
BYE = Ballymote	CVM = Cavan	KIF = Kilmallock	SYK = Skibbereen
BYJ = Bally-	CVT = Clara	KIG = Knocklong	SYN = Sligo
shannon	CWB = Clones	KIJ = Kilrush	SYY = Swinford
BYS = Bandon	CWC = Clonmel	KIZ = Kinsale	TIK = Templemore
BYV = Bantry	CWH = Clonakilty	KJG = * [see note]	TIO = Thomastown
BZC = Betturbet	CWU = Cootehill	KOV = Cobh	TIR = Thurles
BZJ = Blackrock	CXH = Curragh	KY = Killarney	TJA = Tralee
BZQ = Boyle	Camp	LK = Limerick	TJI = Tuam
BZR = Bray	DA = Drogheda	LQF = Lifford	TJR = Tullamore
BZZ = Buttevant	DJA = Donegal	LTV = Letterkenny	TP = Tipperary
CCD = Ceanannus	DJO = Dromod	LUI = Listowel	WSC = Westport
Mor	DLO = Dun Laogh-	LUL = Longford	WSE = Wexford
CHB = Charlestown	aire	LUS = Loughrea	WSM = Wicklow
CK = Cork	DMG = Dundalk	MJR = Monasterevan	WT = Waterford
CQN = Claremorris	DMP = Dungarvan	MPR = Midleton	YL = Youghal
CTF = Cahir	DN = * [see note]	MPZ = Mitchelstown	200 = Dunmanway
CTJ = Callan	EIF = Edenderry	MRB = Moate	507 = Ballinrobe
CTO = Carlow	EIP = Enniscorthy	MRH = Monaghan	

Notes: * These items unidentified. DN = possibly Dublin.



THE DUPLEX SPOON CANCELLATIONS

[The following notes are taken from an authoritative and excellent article by Malcolm G. O'Reilly on "Irish Spoon Cancellations" which appeared in the Revealer, May-June 1955, page 218]

When the "1844" cancels did not prove to be the answer to the Post Office department's needs for a cancellation device that would obliterate the postage stamp and inform as to the office and time of posting, the use of the duplex marking came into use. These were a combination of an obliterator containing the office number and (other than the first duplex cancellation) a date stamp containing in addition to the date of posting, the office of origin. Code letters to designate the time were also used in the date stamps.

The "spoon" duplex markings, while not the first Irish duplex cancellation, are demanding in their interest. They were the first duplex cancellation with the office name in the date stamp. In use between 1855 and 1864, they followed by a little under a year a similar type employed in certain English provincial offices. Their major period of use seems to extend from 1855 to 1859. There appears to be only three major types. They may be easily differentiated by use of the illustrations shown:



Type I - Oval date stamp and oval obliterator with side bars more or less vertical.

Type II - Oval date stamp with oval obliterator whose side bars are horizontal and parallel to the top and bottom bars.

Type III - Oval date stamp with the familiar diamond obliterator.

There are several variations in each type but they do not seem of sufficient importance to warrant separate listing by type. The variations are mainly in the number of bars at sides, top and bottom.

The normal ink for use with these cancellations was black. Green ink is occasionally found and was used almost exclusively from Cork.

SPOON CANCELLATION LISTING

<u>Post Office</u>	<u>Type I</u>	<u>Type II</u>	<u>Type III</u>	<u>Post Office</u>	<u>Type I</u>	<u>Type II</u>	<u>Type III</u>
Athenry # 16		x	x	Kingstown #289	x		x
Athlone # 18		x	x	Limerick #303		x	x
Ballina # 29	x	x	x	Mallow #321		+	+
Ballinasloe # 32	+		x	Mullingar #345	x		x
Ballymoney # 48			x	Newry #357		x	x
Belfast # 62	x		x	Omagh #367	x		
Carrick-on-Shannon #104			x	Oranmore #368	+		x
Clonmel #142		x	x	Roscrea #397	x		x
Cork #156	x		x	Sligo #410	x		x
Dalkey #457	+			Strabane #412	+		
Derry #172		x	x	Tuam #435	x		x
Drogheda #179		x	x	Tullamore #438		x	x
Ennis #211		x		Waterford #445		x	x
Enniskillen #214			x	Westport #447	x	x	x
Galway #232	x		x	Wexford #448		x	x
Kilkenny #269		x	x	Notes: x = original O'Reilly listing			
Killarney #272		+	+	+ = amendments to original list by			
				T E Field & R M & R W Willcocks			

(See also excellent article on the "Irish Spoons" by R.M. and R.W. Willcocks & Wilfred Bentley in Stamp Collecting, April 25th, 1958 pp. 228-9

DUBLIN DOUBLE-CIRCLE CANCELLATIONS

by F. E. Dixon



From 1840 to 1844 the cancellation used in Dublin, as also throughout the United Kingdom, was the Maltese Cross. From 1844 to 1855 there was instead the 186 in a diamond-shaped pattern of bars. Then from 1855 to 1857 the "spoon" design enabled the date to be indicated. All these have been dealt with fairly thoroughly in the literature.

The word "DUBLIN" first appeared with the cancellation in 1857 and the basic design continued unchanged for the next 37 years, the 186 in bars cancelling the stamp while alongside was the circle containing "DUBLIN" an identification number and the date. The sub-varieties are numerous and no complete study has yet been made.

This, often termed "Duplex" marking was withdrawn in 1894, except for the series (with N preceding the number) reserved for the Newspaper Branch, which continued until 1901 or after. Instead, Dublin and other Irish post offices were supplied with large handstamps of the "double-circle" type, adopted earlier in Scotland and a few places in England. The name appears between the circles, with a serial number below, and the rest of the space is filled by double arcs. Inside the inner circle appear the time and date. The first Dublin series had the time in one line coded (e.g. FC.P = 6.15 PM) but this was quickly dropped, AM or PM was inserted in the top line and the hours and minutes below. From 1900 replacements had the time in a single line and one rare variety reads 12 N for Noon: it was commoner to avoid the exact hour of 12 and time despatches of mails a few minutes earlier or later,

The number of cancellers had increased markedly. The eight of 1855 had become 20 by 1873, 30 by 1877 and 37 by 1885. The double-circles of 1894 were initially about 45, but reached 50 by 1900 and 56 by 1902. The introduction of the cancelling machines in 1906 obviated the need for further increases, except that No. 57 was added for cancelling the postage due labels.

The outer circle was at first nearly 28 mm in diameter, but replacements tended to be rather smaller. Most of the handstamps were lost in the G.P.O. in April 1916, and a new set of 1-57, introduced between August and October of that year, were only 24 mm across. They continued in use until the change of name to BAILE ATHA CLIATH, and were mostly withdrawn at the end of 1922, so that examples cancelling definitives are rare.

Dublin G.P.O. still possesses one handstamp which survived 1916, and its misuse was described in the Revealer, April-June 1966 in connection with the 1916 Easter Rising.

Finally mention should be made of the handstamps of the same double-circle type to the District Offices at Ballsbridge, Fairview, Jame's Street, Phibsborough, and Rathmines. They also appeared first in the 1890s, the numbers ranging from two at Fairview to five at Phibsborough and Rathmines.

(Concluded)