

The "Rialtas" and "Saorstat" overprints on the 1922-1923 Issues of Eire are usually difficult to distinguish since the catalog is not as informative as it might be in describing and illustrating the distinctive characteristics of these issues. Therefore this article has been prepared with the hope that the additional information presented herein, will furnish the necessary data so that these overprints can be correctly distinguished without too much difficulty.

Since one of the very important differences in the overprints is in the color and shade of the ink, it is suggested when checking the color of an overprint that it be examined thru a magnifying glass, holding the glass close to the eye, as the writer has always found that colors are always more easily distinguished when viewed thru a magnifying lens.

THE DOLLARD "RIALTAS" OVERPRINTS ON THE ½p TO 10p VALUES (Scott's Nos. 1 to 11)



In the Dollard "Rialtas" overprint, the outstanding difference is in the year date "1922", which is in antique type, the "I" of "1922" being a Roman numeral (that is, a capital letter "I"), and the "9" extends below the other numerals. None of the other "Rialtas" overprints have the same type of year date. (See Figure 1). THE DOLLARD AND THOM "RIALTAS" OVERPRINT ON THE 2sh6p, 5sh and 10sh VALUES



Details of the  
Overprints

1st line measures

2nd line measures

3rd line measures

Height of overprint

Other differences

Dollard Overprints (Fig. 2)  
(Scott's Nos. 12, 13, 14)

12½ mm.

15 mm.

21½ mm. (on

one variety, this is only 21 mm.)

14 mm.

The "h" of "hEireann" is raised slightly and is farther from the "E", being about 1 mm apart (See illustration, Figure 2).

The color of the ink is a dull or non-glossy black.

Thom Overprints (Fig. 3)  
(Scott's Nos. 36, 37, 38)

12 mm.

14½ mm.

21 mm.

13½ mm.

The "h" of "hEireann" is level with the other letters and the "h" is closer to the "E", being only about ½ mm. apart (see illustration, Figure 3).

The color of the ink is a glossy blue-black, and the impression of the overprint is much clearer, the letters being more sharply defined.

**Remarks:** These two overprints are most easily distinguished by the length of the lines of the overprints, and by the position of the "h" in "hEireann" as explained above.

THE THOM AND HARRISON "Rialtas" OVERPRINTS  
ON THE ½ Pence to the 10 Pence VALUES



(Scott's Nos. 15-18)  
and

Thom 2nd Overprints  
(Scott's Nos. 23-35)  
(See Figure 4)

1st line is 12 mm. long  
2nd line is 14½ mm. long  
Surcharge is 16 mm. high  
Color of ink:  
On 1st overprints,  
ink is dull black  
On 2nd overprints,  
ink is either shiny blue-  
black, dull black or  
carmine.

Other Characteristics:  
"R" of "Rialtas" is not  
usually over the "Se"  
of "Sealadac"

"i" of "Rialtas" is on  
a line with the other  
letters of the word.

Harrison Overprints  
(Scott's Nos. 19-22)  
(See Figure 5)

1st line is 12½ mm. long  
2nd line is 15 mm. long  
Surcharge is 16 3/4 mm. high  
Color of ink:  
Ink is a glossy  
bright-black.

Other Characteristics:  
"R" of "Rialtas" is al-  
ways over the "Se" of  
"Sealadac"

"i" of "Rialtas" is  
lower than other letters  
of the word.  
The entire overprint is  
taller.

Thom Third Overprints  
(Scott's Nos. 39-43)  
(See Figure 6)

1st line is 12½ mm. long  
2nd line is 15½ mm. long  
Surcharge is 16 mm. high  
Color of ink:  
Ink is blue-black.

Other Characteristics:  
The entire overprint  
is wider.  
The letters are fur-  
ther apart, and appear  
thinner than in the  
other overprints.  
"i" of "Rialtas" is  
on a line with other  
letter of the word.

**Remarks:** Separating the Harrison and Thom 3rd Printings from the 1st and 2nd Thom Printings is not difficult, since the Harrison overprint has the characteristic and easily noted low "i" of "Rialtas", while the Thom 3rd Printing is distinguishable by the extra width of the overprint, which is especially noticeable in the space between "R" and "i" of "Rialtas".

Therefore the problem is to distinguish the 1st and 2nd Thom Printings, in which the only difference is in the color and intensity of the ink used. For the purpose of assisting in differentiating these two printings, reference is made to the Chart (Fig. 7); and attention is directed to the columns (in the Chart) under "Thom 1st Printing" and "Thom 2nd Printing," from which it will be noted that the Thom 1st Printing was made on only four values (1½p, 2p, 6p and 1 sh.), whereas the Thom 2nd Printing was made on 12 values, which include two values, the 5p and 1sh, overprinted in black, which were not overprinted in the Thom 1st Printing. Thus since these two values (the 5p and 1sh) are definitely the Thom 2nd Printing, then by using the color of the overprint on these two values as a guide for comparison, all other black printings, which have been determined to be either the 1st or 2nd Thom Printings, can be distinguished. Other aides:- the color and intensity of the bluish tone of the Second Thom Overprint is best seen by holding the stamp closely before a strong light and looking through the overprint; or by allowing sunlight to be reflected by the overprint, which is done by holding the stamp at eye level and looking across it while moving the stamp slightly so as to catch the reflections of the light on the overprint.

It will be also noted from the Chart that the values with the dull black 2nd Thom Overprint (the ½p, 1p, 3p and 10p) are not found with the black

1st Thom Overprint, and thus they can be distinguished from the blue-black 2nd Thom Overprints by the same manner of comparison as that set forth in the preceding paragraphs, that is by using either the 5p or 1sh stamps (Scott's Nos. 30 or 32) for a guide.

Similar tests can be applied in distinguishing Scott's #39 (the 1p blue-black Thom 3rd Printing) from Scott's #39a (the dull black overprint) by comparing this stamp with Scott's Nos. 40, 41 or 42 which only come with the blue-black overprint.

Figure 7

CHART SHOWING ON WHICH ½ PENCE TO 1 SHILLING VALUES THE VARIOUS THOM AND HARRISON OVERPRINTS WERE MADE AND THEIR CORRESPONDING SCOTT'S CATALOG NUMBERS.

| Denom-<br>ination | Thom 1st<br>Printing | Harrison<br>Printing | Thom 2nd Printing |               |      | Thom 3rd Printing |               |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|------|-------------------|---------------|
|                   | Black                | Glossy Black         | Blue-<br>Black    | Dull<br>Black | Red  | Blue-<br>Black    | Dull<br>Black |
| 1p                | -                    | # 19                 | # 23              | # 23a         | -    | # 39              | # 39a         |
| 1p                | -                    | # 20                 | # 24              | # 24a         | -    | # 40              | -             |
| 1 1/2p            | # 15                 | # 21                 | # 25              | -             | -    | # 41              | -             |
| 2p                | # 16                 | # 22                 | # 26              | -             | -    | # 42              | -             |
| 2 1/2p            | -                    | -                    | -                 | -             | # 27 | -                 | -             |
| 3p                | -                    | -                    | # 28              | # 28a         | -    | -                 | -             |
| 4p                | -                    | -                    | -                 | -             | # 29 | -                 | -             |
| 5p                | -                    | -                    | # 30              | -             | -    | -                 | -             |
| 6p                | # 17                 | -                    | # 31              | -             | -    | -                 | -             |
| 9p blk            | -                    | -                    | -                 | -             | -    | -                 | -             |
| brown             | -                    | -                    | -                 | -             | # 32 | -                 | -             |
| 9p olive          | -                    | -                    | -                 | -             | -    | -                 | -             |
| green             | -                    | -                    | -                 | -             | # 33 | -                 | -             |
| 10p               | -                    | -                    | # 34              | # 34a         | -    | -                 | -             |
| 1 sh.             | # 18                 | -                    | # 35              | -             | -    | # 43              | -             |

(NOTE: The numbers are Scott's Catalog Numbers)

THE THOM AND HARRISON "Saorstát" OVERPRINTS



Thom Printing (Fig. 8)  
(Scott's Nos. 44 to 58)

Harrison Printing (Figs. 9 & 10)  
(Scott's Nos. 59 to 62)

The upper part of the "9" of "1922" has an upright oval shape.

The middle "e" of "eireann" is on a level with the other letters of the word.

The "1" of "1922" is flat at its base.

The upper part of the "9" of "1922" is round.

The middle "e" of "eireann" is always raised above the other letters of that word.

The "1" of "1922" is rounded at its base so that it is not a true square (see Fig. 9) - Except: - in one variety of this printing, the base of the numeral "1" extends below the other numerals and ends in a serif (See Fig. 10). This is the variety that Scott's Catalog lists as "Tall 1" (Scott's Nos. 59a, 61a & 62a).

REMARKS: Distinguishing these two printings should not be difficult since the differences as given above are quite marked and easily noted.

The above article is one of the finest expositions of the distinguishing features of the Irish overprints and is of great value to all collectors of the Stamps of Ireland. It is re-printed with the kind permission of Mr. J. Elmer Zinsmeister, Editor of the SPA Journal, the official journal of the Society of Philatelic Americans to whom we are deeply indebted. Mr. Diamond's article appeared in the SPA Journal for July and August of 1947. All the photographs are by the author

### ADAMS CHART OF THE DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF IRISH OVERPRINTS

The following chart was prepared by the late Perry Adams, E.P.A. #84 and appeared in the Sept-October 1953 Revealer, pages 137-8 and is reprinted for the benefit of our members:

"Our table does not attempt to list all the distinguishing clues. Instead we try to provide one easy means of telling the various issues apart.

#### The Irish Overprint Issues

##### (a) Rialtas

| Scott Numbers | <u>Printer</u> | <u>Overprint Color</u> | <u>Overprint mm Size</u>         | <u>Distinguishing Features</u>                                        |
|---------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1-8           | Dollard        | Black, Gray Black      | 15 x 17 $\frac{1}{8}$            | Antique 1922                                                          |
| 9-11          | Dollard        | Red or Carmine         | 15 x 17 $\frac{1}{8}$            | " "                                                                   |
| 12-14         | Dollard        | Black, Gray Black      | 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 14 or 21 x 14 | " "                                                                   |
|               |                |                        |                                  | hEireann alone, always 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. (This is very important)  |
| 15-18         | Thom           | Black, Gray Black      | 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 16            | Only color of ovpt. ink marks these from Nos. 25, 26, 26b, 31 and 35. |
| 19-22a        | Harrison       | Black, Glossy Black    | 15 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 17            | Long "i" in Rialtas<br><u>Always R over Se</u>                        |
| 23-35         | Thom           | Blue-Black or Red      | 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 16            | Size of ovpt. & color of ink (See remarks above, 15-18)               |
| 36-38         | Thom           | Blue-Black             | 21 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$            | hEireann alone always 14mm. (See remark above, 12-14)                 |
| 39-43         | Thom           | Blue-Black             | 15 3/4 x 16                      | The "wide" printing. Open look. Size and color of overprint.          |

##### (b) Saorstat

|         |               |                          |                      |                                                                            |
|---------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 44-55   | Thom          | Blue-Black, Black or Red | 15 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ | "9" of 1922 has <u>oval</u> top (See remark on 59-62, below)               |
| 56-58   | Thom          | Blue-Black               | 15 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1922 is 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ mm.                                                |
| 59-62   | Harrison      | Black or Blue-Black      | 15 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ | "9" of 1922 has <u>round</u> top (See remark on 44-55, above)              |
| 59a-62a | Harrison      | Black or Blue-Black      | 15 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ | Long "l" in 1922, with serif at foot.                                      |
| 77-79   | Dublin Castle | Black or Gray Black      | 15 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1922 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm                                                    |
| 77b-79b | Dublin Castle | Black or Gray Black      | 15 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1922 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. But ovpt. <u>black</u> while 56-58 are blue-black |
| 93-95   | Waterlow      | Black                    | 15 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1922 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. Portrait has background of crossed lines          |