

Rialtaí
Sealadóir
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DOLLARD OVERPRINT CONTROLS AND PLATE COMBINATIONS

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The first postage stamps of the Irish Free State in 1922 were a provisional issue of the then current George V typographed series (1/2 to 1/-) and the engraved high values (2/6 - 10/-) all of which were overprinted. This article is only concerned with those low values overprinted by Messrs Dollard and attempts to relate the plating of the British stamps to the plating of the overprint.

These low values had a Control letter and number printed in the margin of each sheet. This Control was placed under the second stamp in line 20 (20x2) for all values except 1d. The 1d had its Control printed below 20 x 11. The numerals represent the year and the letters the period of the year in which the sheet was printed.

The Controls during this period can be divided into two basic types: Perforate - that is when the vertical stamp perforation continues right across the lower margin of the sheet; and Imperforate, when the lower margin is imperforated.

Except for the 6d which was printed by Somerset House, all British low values were typographed by Messrs Harrison and Sons Ltd. To distinguish between each plate these printers made certain markings in the marginal rule (the jubilee line). These markings are usually variations on cuts, dots or nicks, which are fortunately usually placed in the bottom corner near the Control and are almost always quite evident. The numbering used here is taken from Stanley Gibbons Specialised Catalogue of Great Britain, Volume 2.

An interesting study can be made of these British plates which were overprinted in Ireland in relation to the Irish printing plates used to overprint them. Surprisingly, a large number of different British plates were overprinted, and in the diagrams a number of combinations of Dollard and GB plates are given. There may be other combinations so far unrecorded and this article may stimulate further discoveries.

Where a Control is known to have been printed from a plate which has not been seen overprinted, the control concerned is indicated in the description. A few plates have been noted overprinted only; these are Plates 80 (1/2d), Plates 90 and 95 (1d), Plates 8b and 9b (2 1/2d), Plate 3 (4d). Marks on the bottom jubilee line are indicated by giving the stamp number where the mark occurs and marks on the side jubilee line are similarly shown (e.g. 18th right is 12th stamp 18th row).

A description of the three Dollard settings is given in the January-March 1969 issue of The Revealer.

Dollard Controls

1/2d

Overprint	Overprint	G B Plate Number					
Colour	Setting	68	70	71	72	80	?
Black	1	R21/ S21/ S22/	R21P S22/ S22P	R21P S22P R21/ S21/ S22/			R21/ S22P
Black	2	S21/ S22/ S21P S22P	S21P S22/				S21P S22P
Black	3	S21/ S22/ S22P	S22P				S21/ S21P S22/ S22P
Red	1	S22/				S22/	

Plate	Description	Plate	Description
68	Dot inner 20th left 11 1/2mm	48	Oval dot under PE 20x1 R 2 dots under LF + NN 20x2 21
70	1/2 dot under P 20x4 Nick under NY 20x4	74	Large oval dot right of P R 20x2 21
71	Large oval dot breaking top and bottom under PE 20x2	75	Large oval dot breaking top R under PE 20x2 21
72	Oval dot under FP 20x3	76	Small dot 18th left 11mm S 21
80	Large dot 19th left 9 1/2mm (noted only on overprint)		

1d

Overprint	G B Plate Number									
Setting	83	87b	90	91	95	96	97b	?		
1	S 22 I	S 21 I	S 21 P	S 22 I	S 21 I	S 21 I S 21 P	(S 22 I +)	S 22 I	S 22 P	
2								S 22 I T 22 I	S 22 P T 22 P	
3								S 22 I	S 22 P	
+ Inverted opt, setting unknown										
83	Dot 20th left 10 1/2mm Nick under EP 20x4		96	Left of rule 20x12 thinner		86	Cut under P(E) 20x2		T 22	
87b	Dot 20th rt 12mm Dot under PE 20x10		97b	1/2 dot under E(1d) 20x1 Dot 20th left 9 1/2mm		93	4 half cuts 20th rt		T 22	
90	Dot 17th rt 12 1/2mm		75b	Dot left of P 20x10 2 dots 20x2		S 21	106	Large oval 1/2 dot under PE 20x9		T 22
91	Nick 19th rt 12 3/4mm		92	3 cuts 20th rt Dot 20th left 6 1/2mm		T 22	114a	Dot under O 20x3		S 22
95	Large dot 18th rt 11 1/2mm		94	Dot 20th left 12mm		T 22	S 22			

2 1/2d				
Overprint	Overprint	G B Plate		
Colour	Setting	10	11b	?
Black	1	S21 I S21 P	S21 I	
Red	1	S22 I	S21 I	S21 P S22 P
Red	2	S22 P		S22 I
10 Cut under (P)E 20x1				
11b Cut and small dot under F 20x2				
8b Dot under P 20x1				
				S 22
9b 1/2 dot under FP 20x2				
3d				
Overprint	GB Plate	Plate	Description	
Setting	?		Base 20th rt	S
1	S21 I/S22 P S21 P	8a	bevelled	22
2	S22 I/S22 P			21
3	S22 I	11	Base 17th rt bevelled	S 22
			Damage under REEP 20x8	S 21
4d				
Overprint	Overprint	G B Plate		Plate Description
Colour	Setting	1e	2d	?
Black	1	S21 I	S21 I S22 P	R21 I S21 P
Black	2	R21 I		
Red	1	R21 I/S21 I S22 I	R21 I	R21 P
Red	2	R21 I S21 I		
Carmine	2	S22 I S22 P	S22 P	
Carmine	3	S22 I		
1e Dot under RP 20x1				
Rule under 20x3 bevelled				
2d Dot under RP 20x2				
3 No marking				
				S 22
4 Dot under RP 20x1				
				S 21
Rule under 20x3 not bevelled				

5d

Overprint	G-B Plate		Plate	Description
Setting	2c	3	2c	Sloping cut under P 20x2
1	S21P	S221		
2	S221	S221	3	Tiny diagonal cut 19th right 14mm

9d

Overprint	Overprint	GB Plate			
Colour	Setting	1f	2b	3b	2
Black	1	S221	S221 S22P	S211 S21P	
Black	2				S22P
Red	1		S22P	S211 S21P	
Red	2		S22P		S221
Garmine	2				S22P

Plate	Description
1f	Nick top 20th left Dot under EN 20x1
2b	Nick 19th left 13mm
3b	Dot under P 20x2 Nick 19th left 11-12mm Cut under N 20x4

10d

Overprint	G-B Plate		Plate	Description
Setting	1c	2b	1c	Dot under P 20x2 2 dots Base 20th left bends 20x1
1	S21P	Q21P S211		
2	S22P		2b	Large dot under PE 20x1