

Irish 1922 Provisionals Thom 5 Line Overprints

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THOM 5 LINE NARROW SETTING
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Introduction

In the April-June 1969 issue of the Revealer, I listed the measurements of the ten Thom narrow setting plates given by Erinneach in The Philatelist. Since then I have examined a number of large Thom blocks and have been able to form an opinion on the method of printing of these plates and to revise Erinneach's measurements in some cases.

Stereo Layout

While the stereo layout of the Dollard low value issues is well known, there is no similar information on the Thom issues. My purpose was to find out, if possible, whether the Thom sheets had been made up from stereos and if so how large the stereos were.

The first clue came from the horizontal line spacing which showed a similar pattern in all the blocks examined. The spacing between lines 4 and 5, 7 and 8, 14 and 15, and 17 and 18 is distinctly greater than between the other lines - in other words, the pane is divided horizontally into three parts, one part four rows deep and two parts three rows deep.

There was no clear spacing pattern between the vertical rows so I next noted all the known recurrent flaws. (Fig. 1). These are the R/Se varieties described in another Revealer article, and the broken r of Rialtar which is a distinctive flaw listed by Meredith and occurs in several positions. I think it is clear from the diagram that the recurrence pattern is four stamps wide and that the pane was made up from a number of 4x4 stereos, with the upper or the lower row of the stereos removed to fit the stereo into the lower part of each pane. Only the wide ac variety did not fit into this pattern; it could perhaps have been introduced after the plate had been put together.

To find out how many different 4x4 stereos there may have been, I analysed the positions of the Ci/1 variety which have been noted for all the Thom plates, and occur fairly frequently (Revealer, October, 1969). I found the R/Se and Ci/1 positions could be accounted for by seventeen 4x4 stereos, some occurring as many as sixteen times; fifteen are illustrated in Fig. 2. Although this is a fair number of different stereos, it is not nearly as many as would have been the case if the Ci/1 distribution had been random. There are also other stereos without any identifiable flaws.

Plates

The revised plate measurements and recurrent flaws are shown in Fig. 3. I was interested to have confirmation of the existence of two types of Plate 2 which I have called Plates 2A and 2B. Although all Plate 2 examples have the same measurements and R/Se varieties, I found there were two quite different sets of type flaws in several examples of Plate 2 control blocks and of Rows 12 and 17 (the R/Se rows) in Plate 2.

I have been able to check the measurements of the plates in those cases in Figure 3 which are marked with an asterisk. Confirmation that these were the plates concerned was obtained from the Ci/1 positions which were given for each plate in my earlier article. It is difficult in some cases to be definite about the plate unless the block is large enough to include Ci/1 varieties, and this particularly applies to Plates 5 and 6.

Tham Recurrent Varieties

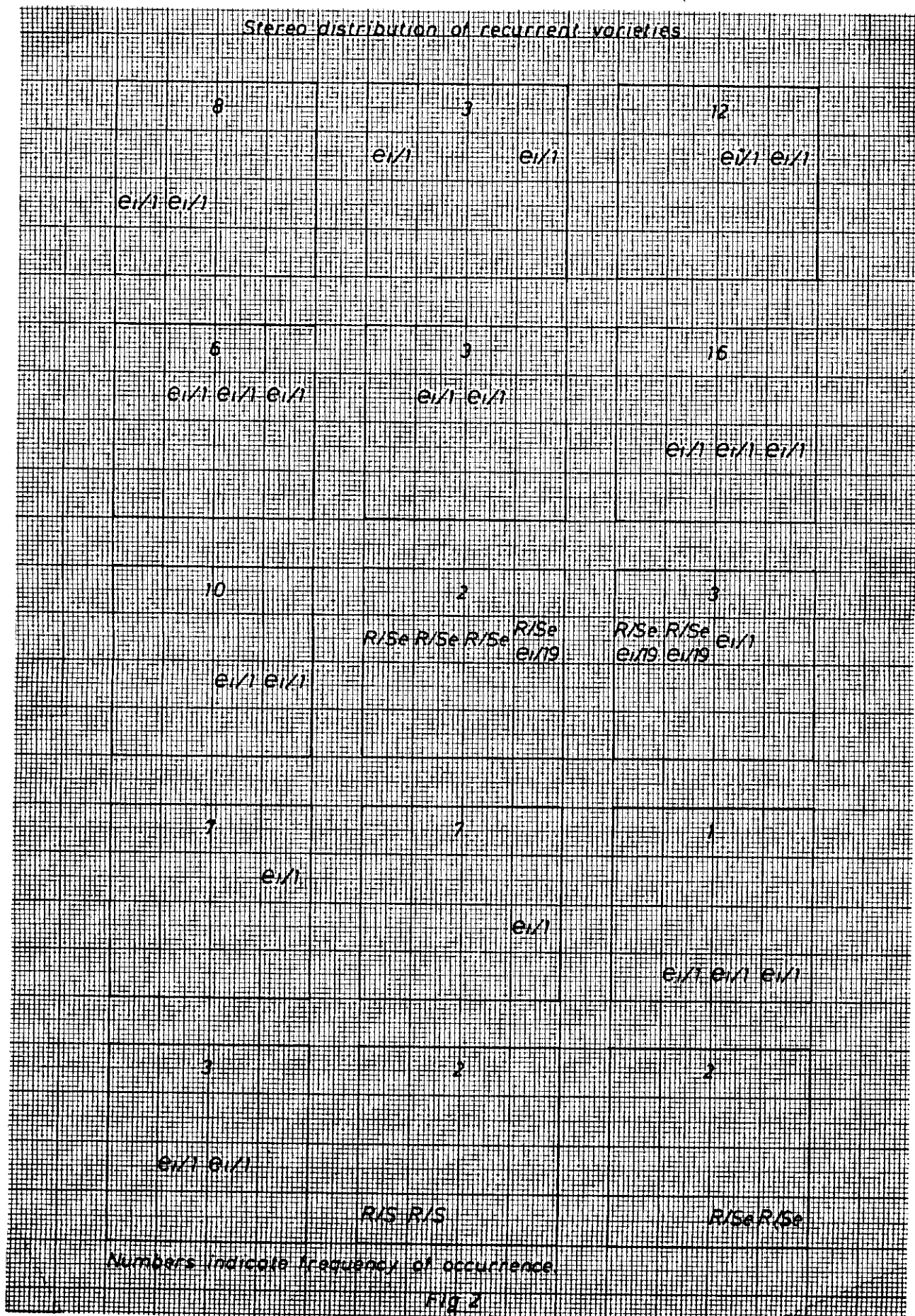
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1							7 8 7*8*			7 8 7*8*		7*8*
							R/Se R/Se			R/Se R/Se		R/Se
2												
3												
4				7 8								
				8 7								
5												
6	5	5	5	5 R/Se								
	R/Se	R/Se	R/Se	Ei/19								
7												
8												
9					5 R/Se	5 R/Se						
					Ei/19	Ei/19						
10				9 7								
11												
12	2	2	2	2	2 3	2 3						
	R/Se	R/Se	R/Se	Ei/19	R/Se	R/Se						
13												
14												
15												
16												
17			2 3	2 3*	2 3	2 3						
			R/Se	R/Se	R/S	R/S						
18												
19												
20				5 7								

* Wide ac

Figures indicate plate number

Fig 1

Stereo distribution of recurrent varieties



Numbers indicate frequency of occurrence.

FIG 2

Thom Narrow Setting Plates

Plate	Row	Measurements						ei/1 Positions	Recurrent Flaws
		Stamps 1 2 3			Stamps 10 11 12				
		1	2	3	1	2	3		
1	19	20	20	508*					20x3 Stop slightly low.
	20	20	198	506*					19x3 C
2A	19	201	202	513*					20x2 Stop damaged.
	20	201	202	513*					20x3 Overprint heavier
2B	19	202	202	515					
	20	201	202	513*					20x2 Stop undamaged
3	19	199	20	505					
	20	20	20	507*					20x1  20x2 9
4	19	197	198	505	199	204	514	19x1 19x10	
	20	199	199	505	20	205	512	19x2	
5	19	205	199	513*	205	198	515*	19x8	
	20	205	198	513*	205	198	512*	19x2 19x11 19x3 19x12	20x1 
6	19	205	20	514*	205	198	512*		
	20	205	20	514*	205	198	512*	19x11 19x12	
7	19	198	198	505	198	199	505	19x10	
	20	20	198	507*	199	199	509*	19x11 19x12	20x1 
8	19	198	198	505*					
	20	198	198	505*				20x1 	
9	19	205	197	51*	20	206	515*	20x1 20x3 19x2 19x3	
	20	205	198	509*	20	205	515*	19x11 19x12	
10	19	198	204	508*	20	197	505	19x10	
	20	198	204	508*	199	198	505*	19x11 19x3 20x2	

* Measurement taken from examples seen

* Not constant

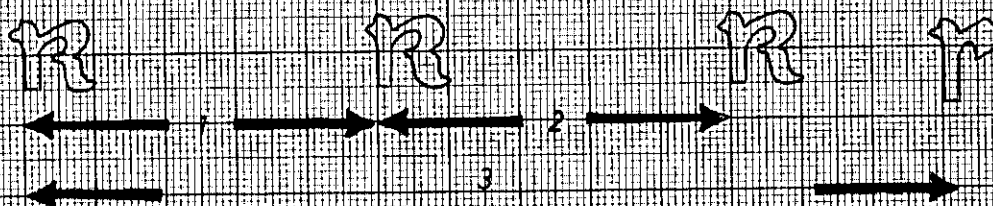


Fig 3