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\*\* DOUBLE CIRCLE CANCELLATIONS 1890 -1950 \*\*  
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Report No.1

by M. SMITH.

1. INTRODUCTION

The aim of this Report is to provide a means for members of the India Study Circle to be able to classify the various types of Double Circle date stamps used in India and abroad, for collectors of Indian cancellations to include them in an orderly manner, and to provide a standard by which the various types may be referred to. There is also the possibility of stimulating interest in this particular facet of Indian postal history.

The term 'Double Circle' refers to those date stamps that consist of two concentric circles, not necessarily complete, with the office name enclosed between them and the date of despatch enclosed between two horizontal lines.

This first report classifies the general Combined date stamp and obliterator types, together with sub-types, varieties, types used for special purposes, and types used by the Convention States, during the period 1890 to 1950. This is broadly from the end of the use of the Squared Circle cancellation up to Independence.

All type numbers used in this report are based on the Standard type classification adopted by the India Study Circle and published in "India Post".

It is appreciated that this is a preliminary report and that there are probably many sub-types and varieties that are not recorded here; however, it is hoped that regular updating will be possible, together with the development of a list of offices using the various types.

I would like to express my gratitude for the assistance given me by members of the India Study Circle, and in particular David Padgham and Gog Horsman.

2. DEFINITIONS, CODING SYSTEM AND REPORTING

(a) Definitions:

(i) *Date and Hour types* - these date stamps were issued to offices that despatched two or more mails daily, and have the date and time of despatch.

(ii) *Date only* - issued to offices that had only one or irregular despatches, and has only the date of despatch.

(iii) *Special purpose* - these are date stamps that are used for purposes other than the transit of normal mail, or are used by special kinds of offices.

(b) Coding System:

(i) *General types* - within each main type are a number of sub-types; these are coded A, B, C etc., this letter appearing as a suffix to the main type number:

"A" is applied to those having the office name in the upper half only;

"B" is where the office name is in the upper half and the District or Head Office name is in the lower half;

"C" is used where a design, e.g. a four pointed cross, appears in the lower half;

"D" is for any other large sub-type.

Varieties of these sub-types are classified by using lower case letters as suffixes to the capital letters above, e.g. Aa, Db etc.

(ii) *Convention States and Special Purpose types* - To enable these types to be easily classified, an abbreviation of the use is in brackets after the



type number and sub-type letters, e.g. Type A24A(REG). Below are the various purposes and their abbreviations:

(REG) = Registration	(TEL) = Telegraph
(RMS) = Railway Mail Service	(DEP) = Deposit
(SOR) = Sorting	(EXP) = Experimental
(B.O) = Branch Office	(CON) = Convention State
(PAR) = Parcel.	

(c) Reporting:

To enable the study of these cancellations to be developed further, the co-operation of members is required. Will members who have any types not shown in this report notify me so that they can be recorded. This should preferably be by Xerox copying or tracing, but if this is not possible, by giving the following information:

Type No. _____	Code Letters _____
Office Name _____	Date _____
Despatch Time _____	

Also, if the basic dimensions together with any characteristics could be given, this would be of use.

3. CANCELLATION CLASSIFICATION

- (a) Type A23 - Used as a combined date stamp and obliterator by all Head, Sub and Foreign Post Offices, except where issued with 'Date and Hour' Type A24.
- For classification of sub-types and varieties, refer to the illustrations shown later in this article.
  - The outer circle varies between 24 - 27 mm. dia., the inner part circle 15 - 17.5 mm. dia. and the distance between the lines enclosing the date 4.5 - 7.5 mm.
  - Period of use from mid 1894 to early 1926.
- (b) Type A24 - Used as a combined date stamp and obliterator by all Head and Sub Post Offices, except where issued with 'Date only' Type A23.
- For classification of sub-types and varieties, refer to the illustrations shown later in this article.
  - The outer circle varies between 27.5 - 31 mm. dia., the inner part circle 19 - 22.5 mm. dia. and the distance between the two lines enclosing the date and despatch time 10.5 - 12.5 mm.
  - Period of use is from early 1896 to late 1926.
- (c) Type A26 - Used as a date stamp by all Head and Sub Post Offices, except where issued with 'Date and Hour' Type A27.
- For classification of sub-types and varieties, refer to the illustrations shown later in this article.
  - The outer circle varies between 30.5 - 32 mm. dia., the inner circle 20 - 22 mm. dia. and the distance between the two lines enclosing the date 7.5 - 9.5 mm.
  - Period of use is from early 1910 to late 1930.
- (d) Type A27 - Used as a combined date stamp and obliterator by all Head and Sub Post Offices except where issued with 'Date only' Type A26.
- For classification of sub-types and varieties, refer to the illustrations shown later in this article.
  - The outer circle varies between 30.5 - 32.5 mm. dia., the inner circle 21 - 23 mm. dia. and the distance between the two lines enclosing the date and despatch time 11.5 - 13 mm.
  - Period of use is from early 1910 to late 1936.

4. OTHER DOUBLE CIRCLE CANCELLATIONS

There were other types of Double Circle combined date stamp and obliterations in use during the period that this report considers; they are types



A25 and A28. These were used by a very few offices and as such will not be classified to the same extent as the previously used type. Reference should be made to the illustrations later in this article.

- (a) Type A25 - Recorded use at Lahore, Rawalpindi, Simla and Calcutta.
- (b) Type A28 - Recorded use at Ghanta-ghar, Ganganagar and Drigh Road.

### 5. TIME DISTRIBUTION

To show the relative time distribution of the various types, reference should be made to the graph at the end of this article. This graph includes the three types of Squared Circle cancellations as well, so that the change-over from one type to another can easily be seen.

It should be noted that the curves are not precise in shape, but have been smoothed out. Also, the quantities of offices using each type varies, but these have been factored to produce peaks of the same height.

### 6. FUTURE PROPOSALS AND WORK

This really depends on the response to this report from the members of the India Study Circle. I would hope that the classification can be updated from time to time to include new sub-types and varieties as they are reported to me.

I certainly intend to prepare a classification of the Double Circle Datestamps, as a follow-up to the Combined Datestamp and Obliterators.

With regard to the time distribution graph, I have arrived at this distribution by researching a vast amount of material, the majority of which was up to about 1930 only, so that further research on material after this date will produce a more accurate distribution of types A26 and A27.

## TYPE A23



Type A23A  
General Type.



Type A23Aa  
Office name  
continued into lower half.



Type A23Ab  
Despatch code  
before date.



Type A23Ac  
Despatch code  
after date



Type A23Ad.  
Despatch code  
in lower half.



Type A23Ae.  
Despatch code  
in upper obliterator bars



Type A23Af.  
As for A23Ae, but  
code letter in lower half.



Type A23B  
Office name in upper,  
district or head office  
in lower half.





Type A23 Ba.  
Despatch code  
before date.



Type A23 Bb  
Despatch code  
after date.



Type A23 Bc.  
Despatch code in  
upper obliterator bars



Type A23 C  
Four pointed cross  
design in lower half.



Type A23 Ca.  
Design - a cross  
with four diamonds.



Type A23 Cb.  
Despatch code  
in upper obliterator  
bars



Type A23 Cc.  
Despatch code  
before date.



Type A23 Cd.  
Despatch code  
after date.



Type A23 D  
Lines enclosing date  
stop at inner circle.



Type A23 Da.  
Code letter in  
upper oblit. bars



Type A23 Db.  
Office & District  
names divided by  
crosses.



Type A23 A (CON)  
General type.



Type A23 A (REG)  
Special Purpose  
- Registered.



Type A23 B (CON)  
State name in upper  
half, office in lower,  
also with coiled cobra  
in upper half.

## TYPE A 24



Type A24 A  
General type



Type A24 B  
Office name in upper,  
district or head in lower.



Type A24 Ba  
With 'killer' arcs  
between names.



Type A24 C  
Four pointed cross  
design in lower half





Type A24 Ca.  
Design, five squares  
joined together



Type A24 Cb.  
Design, three  
five pointed stars



Type A24 D  
Line's enclosing date  
stop short of inner circle.



Type A24 Da.  
Inner circle  
complete.



Type A24 Db.  
With head or District  
office in lower half.



Type A24 Dc.  
Names divided by  
crosses.



Type A24 A (CON)  
General type



Type A24 B (CON)  
State name in upper,  
office in lower, with  
Sun and Cobras for Gwalior



Type A24 Ba (CON)  
As for A24 B, but  
coiled cobras in  
upper bars.

## TYPES A25, 26, 27, 28



Type A25



Type A26 A  
General type



Type A26 B  
Office name in  
upper half, district  
or head office in  
lower half.



Type A27 A  
General type



Type A27 B  
Office name in  
upper half, district  
or head office in  
lower half.



Type A27 Aa  
With code letter  
in upper segment.



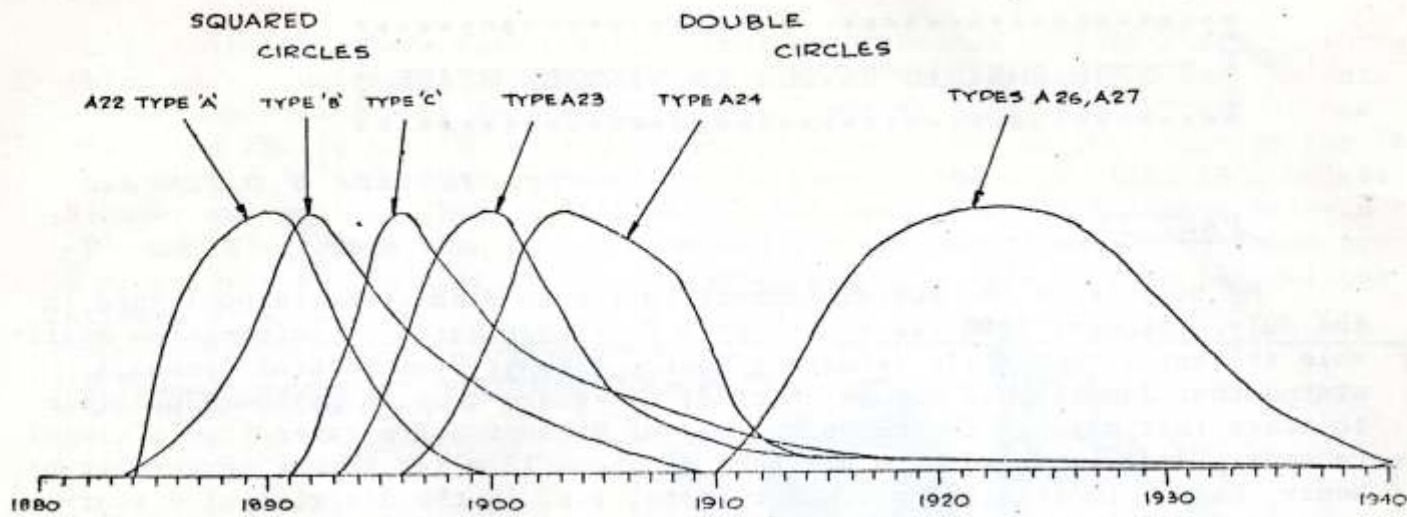
Type A27 A (CON)  
Convention State name  
enclosed in hood around  
top of outer circle.



Type A27 B (CON)  
Office name in upper  
half, state name in  
lower half. Gwalior  
has coiled cobras in  
upper segment.



Type A28



TIME DISTRIBUTION OF SQUARED AND DOUBLE CIRCLES

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