

English Language Machine Cancels of Dublin, 1906-1922

by Charles J. G. Verge

In July 1972 appeared the first of four issues of the *Journal of Irish Philately*. It was ostensibly a new publication which was to incorporate *The Revealer* and *Irish Philately* and was to be issued jointly by the Éire Philatelic Association and the Irish Philatelic Circle. It lasted one volume.

However, in the second issue of that one and only volume, one finds what is probably the only in-depth study ever made of the machine cancels of Dublin from their first use in 1906 under British rule to the changeover to the Irish government in 1922. A period of 16 years of English-language cancels, four different machines (Columbia, Krag, Hey-Dolphin and Universal) and many varieties. It was written by the late O. M. Richards, long time editor of *Irish Philately* and entitled simply: The Machine Cancellations of Dublin, 1906-1922.

I have been fascinated by these cancellations for some time and became aware of Mr. Richards' article only when I purchased back issues of *The Revealer*. To make the information more user friendly, as the expression goes today, and to make it easier to look for these cancels during dealer box hunting, I have devised the tables found with this article. The bulk of the information is from Mr. Richards' article to which I have added information from my own collection and that I have gleaned through reading the literature published since Mr. Richards' article was written. It is notable how little information has changed since then. I have also used the cancellation tracings from Mr. Richards' article to illustrate the tables.

I am hoping that the readers of *The Revealer* will help me update these tables by checking their collections and providing me with the information they possess. A photocopy of the cover of piece in question would be appreciated. I can be reached by writing to Box 2788, Station 'D', Ottawa, Canada K1P 5W8.

The following signs have been used when an early or late date is not known conclusively:

- < = on or after the date indicated
- > = on or before the date indicated

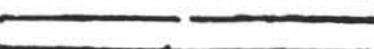
DUBLIN 
JUN 14 '06 **No. 1.** 
6 30 - PM 

Fig. 1

DUBLIN 
11. 45 AM **No. 1.** 
OCT 29 '06 

Fig. 2

DUBLIN 
5 30 AM **No. 1.** 
JAN 11 '08 A 

Fig. 3

DUBLIN B. 
5. PM 
OCT 11 19 

Fig. 4

DUBLIN 
PAID 
AUG 3 '06 **No. 1.** 
6 30 PM 

Fig. 5

(in red)

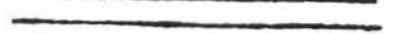
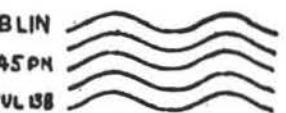
DUBLIN 
PAID 10 
5 15 PM 
JUL 4 '14 A 

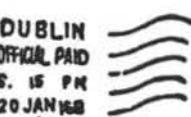
Fig. 6

(in red)

 **DUBLIN** 
1 45 PM 
26 JUL 08 

DUBLIN 
1. 45 PM 
26 JUL 08

Fig. 7

 **DUBLIN** 
OFFICIAL PAID 
6. 15 PM 
20 JAN 08 

DUBLIN 
OFFICIAL PAID 
6. 15 PM 
20 JAN 08 

Fig. 8 (in red)









Fig. 9









Fig. 10

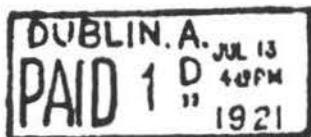


Fig. 11 (in red)



Fig. 12 (in red)



Fig. 13

ENGLISH LANGUAGE MACHINE CANCELS OF DUBLIN, 1906-1922

COLUMBIA

Type of mail	Figure #	Early date	Late date	Description
Regular	1	1906.06.14	1906.06.20	Date over time, No 1. Lines above and below
Regular	1	1906.06.21	1907 Aug.	Time over date, No 1. Lines above and below
Regular	2	1906.10.--	--.--.--	Time over date, No 1. No lines
Regular	3	1907.01.24	1908.05.24	Machine A, No 1
Regular	3	1907.01.--	<1909.09.25	Machine A, no No 1. Dublin 16 mm. in length
Regular	3	>1909.01.19	1913.02.17	Machine A, no No 1. Dublin 19 mm. in length
Regular	4	1919.10.11	1919.10.31	Machine B
Paid	5	>1906.08.03	1914.07.04	Machine No 1, Dublin Paid (for official mail)
Paid	6	>1906.08.03	1914.07.04	Machine A, Dublin Paid ½ d. (for bulk mail)
"	"	"	"	Machine A, Dublin Paid 1 d. (for bulk mail)

Another Columbia machine was used in Belfast. Earliest recorded date is 1908.08.20. In 1913, the straight cancelling lines were exchanged for wavy lines. Earliest recorded is 1913.09.04. A slogan *Buy National War Bonds Now* was used in late December 1917-early Jan. 1918.

KRAG

Type of mail	Figure #	Early date	Late date	Description
Regular	7	1912.12.12	<1916.04.24	Machine B
Regular	7	1914.10.--	1914.11.--	Machine with no letter designation
Regular	7	1915.01.01	<1916.04.24	Machine A
Paid	8	1912.12.--	<1916.04.24	Machine B, Dublin Official Paid (for official mail)

Krag machines were also issued to Ballymena -- a wavy line machine, Cork -- a straight line machine and a wavy line machine, Galway -- a wavy line machine, Kilkenny -- a wavy line machine, Limerick -- a wavy line machine and Londonderry -- a wavy line machine.

HEY-DOLPHIN

Type of mail	Figure #	Early date	Late date	Description
Regular	9	1916.04.29	1916.12.31	Machine B. Code letter B at top
Regular	10	1917.01.01	1922.05.12	Machine B. Code letter B at bottom
Regular	10	1917.07.13	1922.05.12	Machine A. Code letter A at bottom
Paid	11	---,---	1922.11.05	Machine A, Paid 1 d. (for bulk mail)
"	"	"	"	Machine A, Paid 1 ½ d. (for bulk mail)
"	"	"	"	Machine A, Paid 2 d. (for bulk mail)
Paid	12	> 1917.12.21	1922.11.05	Machine A, Official Paid

Regular

Belfast was issued a machine in December 1914. Earliest recorded date is 1914.12.14. The machine acquired a 'A' designation on 1922.07.01. Earliest recorded is for 1922.07.14. The latest is 1922.12.25. A double ring die appeared in 1923.

Paid

There exists for Belfast Paid and Official Paid dies struck in red.

UNIVERSAL

Type of mail	Figure #	Early date	Late date	Description
Regular	13	1920.03.12	1920.04.--	6 wavy bars
Regular	13	1920.05.--	1920.09.--	7 wavy bars
Regular	13	1920.09.--	> 1920.11.17	7 wavy bars. Top bar damaged
Regular	13	> 1920.11.17	---,---	6 wavy bars. Top bar removed
Regular	13	> 1921.05.--	1921.07.27	5 wavy bars. Top and bottom bars removed

Universal machines are known for Belfast in 1921, Cork and Limerick with an earliest recorded date in that city of 1921.08.13. The Limerick machine was transferred from Dublin. The Gaelic changeover for Cork and Limerick was in May 1922, probably at the same time as Dublin 12-13 May 1922.

HEY-DOLPHIN - Gaelic changeover

Type of mail	Figure #	Early date	Late date	Description
Regular			1922.05.12	English last day. Machine A
Regular			1922.05.12	English last day. Machine B
Regular		1922.05.13		Gaelic first day. Machine A
Regular		1922.05.13		Gaelic first day. Machine B

What are the change over dates from English to Gaelic on machines in other cities?