



Volume
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THE JOURNAL OF THE IRISH PHILATELIC CIRCLE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE -ST. PATRICK, SINGLE RING
DATESTAMP AND LETTERS

CHAPMAN CODES

FOR

IRELAND

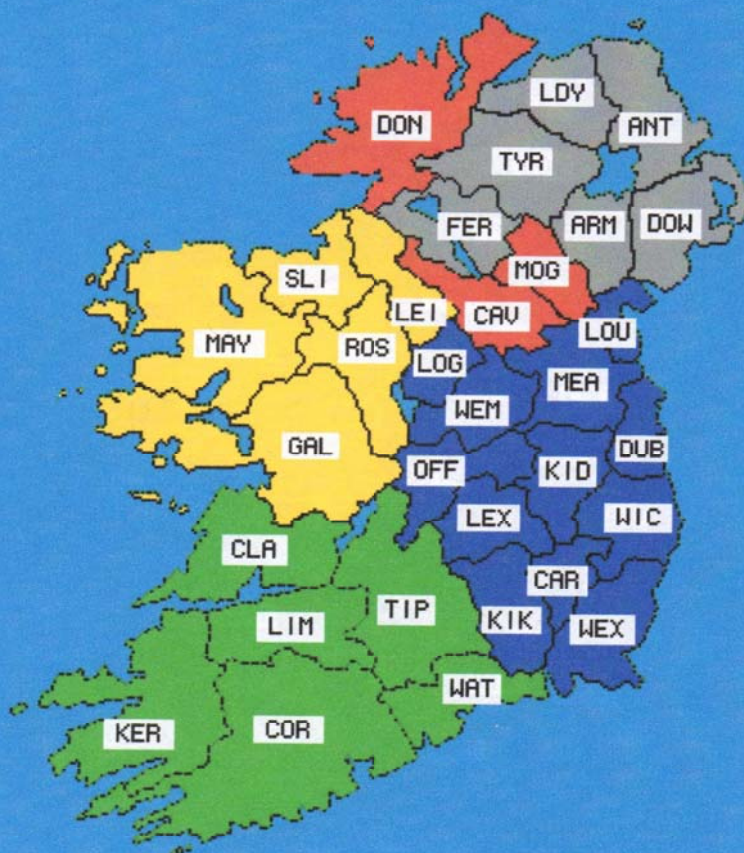
Provinces

Connaught

Leinster

Munster

Ulster



ANT - Antrim
ARM - Armagh
CAR - Carlow
CAV - Cavan
CLA - Clare
COR - Cork
DON - Donegal
DOW - Down
DUB - Dublin
FER - Fermanagh
GAL - Galway
KER - Kerry
KID - Kildare
KIK - Kilkenny
LDY - Londonderry
LET - Leitrim
LEX - Leix
LIM - Limerick
LOG - Longford
LOU - Louth
MAY - Mayo
MEA - Meath
MOG - Monaghan
OFF - Offaly
ROD - Roscommon
SLI - Sligo
TIP - Tipperary
TYR - Tyrone
WAT - Waterford
WEM - Westmeath
WEX - Wexford
WIC - Wicklow

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It is nice to see that my "plea" for members to write something and submit it for publication received at least some credence; be it a small amount as you can discover by the lack of articles in this edition.

There is no value in berating any more.

I expect the rest of the Journal will be filled out with articles from previous times.

This information and any other relevant pieces, I usually try to put up on the web page which is www.philatelic.cwc.net. Also you may email me at eddydalton@ntlworld.com

Telephone 01494 583111 in the UK.

Editor

Eddy DALTON

ST PATRICK

Hunting through a dealers box of Postal History, I selected various covers that I wanted to have a better look at. I also pulled out some cards and envelopes to check against my list of printed stationery. I usually ignore picture postcards as they do not have anything to offer me at the moment. Then I found a card with an "An Post" printed stamp. I ought to have this in my collection, I thought to myself. What is it? Turning it over I discovered that it was a St Patrick's day card. I went home and checked my list of stationery items and at the end was a section for St Patrick Day cards.

The next time I went to an exhibition I found some more St Patrick's Day Cards. On the back were messages such as "Happy St Patrick's Day". What is this all about? Is St Patrick's Day such a big thing? Is it a big celebration? We have Patron saint St George on 23rd April, Scotland has St Andrews Day on 30th November and Wales has St David's Day on 1st March, there are no big events for them, though I do know that the Welsh celebrate St David's Day by wearing a daffodil and perhaps have an evening of entertainment, as the Scottish with their Haggis.

At the next IPC meeting, I asked the Irish members what it was all about, and was bombarded with information. So I thought that I would like to share this with other members – who are not Irish as they will already know – as it is an event that I was unaware was so enormous.

St Patrick's birthplace is not recorded. He is thought to have been born about 385AD in Roman Britain probably in Wales but perhaps in Scotland. The Irish attacked his village and at the age of 16 was taken into slavery. He worked as a shepherd on the Slemish Mountain in County Antrim. After six years of ill-treatment he escaped to France.

Patrick spent twenty years as a monk in Marmoutier Abbey, where a vision of an angel told him to return to Ireland. Patrick first went to Rome to receive the honour of Bishop, then left on his holy mission to Ireland.

He decided that he ought to have permission from the King of Laoghaire and gain his support in carrying the catholic message to the people of Ireland. He was invited to Tara where he picked a shamrock and likened the three leaves to Gods Holy Trinity – The Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. The King being suitably impressed and was converted to Christianity. He gave Patrick the freedom to proceed with his quest in spreading Christianity in Ireland.

Patrick was well liked and was successful in his mission. This upset the Druids and was arrested several times but always managed to escape. He travelled through Ireland setting up schools, monasteries and churches in the name of Christianity.

Legend has it that he drove all the snakes from Ireland, though this is not taken literally as Ireland did not have any indigenous snakes. The use of the word "snakes" probably refers to the conversion of pagans to Christianity.

His mission lasted until his death, which is thought to be between 463AD and 493AD. His burial place is unknown but a rock in Down Cathedral with the word "Patric" is said to protect his grave.

Patrick was proclaimed a saint before canonisation was introduced by the Vatican. The feast of St Patrick on the 17th of March is recorded as far back in history as the ninth century, the 17th March being a notional date for the recording of his "falling asleep". The book of Armagh directs all monasteries to hold a three-day celebration in his honour, during spring.

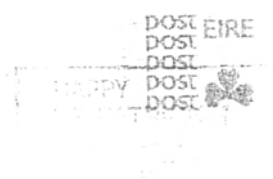
* * * *

So, as with the English a rose, the Scottish a thistle, the Welsh a daffodil, the Irish have a shamrock. The festivities are still held and are the only activity that joins the North and South. However, the festivities held over a bank holiday now take five days and include Parades, Folk Dancing, flags, buntings and fireworks but not to forget that it is a Christian event. I am told that America celebrates this festival, especially New York, having parades, which far out do the Irish activities. And in fact, London is hoping to hold a parade in 2005.

Postal Stationery prepaid stamps on St Patrick Day cards



1985



1986



1996

Some stamps issued to commemorate St Patrick



1937



1961



In 1985 Dublin introduced a
“Happy St Patrick’s Day” slogan

An Post has issued St Patrick Day postcards from 1984. They introduced St Patrick’s Day letter cards for 1991 and 1992 and St Patrick’s Day cards with prepaid stamps on the envelopes from 1993.

The design on both the postcards and cards varies each year.



BEANNACHTAI NA FÉILE PÁDRAIG
ST PARICK DAY GREETINGS

Glenna Thomas

Snippet – Late News

The 2005 set of four St. Patrick’s Days postcards exist in two formats – regular large cards as advertised (€1.80 per card) plus smaller regular sized cards which are being sold in an experimental coin-fed machine (currently located at Dublin bureau counter) at €1.50 per card – same designs. The machine is due to move to Cork and will sell a set of 8 Cork European City of Culture postcards featuring previous stamp issues with a Cork connection which will be available from the bureau in due course (€1.50 per card - €10 per set). This set is only sold in the smaller format.

BW

**Letter to An Post
(dated 16.11.04)**

Dear Sir or Madam

I recently tried to buy International Reply Coupons in Post Offices in Cavan and Monaghan, at first they were unavailable but now I am told they have been discontinued.

Can you please say why?

And on what date?

What will if anything replace them?

Did you give any notice of your intentions to discontinue?

By Press release's, or otherwise?

On whose authority was this taken; to deprive the public of this service?

As this was part of the International Postal Agreement from 1904; has An Post now broken this agreement?

Or are you in breach of the same?

I look forward to your reply, regarding this matter, which should explain your reasoning behind this decision to discontinue IRC's.

(The reply to this letter is printed on the following page.
I am not subscribing to either party in this issue but supplying what I consider is valuable information to all). Ed.

An Post

General Post Office
O'Connell Street
Dublin 1
Ireland

Tel: + 353 1 705 7000
www.anpost.ie

An Post

Ardoifig an Phoist
Sráid Uí Chonaill
Baile Átha Cliath 1
Éire

post

Co Monaghan

31st December 2004

Our ref: 206422

Dear

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the withdrawal of the International Reply Coupon Service.

The reason behind the withdrawal of the service in 2003 was very much a commercial one. Prior to 2002 the International Bureau (IB) of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) only charged the cost of print and production of IRCs (approximately 7c). This allowed Post Offices to order large quantities at a nominal charge, without a major financial outlay. Post Offices sold and cashed IRCs from overseas and the encashed IRCs were submitted to UPU Headquarters in Berne and offset against the cost of providing the original IRCs (a debit & credit system operated).

In 2002 they changed their policy and insisted that Post Offices had to pay the actual face value of each IRC, this increased the outlay for post offices from 7c to €1.07. There is also a handling cost in each Post Office (whether a company office or a sub office) and this coupled with the dramatic increase from the UPU prompted a review of the service. Following that review it was decided that it was no longer viable to provide this service given the fact that a large number of IRCs could remain on hands in offices around the country following substantial initial outlay to purchase them.

The sale of IRCs is not a mandatory requirement, either from the UPU or under the EC Postal Directive 97/67/EC.

Ireland is not the only European country that has taken this course of action. The Dutch Post Office (TPG Post) has also withdrawn the sale of IRCs (no doubt prompted by the same commercial considerations that influenced An Post's decision).

I am sorry for the inconvenience caused to you by the withdrawal of this service. There are no plans at present to provide a replacement service.

Yours Sincerely

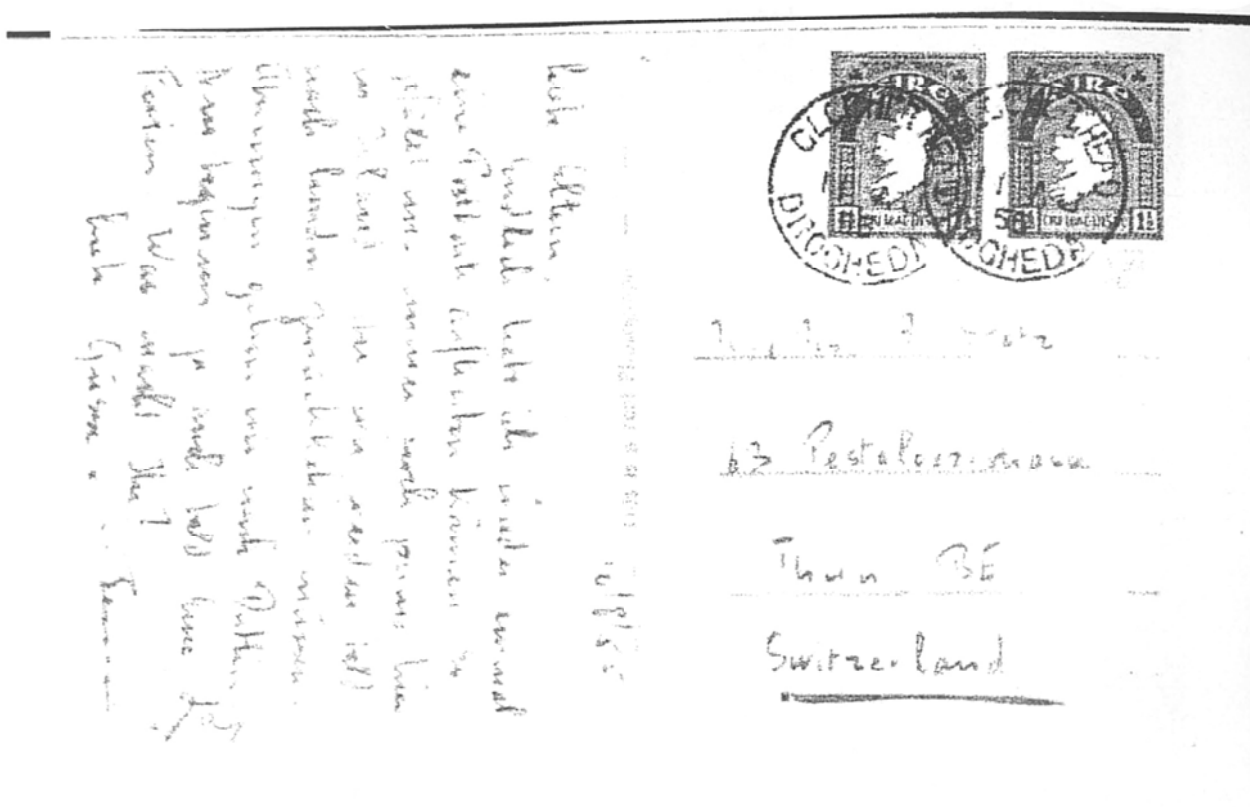

Ciaran Magee

Customer Services

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Incorporated with limited liability: Registered in Dublin Ireland number 98788. Registered Office: General Post Office O'Connell Street Dublin 1

Single Ring Date Stamp



Dear Editor

I recently came across this postcard, a copy of which is above. It was posted at Clogher Head, Drogheda on 11th August 1955 and cancelled with a single ring date stamp in English. I was surprised to see such a stamp being used at such a late date.

I wonder if any other members have any examples of this or other English cancels being used even more recently than the above date? Not including the 20 or so SID's that were used during 1994/95.

I would be greatly appreciative for any information that any fellow members may have.

Yours,

Florence McCARTHY

Open Letter

To all members:

I have been very ill over the last eight years. After my last session of five months hospitalisation, I was discharged, unable to spend much of the day out of bed, able to walk or work. Over time, I am almost back to pre-hospitalisation. During this time the body was weak but the mind active.

If I did not have my computer or love of philately I think I would have gone mad. I have been interested in stamp collecting since the age of 10. Since 1983 I have been concentrating on Ireland. To gain more information I joined the IPC – as have you all. I was taken to one of the London meetings at the YMCA by Alan Kane from Bracknell. I found it rather overwhelming and due to the travelling, did not go again. I then entered the period of “children”. Serious collecting was pushed aside only to be “reactivated” in 2002 when they took an interest and were happy to accompany me to exhibitions and stamp fairs.

My Collection has grown and at a stage where I need more information and help. So when I received a letter from Peter Wood inviting me to a meeting at a new venue I decided to give it a go. I was warmly welcomed. Although there were only five of us at the meeting, I was interested to see other collections and material. I was also put right on some of the items I showed.

So guess what? I went to the next meeting. This time we almost filled the room in the Irish Centre. I was surrounded by knowledgeable members who eagerly shared their interest in Postal History, stamps and Ireland. We had a very enjoyable three hours, which passed all too quickly. I soaked up everything they had to offer and hope that I will be able to remember it all. If not, there is always the next meeting.

So the point of my letter iswhy don't you give it a try and attend your local meeting. If its information you want or can supply I am sure that you will enjoy it and want to attend the next meeting and the next and the next.....

Also, it occurred to me that perhaps the regional meetings could perhaps report to the Editor on their meetings? This might encourage people to attend.

Glenna THOMAS

SNIPPET: Des Quail will be exhibiting a display of "Irish Postal History 1591-1850" at the North East Philatelic Weekend, in the Swallow Hotel, Gateshead on 21st May 2005 at 11.00.

This will consist of Irish Ship Letters and possibly the earliest Cork mark of 1699 – he the author thinks!

He also showed the same at Stampex, last September to which John Matthews and David MacDonnell attended.

Any member who is visiting this exhibition is cordially invited to make themselves known to Des, who is hoping to meet them.

SNIPPET: The day of the "One day strike by the Irish Post Office", was marked by the Communications Workers Union taking out a full page advert in at least the "Irish Independent".

This was on Wednesday 8th December 2004, obviously extolling their virtues but it does show the general situation existing in the Irish Postal Service.

(the copy of the page is too large to reproduce here) Ed.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: (read email)

For some time now I have been researching high value stamps removed from telegraph forms, which resulted in an article in the GB Journal some while ago – see my web page www.leswilkinson.co.uk – for a copy of this. I have recently come across overprinted high value stamps of Ireland which in addition to the normal cds cancel had an additional six-bar cancel in purple.

To me it seemed likely they could have come from telegraph forms. I wrote to Bill Fletcher and Patrick Williams, two contacts of mine, to ask if they knew anything about these stamps. Neither had come across them before but Patrick suggested I email you, so that you could appeal for information in the Irish Philatelic Journal, hence this email.

I assume you have seen the stamps torn from Business Registration forms issued in Dublin, now appearing on the market - I wish I could get my hands on the vandal who tore them off, instead of keeping the full forms – they would be much more interesting that way! I have also seen similar examples from Northern Ireland used after Independence.

Leslie WILKINSON

(Even more information for you members and not from a member!) Ed.

Ireland

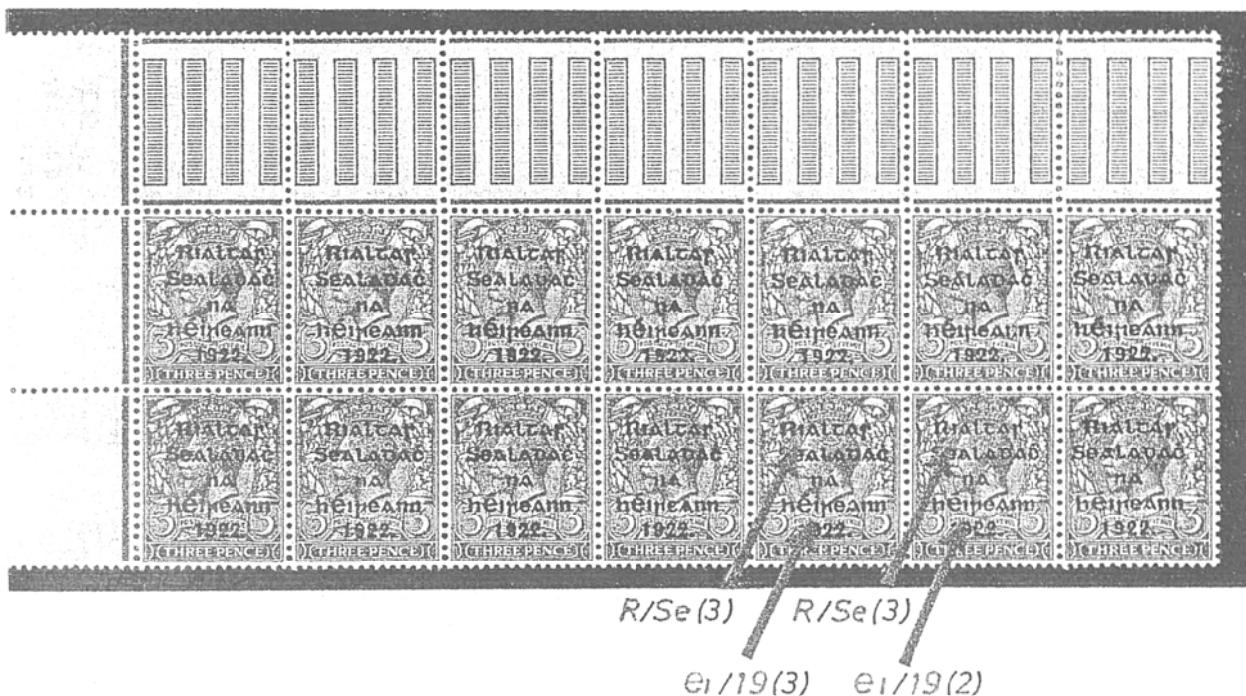
Thom 5 Line Plate Varieties – Part 2

by Michael Priestley

The following pages reproduce a further set of copy pages from Michel Priestley's collection of overprints of the Thom 5 Line Plate Varieties. Further pages will be reproduced in subsequent edition(s) of the Journal. The first five pages appeared in the September 2004 issue.

Plate 3 Row 12

	Stamp Number					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Row 12					R/Se(3) ei/19(3)	R/Se(3) ei/19(2)



	Stamp Number					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Row 17		R/Se(1)	R/Se(2)	R/Se(2) Wide ac	R/S	R/S

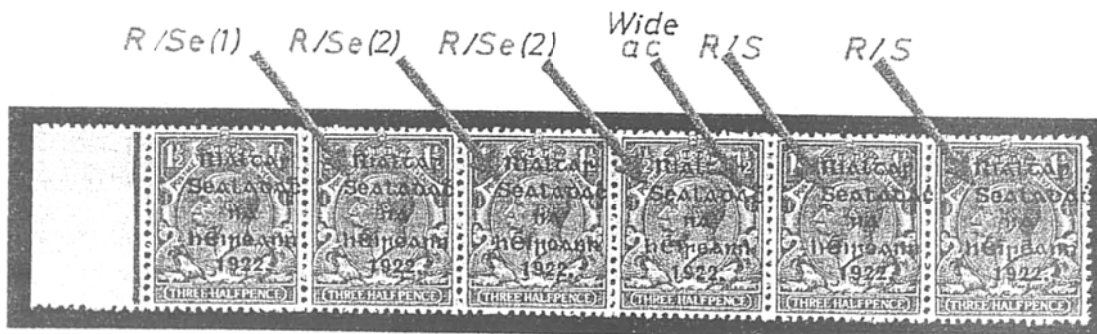
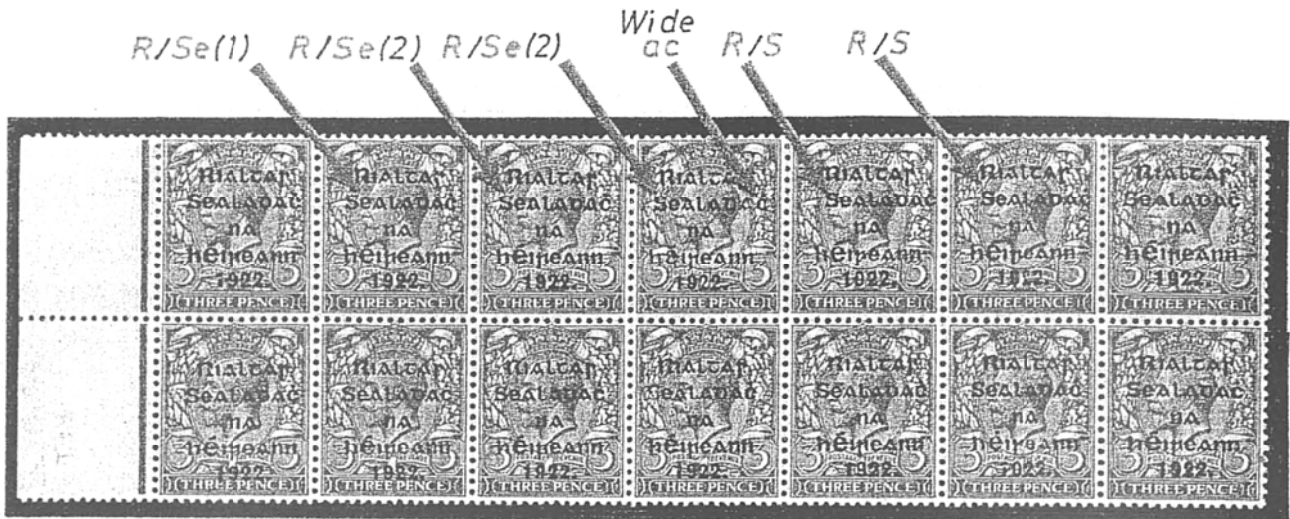


Plate 5

	Stamp Number					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Row 6	R/Se(2)	R/Se(2)	R/Se(2)	R/Se(2) e _i /19(1)		
Row 9					R/Se(3) e _i /19(3)	R/Se(3) e _i /19(2)

Row 6



R/Se(2) R/Se(2) R/Se(2) R/Se(2)
e_i/19(1)



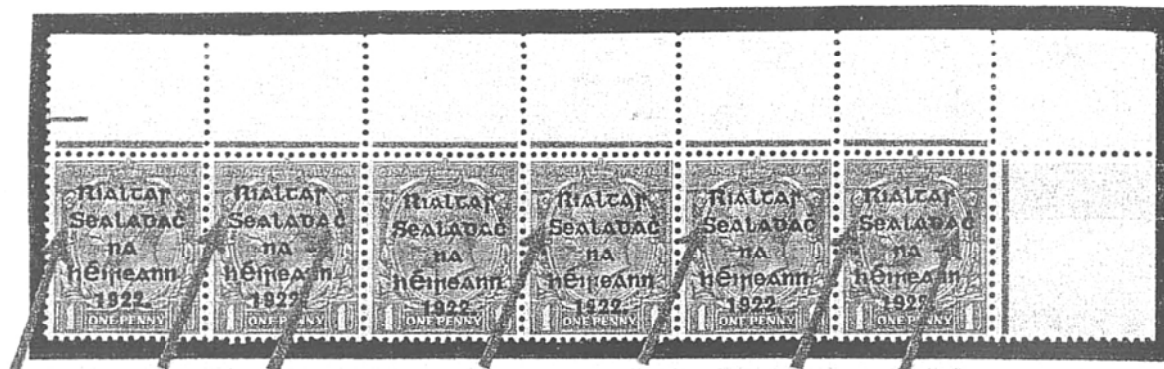
R/Se(3) R/Se(3)
e_i/19(3) e_i/19(2)



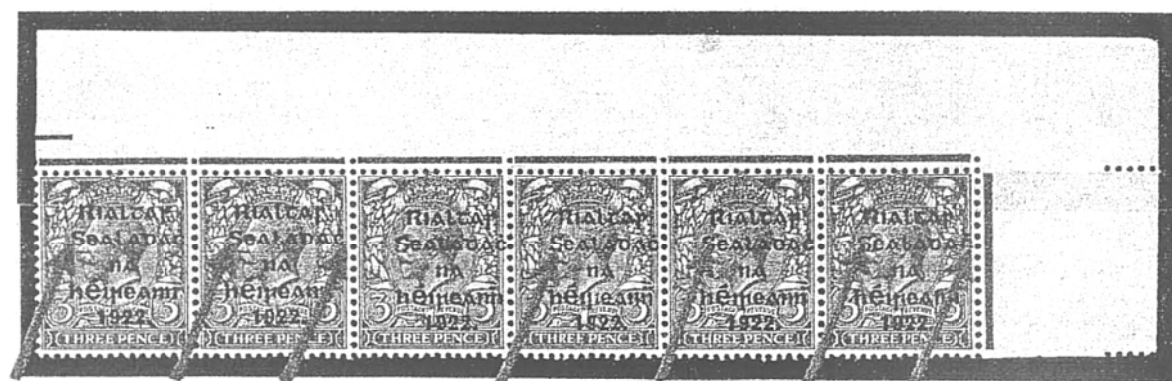
R/Se(3) R/Se(3)
e_i/19(3) e_i/19(2)

Plates 7 and 8 Row 1

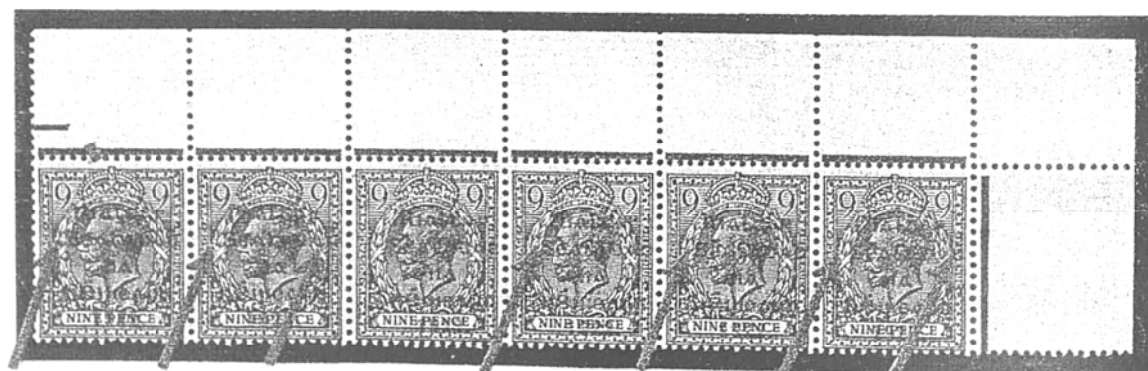
	Stamp Number					
	7	8	9	10	11	12
Row 1	R/Se(2)	R/Se(2) Wide ac		R/Se(1)	R/Se(2)	R/Se(2) Wide ac



R/Se(2) R/Se(2) Wide ac R/Se(1) R/Se(2) R/Se(2) Wide ac



R/Se(2) R/Se(2) Wide ac R/Se(1) R/Se(2) R/Se(2) Wide ac



R/Se(2) R/Se(2) Wide ac R/Se(1) R/Se(2) R/Se(2) Wide ac

Plates 7 and 8 Row 1

		Stamp Number					
		7	8	9	10	11	12
Row 1	R/Se(2)	R/Se(2)			R/Se(1)	R/Se(2)	R/Se(2)
		Wide ac					Wide ac



R/Se(2) R/Se(2) Wide ac R/Se(1) R/Se(2) R/Se(2) Wide ac

Blind perforation variety.

The 6d value of the George V issue was printed at Somerset House. At some stage one pin became broken on the second perforating wheel and a number of sheets containing the blind perforation variety below Row 1 were issued before the fault was corrected.

The example below is interesting since it also includes the R/Se and wide ac varieties of Plates 7 and 8.



Blind perforations

Plate 2 Varieties

During this study it became apparent that there are two settings of Plate 2 with identical R/Se R/S and e1/19 varieties but quite different recurrent type flaws.

Row 12 Recurrent Flaws

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Setting 1	S in Sealadac	a in Eireann			l in Sealadac	e in Sealadac
Setting 2			e in Eireann	e1 in Eireann		

Setting 1



Setting 2

