

Ireland

The Harrison 5 Line Overprinted Coil Issue of 1922.

Harrison and Sons Ltd were responsible both for printing and overprinting the stamps used in coil machines for the provisional issues of the Irish Free State in 1922-1923.

On 19th June 1922 coils in four values were first on sale using an overprint with similar wording to that already used in the low value issues of Dollard and Thom.

The Harrison setting resembles the Thom but can be distinguished by the characteristic longer *i* in *Rialtas* and the bolder style of lettering.



Die 1

Die 2

Coil Preparation.

Coils were prepared by joining sufficient complete overprinted sheets by the stamp edging to form horizontal coils of 480 stamps or vertical coils of 500 stamps when the sheets were divided into strips.

Since the sheets are arranged in panes of 12x10 stamps, coil joins occur every twelfth stamp on horizontal coils and every tenth stamp on vertical coils.

Horizontal coil joins.



Vertical coil joins.



Coil Preparation.

The complete coils were made up by joining a plain tab at one end which the maker-up initialled and dated. This was rolled into the centre of the coil.

A printed tab with a control letter was joined to the other end of the coil.

(T) 480 2d. STAMPS.
DELIVERY LEFT SIDE FIRST.
Price £4 0 2

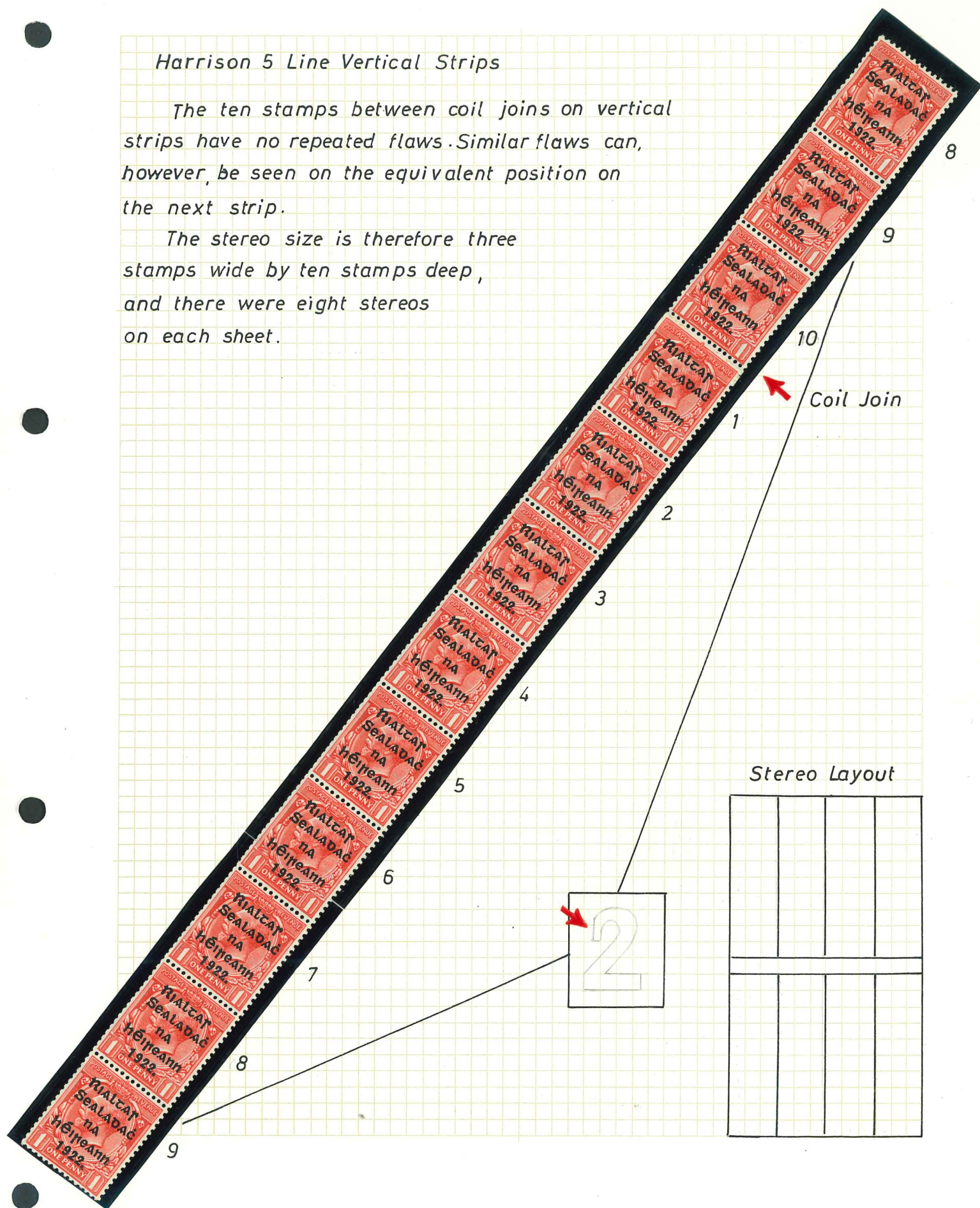
Harrison & Sons,
Contractors,
LONDON.



Harrison 5 Line Vertical Strips

The ten stamps between coil joins on vertical strips have no repeated flaws. Similar flaws can, however, be seen on the equivalent position on the next strip.

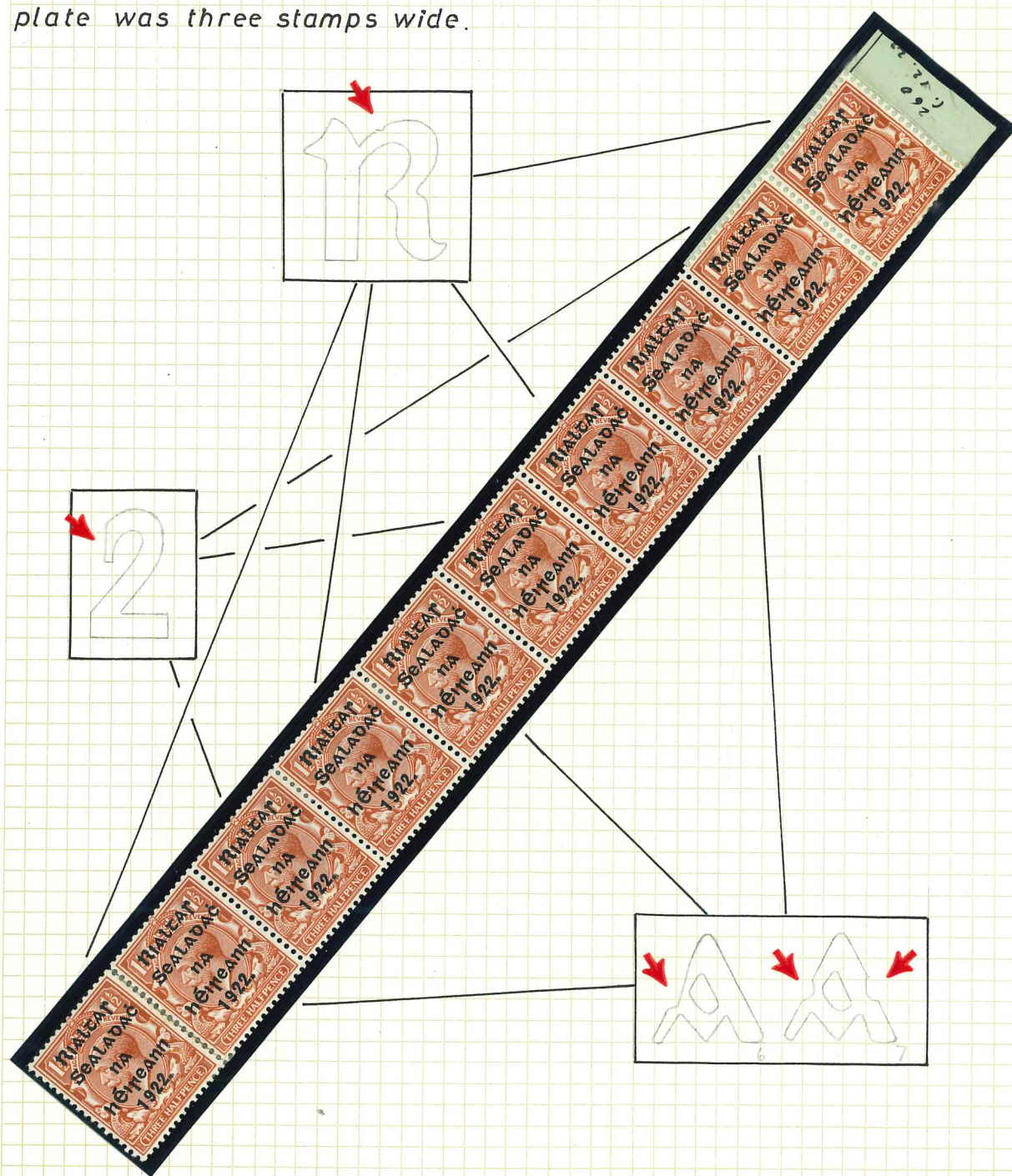
The stereo size is therefore three stamps wide by ten stamps deep, and there were eight stereos on each sheet.



Harrison 5 Line Horizontal Strips.

All horizontal strips show a most interesting effect, apparently previously unnoticed. This is the recurrence of many type flaws every third stamp, as seen below.

This indicates that the stereo of the original Harrison overprint plate was three stamps wide.



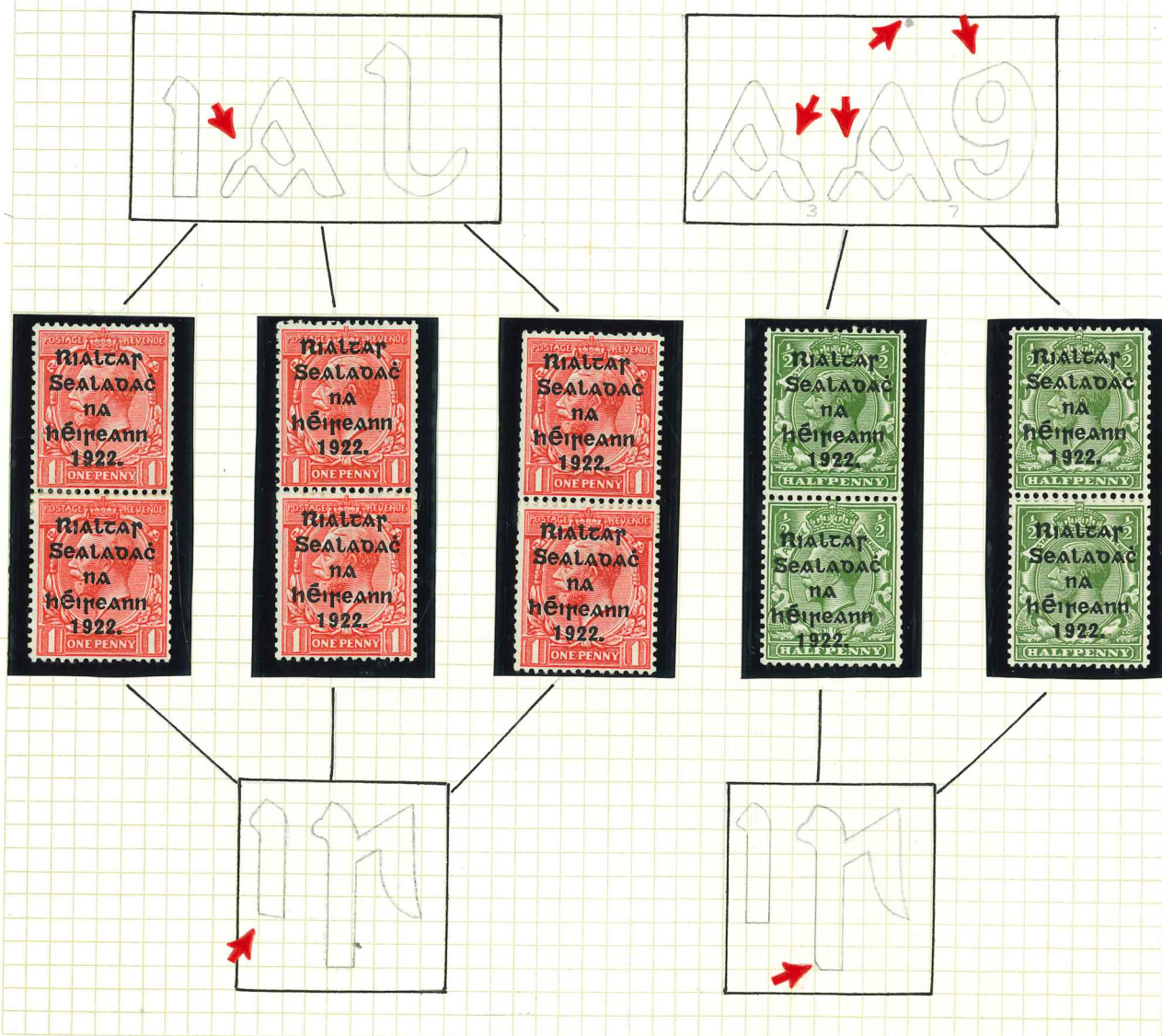
Harrison 5 Line Overprint Plate

Although the stamps of this issue are only found in strips for coil machines they were originally part of complete overprinted sheets.

The frequency of recurrent type flaws is a clue that the overprint plate was not formed from 240 separate overprints, but from a number of similar stereotypes each consisting of a small number of overprints.

It is the purpose of this study to discover the size of these stereotypes and to identify the recurrent type flaws of each overprint within the stereo.

Examples of recurrent flaws.



Crossreferencing horizontal and vertical strips.

If the same flaw can be found on a horizontal and a vertical strip, and if both strips can then be related to a coil join marking the edge of the stereo, the stereo position of the strips can be located.

The corner chart shows which stereo positions have been confirmed.

	1	2	3	1	2	3
1			X	X		
2			X	X		
3			X	X		
4			X	X		
5			X	X		

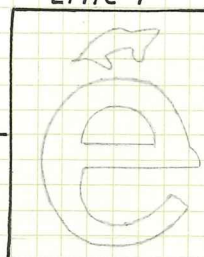
Stamp 3
Line 1



3 1



Stamp 1
Line 1



3 1



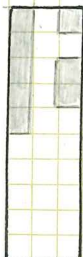
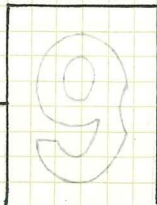
Stamp 1
Line 3



3 1



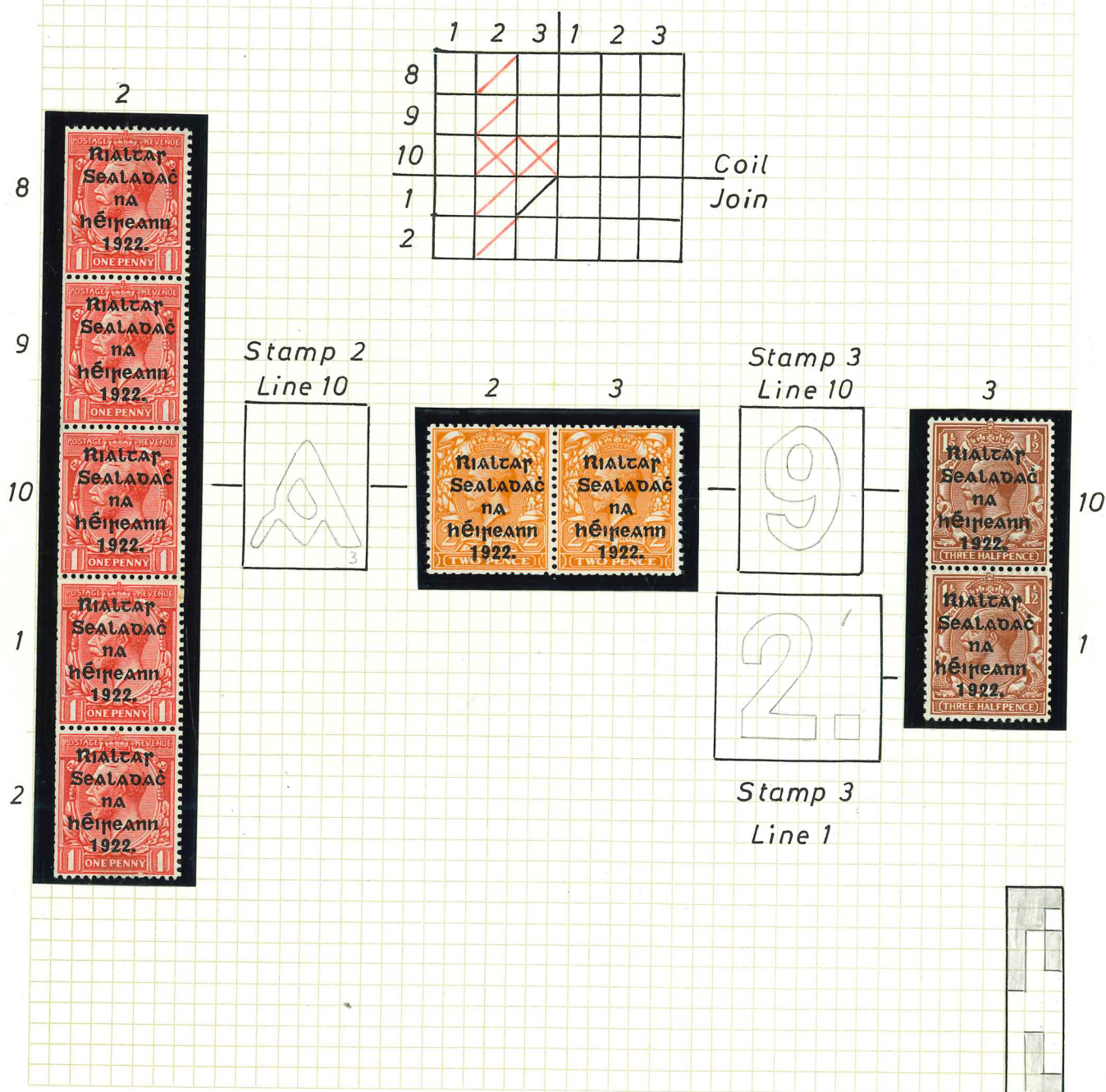
Stamp 1
Line 4



Crossreferencing horizontal and vertical strips.

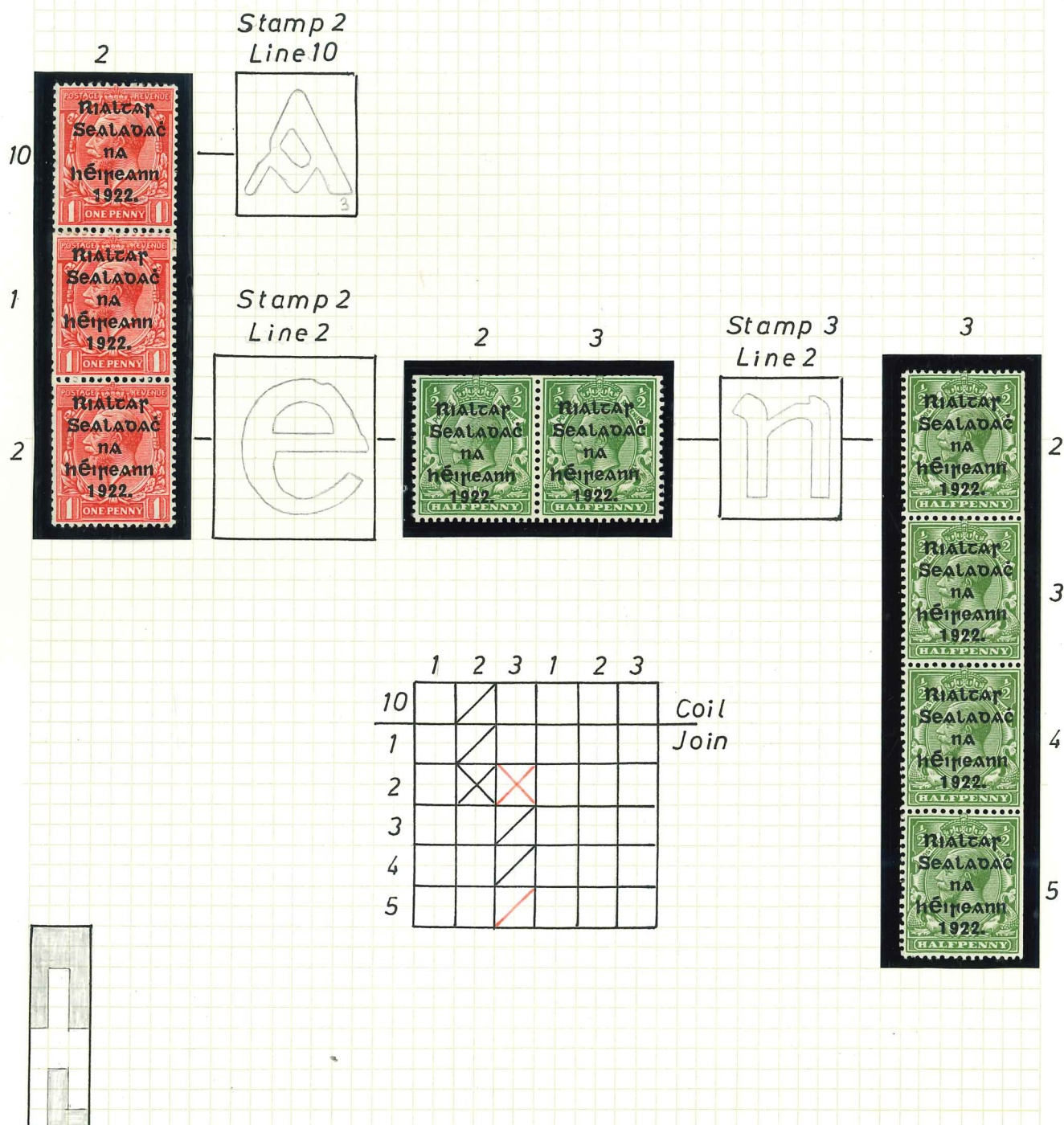
After identifying one of the stamps below as Stamp 3 Line 1 from the previous sheet because of the mark above the stop after 1922 other positions in the stereo can be identified.

In the chart new positions are shown in red. The corner diagram shows which have been confirmed so far.



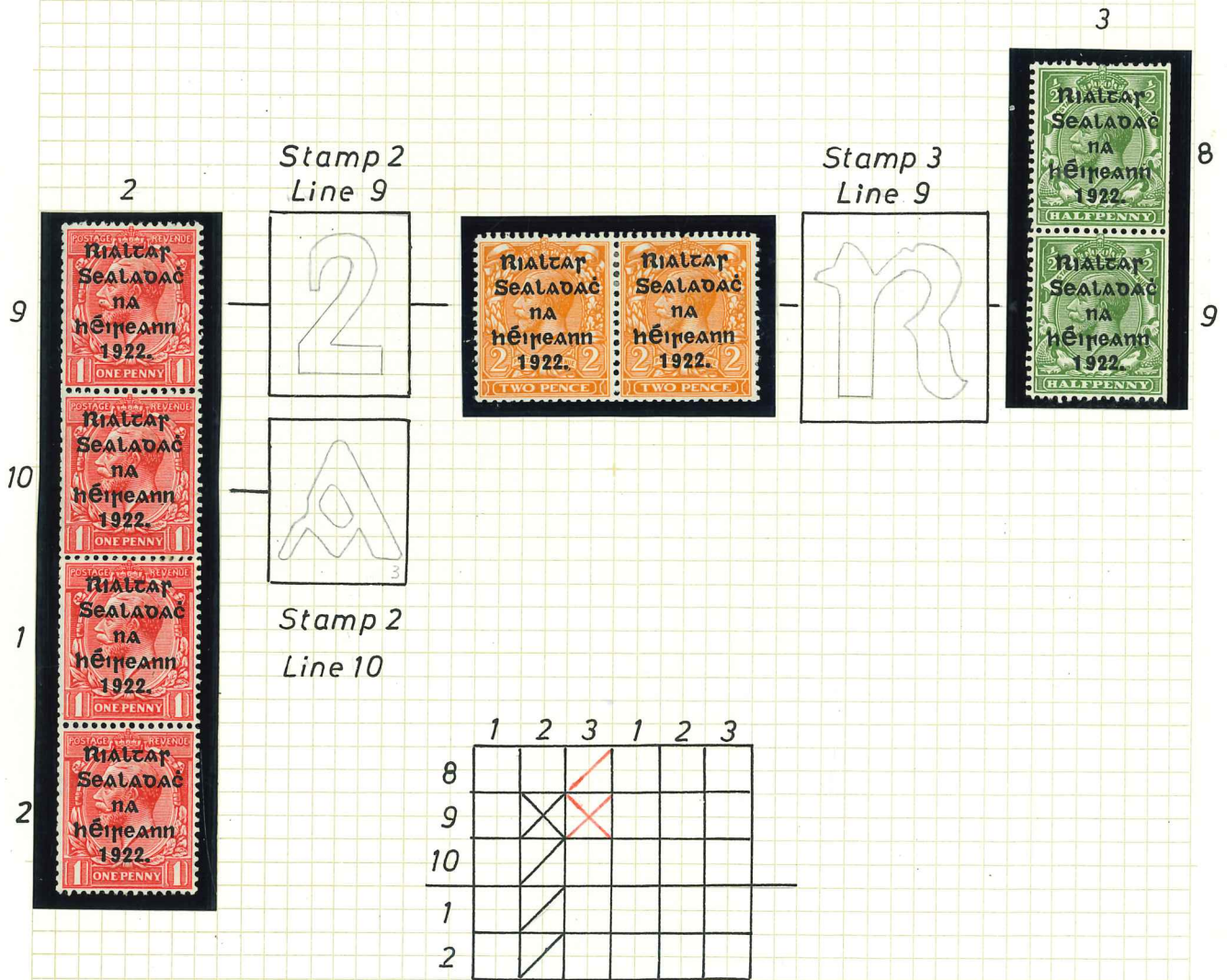
Crossreferencing horizontal and vertical strips.

Identification of the damaged first **a** in **Sealadac** of Stamp 2
Line 10 from the previous sheet provides a link to further stereo
positions.



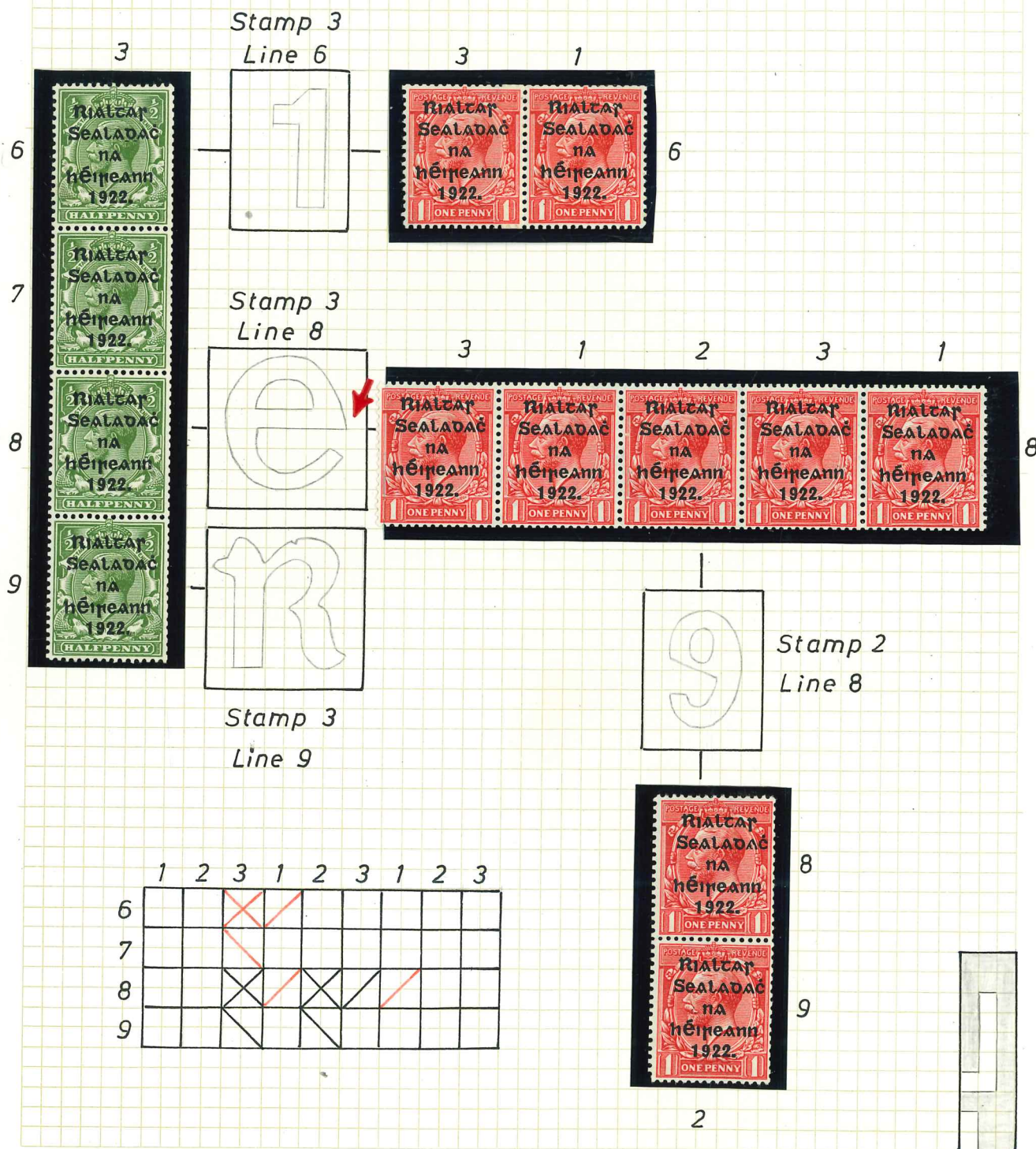
Crossreferencing horizontal and vertical strips.

The damaged first *a* in *Sealadac* in Stamp 2 Line 10 again allows more stereo positions to be identified.



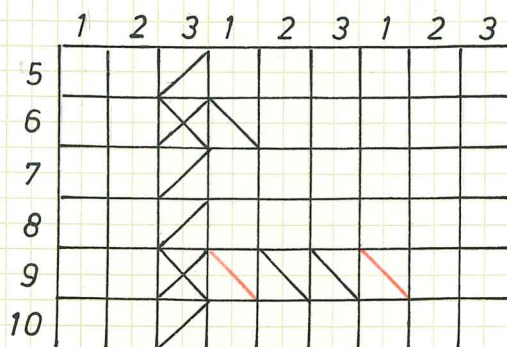
Crossreferencing horizontal and vertical strips.

Here the nick in the **R** of **Rialtas** seen on the previous sheet in Stamp 3 Line 9 provides the link to new stereo positions marked in red.

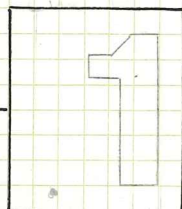


Crossreferencing horizontal and vertical strips.

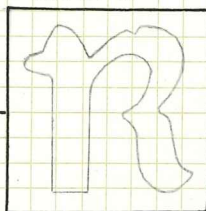
Again the nick in the **R** of **Rialtas** in Stamp 3 Line 9 provides the link to another stereo position.



Stamp 3
Line 6

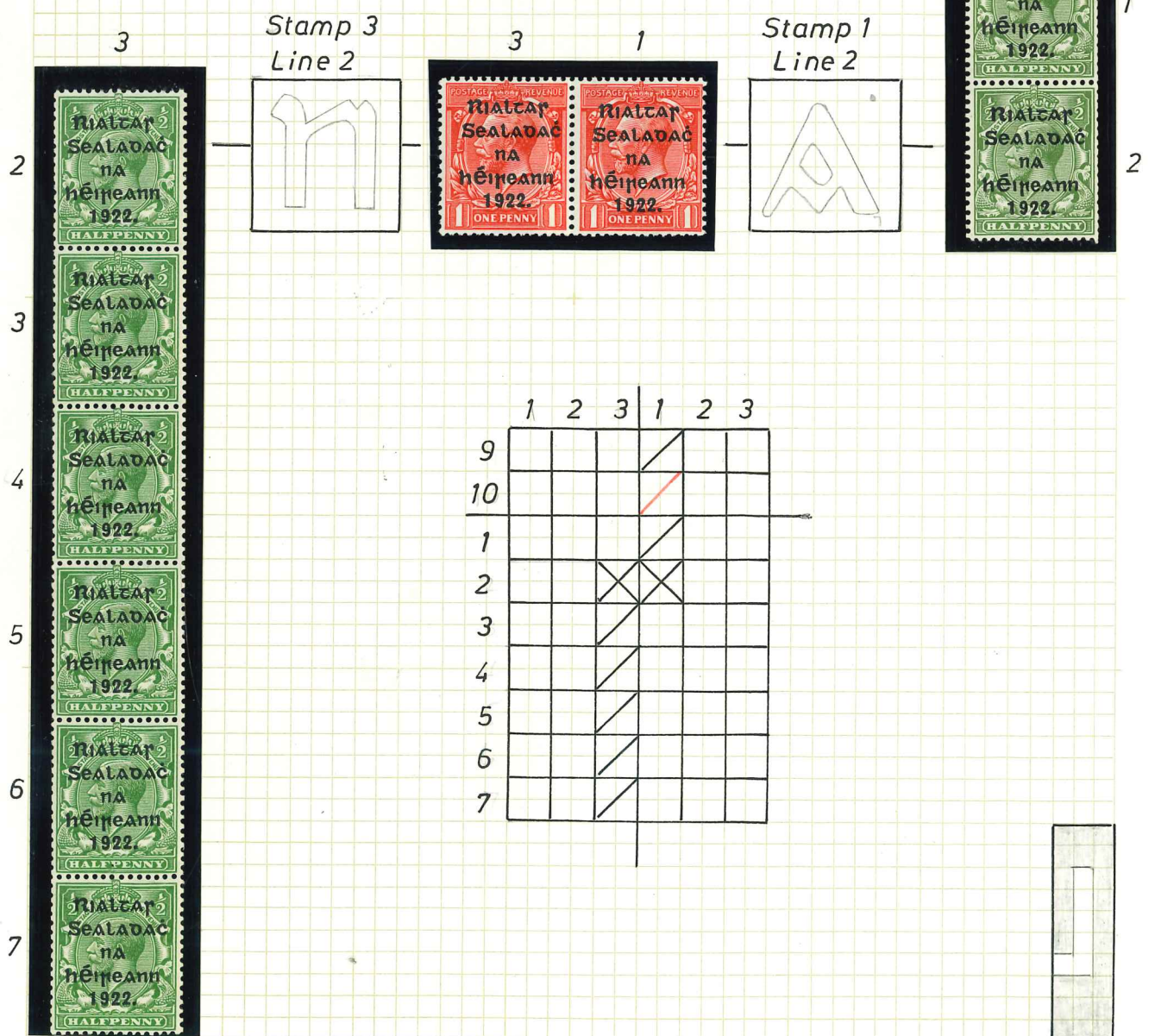


Stamp 3
Line 9



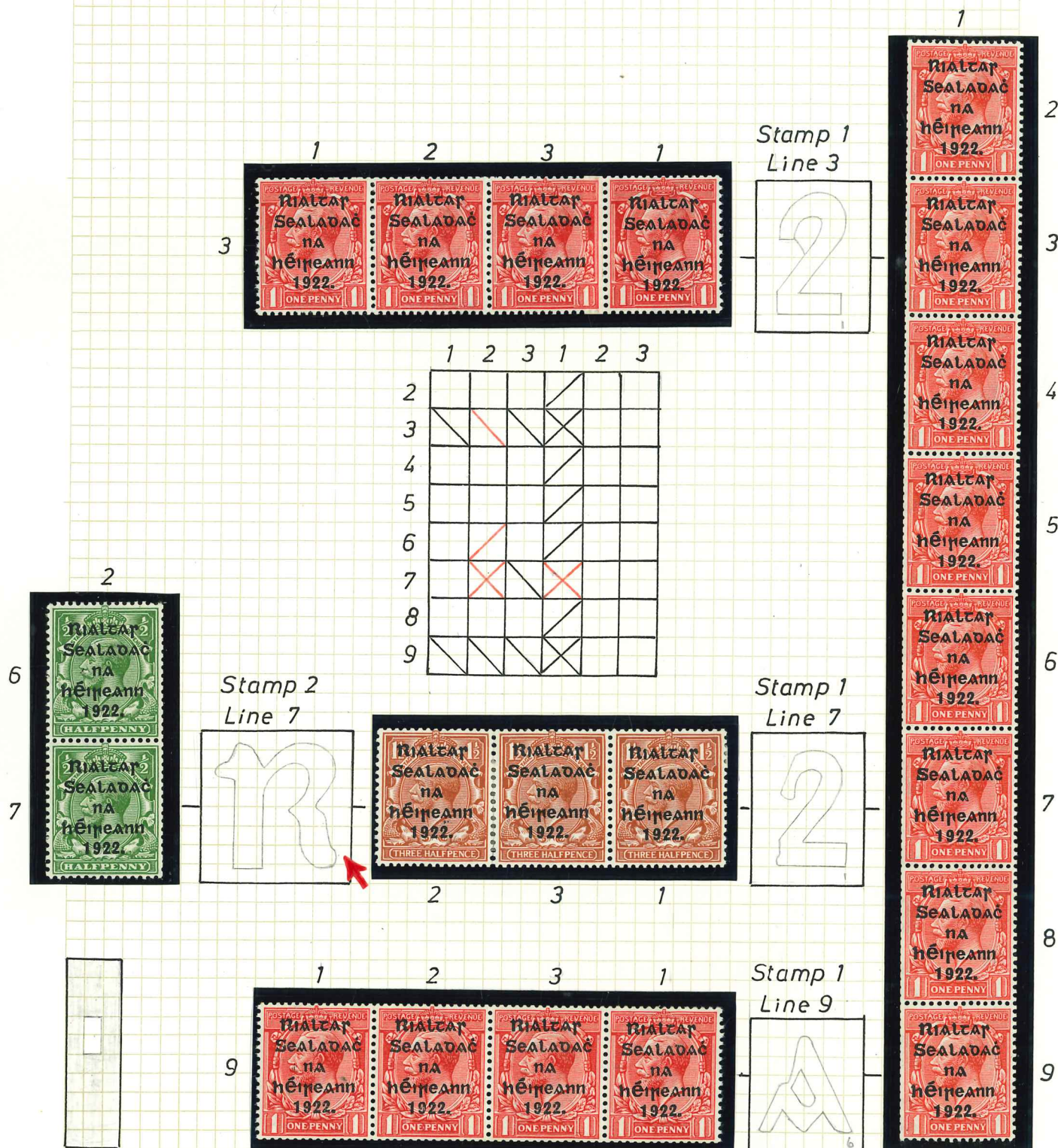
Crossreferencing horizontal and vertical strips.

The characteristic damaged second *n* of *héireann* of Stamp 3 Line 2 enables another stereo position to be identified.



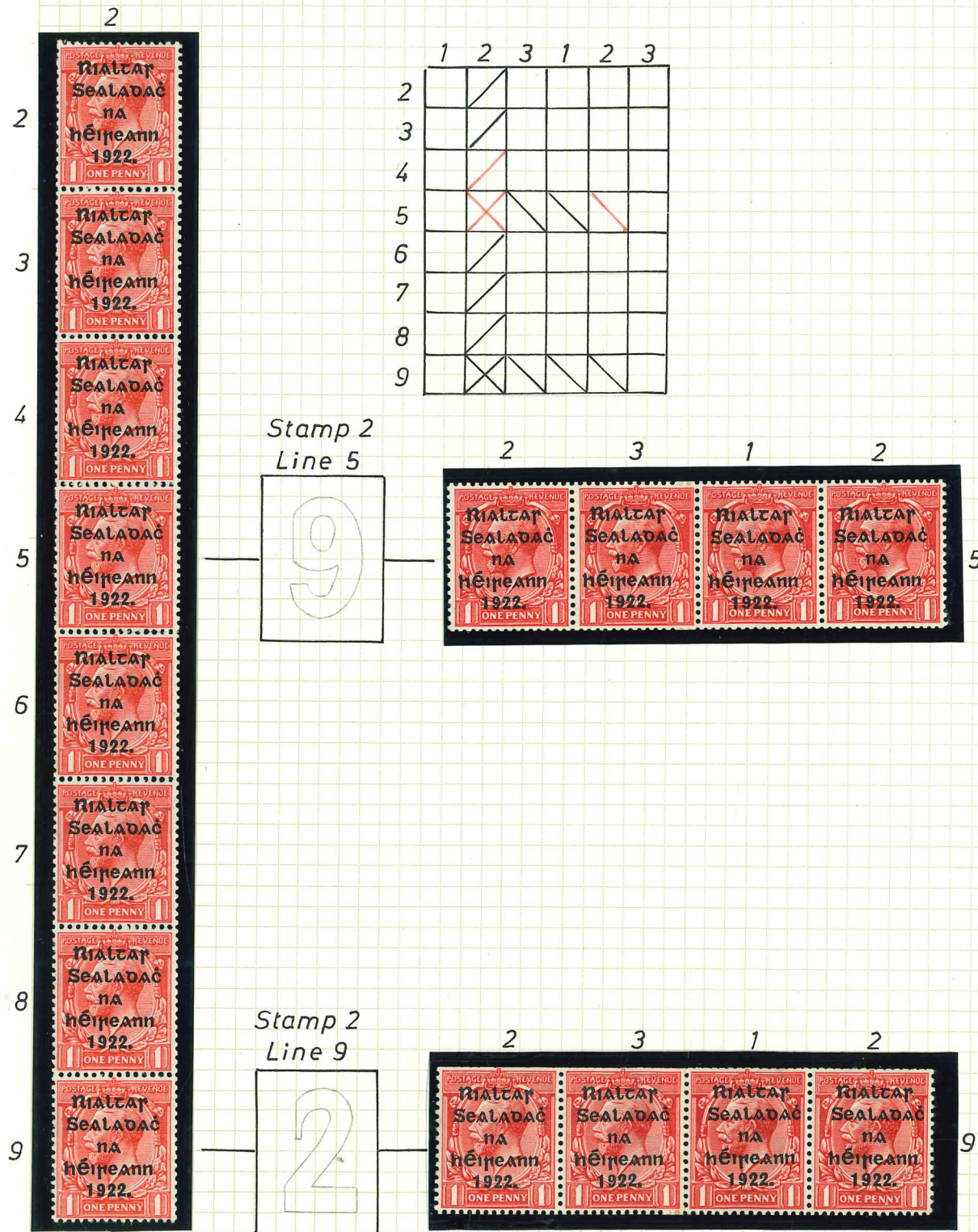
Crossreferencing horizontal and vertical strips.

Recognising Stamp 1 Line 3 allows several more stereo positions to be located.




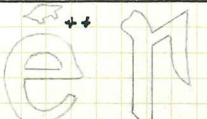

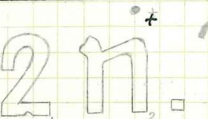
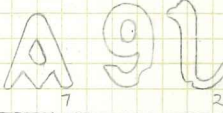


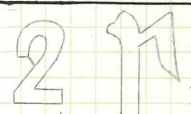



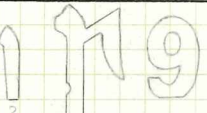




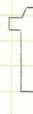
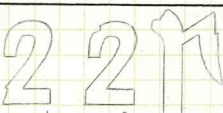





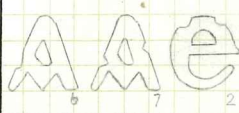
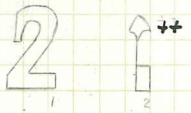
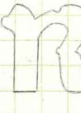


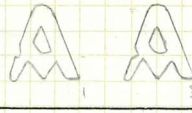




Crossreferencing horizontal and vertical strips.

The last two positions of the stereo are identified in red below, Stamp 2 Line 9 providing the link to previous strips.



The Harrison 5 Line Stereo.

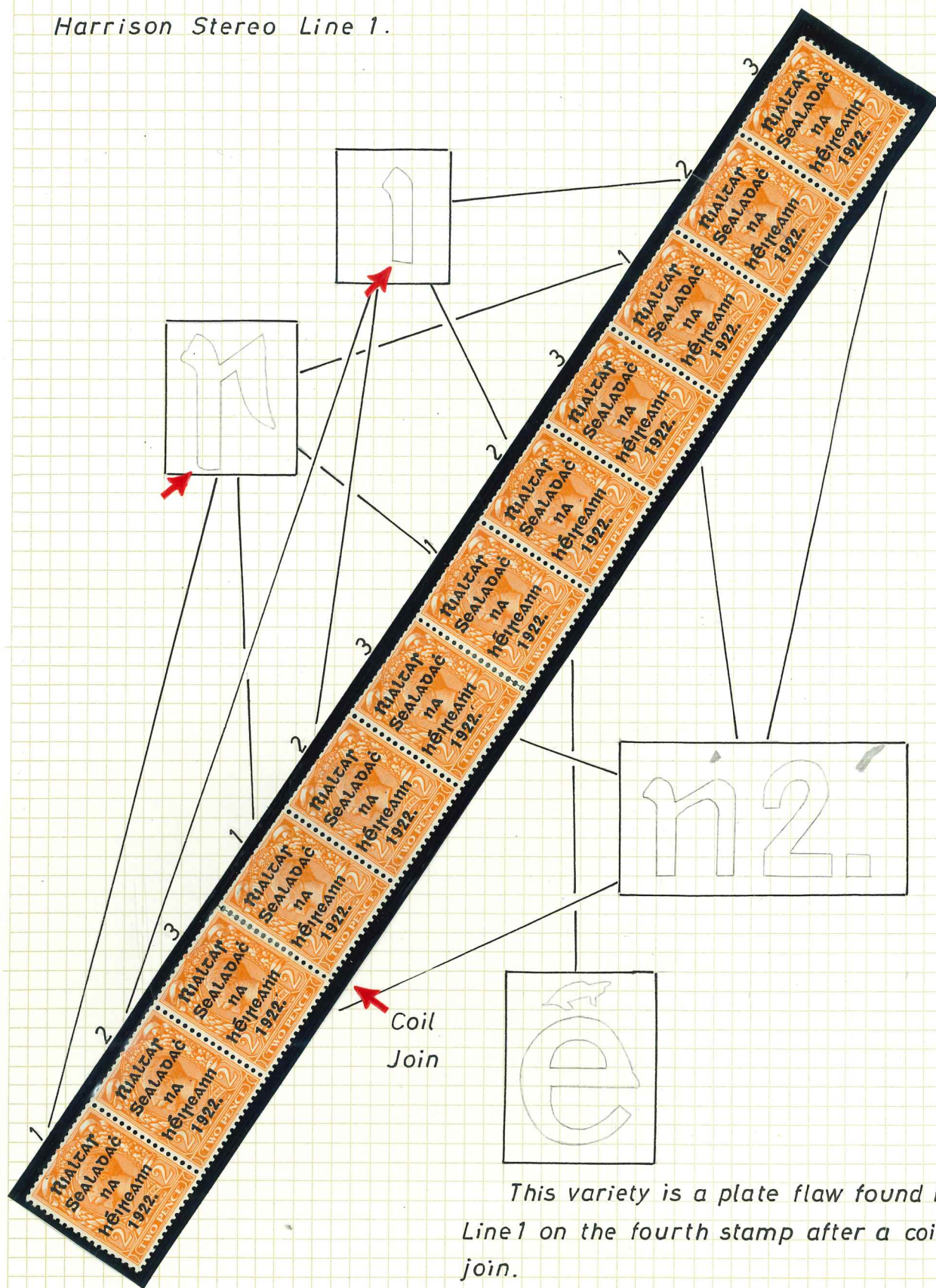
The recurrent flaws of the Harrison stereo are summarised in the chart below. Ink marks which are not present on all examples are indicated accordingly, as are plate flaws.

	1	2	3
1/3 	1 	2 	3 
	2 		
	3 		
	4 		
1/4 	5 		
	6 		
	7 		
	8 		
	9 		
1/7 	10 		
			2/7 
			2/8 
			3/2 

*Not consistent.

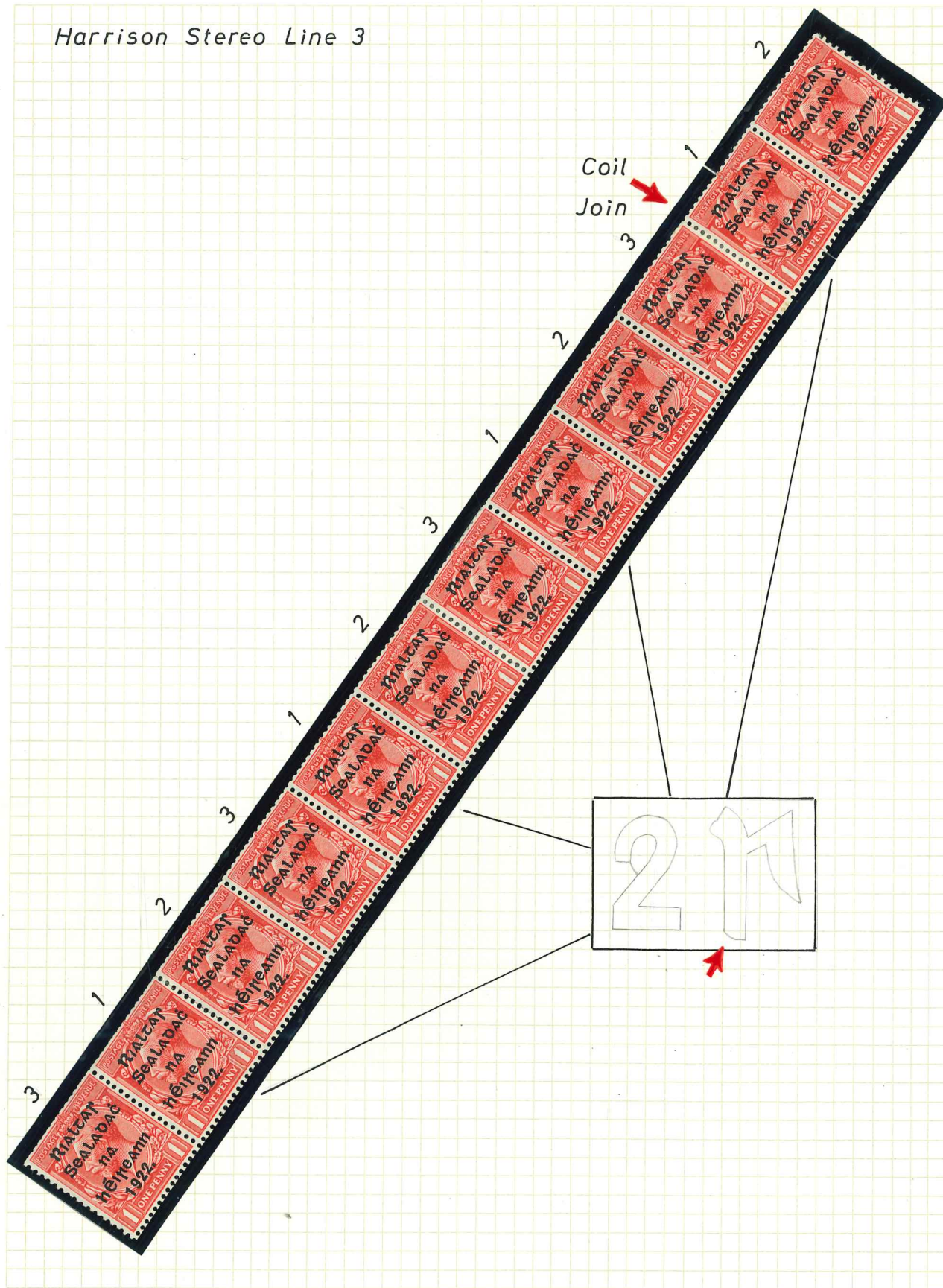
**Plate Flaw

Harrison Stereo Line 1.

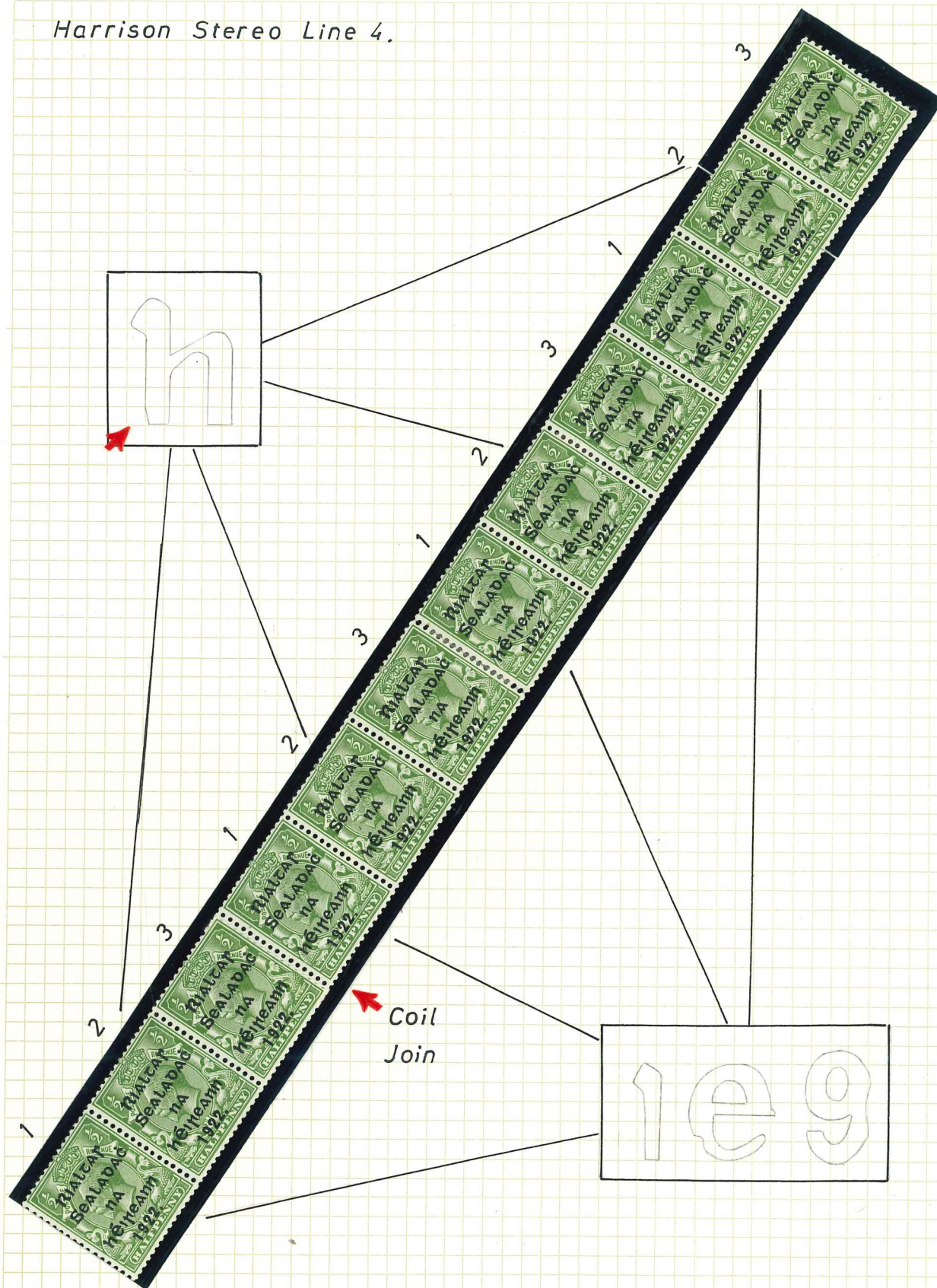


This variety is a plate flaw found in Line 1 on the fourth stamp after a coil join.

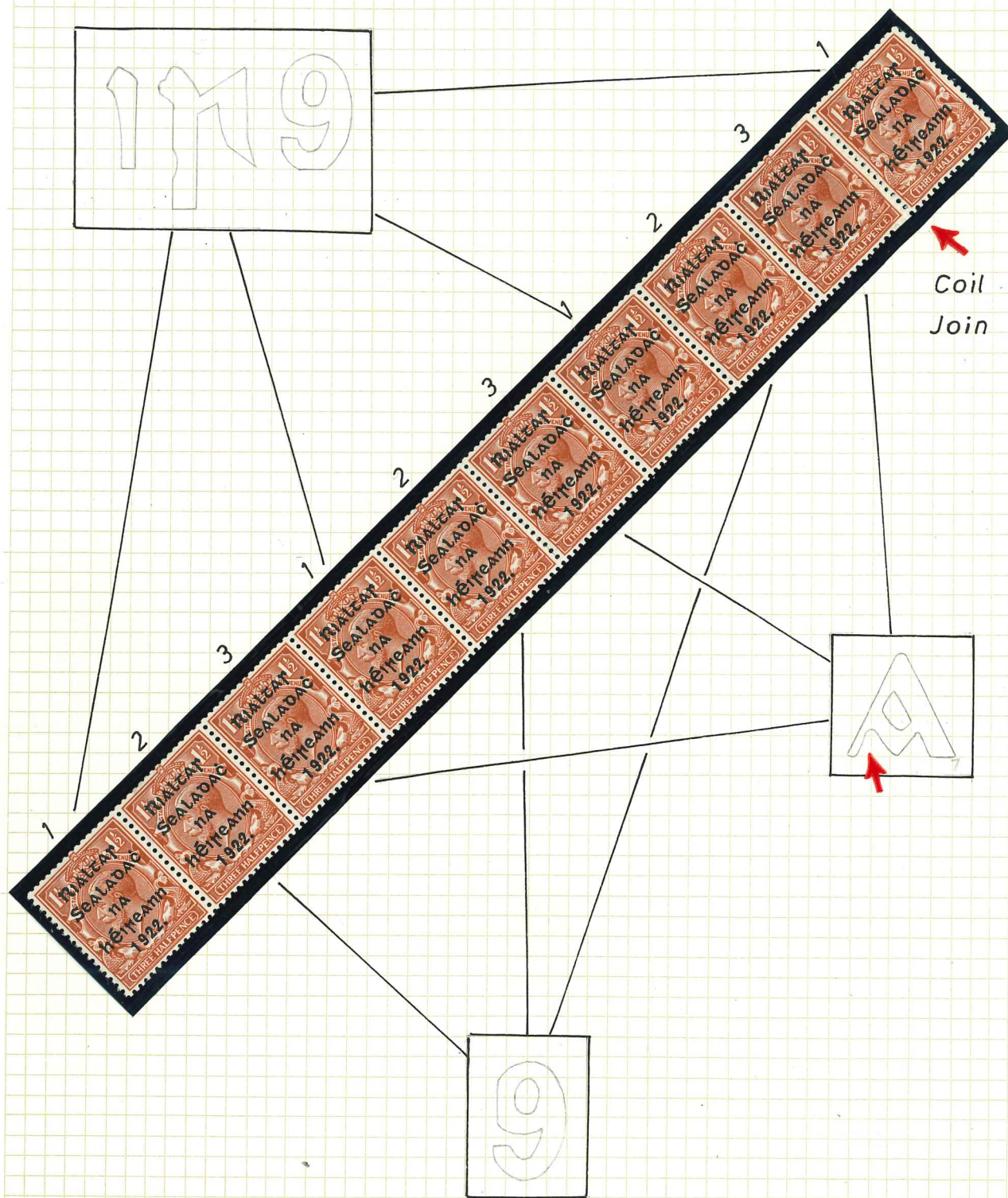
Harrison Stereo Line 3



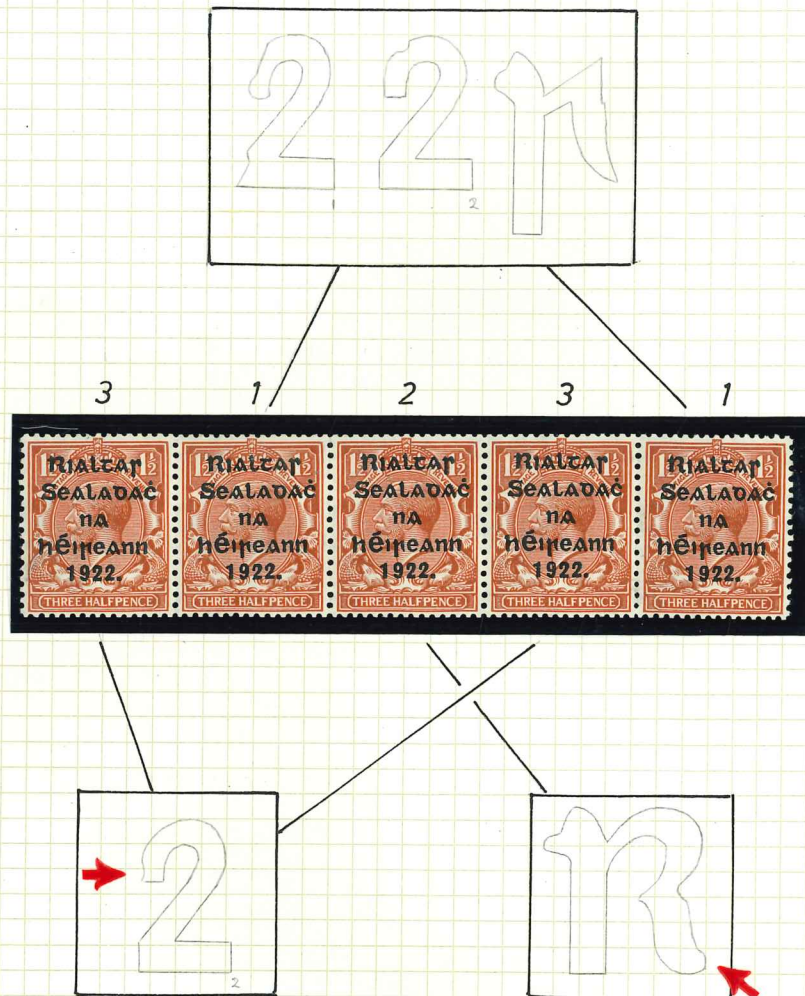
Harrison Stereo Line 4.



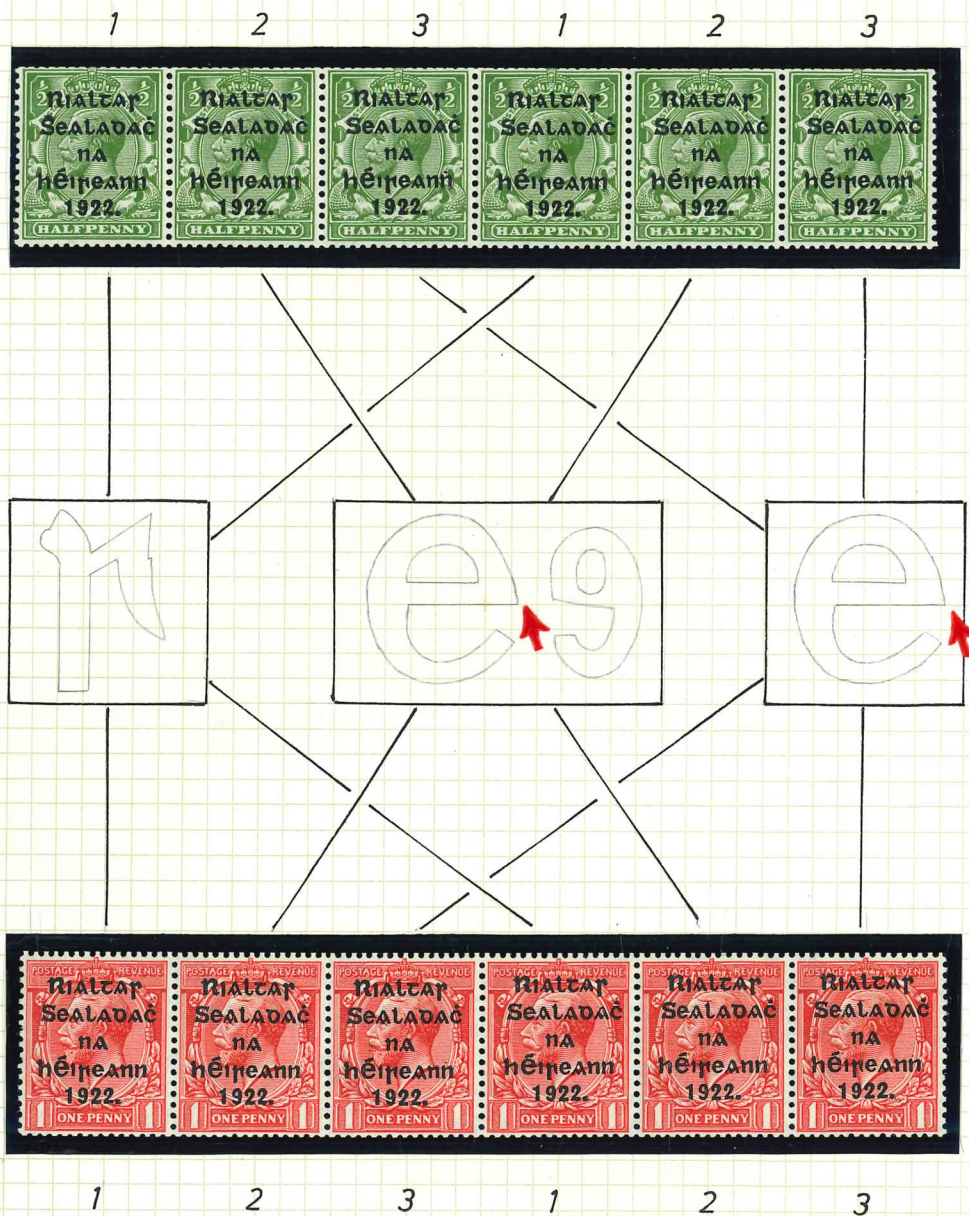
Harrison Stereo Line 5.



Harrison Stereo Line 7.

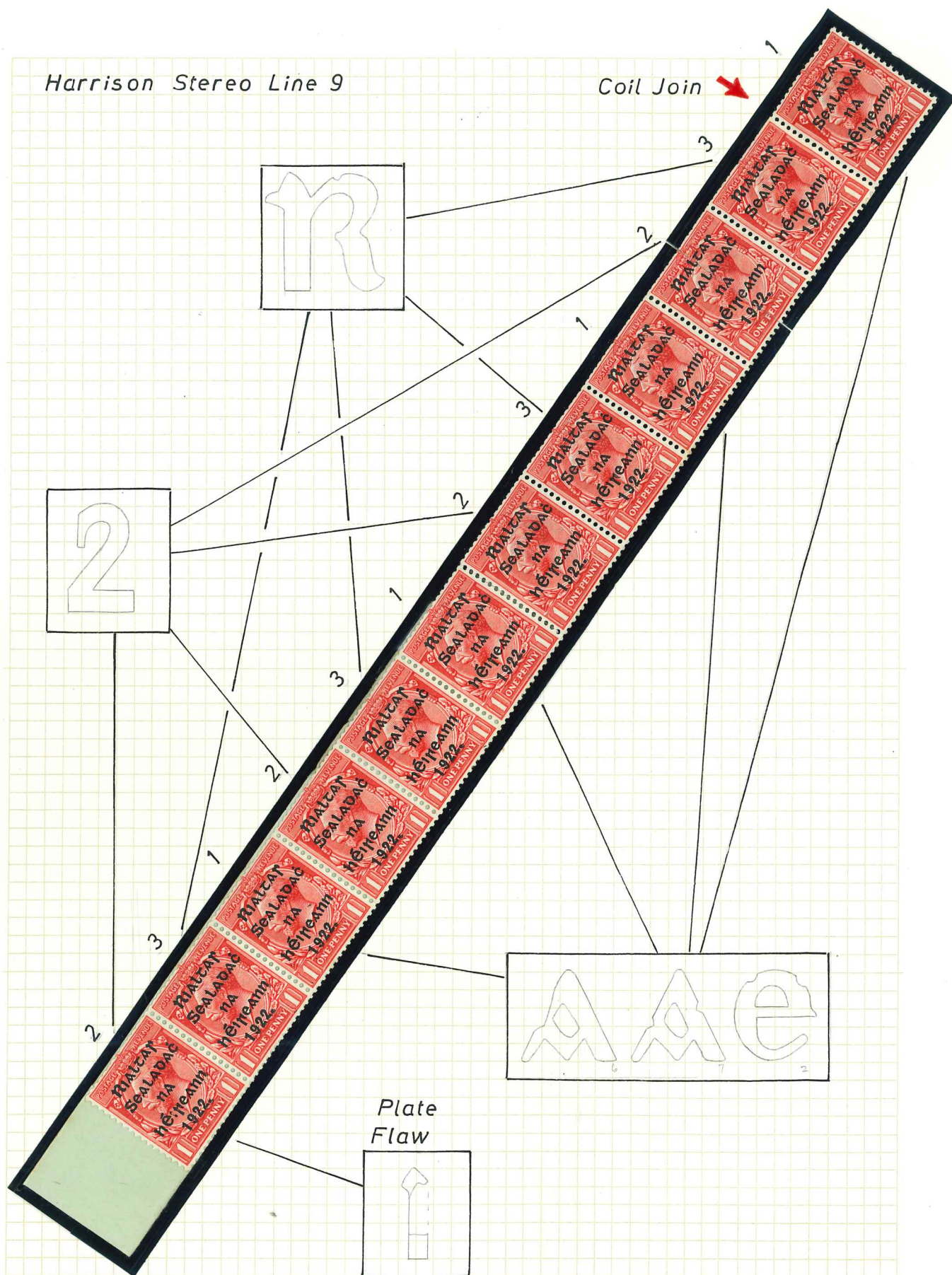


Harrison Stereo Line 8

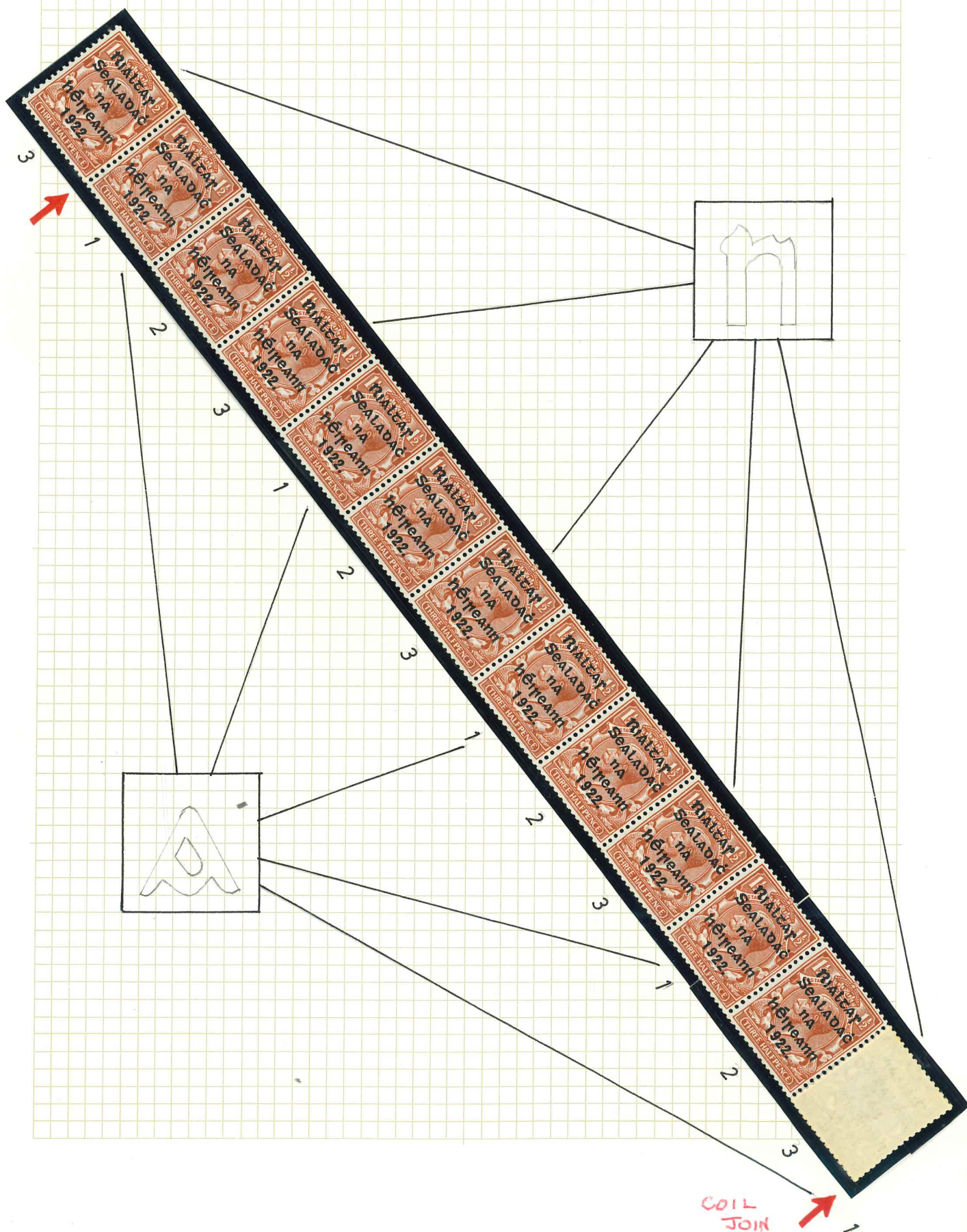


Harrison Stereo Line 9

Coil Join



Harrison Stereo Line 2.



Harrison Stereo Line 10.

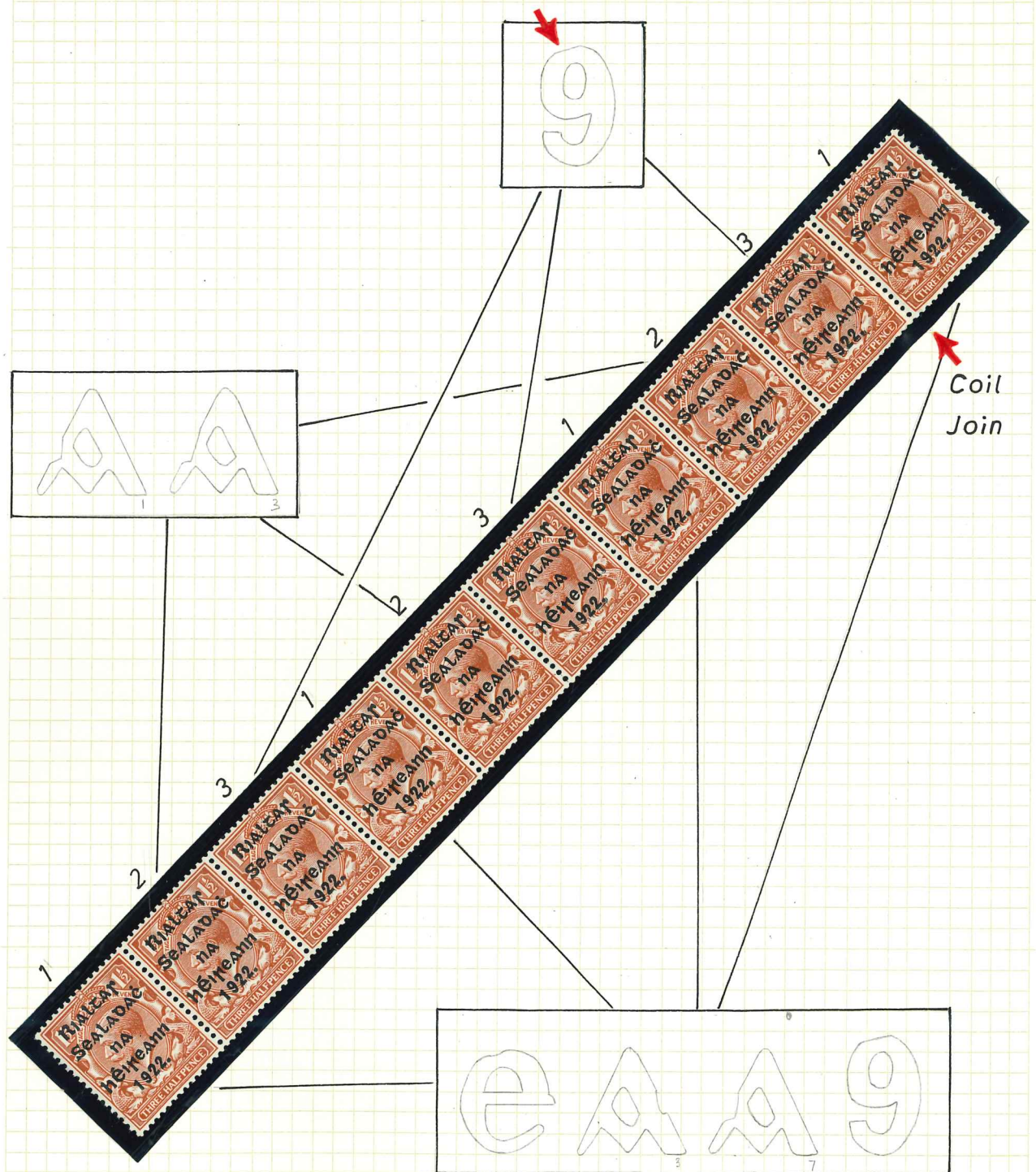


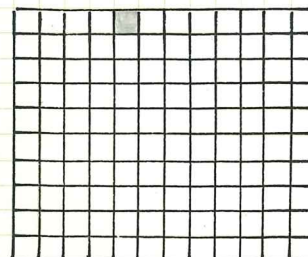
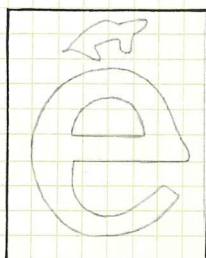
Plate Flaws.

After the overprint plate had been made up from four stereos in each pane any later damage would appear only once on each sheet. Two such flaws have been noted in this study, recurrent only once between coil joins.

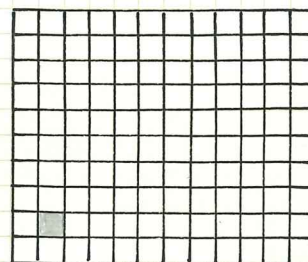
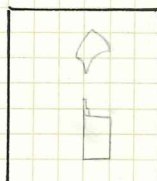
Pane position.

The pane position of a plate flaw can be found by noting its horizontal row from stereo flaws and its vertical row from its distance from a horizontal coil join.

Damaged accent to *e* of *Eireann*



Damaged *i* of *Eireann*



Harrison 5 Line Coil Issue



Conclusions of the study.

- 1. The sheets of stamps used for the Harrison 5 line coil issue were overprinted by a plate consisting of eight similar 3x10 stereos.*
- 2. All the strips examined are consistent with the use of a single overprint plate.*
- 3. Most positions in the stereo can be identified by consistent type flaws. Ink marks are recurrent on some stereo positions but can be absent.*
- 4. In every coil join examined each strip has been joined to a strip of the same horizontal or vertical stereo row. This indicates that sufficient sheets must have been guillotined simultaneously to form a complete coil from one horizontal or vertical row, i.e. 25 sheets to make 12 vertical coils ($25 \times 2 \times 10 = 500$ stamps \times 12 vertical rows) and 40 sheets to form 20 horizontal coils ($40 \times 12 = 480$ stamps \times 20 horizontal rows).*
- 5. The pane positions of two plate flaws have been identified.*

19 June 1922. Harrison 5 Line coils used.



Thom 5 Line Wide Setting

The Thom narrow setting plates were broken up in anticipation of the issue of definitive stamps. Delay in their production caused an urgent need for more of the common value overprints.

A new setting 1mm wider than the narrow setting was produced to meet the demand.

November - December 1922.



Thom 5 Line Wide Setting

November - December 1922. Used.



Thom Wide Setting

Only two plates of the Thom wide setting were used. The measurements are very similar but there is a difference in the recurrent flaws as shown in the examples below.

Examination of a complete sheet reveals no flaw pattern and it is likely that both plates were prepared as complete stereos of 240 stamps.

Plate 1



→ 20 1/4 ←
→ 40 3/4 ←

Plate 2



→ 20 3/4 ←
→ 41 ←

Thom Wide Setting GB Plates.

1/2d

Plate 74 Oval dot breaking top to right of P 20x2.



1d

Plate 93 Four half cuts (outer) 20th right side, 5, 8 3/4, 12 1/4, 15 1/2.



1 1/2d.

Plate 8b. Dot to left of T 20x4, Half cut under FP 20x2.



Thom Wide Setting Controls

1/2d	1d	1 1/2d	2d	1/=
U221	T221	T221	T221	T221
U22P	U221	T22P	T22P	T22P
	U22P			



Thom 3 Line Issue

When the Provisional Government of Ireland changed its name to the Irish Free State, a new 3 line overprint was chosen

Saorstát	Free State
Eireann	Ireland
1922	1922



Twelve values of this issue appeared in December 1922 and January 1923 in shiny blue-black or red ink, both varying considerably in shade.

Overprint shade variations.

Shiny blue-black.



Red.



Thom 3 Line Issue

December 11th 1922 - January 16th 1923.



Thom 3 Line Issue

December 11th 1922 - January 16th 1923. Used.



Thom 3 Line Controls

1/2d Value.

	Controls					
	T221	T22P	U221	U22P	U231	U23P
Plate	345	345	12	12	34	345



Thom 3 Line Controls

1d Value.

	Controls					
	T22I	T22P	U22I	U22P	U23I	U23P
Plate	12	12	12	12	3	3



Thom 3 Line Controls

	Controls							
	T22 I	T22 P	U22 I	U22 P	U23 I	U23 P	V23 P	W23 I
1 1/2d	1	1	2	2				
2d	1 2	1 2						
2 1/2d	1 3	1			3	3		
3d			1 2	1 2				
4d			1 3		3		3	



Thom 3 Line Controls

	Controls								
	T 22 I	T 22 P	U 22 I	U 22 P	U 23 I	U 23 P	V 23 I	V 23 P	W 23 I
5d	3 5	2 3 5			3				
6d			12345				3 4		3 4
9d	3	12 3			3	3			
10d	3	12 3							
1/=	2		1 2	1 2	3 4	3 4			



Ireland

Thom 3 Line Overprint Plates

Five plates were made by Alex Thom Ltd for their 3 line low value overprinted issue which was first on sale on December 11th 1922. These can be distinguished by measurement of the separation between the overprints of the control block, as shown below, and by recurrent type flaws.

During this study the unusual method used to prepare the three later plates was first revealed.

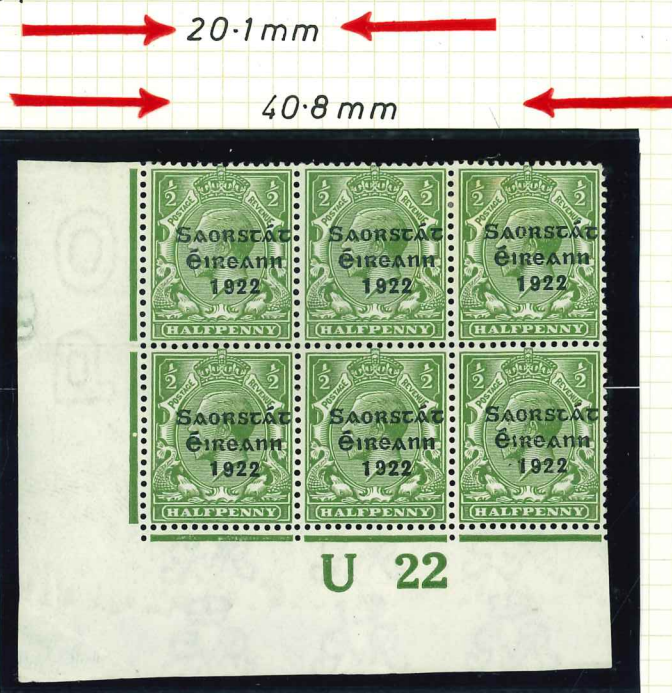


Measurements



Plate 1

Measurements



Recurrent Flaws



Plate 1 (1d value)

Measurements



Recurrent Flaws

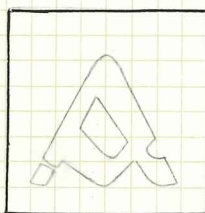


Plate 1 Recurrent Flaws.

A number of recurrent flaws can be seen on these two Plate 1 blocks.

A record of such flaws make identification of overprint plates possible when the control block is not included.

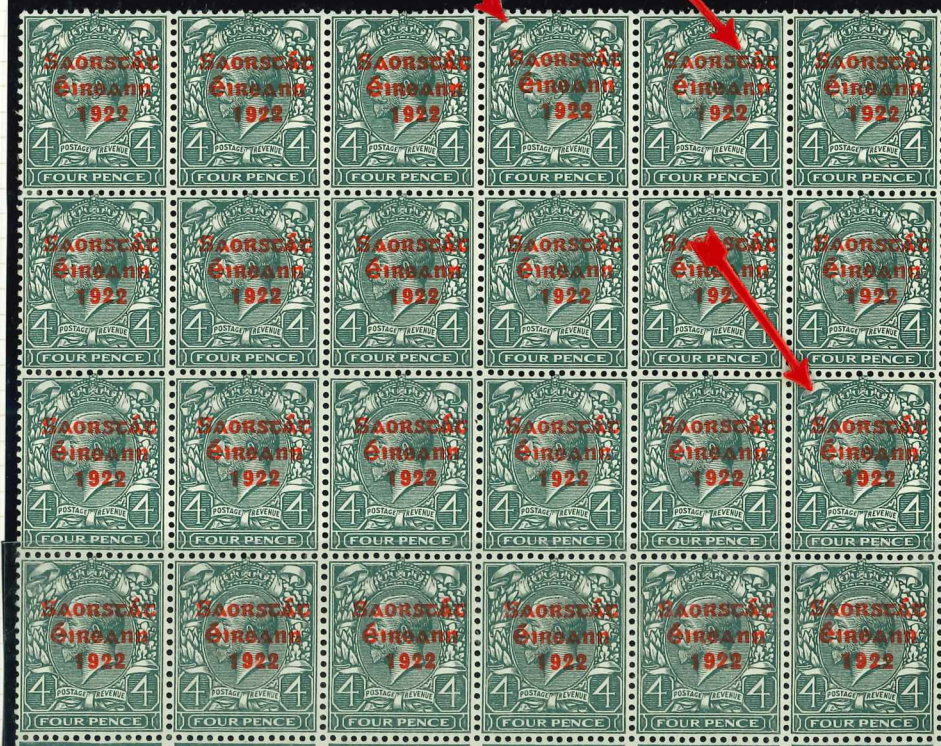
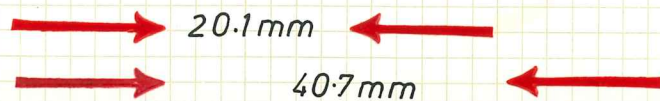


Plate 2.

Measurements.

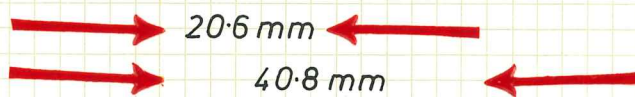


Recurrent Flaws.



Plate 2 (1d value)

Measurements.



Recurrent Flaws

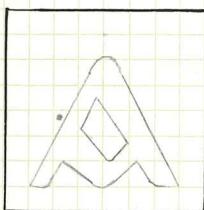


Plate 2 Recurrent Flaws.

In the same way as in Plate 1, comparison of similar Plate 2 blocks reveal a number of recurrent flaws.



Plate 2 Recurrent Flaws

Many flaws in this plate are recurrent but not constant.

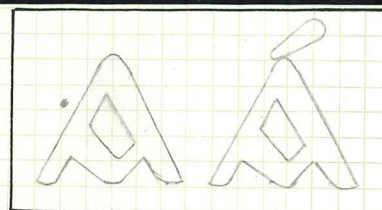
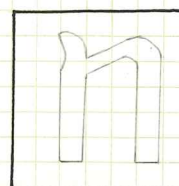
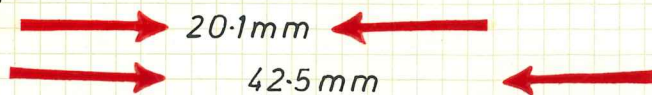


Plate 3

Note the wider spacing between Stamps 2 and 3 in Plates 3 4 and 5.

Measurements.



Recurrent Flaws.

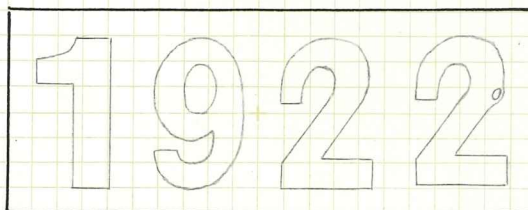
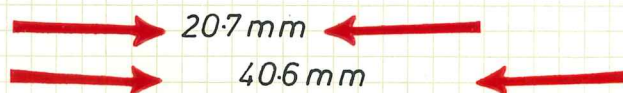


Plate 3 (1d value)

Control U23 is much less common than other 1d controls and is found only in Plate 3.

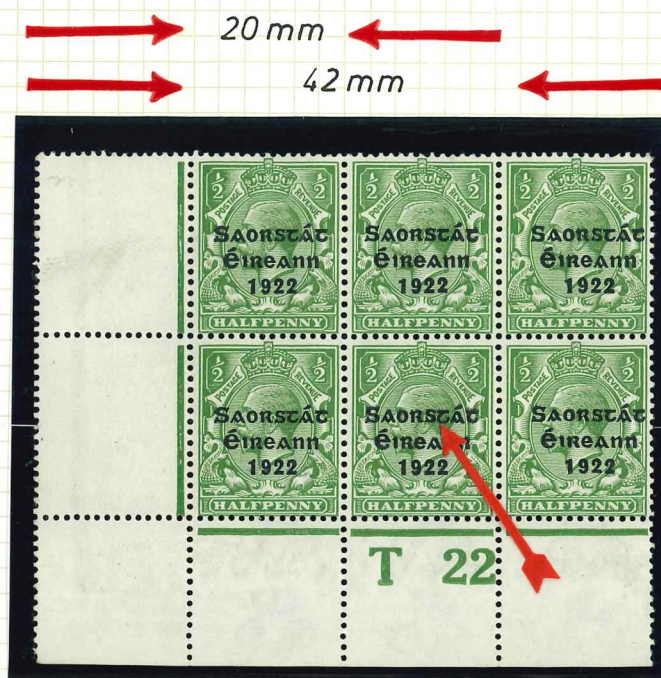
Measurements.



Plates 4 and 5 are not found in the 1d value.

Plate 4.

Measurements.



Recurrent Flaws.

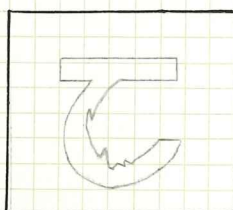
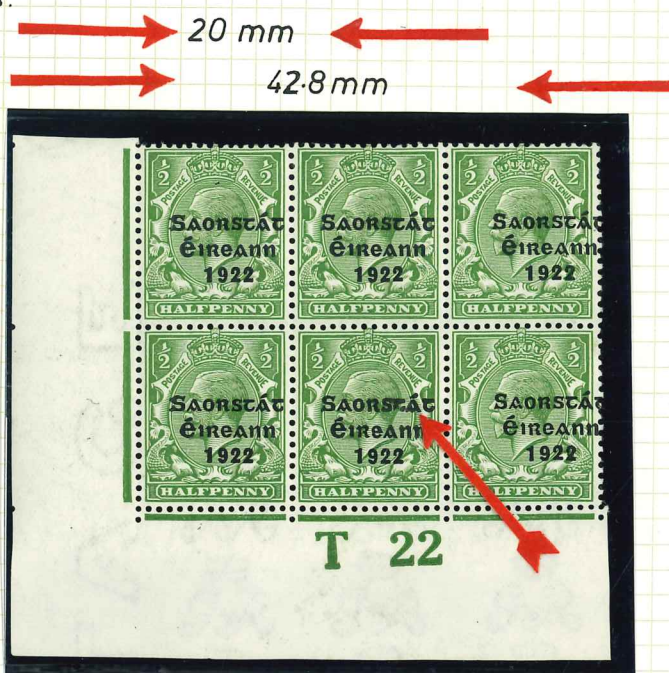


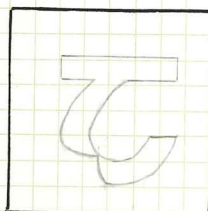
Plate 5

Plates 4 and 5 are not found in the 1d value.

Measurements.

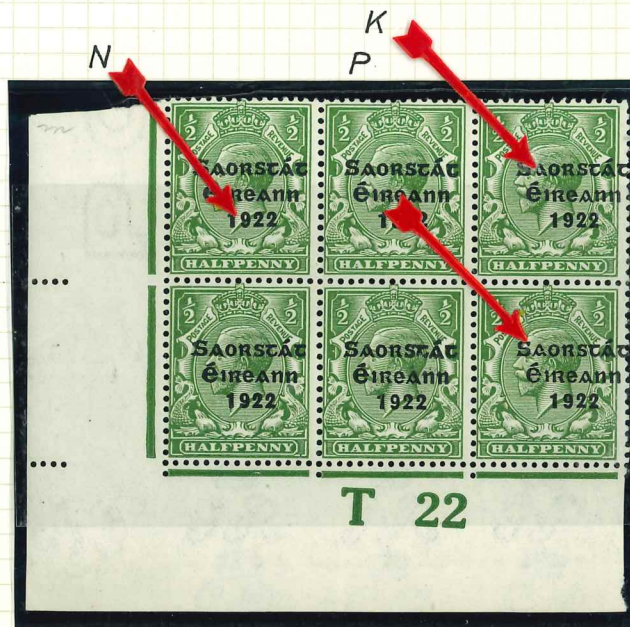


Recurrent Flaws.



The Thom 10x6 Stereo

The recurrent flaws of the 10x6 stereo seen on the Plate 4 pane are shown below. The same stereo is used in Plates 3 and 5.



R				R
	V	T	U	
A				
	G		E	F
N		K	L	
		P		

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1					A 2			B 1	C n	D 2 ₂
2		E A ₂ high	F 1			G τ		H O		J 2 ₁ high
3	K A	L S		M 9	N 9		O S			
4	P A			Q τ						
5			R n					S R		
6	T 2	U S		V 2 ₂						

Stereo Flaw Pattern - Plates 4 and 5.

The flaw pattern of the Plate 4 lower pane has been shown on a previous sheet. The block below reveals the same flaws in the top RH of the upper pane as were in the same position on the lower pane.

The overall flaw pattern of the upper pane is not, however, the same as the lower pane. This was found by examination of a complete sheet of Plate 5 which is illustrated in the diagram below.

The method of plate preparation which produced this flaw pattern is explained on the next sheet.

Plate 4 and 5 Flaw Pattern.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

1						A			B	C	D
2		E		E	F		G		H		J
3	K	L	K	L		M	N		O		
4	P		P			Q					
5					R				S		
6	T	U	T	U		V					
7	O		K	L		M	N		O		
8			P			Q					
9		S			R				S		
10			T	U		V					
11						A			B	C	D
12	F			E	F		G		H		J
13		M	K	L		M	N		O		
14		Q	P			Q					
15	R				R				S		
16		V	T	U		V					
17	A					A			B	C	D
18		G		E	F		G		H		J
19	N		K	L		M	N		O		
20			P			Q					



C
D
J

Stereo Layout Plates 4 and 5.

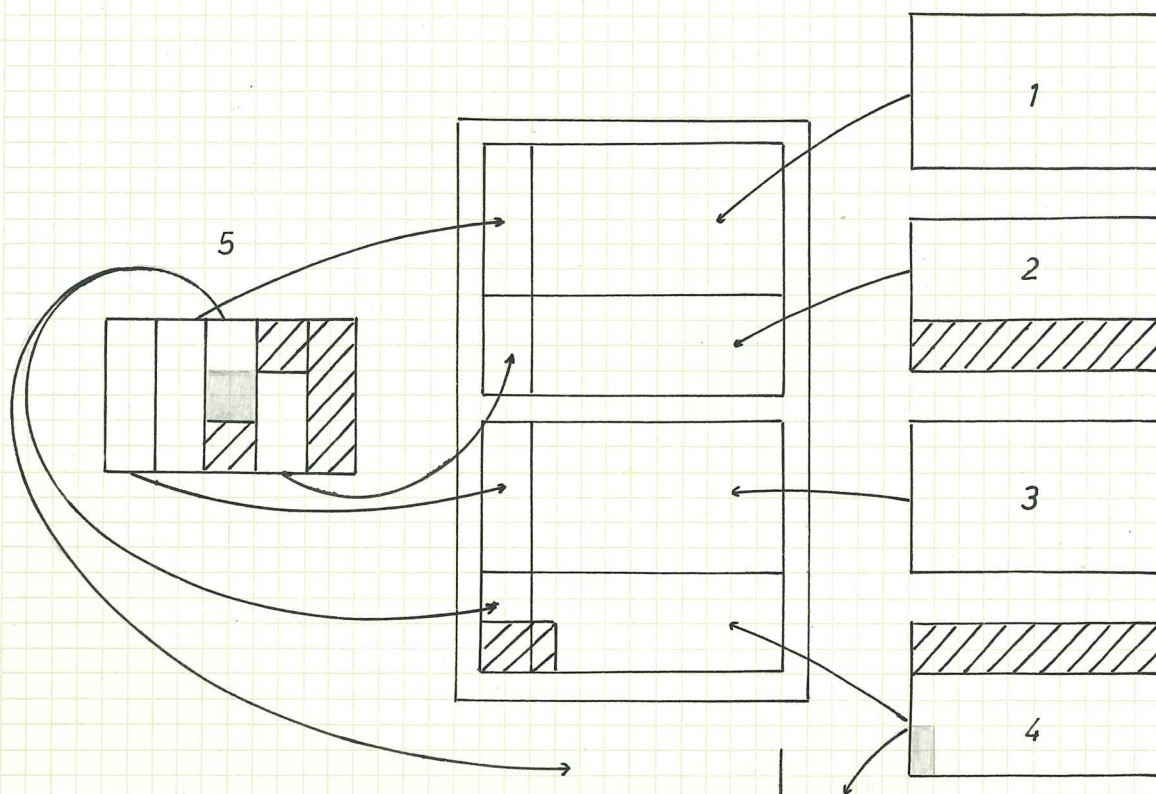
The compositor of Plates 4 and 5 used five 10x6 stereos, as follows

a. Stereos 1 and 3 into the top RH corner of each pane.

b. The top 4 rows of Stereo 2 into bottom RH upper pane.

c. The bottom 4 rows of Stereo 4 into bottom RH lower pane.

d. Stereo 5 was split into double rows vertically and placed as shown.



Stereo Layout Plate 3.

Although Plate 3 has the same wide gap between Stamps 2 and 3 as Plates 4 and 5, the Plate 3 control block below reveals an interesting difference. Flaws M Q and T appear in the Plate 3 control block instead of Flaws N K and P.

A comparison of most of the lower pane can therefore be made although no larger blocks of Plate 3 are available for study.

Plate 3



Plates 4 and 5



	1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1							A			B	C	D
2				E	F			G		H		J
3			K	L		M	N		O			
4	?	?	P			Q						
5					R					S		
6			T	U		V						
7			K	L		M	N		O			
8	F		P			Q						
9		M			R					S		
10		Q	T	U		V						

	1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1							A			B	C	D
2	F			E	F			G		H		J
3		M	K	L		M	N		O			
4		Q	P			Q						
5	R				R					S		
6		V	T	U		V						
7	A						A			B	C	D
8		G		E	F			G		H		J
9	N		K	L		M	N		O			
10			P			Q						

Thom 3 Line GB Plates

1/2d Value.

Plate 66b Small dot (central) 19th left side 9 1/2mm. Added
two fine cuts 11 3/4 . 13 1/2mm.



Plate 74. Oval dot, widely breaking top, to right of P of 2nd.



Thom 3 Line GB Plates.

1/2d Value.

Plate 48 Large oval dot (breaking base) under PE of 1st. Dots under LF and NN of 2nd. Base 20th left damaged (outer).



Plate 72 Oval dot under FP of 3rd.



Plate 76 Small dot (outer) 18th left side 11mm.



Thom 3 Line GB Plates

1d Value.

Plate 87b Dot(breaking inner) 20th right side 12mm. Added dot under PE of 10th.



Plate 94. Tiny dot(inner) 20th left side 12mm.



Plate 116. Dot 18th right side 10mm.



Thom 3 Line GB Plates

Plate 8b. 1/2 cut(outer) 19th left side 9 1/2 mm



Plate 8b. Nick(outer) 19th left side 5 3/4 mm.



Plate 1e Dot under RP of 1st.



Thom 3 Line GB Plates

6d Value.

This was the only value not printed by Harrison and Sons. Somerset House used no deliberate plate marks so that plating can be done only with accidental marks and by knowing which plates were used with which controls.

Plate 6. Small projection under X of 1st.



Plate 7. No marking.



Thom 3 Line GB Plates

9d Value.

Plate 1f. Dot (top) under EN of 1st.



Plate 3b. Dot (base) under P of 2nd.



Major Varieties.

Break over FOUR



Ten pence marginal error.

Plate 9 Row 9 Stamp 1.



Major Varieties

Accent Inserted.

On Plate 1 an overprinting error omitted the accent on **Saorstat** on the last stamp of Row 15. Some sheets were sold without the accent, but it was later inserted, without making a very accurate copy of the original, using a handstamp.

The accent is longer than normal and has a distinctive pointed shape as in the example below.

As this variety is commonly forged care should be taken to see that an existing accent has not either been removed or covered up with heavy ink. Close examination should show a clear outline to the inserted accent and no evidence of an original smaller accent either on the front or back of the stamp.



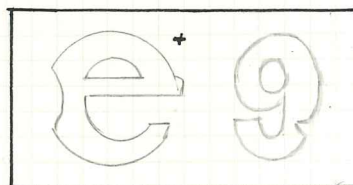
Thom 3 Line Meredith Varieties

S over *e* Variety.

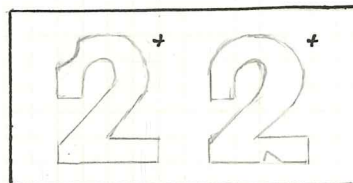
Type shift varieties are much less common in the Thom 3 line overprint than in the 5 line. The *S* over *e* variety occurs in Stamp 10 Rows 7 and 10 in Plate 2 and is due to movement of the first line of the overprint.

The two positions can be distinguished by recurrent type flaws.

Stamp 10 Row 7.

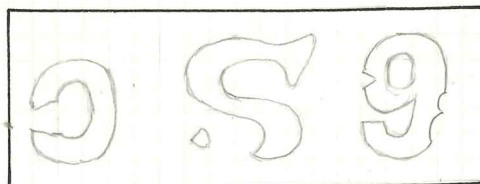


Stamp 10 Row 10.



+Not consistent

The Stamp 10 Row 7 flaw was repaired but the position can be recognised from the flaws below.



Thom 3 Line Meredith Varieties.

S over e Variety



V104



V108



V107



V105



V110



V111



V109



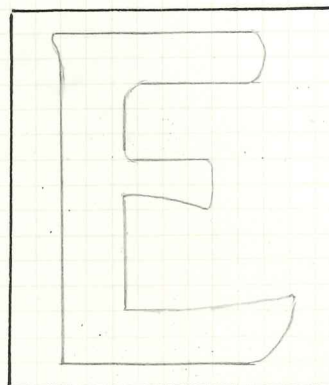
V113

Thom 3 Line Meredith Varieties

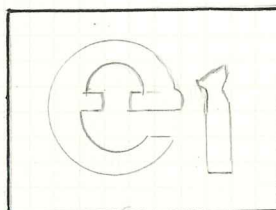
PENCF Corrected

On Control Q21 the bottom bar to the **E** of **PENCE** was omitted on the 1 1/2d value. This error was noticed and corrected on Control T22 but the inserted bar is slightly too long as shown in the diagram. The variety occurs on Stamp 12 Row 15.

This example belonged to Mr Meredith himself and was one of a number damaged by being kept too close together.



The difference in bar length compared with the normal stamp is only 0.1mm. Particular recurrent varieties shown below will confirm whether it is the true variety.



Thom 3 Line Meredith Varieties.

Sacrstat Variety.

This is a stereo flaw in Plates 4 and 5 (Flaw J) and therefore occurs three times on each plate.



V415



V416



V418



V420



V421



V422



V423



V425



V423



V426

Thom 3 Line Meredith Varieties

Raised second a in Saorstat.

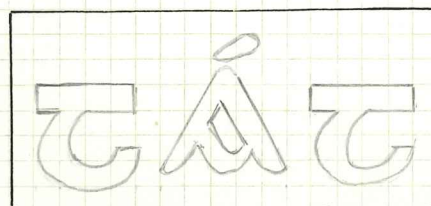
This is an interesting variety because Meredith gives several positions for it in Plate 3. As a similar variety occurs as a stereo flaw in Plates 4 and 5, a comparison can be made between the plates.



V438



V441



V436

Plate 3

	X
X	
X	

Plates 4 and 5

X	X
	X
	X

It seems likely that Plate 3 also has a 10x6 stereo. Examination of a complete sheet would probably show more positions in which the variety occurs.

Thom 3 Line Meredith Varieties

c for e in Eireann. Stamp 7 Row 11 Plate 1, and other positions.



V449



V450



V449

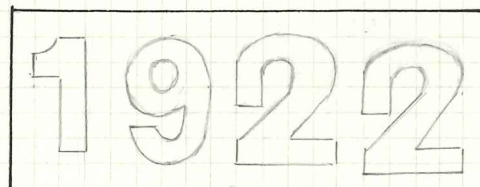
Short 1 and dropped second 2 in 1922. Stamp 1 Row 20 Plate 1.



V472



V474



V473

Thom 3 Line Meredith Varieties.

The guide blocks surrounding the overprint type was sometimes incorrectly set and made marks on the sheet. Meredith notes a number of such recurrent flaws.

Guide block after 1922. Row 1 Stamp 8 Plate 1.



V149

Guide block after Saorstat. Row 11 Stamp 7



V151

Minor Varieties

Dropped second 2 in 1922.



Offset of overprint on back.



V 633



V 639

st of Saorstat joined.



Thom 3 Line Overprint Spacing.

Overprint spacing is normally close to the stamp dimensions, 20.5mm horizontally and 24mm vertically. In Plates 3, 4 and 5 the horizontal spacing in some cases increases to 23mm. An example with a vertical spacing of 25mm is shown below; the two stamps in this example are also not in line.

→ 20.5mm ←

Normal



↓
24
mm
↑



→ 23mm ←

Abnormal



↓
25
mm
↑



Offcentre.

Right



Left



Low



High



Thom 3 Line Plate 2

Lower pane. Stamps 1-6 Rows 11-16.



Thom 3 Line Plate 2.

Lower pane Stamps 7-12 Rows 11-16.



Harrison 3 Line Issue

The Harrison 3 line issue for coil stamps appeared in four values, 1/2d, 1d, 1 1/2d, and 2d Die 2.

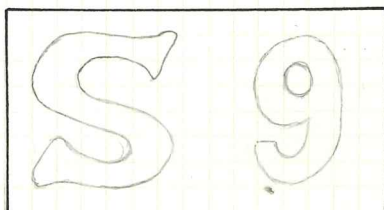
Three main differences distinguish the Harrison from the Thom 3 line issue

- (i) The **e** of **Eireann** is raised.
- (ii) The **9** of **1922** has a rounder outline.
- (iii) The centre stroke of the **S** of **Saorstat** is more sloping than the Thom.

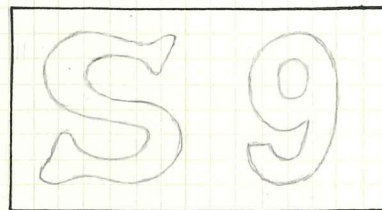
7 March 1923



Harrison



Thom



March 7th 1923. Harrison 3 Line coils. Used.



SG 67



SG 68



SG 69



SG 70

Coil Preparation.

The 3 line coil issue was prepared from complete overprinted sheets in the same way as the five line issue, so that coil joins appear every twelfth stamp horizontally and every tenth stamp vertically.

Horizontal Coil Joins.



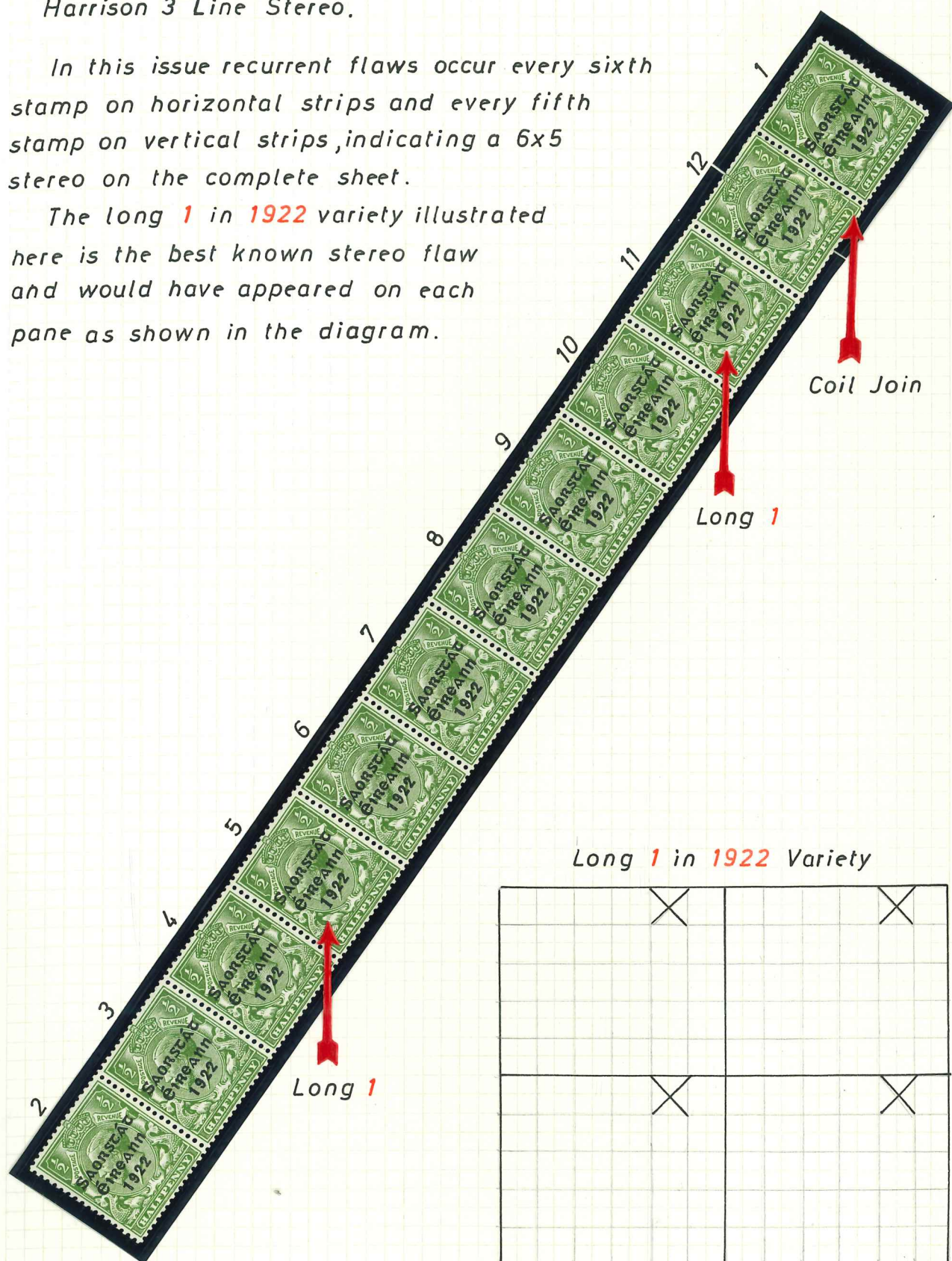
Vertical Coil Joins.



Harrison 3 Line Stereo.

In this issue recurrent flaws occur every sixth stamp on horizontal strips and every fifth stamp on vertical strips, indicating a 6x5 stereo on the complete sheet.

The long 1 in 1922 variety illustrated here is the best known stereo flaw and would have appeared on each pane as shown in the diagram.



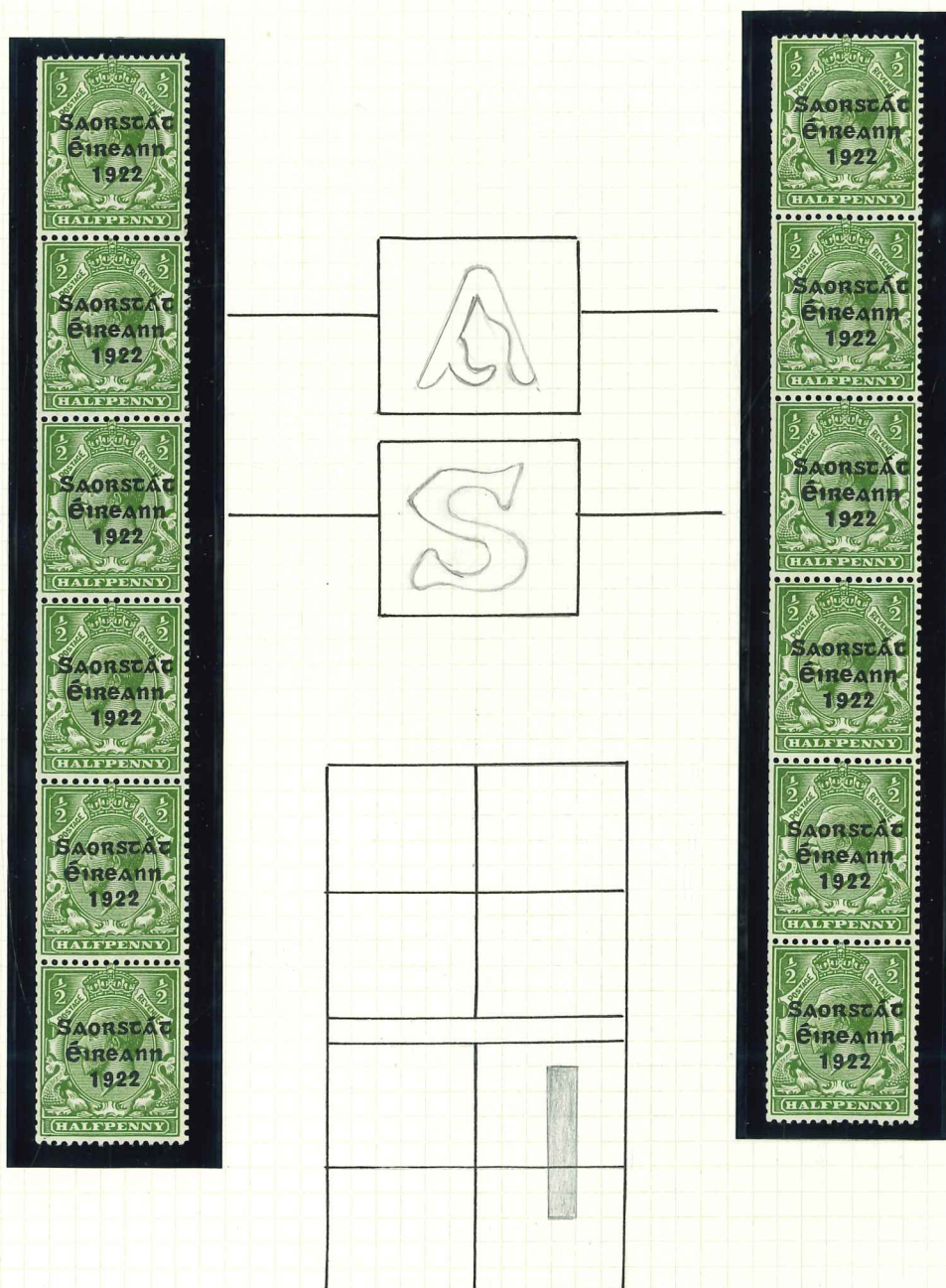
Long 1 in 1922 Variety

		X			X
		X			X

Harrison 3 Line Plate Flaws

Plate flaws are due to damage after the complete overprint plate was prepared and therefore occur only once on each sheet.

The flaws below are recurrent and so not due to faulty inking. The position of the strip is shown in the diagram.



Coil Manufacture.

Coils were prepared by joining sufficient complete sheets by the selvage to make up a roll from a single row of stamps. This is the reason that stamps of different rows are not found joined together.

For a horizontal roll of 480 stamps, 40 sheets would have been joined side by side to make 20 rolls simultaneously.



For vertical coils of 500 stamps the gutter margin between panes had to be removed and 50 panes were joined to make 12 rolls.

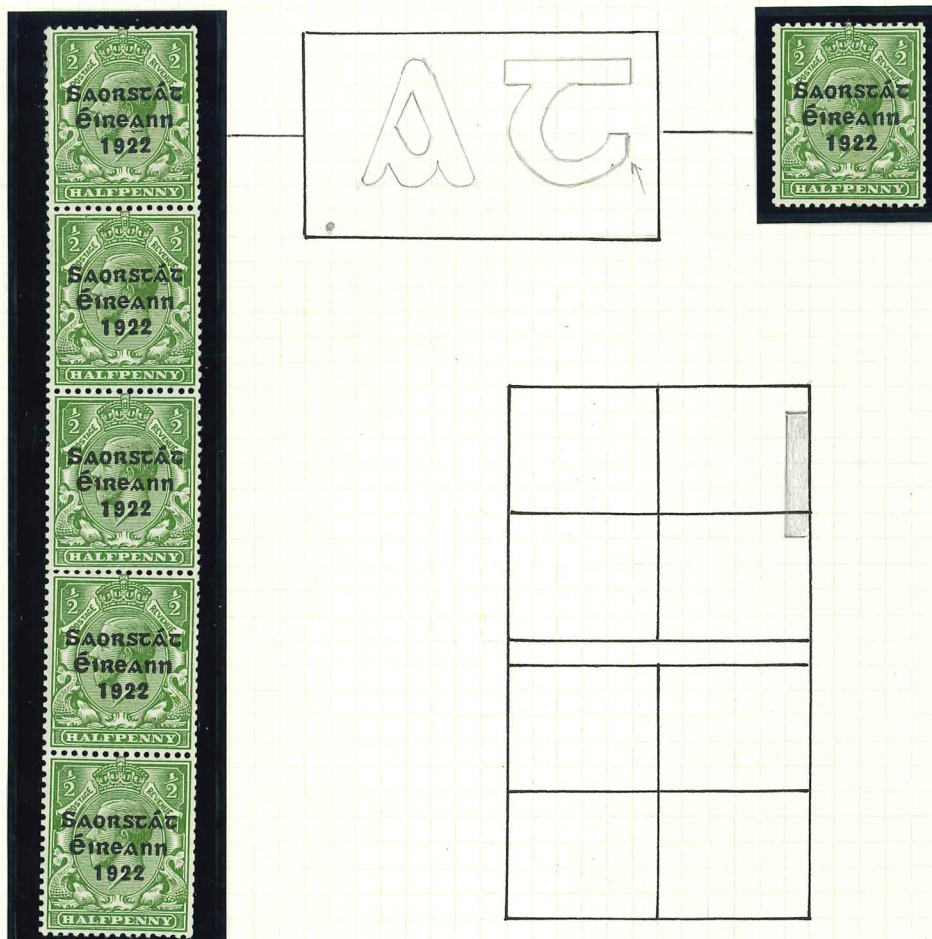
End tabs.



These are useful since they give evidence of the date of manufacture. The 3 line coils were produced in February, June and September 1923, and January 1924.

Harrison 3 Line Plate Flaws.

As in the previous sheet identification of a particular recurrent plate flaw enables the position of the strip to be located.



Harrison 3 Line Varieties.

s of Saorstat damaged.



Line over rs of Saorstat

