

The Revenue Stamps of Ireland

THE IMPRESSED DUTY STAMPS

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It will be apparent from the preceding general description of impressed duty stamps, that there is hardly any single aspect pertaining to them, with which the conventional philatelist might be familiar. Indeed, the physical, adhibitional and philatelic differences between impressed stamps and "ordinary" postage or revenue stamps are so great that also a catalogue listing must deviate from the accustomed pattern.

Although it is hardly possible to arrange these stamps by "sets" in a chronological order, the Irish impressed stamps lend themselves to be broadly separated into groups or periods, which depend on administrative, political or other considerations. The stamps within each group can be presented as a "series" because of certain features which are common to them. Each series has its dies arranged by denomination in ascending order, and each denomination by die letters, alphabetically.

It has been mentioned in the introduction, that there are no "dates of issue" as such, but that an official record was made of the date when a new die was taken into use, and when a die was withdrawn from use or defaced. These dates are shown in the listing if known; dates in parenthesis indicate earliest and/or latest usage date seen for a die of which no registration dates are available. It should be noted that all dates are quoted in the British style, namely in the sequence Day-Month-Year.

The various stamp styles for each die are listed in the column headed "Style Code". This record is based on actual examples which are in the possession of, or were verified by the compilers; the absence of a code number in the column does not imply that no impressions exist.

Synopsis of Catalogue Listings

A. General Duty Dies

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|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1. Series: Irish Administration, | 1774-1827 | (1838) |
| 2. Series: British Administration, | "Harp Dies" | 1838-19.. |
| 3. Series: " " | "British Dies" | 1866-19.. |
| 4. Series: " " | "Shamrock Dies" | 1895-19.. |
| 5. Series: Provisional Issues | | 1921-1924 |
| 6. Series: Irish Republic | | 1923- |
| 7. Series: Northern Ireland | | 1921 ? - |

B. Special Duty Dies

Catalogue

A. General Duty Dies

First Series: Irish Administration 1774-1827 (1838)

Official register books of these dies have not survived apparently. Therefore, this listing is based on the die impressions which have been verified by the compilers' a few items which probably exist were omitted because information is too vague. It is most likely that many more dies were in use during this period, and these will have to be discovered yet.

The designs of these dies have as their main feature often a large harp, or a medallion with the King's head in profile. The name IRELAND occurs quite frequently, as do the inscriptions GR III, G III REX, or GR IV. Other features such as arms, monograms etc occur occasionally. Only the main feature is indicated for each die on this list, because no detailed descriptions can be given here

for lack of space. However, most dies can be recognized by their denomination and their die letters alone. In a few instances the same die letter was used more than once for different dies of the same denomination; in such cases the indicated main feature will help to separate the dies in question.

Some die letters occur twice on a die, or in combination with a digit; these are listed accordingly. Small designs such as a star, a rose, a fleur-de-lys etc. can sometimes be found near or contra-lateral to a die letter; these may be ignored and they are not listed therefore.



typical example
from this series



Denomination	Die	Feature	earliest	latest	Style Code
1d	A	Harp			60
1 1/2d	A	Harp			60
	B	Harp			60
2d	A	Harp	(5.4.1796)	(1810)	60
	B	Harp	(1796)	(1807)	60
	CC	Harp	(1804)	(25.4.1813)	60
	DD	Harp	(1813)		60
3d	A	St. Patrick's Order			60
	B	Harp	(10.5.1794)		60
	CC	Three Lions	(13.7.1813)	(1818)	60
	D	Harp	(1810)	(1818)	60
4d	A	Harp	(22.5.1794)		60
	B	Harp	(29.7.1794)	(21.11.1796)	60
	C	Harp	(23.2.1803)	(1810)	60
	D	Harp	(1811)		60
	EE	King's Head	(3.5.1783)	(1803)	60
6d	2A	Harp	(1776)		11,60
	4B	Harp	(1779)		60
	6D	Harp	(1799)		60
	7E	Harp	(22.6.1795)	(1797)	60
	FF	Royal Arms	(1807)		60
1s	A	Eagle			11
	A	Harp	(1774)	(20.5.1780)	11,60
	B	Harp, no GR III	(1774)	(1796)	11,60
	B	Harp, GR III on top	(1810)	(1813)	60
	C	Harp	(1777)	(1800)	60
	DD	Harp	(1792)	(1815)	11,60
	EE	Harp	(29.11.1802)	(1810)	11,60
	FF	King's Head	(1812)	(1820)	11,60
1s6d	A	Monogram	(1812)		60
	A	Harp	(1800)		60
	B	Denomination	(1812)		11,60
	CC	King's Head	(1805)	(1815)	60
2s	A	Harp	(1797)		60
	B	Harp	(22.1.1805)	(1812)	60
	CC	King's Head			60
2s6d	A	Harp	(1783)	(1785)	11,60

Denomination	Die	Feature	earliest	latest	Style Code
2s6d (c0n't)	B	Harp	(19.7.1783)	(1800)	11,60
	BB	Harp			60
	C	Harp	(1810)	(22.5.1822)	11,60
3s	A	Harp & Anchor	(1812)		60
	BB	King's Head	(6.10.1815)	(1820)	60
4s	A	Harp	(1796)	(1800)	11,60
	B	Harp	(1798)		60
	DD	King's Head			11
4s6d	A	Harp			60
5s	A	Harp	(1799)	(1803)	11,60
	CC	Heraldic Flowers	(1801)	(1812)	11,60
	DD	Harp & Lion	(1.5.1802)	(1814)	11,60
	EE	King's Head	(1814)	(5.8.1836)	11,60
7s6d	A	Harp			60
10s	A	Harp	(26.6.1800)		11
	BB	Monogram	(1807)		11,60
	BB	Harp	(1807)	(7.3.1820)	11,60
	C	Harp	(1826)	(25.11.1835)	11,60
11s3d	A	Harp	(1805)		60
15s	A	Harp	(9.11.1808)	(18.2.1831)	11,60
1 £	A	Harp	(1807)	(23.9.1812)	11,60
	BB	Harp	(7.1803)	(20.9.1836)	11,60
1 £ 10s.	A	Harp	(1804)	(24.4.1837)	11,60
2 £	A	Harp	(1802)		11,
	B	Harp	(27.2.1818)		11,60
	CC	Harp	(20.5.1822)	(24.3.1838)	11,60
3 £	B	Harp	(6.10.1815)	(1837)	11,60
4 £	A	Harp	(1811)	(1835)	11,60
5 £	BB	Harp			11
6 £	A	Harp			11
7 £	A	Harp			11
9 £	A	Harp	(1807)		60
10 £	A	Harp	(18.2.1824)		11
20 £	A	Harp			11
50 £	A	Harp	(18.2.1824)	(10.6.1826)	11,60
100 £	A	Harp			11

Second Series: "Harp" dies 1838-19..

The dies for these stamps superseded those of the earlier series, and no overlap in the time of usage of the two series has been observed.

All dies are inscribed IRELAND and there appears always a small harp contra-laterally to the die letter. This small symbol serves not only as an indicant for Irish dies, but it helps also to balance the symmetry of the die design and is therefore called a "balancing device". The die letter is usually on the left and the harp on the right, but sometimes these positions are reversed, as shown in the list. Due to this harp, this series became known as the "Harp Series", and these dies should not be confused with those of the first series where many dies have a large harp as their main feature.

Most dies have as their central design the denomination spelled out in words; some of the higher denominations show also coat-of-arms, etc. All 1d dies and the last three 6d have date plugs.

The registration dates and defacement dates are those which are recorded in the Somerset House Registers in London. Most dies were placed into the "Die Box Dublin" a few days later, but sometimes the elapsed time between these dates amounted to several weeks or even months. No die Box dates are shown in this list. The "withdrawal" dates quoted as footnotes do not always mean the immedi-

ate destruction of the dies, but most likely they mark the end of their usage. If no defacement date is known, the space is kept blank, but dates in parentheses indicate the latest date of the die seen, sofar.

Green impressions exist in isolated cases; these were made for the Irish Provisional Government. They are not listed here, but in the section covering these issues.



typical examples
from this series



Denom.	Die	registered	defaced	Style Code
1d	A Harp	8.9.1853	8.11.1875	60
	B Harp	8.9.1862	(22. 1.1872)	60
	C Harp	8.9.1862	(14.12.1865)	60
	D Harp	12.5.1863	(15. 2.1906)	60,83,A
	E Harp	12.5.1863	(25. 2.1908)	60,83
	F Harp	12.5.1863	(14. 1.1895)	60,83
3d	A Harp	5.6.1844	30.12.1891	11,60,83
6d	Harp A (a)	26.9.1842	(a)	60
	Harp B (a)	5.6.1844	(a)	
	Harp A	8.12.1859	(7.6.1905)	33,83
	Harp B	15.12.1859	(9.7.1890)	11,60,83,A
	Harp C	11.7.1876	(26.5.1910)	11,33,60,83,A
1s	A Harp	22.11.1838	30.12.1891	11,60,83
1s3d	Harp A	26.9.1842	27.1.1886	11,60,83
1s 6d	A Harp	21.7.1838	(b)	11,33,60,83,A
2s	A Harp	21.7.1838	27.11.1901	11,33,60,83,A
2s 6d	A Harp	22.11.1838	27.1.1886	11,60,83
3s	A Harp	21.7.1838	(b)	11,33,60,83,A
3s 9d	A Harp	19.9.1850	(c)	11,60,83,A
4s	A Harp	5.6.1844	(14.7.1875)	11,83,A
5s	A Harp	21.7.1838	27.1.1886(d)	11,33,60,83
6s	A Harp	22.2.1860	(b)	11,83,A
6s 3d	A Harp	19.9.1850	(c)	21,33,60,A
7s 6d	A Harp	21.7.1838	27.11.1901	11,14,33,60,83,A
7s 9d	Harp A	26.9.1842	(15.7.1887)	83
9s	A Harp	22.2.1860	(c)	11,24
10s	A Harp	21.7.1838	27.1.1886(d)	11,33,60,83
	B Harp	19.9.1850	27.1.1886(d)	11,14,60
12s 6d	A Harp	19.9.1850	(b)	11,33,60,83,A
15s	A Harp	21.7.1838	30.12.1891	11,14,60,83
17s 6d	A Harp	19.9.1850	27.11.1901	11,33,83,A
1 £	A Harp	21.7.1838	27. 1.1886	11,14,60
1 £ 2s6d	A Harp	19.9.1850	(b)	11,60,83,A
1 £ 5s	Harp A	26.9.1842	(c)	11,14,33,60,83,A
1 £ 7s6d	A Harp	19.9.1850	(c)	A
1 £ 10s	A Harp	21.7.1838	27.11.1901	11,33,60,83,A
1 £ 12s6d	A Harp	19.9.1850	(e)	11,33,60,A
1 £ 15s	Harp A	26.9.1842	(c)	11,60,83,A
1 £ 17s6d	A Harp	19.9.1850	(e)	11,33,83,A
2 £	A Harp	22.11.1838	(e)	11,60,83,A

Denom.	Die	registered	defaced	Style Code
2 £ 2s	A Harp	21.7.1838	(19.10.1885)	11,33
2 £ 5s	A Harp	19.9.1850	27.11.1901	11,33,A
2 £ 10s	A Harp	21.7.1838	27.11.1901	11,14,33,60,83,A
2 £ 15s	A Harp	19.9.1850	(e)	11,83,A
3 £	A Harp	21.7.1838	30.12.1891	11,14,60,83,A
3 £ 3s	A Harp	21.7.1838		
3 £ 10s	A Harp	21.7.1838	(e)	11,A
4 £	A Harp	22.11.1838	(e)	11,33,60,83,A
5 £	A Harp	22.11.1838	(e)	11,33,60,A
6 £	A Harp	21.7.1838	(e)	11,14,60,83,A
8 £	A Harp	21.7.1838	(30.6.1868)	11,60,A
10 £	A Harp	21.7.1838	(e)	11,60,A
15 £	A Harp	21.7.1838	30.12.1891	11,33,83,A
20 £	A Harp	21.7.1838	(1877)	11,34,A
30 £	A Harp	19.9.1850	(e)	11,33
35 £	A Harp	21.7.1838	(12.7.1889)	11,33,83
45 £	A Harp	19.9.1850	(1.4.1889)	11,83
50 £	A Harp	21.7.1838	(e)	11
75 £	A Harp	21.7.1838	(25.5.1865)	11
100 £	A Harp	21.7.1838	30.12.1891	11,34
200 £	Harp A	26.9.1842	(4.5.1875)	11
500 £	Harp A	26.9.1842	(2.5.1867)	11

- Notes: (a) these two dies were converted into the two following dies by drilling holes for the date plugs
 (b) these dies were withdrawn from use in Ireland on 27.11.1906
 (c) these dies were withdrawn from use in Ireland on 11.7.1907
 (d) these dies were returned from Dublin to London on 28.1.1884
 (e) these dies were withdrawn from use in Ireland on 2.10.1908 (?)

Third Series: "British" Dies, 1866-19..

The name "British" has been given to these dies because their designs are the same as those used for British dies. Certain die letters and/or numerals were assigned to the dies for use in Ireland to signify their usage. However, some of the same die letters occur also on other dies not listed here, and employed only in Britain. This apparent confusion arises from the fact, that the die letters appearing on the following list are not inherently Irish, but only conditionally so, namely if they occur on the particular denominations listed. To confuse matters still further, a number of the listed dies were employed in Britain as well as in Ireland, at different times, as can be gathered from the footnotes.

The dies of this series were used more or less concurrent with those of the second series; some are replacements for worn or obsolete dies, others represent additional denominations, or were used for new purposes, such as the small 1d cheque dies.

Only the 8d die C differs from all other dies in this series, because it has two small harps in its lower corners.

Green impressions of some dies exist; see remark pertaining to this colour on the pages dealing with the preceding series.



typical examples
from this series



Denomin.	Die	Die	Registered	Defaced	Style Code
1d	V		20.9.1866	10.3.1897	60
	W		20.9.1866	10.3.1897	60,83
	X		20.9.1866	10.3.1897	60,83
	Y		20.9.1866	10.3.1897	60
	Z		20.9.1866	10.3.1897	60
	AA		20.9.1866	24.4.1890	60
	RR		3.8.1870	10.3.1897	60
	ZZ		27.7.1874	10.3.1897	60,83
	3A		27.7.1874	10.3.1897	60,83
	4V		14.6.1881	10.3.1897	83
	4X		14.6.1881	10.3.1897	83
	8F	(a)	2.3.1888		83
	90	(b)	17.2.1891	(c)	83
	49		19.5.1892	10.3.1897	83
3d	20		16.6.1891	(25.9.1906)	83,A
6d	P	(d)		(1868)	A
	T	(d)			A
	U	(d)			A
	Z		17.1.1879	(1913)	33,83
8d	C		12.11.1870	(4.12.1901)	83,A.
1s	21		16.6.1891	(14.12.1901)	33,83,A
1s 3d	Z		21.5.1885	(18.8.1898)	83,A
2s 6d	Z		17.1.1879	(1905)	33,83
	Z2		25.6.1885	(8.6.1898)	83,A
5s	Z		21.1.1884	(29.11.1906)	14,33,83,A
10 s	Z	(e)	9.2.1882	27.6.1902 (f)	33,83
	Z	(e)	7.12.1883	(1913)	33,81,83,A
	Z2		7.12.1883	(28.12.1907)	34,A
15 s	22		16.6.1891	(31.8.1911)	81,83,A
1 £	Z		9.2.1882	27.6.1904 (f)	33,83
	Z3		15.4.1877	(g)	-- --
	Z2		21.5.1885	(20.6.1908)	83,91,A
3 £	23		5.5.1891	(3.1.1913)	83,A
9 £	F		7.1.1867	(7.1.1897)	11,33,60,83,A
15 £	24		5.5.1891	(1894)	A
100 £	25		5.5.1891		
1500 £	Z		19.7.1889		

Notes: (a) not specifically registered as an Irish die; impressions have been seen on Irish cheques dated between 1903 and 1916, but the die was apparently also used for English cheques.

(b) this double die letter is 9"0" (letter), not 90 (ninety)

(c) this die was withdrawn from use in Ireland on 7.6.1906

(d) these dies were normally used in England, but in 1858 adhesive embossed stamps were prepared for use in Ireland.

(e) these are two different dies: the first die is circular, and the second die has a shield-like shape.

(f) these dies were withdrawn from use in Ireland on 21.6.1900

(g) this die was originally registered for Ireland, but it was never used there. It was re-registered in 1896 for use in Liverpool, England.

Fourth Series: "Shamrock" Dies, 1895-19..

Shamrock dies represent an entirely new series, gradually replacing most of the dies formerly in use. The designs of these dies consist of the denomination expressed in words, a crown, and date plugs. The values of £1 and higher show the head of Minerva in profile.

As was mentioned in the Introduction (see Supplement No. 38, July, 1968), the Irish dies of this series have their die letters accompanied contralaterally by a small shamrock leaf. The first die in each denomination has no letter, but two shamrocks instead.

Defacement dates are known only for a very few dies, and these are shown in footnotes. It is probable that most other dies were still in use until their destruction in the burning Stamp Offices in Dublin, during 1921 and 1922; for this reason no "latest usage" dates are shown in this listing.

Green impressions from these dies are listed in the section dealing with the issues of the Provisional Government.



typical examples
from this series



Den.	Die	registered	Style	Den.	Die	Registered	Style
1d	Two sh.	18.7.1895(a)	83	1d	sh.AE	24.3.1922	
	sh. A	18.7.1895(b)	83		sh.AF	24.3.1922	
	sh. B	18.7.1895(b)	83		sh.AG	24.3.1922	
	sh. C	18.7.1895(b)	83		sh.AH	24.3.1922	
	sh. D	18.7.1895(c)	83		sh.AI	10.2.1922	
	sh. E	18.7.1895(d)	83	2d	Two sh.	22.1.1909	A
	sh. F	30.9.1904(e)	83		sh. A	29.2.1912	83,A
	sh. G	30.9.1904(e)	83		sh. B	29.4.1918	81
	sh. H	30.9.1904(e)	83		sh. C	29.4.1918	81
	sh. I	30.9.1904(e)	83		sh. D	29.4.1918	81
	sh. J	30.9.1904(e)	83		sh. E	29.4.1918	81
	sh. K	30.9.1904(e)	83		sh. F	29.4.1918	81
	sh. L	14.4.1908(e)	83		sh. G	29.4.1918	81
	sh. M	14.4.1908	83		sh. H	29.4.1918	81
	sh. N	14.4.1908	83		sh. I	17.6.1918	81
	sh. O	14.4.1908	83		sh. J	18.6.1918	
	sh. P	14.4.1908	83		sh. K	2.9.1920	81
	sh. Q	14.4.1908	83		sh. L	17.2.1920	81
	sh. R	29.2.1912	83		sh. M	23.6.1920	
	sh. S	4.11.1913	83		sh. N	17.2.1920	81
	sh. T	4.11.1913	83		sh. O	17.2.1920	
	sh. U	30.4.1914	83		sh. P	17.2.1920	81
	sh. V	31.5.1916	83		sh. Q	31.1.1921	
	sh. W	27.9.1916	83		sh. R	31.1.1921	81
	sh. X	27.9.1916			sh. S	31.1.1921	
	sh. Y	6.1.1922	83		sh. T	31.1.1921	
	sh. Z	6.1.1922			sh. U	31.1.1921	
	sh. AA	24.1.1922			sh. V	31.1.1921	
	sh. AB	24/1/1922			sh. W	31.1.1921	
	sh. AC	24.3.1922			sh. X	23.11.1921	
	sh. AD	24.3.1922			sh. Y	23.11.1921	

Denom.	Die	Registered	Style	Denom.	Die	Registered	Style
2d	sh. Z	3.2.1922		10s	sh.A 4/10/1904		83
	sh. AA	3.2.1922			sh.B 27.5.1914		
	sh. AB	3.2.1922			sh. C 29.2.1912		
	sh. AC	3.2.1922			sh.D 1.8.1919		
	sh. AD	3.2.1922		12s6d	Two sh. 21.11.1906		
3d	Two sh.	20.6.1899	83		sh. A 29.7.1913		
	sh. A	4.10.1904	83	15s	Two sh. 23.12.1910		
	sh. B	29.2.1912			sh. A 1.8.1919		
6d	Two sh.	4.10.1904	83	17s6d	Two sh. 18.11.1897	83,A	
	sh. A	27.4.1911		1 £	Two sh. 20.6.1899	83,93	
	sh. B	27.4.1911	83		sh. A 4.10.1904	83,93	
	sh. C	6.10.1910	83		sh. B 29.2.1912		
7d	Two sh.	15.3.1918			sh. C 1.8.1919		
8d	Two sh.	20.6.1899		1 £ 2s6d	Two sh. 21.11.1906		
	sh. A	4.10.1904		1 £ 5s	Two sh. 20.6.1899		
	sh. B	29.2.1912			sh. A 9.7.1907		
9d	Two sh.	17.8.1920		1 £ 7s6d	Two sh. 9.7.1907		
	sh. A	17.8.1920		1 £ 10s	Two sh. 6.5.1897	91,A	
1s	Two sh.	6.5.1897	83,A		sh. A 20.6.1899		
	sh. A	20.6.1899	83	1 £ 12s6d	Two sh. 21.10.1908		
	sh. B	4.10.1904	83	1 £ 15s	Two sh. 9.7.1907		
	sh. C	21.11.1910		1 £ 17s6d	Two sh. 21.10.1908		
1s3d	Two sh.	20.6.1899	83	2 £	Two sh. 21.10.1908		
	sh. A	4.10.1904			sh. A 29.2.1912		
1s6d	Two sh.	21.11.1906	A	2 £ 5s	Two sh. 18.11.1897	83,91,A	
	sh. A	29.2.1912		2 £ 10s	Two sh. 6.5.1897	14,83,A	
2s	Two sh.	18.11.1897	83,A		sh. A 15.4.1907		
	sh. A	20.6.1899(f)	83,93		sh. B 29.2.1912		
	sh. B	4.10.1904		2 £ 15s	Two sh. 21.10.1908		
	sh. C	21.11.1910		3 £	Two sh. 15.4.1907		
2s6d	Two sh.	4.10.1904	83		sh. A 27.5.1914		
	sh. A	29.2.1912		3 £ 10s	Two sh. 21.10.1908		
	sh. B	17.7.1919		4 £	Two sh. 21.10.1908		
3s	Two sh.	21.11.1906		5 £	Two sh. 20.6.1899		
3s9d	Two sh.	9.7.1907			sh. A 4.10.1904		
5s	Two sh.	20.6.1899	83		sh. B 21.10.1908		
	sh. A	30.10.1903	93		sh. C 29.2.1912		
	sh. B	29.2.1912		6 £	Two sh. 21.10.1908		
	sh. C	30.7.1919		10 £	Two sh. 15.4.1907		
6s	Two sh.	21.11.1906			sh. A 22.6.1908		
6s3d	Two sh.	9.7.1907			sh. B 29.2.1912		
7s6d	Two sh.	6.5.1897	83,A		sh. C 9.3.1920		
	sh. A	20.6.1899	83	25 £	Two sh. 29.7.1913		
	sh. B	4.10.1904	83		sh. A 3.3.1920		
	sh. C	29.2.1912			sh. B 3.3.1920		
9s	Two sh.	9.7.1907		30 £	Two sh. 22.6.1908		
10s	Two sh.	20.6.1899	83,A	50 £	Two sh. 22.6.1908		

Notes: (a) withdrawn from use in Ireland on 12.5.1902, and defaced on 27.6.1902
(b) withdrawn from use in Ireland on 7.6.1906
(c) withdrawn from use in Ireland on 17.9.1910
(d) withdrawn from use in Ireland on 10.10.1910
(e) defaced on 25.2.1921
(f) this die was used in Liverpool (England) from 5.8.1899 till 15.5.1900