

Sometimes called 'Number in a Number' this type, used c1874 to 1893, is not particularly common. Much of this summary is a précis of an article written by Bill Kane for the June 1989 issue of *Irish Philately* which was followed by Eugene Labiuk writing in the Winter 1990 edition of *The Revealer* (see Bibliography) and two subsequent letters in the Summer and Fall 1991 editions of that Journal. More detail can be found in those articles than is given here.

These marks appear to have only been used on newspapers and wrappers and on registered mail. Strikes are rarely complete and those from registered mail are particularly poor. There were probably at least two series numbered 1 to 8, the number shown above the '186'. The initial series had a 4343 bar format but 3333 and possibly 4333 have also been recorded. A strike of Code 1 on a newspaper fragment referring to a date in November 1874 in an advertisement is the earliest indicative date seen. Use from 1875 to at least c1880 was on newspapers and examples can be found bearing a ½d 'Bantam' stamp cancelled by this series of marks. There was no requirement for an accompanying datestamp to be applied because the date of the paper and the place of publishing serve the same purpose. This makes it hard to determine dates of use. Many of the known examples of these marks are found on single stamps, namely the various ½d and 1d stamps in current use, the stamp providing some indication of the period of use. The author has a number of wrappers, which appear to have been used by individuals sending single copies to places abroad, this accounting for use on 1d stamps (the internal rate being ½d). Such use is known until at least 1890. Parallel to this was the use of Duplex postmarks at the Newspaper Branch, which are known from c1882 (186.1901 etc).

Kane notes two series of these marks. As can be seen from the two code '3' marks shown below, more variety existed although how many dies of each code exist cannot be realistically determined. They can be found with a 'small' <186> and a 'large' <186> (see scans below). It is thought the 'large' <186> marks, (see illustrations below) were used on registered mail, although this may not have been exclusive.

Use on registered mail has only been seen for dates between 1887 and 1893. Reference to 186.1092 above suggests that use of the tall (type DD7 if a Duplex) 'un-numbered' Killers ceased circa 1889 and that the 'Number in a Number' type (186.1121 etc) then took over registered duties. It is assumed that the numbers above related to individual stampers but it was unlikely that there was sufficient volume of registered mail to require eight stampers, hence the suggestion has been made to the author that some of the marks were used at sub offices, College Green, Merrion Row etc perhaps being indicated.

The overall conclusions reached in respect of this series can be summarised:

- 1 c1874 eight marks of this type were issued to the Newspaper Branch; these remained in regular use, some seeing replacement, until superseded by the Newspaper Branch Duplexes (186.1901 etc). This took place during the 1880s. Some of these marks may have been retained at the Branch for a period.
- 2 Up to the late 1880s, volumes of registered mail were such that it was not necessary to identify the individual stampers but from c1887 this need arose. Thus a second series of the 'Number in a Number' type was issued for use solely on registered mail, replacing or supplementing the unnumbered Killers previously in use.

Because of the unsatisfactory information available, with perhaps no more than 100 examples, mostly on single stamps, having been seen in total, exceptionally, it has been decided to split these marks, not into bar formats but into uses, the first covering newspaper/ wrapper use and the second registered use. That split itself has to be tentative as use from about 1887 could be for either purpose. This approach may, very reasonably, be regarded unsatisfactory but is considered preferable until a more detailed study can be made. Specifically note the illustration of code 5 (186.1125) shown below with three bars at base and compare this against that shown alongside the illustration of 186.1092 above (four bars at base).



186.1103



186.1103



186.1122



186.1125



The illustrations show: code 3, circa 1877, from a part newspaper and another example of the same code found on a single stamp showing the numeral with much more rounded figures and just three bars at top (both c1870s); code 2 showing a fragment from a Registered item dated 1893. The Blackrock postmark alongside does not indicate use at Blackrock but was more likely struck on arrival at that office. The tiny red mark at the far left is part of an octagonal Dublin registered mark in use at this period, suggesting use of the coded numeral at Dublin head office or conceivably at College Green, which also had a similar octagonal mark; also code 5 from a registered item dated 14 October 1892, this with three bars at the base.

Ref	Type	Code	Bars	Earliest	Latest	Note
Newspaper use						
186.1101	K4x	1	see above	?1874	c1890	1
186.1102	K4x	2	-do-	9 Oct 75	c1890	2
186.1103	K4x	3	-do-	17 Mar 77	c1890	3
186.1104	K4x	4	-do-	3 Feb 77	c1880	4
186.1105	K4x	5	-do-	12 Dec 77	c1882	5
186.1106	K4x	6	-do-	c1879	c1890	6
186.1107	K4x	7	-do-	c1877	c1890	7
186.1108	K4x	8	-do-	c1880	c1890	8
Registered use						
186.1121	K4x	1	see above	14 Jan 89		1
186.1122	K4x	2	-do-	23 Jan 91	12 Mar 93	2
186.1123	K4x	3	-do-	27 Jun 91	25 May 93	3
186.1124	K4x	4	-do-	25 Mar 92		4
186.1125	K4x	5	-do-	6 Sep 87	14 Oct 93	5
186.1126	K4x	6	-do-	19 May 92	8 Jul 92	6
186.1127	K4x	7	-do-	13 May 93		7
186.1128	K4x	8	-do-	15 Dec 90	April 93	8

- 1 Reported on 1d red plate 176, very few examples recorded
- 2 Seen on wrappers from 1875 (½d bantam stamps), also registered items in 1891 and 1893; perhaps the commonest of this series of postmarks
- 3 Seen on wrappers from the 1870s and 80s, also on registered items in 1891 to 1893
- 4 Seen on a wrapper dated 1877 and reported on a 1d red plate 177. Only one registered use seen
- 5 Reported on a 1d red plate 217 and seen on registered items from 1887 to 1892
- 6 Reported on a 1d red plate 213, later wrappers and seen on two registered items in 1892
- 7 Reported on 1d reds plates 176 and 193 and a wrapper of c1890 also one later registered item
- 8 Seen on a single ½d green c1882 and several registered items

### 186.1151

### The 'Spoon' cancellations 1855-1857

Kane type I Duplex. These have been much written about and specific attention is drawn to Cyril Dulin's booklet *The Dublin Spoon* (see Bibliography) to which those wanting more detail are referred.

Relatively few additional dates beyond those recorded by Dulin are known. For the purpose of this listing it is sufficient to note that the Spoons were introduced at the very end of May 1855, initially there being two series both numbered 1 to 8, one of which series incorporated the legend 'Paid' above the date. That legend served no purpose and the 'Paid' dies were withdrawn after a short period; code 6 is presumed to have been issued but has not been seen in use. Subsequently, further dies apparently being needed, several of the 'Paid' dies were put to use with 'Paid' removed. It will be noted that, although strictly a type of Duplex cancellation, the town name was not incorporated, the diamond shape being considered sufficient by the Post Office to identify use at Dublin. Early uses were in emerald green, these generally becoming olive or 'oily' green by September 1855 before black ink (often, initially, a greyish black) was introduced. Later uses in green or 'mixed' inks are known and noted below. In all series of the Dublin Duplex postmarks, the code number (1 to 8 etc) relates to the 'Stamp' or 'Stamper' number, whilst the letter code (if any) relates to times and/ or collections/ dispatches, the actual detail of which is not known, although code 'A' appears to have related to the early morning as it can be found on mail posted 'early' to catch the Day Boat, which by October 1860 gave a late evening delivery in Central London.