

IRELAND OVERPRINT PROOFS & TRIAL PRINTINGS

Rialtaí
Sealadaí
na
héireann
1922

RIALTAÍ
SEALADAÍ
na
héireann
1922

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na
héireann
1922.



Philatelic Study
by
Barry Cousins

Philatelic Study
IRELAND
OVERPRINT PROOFS
&
TRIAL PRINTINGS



Publication
for
Research, Reference & Feedback
by
Fellow Philatelists

Author & Publisher
Barry Cousins

First Edition
August 2022

Acknowledgements

In the preparation of this study the bibliography examined and in part used by the author,
was sourced from the following publications :

Ireland The Overprints 1922 - 1935
A Tribute to the late Cyril Dulin
David MacDonnell and Patrick H. Williams

Hibernian
2020 Handbook & Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Ireland
Roy Hamilton-Bowen

Ireland's Transition - Dr. C. I. Dulin

Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue
King Edward VII to King George VI
Stanley Gibbons

Irish Philately - Journals of the Irish Philatelic Circle
The Revealer - The Journals of the Eire Philatelic Association

The author would like acknowledge publications by notable
experts of Irish Philately connected with the 'Transitional
Period', namely Roy Hamilton - Bowen, Michael Priestley and
the late William Fletcher.

And importantly to the scholarship of all contributors to the Irish
Philatelic Circle's Journal & the Eire Philatelic Association's
Revealer publications over the years.

*Information in this Study, has been developed from earlier
publications by the author, see listing on page 63.*

*On the subject of these publications, please be advised that they
are now freely available to Members, on the
Irish Philatelic Circle's web-site.*

Preface

The aim of this study is to set out information in respect of imperforate overprint proofs, essays and trial printings, undertaken by the Dollard Printinghouse Dublin Ltd. and by Alexander Thom & Company Ltd. These Dublin based printing firms were awarded contracts to overprint GB definitive sheet stamps, with Dollard acting as the lead contractor.

Following the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, granting Independence to 26 counties in Ireland, it was necessary to reflect Ireland's newly gained status, nationally & internationally. From a postal perspective, there was insufficient time to prepare and issue dedicated stamps of Ireland, before the 17 February 1922. A decision was therefore taken by the British Parliament & Ireland's Provisional Government, to overprint GB stamps, as an interim measure.

For more information on this topic, please see the Introduction section of this Study.

In preparation for the overprinting of sheet stamps Messrs Dollard and Thom, performed proof printings, in order to validate the processes and print quality. Imperforate proof examples were then submitted to the British Postal Authority for approval.

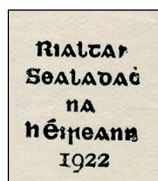
In outline, the pictorial spectrum of imperforate proofs, essays and trial printings examined in this study is as follows -

DOLLARD PRINTINGHOUSE DUBLIN LTD.

Low Value Imperforate Proofs



PR1



PR2



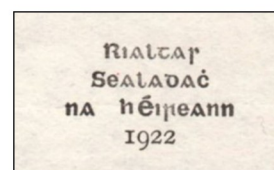
PR6

Essays



PR8

High Value Imperf. Proofs



PR12

ALEXANDER THOM & Co. LTD

Imperforate Proofs



PR14

Narrow Setting Printing Trials



PR15 Control TC122

High Value Printing Trials



T40DBc PR20

Wide Setting Printing Trials



PR21 Control TC132

Free State 'SAORSTÁT' Printing Trials



PR22 Control TC182

In order to establish the overprint settings used with imperforate proofs, essays and trial printings, each issue is considered and supported with detailed information. Of particular note is the inclusion of constant alignment variants attributable to the many overprint settings used. Furthermore, this study sets out the basic information concerning each issue of overprinted stamps. As a result of these different factors, this study can have a wider impact and can be used as a guide for the identification of stereo settings in use with all regular issues of overprinted stamps.

The author acknowledges that many aspects connected with imperforate proofs, essays and trial printings will benefit from further research, the sharing of knowledge and new material from fellow philatelists. As such, the author welcomes input and comment to fine tune and develop the content of this study.

In this study, scan references highlighted in green, represent items from the author's collection.

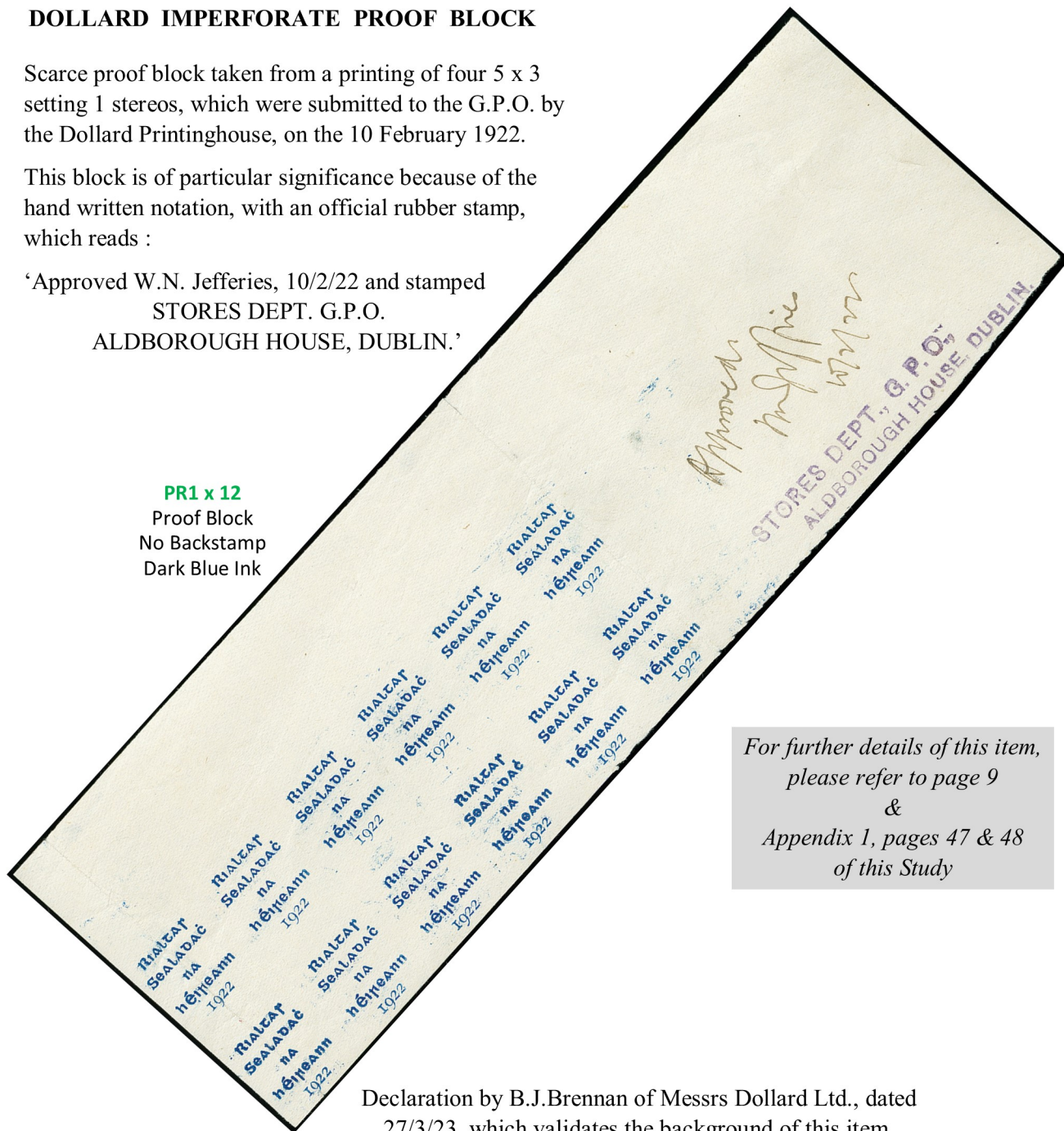
DOLLARD IMPERFORATE PROOF BLOCK

Scarce proof block taken from a printing of four 5 x 3 setting 1 stereos, which were submitted to the G.P.O. by the Dollard Printinghouse, on the 10 February 1922.

This block is of particular significance because of the hand written notation, with an official rubber stamp, which reads :

‘Approved W.N. Jefferies, 10/2/22 and stamped
STORES DEPT. G.P.O.
ALDBOROUGH HOUSE, DUBLIN.’

PR1 x 12
Proof Block
No Backstamp
Dark Blue Ink



For further details of this item,
please refer to page 9
&
Appendix 1, pages 47 & 48
of this Study

Declaration by B.J.Brennan of Messrs Dollard Ltd., dated
27/3/23, which validates the background of this item.

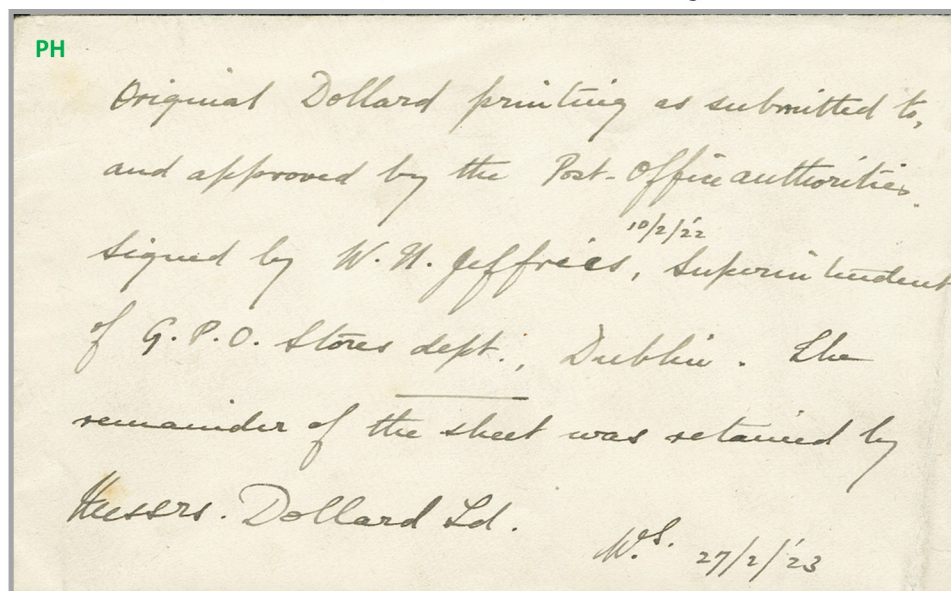


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Irish Postal Authority, Head Office, Aldborough House.
Portland Row, Dublin.



General Post Office, O'Connell Street, Dublin.

INTRODUCTION

As background, after centuries of discontent and with the gaining strength of the freedom movement in the 19th century, the subject of Home Rule continued to be a topic of debate in the British Parliament. Perhaps noteworthy of mention is the Easter Rebellion of 1916 in and around Dublin, which had serious political and civil repercussions. However due to the impact of the 1914 -18 World War, Ireland's quest for independence was put on hold, being reopened in 1919. After much deliberating the granting of Home Rule was finally agreed, with the Anglo-Irish Treaty being signed in London on 6 December 1921. The British Parliament ratified the Treaty on 16 December, followed by Dáil Éireann for the embryonic Irish Free State. There followed a 30 days grace period, with the Provisional Government taking control on the 17 February 1922. Under the terms of the agreement 26 Counties would form the Free State, with the 6 Ulster Counties, remaining under British rule, which were to be known as Northern Ireland.

As a result of the short time frame and with the agreement of the respective Parliaments, as an interim measure, Great Britain George V profile head stamps would be overprinted in Gaelic 'Rialtas Sealadae na hÉireann', which translates to read 'Government Provisional of Ireland 1922'. The official notice of the decision to use overprinted stamps was displayed at Post Offices in the emerging Free State, on the 8 February, see fig. 1.

All GB low and high stamps currently in use in Ireland, were selected for overprinting, with the exception of the 7d, 8d & £1 values. The first issue of GB stamps, overprinted for use in the Irish Free State, following the ratification of a Provisional Government, were issued on the 17 February 1922.

Of significance was a press announcement released on the 1 February, by the Postmaster General J. J. Walsh, inviting the public to submit designs for a permanent definitive issue to replace the interim use of overprinted stamps of Great Britain.

Operationally the postal services in Ireland remained under British Administration until handover to the Irish Postal Authority on the 1 April 1922.

OVERPRINTING - CONTRACT AWARD

The Irish Authorities awarded the contract to overprint the first Provisional Government issue to the Dollard Printinghouse Dublin Ltd., in conjunction with Alexander Thom & Co. Ltd., both firms being Dublin based, see figs. 2 & 3. Joint actions were taken due to the very tight time schedules, coupled with the availability of production capacity, at the respective printer's facilities.

Dollard as lead contractor were responsible for the mobilisation of the joint production facilities and the ultimate delivery of overprinted stamps to the GPO Depot at Aldborough House, prior to the 17 February.

Dollard undertook the overprinting of the GB ½d, 1d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 9d Agate, & 10d low values and the 2/6, 5s & 10s high value stamps, see fig. 2a, whereas Thom undertook the overprinting of the four remaining GB stamps, being the 1½d, 2d, 6d & 1s low values, see fig. 3a.



Fig. 1

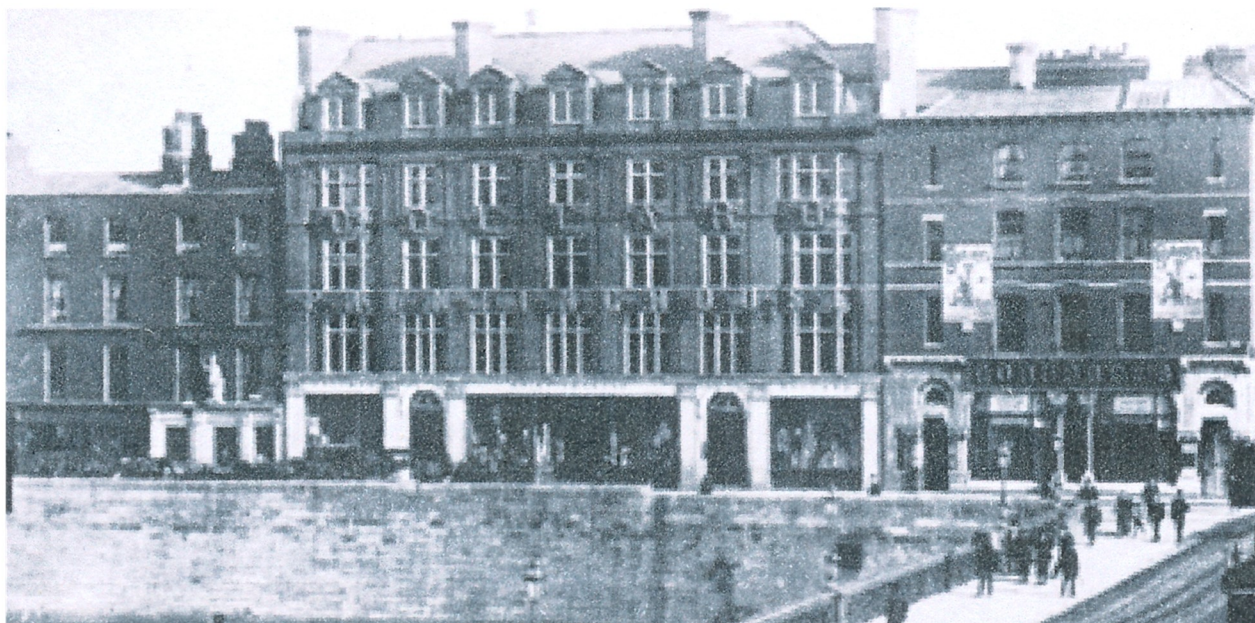


Fig. 2 Dollard Printinghouse, Dublin Ltd., Wellington Quay & Essex Street, Dublin



Fig. 2a George V Stamps Overprinted by Dollard



Fig. 3 Alexander Thom & Co. Ltd., Abbey Street, Dublin



Fig. 3a George V Stamps Overprinted by Thom

Stamp 'N' references identify GB definitive stamps, overprinted for use in Ireland.
References are as listed in Stanley Gibbons - Four Kings Specialised Stamp Catalogue.

For low values the same GB stamps were in use for all later five line 'Provisional Government' and three line 'Irish Free State' sheet issues, all of which were overprinted by Thom. An exception to this being the replacement of the 9d agate stamp N29, with the olive-green stamp on the 6 November 1922, see fig. 4. This decision being taken by the GB Postal Authority, problems having been experienced in deciphering cancels against the dark colour of the agate stamp.



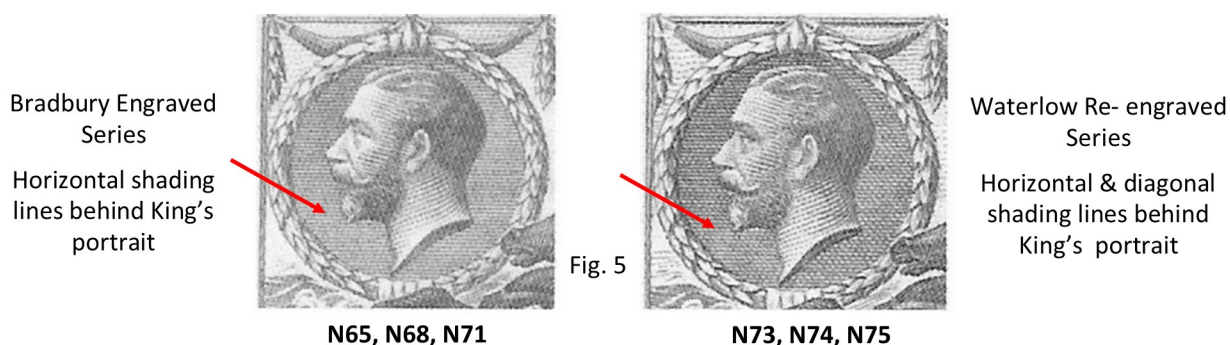
Fig. 4 N30

All low value stamps, with the exception of the 6d value, were printed by Harrison & Sons Ltd., a London based security printing firm. The 6d stamp being for both fiscal and postal use, was printed by the Inland Revenue Stamping Branch, located in Somerset House.

To complete the picture, coil stamps, for both Provisional and Free State issues, for use with dispensing machines were overprinted by Harrison. Four GB stamp values, namely ½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d Dies 1 & 2 with the five line 'Provisional Government' overprint, were issued from June to August 1923, being replaced with the 'Free State' Saorstat overprint on the 7 March 1923, with the same face values, but with only Die 2 of the 2d stamp, being in use.

In respect of high value stamps, it is important to note that commencing with the first overprinted issue by Dollard, the 2/6, 5s, 10s 'Seahorse' stamps continued to be overprinted until the issue of high value Irish definitive stamps in September 1937. The reason given for the extended use of high value GB stamps was - 'due to the low usage of these values'. As with low values, the overprinting of the second high value issue was by Thom in October 1922. From the 25 August 1925 overprinting was briefly taken up by the Government Printing House, Dublin Castle and from September 1926, by the Inland Revenue Stamping Department, Somerset House, under contract to the Irish Postal Authority.

From March to July 1935 overprinting briefly reverted to Harrison & Sons, using the re-engraved series of GB high value stamps - N73, N74 & N75. Re-engraved printers plates by Waterlow & Sons having replaced the worn Bradbury Wilkinson plates, previously in use with stamps N65, N68, N71, see fig. 5. Then from August 1935 the overprinting of high value stamps was again taken back by Somerset House, until the overprinting of GB stamps ceased 1937.



The overprint contractors made use of the typograph printing process, using Wharfedale presses, which were manufactured by Dawson & Sons (Otley) Ltd., a Yorkshire based firm, see fig. 6. For overprinting GB low value sheet stamps, clichés were used to produce formes, from which stereotypes were then adapted to make up settings for the overprinting of the upper and lower panes, each with 120 stamps (12 x 10), separated by interpane gutter margin.

High value 'Seahorse' stamps were printed with 40 stamps in a 4 x 10 sheet configuration. During the extended period of overprinting high values, three stereo settings were in use, being - the overprinting of half sheets with two press passes using a 4 x 5 stereo or with the first pass overprinting rows 2, 4, 6 & 8 and the second pass overprinting alternate rows 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9. And finally from 1927 onwards the overprinting of full sheets with one press pass, using one 4 x 10 stereo setting, made up of forty clichés.

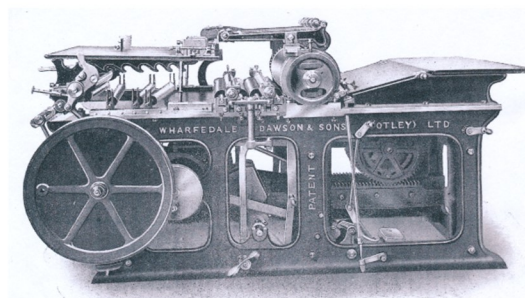


Fig. 6

This introductory section highlights the background for the use overprinted stamps, the low and high value stamps selected for overprinting and brief detail of the firms awarded contracts to overprint stamps and their scope of works.

Of note was the early cancellation, in June 1922, of Dollard's contract to overprint stamps. Officially the reason given was related to civil unrest, close to Dollard's facility, making it difficult for them fulfil their contract. However, from the authors standpoint other reasons may also have had an influence, being poor print quality and the philatelic manipulation of proofs, trial printings and settings by Dollard's Plant Manager B. J. Brennan, for the collectors market and possibly for financial gain. As background prior to being awarded the contract to overprint stamps, Dollard were better known as general printers and suppliers of office stationery. For information fig. 7 reproduces an invoice, dating back to 1904, which validates Dollard's registered name, together with detail of their activities, at that point of time.

Offices & Works
WELLINGTON QUAY
AND
ESSEX STREET

Wires "PRINTINGHOUSE, DUBLIN"
TELEPHONE NO 70

ESTABLISHED 1858

COMMERCIAL PRINTING
AND LITHOGRAPHING WORKS

Account Book Manufactory

DOLLARD PRINTINGHOUSE DUBLIN, LTD

COLOR PRINTERS PAPER MERCHANTS, STATIONERS & OFFICE FURNISHERS PHOTO ENGRAVERS

A. J. Keogh Esq.
10 Dr. Diamond Quay

Apr. 1904

To DOLLARD, PRINTINGHOUSE, DUBLIN, LIMITED, Dr.

ALL ACCOUNTS NET.		Cheques and Money Orders to be made payable to Dollard, Printinghouse, Dublin, Limited.		FOLIO	
1904					
Jan. 8	500 Plain Bags 215 x			16	
Dec. 3	1 Guard Book 67			33	
	Balance f.m. last a/c			41	
				8 10	

Wm. Dollard
13/4/04

Fig. 7 PH Dollard Invoice

In the sections that follow, all overprint issues are examined, with particular reference to proofs and trial printings, together with the formats and settings adopted by the overprint contractors.

OVERPRINTS - CHARACTERISTICS, SETTINGS & PROOFS

The information set out for each issue includes - characteristics of the overprints in use by Dollard, Thom & Harrison, reference listings of overprinted stamps together with outline detail and the features of the overprint stereo settings in use. Then follows a listing of proofs as and if applicable to each issue.

In this publication the term overprint ‘proof’ is taken to include imperforate printings onto plain paper and for essays and printing trials, which made use of GB sheet stamps.

In the text, reviews are in order of overprint (T) references, which may not follow the date of issue.

Overprints adopted gaelic, which for the Provisional Government issues translates to read ‘Government Provisional of Ireland 1922’ and for the later Free State issues to ‘Free State Ireland 1922’.

17 FEBRUARY 1922

DOLLARD LOW VALUE ‘PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT’ OVERPRINTS

For low value GB stamps, as shown fig. 2a, Dollard adopted a five line overprint, as shown in fig. 7.

Line widths		Characteristics
12.00 mm		Overprint inks - black to greyish-black.
15.00 mm		Date with antique numerals.
3.50 mm		Long tail to ‘9’ and no full stop after ‘1922’.
14.50 mm		Wide spacing between the ‘h’ and ‘é’.
6.50 mm		
Overall height	17.50 mm	

Fig. 7

OVERPRINT REFERENCE & ISSUE OVERVIEW

OVERPRINT STAMP REFERENCE	GB STAMP		DOLLARD OVERPRINTS			
	FACE VALUE	BASIC COLOUR	STEREO SETTINGS	SHEETS PRINTED	OVERPRINT INK COLOUR	DATE OF ISSUE
T1	½d	Green	1, 2, 3	43,000	Black to Grey-black	17 February 1922
T2	1d	Scarlet	1, 2, 3	112,000	Black to Grey-black	
T3	2½d	Blue	1	1,000	Black	
T4	3d	Violet	1, 2, 3	6,500	Black to Grey-black	
T5	4d	Grey-green	1	1,000	Black	
T6	5d	Yellow-brown	1, 2	2,100	Black to Grey-black	
T7	9d	Agate	1, 2	1,600	Black to Grey-black	
T8	10d	Turquoise-blue	1, 2	900	Black to Grey-black	

Black



T6

Grey-black



T6GB

Black through to grey-black ink colour variations are commonly found with Dollard overprints. These colour differences are thought to be as a result of minor changes to the printing process and not connected with printing trials.

In this publication the overprint stamp references and proof references in use are derived from the listings in the ‘Hibernian Handbook and Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Ireland’.

With regard to variants, the references are taken from the author’s books titled ‘Overprinted Stamps of Ireland 1922 - 1935’ and ‘Irish Free State Plates, Controls and Overprint Settings’.

STEREO SETTINGS

With the Dollard process sixteen stereos from a 3 x 5 forme, each with 15 clichés, were required to make up a setting to overprint a full sheet of GB low value stamps. All low value GB sheets were printed in a two pane format, each with 120 stamps, requiring eight overprint stereos for each pane. A full lower pane stereo layout pattern, together with stamp positions is shown in fig. 8. For the upper pane the stereos would be similarly located and the positioning of the stamps would be rows 1 to 10 and columns 1 to 12.

R11/1	R11/2	R11/3	R11/4	R11/5	R11/6	R11/7	R11/8	R11/9	R11/10	R11/11	R11/12
R12/1	R12/2	R12/3	R12/4	R12/5	R12/6	R12/7	R12/8	R12/9	R12/10	R12/11	R12/12
R13/1	R13/2	R13/3	R13/4	R13/5	R13/6	R13/7	R13/8	R13/9	R13/10	R13/11	R13/12
R14/1	R14/2	R14/3	R14/4	R14/5	R14/6	R14/7	R14/8	R14/9	R14/10	R14/11	R14/12
R15/1	R15/2	R15/3	R15/4	R15/5	R15/6	R15/7	R15/8	R15/9	R15/10	R15/11	R15/12
R16/1	R16/2	R16/3	R16/4	R16/5	R16/6	R16/7	R16/8	R16/9	R16/10	R16/11	R16/12
R17/1	R17/2	R17/3	R17/4	R17/5	R17/6	R17/7	R17/8	R17/9	R17/10	R17/11	R17/12
R18/1	R18/2	R18/3	R18/4	R18/5	R18/6	R18/7	R18/8	R18/9	R18/10	R18/11	R18/12
R19/1	R19/2	R19/3	R19/4	R19/5	R19/6	R19/7	R19/8	R19/9	R19/10	R19/11	R19/12
R20/1	R20/2	R20/3	R20/4	R20/5	R20/6	R20/7	R20/8	R20/9	R20/10	R20/11	R20/12

S 22

Fig. 8 Dollard Lower Pane Stereo Arrangement

Note

For all stamp values overprinted by Dollard & Thom, with the exception of the 1d value, the location of the sheet control is in the margin adjacent to stamp R20/2, as shown above. However, for the 1d value the positioning of the sheet control is adjacent to stamp R20/11.

When reviewing control blocks, they are defined as being the six stamps from rows 19 & 20, columns 1, 2 & 3 and for the 1d stamp from rows 19 & 20, but attributable to stamps from columns 10, 11 & 12.

SETTING 1 with this setting the clichés in the type blocks, making up the 3 x 5 forme were accurately aligned, see fig. 9. As a result stereos taken from this forme display very few alignment variants, Alignment characteristics attributable to the first setting and which are considered to be normal, are summarised as follows:

- no ‘R’ over ‘Se’ variants.
- ‘l’ of ‘Sealadac’ is vertically over the ‘n’ of ‘nA’.
- ‘i’ of ‘héipeann’ is vertically over the ‘1’ in ‘1922’.

STEREO SETTINGS

Settings 2 & 3 display constant alignment variants, which are detailed in the following tables and are shown in figs. 10 & 11.

In use overprint stereos became worn or damaged, giving rise to other type fault variants, until such time as the damaged stereo was replaced.



Fig. 9 Forme - Setting 1

V1j (V2j)		V1h (V2h)
G		A + I
V1k (V2k)	V1a (V2a)	
B	A	
		V1c (V2c)
		A + C
	V1a (V2a)	V1f (V2f)
	A	A + D + E
V1m (V2m)	V1l (V2l)	V1d (V2d)
E	B + E	A + C/D

Fig. 10 Stereo - Setting 2

V1g (V2g)	V1a (V2a)	V1i (V2i)
A + H	A	A + J
V1k (V2k)	V1a (V2a)	V1l (V2l)
B	A	B + E
V1n (V2n)		
C + F		
	V1b (V2b)	V1f (V2f)
	A + B	A + D + E
V1e (V2e)	V1l (V2l)	V1d (V2d)
A + E	B + E	A + C/D

Fig. 11 Stereo - Setting 3

DOLLARD SETTINGS - CONSTANT STEREO VARIANTS

VARIANT REFERENCE	ALPHA KEY	OVERPRINT VARIANT DESCRIPTION
STEREO SETTING 2 (For listing of cliché variants and positions in each stereo, see fig 10).		
V1a (V2a)	A	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A'.
V1c (V2c)	A + C	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'l' over right shank of 'n' in 'nA'.
V1d (V2d)	A + C/D	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'l' over right shank of 'n' & centre of 'nA'.
V1f (V2f)	A + D + E	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'l' centred over 'nA' & 'ei' over '1' in '1922'.
V1h (V2h)	A + I	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'c' in 'SeAlAdAc' slightly raised.
V1j (V2j)	G	Diagonal cut to upright of 'R' in 'RiAlcAr' and first leg of 'n' of 'nA'.
V1k (V2k)	B	'l' over left shank of 'n' of 'nA'.
V1l (V2l)	B + E	'l' over left shank of 'n' of 'nA' & 'ei' over '1' in '1922'.
V1m (V2m)	E	'ei' over '1' in '1922'.

Constant variants arising from stereo settings 2 & 3 occur 16 times in a full sheet and eight times in each pane. The location of stereos in a setting, from which the positioning of variants occurring in a sheet or pane can be determined, is shown in fig. 8.

Variant references - V1 apply to the 17 February 1922 issue & V2 listings apply to the 1 April 1922 issue, which adopted the use of red ink for overprinting the 2½d, 4d & 9d stamp values.

DOLLARD SETTINGS - CONSTANT STEREO VARIANTS

VARIANT REFERENCE	ALPHA KEY	OVERPRINT VARIANT DESCRIPTION
STEREO SETTING 3 (For listing of cliché variants and positions in each stereo, see fig. 11).		
V1a (V2a)	A	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A'.
V1b (V2b)	A + B	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'l' over left shank of 'n' in 'na'.
V1d (V2d)	A + C/D	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'l' over right shank of 'n' & centre of 'nA'.
V1e (V2e)	A + E	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'éi' over '1' in '1922'.
V1f (V2f)	A + D + E	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A', 'l' centred over 'na' & 'éi' over '1' in '1922'.
V1g (V2g)	A + H	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & diagonal cut to upright of 'R' & first leg of 'n' of 'na'.
V1i (V2i)	A + J	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'c' in 'Sealadac' raised.
V1k (V2k)	B	'l' over left shank of 'n' of 'na'.
V1l (V2l)	B + E	'l' over left shank of 'n' of 'na' & 'éi' over '1' in '1922'.
V1n (V2n)	C + F	'l' over right shank of 'n' in 'na' & 'in' of 'heineann' over '1' in '1922'.

CONSTANT STEREO VARIANTS - ALPHA KEY

Line Alignment Variants **A to F**



Type Variants **G to J**



DOLLARD - NON REPETITIVE VARIANTS

VARIANT REFERENCE	OVERPRINT VARIANT DESCRIPTION & SHEET LOCATION	
V1q	Dot for '1' in '1922'.	Setting 2 Location R17/7.
V1qa	'1' missing in '1922'.	Setting 2 Location R17/7.
V1r (V2o)	Flat tail to '9' of '1922'.	Setting 1 Location R15/12 & R20/1.
V1s	Raised final '2' in '1922'.	Setting 3 Location R16/3.
V1t (V2p)	'Scaladac' for 'Sealadac'.	Various settings and locations.
Other overprint letter flaws arise from the 3 stereo settings, the majority of which are as a result of type damage or over inking. In this publication such flaws are not detailed, for information see author's book referenced on page 5.		



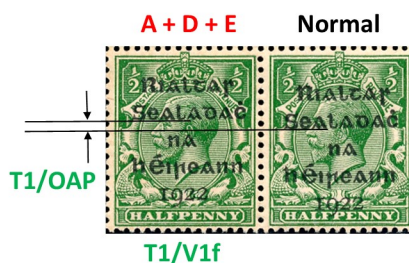
T1/V1r

Flat tail to '9'



T1/V1t

Scaladac



T1/V1f

Out of alignment pairs occur between adjacent stereos and are found with overprinted sheet stamps, essays & imperforate proofs.

DOLLARD IMPERFORATE PROOFS

Low Value Five Line Format

Dollard proofs with a dark blue ink overprint, are the most noteworthy. These proofs printed for approval by the Postal Authority, were taken from four 5 x 3 setting 1 stereos, from which a two row block of twenty four (12 x 2), without backstamp is recorded, see fig. 12.

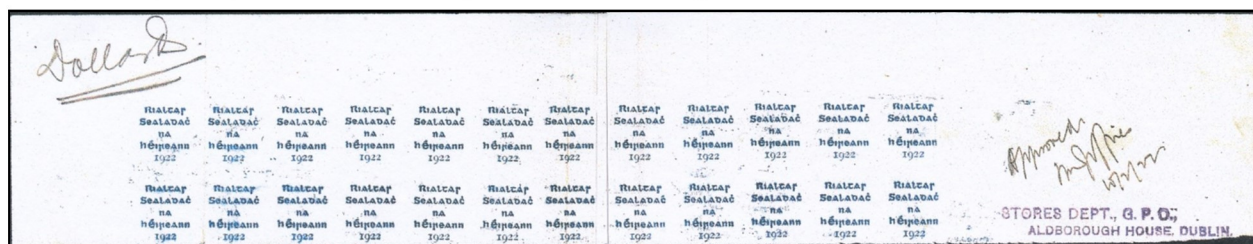


Fig. 12 PR1 Proofs with no Backstamp

N.T.S.

It is understood that the remaining proofs from this print run (rows 3, 4 & 5) were retained by Dollard. Some of these proofs are known to have been type 1 backstamped and initialed, these proofs are referenced PR1a, see fig. 13. For further information on PR1 proofs, see Appendix 1, which copies an article by the author, published in the April 2020 Journal of the Irish Philatelic Circle.



Fig. 13 PR1a Proofs with Type 1 Backstamp

N.T.S.

Dollard adopted the use of type 1 & type 2 backstamps, which read - 'ORIGINAL PROOF / DOLLARD / 17.2.22'. These backstamps occur with the initials 'B J B', which refer to B. J. Brennan in his capacity of Plant Manager of the Dollard Printinghouse, see fig. 14.

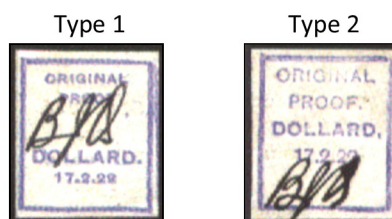


Fig. 14

PROOF REFERENCE	17 FEBRUARY 1922 ISSUE - IMPERFORATE PROOFS DISTINGUISHING FEATURES
Proofs from Stereo Setting 1	
PR1	Dark blue overprint, thin whitish paper, no backstamp. (24 examples known) - fig 12.
PR1a	As PR1, with violet backstamp Type 1 - fig. 13.
Proofs from Stereo Settings 1, 2 & 3	
PR2	Black overprint, thin whitish paper, no backstamp - fig. 15.
PR2a	As PR2, with violet backstamp Type 1.
PR3	Black overprint, thin buff paper, no backstamp.
PR3a	As PR3, with violet backstamp Type 1.
PR4	Black overprint, thick whitish paper, no backstamp.
PR4a	As PR4, with violet backstamp Type 2.

PR2 Stereo Setting 1

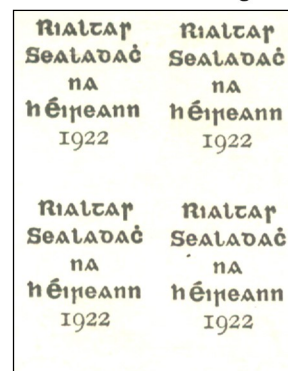


Fig. 15

Appendix 2 displays block examples of proofs PR2 through to PR4a, from the three stereo settings in use.

PROOF REFERENCE	IMPERFORATE PROOFS - ERRORS, VARIETIES, FLAWS
Overprint Errors	
PR2b	Black overprint, thick whitish paper, with both a normal and double misplaced overprints on the reverse. Stereo setting 1 - fig.16.
PR5	Black overprint from a defaced plate. Stereo settings 1 & 2 - Setting 2 example fig.17.
Overprint Varieties (additional to constant alignment variants)	
V1r	Flat tail to '9' of '1922'. Stereo setting 1 - fig.18.
Overprint Flaws	
F1m	Blotted 'c' in 'Sealadaic' - fig. 19.
F1s	Broken tail to '9' of '1922'. Stereo setting 1 - fig.20.
Overprint Unlisted Flaws	
UF1t	Broken right limb of 'h' in 'héipeann'. Stereo setting 2 - fig.21.
UF1t	Break in loop of 'n' in 'na'. Stereo setting 1 - fig. 22.
Full details of overprint flaws are detailed in the author's book, which is referenced on page 5. Constant overprint alignment variants V1a to V1n from settings 2 & 3 are as listed - figs. 10 & 11.	

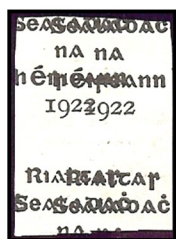


Fig. 16 PR2b

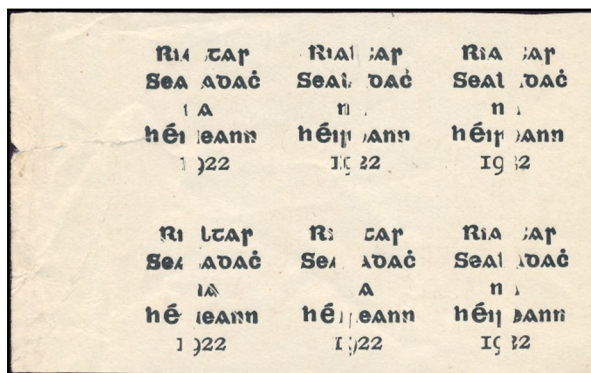


Fig. 17 PR5 Setting 2

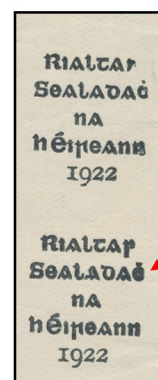


Fig. 19 PR2/F1m

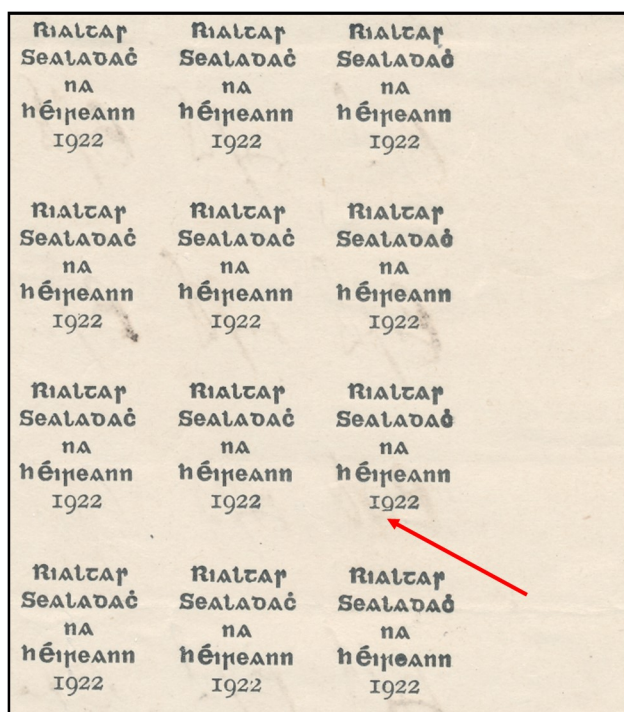


Fig. 18 PR4a/V1r

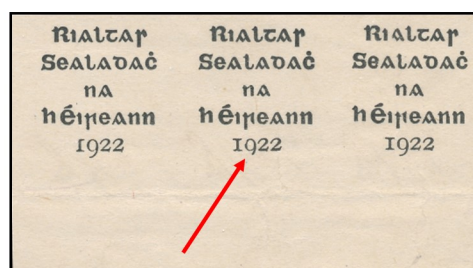


Fig. 20 PR4a/F1s

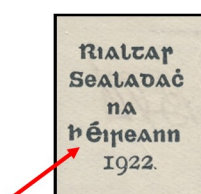


Fig. 21 PR2a/UF1t

Appendix 2 displays further PR2 to PR5 examples.

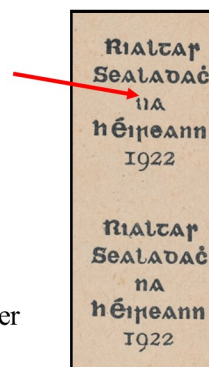
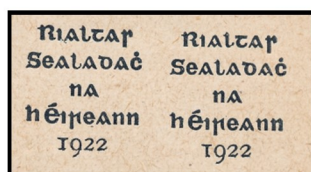


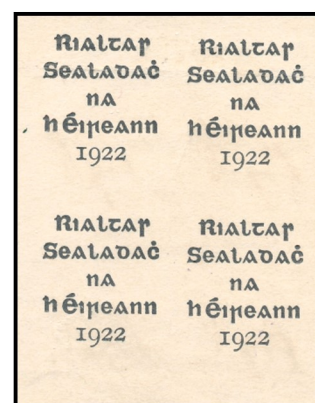
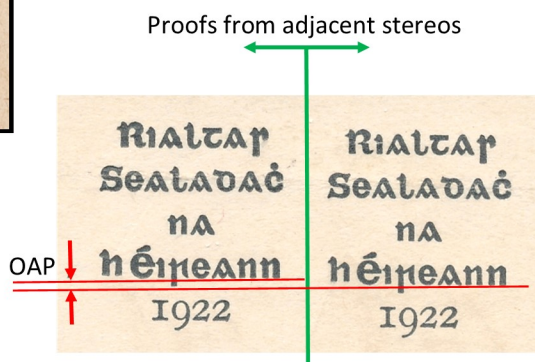
Fig. 22 PR3/UF1t

DOLLARD OUT OF ALIGNMENT PAIRS (OAP)

Out of alignments occur between adjacent stereos, due to the inaccurate positioning of the stereos in the frame. With the first issue OAP's can arise with proofs - PR2/OAP, PR2a/OAP, PR3/OAP, PR3a/OAP, PR4/OAP and PR4a/OAP and from stereo settings 1, 2 & 3.



PR3/OAP
Stereo Setting 1



PR4a/OAP
Stereo Setting 1

DOLLARD PANE - AUTHENTICATED

The part pane taken from setting 2 stereos is accompanied with a hand stamp and appendage which reads 'Genuine proofs, For Dollard Printinghouse Dublin, Ltd., B. J. Brennan, June 14 1922', see fig. 23. This proof block coincides with Dollard being precluded by the Postal Authority, as an overprint contractor, in favour of Alex. Thom, on the 12 June. This particular proof pane was overprinted by Dollard with stereos from forme setting 2, which were subsequently transferred and in use by Thom, until Thom were in a position to release a new series, adopting an improved print quality. Albeit conjecture the reasoning for this could be twofold, either - Dollard printed this pane as part of the handover process to Thom or secondly this printing was initiated by Brennan, for a philatelic purpose ?

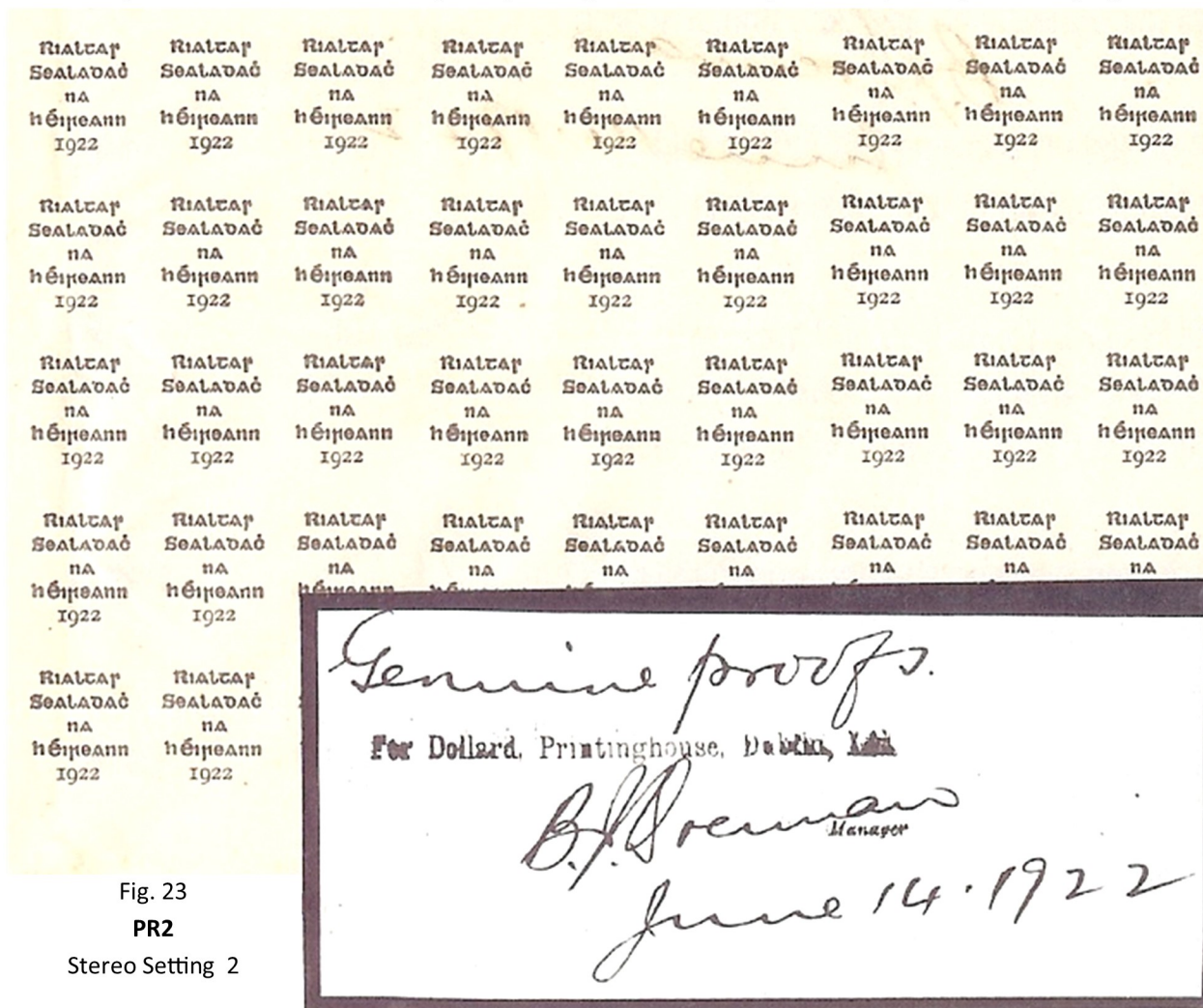


Fig. 23
PR2
Stereo Setting 2

1 APRIL 1922

DOLLARD LOW VALUE ‘PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT’ OVERPRINTS (RE-ISSUE)

Following release by Dollard of the first overprinted stamps a decision was taken by the Postal Authority to overprint the 2½d, 4d & 9d GB stamps with red ink, as opposed to the black to greyish-black inks, which were in use. The reason for this being the difficulty in disseminating postmarks against Dollard’s duller shades of the black ink overprint, coupled with the basic stamp colours of the three stamps in question.

This re-issue by Dollard maintained the same overprint style and dimensions as with their first issue, but with a change to red ink, see fig. 7.

For this series Dollard used 3 x 5 stereos from setting 2, together with a layout which made use of stereos taken from formes 1 and 3 and which is referred to as a combination setting, see fig. 24. The characteristics for setting 2 and setting 3 stereos are as shown respectively in figs.10 & 11. To make up a combination setting the stereos were placed alternately and as with the first issue the setting 1 stereos were accurately aligned.

1	3	1	3
1	3	1	3
INTERPANE GUTTER			
1	3	1	3
1	3	1	3

Fig.24
Combination Setting

12 JUNE 1922

THOM LOW VALUE ‘PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT’ OVERPRINTS

With the termination of Dollard’s contract, the overprinting of the three values covered in this section were taken up Thom, as an interim measure. Thom made use of a Dollard type 2 stereos, before release of their own series of low value overprinted stamps, from the 7 July 1922. With this interim printing by Thom, the ink used displays a carmine (pale rose) hue, see fig. 25.

Dollard Overprint
Red Ink

Thom Overprint
Carmine Ink

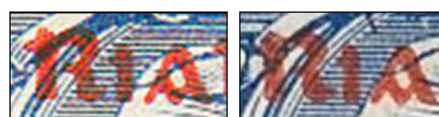


Fig. 25

In this publication the author attributes the overprinting of the 2½ d, 4d & 9d stamps to both Dollard and Thom, a factor which is not clearly acknowledged in specialist publications. Of particular note is the inclusion of overprints on the 2½d value by Thom.

In support of this viewpoint reference is made to a booklet written by *Charlotte J. Cooke* in January 1924. In this publication it states the following - *1,800 sheets of the 2½d value were overprinted using red and carmine inks*. If this record is correct and if the quantity of 1,300 overprinted with red ink is also correct, then it follows that the balance of 500 sheets were overprinted by Thom.

OVERPRINT REFERENCE & ISSUE OVERVIEW

OVERPRINT STAMP REFERENCE	GB STAMP					
	FACE VALUE	BASIC COLOUR	STEREO SETTINGS	SHEETS PRINTED	OVERPRINT INK COLOUR	DATE OF ISSUE
T9	2½d	Blue	1 + 3	1,300	Red	1 April 1922
T10	4d	Grey-green	2, 1 + 3	1,800		
T11	9d	Agate	2, 1 + 3	2,600		
	GB STAMP		THOM OVERPRINTS			
T9A	2½d	Blue	2	500	Carmine	12 June 1922
T10A	4d	Grey-green	2	700		
T11A	9d	Agate	2	800		

Subject to validation it appears probable that Dollard made limited use of stereo setting 2, with the 4d stamp in conjunction with sheet control S21 Imperforate and also the 9d stamp with sheet controls S22 Imperforate & S22 Perforate.

DOLLARD IMPERFORATE PROOFS

Low Value Five Line Format

With the adoption of the red ink overprints Dollard prepared imperforate proofs taken from stereo setting 2 and the combination setting 1 + 3. Proofs are recorded in three forms being - no backstamp and with either type 1 blue-black or type 2 violet backstamps, see fig. 26.

PROOF REFERENCE	IMPERFORATE PROOFS DISTINGUISHING FEATURES
Proofs from Stereo Settings 2 & 1 + 3	
PR6	Red overprint on thin whitish paper.
PR6a	As PR6, with blue-black backstamp Type 1 - fig. 26.
PR6b	As PR6, with violet backstamp Type 2 - fig. 26.
PR7	Red overprint on thin buff paper, backstamp Type 2.



Fig. 26

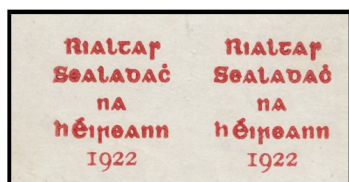
Type 2
Violet
Backstamp



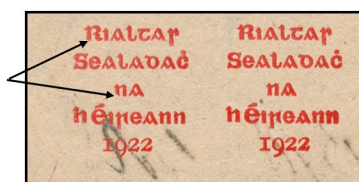
Appendix 3 displays block examples of proofs PR6 through to PR7, from the two stereo settings in use.

Highlighted below is an extract of a letter from B.J. Brennan, Manager of the Dollard Printinghouse, Dublin, Ltd. His reply states 'the proofs are genuine and are part of the specimens submitted by us to the Post Office Authorities', see fig. 27.

It is questioned if this statement, which accompanied a pair of PR6b proofs acquired by the author is bona fide and to what extent the comment applies to the many proofs, which are known to exist ?



PR6b (R1/1 & R1/2) Whitish Paper
Setting 1 from Combination Setting

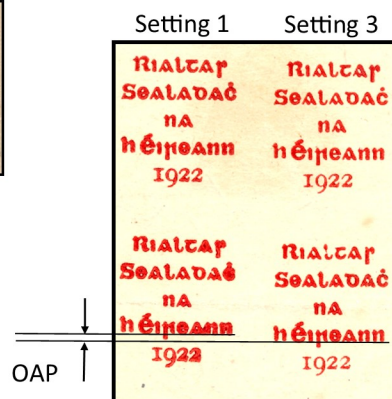


PR7 (R1/1 & R1/2) Buff Paper
Setting 2 with Variant V2j

OUT OF ALIGNMENT PAIRS

Out of alignment clichés occur between adjacent stereos in use with proofs PR6/OAP, PR6a/OAP, PR6b/OAP & PR7/OAP.

In the PR6b/OAP example shown, from a composite stereo arrangement, the lower left cliché from a setting 3 stereo also displays the variant V2e (A+E), for details, see fig. 11, page 7.



PR6b/OAP between Stereos
Combination Setting 1+ 3

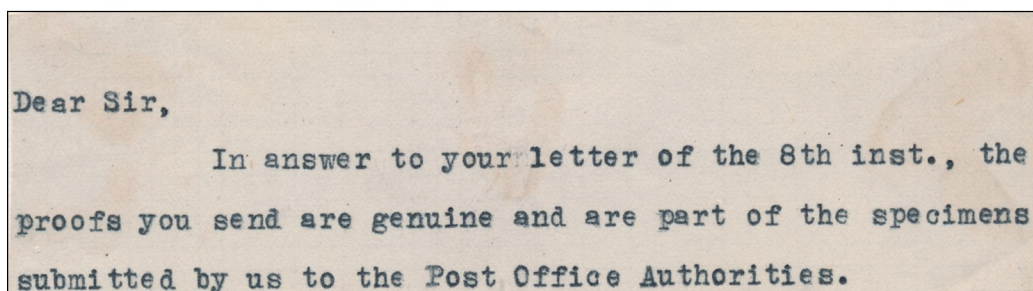
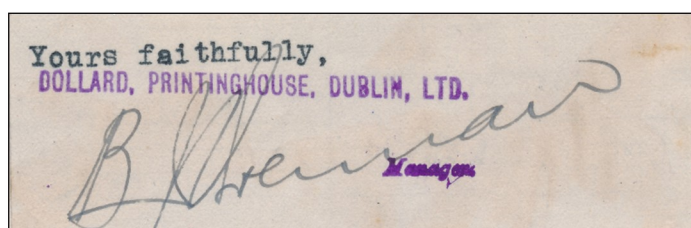


Fig. 27

PH
Postal
History



DOLLARD PRINTING TRIALS (ESSAYS)

Overprint trials using red ink on GB ½d sheets, were undertaken by Dollard. All sheets recorded are from printers plate 68 with a S22 imperforate control and with Dollard making use of overprint stereo setting 2. Overprinted stamps are recorded with and without the Dollard type 2 back stamp, but with the 'BJB' initials omitted, see fig. 28.



Fig. 28

Overprint alignment variants occurring with setting 2 are as highlighted in fig. 29.

To overprint a full sheet a setting was made up of eight stereos in each pane, as a result of this the variants listed occur 16 times in each Post Office sheet. In respect of variants found with the S22I control blocks of six stamps, the clichés shown with a grey infill are from sheet positions - rows 19 & 20, stamps 1, 2 & 3.

STEREO SETTING 2 CLICHÉ ALIGNMENT VARIANTS

A) 'R' over 'Se' This variant can be determined by the positioning of the long stroke of the 'r' in 'Rialcar' being almost vertically over, or slightly to the left of the top (centre point) of the third 'a' in 'Sealadac'.

B) 'L' over left shank of 'n' in 'nA'.

C) 'L' over right shank of 'n' in 'nA'.

D) 'L' over centre point of 'nA'.

E) 'éi' over '1' in '1922'.

F) 'm' over '1' in '1922'.

G) Diagonal cut to upright of 'R' in 'Rialcar' and first leg of 'n' in 'nA'. Damaged top to 'c' in 'Sealadac'.

H) Diagonal cut to upright of 'R' of 'Rialcar' and first leg of 'n' of 'nA'.

I) Raised 'c' in 'Sealadac' (slight).

G (V2j)		A+I (V2h)
B (V2k)	A (V2a)	
		A+C (V2c)
	A (V2a)	A+D+E (V2f)
E (V2m)	B+E (V2l)	A+C/D (V2d)

Fig. 29

In this section printing trials undertaken by Dollard are described as 'Essays'. The rationale for this being that red overprints on GB stamps were not intended for postal use. The use of the term 'Essay' was first used by Dr. Cyril Dulin.

ESSAY REFERENCE	PRINTING TRIALS OVERPRINT DISTINGUISHING FEATURES
Basic GB stamp ½d Green Gibbons Reference N14	
PR8	Red overprint with no backstamp.
PR8a	Red overprint, violet type 2 backstamp, no initials - fig. 28.
OVERPRINT PRINTING ERRORS	
PR8b	As PR8 with double overprint, one being albino.
PR8c	As PR8a with double overprint, one being albino.
PR9	As PR8a overprint misplaced with date at top - fig. 30.
PR9a	As PR9 with double overprint, one being albino.
PR9b	As PR8a with date missing from rows 1 & 11 - fig. 31.
PR9c	As PR9b with double overprint, one being albino.

PR9



Fig. 30

PR9b



Fig. 31

Fig. 32

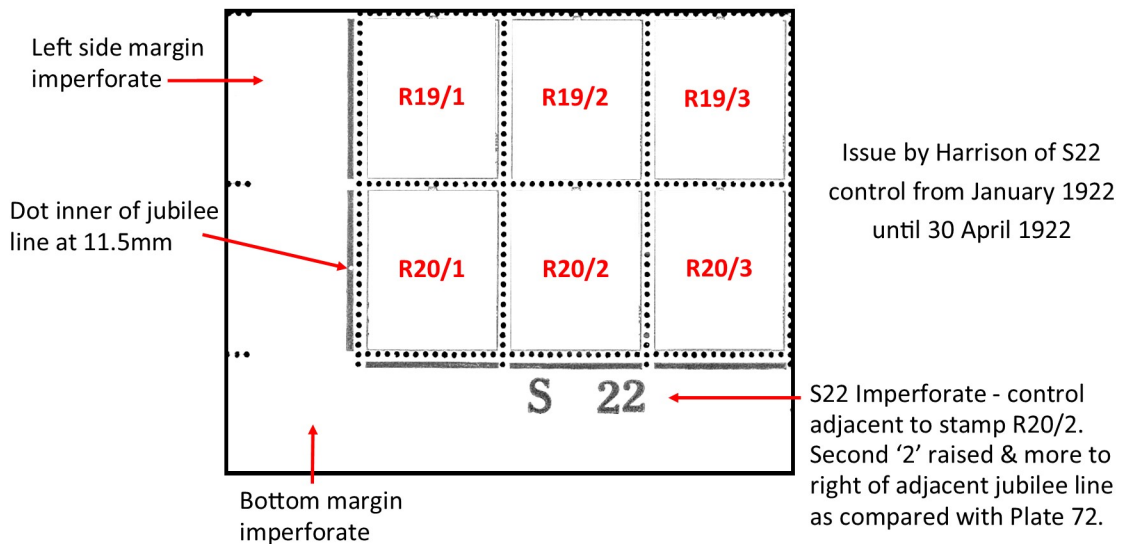
DOLLARD OUT OF ALIGNMENT PAIRS (OAP)

Out of alignments occur between adjacent setting 2 stereos. OAP's arise with overprinted stamps from PR8/OAP & PR8a/OAP and less commonly can also be encountered with essays referenced PR8b to PR9c. See example of PR8/OAP - fig. 32.



HARRISON PRINTERS PLATE 68 & SHEET CONTROL S22 IMPERFORATE

CONTROL BLOCK CHARACTERISTICS (Rows 19 & 20, Stamps 1, 2 & 3)



DOLLARD STEREO SETTING 2 - CONTROL BLOCKS & GUTTER PAIR

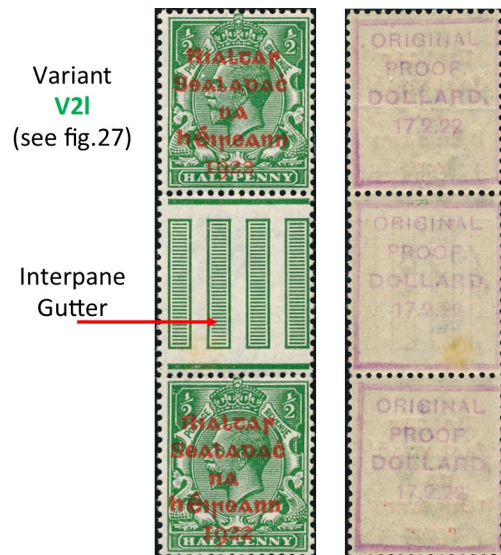


PR8a/S22I Red Overprint Type 2 Backstamp
(Cliché positional Variants as shown fig. 29)

PR9/S22I As PR8a with Overprints misplaced - date at top
(Cliché positional Variants as shown fig. 29)



PR8a/S22I Type 2 Backstamp



PR8a/GP Gutter Pair, Type 2 Backstamp

17 FEBRUARY 1922

DOLLARD HIGH VALUE ‘PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT’ OVERPRINTS

For high value GB ‘Seahorse’ stamps, as in fig. 2a, Dollard adopted a 4 line overprint, see fig. 33.

Line widths		Characteristics
	12.50mm	Overprint ink - black.
	15.00mm	Date with antique numerals.
	21.50mm	Long tail to ‘9’ and no full stop after ‘1922’.
	6.50mm	Wide spacing between the ‘h’ and ‘e’.
Overall height	14.00mm	Fig. 33

OVERPRINT REFERENCE & ISSUE OVERVIEW

OVERPRINT STAMP REFERENCE	GB STAMP		DOLLARD OVERPRINTS			
	FACE VALUE	BASIC COLOUR	STEREO SETTING	SHEETS PRINTED	OVERPRINT INK COLOUR	DATE OF ISSUE
T12	2/6	Chocolate-brown	4 x 5	1,000	Black	17 February 1922
T13	5s	Rose-carmine	4 x 5	650	Black	
T14	10s	Dull Grey-blue	4 x 5	500	Black	

STEREO SETTING

Only one 4 x 5 overprint stereo setting made up of 20 clichés was in use for all three values. This stereo arrangement required two press passes to overprint a sheet of forty high value stamps. As a result of the press process consistent overprint variants occurring in the first five rows, are repeated in the lower half of the sheet, in the same relative positions.

‘R’ over ‘Se’ alignment variants occur twelve times in each sheet, in the following positions:

R1/3, R2/3, R3/2, R3/3, R4/3, R7/3, R8/1, R9/1, 2 & 3, R10/2 & 4.

In order to validate ‘R’ over ‘Se’ alignments the downward stroke of the ‘r’ of ‘Rialtaṛ’ will be directly over the centre point of the second ‘A’ in ‘Sealadaḱ’, whereas with normal settings the downward stroke of the ‘r’ is to the right of the centre point of the ‘A’.

DOLLARD IMPERFORATE PROOFS

PROOF REFERENCE	DISTINGUISHING FEATURES
PR10	Dark blue overprint on thin pale cream woven paper, no back stamp, see Appendix 1.
PR11	Black overprint on thin pale cream woven paper, no back stamp - fig. 34.
PR11a	As PR11, with type 2 initialed backstamp - fig. 34.
PR12	Black overprint, medium whitish paper, no back stamp.
PR12a	As PR12, with initialed type 2 back stamp.

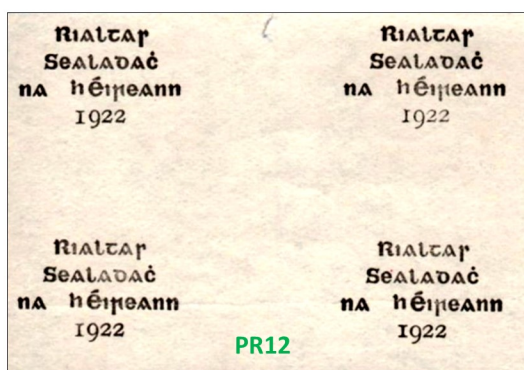


Fig 34
examples display normal
‘R’ over ‘Se’ alignments.



SPECIMENS

A specimen set of overprinted stamps T12, T13 & T14 is known to exist in the archives of the Universal Postal Union (UPU). The ‘SPECIMEN’ handstamp is located on the left in black, sans serif upright letters and dimensions - width 13mm and height 2mm.

17 FEBRUARY 1922

THOM LOW VALUE ‘PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT’ OVERPRINTS

For low values, as pictured in fig. 3a, Thom adopted a five line overprint as shown in fig. 35.

Line widths	11.50 mm	RIALTAIR SealADAĆ na hÉireann 1922.	Characteristics Overprint ink - black. Date with block type numerals. Full stop after ‘1922.’.
	14.50 mm		
	3.50mm		
	13.50 mm		
	6.50 mm		
Overall height	16.00 mm		

Fig. 35

STEREO SETTINGS

For this issue Thom used two different setting formats.

SETTING 1 With this setting a 12 x 10 cliché arrangement was in use, enabling a complete sheet to be overprinted using one stereo setting for each pane.

SETTINGS 2, 3 & 9 For these settings the basic stereos in use were 4 x 4. As a result, a full pane setting required three 4 x 4 stereos, plus a make up of six 4 x 3 part stereos. Normally the 4 x 4 stereos were located in the upper section, with the 4 x 3 part stereos set in the lower section of each pane. A typical lower pane layout for both proofs & sheet stamps, from settings 2, 3 or 9, is shown in fig. 36. Upper pane positions - rows 1 to 10, columns 1 to 12 and lower pane - rows 11 to 20, columns 1 to 12. Sub-settings 1a, 1b & 2a, 2b are known with sheet stamps, but use with proofs tbc, see Appendix 3.

R11/1	R11/2	R11/3	R11/4	R11/5	R11/6	R11/7	R11/8	R11/9	R11/10	R11/11	R11/12
R12/1	R12/2	R12/3	R12/4	R12/5	R12/6	R12/7	R12/8	R12/9	R12/10	R12/11	R12/12
	4 x 4 Stereo				4 x 4 Stereo				4 x 4 Stereo		
R13/1	R13/2	R13/3	R13/4	R13/5	R13/6	R13/7	R13/8	R13/9	R13/10	R13/11	R13/12
R14/1	R14/2	R14/3	R14/4	R14/5	R14/6	R14/7	R14/8	R14/9	R14/10	R14/11	R14/12
R15/1	R15/2	R15/3	R15/4	R15/5	R15/6	R15/7	R15/8	R15/9	R15/10	R15/11	R15/12
R16/1	R16/2	R16/3	R16/4	R16/5	R16/6	R16/7	R16/8	R16/9	R16/10	R16/11	R16/12
	4 x 3 Stereo				4 x 3 Stereo				4 x 3 Stereo		
R17/1	R17/2	R17/3	R17/4	R17/5	R17/6	R17/7	R17/8	R17/9	R17/10	R17/11	R17/12
R18/1	R18/2	R18/3	R18/4	R18/5	R18/6	R18/7	R18/8	R18/9	R18/10	R18/11	R18/12
				RIALTAIR SealADAĆ na hÉireann 1922.	RIALTAIR SealADAĆ na hÉireann 1922.	RIALTAIR SealADAĆ na hÉireann 1922.	RIALTAIR SealADAĆ na hÉireann 1922.				
R19/1	R19/2	R19/3	R19/4	R19/5	R19/6	R19/7	R19/8	R19/9	R19/10	R19/11	R19/12
	4 x 3 Stereo			RIALTAIR SealADAĆ na hÉireann 1922.	RIALTAIR SealADAĆ na hÉireann 1922.	RIALTAIR SealADAĆ na hÉireann 1922.	RIALTAIR SealADAĆ na hÉireann 1922.		4 x 3 Stereo		
R20/1	R20/2	R20/3	R20/4	R20/5	R20/6	R20/7	R20/8	R20/9	R20/10	R20/11	R20/12
				RIALTAIR SealADAĆ na hÉireann 1922.	RIALTAIR SealADAĆ na hÉireann 1922.	RIALTAIR SealADAĆ na hÉireann 1922.	RIALTAIR SealADAĆ na hÉireann 1922.				

Fig. 36 Lower pane layout comprising three 4 x 4 and six 4 x 3 stereos. Settings 2, 3 & 9.

Cliché /stamp positions for upper panes, with the same stereo arrangement is R1 to R10/1 to 12.

OVERPRINT REFERENCE & ISSUE OVERVIEW

OVERPRINT STAMP REFERENCE	GB STAMP		THOM OVERPRINTS			
	FACE VALUE	BASIC COLOUR	STEREO SETTINGS	SHEETS PRINTED	OVERPRINT INK COLOUR	DATE OF ISSUE
T15	1½d	Red-brown	1, 2, 3, 9	4,000	Black	17 February 1922
T16 & T17	2d Dies 1 & 2	Orange	1, 2, 3, 9	40,000	Black	
T18	6d	Reddish-purple	1, 2, 3	2,000	Black	
T19	1s	Bistre-brown	1, 2, 3	2,000	Black	

STEREO SETTINGS - OVERPRINT VARIANTS

VARIANT REFERENCE	POSITION IN SHEET	OVERPRINT VARIANT DESCRIPTIONS
OVERPRINT SETTING 1 (Stamps Overprinted T15, 16, 17, 18, 19)		
UF4h	R8/3	Large full stop after '1922.'
V4c	R9/6,7,8	'r' over 'e'.
F4ha	R9/12, R11/12	Slightly dropped 'c' in 'σεαλαοαε'.
F4ha	R11/12	Slightly dropped 'c' in 'σεαλαοαε'.
F4b	R16/2	Serif at foot of 'r' in 'ριαλεαρ' ‡
F4e	R18/1	Damaged first 'α' in 'σεαλαοαε'.
-	R19/3	'c' in 'σεαλαοαε' perfect. (Setting 1a)
UF4h	R19/3	'c' in 'σεαλαοαε' damaged and second 'n' of 'héιπεανη' with damage to right leg. (Setting 1b)
V4c	R19/6,7,8	'r' over 'e'.
UF4h	R20/2	Second '2' of '1922.' thinned. ‡ (Setting 1b)
UF4h	R20/3	Full stop after '1922.' slightly dropped.
F4q	R20/2,3	Right side of '1' of '1922.' almost under centre point 'ι' in 'héιπεανη' & stop after '1922.' close to second '2'. (Setting 1a)
-	R20/2,3	Right side of '1' of '1922.' to the left side of 'ι' in 'héιπεανη' & stop after '1922.' further from second '2'. (Setting 1b)
OAP	R8 to 20/1 to 4	Raised overprints, giving rise to 13 out of alignment pairs.
-	All	Type runs/slopes down to the right. Overprint impressions light.
For details of sub-settings 1a & 1b - see Appendix 4.		
Grey infill	For details see page 19.	
(‡ Listed flaw not consistent)		E&OE

STEREO SETTINGS

Setting 1 made use of a 12 x 10 stereo setting for each pane, whereas for Settings 2, 3 & 9 panes were made up of 4 x 4 & 4 x 3 stereos, see fig. 36. However in addition to the normal stereo layout, patterns (1) & (2) are known and if in use the overprint variant positions listed, will be subject to amendment - see fig. 37. Presently the number of sheets overprinted using stereo patterns (1) & (2) have not been quantified.

4x4 4x4 4x4 4x3 4x3 4x3 4x3 4x3 4x3 Normal	4x3 4x3 4x3 4x3 4x3 4x3 4x4 4x4 4x4 Pattern (1)	4x3 4x3 4x3 4x4 4x4 4x4 4x3 4x3 4x3 Pattern (2)
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Fig. 37

STEREO SETTINGS - OVERPRINT VARIANTS

VARIANT REFERENCE	POSITION IN SHEET	OVERPRINT VARIANT DESCRIPTIONS
OVERPRINT SETTING 2 (Stamps Overprinted T15, 16, 17, 18, 19)		
F4m	R4/9	‘ιιι’ for ‘ιη’ in ‘héιηeΔηη’. ‡
F4a	R8/4	Broken ‘ι’ in ‘RιΔλeΔp’.
V4c	R9/6,7,8	‘R’ over ‘e’.
UF4ba	R12/1	Damaged ‘S’ of ‘SeΔλΔoΔc’. ‡ (Setting 2a)
UF4h	R12/2	Break in left arm of ‘Δ’ in ‘héιηeΔηη’. ‡ (Setting 2a)
UF4h	R12/3	Chip out of ‘e’ in ‘héιηeΔηη’. ‡ (Setting 2b)
V4b	R12/1,2,3	‘R’ over ‘Se’ and ‘λ’ over ‘ηΔ’.
UF4cb	R12/4	Damaged ‘é’ in ‘héιηeΔηη’. ‡ (Setting 2b)
V4e	R12/4	‘R’ over ‘Se’, ‘éι’ over ‘19’ & wide setting of ‘éι’ & ‘eΔ’ in ‘héιηeΔηη’ and ‘λ’ over ‘ηΔ’.
UF4h	R12/5	Break in ‘λ’ of ‘SeΔλΔoΔc’. ‡ (Setting 2a)
UF4h	R12/6	Damaged ‘e’ of ‘SeΔλΔoΔc’ & ‘e’ of ‘héιηeΔηη’. ‡ (Setting 2a)
V4f	R12/5,6	‘R’ over ‘Se’, ‘éι’ over ‘19’ of ‘1922.’ and ‘λ’ over ‘ηΔ’.
V4b	R17/3	‘R’ over ‘Se’ and ‘λ’ over ‘ηΔ’.
UF4h	R17/3	‘R’ of ‘RιΔλeΔp’ displays a shortened right leg. ‡ (Setting 2a)
UF4h	R17/3	Chip out of ‘ι’ in ‘RιΔλeΔp’. ‡ (Setting 2b)
UF4h	R17/4	Chip out of first ‘Δ’ of ‘SeΔλΔoΔc’. ‡ (Setting 2a)
UF4h	R17/4	Second ‘Δ’ of ‘SeΔλΔoΔc’ with right leg flaw. ‡ (Setting 2b)
F4pa	R17/6	Damaged second ‘2’ of ‘1922.’. ‡ (Setting 2a)
V4a	R17/4,5,6	‘R’ over ‘S’ and ‘Δλ’ over ‘ηΔ’.
F4q	R19/3	‘1’ of ‘1922.’ almost vertically under ‘ι’ in ‘héιηeΔηη’.
V4c	R19/4	‘R’ over ‘e’.
V4c	R19/5,6	‘R’ over ‘e’ and ‘éι’ over ‘1’ of ‘1922.’.
UF4h	R20/2	Damaged dot after ‘1922.’. (Setting 2a, dot undamaged in Setting 2b)
UF4h	R20/3	Top of ‘λ’ in ‘RιΔλeΔp’ with chip or crack.
-	R19/3 & R20/3	Overprints heavy type compared with R19 & R20/1,2. (Setting 2a)
OAP	-	Stereos accurately set, resulting in no out of alignment pairs.
For details of sub-settings 2a & 2b - see Appendix 4.		
(‡ Listed flaw not consistent)		E&OE

Grey infill Pages 18, 19, 20	Used to highlight minor variants & flaws from control blocks, which takes in stamps from Rows 19 & 20/1, 2, 3. The 1d value was not in use with this Thom issue. Overprint alignments ‘éι’ or ‘ι’ over ‘1’, ‘éι’ over ‘19’ and ‘λ’ over ‘ηΔ’, as individual variants are considered to be the norm in this publication, however they are listed if found in control block positions, as an aid to determining the overprint settings - see Appendix 4.
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STEREO SETTINGS - OVERPRINT VARIANTS

VARIANT REFERENCE	POSITION IN SHEET	OVERPRINT VARIANT DESCRIPTIONS
SETTING 3 (Stamps Overprinted T15, 16, 17, 18, 19)		
F4e	R8/1	Damaged 'Δ' in 'ΣεΔΛΑΘΑΨ'. ‡
V4c	R9/6,7,8	'R' over 'e'.
F4e	R12/4	Damaged 'Δ' in 'ΣεΔΛΑΘΑΨ'. ‡
UF4h	R12/5	Damaged left arm of 'Δ' in 'ΣεΔΛΑΘΑΨ'. ‡
UF4h	R12/6	Damaged tip to 'é' of 'héipeann'. ‡
V4f	R12/5,6	'R' over 'Se', 'éi' over '19' of '1922' & 'l' over 'na'.
F4c	R17/2	Broken 'r' in 'Rιαλταρ'. ‡
V4b	R17/3	'R' over 'Se' & 'l' over 'na'.
V4d	R17/4	'R' over 'Se', 'l' over 'na' & wide 'ΔΨ' in 'ΣεΔΛΑΘΑΨ'.
V4a	R17/5,6	'R' over 'S' & 'Δl' over 'na'.
-	R19/2	'l' more to the right of 'n' in 'na'.
-	R19/3	'1' of '1922' almost vertically under 'i' in 'héipeann'.
V4c	R19/4	'R' over 'e'.
V4c	R19/5,6	'R' over 'e' & 'éi' over '1' of '1922'.
UF4h	R20/1	'ip' or 'i' of 'héipeann' broken - see fig. 38.
V4k	R20/2	Short '1' in '1922', second '2' in '1922' distorted & stop after '1922.' often deformed - see fig. 39.
OAP	R1 to R4/9 to 12	Overprints dropped, giving rise to 4 out of alignment pairs.
	R11 to R14/9 to 12	Overprints raised, giving rise to 4 out of alignment pairs.
-	All	Type runs/slopes down to the right.
Grey infill	See details on page 19.	
(‡ Listed flaw not consistent)		E&OE

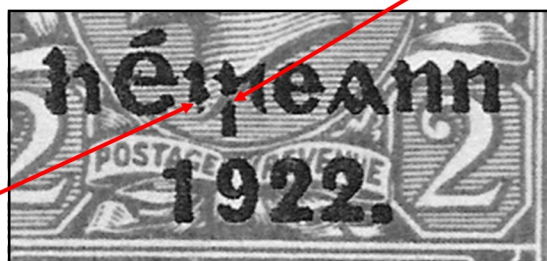


Fig. 38 UF4h R20/1



Fig. 39 V4k R20/2

OVERPRINT MEASUREMENTS (CONTROL BLOCKS)

In connection with the overprint settings in use with the February issue by Thom the overprint measurements, as they apply to control blocks, are set out on Page 30. The measurements supplement the variants listed with Settings 1, 2, 3 & 9 found with this issue, assisting the identification of settings with control blocks to hand. As only the 1½d, 2d, 6d & 1s values were overprinted by Thom for this joint issue with Dollard, stamps arising from control blocks are only from rows 19 & 20, stamps 1, 2 & 3.

STEREO SETTINGS - OVERPRINT VARIANTS

VARIANT REFERENCE	POSITION IN SHEET	OVERPRINT VARIANT DESCRIPTIONS
SETTING 9 (Stamps Overprinted T15, 16, 17)		
Setting 9 displays no 'R' over 'S', 'R' over 'Se' or 'R' over 'e' variants.		
F4d	R10/4	Split 'r' in 'Rialtao'.
F4da	R11/9	Two dots (:) for 'i' in 'Rialtao'.
-	R19/3	'o' of 'Sealadao' broken & hairline through the 'i' of 'héineann'.
UF4h	R20/1	Vertical notch in the top of the 'R' in 'Rialtao'.
V4k	R20/5	Short 'i' in '1922'.
OAP	R1 to R4/5 to 8	Overprints raised, giving rise to 8 out of alignment pairs.
	R15 to R17/5 to 8	Overprints dropped, giving rise to 6 out of alignment pairs.
Grey infill	For details see page 19.	
		E&OE

Variant references listed with settings 1, 2, 3, & 9 are taken from the author's book titled 'Overprinted Stamps of Ireland 1922 - 1935'.

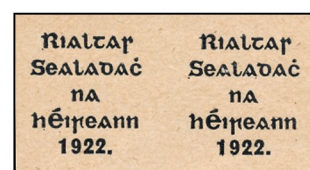
For this issue by Thom, minor variants are listed, but as a general rule they will not always be found with imperforate proofs, however they will apply to sheet stamps overprinted for this issue.

With the 17 February issue, settings 1 & 2 are known to have sub-settings 1a, 1b and 2a, 2b, details of which are set out in Appendix 4, but as with minor variants, the characteristics will relate to stamps from control blocks and are therefore added mainly for completeness.

THOM IMPERFORATE PROOFS

Thom imperforate proofs are only recorded from Settings 2 & 3 and were printed in early February 1922.

PROOF REFERENCE	DISTINGUISHING FEATURES
PR13	Black overprint on thin whitish paper.
PR13a	As PR13, with Type 3 purple backstamp.
PR14	Black overprint on thin buff paper.
PR14a	As PR14, with Type 3 purple backstamp.



PR13

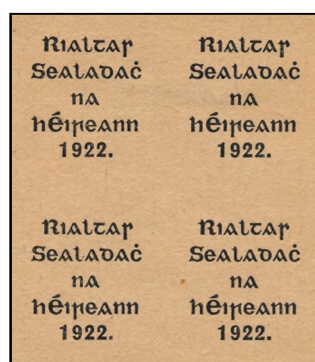


PR14a



PR14a

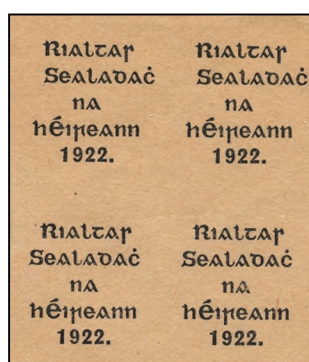
Type 3 Backstamp



PR14

Normal Block

Row17



PR14

Block with V4c Variety

Row18

V4c Variety
Row 17, Stamps 5 & 6
 'R' over 'S' & 'al' over 'na'
 Variety occurs with Settings 2 & 3.

For further proof block examples
 - see Appendix 5.

THOM IMPERFORATE PROOF BLOCK

	1	2	3	4	5	5
Row 11	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.
Row 12	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.
Row 13	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.

PR14 Black Overprint on Buff Paper

Positional Proof Block - Setting 2 Rows 11, 12, 13, Columns 1 to 6

Varieties

V4b - 'r' over 'Se' proofs R12/1, R12/2, R12/3

V4e - 'r' over 'Se', 'ér' over '19', wide setting of 'ér' & 'eΔ' in 'héipeann' proof R12/4

V4f - 'r' over 'Se' & 'ér' over '19' proofs R12/5 & R12/6

THOM COMPOSITORS MATRIX PROOF (CMP)

It is postulated that compositors matrix proof (CMP) strips were prepared by Alex. Thom and supplied to Harrison & Sons. This action being taken to assist Harrison with the set up for overprinting of five line coil stamps.

Two compositor strips are shown on page 23. Fig. 40 is the full size image of the NTS strip shown below. Fig. 41 is a similar proof strip, which has been divided, with the addition of 'Left Half' & 'Right Half' markings and with the major errors being highlighted in pencil.

Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

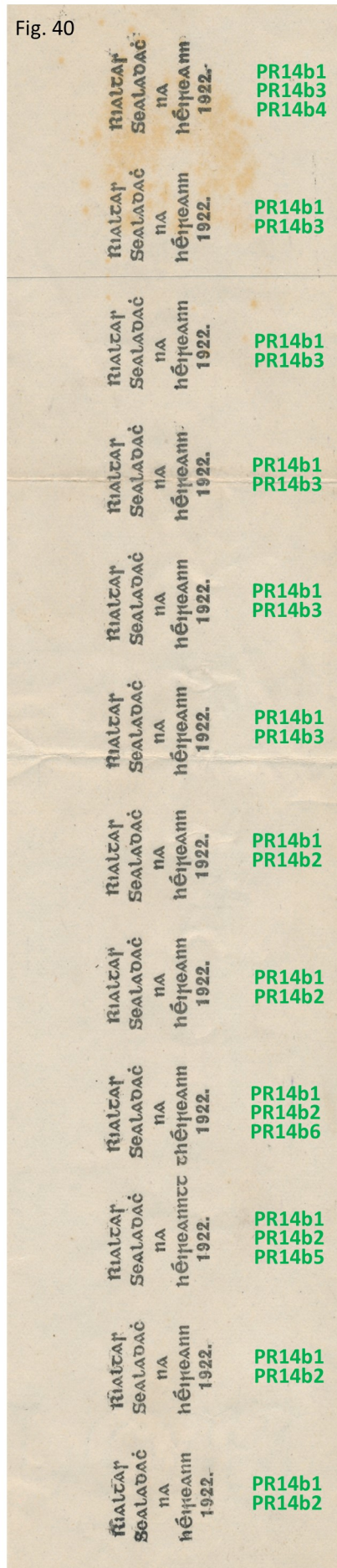
Cliché 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

PROOF REFERENCE	DISTINGUISHING FEATURES
CMP	Compositors Matrix Proof - black overprints, clichés from positions 1 to 12, medium cream paper, no backstamp
	MATRIX PROOF - CLICHÉ ERRORS & VARIETIES
PR14b1	Cliché 1 to 12 - 'r' over 'Se'.
PR14b2	Cliché 1 to 6 - 'r' of 'Rialtaṛ' over 'Δ' of 'Sealadaḱ'.
PR14b3	Cliché 7 to 12 - 'r' of 'Rialtaṛ' to the left of 'Δ' of 'Sealadaḱ'.
PR14b4	Cliché 12 - 'nn' of 'héipeann' wider spaced from 'Δ'.
PR14b5	Cliché 3 Error - 'héipeannntt' for 'héipeann'.
PR14b6	Cliché 4 Error - 'théipeann' for 'héipeann'.

Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.
PR14b1	PR14b2
Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.
PR14b3	PR14b4
Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeannntt 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na théipeann 1922.
PR14b5	PR14b6

COMPOSITORS MATRIX PROOF EXAMPLES

Fig. 40



CMP EXAMPLE A
Clichés 1 to 12

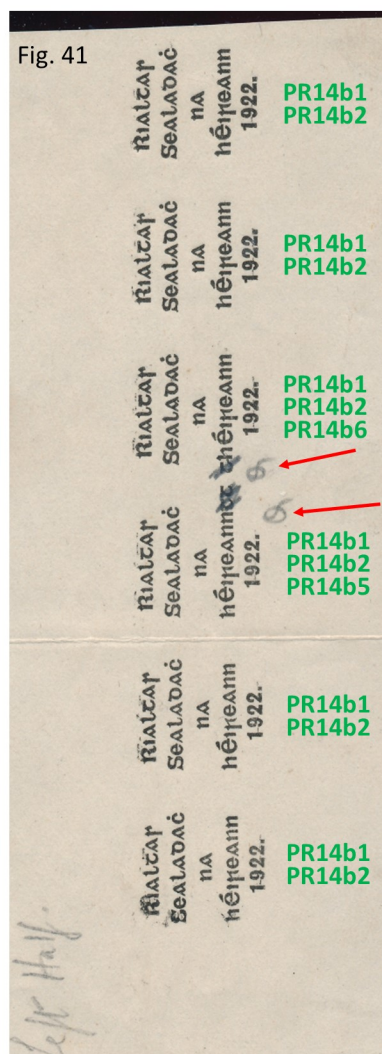
Compositors Matrix Proof (CMP) examples are shown in figs. 40 & 41. Proof references in green highlight errors and variants, details of which are listed on page 22.

Fig. 41 is divided into two parts (Left Half & Right Half) with pencil marks identifying the non repetitive errors. It is postulated that the pencil marks were applied by either Alex Thom or by Harrison & Sons.

The example shown in fig. 40 was originally in the collection of the late Commander Graham which was then acquired by the late W.P. Fletcher in 2003 and latterly by the author in May 2008. The example shown in fig. 41 was from the collection of the late Thomas Field, which was acquired by the author in May 2019.

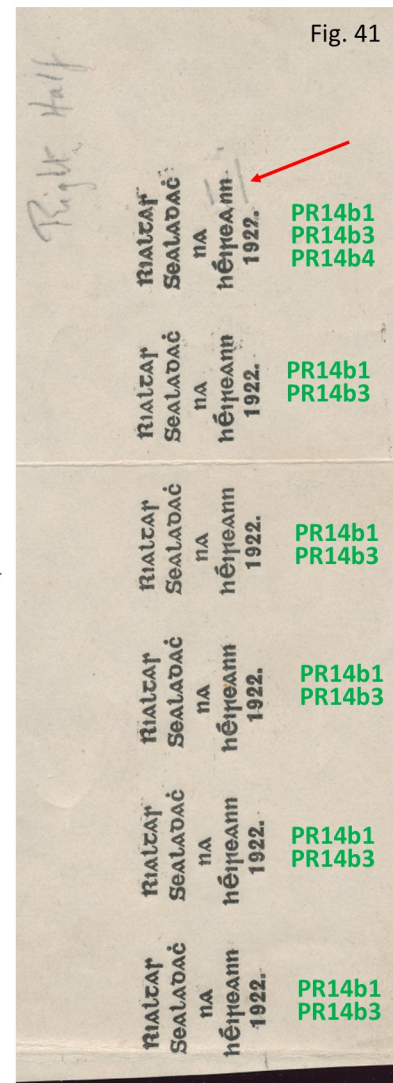
Compositors matrix proof strips are considered to be very scarce.

Fig. 41



CMP EXAMPLE B (Left Half)
Clichés 1 to 6

Fig. 41



CMP EXAMPLE B (Right Half)

Clichés 7 to 12

Compositors matrix proofs were made up by Thom, as 'working examples' to assist Harrison & Sons. Harrisons were contracted by the Irish Postal Authority to produce overprinted coil stamps, for use with stamp affixing machines, in both vertical and horizontal formats. This statement is supported in an article - 'Review of Harrison Rolls for use in Ireland 1922 - 1925' by W. (Bill) P. Fletcher, for the September edition of the Irish Philatelic Circle's Journal. In this article the proof strip shown in fig. 40 is featured. Coil stamps were issued on divers dates in June & August 1922, by Harrison & Sons.

JUNE & AUGUST 1922

HARRISON 'PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT' COIL OVERPRINTS

Harrison & Sons were contracted to overprint four low value stamps and to make up these stamps into vertical and horizontal coils, for use with affixing machines - see fig. 42. Harrison's appointment is considered to be related to the specialist skills required to guillotine post office sheets, followed by the process of joining the cut rows and columns to form rolls.

Harrison adopted a five line overprint as shown in fig. 43.

Line Widths			Characteristics
	12.00mm		Overprint ink - shiny gloss black.
	15.00mm		Low tail to 'i' of 'RIALTAIR'.
	3.50mm		'R' over 'Se' & 'r' to left of 'A' - all stamps.
	14.00mm		Letters narrower profile compared with Thom.
	6.75mm		
Overprint Height	17.00mm		

Fig. 43

Unlike Dollard & Thom overprints, which were printed from stereotypes, it is considered most likely that the Harrison overprints were taken from electrotypes plates, which were made in-house.

OVERPRINT REFERENCE, STAMPS OVERPRINTED FOR USE IN ROLLS

OVERPRINT STAMP REFERENCE	GB STAMP		COILS WITH HARRISON OVERPRINTS		
	FACE VALUE	BASIC COLOUR	COILS ISSUED	OVERPRINT INK COLOUR	ISSUE OF FIRST BATCH
T20	½d	Green	492	Shiny gloss black	19 June 1922
T21	1d	Scarlet	1,454	Shiny gloss black	19 June 1922
T22	1½d	Red-brown	118	Shiny gloss black	21 June 1922
T23	2d Die 1	Orange	672	Shiny gloss black	19 June 1922
T24	2d Die 2	Orange	820	Shiny gloss black	August 1922



Fig. 42

PROOFS

No proofs are recorded from this issue, however it is noteworthy that Harrison's were given guidelines by Alex Thom, in the form of compositors matrix proofs, which are covered in the preceding section of this publication. Arising from this the Harrison overprints display an 'R' over 'Se' alignment, which were a constant feature of the Thom matrix proof examples - see PR14b1.

ROLLS

Stamps in rolls by Harrison were accompanied with a leader tab and coil end. The tabs show a production control letter (in brackets), dispensing machine delivery mode, number of stamps in a roll, face value and the roll price, which includes a production cost of 2d. Coils for horizontal delivery were made up of 480 stamps and with 500 stamps for vertical rolls, see fig. 44. Vertical delivery coils were also made up of 1000 stamps, with a production levy of 4d being added. Coil end markings, which are not shown, identify the date of manufacture and the slitting operators number.

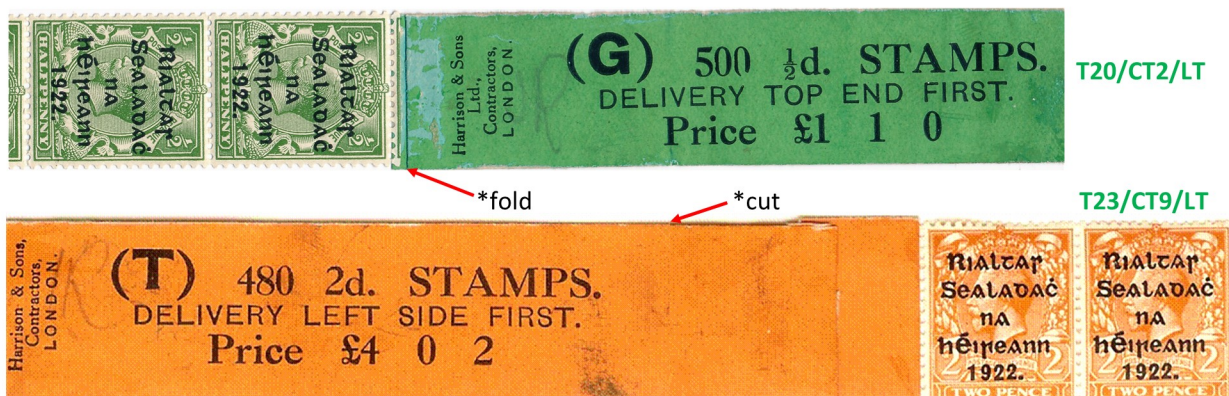


Fig. 44

* Original scans with cut or fold to fit this page

7 JULY - 6 NOVEMBER 1922

THOM LOW VALUE 'PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT' OVERPRINTS

For this issue all low value stamps featured in figs. 2a & 3a were overprinted by Thom, following the award of a new contract. In the lead up to this issue Thom initiated steps to improve the overprint quality. Experimental printings were performed with the introduction of glossing agents and the addition of blue with the black ink. Sheets from these trials often displayed overprints with varying degrees of a dull black finish. It is generally accepted that sheets from these printings were taken over by the Postal Authority and wherever possible distributed for Post Office use, in parallel with the official printings. For the record the overprinted 2½d, 4d & 9d values, continued to use red ink, which was enhanced to be more distinctive. The overprint layout shown in fig. 45, copies the earlier 17 February issue.

Line widths		Characteristics
11.50mm		Overprint inks - shiny blue-black or red (3 values).
14.50mm		Overprint impressions more intense & print image
3.50mm		sharper compared with the earlier 17 February issue.
13.50mm		Date with block type numerals & full stop after '1922.'
6.50mm		
Overall height	16.00mm	Fig. 45

No imperforate proofs were in use with this issue, but printing trials were performed on GB stamps in sheets. Printing trials were undertaken during the pre-release period of this issue in order to improve the print quality of overprints. This section lists all stamps overprinted, as with previous issues, with the addition of a supplementary listing which highlights the stamps known to have been used for 'Printing Trials', linked with details of the printers plates, sheet controls and overprint stereos in use.

STEREO SETTINGS

For this issue 4 x 4 stereos and 4 x 3 segments to make up full pane settings, were in use.

The 12 x 10 cliché arrangement, referred to, as setting 1 was not in use with this issue.

For the main issue printings Thom used of stereo settings 2 to 10 inclusive, whereas for trial printings settings 2a, 3, 5, 7/8, 9 and possibly setting 10 were in use.

OVERPRINT REFERENCE & ISSUE OVERVIEW

OVERPRINT STAMP REFERENCE	GB STAMP		THOM OVERPRINTS		
	FACE VALUE	BASIC COLOUR	STEREO SETTINGS	OVERPRINT INK COLOUR	DATE OF ISSUE
T25	½d	Green	5,6,7,8,9,10	Shiny Blue-black	23 August 1922
T26	1d	Scarlet	4,5,6,7/8,9,10	Shiny Blue-black	20 July 1922
T27	1½d	Red-brown	2,3,4,5,6,8,9	Shiny Blue-black	21 August 1922
T28	2d Die 1	Orange	2,3,4,5,7	Shiny Blue-black	7 July 1922
T29	2d Die 2	Orange	2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10	Shiny Blue-black	7 July 1922
T30	2½d	Blue	8,9	Red	8 September 1922
T31,(T31X)	3d	Violet (Dull)	2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10	Shiny Blue-black	11 July 1922
T32	4d	Grey-green	8,9	Red	8 September 1922
T33	5d	Yellow-brown	5,6,7,8,10	Shiny Blue-black	11 August 1922
T34	6d	Reddish-purple	2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10	Shiny Blue-black	21 August 1922
T35	9d	Agate	4,8	Red	11 August 1922
T36	9d	Olive-green	9	Red	6 November 1922
T37	10d	Turquoise-blue	5,7,9	Shiny Blue-black	24 August 1922
T38	1s	Bistre-brown	2,5,6,8,9,10	Shiny Blue-black	21 August 1922

STEREO SETTINGS - OVERPRINT VARIANTS

VARIANT REFERENCE	POSITION IN SHEET	OVERPRINT VARIANT DESCRIPTIONS
OVERPRINT SETTING 2 (Stamps Overprinted T27, 28, 29, 31, 34, 38)		
F6q	R4/9	‘ιιι’ for ‘ιη’ in ‘héιπεΔηη’. ‡
F6a	R8/4	Broken ‘ι’ in ‘RιΔλτΔρ’.
V6c	R9/6,7,8	‘R’ over ‘e’.
UF6f	R12/1	Damaged ‘S’ of ‘SeΔλΔθΔc’. ‡ (Setting 2a)
UF6q	R12/2	Break in left arm of ‘Δ’ in ‘héιπεΔηη’. ‡ (Setting 2a)
UF6q	R12/3	Chip out of ‘e’ in ‘héιπεΔηη’. ‡ (Setting 2b)
V6b	R12/1,2,3	‘R’ over ‘Se’ and ‘λ’ over ‘ηΔ’.
UF6g	R12/4	Damaged ‘é’ in ‘héιπεΔηη’. ‡ (Setting 2b)
V6e	R12/4	‘R’ over ‘Se’, ‘éι’ over ‘19’ & wide setting of ‘éι’ & ‘eΔ’ in ‘héιπεΔηη’ and ‘λ’ over ‘ηΔ’.
UF6q	R12/5	Break in ‘λ’ of ‘SeΔλΔθΔc’. ‡ (Setting 2a)
UF6q	R12/6	Damaged ‘e’ of ‘SeΔλΔθΔc’ & ‘e’ of ‘héιπεΔηη’. ‡ (Setting 2a)
V6f	R12/5,6	‘R’ over ‘Se’, ‘éι’ over ‘19’ of ‘1922.’ and ‘λ’ over ‘ηΔ’.
V6b	R17/3	‘R’ over ‘Se’ and ‘λ’ over ‘ηΔ’.
UF6q	R17/3	‘R’ of ‘RιΔλτΔρ’ displays a shortened right leg. ‡ (Setting 2a)
UF6q	R17/3	Chip out of ‘ι’ in ‘RιΔλτΔρ’. ‡ (Setting 2b)
UF6q	R17/4	Chip out of first ‘Δ’ of ‘SeΔλΔθΔc’. ‡ (Setting 2a)
UF6q	R17/4	Second ‘Δ’ of ‘SeΔλΔθΔc’ with right leg flaw. ‡ (Setting 2b)
F6wa	R17/6	Damaged second ‘2’ of ‘1922.’. ‡ (Setting 2a)
V6a	R17/4,5,6	‘R’ over ‘S’ and ‘Δλ’ over ‘ηΔ’.
F6y	R19/3	‘1’ of ‘1922.’ almost vertically under ‘ι’ in ‘héιπεΔηη’.
V6c	R19/4	‘R’ over ‘e’.
V6c	R19/5,6	‘R’ over ‘e’ and ‘éι’ over ‘1’ of ‘1922.’.
UF6q	R20/2	Damaged dot after ‘1922.’. (Setting 2a, dot undamaged in Setting 2b)
UF6q	R20/3	Top of ‘λ’ in ‘RιΔλτΔρ’ with chip or crack.
-	R19/3 & R20/3	Overprints heavy type compared with R19 & R20/1,2. (Setting 2a)
OAP	-	Stereos accurately set, resulting in no out of alignment pairs.
For details of sub-settings 2a & 2b - see Appendix 3. (‡ Listed flaw not consistent) E&OE		

Grey infill Pages 26, to 30	Used to highlight minor variants & flaws from control blocks , which takes in stamps from Rows 19 & 20/1, 2, 3 and for the 1d value from Rows 19 & 20/10,11,12. Overprint alignments ‘éι’ or ‘ι’ over ‘1’, ‘éι’ over ‘19’ and ‘λ’ over ‘ηΔ’, as individual variants are considered to be the norm in this publication, however they are listed if found in control block positions, as an aid to determining overprint settings - see Appendix 4.
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STEREO SETTINGS - OVERPRINT VARIANTS

VARIANT REFERENCE	POSITION IN SHEET	OVERPRINT VARIANT DESCRIPTIONS
SETTING 3 (Stamps Overprinted T27, 28, 29, 31, 34)		
F6h	R8/1	Damaged 'Δ' in 'ΣεΔΛΑΘΔĆ'. ‡
V6c	R9/6,7,8	'R' over 'e'.
F6h	R12/4	Damaged 'Δ' in 'ΣεΔΛΑΘΔĆ'. ‡
UF6q	R12/5	Damaged left arm of 'Δ' in 'ΣεΔΛΑΘΔĆ'. ‡
UF6q	R12/6	Damaged tip to 'é' of 'héιπεΔηη'. ‡
V6f	R12/5,6	'R' over 'Se', 'éi' over '19' of '1922.' & 'L' over 'na'.
F6c	R17/2	Broken 'r' in 'RιΔλτΔr'. ‡
V6b	R17/3	'R' over 'Se' & 'L' over 'na'.
V6d	R17/4	'R' over 'Se', 'L' over 'na' & wide 'ΔĆ' in 'ΣεΔΛΑΘΔĆ'.
V6a	R17/5,6	'R' over 'S' & 'ΔL' over 'na'.
-	R19/2	'L' more to the right of 'n' in 'na'.
-	R19/3	'I' of '1922.' almost vertically under 'i' in 'héιπεΔηη'.
V6c	R19/4	'R' over 'e'.
V6c	R19/5,6	'R' over 'e' & 'éi' over '1' of '1922.'.
UF6q	R20/1	'ih' or 'i' of 'héιπεΔηη' broken - see page 20, fig. 38.
V6k	R20/2	Short '1' in '1922.', second '2' in '1922.' distorted & stop after '1922.' often deformed - see page 20, fig. 39.
OAP	R1 to R4/9 to 12	Overprints dropped, giving rise to 4 out of alignment pairs
	R11 to R14/9 to 12	Overprints raised, giving rise to 4 out of alignment pairs
-	All	Type runs/slopes down to the right.
SETTING 4 (Stamps Overprinted T26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 34, 35)		
V6c	R9/5,6	'R' over 'e'.
-	R19/1,2	'éi' of 'héιπεΔηη' over '1' of '1922.'.
-	R19/10	'éi' of 'héιπεΔηη' over '19' of '1922.'.
OAP	R11 to R14/5 to 8	Overprints raised, giving rise to 8 out of alignment pairs.
	All	Type runs/slopes down to the right.
(‡ Listed flaw not consistent)		E&OE
Grey infill	For details - see page 26.	

STEREO SETTINGS - OVERPRINT VARIANTS

VARIANT REFERENCE	POSITION IN SHEET	OVERPRINT VARIANT DESCRIPTIONS
SETTING 5 (Stamps Overprinted T25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 33, 34, 37, 38)		
V6b	R6/1,2,3	‘R’ over ‘Se’ & ‘L’ over ‘nA’.
V6e	R6/4	‘R’ over ‘Se’, ‘L’ over ‘nA’ & wide ‘éi’ & ‘eA’ in ‘héipeAm’.
UF6q	R8/5	Broken ‘i’ in ‘héipeAm’.
UF6q	R9/5	Chip out of ‘L’ in ‘SeAΛAΘAĆ’.
F6q	R9/6	Chips out of ‘ip’ in ‘héipeAm’.
V6f	R9/5,6	‘R’ over ‘Se’, ‘éi’ over ‘19’ of ‘1922.’ & ‘L’ over ‘nA’.
F6s	R9/9	Broken ‘h’ in ‘héipeAm’ (later printings).
V6g	R16/5,6 & 12	‘R’ over ‘e’ & ‘éi’ over ‘19’ of ‘1922.’.
V6c	R16/11	‘R’ over ‘e’.
-	R19/2,3	‘éi’ of ‘héipeAm’ over ‘1’ of ‘1922.’.
-	R19/1 & 10	‘i’ in ‘héipeAm’ almost vertically over ‘1’ of ‘1922.’
-	R19/11,12	‘éi’ of ‘héipeAm’ over ‘1’ of ‘1922.’.
UF6q	R20/1	Small circular bulge in the right leg of the first ‘A’ in ‘SeAΛAΘAĆ’.
F6d	R20/4	Split ‘r’ in ‘RiAΛTAp’.
OAP	R19 & R20	No out of alignment pairs, excepting that overprints from adjacent stereos in rows 19 & 20, where ‘RiAΛTAp’ is not aligned.
SETTING 6 (Stamps Overprinted T25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 33, 34, 38)		
Setting 6 overprint variants are similar to Setting 5, but with added variants listed below.		
F6e	R15/7	Broken ‘L’ in ‘RiAΛTAp’.
V6c	R19/5	‘R’ over ‘e’.
V6g	R19/6,7	‘R’ over ‘e’ & ‘éi’ over ‘19’ of ‘1922.’.
-	R19/11,12	‘éi’ of ‘héipeAm’ over ‘1’ of ‘1922.’.
-	R20/1	No circular bulge in the right leg of the first ‘A’ in ‘SeAΛAΘAĆ’.
OAP	None	‘RiAΛTAp’ on adjacent stamps from rows 19 & 20 in alignment.
-	All	Type runs straight.
(‡ Listed flaw not consistent)		E&OE
Grey infill	For details - see page 26.	

STEREO SETTINGS - OVERPRINT VARIANTS

VARIANT REFERENCE	POSITION IN SHEET	OVERPRINT VARIANT DESCRIPTIONS
SETTING 7 (Stamps Overprinted T25, 26, 28, 29, 33, 37)		
SETTING 8 (Stamps Overprinted T25, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38)		
V6b	R1/7 & 10,11	‘R’ over ‘Se’ and ‘L’ over ‘na’.
UF6q	R1/9	Broken ‘S’ in ‘Seαλαθαῖ’.
F6x	R1/10	Damaged ‘9’ in ‘1922.’. (Setting 7 & Setting 8 ‡)
V6d	R1/8 & 12	‘R’ over ‘Se’ and wide ‘αῖ’ in ‘Seαλαθαῖ and ‘L’ over ‘na’.
F6d	R17/8 & 12	Split ‘r’ in ‘Rιαλεταρ’ (common for lower of half ‘r’ to be missing.
V6c	R19/4	‘R’ over ‘e’.
V6g	R19/5,6	‘R’ over ‘e’ and ‘éi’ over ‘19’ of ‘1922.’.
-	R19/10,11,12	‘éi’ of ‘héipeann’ over ‘1’ of ‘1922.’.
UF6q	R20/1 (Setting 7)	Small white line flaw (nick) through top of ‘S’ of ‘Seαλαθαῖ’.
UF6q	R20/1 (Setting 8)	‘S’ in ‘Seαλαθαῖ’ deformed plus white line flaw & damaged ‘9’ in ‘1922.’. Extent of line flaw more pronounced than in Setting 7).
OAP Setting 7	R1 to R4/5 to 8	Overprints raised resulting in 16 out of alignment pairs.
	R11 to R14/5 to 8	
OAP Setting 8	R1 to R14/9 to 12	Overprints dropped resulting in 20 out of alignment pairs.
	R15 to R17/5 to 8	
Setting 8 is postulated to be the second state printing of Setting 7, with variants being replicated.		
SETTING 9 (Stamps Overprinted T25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 36, 37, 38)		
No ‘R’ over ‘S’, ‘R’ over ‘Se’ or ‘R’ over ‘e’ variants occur with Setting 9.		
F6d	R10/4	Split ‘r’ in ‘Rιαλεταρ’.
F6g	R11/9	Two dots (:) for ‘i’ in ‘Rιαλεταρ’.
UF6q	R19/2	Small hole in top of ‘η’ of ‘héipeann’.
UF6q	R19/3	‘o’ of ‘Seαλαθαῖ’ broken & with flaw in ‘i’ of ‘héipeann’.
F6y	R19/10	‘i’ of ‘héipeann’ over ‘1’ of ‘1922.’.
-	R19/11	‘éi’ of ‘héipeann’ over ‘1’ of ‘1922.’.
-	R19/12	‘iη’ of ‘héipeann’ over ‘19’ of ‘1922.’.
UF6q	R20/1	Vertical notch in the top of the ‘R’ in ‘Rιαλεταρ’.
V6k	R20/5	Short ‘1’ in ‘1922.’.
OAP	R1 to R4/5 to 8	Overprints raised, giving rise to 8 out of alignment pairs.
	R15 to R17/5 to 8	Overprints dropped, giving rise to 6 out of alignment pairs.
(‡ Listed flaw not consistent)		E&OE
Grey infill	For details - see page 26	

STEREO SETTINGS - OVERPRINT VARIANTS

VARIANT REFERENCE	POSITION IN SHEET	OVERPRINT VARIANT DESCRIPTIONS
SETTING 10 (Stamps Overprinted T25, 26, 29, 31, 33, 34)		
V6c	R6/4,5,6	'R' over 'e'.
-	R19/3 & 10,11	'éi' of 'héipeam' over '1' of '1922'.
UF6q	R20/2	Small inner bulge on right leg of the first 'A' of 'Σεαλασαέ'.
V6j	R20/10	'R' of 'Rialcar' commonly broken & 'c' for 'e' of 'Σεαλασαέ'.
OAP	-	There are no out of alignment pairs.
Grey infill	For details - see page 26	

OVERPRINT MEASUREMENTS (CONTROL BLOCKS)

The setting measurements tabled below apply to the Thom 17 February - **Black** ink & the July/November - **Blue-Black** ink overprint issues. The listings also include **Dull Black** ink overprints, which are classified as proofs and arise from printing trials undertaken prior to the release of the second issue.

Sheets arising from printing trials were released to Post Offices alongside sheets from the second issue. Measurements are provided as an aid to identifying Thom overprint settings, found with control blocks. Control blocks being defined as stamps from rows 19 & 20, stamps 1, 2 & 3 for all values, excepting of the 1d value, where measurements apply to rows 19 & 20, stamps 10, 11 & 12.

Note - The Settings do not necessarily apply to all values, with the exception of the 1d. stamp.

STEREO SETTINGS IN USE BY ISSUE			STAMP POSITIONS IN CONTROL BLOCK	MEASUREMENTS (see fig. 46)		
BLACK	BLUE-BLACK	DULL BLACK		A (mm)	B (mm)	C (mm)
1a & 1b	-	-	R19 & R20/1,2,3	20.0	20.0	50.7
2a & 2b	2a & 2b	2a	R19 & R20/1,2,3	20.1	20.2	51.5
3	3	3	R19 & R20/1,2,3	20.0	20.0	50.7
-	4	-	R19 & R20/1,2,3	19.8	19.8	50.5
-	5	5	R19 & R20/1,2,3	20.5	19.9	51.3
-	6	-	R19 & R20/1,2,3	20.4	20.0	51.4
-	7/8	7	R19 & R20/1,2,3	19.8	19.8	50.6
9	9	9	R19 & R20/1,2,3	20.5	19.7	51.0
-	10	(10) tbc	R19 & R20/1,2,3	19.8	20.4	50.8
T26 1d value - sheet control adjacent R20/11						
-	4	-	R19 & R20/10,11,12	20.4	20.0	51.4
-	5 & 6	5	R19 & R20/10,11,12	19.8	19.8	50.6
-	7/8	-	R19 & R20/10,11,12	20.5	19.7	51.0
-	9	-	R19 & R20/10,11,12	19.8	20.4	50.8
-	10	-	R19 & R20/10,11,12	19.9	19.7	50.4
Measurements can vary by ± 0.1 mm due to overprint inking variations						

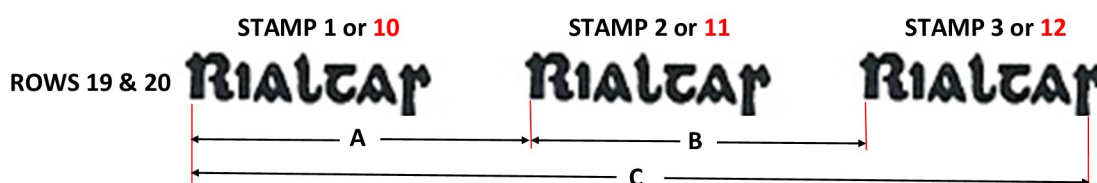


Fig. 46

THOM PRINTING TRIALS (OVERPRINT PROOFS ON GB SHEETS)

The proof listings in this section refer to trial print runs performed by Thom, prior to the overprinting of the second issue, which was released by the Irish Postal Authority on divers dates between July and November 1922. It is evident that before the release of this particular issue, printing trials were undertaken by Thom, using dull black ink.

Dull black overprints are recorded with the ½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d, 3d, 5d low values, in conjunction with sheet control T22, It is considered most likely that the 6d, 10d & 1s values did not feature in the print trial programme, due the high sheet value of these particular GB stamps. However, the 10d stamp is listed below, as there is a viewpoint that it may have featured in printing trials (subject to validation).

OVERPRINT STAMP & PROOF REFERENCES WITH GB SHEET & OVERPRINT DETAIL

OVERPRINT STAMP REFERENCE	BASIC STAMP VALUE	GB SHEET		THOM PRINTING TRIALS			
		SHEET CONTROL	PRINTERS PLATE	PROOF REFERENCE		STEREO SETTING	OVERPRINT INK COLOUR
				STAMP	CONTROL		
T25	½d	T22 Imperf.	72	PR15	TC122	5,7, (10)	Dull Black
T25		T22 Perf.	75	PR15	TC122/1	5	Dull Black
T26	1d	T22 Imperf.	87b	PR16	TC123	5	Dull Black
T15	1½d	T22 Imperf.	U,29,(20a)	T15DB*	TC124	(3), 9	Dull Black
T15		T22 Perf.	12b,35,(25)	T15DB*	TC125	3,9	Dull Black
T16	2d Die 1	T22 Imperf.	19b	T16*	TC126	2a, (5)	Black
T16		T22 Perf.	18b	T16DB*	TC127	5	Dull Black
T17	2d Die 2	T22 Imperf.	3	T17DB*	TC128	5, (10)	Dull Black
T31/T31X	3d	T22 Imperf.	8a	PR17	TC129	3, 5	Dull Black
T31/T31X		T22 Perf.	X	PR17	TC129/1	3	Dull Black
T33	5d	T22 Imperf.	3	PR18	TC130	5	Dull Black
T37 (tbc)	10d	T22Perf.	(1c), (2b)	PR19	(TC131)	(7)	Dull Black
	Actual examples shown on pages 32, 33 & 34.						
* Proof with a call back to the 17 February issue. () Use with printing trials to be validated.							
TC - Control & PR - Proof References used in this table follow Hibernian’s catalogue listings							

Dull black overprints occur as a result of printing trials undertaken by Thom, prior to the release of the second issue. The topic of printing trials requires more research to establish with certainty the printer's plates and overprint settings in use.

The following examples, which are shown in () in the table, are indicative in part only of further plate and setting combinations, which may be determined in the course of time, being :-

- T15 - 1½d stamp from plate 20a with control T22 imperforate and setting 3 (TC124).
- T15 - 1½d stamp from plate 25 with control T22 perforate and setting 3 (TC125).
- (T37) - 10d stamp from plate 1c & 2b with control S22 perforate and setting 7 (TC131/1).

HARRISON SHEET CONTROLS

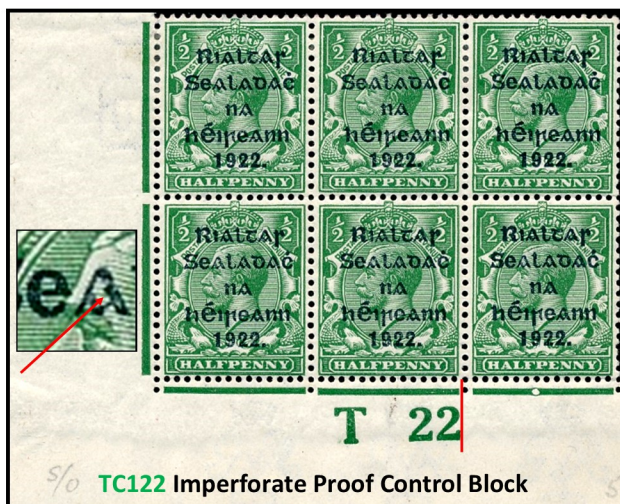
Control numerals identify the year sheets were printed - '22' for 1922 and the sequential warrant letters 'S', 'T' & 'U' indicate the period printings were made in that year :

S22 - 1 January to 30 April 1922.

T22 - 1 May to 31 August 1922. (in use with all recorded trial printings)

U22 - 1 September to 31 December 1922.

THOM PRINTING TRIALS - CONTROL BLOCK EXAMPLES



½d Green with Dull Black Overprint T25DB. Proof Reference PR15

Royal Mint Plate 72 Characteristics

R20/3 oval dot in base line under 'F P'.
Base line adjacent to stamp R20/1 raised, compared with level of stamp R20/2.

Harrison Control Characteristics

'T22' with slight upward slope from left to right.
Right edge of second '2' of '22' just beyond the adjacent jubilee line.

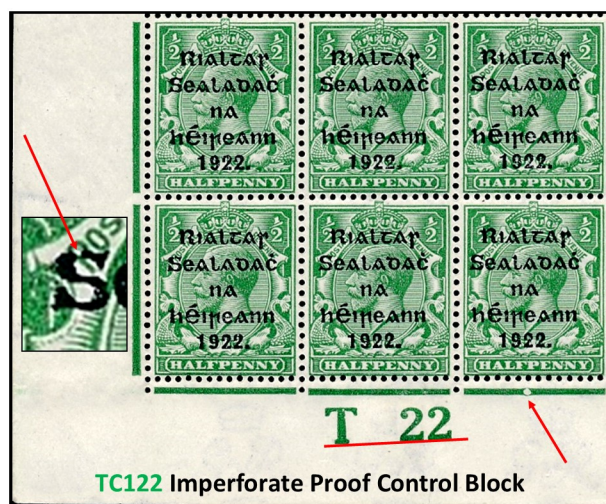
Top of 'T' to jubilee line 1.8mm.

Thom Overprint Setting 5 Characteristics

Dull black ink. Measurements R19 & R20/1,2,3
A 20.5mm, B 19.9mm, C 51.3mm.

Setting Variants

R19/2,3 'éi' over '1' of '1922.' R19/1 'i' over '1' of '1922.' R20/1 Small circular bulge in right leg of the first 'a' of 'Sealadac'.



½d Green with Dull Black Overprint T25DB. Proof Reference PR15

Royal Mint Plate 72 Characteristics

R20/3 oval dot in base line under 'F P'.

Base line adjacent to stamp R20/1 raised, compared with level of stamp in R20/2.

Harrison Control Characteristics

'T22' with slight upward slope from left to right.
Right edge of second '2' of '22' beyond the adjacent jubilee line. Top of 'T' to jubilee line 1.8mm.

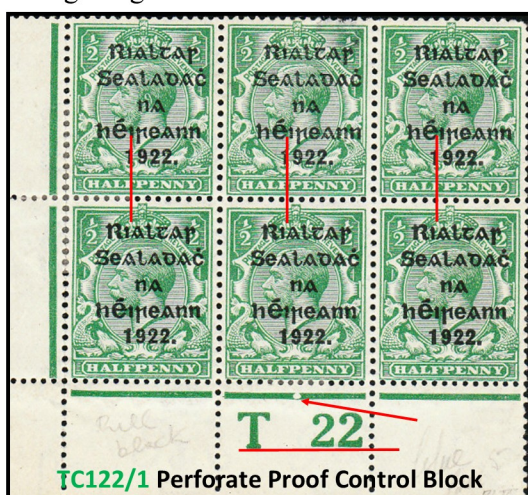
Thom Overprint Setting 7 Characteristics

Dull black ink. Measurements R19 & R20/1,2,3
A 19.8mm, B 19.8mm, C 50.6mm.

Setting Variants

R20/1 'Sealadac' with small white line flaw (nick) through top of 'S'.

Example from block of 16, see Appendix 5.



½d Green with Dull Black Overprint T25DB. Proof Reference PR15

Royal Mint Plate 75 Characteristics

R20/2 oval dot in base line under 'PE'.

Harrison Control Characteristics

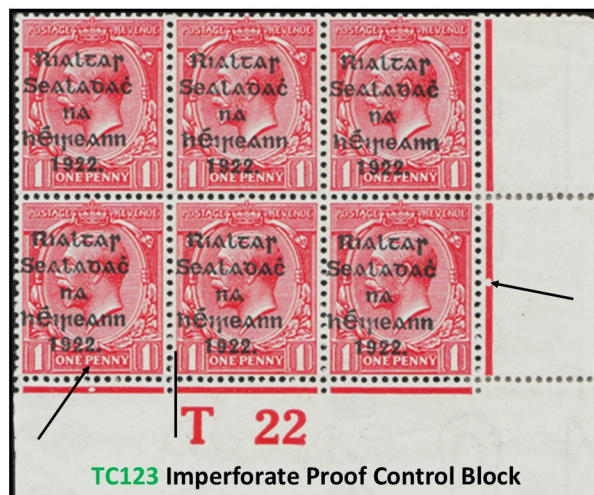
'T22' without flaws. Alignment of 'T' slightly lower than '22' & within confines of the adjacent jubilee line. Top of 'T' to jubilee line 1.8mm.

Thom Overprint Setting 5 Characteristics

Dull black ink. Measurements R19 & R20/1,2,3
A 20.5mm, B 19.9mm, C 51.3mm.

Setting Variants

R19/2,3 'éi' over '1' of '1922.' R19/1 'i' over '1' of '1922.' R20/1 Small circular bulge in right leg of the first 'a' of 'Sealadac'.



1d Scarlet with Dull Black Overprint T26DB. Proof Reference PR16

Royal Mint Plate 87b Characteristics

R20 dot breaking inner of right side rule.

R20/10 dot in jubilee line under 'PE'.

Harrison Control Characteristics

'T22' shift to the left, but within confines of adjacent jubilee line. Top of 'T' to jubilee line 2.0mm.

Thom Overprint Setting 5 Characteristics

Dull black ink. Measurements R19 & R20/10,11,12
A 19.8mm, B 19.8mm, C 50.6mm.

Setting Variants

R19/10 'i' over '1' of '1922.'

R19/11,12 'éi' over '1' of '1922.'



**1½d Chestnut Brown with Dull Black
Overprint T15DB. Proof Reference T15PR**

Royal Mint Plate U Characteristics

No jubilee line markings in control block.

Harrison Control Characteristics

Major shift of 'T22' to the left. Leading edge of first '2' cut back to the right.

Top of 'T' to jubilee line 3.1mm.

Thom Overprint Setting 9 Characteristics

Dull black ink. Measurements R19 & R20/1,2,3

A 20.5mm, B 19.7mm, C 51.0mm.

Setting Variants

R19/2 small hole in top of 'n' of 'héireann'.

R19/3 'o' of 'Sealadac' broken & with flaw in 'i' of 'héireann'. R20/1 vertical notch in the top of the 'R' in 'Rialtaí'.



**1½d Red Brown with Dull Black
Overprint T15DB. Proof Reference T15PR**

Royal Mint Plate 25 (tbc) Characteristics

No jubilee line markings in control block.

Harrison Control Characteristics

Control 'T22' just outside confines of adjacent jubilee line. 'T22' control without defect.

Top of 'T' to jubilee line 2.7mm.

Thom Overprint Setting 3 Characteristics

Dull black ink. Measurements R19 & R20/1,2,3

A 20.0mm, B 20.0mm, C 50.7mm.

Setting Variants

R19/2 'l' more to the right of 'n' in 'na'.

R19/3 '1' of '1922.' under 'i' of 'héireann'.

R20/1 'n' of 'héireann' broken.

R20/2 short '1' in '1922.', second '2' distorted & stop after '1922.' often deformed.



**1½d Red Brown with Dull Black
Overprint T15DB. Proof Reference T15PR**

Royal Mint Plate 12b Ptg. A Characteristics

R20 cuts left side rule at 5.5mm & 7mm.

Harrison Control Characteristics

Control well within confines of adjacent jubilee line. Blunted leading edge of first '2'. Jubilee line opposite 'T22' worn with convex indentation.

Top of 'T' to jubilee line 1.5mm

Thom Overprint Setting 3 Characteristics

Dull black ink. Measurements R19 & R20/1,2,3

A 20.0mm, B 20.0mm, C 50.7mm.

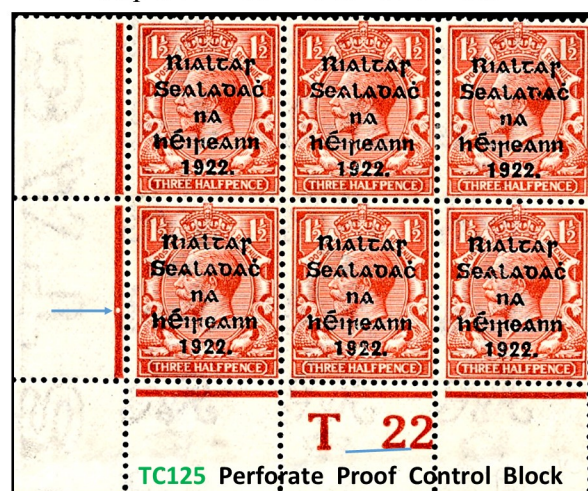
Setting Variants

R19/2 'l' more to the right of 'n' in 'na'.

R19/3 '1' of '1922.' under 'i' of 'héireann'.

R20/1 'n' of 'héireann' broken.

R20/2 short '1' in '1922.', second '2' distorted & stop after '1922.' often deformed.



**1½d Orange Brown with Dull Black
Overprint T15DB. Proof Reference T15PR**

Royal Mint Plate 35 Characteristics

R20 Small half dot left side rule at 9mm.

Harrison Control Characteristics

Control 'T22' in line with edge of adjacent jubilee line. 'T22' first '2' bump in base with slight anti-clockwise rotation. Top of 'T' to jubilee line 2.4mm

Thom Overprint Setting 9 Characteristics

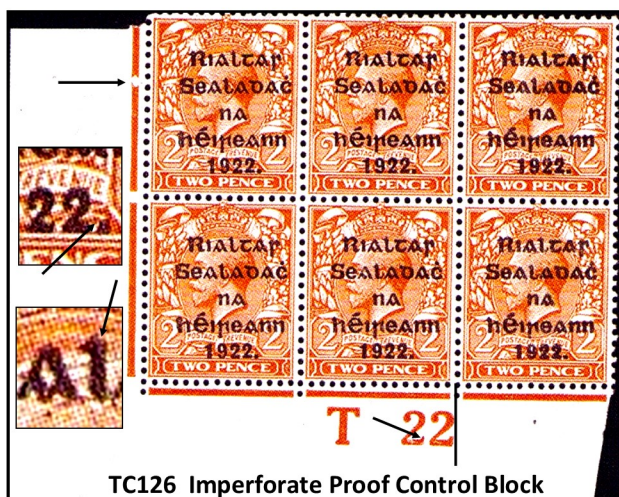
Dull black ink. Measurement R19 & R20/1,2,3

A 20.5mm, B 19.7mm, C 51.0mm.

Setting Variants (as TC124)

R19/2 small hole in top of 'n' of 'héireann'. R19/3 'o' of 'Sealadac' broken & with flaw in 'i' of 'héireann'. R20/1 vertical notch in the top of the 'R' in 'Rialtaí'.

For further information on Printer's Plates see Stanley Gibbons Four Kings Specialised Catalogue or the Author's book titled 'Irish Free State Plates, Controls & Overprint Settings'.



TC126 Imperforate Proof Control Block

2d Die 1 Orange with Black Overprint T16. Proof Reference T16PR

Royal Mint Plate 19b Characteristics

R19 Tall oval dot left side rule at 14.5mm.

Harrison Control Characteristics

Control shift to right beyond confines of adjacent jubilee line. Pointed serif in first '2' & base line thinned. 'T22' in line.

Top of 'T' to jubilee line 1.4mm.

Thom Overprint Setting 2a Characteristics

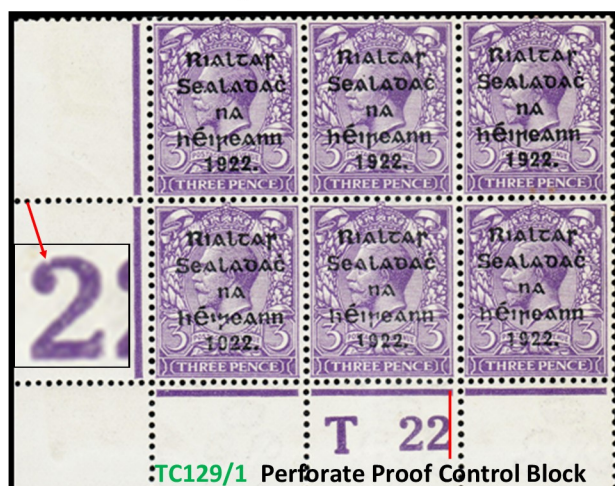
Black ink. Measurements R19 & R20/1,2,3

A 20.1mm, B 20.2mm, C 51.5mm.

Setting Variants

R19/3 'i' over '1' of '1922.'. R20/2 damaged dot in '1922.'. R20/3 top of 'l' in 'Rialta' with chip. R19 & 20/3 overprints heavy type compared with overprints from R19 & 20/1,2.

Imported scan.



TC129/1 Perforate Proof Control Block

3d Dull Violet with Dull Black Overprint T31X. Proof Reference PR17

Royal Mint Plate X Characteristics

No jubilee line markings in control block.

Harrison Control Characteristics

Nick in outer top curve first '2' of '22'. Control within confines of adjacent jubilee line.

Top of 'T' to jubilee line 3.0mm.

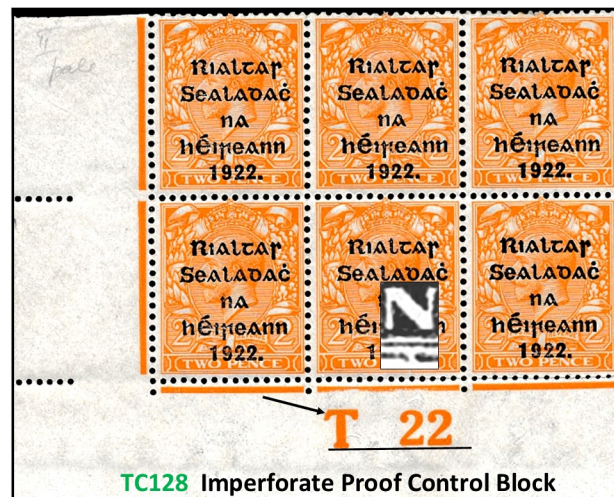
Thom Overprint Setting 3 Characteristics

Dull black ink. Measurements R19 & R20/1,2,3

A 20.0mm, B 20.0mm, C 50.7mm.

Setting Variants (as TC125 page 33)

R19/2 'l' more to the right of 'n' in 'na'. R19/3 '1' of '1922.' under 'i' of 'hEireann'. R20/1 'in' of 'hEireann' broken. R20/2 short '1' in '1922.', second '2' distorted & stop after '1922.' often deformed.



TC128 Imperforate Proof Control Block

2d Die 2 Orange with Dull Black Overprint T17DB. Proof Reference T17PR

Royal Mint Plate 3 Ptg. B Characteristics

R20/2 stamp, break in outer frame line under 'N' of 'PENCE' & jubilee line damaged. Low section of left side rule, adjacent R20 slightly tapered.

Harrison Control Characteristics

Control centrally positioned. Damage to left side of crossbar of 'T'. '22' raised above level of 'T'.

Top of 'T' to jubilee line 2.5mm.

Thom Overprint Setting 5 Characteristics

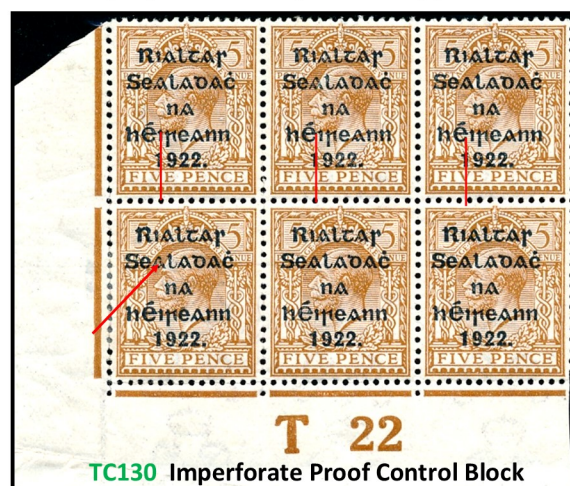
Dull black ink. Measurements R19 & R20/1,2,3

A 20.5mm, B 19.9mm, C 51.3mm.

Setting Variants (as TC122 page 32)

R19/2,3 'ei' over '1' of '1922.'. R19/1 'i' over '1' of '1922.'. R20/1 Small circular bulge in right leg of the first 'A' of 'Sealadae'.

Example from block of 30, see Appendix 5.



TC130 Imperforate Proof Control Block

5d Yellow Brown with Dull Black Overprint T33DB. Proof Reference PR18

Royal Mint Plate 3 Characteristics

No jubilee line markings in control block.

Harrison Control Characteristics

'T22' with slight upward slope from left to right. Right edge of second '2' of '22' just beyond the adjacent jubilee line.

Top of 'T' to jubilee line 1.8mm.

Thom Overprint Setting 5 Characteristics

Dull black ink. Measurements R19 & R20/1,2,3

A 20.5mm, B 19.9mm, C 51.3mm.

Setting Variants (as TC128)

R19/2,3 'ei' over '1' of '1922.'. R19/1 'i' over '1' of '1922.'. R20/1 Small circular bulge in right leg of the first 'A' of 'Sealadae'.

17-25 OCTOBER 1922
THOM HIGH VALUE ‘PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT’ OVERPRINTS

With the supply of Dollard high value overprints being low, Thom overprinted a new series in October 1922. These limited printings were shortly to be replaced by the ‘Free State’ issue in December 1922. As a result overprints from these interim printings, especially the 10s value are scarce.
For high value GB ‘Seahorse’ stamps, as shown in fig. 2a, Thom used a four line overprinted, see fig. 47.

Line Widths			Characteristics
	12.00mm		Overprint ink - blue black.
	14.50mm		Date with antique numerals.
	20.75mm		Narrower line width by 0.50mm of 1st & 2nd lines, compared with Dollard’s 17 February 1922 issue.
Overall height	6.50mm		
	13.50mm		

Fig. 47

OVERPRINT REFERENCE & ISSUE OVERVIEW

OVERPRINT STAMP REFERENCE	GB STAMP		THOM OVERPRINTS			
	FACE VALUE	BASIC COLOUR	STEREO SETTING	SHEETS PRINTED	OVERPRINT INK COLOUR	DATE OF ISSUE
T39	2/6	Sepia-brown	4 x 10	125 est.	Blue-black	17-25 October 1922
T40	5s	Rose-carmine	4 x 10	125 est.	Blue-black	
T41	10s	Dull Grey-blue	4 x 10	100 est.	Blue-black	

STEREO SETTINGS & VARIETIES

For this interim issue one 4 x 10 overprint setting, made up of 40 clichés was in use for all three values.
VARIETIES

- ‘R’ over ‘Se’ alignment variants occur twelve times in each sheet, in the following positions:
R1/3, R2/3, R3/2, R3/3, R4/3, R7/3, R8/1, R9/1, 2 & 3, R10/2 & 4.
Variety reference call back 2/6 - T39b, 5s - T40c & 10s - T41f.
- Short third line variants are commonly found in settings, measuring 20.50mm , as opposed to the normal width of 20.75mm. Variety reference call back 2/6 - T39c, 5s - T40e & 10s - T41g.
- Combination variants ‘R’ over ‘Se’ & short third line. Variety reference call back 2/6 - T39d, 5s - T40f & 10s - T41h.

THOM PRINTING TRIALS

REFERENCE	DISTINGUISHING FEATURES
PR20 (T40DB)	Dull Blue-Black (Process Black) overprint.
T40DBc	As PR20, but with ‘R’ over ‘Se’ alignment variant.
T40DBe	As PR20, but with short third line.
T40DBf	As PR20, but with ‘R’ over ‘Se’ & short third line.



27 NOVEMBER - 18 DECEMBER 1922

THOM LOW VALUE 'PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT' OVERPRINTS (WIDER SETTING)

A further supply of stamps were overprinted by Thom, due to shortages of some values.

These stamps are distinguishable by the wider line spacing, of the five line overprint.

The overprint layout, together with characteristics is shown in fig. 48.

Line widths	12.50mm		Characteristics Overprint ink - shiny blue-black. Date with block type numerals & full stop after '1922.'. Line widths longer than with July/November issue.
	15.50mm		
Overall height	3.50mm		
	14.00mm		
	16.0mm		
	6.75mm		

Fig. 48

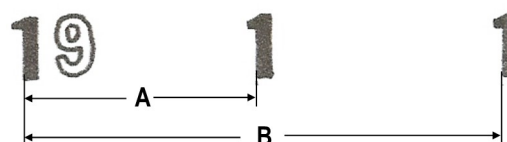
OVERPRINT REFERENCE & ISSUE OVERVIEW

OVERPRINT STAMP REFERENCE	GB STAMP		THOM OVERPRINTS			
	FACE VALUE	BASIC COLOUR	STEREO SETTINGS	SHEETS PRINTED	OVERPRINT INK COLOUR	DATE OF ISSUE (1922)
T42	½d	Green	1, 2	3,000	Shiny Blue-black	27 November
T43	1d	Scarlet	1, 2	1,000	Shiny Blue-black	12 December
T44	1½d	Red-brown	1, 2	2,500	Shiny Blue-black	18 December
T45	2d Die 2	Orange	1, 2	6,000	Shiny Blue-black	1 December
T46	1s	Bistre	1, 2	1,000	Shiny Blue-black	12 December

STEREO SETTINGS

Two overprint settings were in use for the 'wide' setting issue by Thom, with stereotypes being arranged in a 240 cliché master plate format, which was electrotyped.

STEREO SETTING	STAMP POSITIONS IN CONTROL BLOCK	MEASUREMENTS	
		A (mm)	B (mm)
1	R20/1,2,3	20.0	40.5
2	R20/1,2,3	20.5	40.7
T43 1d value - sheet control adjacent R20/11			
1	R20/10,11,12	20.0	40.5
2	R20/10,11,12	20.2	40.7



Setting 1 variants: R20/1 'c' in 'Sealadac' with pointed lower tip and frequently with a flat bottom. R20/10 & 12 left hand side of second '2' in '1922.' damaged or blunted.

Setting 2 R20/1 'c' in 'Sealadac' normal.

R20/10 & 12 second '2' in '1922.' undamaged.

THOM PRINTING TRIALS (OVERPRINT PROOFS ON GB ½d SHEETS)

½d Green with Dull Black Overprint T42DB.
Proof Reference PR21

(Overprint colour also known as 'Jet Black')

Royal Mint Plate 68 Characteristics

R20 dot inner left side rule at 11.5mm.

Harrison Control Characteristics

Control right shift, with edge of second '2' in line with the end of the adjacent jubilee line.
'U22' without flaws.

Top of 'U' to jubilee line 1.7mm.

Thom Overprint Wide Setting 1 Characteristics

Dull black ink. Measurements R20/1, 2, 3

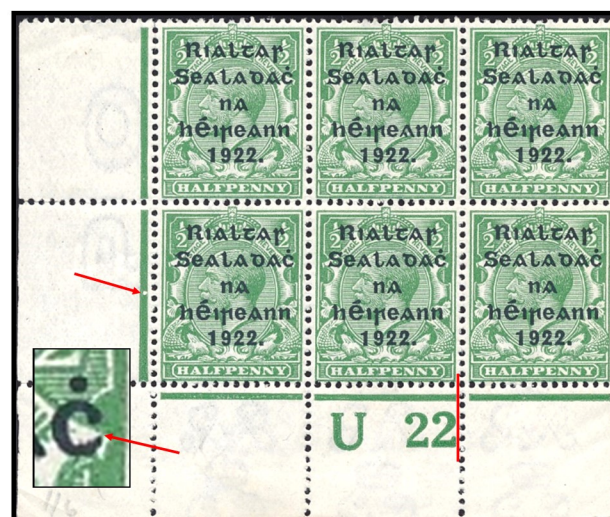
A 20.0mm, B 40.5mm

Setting Variants

R20/1 'c' of 'Sealadac' with pointed lower tip.

Thom Wide Settings

Minor variants and flaws are not listed.



TC132 Perforate Proof Control Block

UNCLASSIFIED ESSAYS

The four essays featured in this section, are of unknown origin, albeit they display a 5 - line ‘Provisional Government’ overprint and which are attributed to Alexander Thom ?

The form of the overprint and its characteristics are shown in fig. 47.

Line widths			Characteristics
	9.5mm		Essays are distinguishable by the dull grey-black overprint in lines 1 to 4 and with ‘1922’ in the fifth line being intense black. The overprint dimensions differ significantly to the sheet issues by Thom for Post Office use. No stop after ‘1922’ & ‘9’ taller than other numerals.
	12.0mm		
	3.0mm		
	11.7mm		
Overall height	5.0mm		
	16.5mm		

Fig. 47

The 1d, 2d Die 2 & 6d values shown below display a Royal cypher watermark, whilst the 1½d stamp displays the later block cypher watermark. Sheet stamps for Post Office use, with the ‘Provisional Government’ 5-line overprint were not issued for postal use beyond December 1922. The use therefore of the 1½d stamp GB stamps with a block cypher watermark, which were not printed by Waterlow & Sons until February 1924, raises doubt as to the genuineness of these essays. Interestingly the GB stamps featured emanate from three different printers, namely Harrison & Sons, Somerset House and Waterlow & Sons. The featured essays were acquired in 2008, at which time background information was provided and is set out below. However, at this point in time many questions remain unanswered ?

GB Stamp Detail

N16	N35	N20	N26
Harrison & Sons	Waterlow & Sons	Harrison & Sons	Somerset House
			
TUE 1	TUE 2	TUE 3	TUE 4
1d Scarlet	1½d Red-brown	2d Die 2 Orange	6d Reddish-purple
			
Royal Cypher	Block Cypher	Royal Cypher	Royal Cypher

Background

The Essays shown were acquired from a reputable dealer of Irish stamps in 2008 for €325. It was stated at the time that the status of these essays was unclear, there being a possibility that they were experimental printings released in error. Furthermore they originated from printing trials and were possibly for use as either Postal Stationery or Insurance Stamps. Perhaps in the course of time more information will be forthcoming, hopefully as a result of this entry.

INDEPENDENCE & THE POSTAL AUTHORITY

Background

Article 17 of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, dated 6 December 1921, called for the newly formed Irish Provisional Government to frame a constitution for Independence. The time frame was one year and the constitution was subject to the approval of both the Irish and British Parliaments.

The Irish Dail drafted the new constitution which was completed by 9 September 1922. On the first anniversary of the treaty signing, 6 December 1922, the framework for Independence was approved by both Parliaments, and the 'Irish Free State' was duly recognised.

At the outset, the Irish Authorities envisaged marking this change of status, with an issue of dedicated Irish definitive stamps to commemorate Independence. However, new definitive stamps were not issued on schedule. This was due to delays in finalising stamp designs, resulting in the non availability of printer's plates, coupled with the delayed installation of new printing and perforating machines by Wharfedale and Grover. It was also partly due to civil unrest in Southern Ireland.

As background the Irish Postal Authority in Dublin engaged the Royal Mint under the auspices of Somerset House, to produce master dies and printer's plates. Under the stewardship of De La Rue, watermarked mill papers were sourced from Wm. Joynson. De La Rue performed printing trials, in addition to overseeing the gumming and glazing of mill sheets by Samuel Jones, under contract to the Irish Postal Authority. Finally the printing inks were initially sourced from Slater & Palmer, possibly also under the auspices of De La Rue.

Against the backdrop of emerging independence, but with total dependence on Great Britain's suppliers and services an embarrassing situation developed as Thomas De La Rue of London also printed the first 2d 'Map of Ireland' definitive stamp. Limited sheets were made available on the 6 December 1922 and released to Post Offices located in close proximity to Dublin as a way to commemorate Ireland's Independence from Great Britain.

It is the author's opinion that the involvement of De La Rue with the initial print run resulted in a situation which was politically very sensitive and was therefore not officially chronicled. What has been recorded however, was that the 2d definitive stamp was re-issued by the Government Printing Works, Dublin Castle, in late December 1922, and together with the other low value stamps, was issued to Post Offices throughout Ireland, on divers dates throughout 1923.

As a direct result of the delay in releasing dedicated definitive stamps and with the obsolescence of the Provisional Government 'ῬΙΑΛΤΑῬ' overprints beyond the 6 December 1922, a new issue of overprints was commissioned. On the 5 December 1922 a new 3 line overprint bearing the inscription 'ΣΑΟΡΣΤΑΤ ἘΙΡΕΔΗ 1922' (Irish Free State 1922), was approved, by the Irish Postal Authority.

Thom was commissioned to overprint the twelve low values and the three high values, which they achieved in under a week. The low value 'ΣΑΟΡΣΤΑΤ' overprints remained in use until corresponding denominations of the Irish definitive stamps, were released during 1923. As for overprinted high value definitive stamps, see final paragraph of this overview.

Harrison, the printers of all low value GB sheet stamps, with the exception of the 6d value (printing by Somerset House), were commissioned to overprint four low values for use with coil dispensing machines, this new series was released in March 1923. Interestingly overprinted coil stamps remained in use by the Irish Postal Authority until 1933/34, depending on value. The reasons given were low demand and the specialist nature of making up coils from sheet stamps, for use with dispensing machines.

In connection with the three high value overprinted stamps, again as a result of low demand the Irish Postal Authority continued with their use, until September 1937, some 15 years after achieving Independence. Bradbury Wilkinson were the printers of high value GB stamps, being replaced in 1935 by Waterlow & Sons, with the release of a re-engraved series. With regards to overprinting, post 1925 the Irish Postal Authority contracted the overprinting of high value GB stamps to Somerset House and latterly to Harrison & Sons.

DECEMBER 1922 - JANUARY 1923

THOM LOW & HIGH VALUE 'IRISH FREE STATE' OVERPRINTS

With the formal recognition of the 'Irish Free State', the overprint was reworded to reflect this change of political status. The new tree line overprint was applied to both low and high value GB stamps, shown in figs. 2a & 3a. The exception to this being the 9d N30 olive-green stamp replacing the N29 agate stamp. In the lead up to this issue trial printings were undertaken, using dull black ink. Sheets from these trials were released for sale in parallel with the normal printings, which used blue-black overprint inks. The exception to this were 2½d, 4d & 9d values, where red inks were in use.

The features of the new overprint format and characteristics are shown in fig. 48.

Line widths		Characteristics
	15.00mm	Overprint inks - shiny blue-black or red (3 values).
	12.50mm	Foot of the '1' of '1922' squared.
Overprint height	6.00mm	Rounded top to the '9' of '1922'.
8.50mm		

Fig. 48

STEREO SETTINGS

For low values Thom made use of three different stereo formats, giving rise to five overprint settings.

SETTING 1 For this setting a 12 x 10 cliché arrangement was in use, enabling a complete sheet to be overprinted using two stereos, one for each pane.

SETTING 2 Used three 4 x 4 stereos, plus a makeup of six 4 x 3 part stereos, set in the lower section of each pane. This arrangement follows the same pattern was in use with Thom's 5 - line setting - see fig. 36.

SETTINGS 3, 4 & 5 These settings for the first time made use of a basic 10 x 6 stereo format, which required a 10 x 6 stereo, plus 10 x 4, 2 x 6 & 2 x 4 stereo segments to make up a pane setting - see fig. 49.

R11/1	R11/2	R11/3	R11/4	R11/5	R11/6	R11/7	R11/8	R11/9	R11/10	R11/11	R11/12
		SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922
R12/1	R12/2	R12/3	R12/4	R12/5	R12/6	R12/7	R12/8	R12/9	R12/10	R12/11	R12/12
		SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922
R13/1	R13/2	R13/3	R13/4	R13/5	R13/6	R13/7	R13/8	R13/9	R13/10	R13/11	R13/12
	2 x 6 Stereo	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	10 x 6 Stereo		SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922
R14/1	R14/2	R14/3	R14/4	R14/5	R14/6	R14/7	R14/8	R14/9	R14/10	R14/11	R14/12
		SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922
R15/1	R15/2	R15/3	R15/4	R15/5	R15/6	R15/7	R15/8	R15/9	R15/10	R15/11	R15/12
		SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922
R16/1	R16/2	R16/3	R16/4	R16/5	R16/6	R16/7	R16/8	R16/9	R16/10	R16/11	R16/12
		SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922	SAORSCÁT ÉIREANN 1922
R17/1	R17/2	R17/3	R17/4	R17/5	R17/6	R17/7	R17/8	R17/9	R17/10	R17/11	R17/12
R18/1	R18/2	R18/3	R18/4	R18/5	R18/6	R18/7	R18/8	R18/9	R18/10	R18/11	R18/12
	2 x 4 Stereo					10 x 4 Stereo					
R19/1	R19/2	R19/3	R19/4	R19/5	R19/6	R19/7	R19/8	R19/9	R19/10	R19/11	R19/12
R20/1	R20/2	R20/3	R20/4	R20/5	R20/6	R20/7	R20/8	R20/9	R20/10	R20/11	R20/12

Fig. 49 Lower pane layout comprising 10 x 6, 10 x 4, 2 x 6 & 2 x 4 stereos. Settings 3, 4 & 5.

Cliché /stamp positions for upper panes, with the same stereo arrangement are R1 to R10/1 to 12.

STEREO SETTINGS (High Values)

High value definitive stamps used the same overprint, as used for the low value stamps - see fig. 48.
A single setting was in use by Thom, made up of two identical 4 x 5 stereos, each with 20 clichés.

OVERPRINT REFERENCE & ISSUE OVERVIEW

OVERPRINT STAMP REFERENCE	GB STAMP		THOM OVERPRINTS		
	FACE VALUE	BASIC COLOUR	STEREO SETTINGS	OVERPRINT INK COLOUR	DATE OF ISSUE
T47	½d	Green	1,2,3,4,5	Shiny Blue-black	18 December 1922
T48	1d	Scarlet	1,2,3	Shiny Blue-black	16 December 1922
T49	1½d	Red-brown	1,2	Shiny Blue-black	21 December 1922
T50	2d Die 2	Orange	1,2	Shiny Blue-black	11 December 1922
T51	2½d	Blue	1,3	Red	6 January 1923
T52	3d	Violet	1,2	Shiny Blue-black	6 January 1923
T53	4d	Grey-green	1,3	Red	16 January 1923
T54	5d	Yellow-brown	2,3,5	Shiny Blue-black	29 December 1922
T55	6d	Reddish-purple	1,2,3,4,5	Shiny Blue-black	21 December 1922
T56	9d	Olive-green	1,2,3	Red	28 December 1922
T57	10d	Turquoise-blue	1,2,3	Shiny Blue-black	27 December 1922
T58	1s	Bistre-brown	1,2,3,4	Shiny Blue-black	21 December 1922
T59	2/6	Chocolate-brown	Two 4 x 5 Stereos	Shiny Blue-black	21 December 1922
T60	5s	Rose-carmine	Two 4 x 5 Stereos	Shiny Blue-black	28 December 1922
T61	10s	Dull Grey-blue	Two 4 x 5 Stereos	Shiny Blue-black	28 December 1922
T59, T60, T61 high value sheets overprinted by Thom, estimated at 8,840.					

STEREO SETTINGS - OVERPRINT VARIANTS

VARIANT REFERENCE	POSITION IN SHEET	OVERPRINT VARIANT DESCRIPTIONS
SETTING 1 (Stamps Overprinted T47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58)		
See below	R15/12	‘no accent’ or ‘accent’ inserted over second ‘Á’ & letter ‘Á’ flaws. ‡
V9h	R20/1	Second ‘2’ dropped & some printings show the ‘1’ to be slightly higher than the ‘9’ in ‘1922’. Frequently the ‘1’ from R20/1 is shorter than ‘1’ from R20/2.
UF9r	R20/2	Chip out of the first ‘τ’ of ‘ΣΔΘΡΣΤΔΤ’ common - see fig. 50.
UF9r	R20/11	‘1’ slightly lower than the ‘9’ in ‘1922’.
Several letter & accent variants arise from stereo position R15/12. To list these variants is beyond the scope of this publication. For details, please refer to the author’s Compendium - see note page 41.		

CONSTANT VARIANTS - SETTINGS 1 to 5 (R20/2).

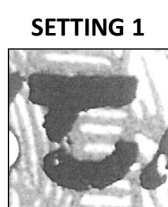


Fig. 50

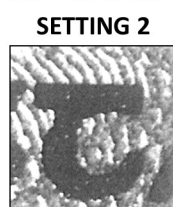


Fig. 51

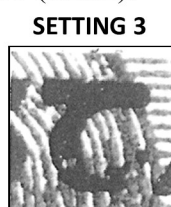


Fig. 52



Fig. 53



Fig. 54

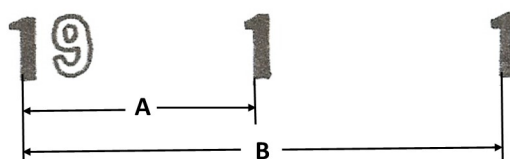
STEREO SETTINGS - OVERPRINT VARIANTS

VARIANT REFERENCE	POSITION IN SHEET	OVERPRINT VARIANT DESCRIPTIONS
SETTING 2 (Stamps Overprinted T47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58)		
See 'Note'	R7/10	'S' over 'é' on some printings. ‡
	R10/10	'S' over 'é' on some printings. ‡
UF9m	R20/1	Second '2' of '1922' raised.
UF9v	R20/1	Small circular defect in right leg of first 'A' of 'SAORSTÁT'. ‡
UF9m	R20/2	Second '2' of '1922' raised. ‡
Normal	R20/2	First 'c' of 'SAORSTÁT' normal, without damage - see fig. 51.
Normal	R20/11	'1' in '1922' in line with other numerals.
SETTING 3 (Stamps Overprinted T47, 48, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58)		
UF9v	R20/1	Small hole in second '2' of '1922'. ‡
UF9v	R20/2	Break in tip of the upward curve of first 'c' of 'SAORSTÁT'- see fig. 52.
-	R20/11	'9' in '1922' slightly lower than the '1'.
-	All	Overprint impressions usually more pronounced than with Settings 1 & 2.
SETTING 4 (Stamps Overprinted T47, 55,58)		
Normal	R20/1	Numerals in '1922' normal and in-line.
UF9v	R20/2	First 'c' of 'SAORSTÁT' larger & deformed, compared with normal - see fig.53.
SETTING 5 (Stamps Overprinted T47, 54, 55, 57)		
Normal	R20/1	Numerals in '1922' normal and in-line.
UF9v	R20/2	First 'c' of 'SAORSTÁT' usually split, near to its base - see fig.54. ‡
(‡ Listed flaw not consistent)		E&OE
Grey infill Pages 40,41	Used to highlight minor variants & flaws, from control strips, which include stamps from Row 20/1,2,3 and for the 1d value Row 20/10,11,12.	

With this issue overprint variants outside the parameters of control strips, are in general not listed. However in the case of control strips, some listings are included to help with the selection of the settings in use, for both regular issues and with printing trials.

OVERPRINT MEASUREMENTS (CONTROL BLOCKS)

STEREO SETTINGS	STAMP POSITIONS	MEASUREMENTS	
		A (mm)	B (mm)
1 & 2	R20/1,2,3	20.25	40.75
3	R20/1,2,3	20.25	42.50
4	R20/1,2,3	20.00	42.00
5	R20/1,2,3	20.00	43.00
T48 1d value - sheet control adjacent R20/11			
1	R20/10,11,12	20.00	40.60
2 & 3	R20/10,11,12	20.60	40.40



Note - For details of stamp and overprint errors and variants, please refer to the author's Compendium titled 'Overprinted Stamps of Ireland 1922 - 1935'.

THOM PRINTING TRIALS (OVERPRINT PROOFS ON GB SHEET STAMPS)

The proof listings in this section refer to trial print runs performed by Thom, prior to the overprinting of the ‘ΣΑΘΡΣΤΑϚ’ series, released by the Irish Postal Authority on divers dates from 11 December 1922 until 16 January 1923. It is evident that prior to the release of this particular issue, printing trials were undertaken by Thom, using dull black ink.

Dull black overprints are recorded with the ½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d, 3d, 5d, 6d & 10d low values, in conjunction with sheet controls T22, U22, V23 & W23.

Furthermore dull black overprints are recorded with all three values high value definitive stamps.

OVERPRINT STAMP & PROOF REFERENCES WITH GB SHEET & OVERPRINT DETAIL

OVERPRINT STAMP REFERENCE	BASIC STAMP VALUE	GB SHEET		THOM PRINTING TRIALS			
		SHEET CONTROL	PRINTERS PLATE	PROOF REFERENCE		STEREO SETTING	OVERPRINT INK COLOUR
				STAMP	CONTROL		
T47	½d	T22 Imperf.	(68)	PR22	TC181	4	Dull Black
T47		U22 Imperf.	73	PR22	TC182	1	Dull Black
T47		U23 Perf.	(66b)	PR22	TC183	4	Dull Black
T48	1d	T22 Imperf.	94	PR23	TC184	1	Dull Black
T48		T22 Perf.	106	PR23	TC185	1, (3)	Dull Black
T48		U23 Perf.	(91b), (93)	PR23	TC186	3	Dull Black
T49	1½d	T22 Imperf.	29/ Dulin V	PR24	TC187/1	1	Dull Black
T49		T22 Perf.	12b	PR24	TC187	1	Dull Black
T50	2d Die 2	T22 Imperf.	1	PR25	TC188	2	Dull Black
T50		T22 Perf.	5	PR25	TC188/1	2	Dull Black
T52	3d	U22 Imperf.	8b	PR26	TC189	2	Dull Black
T54	5d	T22 Perf.	4	PR27	TC190	2	Dull Black
T55	6d	U22 Imperf.	6	PR28	TC191	(1), 2	Dull Black
T55		U22 Imperf.	7	PR28	TC191/1	(1), 4	Dull Black
T55		V23 Imperf.	6	PR28	TC192	4	Dull Black
T57	10d	T22 (Perf.)	2b	PR29	TC193	2 tbc	Dull Black
	Actual examples - pages 43 & 44 () Use with printing trials to be validated.						
Equivalent Examples on pages 44,45,46 - Control, Plate & Setting correct, but with Blue-black ink.							
TC - Control & PR - Proof References used in this table follow Hibernian’s catalogue listings. Some listings for the ½d, 1d, 3d, 5d, 6d & 10d values are subjective, as Dull Black examples have not been examined by the author. Blue Black overprint examples are however shown, to display plate & overprint features. Printer’s Plates & Overprint Settings in brackets () are subject to validation. <i>Some entries in respect of sheet controls, printer’s plates & overprint settings, as they apply to printing trials by Thom, will benefit from further research.</i> E&OE							

HARRISON SHEET CONTROLS

Control numerals identify the year sheets were printed - ‘22’ for 1922 & ‘23’ for ‘1923’ and the sequential warrant letters ‘T’, ‘U’, ‘V’ & ‘W’ indicate the time frame printings were taken in that year.

T22 - 1 May to 31 August 1922.

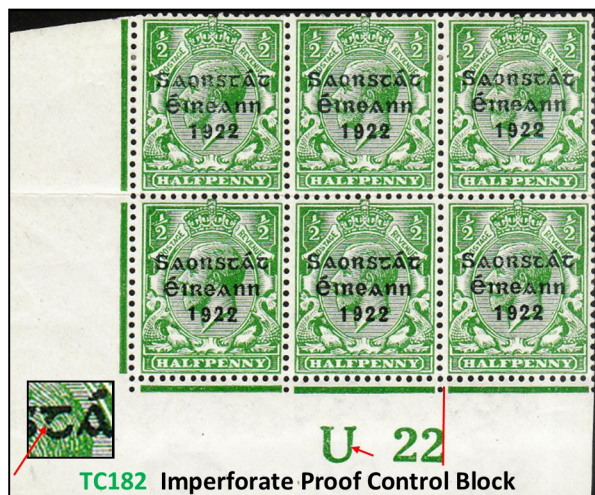
U22 - 1 September to 31 December 1922.

U23 - 1 January to 30 April 1923.

V23 - 1 May to 31 August 1923.

W23 - 1 September to 31 December 1923.

THOM PRINTING TRIALS - CONTROL BLOCK EXAMPLES



TC182 Imperforate Proof Control Block
1/2d Green with Dull Black Overprint T47DB.
Proof Reference PR22

Royal Mint Plate 73 Characteristics
 R20/1 small dot in base line under 'F P'.

Harrison Control Characteristics

'U22' with major shift right.

Nick in 'U' of right upright.

Top of 'U' to jubilee line 5.0mm.

Thom Overprint Setting 1 Characteristics

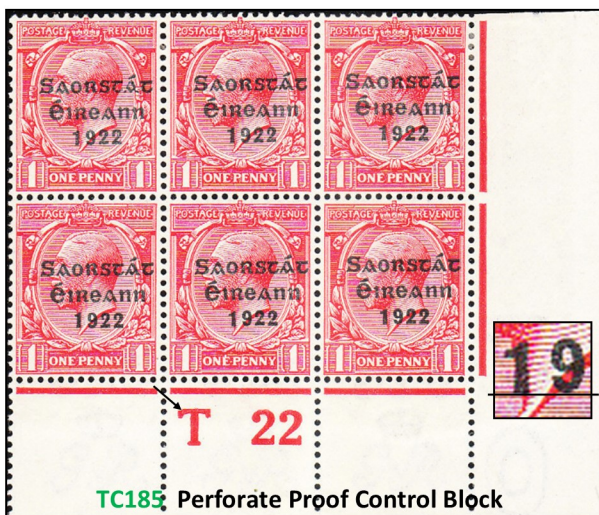
Dull black ink. Measurements R20/1,2,3

A 20.25mm, B 40.75mm.

Setting Variants

R20/1 Second '2' dropped, '1' slightly higher than '9' in '1922'. '1' from R20/1 shorter than '1' from R20/2.

R20/2 Chip out of first 't' of 'SAORSTÁT' (fig.50).



TC185 Perforate Proof Control Block
1d Scarlet with Dull Black Overprint T48DB.
Proof Reference PR23

Royal Mint Plate 106 Characteristics

No jubilee markings adjacent to stamps.

Harrison Control Characteristics Printing A
 Control 'T22' in line.

Serifs on crossbar of 'T' damaged & misshapen.

Top of 'T' to jubilee line 2.0mm.

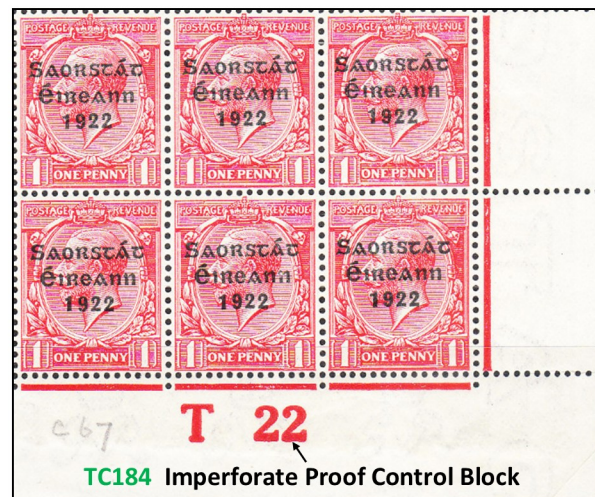
Thom Overprint Setting 1 Characteristics

Dull black ink. Measurements R20/10,11,12

A 20.00mm, B 40.60mm.

Setting Variants

R20/11 '1' slightly lower than '9' in '1922'.



TC184 Imperforate Proof Control Block
1d Scarlet with Dull Black Overprint T48DB.
Proof Reference PR23

Royal Mint Plate 94 Characteristics

No jubilee markings adjacent to stamps.

Harrison Control Characteristics

'T22' impression bold, in particular the '22'.

Second '2' with indent underside of base.

Top of 'T' to jubilee line 1.9mm.

Thom Overprint Setting 1 Characteristics

Dull black ink. Measurements R20/10,11,12

A 20.00mm, B 40.60mm.

Setting Variants

R20/11 '1' slightly lower than '9' in '1922'.

Example from a block of 18 - see Appendix 6.



TC187/1 Perforate Proof Control Block
1 1/2d Red-brown with Dull Black Overprint T49DB.
Proof Reference PR24

Royal Mint Plate 29 Characteristics

Row 20 left side jubilee line with bulge at top.

R20/1 jubilee line under 'REE HAL' thickens.

Harrison Control Characteristics Printing B

Leading edge of first '2' blunted & cut back.

Base of 'T' deformed with no spurs.

Top of 'T' to jubilee line 1.0mm.

Thom Overprint Setting 1 Characteristics

Dull black ink. Measurements R20/1,2,3.

A 20.25mm, B 40.75mm.

Setting Variants

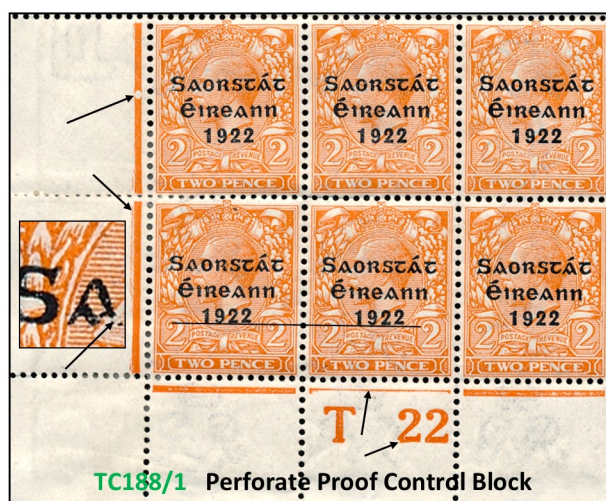
R20/1 Second '2' dropped, '1' slightly higher than '9' in '1922'. '1' from R20/1 shorter than '1' from R20/2.

R20/2 Chip out of first 't' of 'SAORSTÁT' (fig.50).

THOM PRINTING TRIALS - CONTROL BLOCK EXAMPLES



TC187 Perforate Proof Control Block



TC188/1 Perforate Proof Control Block

1 1/2d Red-brown with Dull Black Overprint T49DB. 2d Die 2 Orange with Dull Black Overprint T50DB. Proof Reference PR24 Proof Reference PR25

Royal Mint Plate 12b Characteristics

Row 20 Cuts in left side rule at 5.5 & 7mm.

Jubilee line convexly worn above 'T'.

Harrison Control Characteristics Printing C

Base of 'T' badly damaged.

With this print run first '2' of '22' has been replaced.

Top of 'T' to jubilee line 2.2mm.

Thom Overprint Setting 1 Characteristics

Dull black ink. Measurements R20/1,2,3.

A 20.25mm, B 40.75mm.

Setting Variants

R20/1 Second '2' dropped, '1' slightly higher than '9' in '1922'. '1' from R20/1 shorter than '1' from R20/2.

R20/2 Chip out of first 't' of 'SAORSTÁT' (fig.50).

Waterlow Plate 5 Characteristics

Row 19 Oval dot in left side rule at 12.5mm.

Row 20 Vertical hairline flaw by jubilee line.

R20/2 Underside of jubilee line badly worn.

Harrison Control Characteristics

Right serif at base of 'T' cut back.

Base of first '2' slopes upwards, from the left & leading edge damaged.

Top of 'T' to jubilee line 2.0mm.

Thom Overprint Setting 2 Characteristics

Dull black ink. Measurements R20/1,2,3.

A 20.25mm, B 40.75mm.

Setting Variants

R20/1 & R20/2 Second '2' of '1922' raised.

R20/1 Right leg of first 'A' of 'SAORSTÁT' damaged.

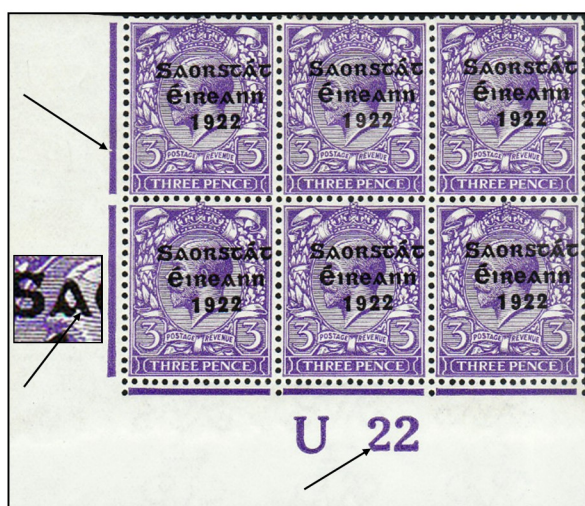
R20/2 first 't' in 'SAORSTÁT' undamaged, see fig. 51.

Example from block of 30 - see Appendix 6.

THOM EQUIVALENT CONTROL BLOCK EXAMPLES

The following examples for the 3d, 5d, 6d & 10d values are with blue-black ink overprint from the regular 'SAORSTÁT' issue. However, sheet controls, printer's plates and overprint settings are replicated with sheets from printing trials and which occur with dull black ink overprint impressions.

Equivalent control blocks are included, to simplify the identification of sheets arising from printing trials.



TC155 Imperforate Proof Control Block

3d Violet with Blue-Black Overprint T52.

Royal Mint Plate 8b Characteristics

Row 19 Nick in outer face of left side rule at 5.75mm.

Harrison Control Characteristics

Leading edge of first '2' of '22' with bevel cut.

Top of 'T' to jubilee line 2.8mm.

Thom Overprint Setting 2 Characteristics

Blue-black ink. Measurements R20/1,2,3.

A 20.25mm, B 40.75mm.

Setting Variants

R20/1 & R20/2 Second '2' raised.

R20/1 Right leg of 'A' in 'SAORSTÁT' undamaged. ‡

R20/2 first 't' in 'SAORSTÁT' undamaged (fig. 51).

REFERENCES

For Dull Black ink Control Block
Overprint T52DB. Proof PR26.
Proof Control Block TC189

THOM PRINTING TRIALS - CONTROL BLOCK EXAMPLES



TC162 Perforate Proof Control Block

6d Reddish-purple with Blue-black Overprint T55.

Royal Mint Plate 6 Characteristics

R20/1 Projection in base line under 'X' of 'SIX'.

Inland Revenue Stamping Department, Somerset

House Control Characteristics Printing A.

'U22' impression finer than found with printing B.

'22' raised above level of 'U'.

Dot in control lower level than first '2'.

Top of 'U' to jubilee line 1.7mm.

Thom Overprint Setting 2 Characteristics

Dull black ink. Measurements R20/1,2,3.

A 20.25mm, B 40.75mm.

Setting Variants

R20/1 & R20/2 Second '2' of '1922' raised.

R20/1 Right leg of first 'A' of 'SAORSTÁT' damaged.

R20/2 first 't' in 'SAORSTÁT' undamaged (fig. 51).

REFERENCES

For Dull Black ink Control Block

Overprint T55DB. Proof PR28.

Proof Control Block TC191.



TC171 Perforate Proof Control Block

HIGH VALUE PRINTING TRIALS

It appears probable that dull black overprints may also have been in use with the 2/6, 5s & 10s high value stamps. At this juncture the author is unable to validate that printing trials were undertaken, using dull black ink. However, if trial printings are confirmed, the stamp & proof references for each value can be:

2/6 - T59DB/PR30, 5s - T60DB / PR31, 10s - T61DB/PR32.

5d Yellow-brown with Blue-black Overprint T54.

Royal Mint Plate 4 Characteristics

No jubilee markings adjacent to stamps.

Harrison Control Characteristics

Control 'T22' shift to the right.

First '2' of '22' with nick in outer of upper curve.

Top of 'T' to jubilee line 3.0mm.

Thom Overprint Setting 2 Characteristics

Dull black ink. Measurements R20/1,2,3.

A 20.25mm, B 40.75mm.

Setting Variants

R20/1 & R20/2 Second '2' of '1922' raised.

R20/1 Right leg of first 'A' of 'SAORSTÁT' damaged.

R20/2 first 't' in 'SAORSTÁT' undamaged (fig.51).

REFERENCES

For Dull Black ink Control Block

Overprint T54DB. Proof PR27.

Proof Control Block TC190.



TC164 Imperforate Proof Control Block

10d Turquoise-blue with Blue-black Overprint T57.

Waterlow Plate 2b Characteristics

R20/1 Large dot in base line under 'PE'.

Harrison Control Characteristics

(Harrison provisional printing)

Control just within the confines of adjacent jubilee line.

Leading edge of first '2' of '22' cut back.

Top of 'T' to jubilee line 1.5mm.

Thom Overprint Setting 2 Characteristics

Dull black ink. Measurements R20/1,2,3.

A 20.25mm, B 40.75mm.

Setting Variants

R20/1 & R20/2 Second '2' of '1922' raised.

R20/1 Right leg of first 'A' of 'SAORSTÁT' damaged.

R20/2 first 't' in 'SAORSTÁT' undamaged (fig. 51).

REFERENCES

For Dull Black ink Control Block

Overprint T57DB. Proof PR29.

Proof Control Block TC193.

7 MARCH 1923

HARRISON 'IRISH FREE STATE' COIL OVERPRINTS

This series is the second of the two Harrison overprint coil issues. This particular issue being required to acknowledge Ireland's independence. As with the first issue of June to August 1922, no proofs are recorded from this issue.

Information in this section is included for completeness, in respect of low value overprints in use during the transitional period. Interestingly overprinted coil stamps remained in use, beyond the issue of the first Irish definitive stamps, the last production run recorded, being in January 1924. However as no Irish coil stamps were then available until April 1933 for the 1d value and for the ½d & 2d values until November 1934 and September 1934 respectively, it is therefore assumed that for several years, commercial users had no access to coil stamps?

For this issue Harrison adopted a three line overprint as shown in fig. 55.

Line widths			Characteristics Overprint inks - initially dull black moving to shiny blue-black. Harrison overprints can be differentiated from the Thom printings by the bolder characters, the raised second 'e' of 'ÉIREANN' and the rounded foot to the '1' of '1922'.
	15.00mm		
	12.50mm		
	6.00mm		
Overprint height		9.00mm	

Fig. 55

OVERPRINT REFERENCE, STAMPS OVERPRINTED FOR USE IN ROLLS

OVERPRINT STAMP REFERENCE	GB STAMP		COILS WITH HARRISON OVERPRINTS		
	FACE VALUE	BASIC COLOUR	COILS ISSUED	OVERPRINT INK COLOUR	DATES OF ISSUE
T62	½d	Green	552	Dull black onto Shiny blue black	First batch 7 March 1923
T63	1d	Scarlet	300	Dull black onto Shiny gloss black	
T64	1½d	Red-brown	48	Dull black onto Shiny gloss black	Last batch January 1934
T65	2d Die 2	Orange	300	Dull black onto Shiny gloss black	



T62 Leader Control Tab CT16/LT - P £1. 0. 2 - Coil Delivery Mode Horizontal (left)



T62 Coil End CT17/CE - Coil Delivery Mode Vertical (top)

For more information refer to author's Compendium titled 'Overprinted Stamps of Ireland 1922-1935'

HIGH VALUE OVERPRINTED STAMPS

Beyond the Thom 'SAORSTÁT' issue, high value 'Seahorse' stamps remained in postal use in Ireland until September 1937. From August 1925 through to September 1937 four overprint issues were released, featuring two printers of the 'Seahorse' stamps, namely Bradbury Wilkinson, followed by Waterlow & Sons. With respect to the overprinting of these high value stamps the Government Printing Works, Dublin contracted overprinting to Somerset House. An exception to this being, that for a brief period in 1935, when Harrison & Sons undertook the overprinting contract.

High value stamps from 1925 through to 1937, are not known to have been used for overprint ink trials.

DOLLARD 'BLUE' OVERPRINT PROOF APPROVED BY THE G.P.O.

Barry Cousins

In the lead up to Ireland's transition to Free State status, under the terms of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, the Dollard Printing House was awarded a contract to overprint stamps of Great Britain, for postal use by the Provisional Irish Government.

Dollard in turn sub-contracted part of their contract to Alex. Thom & Co. Ltd. This action was taken due to the tight time schedules¹, coupled with the availability of production capacity at the respective printers' facilities. Messrs Dollard Ltd., as lead contractor, were responsible for the submission of overprint proofs to the new postal authority and meeting the contractual demands of the G.P.O. Both Dollard & Thom were Dublin based printing firms.

The first overprint proof by Dollard was printed using a dark blue ink on thin whitish paper. In philatelic circles this proof is referred to as PR1.

These proofs were submitted in a part sheet format (assumption subject to validation). The printing was taken from four adjacent 3 x 5 (15 cliché) stereotypes, from overprintforme - setting 1. As a result, this part sheet, which was submitted for approval, was made up of five rows (R1 to R5), each row having twelve proofs (PF1 to PF12). A copy of the top two complete rows, is shown in fig. 1.

These two rows were subsequently sub-divided into two parts. The left-hand side consisted of proofs PF1

¹It should be noted that there was insufficient time to design and print dedicated stamps for use in Ireland before the commencement of the 'transitional period', on the 17th February 1922.

to PF6 from R1 & R2, whilst the right-hand side consisted of proofs PF7 to PF12 from R1 & R2.

The point of separation is shown by the red outline from fig. 1 and which is reproduced in fig. 2.

The right-hand part showing twelve proofs is now in the hands of the author, as is a single example with certificate, from R2/PF4, this proof position is outlined in red, see fig. 1

It is noteworthy that there is a hand-written notation on the proof block as follows: 'Approved by W. N. Jefferies, 10/2/22' and stamped 'STORES DEPT., G.P.O., ALDBOROUGH HOUSE, DUBLIN'.

It is considered most likely that the eleven unaccounted for proofs from positions PF1 to PF6, rows R1 & R2 were also split up. However this assumption cannot be confirmed, at this juncture.

As for the remaining proofs from rows R3, R4 & R5, it appears from a hand-written statement dated 27/2/23 that they were returned to Dollard.

However it is on record that a block of four blue proofs from setting 1, were sold at auction as recently as May 2019. Proofs from this particular block are back-stamped 'ORIGINAL PROOF DOLLARD 17.2.22' and initialed 'BJB' (B. J. Brennan, Dollard's Plant Manager).

These back-stamped proofs are thought to emanate from the same part sheet, which was returned to Dollard. From the author's standpoint, but subject to correction, this block is presently the only known example.

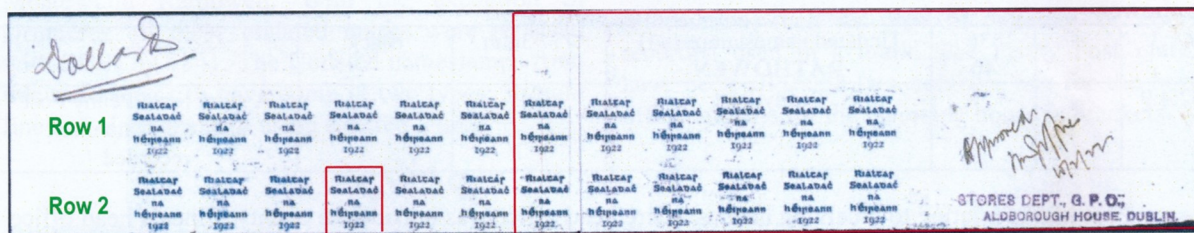


fig 1

PF1 PF2 PF3 PF4 PF5 PF6 PF7 PF8 PF9 PF10 PF11 PF12

N.T.S.

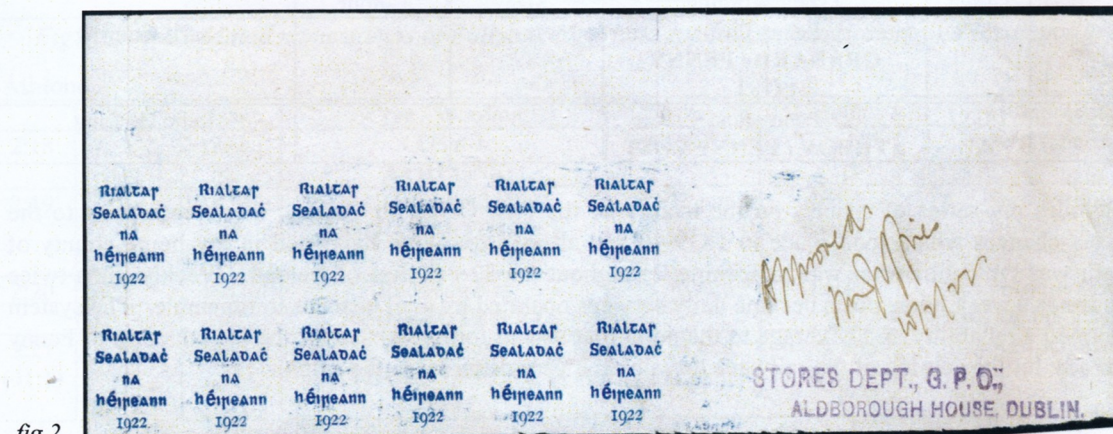


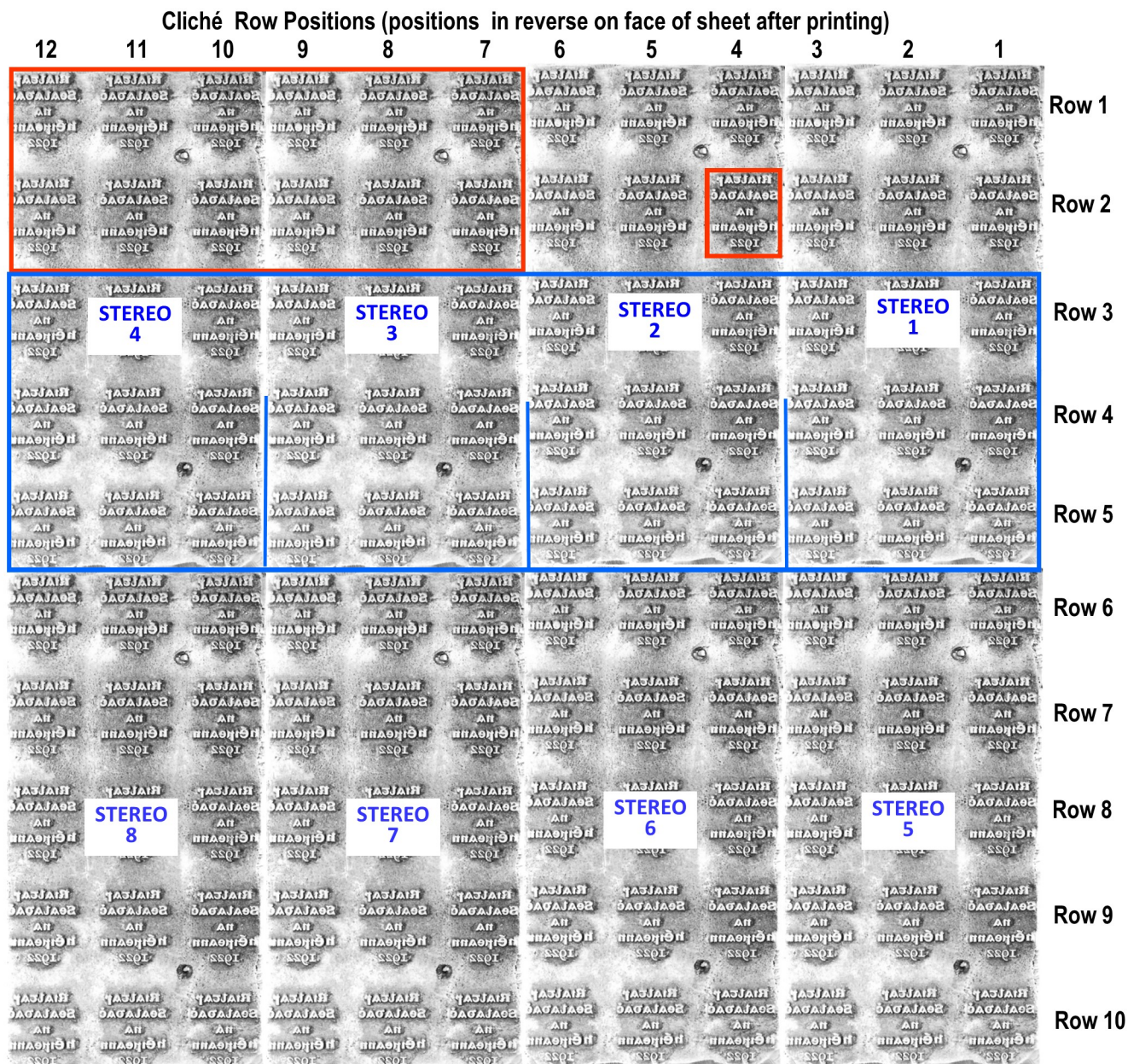
fig.2

PR1 x 12

APPENDIX 1

DOLLARD IMPERFORATE BLUE PROOFS - PR1 & PR1a

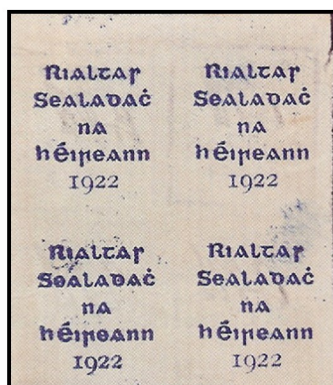
Upper Pane made up of eight 5x3 stereos from Setting 1



PR1 x 24 - proofs from upper pane Rows 1 & 2, Stamps 12 to 1.

(PR1 x 12 rare proof block & single example outlined in Red, in author's collection)

Proofs with Blue outline, Rows 3 to 5, Stamps 12 to 1, are thought to have been retained by Dollard. Subject to validation these proofs were back-stamped by B. J. Brennan, Plant Manager of the Dollard Printing House and are listed by Philatelists as PR1a proofs - see example below.



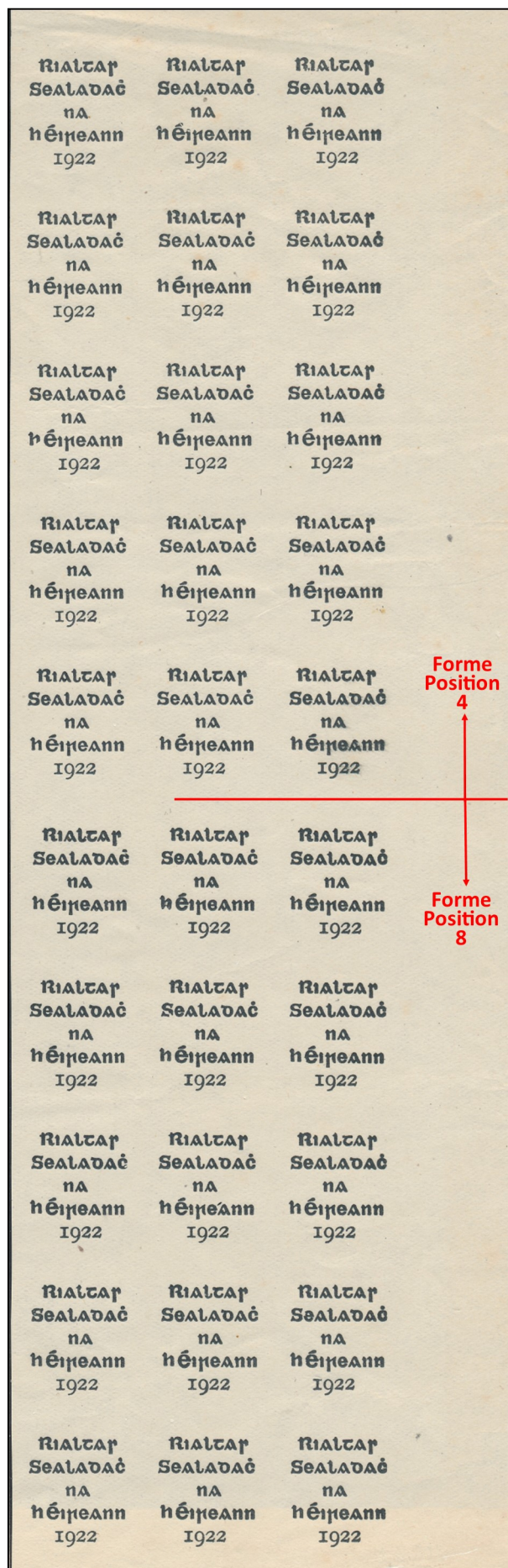
PR1a



PR1a block sold for €6,900 in McDonnell Whyte Auction in December 2009

APPENDIX 2

DOLLARD IMPERFORATE PROOF BLOCK



PR2 - proof block, black ink overprint, thin whitish paper, with no backstamp.

Thirty clichés from two complete and identical 3 x 5 setting 2 stereos, from forme positions 4 & 8.

STEREO SETTING 2

(varieties repeated on each stereo)

V1j G		V1h A + I
V1k B	V1a A	
		V1c A + C
	V1a A	V1f A + D + E
V1m E	V1l B + E	V1d A + C/D

REF.	KEY	OVERPRINT VARIANT DESCRIPTION
V1a	A	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A'.
V1c	A + C	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'l' over right shank of 'n' in 'na'.
V1d	A C/D	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'l' over right shank of 'n' & centre of 'na'.
V1f	A D + E	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'l' centred over 'na' & 'é' over '1' in '1922'.
V1h	A + I	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'c' in 'Sealadaí' slightly raised.
V1j	G	Diagonal cut to upright of 'R' in 'Rialtaí' and first leg of 'n' of 'na'.
V1k	B	'l' over left shank of 'n' of 'na'.
V1l	B + E	'l' over left shank of 'n' of 'na' & 'é' over '1' in '1922'.
V1m	E	'é' over '1' in '1922'.

APPENDIX 2

DOLLARD IMPERFORATE PROOF BLOCKS

STEREO SETTING 2

V1j G		V1h A + I
V1k B	V1a A	
		V1c A + C
	V1a A	V1f A + D + E
V1m E	V1l B + E	V1d A + C/D

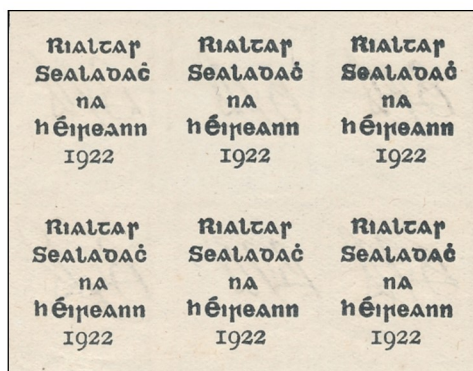
Dollard
Type 1
Backstamp



STEREO SETTING 3

V1g A + H	V1a A	V1i A + J
V1k B	V1a A	V1l B + E
V1n C + F		
	V1b A + B	V1f A + D + E
V1e A + E	V1l B + E	V1d A + C/D

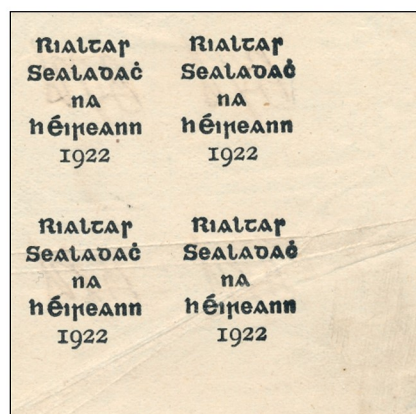
PR2a - proof block , black ink overprint, thin whitish paper, with Type 1 backstamp.



SETTING 2 CLICHÉ VARIETIES

REF.	ALPHA KEY	OVERPRINT VARIANT DESCRIPTION
V1a	A	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A'.
V1h	A + I	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'é' in 'Sealadaí' slightly raised.
V1j	G	Diagonal cut to upright of 'R' in 'Rialtaí' and first leg of 'n' of 'na'.
V1k	B	'L' over left shank of 'n' of 'na'.

PR2a - proof block , black ink overprint, thin whitish paper, with Type 1 backstamp.



SETTING 3 CLICHÉ VARIETIES

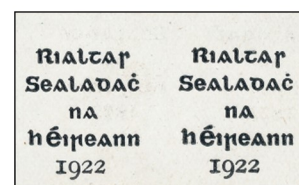
REF.	ALPHA KEY	OVERPRINT VARIANT DESCRIPTION
V1b	A + B	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'L' over left shank of 'n' of 'na'.
V1d	A + C/D	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'L' over right shank of 'n' & centre of 'na'.
V1f	A + D + E	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'L' centred over 'na' & 'é' over '1' in '1922'.
V1l	B + E	'L' over left shank of 'n' of 'na' & 'é' over '1' in '1922'.

APPENDIX 2

DOLLARD IMPERFORATE PROOFS

Pair acquired as PR4, Setting 1, with no backstamp on medium white paper, per description from Roy Hamilton-Bowen.

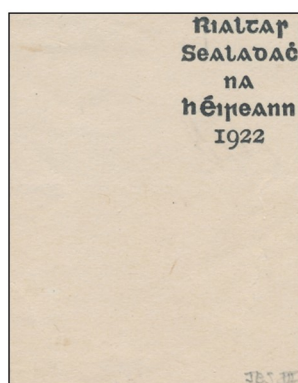
Also mentioned 'although of good quality this paper is quite different to reproductions taken from the Freeman Handbook'. From author's standpoint this example shows 'éi' of 'héipeann' vertically over the '1' in '1922', which is not consistent with Setting 1 alignments. A mystery to be solved ?



PR4

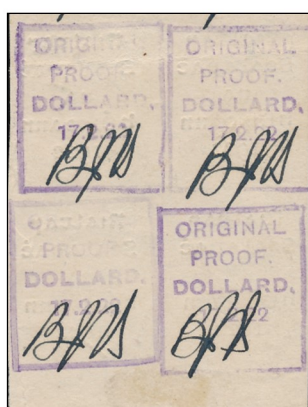
Examples below are all taken from Setting 1 stereos. With Setting 1 the clichés were accurately set, giving rise to constant alignment characteristics, which are considered to be the norm -

- a) no 'R' over 'Se' variants.
- b) 'l' of 'Sealadac' is vertically over the 'n' of 'na'.
- c) 'i' of 'héipeann' is vertically over the '1' in '1922'.



PR4a

Positional example from R20/1.
Stereo Setting 1. Whitish paper
Type 2 backstamp.



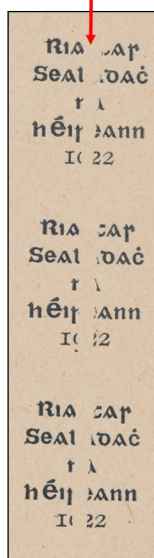
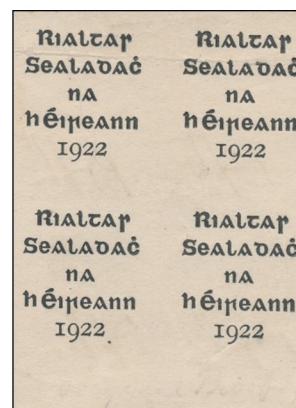
PR5

Proofs from defaced type block
Stereo Setting 1. Whitish paper
No backstamp

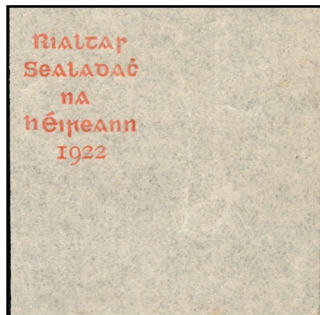
PR4a

Block

Stereo Setting 1. Whitish paper
Type 2 backstamp.



APPENDIX 3 DOLLARD IMPERFORATE PROOFS



PR6

Dollard Positional Proof
Stereo Setting 2
Overprint impression pale red.
No backstamp
Setting Variant V2d.

STEREO SETTING 2

SETTING 2 CLICHÉ VARIETIES		
REF.	ALPHA KEY	OVERPRINT VARIANT DESCRIPTION
V2a	A	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A'.
V2c	A + C	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'l' over right shank of 'n' in 'na'.
V2d	A+C/D	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'l' over right shank of 'n' & centre of 'na'.
V2f	A+D+E	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'l' centred over 'na' & 'éi' over '1' in '1922'.
V2h	A + I	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'c' in 'Sealadac' slightly raised.
V2j	G	Diagonal cut to upright of 'R' in 'Rialtaí' and first leg of 'n' of 'na'.
V2k	B	'l' over left shank of 'n' of 'na'.

V2j		V2h	V2j	
G		A + I	G	
V2k	V2a		V2k	V2a
B	A		B	A
		V2c		
		A + C		
	V2a	V2f		V2a
	A	A + D + E		A
V2m	V2l	V2d	V2m	V2l
E	B + E	A + C/D	E	B + E

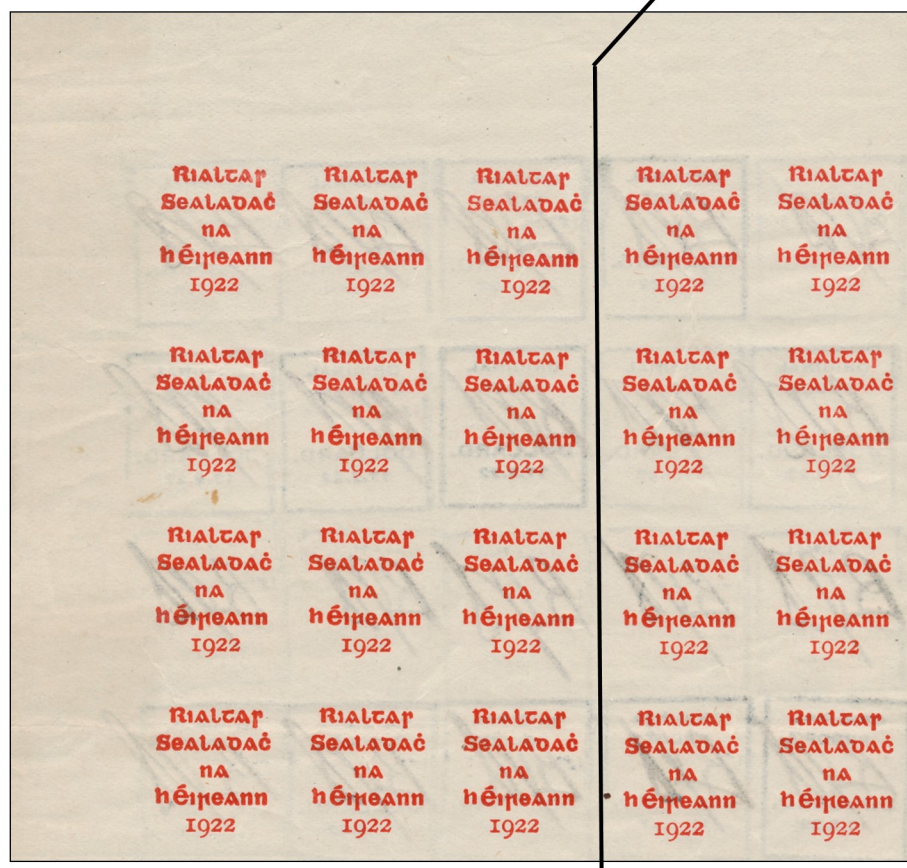
PR6a

Positional block of 20 proofs
Rows 1, 2, 3, 4, Columns 1 to 5.

Stereo Setting 2.
Backstamp Type 1.

Stereo alignment variants.
where applicable, are
highlighted grey in the
schematic.

Block ex-collection D. Brennan.



APPENDIX 3

DOLLARD IMPERFORATE PROOF BLOCK

1922 COMBINATION SETTINGS

Combination settings made use of four Setting 1 and four Setting 3 stereos, for each pane - see fig. 24. This combination arrangement was in use by Dollard, with Setting 2 stereos, for the overprinting of the 2½d, 4d & 9d values, using red ink and which were released by the Postal Authority on the 1 April 1922.

The block example shown is made up of three complete 3 x 5 stereos (45 clichés). This proof block used thin whitish paper, with Type 2 backstamps, on the back of the overprint impressions.

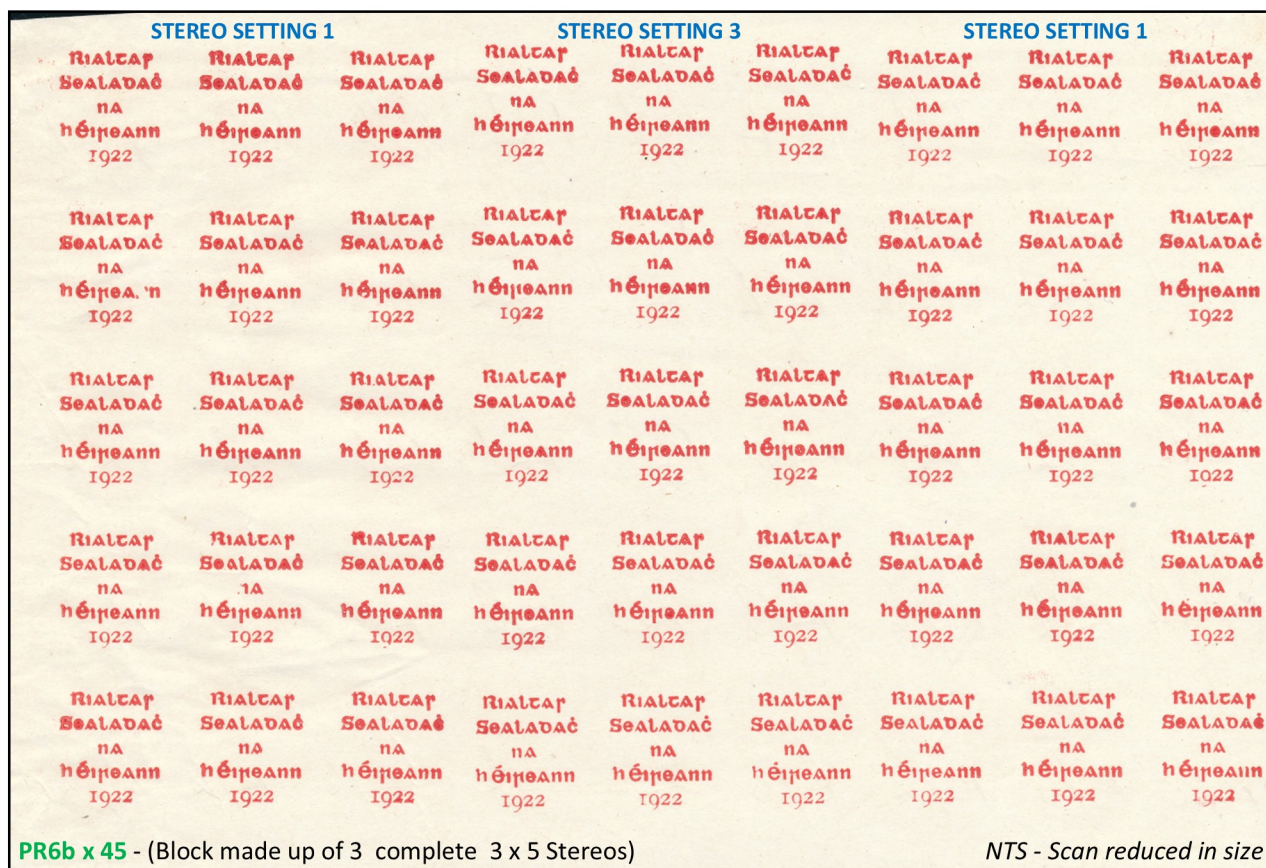
In July 1922 Thom became the sole overprinter, making use of Dollard's Setting 2 stereos.

A - SETTING 1

B - SETTING 3

C - SETTING 1

			V2j G		V2h A + I			
			V2k B	V2a A				
					V2c A + C			UF2q
				V2a A	V2f A + D + E			F2m
		F2o	V2m E	V2l B + E	V2d A + C/D			F2o



REF.	ALPHA	CONSTANT STEREO SETTING 3 VARIANTS
V2a	A	R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A'.
V2b	A + B	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'l' over left shank of 'n' of 'na'.
V2d	A + C/D	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'l' over right shank of 'n' & centre of 'na'.
V2e	A + E	R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'é' over '1'.
V2f	A + D + E	R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A', 'l' centred over 'na' & 'é' over '1' in '1922'.
V2g	A + H	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & mitre cuts to upright of 'R' & first leg of 'n' of 'na'.
V2i	A + J	R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'c' in 'Sealadaí' raised.
V2k	B	'l' over left shank of 'n' of 'na'.

REF.	ALPHA	CONSTANT STEREO SETTING 3 VARIANTS
V2l	B + E	‘l’ over left shank of ‘n’ of ‘hA’ & ‘éi’ over ‘1’.
V2n	C + F	‘l’ over right shank of ‘n’ of ‘hA’ & ‘in’ of ‘h����������’ over ‘1’ in ‘1922’.
REF.	STEREO SETTING 1 FLAWS	
F2m	Aspirate over ‘e’ in ‘h����������’ - Setting 1 stereo C. ‡	
F2o	Blotted ‘c’ of ‘������������’ - Setting 1 stereos A & C. ‡	
UF2q	Split ‘9’ in ‘1922’ - Setting 1 stereo C. ‡	
(‡ Listed flaw not constant)		
OAP	Setting 3 stereo raised, giving ten adjacent out of alignment pairs between stereos A & B and B & C.	

For further details of variants & flaws, please refer to the author's Compendium titled - 'Overprinted Stamps of Ireland 1922 - 1935'

APPENDIX 3

DOLLARD IMPERFORATE PROOF BLOCK



Type 2
Backstamp

PR 7 x 16

Marginal block made up of 4 part Stereos from Setting 2
Thin buff paper & Type 2 backstamp

CLICHÉ LAYOUT

ROW IN STEREO	3		V2c A + C	
	4	V2a A	V2f A+D+E	
	5	V2m E	V2l B + E	V2d A + C/D
	1	V2j G	V2h A + I	V2j G

Parts of four Setting 2 Stereos

SETTING 2 CLICHÉ VARIETIES

REF.	ALPHA KEY	OVERPRINT VARIANT DESCRIPTION
V2a	A	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A'.
V2c	A + C	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'l' over right shank of 'n' in 'na'.
V2d	A+C/D	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'l' over right shank of 'n' & centre of 'na'.
V2f	A+D+E	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'l' centred over 'na' & 'é' over '1' in '1922'.
V2h	A + I	'R' over 'Se' / 'r' over 'A' & 'c' in 'Sealadaí' slightly raised.
V2j	G	Diagonal cut to upright of 'R' in 'Rialtaí' and first leg of 'n' of 'na'.
V2l	B + E	'l' over left shank of 'n' of 'na'.
V2m	E	'é' over '1' in '1922'.
OAP		Four out of alignment horizontal pairs from adjacent stereos.

APPENDIX 4
THOM STEREO SUB-SETTINGS

Overprint Setting 1a

Row 20/2



Row 20/3



Rows 20/2 and 20/3

Right side of '1' in '1922.' almost under centre of the 'i' in 'hÉiréann'.

Full stop after '1922.' closer to the date than in Setting 1b.

Overprint Setting 1b

Row 20/2



Row 20/3



Rows 20/2 and 20/3

Right side of '1' in '1922.' slightly to the left of the 'i' in 'hÉiréann'.

Full stop after '1922.' is wider spaced than with Setting 1a.

Row 20/2

Thinned second '2' in '1922.' (≠ not constant).

Settings 1a and 1b features only apply to overprinted stamps T16 from the Thom issue, of the 17 February 1922 - see page 18.

Overprint Setting 2a

Row 20/2



Row 20/2

Triangular (angled) full stop after '1922.'.

Overprint Setting 2b

Row 20/2



Row 20/2

Full stop after '1922.' undamaged.

Settings 2a and 2b features apply to overprinted stamps T17 & T29 from the Thom issue of the 17 February 1922 & the later issue of the 7 July to 6 November 1922 - see pages 19 & 26.

APPENDIX 4

THOM OVERPRINT ALIGNMENT VARIETIES

With the Thom stereo settings it is recognised that alignment varieties occur, between rows, namely -

a) movement of the second line, giving rise to *R/e*, *R/Se* and *R/S* variants.

b) movement of the fourth line, giving rise to *ι/1*, *εί/1* and *εί/19* variants.

In this publication *R/Se*(1), *ι/1* & *εί/1* are taken as normal alignments.

Secondly the variants listed with the Thom settings are generally made up of variant combinations, which can also include the relative positioning of 'ι' over 'ηα', from the second and third rows.

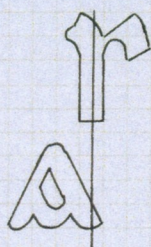
However, setting variant listings, in this publication, do take account of 'εί' over '1' variants, if they occur in control blocks made up of stamps from rows 19 & 20 stamps 1, 2, 3 & stamps 10, 11, 12, if the 1d stamp was overprinted.

R/e R/Se and R/S Varieties.

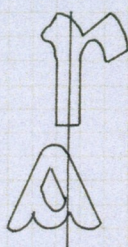
*These varieties are caused by the movement of the second line of the overprint. In the *R/e* variety *Sealadac* has moved to the left relative to the other lines. In the *R/Se* and *R/S* varieties *Sealadac* has moved to the right.*

*The examples below are compared by noting the relative position of the *r* of *Rialtar* and the third *a* of *Sealadac*.*

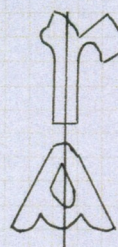
R/e



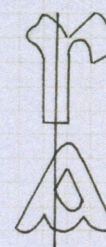
Normal



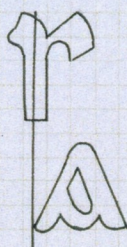
R/Se(1)



R/Se(2)



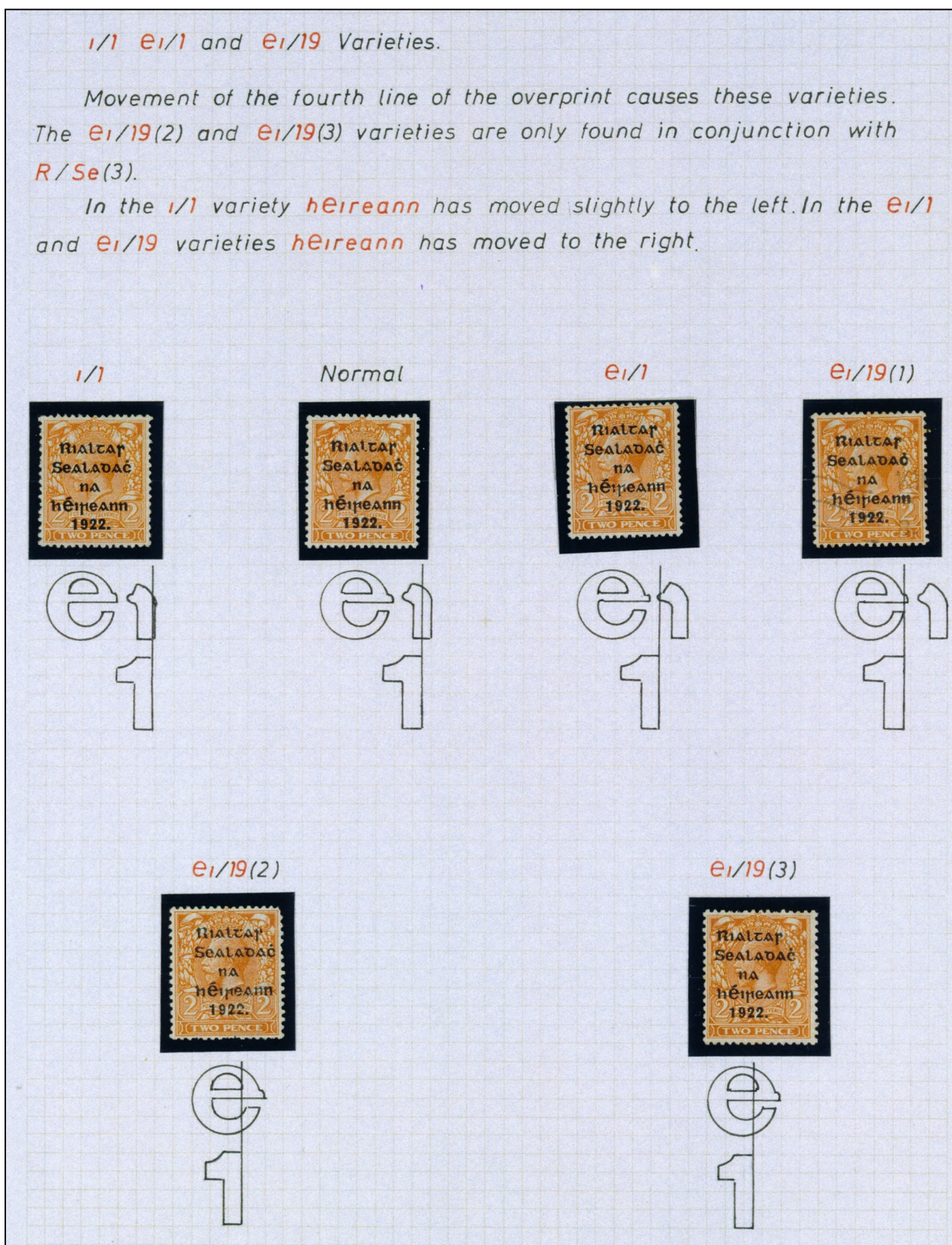
R/Se(3)



R/S



APPENDIX 4 THOM OVERPRINT ALIGNMENT VARIETIES



Composite variants, which occur with some Thom stereo settings, are referenced V4a to V4g in connection with the 17 February 1922 issue and V6a to V6g, if from the 7 July - 6 November 1922 issue. For call back refer to pages 18 to 21 for V4 variants and pages 26 & 30 for V6 variants, in the main text.

The author is indebted to studies by Michael Priestley on the topic of overprint alignments, which are shown on pages 56 & 57. Over many years Michael, a doyen of Irish philately, spanning the 'transitional period' wrote many articles on this subject matter, which were published in the Eire Philatelic Association (EPA) & Irish Philatelic Circle (IPC) Journals.

APPENDIX 4

THOM IMPERFORATE PROOF BLOCK

Imperforate proof block with call-back to the Thom 17 February 1922 overprint issue. Block from lower pane, made up of 42 clichés from parts of four Setting 3 stereos - see dividing lines in red.

PROOF POSITION IN ROW						ROW
7	8	9	10	11	12	
Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	11
Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	12
Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	13
Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	14
Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	15
Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	16
Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	Rialtaṛ Sealadaḱ na héipeann 1922.	17

PR14 x 42 Imperforate Proof Block

Thom Stereo Setting 3

Black Ink Overprint, Thin Buff Paper. No Backstamp.

Block Stereo Makeup - Full 4 x 4 Stereo & 4 x 3, 4 x 2, 3 x 2 Part Stereos.

POSITION IN BLOCK	MINOR VARIANTS (see pages 56 & 57)
R12/ 10, 11, 12	'éi' over '1' in '1922.'.
R15/ 10, 11, 12	'éi' over '1' in '1922.'.
R16/10	Short 'i' in 'Rialtaṛ'.

This block example has been scanned from a publication titled 'Ireland : The Overprints 1922-1935' published by McDonnell-Whyte as a 'Tribute to Cyril Dulin'.

APPENDIX 5

THOM 'PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT' PRINTING TRIALS



PR15 x 16 including TC122 Imperforate Control Block



Row 19/4 V6c - 'R' over 'e'



Row 20/1 UF6q - Nick in 'S'

1/2d Green with Dull Black Overprint T25DB. Proof Reference PR15

Characteristics Associated with the Control Block

Royal Mint Plate 72 Characteristics

R20/3 oval dot in base line under 'F P'.

Jubilee line adjacent to stamp R20/1 raised, compared with level of line adjacent to stamp R20/2

Harrison Control Characteristics

'T22' with slight upward slope from left to right.

Right edge of second '2' of '22' beyond the adjacent jubilee line.

Top of 'T' to jubilee line 1.8mm.

Thom Overprint Setting 7 Characteristics

Dull black ink. Measurements R19 & R20/1,2,3

A 19.8mm, B 19.8mm, C 50.6mm

(see page 30 for datum points)

Control Block Setting Variants

UF6q - R20/1 'Sealadac' with small white line flaw (nick) through top of 'S'.

R17/1	R17/2	R17/3	R17/4
R18/1	R18/2	R18/3	R18/4
R19/1	R19/2	R19/3	R19/4 V6c
R20/1 UF6q	R20/2	R20/3	R20/4

T 22

Block made up of one 4x4 stereo & 4x1 part stereo

See Control Block entry in main text -
TC122 Page 32.

APPENDIX 5

THOM 'PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT' PRINTING TRIALS



Row 16/5 & 6
V6g
'R' over 'e'
& 'ei/19'



Row 20/1
UF6q
Bulge in right
leg of 'A'



Row 20/4
F6d
Split 'R'

T17PR x 30 including TC128 Imperforate Control Block

2d Die 2 Orange with Dull Black Overprint
T17DB. Proof Reference T17PR

Characteristics Associated with the Control Block

Royal Mint Plate 3 Ptg. B Characteristics

T17f - R20/2 stamp, break in outer frame line under
'N' of 'PENCE' & jubilee line damaged.
Low section of left side rule, adjacent R20 tapered.

Harrison Control Characteristics

Control centrally positioned.
Damage to left side of crossbar of 'T'.
'22' raised above level of 'T'.
Top of 'T' to jubilee line 2.5mm.

Thom Overprint Setting 5 Characteristics

Dull black ink. Measurements R19 & R20/1,2,3
A 20.5mm, B 19.9mm, C 51.3mm.
(see page 30 for datum points)

Control Block Setting Variants

R19/2,3 'éi' over '1' of '1922.' - see page 57.

R19/1 'i' over '1' of '1922.' - see page 57.

UF6q- R20/1 Small circular bulge in right leg of the
first 'A' of 'Sealadac'.

See entry in main text - TC128 Page 34.

Largest recorded block, ex collection T.E. Field.



T17f - Frame line break under 'N'

R16/1	R16/2	R16/3	R16/4	R16/5	R16/6
				V6g	V6g
R17/1	R17/2	R17/3	R17/4	R17/5	R17/6
R18/1	R18/2	R18/3	R18/4	R18/5	R18/6
R19/1	R19/2	R19/3	R19/4	R19/5	R19/6
'i/1'	'ei/1'	'ei/1'			
R20/1	R20/2	R20/3	R20/4	R20/5	R20/6
UF6q			F6d		

T 22

Block made up of 4 part stereos - 4x3, 4x2, 2x3, 2x2

APPENDIX 6

THOM 'IRISH FREE STATE / SAORSTAT' PRINTING TRIALS



PR23 x 18 including TC184 Imperforate Control Block

R18/8	R18/9	R18/10	R18/11	R18/12	
R19/8	R19/9	R19/10	R19/11	R19/12	
R20/8	R20/9	R20/10	R20/11	R20/12	
			UF9r		
T 22					



1d Scarlet with Dull Black Overprint T48DB. Proof Reference PR23

Characteristics Associated with the Control Block

Royal Mint Plate 94 Characteristics

No jubilee markings adjacent to stamps.

Harrison Control Characteristics

'T22' impression bold, in particular the '22'.

Second '2' with indent underside of base.

Top of 'T' to jubilee line 1.9mm.

Thom Overprint Setting 1 Characteristics

Dull black ink. Measurements R20/10,11,12

A 20.00mm, B 40.60mm.

(see page 41 for datum points)

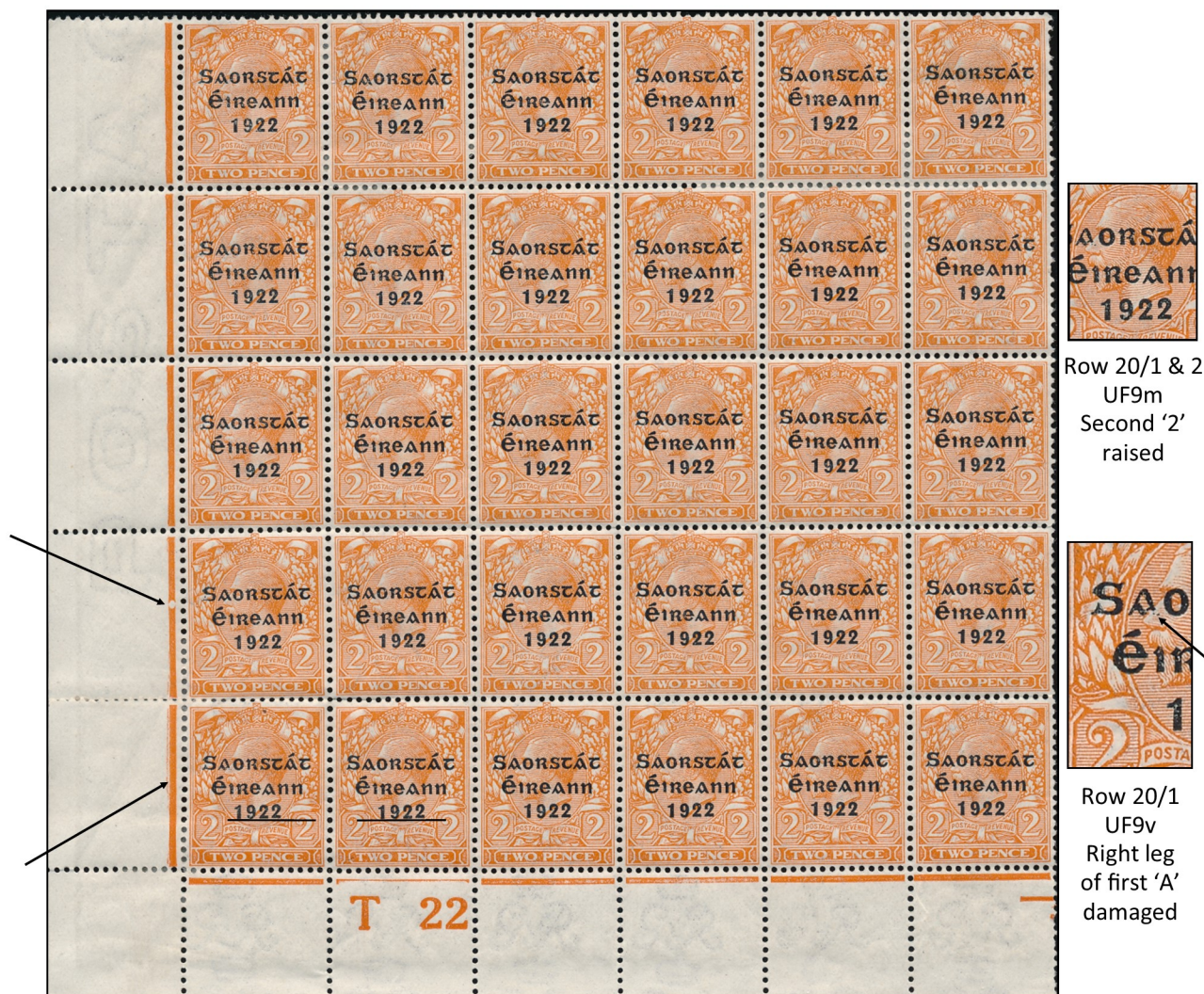
Control Block Setting Variants

UF9r - R20/11 '1' slightly lower than '9' in '1922'.

See entry in main text - TC184 Page 43.

APPENDIX 6

THOM 'IRISH FREE STATE / SAORSTAT' PRINTING TRIALS



PR25 x 30 including TC188/1 Perforate Control Block

2d Die 2 Orange with Dull Black Overprint T50DB. Proof Reference PR25

Characteristics Associated with the Control Block

Waterlow Plate 5 Characteristics

Row 19 Oval dot in left side rule at 12.5mm.
Row 20 Vertical hairline flaw by jubilee line.
R20/2 Underside of jubilee line badly worn.

Harrison Control Characteristics

Right serif at base of 'T' cut back.
Base of first '2' slopes upwards, from the left & leading edge damaged.
Top of 'T' to jubilee line 2.0mm

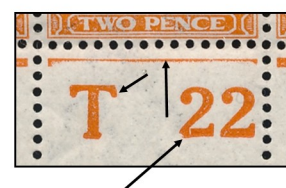
Thom Overprint Setting 2 Characteristics

Dull black ink. Measurements R20/1,2,3.
A 20.25mm, B 40.75mm.
(see page 41 for datum points)

Control Block Setting Variants

R20/1& R20/2 Second '2' of '1922' raised.
R20/1 Right leg of first 'A' of 'SAORSTAT' damaged.
R20/2 first 't' in 'SAORSTAT' undamaged.

See entry in main text - Page 44.
Ex collection T.E. Field, scarce multiple.



	R16/1	R16/2	R16/3	R16/4	R16/5	R16/6
	R17/1	R17/2	R17/3	R17/4	R17/5	R17/6
	R18/1	R18/2	R18/3	R18/4	R18/5	R18/6
	R19/1	R19/2	R19/3	R19/4	R19/5	R19/6
	R20/1	R20/2	R20/3	R20/4	R20/5	R20/6
	UF9m	UF9v				
		T 22				

Block made up of 4 part stereos - 4x3, 4x2, 2x3, 2x2

EXPLANATION OF NOTATIONS & ABBREVIATIONS

Notation	Description
N14 to N32	Gibbons (SG) references given to GB definitive stamps, if overprinted, for use in Ireland.
N65, N68, N71	SG references given to GB high value definitive stamps overprinted, for use in Ireland.
Printers Plates	Gibbons philatelic plating protocol adopted. Plate numbers in use with control blocks
T1 to T65	Hibernian (Hib.) references in use for basic overprinted GB stamps.
PR1 to PR7	Hib. references for Dollard black/red ink imperforate proofs & variants - 5 line 'R1AΛTΔP'.
PR8 to PR9c	Hib. references for Dollard red ink trial sheet printings & variants - 5 line 'R1AΛTΔP'.
PR10 to PR12	Hib. references for Dollard high value imperforate proofs - 4 line 'R1AΛTΔP'.
PR13 to PR14b	Hib. references for Thom low value imperforate proofs.
PR15 to PR20	Hib. references for Thom trial printings, with narrow 5 - line 'R1AΛTΔP' overprint on sheet stamps, which are accompanied with a sheet control.
PR21	As above, but applicable to Thom trial printings, with a wide overprint setting.
PR22 to PR29	Hib. references for Thom trial printings, with 'ΣΑΟΡΣΤΑΤ' overprint on sheet stamps, which are accompanied with a sheet control.
TC121	Hib. reference for control blocks from Dollard printing trial (essay) using red ink.
TC122-TC132	Hib. ref. for control blocks from Dollard printing trials - DB ink 'R1AΛTΔP' overprints.
TC181-TC193	Hib. ref. for control blocks from Dollard printing trials - DB ink 'ΣΑΟΡΣΤΑΤ' overprints.
V1, V4, V6,V9	Variety references, with alpha letter after the number, are from Book 1 - see below.
F1, F4, F6, F9	Flaw references, with alpha letter after the number, are from Book 1- see below.
UF1, 4, 6, 9	Unlisted Flaw references, with alpha letter after the number, are from Book 1- see below.
PH	Postal History
T, PR, TC, PH	Notations highlighted in green, denote items which are in the authors collection.
Abbreviations & Descriptions	
E&OE Errors and omissions excepted.	tbc To be confirmed.
N.T.S Not to scale.	‡ Flaw not consistent
GB Grey-Black ink	DB Dull Black ink

PUBLICATIONS AUTHORED BY BARRY COUSINS

BOOK	TITLES	EDITION		PAGES
		FIRST	LATEST	
1	Overprinted Stamps of Ireland 1922 -1935.	2002	2018	244
	Valuation Guide.	2002	2018	31
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