



IRELAND

POSTMARKS



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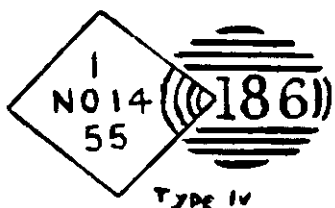
THE DUPLEX SPOON CANCELLATIONS

Additional Notes by F. E. Dixon, E.P.A.

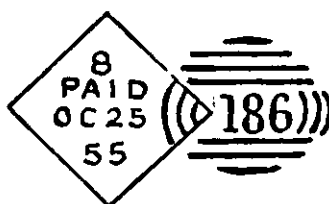
The article in Revealer July-Sept. 1966 does not include the final results of the Willcock & Bentley researches, which were published in "The Spoon Experiment 1853-1858" [1960]; with later supplement. These researches prove that many earlier listings had mistakes, especially by confusing worn Type III with Type II. No town used both Types I and II. The corrected listing is as follows:

Town	#	Types	Town	#	Types	Town	#	Types
Athenry	16	II, III (?)	Derry	172	II, III	Newry	357	II, III
Athlone	18	II, III	Drogheda	179	II, III	Omagh	367	I
Ballina	29	I, III *	Ennis	211	II(+), III	Oranmore	368	II, III
Ballinasloe	32	I, III	Ennis-			Roscrea	397	I, III
Ballymoney	48	II, III	killen	214	II, III	Sligo	410	I, III
Belfast	62	I, III	Galway	232	I, III	Strabane	412	II, III
Carrick-on-Shannon	104	I, III	Kilkenny	269	II, III	Tuam	435	I, III
Clonmel	142	II, III	Killarney	272	II, III	Tullamore	438	II, III
Cork	156	I, III	Kingstown	289	I, III	Waterford	445	II, III
Dalkey	457	I, III	Limerick	303	II, III	Westport	447	I (Only)
			Mallow	321	I, III	Wexford	448	II, III
			Mullingar	345	I, III			

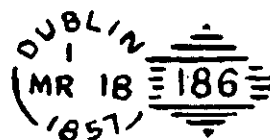
* Ballina, Type III had wrong number, 291 + Ennis, Type I had wrong number, 112



Type IV



Type V



Type VI

Mention must be made of the Dublin Spoons, Types IV & V, in use from June 1855 to October 1857. The different handstamps were numbered from 1 to 8 and X, and there is an unnumbered variety. They also differed in the numbers of arcs and bars. Green ink was usual for the first few months, but black became the normal from October 1855. Type V, with the redundant "PAID" between number and date is an unsolved mystery. The "PAID" was removed late in 1855, but the series of cancellers which had had it are recognised by the wide space resulting.

Type VI is not normally classed as a "Spoon" but can be so treated, arguing that its name-and-date portion is joined to the numbered killer. It is rare and has been seen only with identifier 1, other cancellers of this series having the bars cut to the diamond shape, as was the No. 1 from some time in 1858.

A point omitted by Willcocks and Bentley is that with all types IV-VI the letter E is sometimes found after the identifying number, probably to indicate Evening Duty.

IRISH "MILEAGE" MARKS

by Tubbercurry

(Reprinted from The Revealer, November-December, 1951, pages 2 and 8)

Letter rates during the eighteenth century were charged by the mile. However when the English postal authorities found that some of the mileage figures given were not the true distances, the numerous Turnpike Acts were passed. The "roads trustees" had to measure the accurate distances and place milestones. As the distances were increased, higher charges were made for post-horses and letters; to simplify matters for the postmasters, the mileage from London was added to the place-name-stamp.

In Ireland, the general usage was a straight line with the figures unframed and many of the early ones were in red. A few exceptions were the important towns of Belfast, Waterford and Limerick, which used plain circle mileage marks of various sizes with curved names inside.

The Irish mile was 2 furlongs 7 3/11 perches longer than the English mile, so that letters sent from London to a country office in Ireland via Dublin had a considerable postage cost added. This was rectified by an Act of Parliament, July 6, 1827. From this date, after passing of the Act, an alphabetical list of towns, with the postage of a single letter from each to Dublin, was issued "for the guidance of the Deputy Postmasters," the distance being given in British miles.

NEW MILEAGE NOT ADDED TO MARKS

According to Hendy, the new mileage was never added to the postmarks themselves, the straight line names being continued either with the old numbers or with the numbers removed. This continued until the introduction of the Penny Post when they were no longer necessary.

In the early years of the nineteenth century the Irish hand-stamps showed the distance in Irish miles from Dublin. There are variations in the size of the lettering, earlier examples about 1820, being as a rule larger than those used later. Abbreviated names of offices were used, such as: CL.BAR for Castlebar, and for Waterford, WATERFD. Mileage marks are known in black, blue, orange-yellow, purple and red ink; those in blue, orange-yellow and purple being scarce.

EXPLANATION OF COVERS

Fig. 1. Red Handstamp - straight line, Dundalk Sept 6, 1803.

Fig. 2. Red Handstamp - straight line, Cork and Mileage 124. This has a large type lettering and was used before 1820.

Fig. 3. Red Handstamp - straight line, Cork and Mileage 124. This letter was dated Dec. 27, 1826 and has small type lettering.

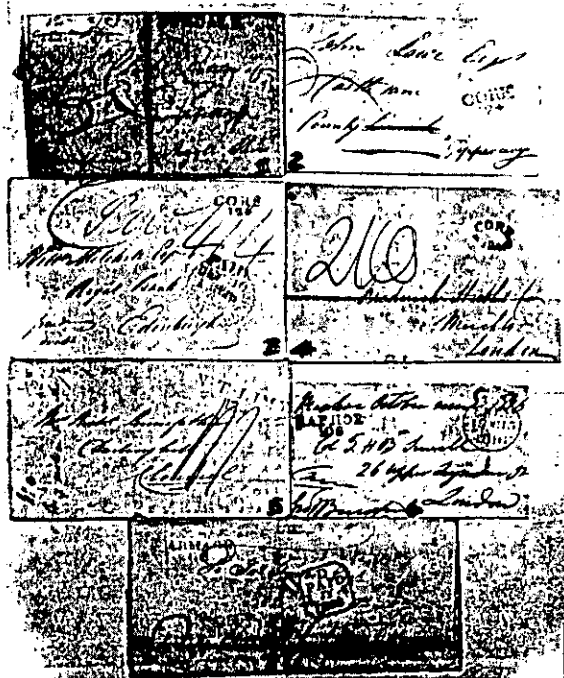
Fig. 4. Red Handstamp - Arched Cork and mileage 124. This one was dated May 22, 1829. This variety was found on letters from Cork in 1829 and 1830. There has been no similar handstamp noted from any other offices.

Fig. 5. Red Handstamp - straight line N.T.LIMY and Mileage 124. The letter is dated Sept. 23, 1823; it is a rare abbreviated type for the town Newton Limavady.

Fig. 6. Black Handstamp - straight line RAPAHOE. Mileage is 108. The date is Oct. 15, 1816.

Fig. 7. Blue Handstamp - straight line with ARMAGH. Mileage is 66. The date is July 1, 1828

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TELEGRAPHIC CODE LETTERS OF IRISH POST OFFICES

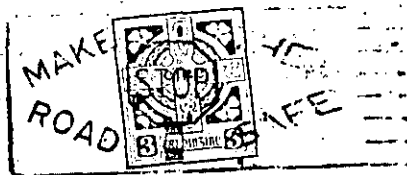
BY F. E. Dixon



These are found used in various ways: principally in the triangular cancellations used on printed matter posted in bulk; earlier on the large rectangular parcel post cancellations; and on the printed labels affixed to parcels.

AKC Abbeyleix	CHB Charlestown	DKN Dublin	KY Killarney
AKD Abbeyfeale	CK Cork	to sub-	LD Londonderry
AKI Ahascragh	CQI Cullbrackey	DLN offices	LIN ?
AKR Ardara	CQN Claremorris	DLO Dun Laoghaire	LK Limerick
AKV Ardfert	CRI Dublin (Broad-	DLP Dublin	LQF Lifford
ALB Arklow	stone Stn.)	to sub-	LTK Larne
ALK Ashford	CTF Cahir	DMO offices	LTM Leap
ALR Athenry	CTG Cahirciveen	DMG Dundalk	LTU Limerick Jun-
ALT Athlone	CTJ Callan	DMP Dungarvan	ction
ALV Athy	CTM Cappoquin	DN Dublin (to 1922)	LTV Letterkenny
ANU An Uaimh	CTO Carlow	DNG Dublin	LUA Lisburn
(Navan)	CTU Carrickmacross	to sub-offices	LUI Listowel
AR Armagh	CTV Carrick-on-	DWH	LUL Longford
ARI Dublin	Shannon	EIF Edenderry	LUS Loughrea
(Amiens St.)	CTW Carrick-on-	EIP Enniscorthy	LVA Lurgan
ARD Ardee	Suir	EJ Edgeworthstown	MG Dundalk (? mis-
BAC Dublin	CUA Cashel	EK Enniskillen	print for DMG)
(post 1922)	CUV Castlebar	ES Ennis	MJR Monastereven
BE Belfast	CUY Castleblayney	FE Ferns	MPR Middleton
BJ Ballinasloe	CV Avoca (in a P.	FY Fermoy	MPZ Mitchelstown
BMU Belmullet	O. list, but	GA Galway	MRB Moate
BPC Beauparc	probably	GF Gorey	MRH Monaghan
BQ Birr	misprint for	GHJ Geashill	MRU Mountmellick
BWY Ballina	OV)	GIA Glenties	MRY Mountrath
BXP Ballybrack	CVJ Castletownbere	GJO Granard	MSI Mullingar
BXT Ballydehob	CVM Cavan	GKL Glencolumkille	MUB Muine Bheag
BXW Ballaghaderreen	CVT Clara	GS Greystones	(Bagnalstown)
BXY Ballyhaunis	CWB Clones	IBY Inistogue	MW Mallow
BYB Ballymena	CWC Clonmel	JBN Belfast (sub-	NF Newtown Stewart
BYE Ballymote	CWH Clonakilty	to offices)	NIG Naas
BYH Ballineen	CWM Coleraine	JQU	NII Navan
BYJ Ballyshannon	CWS Cookstown	KE ?	NIL Nenagh
BYP ?	CWU Cootehill	KGG Kenmare	NIN New Bliss
BYS Bandon	CXH Curragh Camp	KGT Kingstown (?)	NIP Newbridge
BYT Bangor	CXI Cushendall	KHH Kilkenny	NJE New Ross
BYV Bantry	DA Drogheda	KHR Killeshandra	NJH Newtownards
BZC Beltrubet	DAS	KHV Killorglin	NY Newry
BZG ?	to Dublin	KHX Killucan	OCT Oughterard
BZJ Blackrock	DFJ suburbs	KHZ Killbegs	OM Omagh
BZQ Boyle	DG Dungannon	KIF Kilmallock	OV Avoca (then Ovoca)
BZR Bray	DGX Dublin	KIG Knocklong	PJU Portarlinton
BZW Bundoran	to suburbs	KIJ Kilrush	PKA Portrush
BZZ Buttevant	DIL	KIZ Kinsale	PO Portadown
CCD Ceananus Mor	DJA Donegal	KJG ?	PTL Port Laoghaise
(Kells)	DJE Downpatrick	KN Kingstown	QBX Ballyheigue
CDQ Clondalkin	DJG Dowra	KOV Cobh	QED Belfast
	DJO Dromod	KS Kells	to QEW sub-offices

QN Queenstown	TIK Templemore	WSM Wicklow	186 Dublin
QWQ Belfast	TIO Thomastown	WT Waterford	200 Dunmanway
(Woodstock Rd)	TIR Thurles	WVW Waterford	218 Fermoy
RIG Roscommon	TJA Tralee	YL Youghall	232 Galway
RIJ Roscarberry	TJI Tuam		269 Kilkenny
RK Roscrea	TJR Tullamore	Numbers Used in	303 Limerick
RLU Rath Luirc	TP Tipperary	Triangular Markings	304 Lisburn
SYK Skibereen	TSO Waterford	46 Ballymena	321 Mallow
SYN Sligo	(Broad St.)	62 Belfast	345 Mullingar
SYR Strabane	TUI ?	TV Carrick-on-	357 Newry
SYW Swinford	VL Valentia Is.	104 Shannon	375 Portadown
TDQ Dublin	WSC Westport	156 Cork	435 Tuam
(Terenure)	WSE Wexford	172 Londonderry	444 Waterford
			507 Ballinrobe



THE TRIANGULAR OBLITERATING STAMPS

NEW TRIANGULAR POSTMARKS
by Michael Leonard

Sligo seems to be the first Post Office with the new Telephone Exchange code letters SG in its postmark. Previously, Sligo used the code letters SYN which were those of the Telegraph Office code list.

In recent years the special code letters for Telegraph Offices have been abolished and the same code as for Telephone Exchange is also used for Telegraph Offices.

When new triangular postmarks are required, they will show the new code letters and the Department of Posts & Telegraphs G.P.O. Dublin 1 advise me that so far only Sligo has affected the change (from SYN to SG). Other Post Offices will follow in due course and perhaps readers will be so good as to report new items.

DUBLIN "FREE" FRANKS by William Kane



1. 1707 2. 1722-54
3-6. 1769-83
7-8. 1796-1807
9-10. 1808-14
11-12. 1813-30