

PART 3

Provisional Government Overprints

Issue 1T - 1922 (February 17) Overprint by Dollard Printing House in Black Ink



Dollard Printing House, Dublin Ltd., operating from premises located opposite Four Courts on Wellington Quay and Essex Street, were awarded a contract to overprint the first series of stamps at the beginning of February. Dollard's printing facilities were however unable to accommodate the overprinting of all values by the due date. As a result the overprinting of the 1½d., 2d., 6d., and 1s. values was sub-contracted to Alexander Thom & Co. Ltd. and which in philatelic circles are referred to as issue 4T.

On the 2nd. February 1922, Dollard as lead contractor, submitted proofs for approval to the postal authority, including those prepared by Thom. Following approval both printers set about the process of overprinting onto sheets of Great Britain stamps, which were sourced from Aldborough House, the British Post Office supplies depot.

As planned, overprinted stamps, by both printers were released for general sale on the 17th. February 1922.

The Dollard overprint displays distinctive characteristics, being the use of antique numerals, the long tail to the '9' and with no full stop after the date.

The first issue used black ink for the overprint. However for all values except the 2½d. and 4d. stamps, examples are recorded with a greyish - black overprint.

Overprint Dimensions

Line widths

RIALTAÍO	12.00 mm
SEALADAC	15.00 mm
NA	3.50 mm
hÉIREANN	14.50 mm
1922	6.50 mm

Overall height of overprint 17.50mm

Overprint Settings

Three stereo settings were used by Dollard. The first setting displayed uniform characteristics, whereas the second and third settings were irregular, with multiple variants.

For details of stereo setting characteristics, see Appendix 4.

Specimens

Stamps from this issue have been recorded, with 'SPECIMEN' in black at the top.

The hand stamp used small sans serif letters, sloping to the right with a width 10.5mm and height of 1.5mm. and with the outline of the image smudged.

Reported by *H.G.L. Fletcher* in the June 1962 edition of the I.P.S.G.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND
OVERPRINT BY DOLLARD PRINTING HOUSE, DUBLIN LTD.
ISSUE 1T. (Stamps T1 - T8)



Examples all from Stereo Setting 1, with uniform settings

1922 (February 17) : 5 - Line Overprint with Black Ink

Following the treaty which granted independence, with effect from the 17th February, it was jointly agreed by the Irish authorities and the British Government, to overprint the current series of British stamps, for temporary use. This decision being taken, as it was not possible for the Irish postal authorities to initiate the design and production of a dedicated definitive series, by the handover date.

Dollard were awarded the contract, at the beginning of February, to overprint the first issue of stamps.

Messrs. Dollard Printing House, Dublin Ltd., operated from premises located opposite the Four Courts on Wellington Quay and in Essex Street.

Dollard's printing facilities were unable to accommodate, the overprinting of all values, by the due date, as a result, the overprinting of four values, was undertaken by Alex. Thom.

On the 2nd February 1922, Dollard as lead contractor, submitted proofs for approval to the postal authority, including the proofs prepared by Thom. Following approval both printers set about the process of overprinting, from sheets of Great Britain stamps, which were sourced from Aldborough House, the British Post Office supplies depot.

Overprinted stamps, by both printers, were released for general sale on the 17th February .

The first overprint issue by Dollard, displays distinctive characteristics, being the long tail to the '9' of '1922' and with no full stop after '1922.'

The overprint line dimensions for this issue are: **Line - (1) 12mm, (2) 15mm, (3) 3.5mm, (4) 14.5mm, (5) 6.5mm.**
Overall Height - 17.5mm

Rialtaí
Sealadac
na
hÉireann
1922

Wide spacing →

Overprint Settings: Three overprint stereo settings were used for the first issue. Stereo setting 1 was uniform, whereas settings 2 & 3, display consistent variants. See following detail.

The Values, Colours, Quantities Overprinted and Overprint Settings used, were as follows :

OVERPRINT REFERENCE	(SG) CROSS REFERENCE	FACE VALUE	BASIC COLOUR	SHEETS PRINTED (est)	OVERPRINT SETTINGS
T1	1	½d.	Green	43,000	1,2,3
T2	2	1d.	Scarlet	112,000	1,2,3
	3		Carmine - red		
T3	4	2½d.	Blue	1,502	1,2
T4	5	3d.	Violet	6,500	1,2,3
T5	6	4d.	Grey - green	1,702	1
T6	7	5d.	Brown	2,100	1,2
T7	8	9d.	Agate	2,398	1,2
T8	9	10d.	Turquoise - blue	900	1,2

INDENTIFICATION OF OVERPRINT SETTINGS DOLLARD OVERPRINT STEREOS

ISSUES 1T AND 2T

Three stereo (1,2,3) were used by Dollard to make up their overprint settings, for the low value series, Issue 1T. For Issue 2T it is promulgated that Dollard used stereo 2 for the overprint setting, together with a composite setting made up of stereos 1 and 3.

It is further promulgated that when Dollard's contract was terminated, that Thom undertook the final overprints for this issue using Dollard's overprint setting 2.

Differentiation between the three stereos / overprint settings is relatively easy when viewing blocks of stamps. Periodically when settings became worn or damaged, the faulty sections were removed and replacement sections inserted. It is therefore frequently found that the Dollard stereo varieties are not positioned constantly, as compared to overprints taken from the Thom stereos.

With the Dollard process 16 stereos taken from a 3 x 5 forme were used to make up the two sections in the upper pane and the two sections in the lower pane, each section comprising four stereos.

SETTING 1:

With the first setting in use, the type blocks making up the 3 x 5 forme, from which the stereos were taken, was accurately aligned, resulting in very few variations between overprints.

With this first setting the characteristics are: No 'R' over 'Se' variants, 'l' of 'Sealadac' is vertically above the 'n' of 'nA' and 'i' of 'héireann' over '1' in '1922'.

These alignments are considered as normal, when evaluating the alignment variants from settings 2 and 3.

SETTING 2:

In this setting the third stamp in the first row of the stereo has the 'c' of 'Sealadac' slightly raised.

A further consistent variety is a diagonal cut to the uprights of the 'R' in 'Rialtas' and 'n' in 'nA' and damage to the top of 'c' in 'Sealadac'.

This variety occurs on the first stamp in the first row of each stereo.

'R' over 'Se' occurs six times in each stereo from setting 2, together with other alignment variants.

SETTING 3:

With this setting, the third stamp in the first row of the stereo, has the 'c' of 'Sealadac' raised, more than in the second setting.

A further consistent variety are diagonal cuts to the uprights of 'R' and 'n', as described for setting 2.

'R' over 'Se' occurs eight times in each stereo from setting 3, together with other alignment variants.



3 x 5 Stereo from Setting 1.

IDENTIFICATION OF OVERPRINT SETTINGS FROM CONTROL BLOCKS

Quick and simple method of identifying settings, from control blocks of six.

SETTING 1:

With stamps 1 to 3, from rows 19 & 20 the overprint is accurately aligned.

The 's' of 'Rialtas' always appears slightly to the right of the second 'a' of 'Sealadac'.

SETTING 2:

In row 19, the overprint on stamps 2 & 3, shows the 's' of 'Rialtas' as being vertically above the second 'a' in 'Sealadac' and from row 20 stamp 3, displays the same characteristics.

For the 1d. value, the alignments variants occur, on stamps 11 & 12 from row 19 and stamp 12 from row 20.

SETTING 3:

As setting 2, but in addition to the overprint alignments, detailed above, the first stamp from row 20, also displays the 's' of 'Rialtas', as being over the second 'a' in 'Sealadac'.

For the 1d. value, the alignment variants, are as setting 2, with the addition of stamp 10 from row 20.

These alignment variants, whilst using the positioning of the 's' in 'Rialtas' and the 'a' in 'Sealadac', are commonly referred to as "R' over 'Se'.

DOLLARD PRINTING HOUSE, DUBLIN LTD. SET 1T/ STAMPS T1 - T8

BLOCKS OF FOUR ALL FROM SETTING 1



E4

T1 (umm)



E6

T2 (umm)



T3

(umm) E12



E60

T4 (umm)



E40

T5 (umm)



E60

T6 (3xumm)



E200

T7A5 (umm)



E100

T8 (umm)

01TT01A

OVERPRINT VARIANTS STEREO SETTINGS 2 AND 3

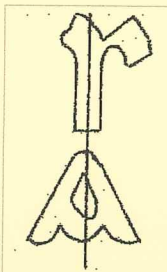
SETTING 2 (3 x 5 Stereo)

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

SETTING 3 (3 x 5 Stereo)

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

'R' over 'Se'



'V' references, as highlighted under Dollard low value issues - Issues 1T and 2T.

ALIGNMENT LINES 1 & 2

ALIGNMENT LINES 2 & 3

Normal	(A)	Normal	(B)	(C)	(D)
R	R	I	I	I	I
Se	Se	nA	nA	nA	nA
'R' over 'e'	'R' over 'Se'	'I' over 'n' of 'nA'	'I' over left shank of 'n' of 'nA'	'I' over right shank of 'n' of 'nA'	'I' over 'nA'

(A) 'R' over 'Se' can be determined by the positioning of the long stroke of the 's' in 'Rialtas' being almost vertically over, or slightly to the left of the top (centre point) of the second 'a' in 'Sealadac', see diagram above.

ALIGNMENT LINES 4 & 5

LINES 1,2,3

LINES 1,3

LINE 2

Normal	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)
i	éi	ir	R n c	R n	Sealadac	Sealadac
1	1	1	Diagonal cut to upright of 'R' in 'Rialtas' and first leg of 'n' of 'nA'. Damaged top to 'c' in 'Sealadac'	Diagonal cut to upright of 'R' in 'Rialtas' and first leg of 'n' of 'nA'	Raised 'c' in 'Sealadac' (Slight)	Raised "c" in "Sealadac"
'I' over '1'	'éi' over '1'	'ir' over '1'				

Intermediate type shift positions of variants (A) to (F) not taken into account both for identification of Stereo Setting and differentiation as Varieties. If variants in clichés making up a stereo are normal, they are not highlighted. For identification of overprint plate settings in conjunction with control strips of three stamps, only variants highlighted in grey are applicable. Positioning of control strips - Row 20/1,2,3 for all low values except the 1d., which is Row 20/10,11,12.

Photograph of Dollard Stereo from Setting 1.

Dollard Stereos were made up of fifteen clichés in a 3 x 5 matrix. As a result of this 16 Stereos were needed to overprint a full sheet of 240 stamps.

Original of this Stereo is held in the museum of the 'Royal Philatelic Society', London.



The overprint in Gaelic reads :

RIALTAIR
SEALADÁC
NA
hÉIREANN
1922

This translates to "Provisional Government of Ireland".

SETTINGS OF THE DOLLARD OVERPRINT

THE DOLLARD OVERPRINT PLATES WERE MADE UP OF SIXTEEN CLICHÉS, EACH ARRANGED 3 x 5. THE TYPE WAS SET UP ON A MONOTYPE MACHINE. FROM THIS A MATRIX WAS TAKEN FROM WHICH THE CLICHÉS WERE CAST. THE CLICHÉS WERE SECURED TO A WOODEN BOARD, 4 x 4, TO PROVIDE A PLATE OF 240 SUBJECTS. ALIGNMENT BETWEEN THE CLICHÉS WAS NOT GOOD, RESULTING IN THE "OUT OF ALIGNMENT" PAIRS ETC. THREE SETTINGS OF THIS OVERPRINT ARE KNOWN.

FIRST SETTING			SECOND SETTING			THIRD SETTING		
l/n	l/n	l/n		l/πA	r/A	r/A	r/A	r/A
1/I	1/I	1/I		1/I	1/I	l/πA	l/πA	l/πA
					é		1/I	1/I
				r/A			r/A	
l/n	l/n	l/n		l/πA	1/I		l/πA	
1/I	1/I	1/I						
			l/πA	l/πA	r/A	l/πA		
l/n	l/n	l/n		1/I	l/πA		1/I	1/I
1/I	1/I	1/I						
				r/A	r/A		r/A	r/A
l/n	l/n	l/n	1/I	1/I	l/πA	1/I	1/I	l/πA
1/I	1/I	1/I						
					r/A	r/A	r/A	r/A
l/n	l/n	l/n			l/πA	l/πA		l/πA
1/I	1/I	1/I			1/I			1/I

l/n : l of SEALADAC over the center of π of πA
 1/I : 1 of hē1πeann directly over I of I922
 r/A : vertical of r directly over final A of SEALADAC
 l/πA : l of SEALADAC above right leg of π of πA
 é : é of SEALADAC raised above other letters

NOT ALL VALUES WERE PRINTED IN ALL THREE SETTINGS. ALSO, A COMPOSITE PLATE MADE UP OF CLICHÉS OF BOTH SETTINGS ONE AND THREE WAS USED FOR THE RED OVERPRINTS. FOLLOWING IS A LISTING OF THE SETTINGS USED FOR THE VARIOUS VALUES:

BLACK

1/2d -	SETTINGS	1, 2 & 3
1d -	"	1, 2 & 3
2 1/2d -	"	1
3d -	"	1, 2 & 3
4d -	"	1
5d -	"	1 & 2
9d -	"	1 & 2
10d -	"	1 & 2

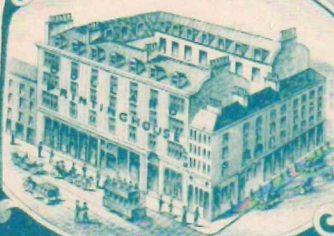
RED

2 1/2d -	SETTING	2 & COMPOSITE
4d -	"	2 & "
9d -	"	2 & "

CARMINE

4d -	SETTING	2
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