

THE SHIP LETTER STAMPS OF IRELAND and the IRISH FREE STATE

SUPPLEMENT No. 28

EIRE PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

November, 1966

SHIP

(a) 22x5 mm

Type I

SHIP

(b) 21x6½

SHIP

(f) 21½x7½

SHIP

(c) 27½x7 mm

SHIP

(g) 19 x 5

SHIP

(d) 31x7 mm

SHIP

(h) 19x 5

SHIP

(e) 22x7 mm

SHIPP

(j) 26x7 mm

SHIP LETTER

(a) 55x6mm

Type II

SHIP LETTER

(b) 55x5mm

SHIP-LETTER

(c) Dot or dash between



Type III

SHIP-LETTER

Type IV

SHIP LETTER

(a) Dot or dash

(b) Caherciveen type

BELFAST
SHIP LETTER

Type V

CORK
SHIP LETTER

Type VI



Type VII



Type VIII

DUBLIN
Ship Letter
Type IX

DUBLIN
SHIP LETTER
Type X

SHIP LETTER
DUBLIN

Type XI

LIMERICK
SHIP LETTER

Type XII



Type XIII

QUEENSTOWN
SHIP LETTER
Type XIV

SKIBBEREEN
Ship Letter
Type XVI

SKIBBEREEN
SHIP LET[#]
Type XV

Type XVII



Type XVIII

INDIA LETTER
CORK

Type XIX

INDIA LETTER
COVE

Type XX

SHIP LETTER PORT OF ARRIVAL MARKINGS

Notes: # Used in conjunction with separate town name straight line stamp.
% Combination of town name and ship letter stamp (one piece) + Used in conjunction with the town date stamp. † Used in conjunction with the town mileage mark. § Usually accompanied with Dublin diamond obliterator #186. (con't on page 126)

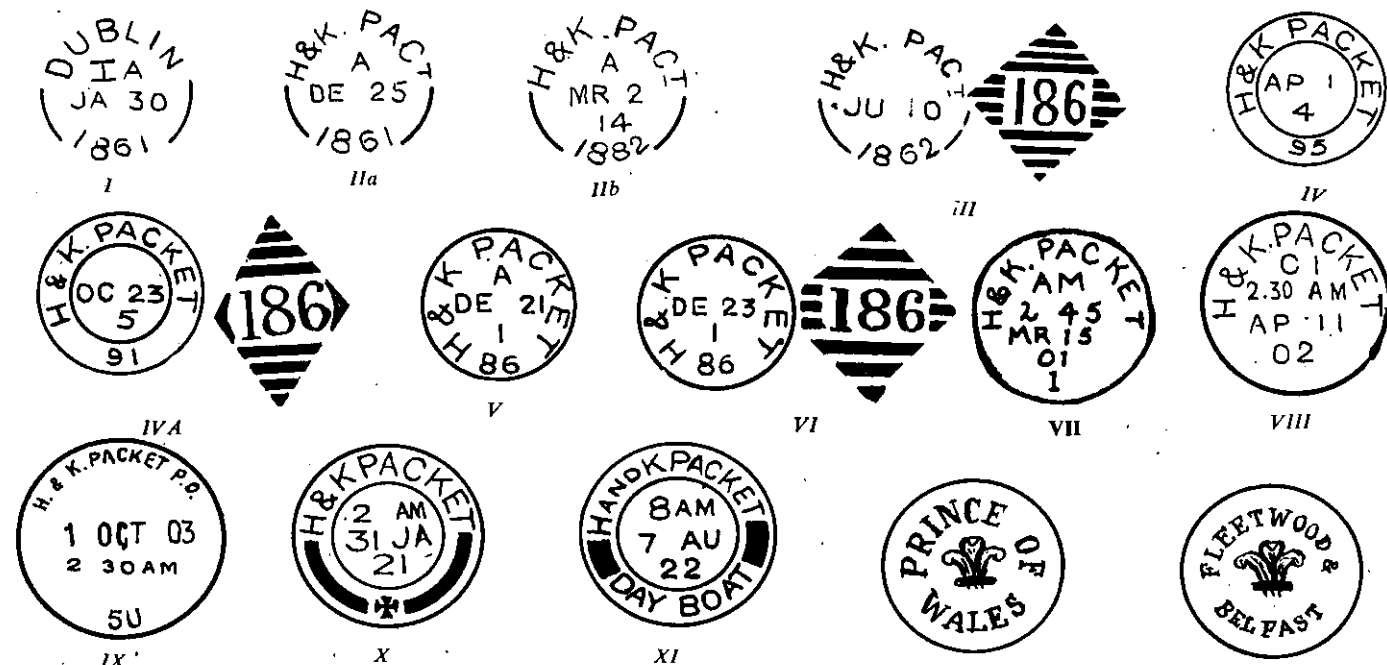
	Type	Years	Color	Length	Height	Notes
Ballycastle	III	1840	Black			+
Belfast	I(h)	1767-74		19 mm	5 mm	#
	II	1800	Red	52 mm		%
	V(a)	1811-30	Red,black [Ornate frame]			
	V	1824-31	Black,blue,green			
Buncrana	III	1845	Blue			+
Caherciveen	IV(b)	1827	Black			¶
Carrickfergus	II(c)	1806	Red	51 mm		%
Castletown	II(b)	1834-40	Black	50 mm		%
Coleraine	XII	1838	Black [Frame 36 x 13]			
Cork	I(d)	1761-76	Black	31 mm	7 mm	#
	II(a)	1779-1843	Black,red	52 mm	5 mm	%
	II(b)	1782-1856	Black,red,blue	54 mm	4 1/2 mm	%
	VI	1837-43	Black,red [Frame 42 x 14]			
[India Letter]	XIX	1836-39	Red,black [Various size frames]			
Cove (see also II		1788-1812	Black [COVE SHIP LE.]			%
Queenstown)	II(c)	1814-50	Red,black,blue,green			%
[India Letter]	XX	1835-44	Black [Frame 47 x 15]			
Dingle	II	1807	Black [SHIP LE.]	35 mm	4 1/2 mm	%
Dun Laoghaire	XVIII	1923	Black [Diameter 29 mm]			
Dunmore East	III	1847				¶
Dublin	II(b)	1795		49 mm	4 mm	%
	II(a)	1801-12	Black,red,magenta	52 mm	5 mm	%
	VIII	1815-47	Carmine-red			
	IX	1835-53	Black,red			\$
	X	1853-57	Green,blue			
	XI	1839	Red [Frame 52 x 15]			
Hollywood	III	1834	Black			¶
Kilrush	II(c)	1842		57 mm	5 mm	+
Kinsale	II(b)	1819-26	Black,red			
	II(c)	1781-1853	Black,red,blue,yellow	50 mm	5 mm	%
Limerick	III	1827	Red			+
	XII	1837-40	Black [Frame 36 x 13]			
Londonderry	I	1746-73	Black [DERRY]	23 mm	6 mm	#
	VII	1808-47	Black,red,green			
Newry	I(e)	1771	Black	22 mm	7 mm	
	II	1781-1807	Black,red			%
	XIII	1819-46	Red,blue			
Passage	II(c)	1800-27	Black	50 mm		%
Portaferry	III	1824	Red			¶
Queenstown	XIV	1850-63	Black,blue,purple			
	XVII	1904	Black [Diameter 22 mm]			
Ross	II	1784-1831	Black,red	53 mm		%
Rostrevor	II	1838	Black	48 mm		%
Skibbereen	XV	1791-1846	Black,red	37 mm		%
	XVI	1840-47	Black,blue			%
Tarbert	III	1846	Black			+
Warrenpoint	II	1805-13	Black [WARRENS PT.]			%
Waterford	I(f)	1772	Black	21 1/2 mm		#
	II(c)	1822-51	Black,red,blue,green	52 mm		%
Westport	III	1820	Black			#
Wexford	II(b)	1777	Black			#
Wicklow	II(b)	1816		55 mm	5 mm	¶
Youghall	II(b)	1802-34	Black	48 mm	5 mm	%

The "H. & K. Packet"

The shipment of mails between England and Ireland has followed the shortest route. Only about sixty miles separate Dublin, Ireland from Holyhead, Wales across the Irish Sea. By the year 1834, Kingstown Harbour (now Dun Laoghaire) was found to be the most advantageous packet station near Dublin.

On October 1, 1860, the first of four specially designed steamers was put into service by the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company. The four were named after each of the Four Provinces - ULSTER, LEINSTER, MUNSTER and CONNAUGHT. Each had a large sorting office for the handling of the mails during the crossings of the Irish Sea, under the control of the G.P.O. in Dublin and both day and night service was maintained.

This service continued for more than sixty years and an interesting series of datestamps and postmarks resulted. "The Irish Mail" by Cyril Kidd [Robson Lowe Ltd] is an authoritative work on the H & K Packet and its postmarks:



Type	Dates	Remarks
I "Dublin" type	1860-61	A recumbent H and A appear
IIa "Broken-circle" type	1861-64	Minor variations of marking
IIb " " " [Numbered]	1864-83	# 1 thru 12 and an "X"
(Replaced 1867, 1872, 1878)	1881-	# 13, 14, 15 added
III "Duplex" obliterations [#186]	1890-95	Reissued # 9, 13, 14, 15
IV "French double-circle" type	1861-65	Three varieties known
IVa " " " " [#186]	1883-	#1 thru 13
V "Single-circle" type	1883-	Used for Late Fee mail
VI " " " " [# 186]	1884-95	
VII "Numeral" type	1884-95	Used for Late Fee mail
VIII "Boat" type [Initial of ship]	1894-1901	# 1 thru 12, 15
IX "Fragile packet" type	# 1 thru 4 for each boat *	
X "Maltese double-circle" type	1901-19	Always #5 with initial *
XI "Day Boat" special type	1901-	Night Boat? Ceased 2/20/25
	1919-25	Ceased service 3/10/23

* = L (Leinster), M (Munster), C (Connaught), U (Ulster) plus # 1 thru 4

The two illustrated handstamps, "Fleetwood-Belfast" and "Prince of Wales" were unofficial stamps applied to letters in 1843-44 posted on board the "Prince of Wales" on the Fleetwood-Belfast route.

IRISH "PAQUEBOT" HAND-STAMPS

PAQUEBOT

Type XII.

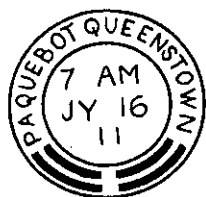
PAQUEBOT

Type XIII

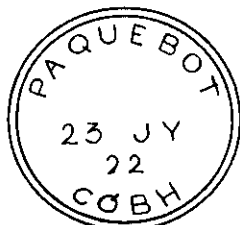
PAQUEBOT

Type XIV

1. Cove - Queenstown (1849) - Cobh (1922)



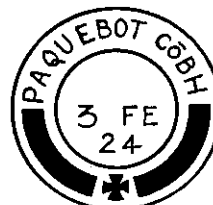
Type XV



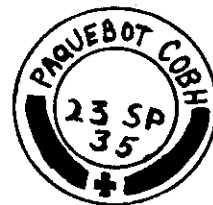
Type XVI



XVII



XVIII



XIX

2. Dublin - Dun Laoghaire - Holyhead, Wales

Although there is no sorting of mail on the Dun Laoghaire-Holyhead boats, mail posted on board is marked at the respective ports of call. Mail for Irish destinations received at Holyhead is stamped Type XXI; mail for Dun Laoghaire or for return to England is stamped Type XXII; mail for Dublin and Ireland generally is forwarded to Dublin for Type XXIV etc. On Sundays and bank holidays when the Dun Laoghaire postoffice is closed, all mail received is forwarded to Dublin to be cancelled there.



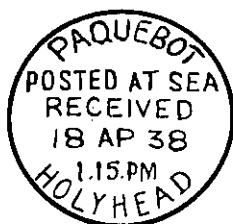
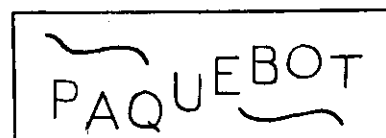
PLEASE
DISTRICT NUMBERS
IN DUBLIN
ADDRESSES

XX

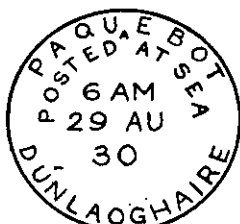
3. Galway - Gaillimh



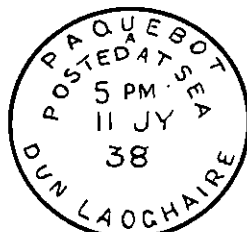
Type XXVII



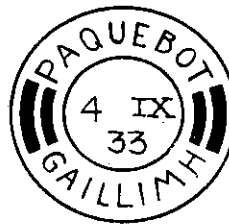
XXI



XXII



XXIII

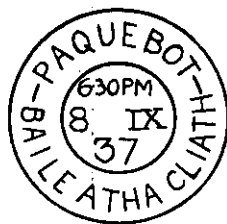


Type XXVIII

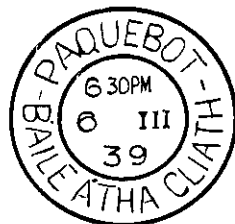
4. Bantry Bay



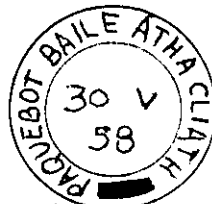
Type XXIX



Type XXIV



Type XXV

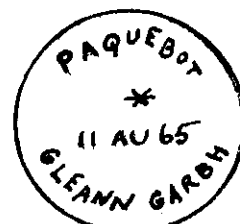


Type XXVI

5. Glengariff (Bantry Bay)



Type XXX



Type XXXI

Notes: Type XII used in conjunction with the Dublin & Queenstown T.P.O. 1897-1906

Type XIII known used at Queenstown 1899

Type XIV used on the Dublin & Cork T.P.O. 1894

Type XXIX skeleton type used at Bantry in 1960 for a cruise stop.

Types XXX and XXI skeleton used at Glengariff sub-office for summer cruises.