

THE MEANING OF THE LETTER CODE



M1

The distinguishing characteristic of this datestamp is that the letter codes are used to denote the ship that the postmark was allocated to rather than the time code. The diameter measures from 22mm to 23mm, letters are 3mm high. The earliest recorded dates is the 18th October 1893 and the latest 3 July 1912. Index letters A to N are used to denote the Royal mail ships to which individual cancellers were allocated.



A
Union Line
Scott
27 April 1897



B
Castle Line
Dunotar Castle
29 March 1897



C
Union Line
Mexican
3 March 1897



D
Castle Line
Dunottar Castle
29 March 1897



E
Union Line
Tartar/Saxon
5 March 1907



G
Union Line
Athenian/Briton
March 1904



H
Castle Line
Roslyn/Dunvegan
6 February 1909



J
Union Line Moor 2
May 1904



K
Castle Line
Roslin Castle
February 1907



L
Union Line
Spartan/Norman
19 August 1996



N
Castle Line
Tantallon Castle
26 November 1904

NOTE

As was the custom of the Post Office the letter "I" and "J" were never used concurrently on a datestamp. In this case the letter "I" is not known on this postmark.