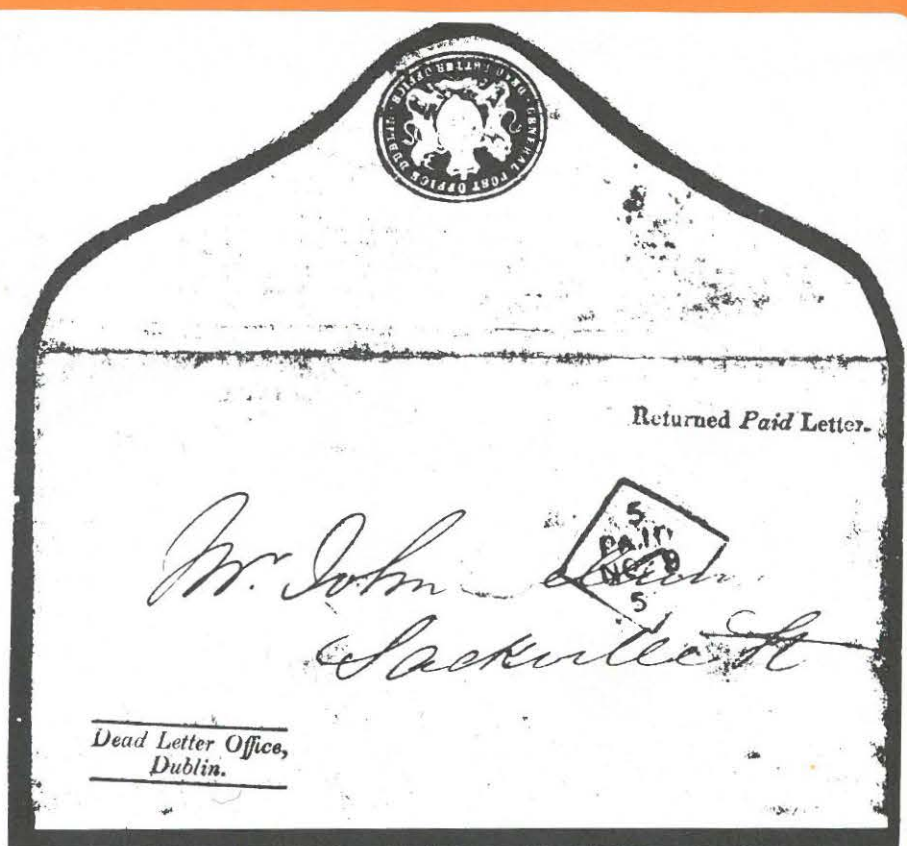


D.F. Newsletter

Vol 2. No. 24 Autumn 1976

HOUSE JOURNAL OF
DAVID FELDMAN LTD., DUBLIN



"DUBLIN PAID DIAMOND"

Remarkable discovery after 120 years.
(see article on "Dublin Spoons" inside)

BY SUBSCRIPTION

D.F. Newsletter

Editorial

Today the word TREND is often used in many contexts, perhaps we could give some thought to the present day trend in Philately.

The most outstanding aspect is the great increase in the number of people interested in Postal History. This, in turn, could account for the corresponding interest in Literature.

It seems that Postal Historians are prone to read and write more on their particular study than do their kindred Philatelists, who study stamps as their main interest. Hence the demand for books out of print, and accordingly, these books fetch higher prices now.

With Philatelists looking more at the back of the stamp, than hitherto, in their study of gums and watermarks, at times, it seems that the method of printing and the design of the stamp are secondary to its perforations. One can understand that the collector cannot dictate the form of printing or design, but he can demand 100 per cent perforations on the stamps he buys from dealers, although the same collector cannot do so from the Post Office assistant, who tears the stamp from the sheet, without the least thought as to the damage he or she could inflict on that precious bit of paper.

At this point, the thought occurs as to how many old time collectors existed, who, when they purchased a stamp from the Post Office, brought it home, affixed a hinge to it and mounted it in their album. You do not need me here to inform you of the clamour for "unmounted" mint!

It is pleasant to report a new trend - there is an increasing interest in the study of Postal Stationery and Revenue stamps. This is understandable with literature on these subjects now being available. And so a new development commences. Is it the challenge to conquer new fields, the urge to achieve an ambition or just something different to do, or is this the answer to this question?

B K

DUBLIN SPOONS

WILLIAM KANE



DUBLIN DUPLEX - "DUBLIN SPOON"

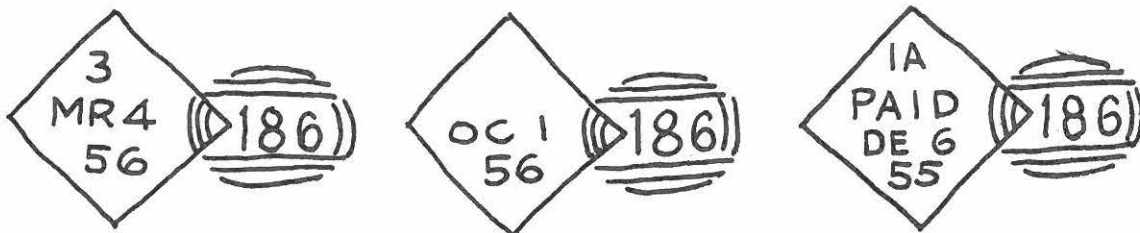
The Dublin Diamond Duplex (1855 to 1857) so called the "Dublin Spoon" is an anomaly in that it did not conform to the other Irish Spoons in use at the same time. The only common factor was that they all carried a numeral, indicating the town of issue. All the other Irish Spoons carried the name of the town above the date on the left hand side of the Duplex. Perhaps at this point an explanation of the word Duplex is in order. A true Duplex is a stamp of two sections, which are joined together and mounted on one base. In the case of the Dublin Spoon, a diamond takes the place of the Town name. This diamond forms the left hand side of the stamp, and the numeral '186' (Dublin) is contained in what is called an English Oval to form the right hand side of the obliterator. Strange to say this style never changed over the years of useage. The other Irish spoons have both English Ovals and Irish Diamonds surrounding their numerals. The fact that no Town name appears on the Dublin Diamond Duplex, is in conformity with the practice at that time of the three capitals having no name on their handstamps.

CODE NUMBERS

(London, Dublin, and Edinburgh)

We have three types of Spoons to consider, the Normal, the stamp which includes the word "PAID" and the third type, where the word "PAID" is removed. All three types are distinguished by Code numbers. Codes 1 to 8 and X are know in the normal diamond. The "PAIDS" are known with the Codes 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, and NO CODE. In the "SPOON EXPERIMENT" (1853 - 1858) by Willcocks and Bentley "it is recorded that the 'Paid' Diamond struck in Black, 2.10.55 to 25.10.56 had Codes 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and Blank. This would infer the existence of codes 4, and 5. Since I have never seen them I cannot comment on these two codes.

From my study of these markings, I am inclined to believe that the code numbers were removable slugs. I found that in some instances the numeral was situated more to the left hand side of the diamond, while some stamps with the same code had the numeral placed more to the right hand side of the diamond. This inclined me to think that a space was provided to hold two slugs to indicate the code, but since single numbers were only used (1 to 8 and X) one of the slugs had to be BLANK. Later on we find the Code number with a letter of the



alphabet beside it, obviously demanding two slugs. Furthermore, there is the instance of the 'NO CODE' or Blank space of the 1.10.56, which surely was the handstamp which should have been Code 3 (3.2.3.3.) wherein the code number was omitted and two blank slugs inserted instead of the numeral 3 and a blank slug.

In the issue of "Stamp Collecting" dated 25th April 1958, there was an article entitled "Duplex Spoon Cancellations" by Willcocks and Bentley, and therein was an illustration of a Dublin Diamond Duplex - 'Code 3 C' with the combination of 3.2.3.3. arcs to the numeral. This would call for two slugs.

CODE LETTERS:

Only three letters have been recorded used in conjunction with the figures of the code. They were the letters A, C, and E. It is thought that the letter X represents the numeral '10', but if so, why have we never seen a figure 9. The use of letters after the numeral may signify that the stamp was used for special duty, but here again this is only surmise.

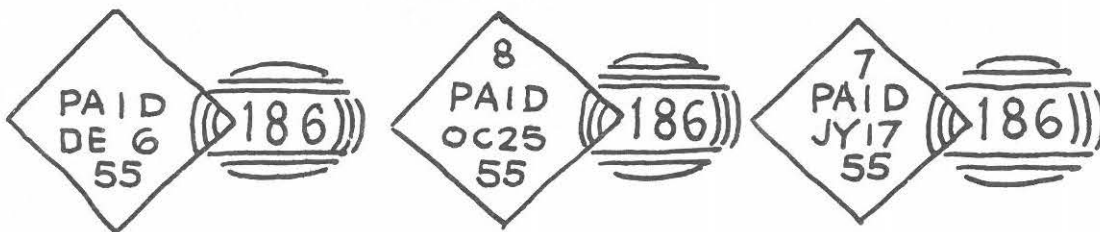
COLOUR OF INKING:

Green Ink was used in the early dates, and later on, the use of Black ink was introduced. Only rare instances are known when Blue ink was used.

"PAID"

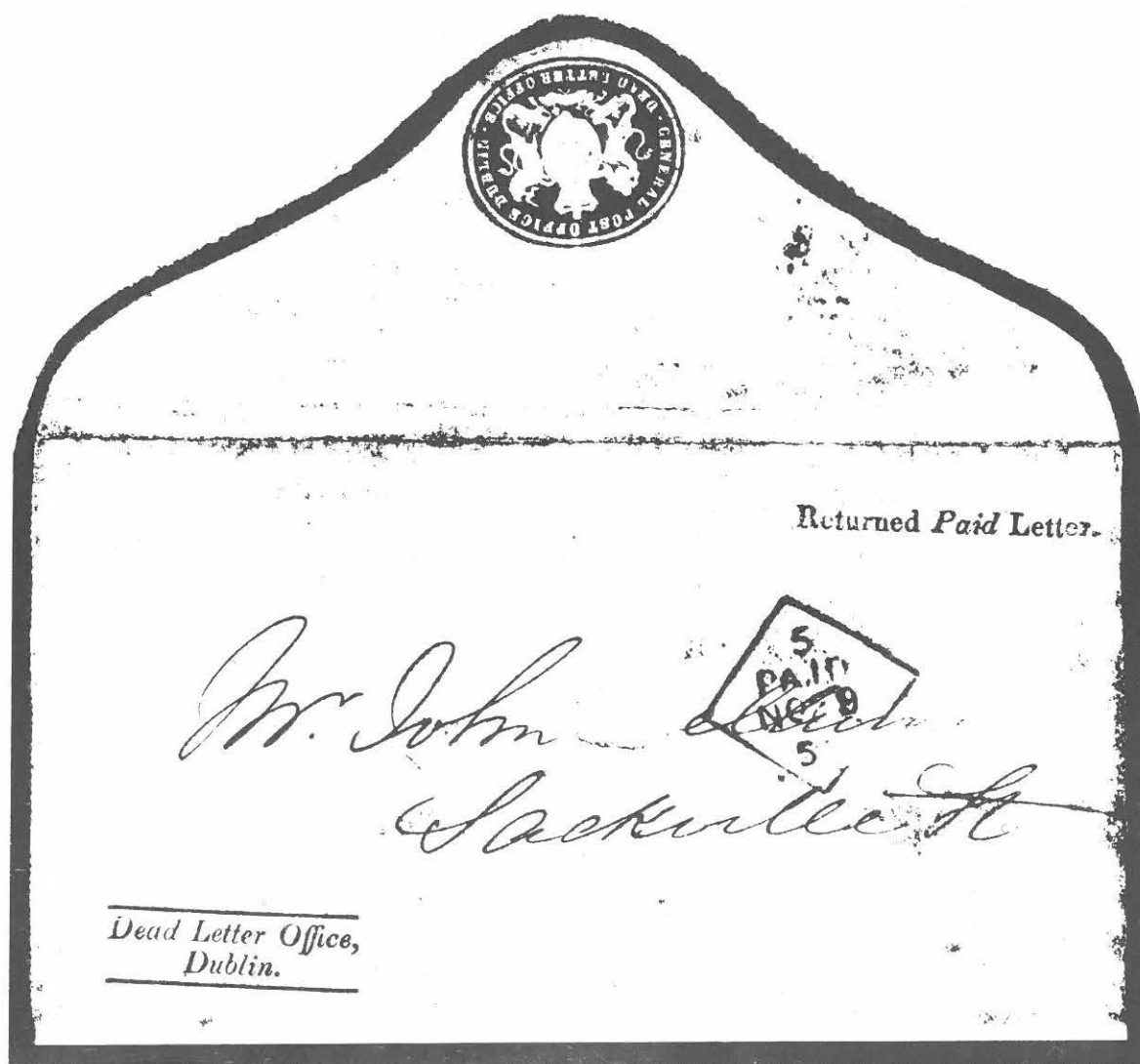
There is a mystery surrounding the introduction of the word 'PAID' into the Diamond sometime in August 1855. There is a theory that this handstamp was intended for use on Official correspondence, which of course did not carry an adhesive postage stamp. In this case, was it necessary to have eight handstamps?

Mr. J. D. Houston of Dublin, the noted Postal Historian is reported as having seen a 'PAID' stamp used on a lease of land in Dublin. This raises the question as to why Dublin Post Office Handstamps should be used outside the Post Office. Were these 'PAID' handstamps originally ordered for the Land Registry found unsuitable, sent back to the Stores Department and reissued to the Post Office? Here is a mystery that must remain unanswered for the moment.



After 120 years, a hitherto unrecorded marking has come to light, this mark must have some bearing on the Dublin Spoon. What a great pity the final digit of the year is not legible. If we knew the year of use, it would have established one or other of the following; was this mark a forerunner to the Dublin Spoon, or is it a survivor?

The cover is made of blue paper, and the crest on the flap at the reverse is embossed. The dark colour being Red. The wording around the insignia, reading top first: "GENERAL POST OFFICE DUBLIN - DEAD LETTER OFFICE".

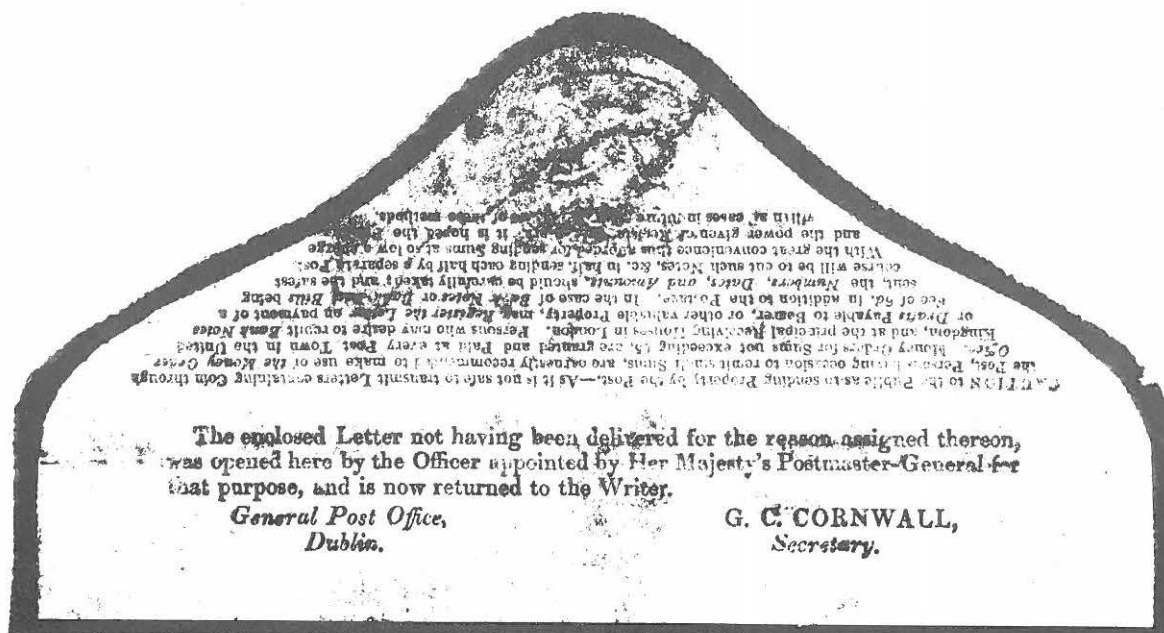


Now arises the question was there any reason for the application of the "PAID" handstamp since printed in the top righthand corner are the words "Returned Paid Letter".

The reason no Post Town appears in the address on the envelope, it was a local letter. The General Post Office was situated in Sackville Street, Dublin, at that time. Hence the addressee must have been well known to the Postal Officials.

While the Diamond on this cover resembles its counterpart of the Dublin Spoon. It lacks in one aspect, the arcs in the Diamond. In the diamond of the Dublin Spoon, the right hand corner contains either three or four arcs. These are missing from the Diamond on the envelope from the Dead Letter Office. The size of the mark on the envelope is similar to the diamond of the Dublin Spoon, and it is struck in Black. Also worthy of note is the Code number 5. So far, this number has not been recorded as used in the Dublin Spoon with the word "PAID", the same applies to the Codes 4 and 6. This raises the question could the Code numbers, 4, 5, and 6 have been allotted to the "PAID" Diamond Handstamps for Official use in Post Office Departments similar to the Dead Letter Office. If so, this could account for these numbers being missing from the "PAID" Dublin Spoons. The fact that the "PAID" Diamonds were used on Official envelopes, which usually carried the name of the section or department of the sender, and in most cases the word DUBLIN appeared, hence there would be no need for the numeral "186". Here is a conjecture worthy of some consideration.

On the whole quite a remarkable cover, why have we never seen this mark in the 120 years, since it was first used. Herein lies one of the wonderful aspects of Postal History, we can learn something every day.



Inscription on the inside of the envelope:-

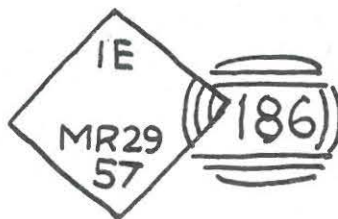
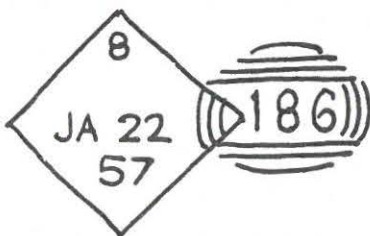
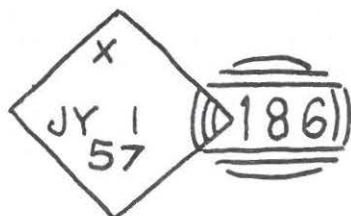
"The enclosed letter not having been delivered for the reason assigned thereon, was opened here by the Officer appointed by Her Majesty's Postmaster-General for that purpose, and is now returned to the writer".

General Post Office, DUBLIN.

*G. C. Cornwall
Secretary*

And printed in the opposite direction on the (inside) flap of the envelope:-

"CAUTION to the Public as to sending Property by the Post - As it is not safe to transmit letters containing Coin through the Post, Persons having occasion to remit small sums, are earnestly recommended to make use of the Money Order Office. Money Orders for sums not exceeding £5, are granted and Paid at every Post Town in the United Kingdom, and at the principal Receiving Houses in London. Persons who may desire to remit Bank Notes or Drafts Payable to Bearer, or other valuable Property, may register the letter on payment of a fee of 6d, in addition to the Postage. In the case of Bank Notes or Bank Post Bills being sent, the numbers, Dates and Amounts, should be carefully taken; and the safest course will be to cut such Notes, &c. in half, sending each half by a separate Post. With the great convenience thus afforded for sending sums at so low a charge and the power given of Registered Letters, it is hoped that the public will in all cases in future avail of these methods".



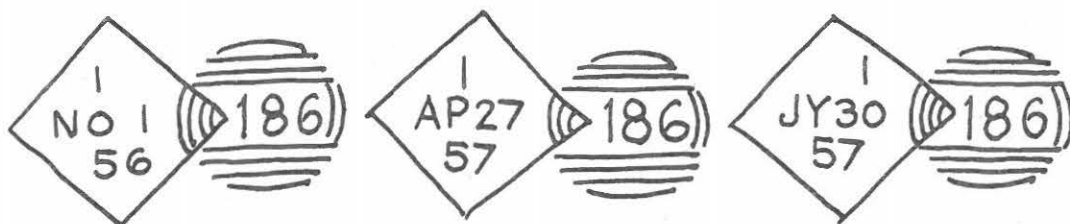
"PAID" REMOVED

Early in 1856 a duplex with the diamond showing a blank space, where the word PAID should have been situated, was introduced.

It is recorded that at least one handstamp carried traces of the letter 'D', after the word 'PAID' was removed. Since only a few items with this feature are known, it can be assumed that his fault must have been rectified early in its life.

ARCS SURROUNDING THE NUMERAL

The reference numbers 4.2.4.4. mean, reading clockwise, four arcs above the numeral '186' two on the right handside, four arcs below the numeral, and four arcs in the Diamond. Hence the final figure in the reference always indicate the number of arcs in the Diamond. Only in one instance is there two arcs in the diamond i.e. Code 2, all the other diamonds contain either three or four arcs.



VARIATIONS.

Note Code no. 1 had both three and four arcs in its diamond for the year 1857, also Code 5 had three arcs in its diamond in 1856 (4.3.4.3.) and then in 1857 a change to 4.2.4.4. the same type as in use in 1855. To be in a position to state that this was intended, would require seeing and examining a large amount of material. Hence I can only suggest that it is possible the wrong code slug was used. There is always the element of human error.

All the illustrations are copied from good clear strikes, so I cannot claim inadequate inking for the variations.

BIOGRAPHY.

Willcocks and Bently - "The Spoon Experiment"

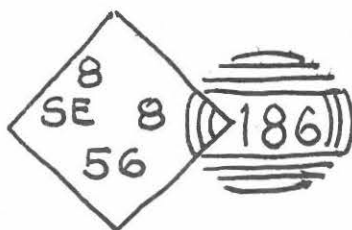
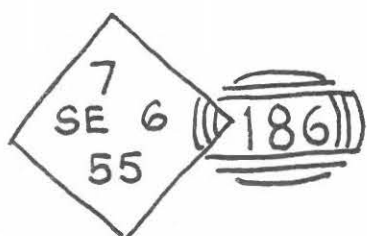
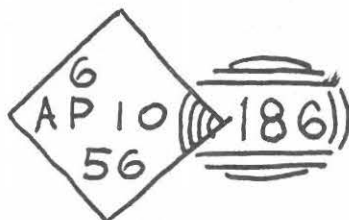
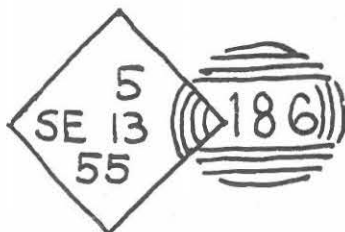
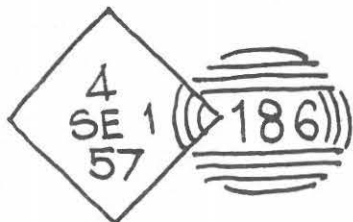
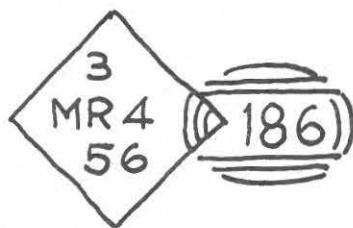
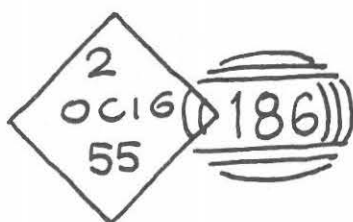
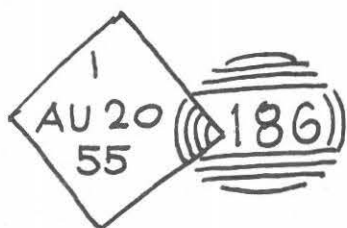
" " " " " "

Stamp Collecting
April 1958

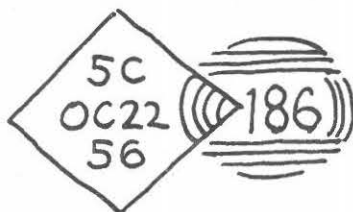
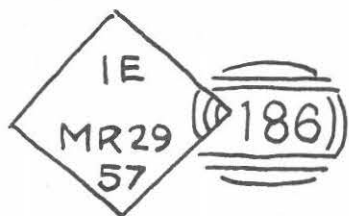
Hans Moxter - "Dublin Diamond Spoon"- Irish Philately April '73

F. E. Dixon - "Random Notes"

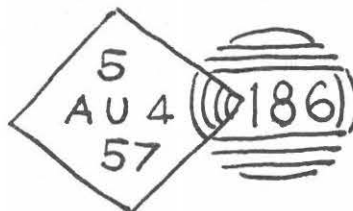
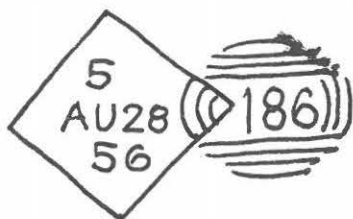
I would like to thank Mr. F. E. Dixon, Mr. A. Stokes, and Mr. A. P. Vickery for reading through my notes and for the additional data they supplied.



VARIATIONS.

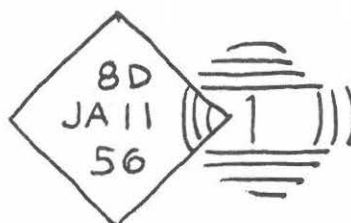
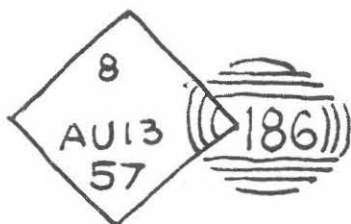


4. 3. 4. 3.



4. 2. 4. 4.

4. 3. 4. 3.



8D

DUBLIN DIAMOND DUPLEX - 1855 to 1857.

CODE	Bars & Arcs Clockwise	DATES		REMARKS
		Earliest	Latest	
1	4.2.4.4.	3.6.55.	5.9.57.	1C - 18.1.56. 1E - 25.11.56.
2	3.3.3.2.	18.8.55.	15.7.57.	2A - .6.55. 2E - 8.7.56.
3	3.2.3.3.	18.8.55.	13.9.57.	3C - S.C. 25th. April 1958. 3E - 23.7.56.
4	4.3.4.3.	11.7.55.	4.9.57.	4E - 4.9.57.
5	4.3.4.4.	7.9.55	20.10.57.	5C - 12.8.57.
6	3.2.3.4.	10.9.55.	2.7.57.	6C - 15.11.55. 6E - 18.12.56.
7	3.3.3.3.	1.9.55.	18.9.57.	7C - 21.3.57. 7E - 1856.
8	4.3.4.3.	23.9.55.	9.9.57.	8D - 11.1.56.
Blank	3.2.3.3.	1.10.56.		Code 3 omitted? PAID code 1 omitted ? " " 2 " ? PAID REMOVED code 1 omitted?

PAID.

1	3.2.3.3.	30.8.55.	27.10.57.	1A - 30.8.55.
2	3.2.3.3.	11.8.55.	14.8.55.	
3	4.3.4.3.	8.8.55.		Willcocks & Bentley - 4 & 5.
7	3.3.3.3.	19.11.55.	9.12.55.	
8	4.3.3.3.	4.8.55.	10.12.55.	
Blank	3.3.3.3.	6.12.55.		Code 7 omitted ?

PAID REMOVED.

1	3.2.3.3.	29.3.57.	13.6.57.	1E - 1857
8	4.3.3.3.	4.1.56.	3.8.57.	8E - 4.10.56.
X	3.2.3.3.	28.1.57.	22.8.57.	
Blank	3.3.3.3.	17.11.56.		E - 17.11.56. (Code 7 omitted

VARIATIONS CODE 1 - 4.2.4.3. - 1857.
 " 5 - 4.2.4.4. - 1857.



"SCROLL" Handstamps of Ireland

Bill Kane

In the past four months, several readers have written requesting information regarding the "Scrool" or "Hooded" type handstamps, used in Ireland. Strictly speaking, these stamps fall into two series.

The first series, which included the "Dublin Signet Ring" (See Newsletter no. 21.) and three others, which were only used to backstamp letters, i.e. as transit marks (1857-58).

The second series in use from approximately 1883 to 1894 were used to cancel adhesives on letters.

They were different in appearance, in that the first series were all double ring stamps, the outer ring forming the scroll, which contained the name of the town in sans serified letters. Only four towns in Ireland used this type of handstamp, Dublin, Kingstown, Newtownards, and New Bliss. I much regret no tracing of New Bliss available, the other three stamps are illustrated.

The second series were all single ring circles superimposed by a scroll, which carried the name of the town, again in sans serified letters. Remarkable, here again only four towns used this type of handstamp. Cork, Limerick, Waterford, and Londonderry. Mr. F. E. Dixon has written many times on both types of stamps. Those interested should read his "Random Notes" no's 40 (1960) and 47 (1961).



More recently in the E.P.A. publication "The Revealer" no. 120 (October 1975) in his *Random Notes* of that issue, Mr. Dixon wrote a most concise note on the second series. I am sure he will not object to my quoting it in full.

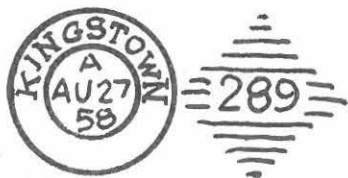
"COWALL" CANCELLERS:-

I have long disliked the usual "scroll" description for this distinctive and popular style of cancellation. I've now thought of a new word and suggest we call the style COWALL, indicating that its Irish use was limited to Cork, Waterford, Limerick, and Londonderry. My latest findings confirm that it was brought into use at all four places during 1883, the earliest being February for Cork and Waterford, May for Londonderry and October for Limerick. The ranges of codes now seen are: Cork, C, D, E, H, I, J, K, P and U, always with 2 below; Limerick, at first 5 at top, 2 below, later L, M occurred, above or below; Londonderry I with B, E, H, N, S, T; Waterford, C, D, E, F, G, H, M at top, always with 2 below.

There were at least two different Cowall handstamps at Cork, differing most obviously in the size and shape of the 2 at foot, and of the R of CORK. Londonderry also had two, easily differentiated by the size of the office number 172.

Note Book

BILL KANE



TWO DUPLEX CANCELLATIONS WELL WORTH LOOKING FOR ARE THE CONTINENTAL TYPE USED BY BOTH KINGSTOWN AND ENNISKILLEN IN THE LATE 1850'S. IT IS RECORDED THEY WERE INTRODUCED BY ANTHONY TROLLOPE, THEN ACTING AS DEPUTY POST OFFICE SURVEYOR IN IRELAND. TROLLOPE THOUGHT THAT HE WOULD IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF IRISH CANCELLATIONS, AND HAD A HIGH OPINION OF THE FRENCH DOUBLE-RING MARKS. THIS INFLUENCE IS VERY NOTICEABLE IN THE STAMPS MADE FOR KINGSTOWN AND ENNIS KILLEN. SINCE THESE WERE THE ONLY TOWNS TO USE THIS TYPE OF CANCEL, THEY COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS POPULAR.

—LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Sir,

Many thanks for the "D.F. Newsletter" received yesterday, which I thought most interesting, and I congratulate all concerned in its production.

The tatty H + K "Night Mail" cancellation, which I have seems to me to have been used in a slightly "off-course" way. It is on a piece, the upper right corner of a cover, which bears three adhesives thus:- 1 2 3 .Nos 1 and 2 are $\frac{1}{2}$ d vermilion, and 3 is a 1d lilac. Nos 1 + 2 have each a cancellation by a Dublin Duplex, but No. 3 has only the "Night Mail" Stamp, and I have the impression that it was applied only because it, (the 1d lilac), accidentally escaped the G.P.O.obliteration, and that this was a very exceptional usage.

I must also include a note about the "Shannon Scheme" date of issue. When I came back to Dublin and started collecting again, I got most of my early F. D. Covers from Horace Greer, of happy memory. As you know, he was very keen on F.D.C.'s from the first and indeed my copy of the 1929 Catholic Emancipation issue was supplied by him. He told me that he sent his Shannon Scheme covers off on the 16th October, and was later upset to find that there existed covers dated the 15th. In the second paragraph of Mr. Dixon's letter in your last issue, he mentions that Stanley Gibbons quoted "17th" as the day of issue, but later accepted the "15th". I have a copy of their 1934 Catalogue, which gives "16th"! The mystery deepens!

I really started this to send you the enclosed tracing of a Cork postmark of 1835 (see page 12, D. F. Newsletter). It is the only Cork mark on a front to the East India Company, which are often met with. There is a double-framed Dublin "diamond" transit-stamp in red of MR 15/35 with code 3A and also in red most of the date portion of presumably the London receipt stamp MR 17/1835.

Arthur Stokes,
DUBLIN

-LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Sir,

Re : Cork Datestamps (Newsletter Vol 2, No. 23)

I enclose three tracings. The 1832 is from a photocopy and it is possible that there should be an outer arc.

All good wishes,

F. E. Dixon, DUBLIN



Dear Sir,

In response to your letter in the "D.F. Newsletter" for Summer 1976, I enclose a drawing of cancellations from Shannon F.D.C.'s - again both Dublin cancellations, the second cancellation being on a block of four stamps, but rather heavily overcancelled.

A.F. Lynch,
CORK

Stori Alfredo, Via Castiglione '7,
40124 BOLOGNA, Italy.

Ing. Frantisek Komers, Pod Smukyrkou 1049,
150 OO PRAGUES, Czechoslovakia.

The above would like to establish correspondence and exchange stamps with someone in Ireland. Both write in English.

DO YOU KNOW ?

IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

The Annual General Meeting of the Irish Philatelic Circle was held at St. George's Hotel, Liverpool during the weekend of May 15th/16th, 1976 with a gathering of some 30 members and friends from throughout the British Isles and Europe.

The election of Officers resulted in the following:-

President	:	A. T. Sedgley
Vice Presidents	:	M. Leonard, Dr. J. A. Quigley
Treasurer	:	W. J. Wilks
Editor	:	O. M. Richards
Auctions	:	P. J. Smithers
Committee	:	Dr. D. O'Connell, A. Stokes, P. H. Williams
	:	J.A.C. Munro, M. Freyer, Dr. V. Hale
Area Secretaries	:	H. K. Jamieson, O.M. Richards, P. J. Smithers
General Secretary	:	T. S. Telfer, Culzean, Lochview Road, Stranraer, Wigtownshire.

From the entries judged by Tommy Wilcox and Tony Nelis of the Merseyside area, the winners of the "Thos. E. Field Awards" were:-

Dr. C. Dulin, for general philately, "Varieties on 3 line Overprints".

W. Kane, for postal history, "Dublin Handstamps".

W. Kane, for thematics, "Registered Mail".

By separate appraisal, the "Thos. E. Field Award" for Literature was presented to O. M. Richards for his work "Cancelling Machines of Dublin 1922 - 1975", which appeared in the Circle's quarterly journal "Irish Philately".

Details of the I.P.C. are obtainable from the General Secretary.

DOBBS MEMORIAL COMPETITION 1976

This competition took place in the Clarence Hotel, Dublin.

The judges commented favourably on the number and quality of entries submitted for competition.

There were four categories, and medals were awarded as follows:

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|----------------|
| 1. Ireland | - | F. E. Dixon |
| 2. Postal History | - | Miss N. Wright |
| 3. Thematic | - | T. D. Rose |
| 4. Specialised | - | J. D. Houston |

The Dobbs Memorial Cup was presented to J. D. Houston for the outstanding overall entry.

VARIETIES



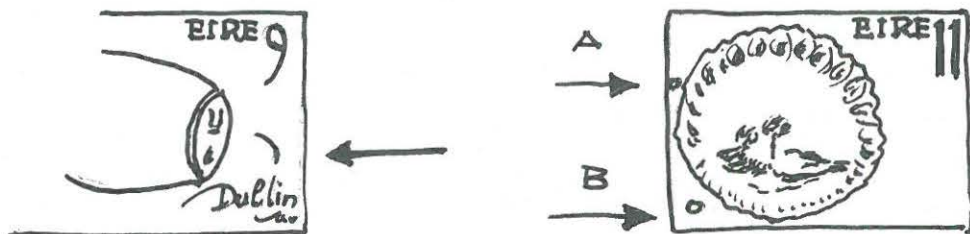
LE

Dear Sirs,

I have enclosed my copy of a variety on the 5p stamp of W. B. Yeats 1965 issue - used - but am unable to ascertain the details of its sheet location.

Also does it appear on the 1/5 value, and if mint copies of positional blocks are available, I would be pleased to know.

J. E. Downey,
PETERBOROUGH



Dear Sirs,

EUROPA '76.

Checking the Europa stamps, I found the following varieties:

- 9p value - Row 9, Stamp 8, white stroke above the word "Dublin"
- 11p value - Row 3, Stamp 2,
A. spot near the margin.
Row 7, Stamp 1,
B. type of bullet hole.

All the above appear constant.

Des Baumann,
Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.

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