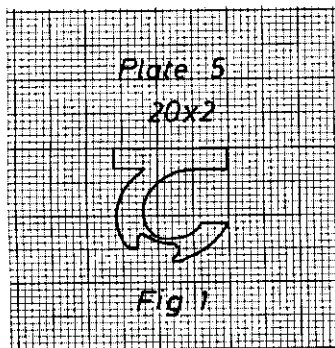


T H O M 3 L I N E O V E R P R I N T

Plate 5

by M H. Priestley



Introduction

While the composition of the Dollard low value plates is well known - they were made up of sixteen 3 x 5 stereosimilar information has not been available about the Thom plates. I was therefore particularly pleased to have had the opportunity of examining a complete sheet of Thom 3 line Plate 5 to try to find out how they were printed.

Plate 5 is identified by a characteristic flaw on the first t of stamp 20 x 2 which is illustrated in Fig. 1.

Overprint Spacing

The overprint spacing of Plates 3, 4 and 5 is unusual since the distance between stamps 2 and 3 is 2mm greater than between other stamps. In the Plate 5 sheet this wider spacing runs the whole way down the sheet and is not repeated elsewhere across the sheet. Since the spacing of the upper and lower panes was very similar and there was no sign of a recurring spacing pattern, it seems at first sight that the two panes might have been printed from single 12x10 stereos.

Recurrent Overprint Flaws

I then began to record the overprint flaws. By the time I reached the second pane it was clear that there were many flaws which occurred in the same position on the lower pane as on the upper, notably the Sacrstat variety on stamps 2x10 and 12x10. I was now fairly sure that 12x10 stereos had been used.

When I reached row 18, however, I found to my surprise that the flaws on rows 2 and 12 were being repeated and, furthermore, that some obvious setting flaws were being repeated horizontally, such as a raised second a in Saorstat on stamps 2x2 and 2x4. I had therefore to revise my ideas and by the time I had finished recording the flaws an unusual pattern had become apparent, which is illustrated in Fig. 2.

It was now clear that the stereo was in fact 10 stamps horizontally and 6 stamps vertically, and that because a whole number of stereos this size could not be fitted into the 12x10 pane, stereos had had to be divided up to fill in the smaller spaces on the pane.

Details of the recurrent stereo flaws are shown in Fig. 3. Where there is more than one similar letter in the overprint the particular letter is indicated by a number beside the drawing. It is a pity that the one flaw by which Plate 5 is recognised (on 20x2) should not have been a stereo flaw but must have occurred after the complete plate had been put together.

(continued on page 721)

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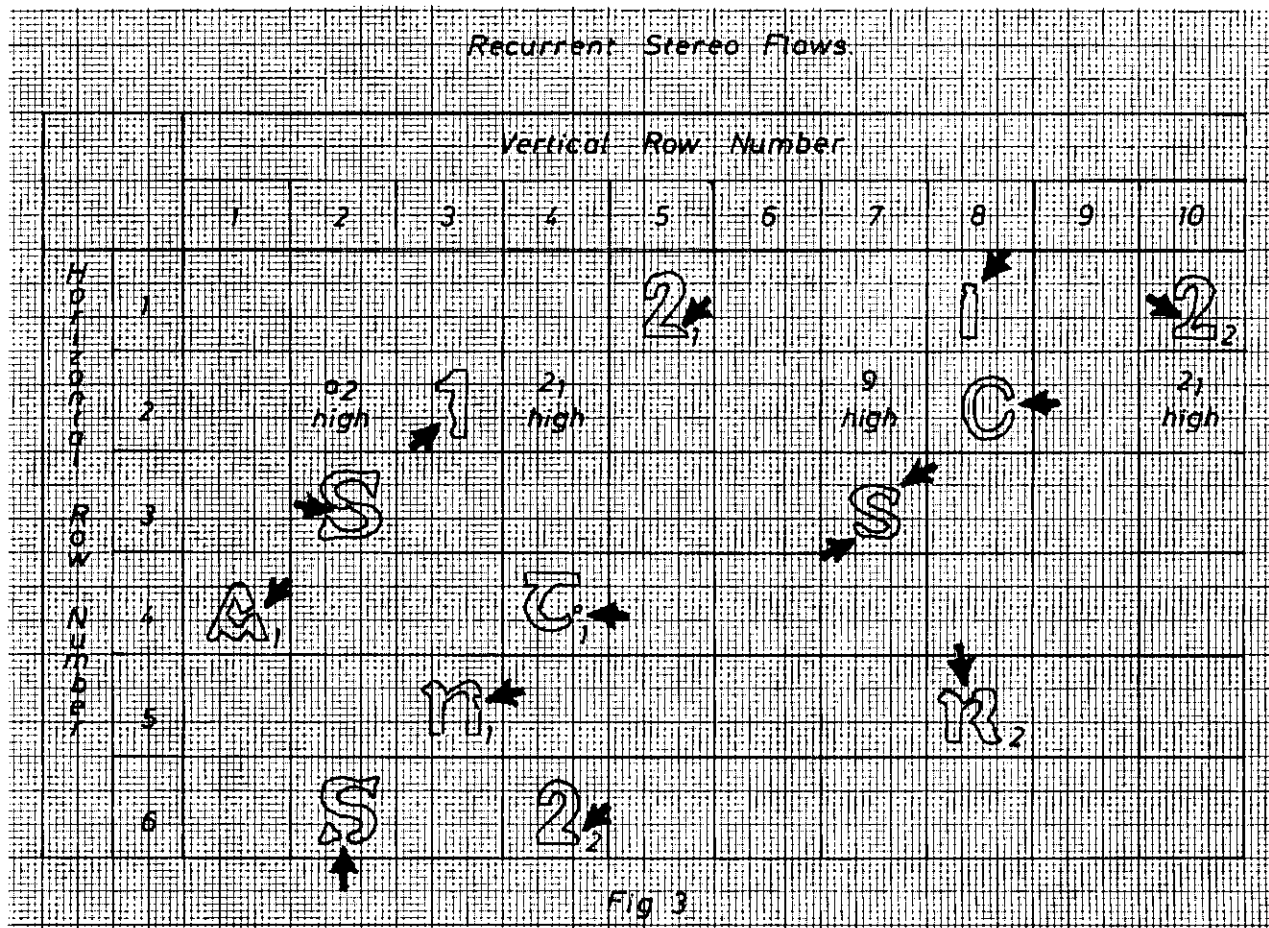
(continued on page 725)

Stereo Layout

		Vertical		Stereo		Row		Number					
1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
						A			B		C	1	Horizontal
	D		D	E	F			G	H		J	2	
	K		K					L				3	
M		N			N							4	
				O					P			5	
	Q		Q		R							6	
7	8							L				3	Stereo
		M			N							4	
	R			O					P			5	
				Q		R						6	
/		/		/		/		/		/			
3	4					A			B		C	1	
E	F		D	E	F			G	H		J	2	
			K					L				3	
	N	M			N							4	
O				O					P			5	
	R		Q		R							6	
5	6					A			B		C	1	Number
			D	E	F			G	H		J	2	
			K					L				3	
		M			N							4	

Letters indicate recurrent flows shown in Fig 3

Fig 2



Method of Printing

I visualize the printer fitting the first two 10x6 stereos into the upper right of each pane. He then cuts off the top two lines of a third stereo to fit into the lower half of the upper pane, but for some reason cuts off the bottom two lines of the fourth stereo to fill in the lower pane. Vertical rows of 1 and 2 are still empty, so he divides a fifth stereo into vertical strips two overprints wide and fits rows 1 and 2, and 3 and 4 into corresponding positions on the two panes, filling in the bottom left corners of the panes with rows 7 and 8, and 5 and 6. Rows 9 and 10 are not used.

Conclusion

Thom Plate 5, and therefore possibly the other Thom plates, is prepared from a 10x6 stereo which has recognisable recurrent overprint flaws.

THE ZERVAS SALE
by J.E. Foley

On October 15, 1969, H. R. Harmer, New York auctioned the Irish collection of the late Hans G. Zervas, E.P.A. This assemblage of 364 lots was probably the finest collection of Ireland that has gone "under the hammer" in the United States. Its chief interest was in the overprints of which Hans had made extensive studies. I had the opportunity to examine the lots at Harmer's a week before the auction and it was indeed a magnificent collection, abounding in multiple pieces and varieties. There were several E.P.A. members present at the sale including Malcolm O'Reilly, Svend Yort, David Feldman, John Sherman, and myself as well as several dealers



and agents. The auction was called by Bernard Harmer, president of the firm, to whom we are indebted for the illustrations accompanying this article.

A philatelist in reporting an auction is apt to sound like a fisherman in regard to the "one that got away", but I'll try not to, although....

The condition of the stamps, particularly the centering of the more elusive high values, was of unusual high standards. All items below are mint unless otherwise noted. An interesting lot was # 698, the 1, 1 1/2, 2 and 6d described as Thom essays, bringing \$ 50. The essay type overprint was the same as lot 715 illustrated in Robson Lowe's sale of 1966 which realized \$53. Several of the mixed lots were quite interesting, especially lot 720 which contained a possibly unique paste-up pair with control (T 22) of the 5 line Harrison 1 1/2d coil. A few others must have noted this also, as the lot realized \$250 against a Scott cat. val. of \$289.70. Lot 898, a block of 4 of the 5/- 1925 Castle narrow date with grossly misplaced overprint on the lower stamps went for \$260, almost twice as much as a similar block in the 1966 Field sale. A real show piece, lot 921, was a complete sheet of 40 of the Castle 10/- composite wide and narrow which realized \$875. The

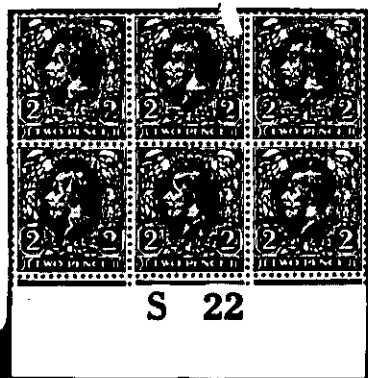
controversial used double overprint on the 10/- Waterlow re-engraved (Lot 947) brought \$280. I examined this stamp and the lighter of the two overprints definitely has a shorter date. David Feldman's catalog numbers were used in describing several lots in the auction catalog. In the tabular listing given below, several additional lots are noted. Since Feldman's price list has wide distribution, his current retail prices are also shown, however the premium for blocks, etc. has not been added, thus "D.L. list" for multiples is just the pro rata price for singles.

Description	Lot	D.F. list	Prices Realized
Sinn Fein 1916 Female & Harp, block of 15 mixed centering	610	\$ 216+	\$ 47 1/2
Dollard proof op't in red on 1/2d, block of 4, 2 similar lots	628&9	173+	42
Dollard invert on 1/2d block of 4	642	385+	210
" " " 1d " " "	646	220+	77 1/2
Dollard high values, 2/6, 5/ & 10/ , singles, 5 similar lots	665-9	84	31 - 40
Dollard 2/6 pair w/ one Nissen-Brennan reentry & the other w/ short 3rd line	684	163	42 1/2
Thom 2d Type I, w/ inverted black op't in control block of 6	712	249++	350
Thom Rialtas high values 2/6, 5/ & 10/ , singles 5/ w/ R/Se, 2 similar lots	756-7	595@	290
Thom Rialtas high values in blocks of 4	760	2160+	1100

(continued on next page)



Description	Lot	D.F. list	Prices Realized
Same, but 10/ with one stamp R/Se	761	\$ 2220+	\$ 1100
Same, but corner blocks, 10/ with one R/Se	762	2220+	1000
Thom Saorstat 1/2d with missing accent in block of 4 w/ 3 normals, 2 similar lots	787&8	360+±	130
Thom Saorstat high values, 2/6, 5/ & 10/ singles, 9 similar lots	817-25	85	21-34
Thom Saorstat 2/6 in complete sheet of 40	831	456++	105
Thom Saorstat 10 with missing accent in pair with normal	854	705	170
2d definitive, map, wm'k se, perf 15 horiz coil used single	868	168	105
Castle wide & narrow 2/6, 5/ & 10/ in horiz. pairs	909	276	130
Castle 1927-8 wide date, 2/6 in corner block of 4, one w/ circumflex accent (2 sim.lots)	929-30	100+±	26&30
1935 Castle on Waterlow re-engraved high values, singles, 3 similar lots	939-41	204	100-110±



As can be seen, the realizations were considerably below current retail quotations, in most cases bringing but a fraction of "retail". There are two prevailing opinions, one that prices on Ireland had advanced beyond reason and somewhat artificially, the other that there was more material in the sale than the market could support at current quoted prices. However, you must draw your own conclusions although it does appear that some downward revision of prices would be in order.

Copies of the auction catalog together with a complete list of prices realized are still available from H.R. Harmer, 6 West 48th St., New York, N.Y. 10036 at \$100 postpaid. As with other major Irish sales, this is an invaluable reference to any serious collector of Ireland.

DECIMAL DEFINITIVES ON D-DAY

"D-Day" as it has now been popularly called refers to February 15, 1971 when the United Kingdom and Ireland change over, formally, to the decimal system.

Obviously, Ireland's whole range of stamps will be changed in accordance with the new currency. Thirteen new decimal definitives will be issued on D-Day. The values will be:

1/2, 1, 1 1/2, 2, 3, 3 1/2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 20 and 50.

All the figures are (new) pence. No currency indications will be shown.
(from David Feldmann's News Letter)

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FLAWS AND VARIETIES

Varieties on the Evie Hone Stamp

by William Kane



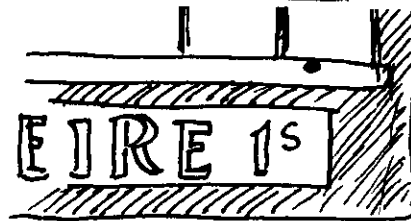
(a) Short figure 1
in date 1894



Row 2, Stamp 1

(b) Red dot R.H.
base of window

Row 2, Stamp 5



← Red
Dot in the
Yellow Strip

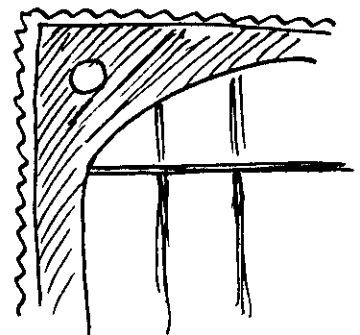
(c) Red

spot top L. →

H. corner

of stamp

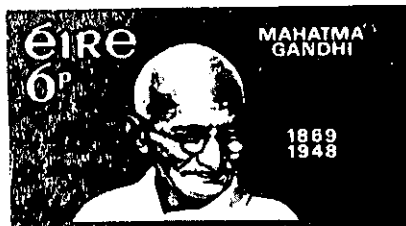
Row 3, Stamp 2



CACHETS & CANCELLATIONS

Thru the courtesy of the Irish Philatelic Circle, we are in receipt of the special cancellation used on mail posted at the 11th World Congress of the International Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled, held at the Royal Dublin Society premises at Ballsbridge, Dublin, from 13th to 19th September. A cachet in purple, showing two halves of the globe and the words I S R D at the top; DUBLIN 1969 in large type in the center; and a shamrock at the bottom. A 30 mm single ring skeleton (usually available for such special events) with the letters I S R D inserted at the top; and Dublin at the bottom with the date 19 SP 69 in the center.

NEW ISSUES



MAHATMA GANDHI COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE October 2nd, 1969

The Irish Post Office commemorated the centenary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, the Indian apostle of non-violence by a special issue.

The design was based on a photograph and the stamps were issued in sheets of 120 in two values. They were printed by photogravure in the Revenue Stamping Branch, Dublin on watermark E paper with perforations 15.

6d black portrait on a green background (18,000,000) stamps.

1s9d black portrait on a yellow background (2,000,000) stamps.

1970 COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM

The Irish Post Office has released its 1970 commemorative stamp program:

1. A C E P T (Europa) Issue
2. European Conservation Year
3. 50th Anniversary of the death of Terence McSweeney
4. 250th Anniversary of the Royal Cork Yacht Club.
5. 50th Anniversary of the death of Kevin Barry
6. A work of art by a contemporary Irish artist.

NEW REGISTRATION ENVELOPES

Random Notes No. 160 August 1969 reported that new registration envelopes (1/9 value) were supplied to the G.P.O. Dublin on 13th August 1969. The design is similar to previous issues, except that the values are abbreviated (1/3 & 6p) instead of in words. The "CLARU" and "POSTAS" are enlarged to fill the spaces. The text on the reverse of the envelopes refers to the minimum registration fee of 1s instead of 1s3d. Size F is the only one so far reported.

NOTES AND NEWS.

SESCAL



The Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California celebrated its 25th anniversary with its 1969 exhibition at the Los Angeles Hilton Hotel, Sept. 5 - 7th.

An E.P.A. regional meeting drew an attendance of 16 collectors and the program was well received.

Five entries of Irish material appeared at the exhibition by five of our members pictured above and they received five awards. Congratulations to our winning members.

Pictured from left to right above are:

- John Blessington (Honorable Mention)
- Vincent A. Linnell (Bronze Award)
- Robert Gray (Gold Award)
- John Sherman (Gold Award)
- Gil P. Roberts, Jr. (Best in Section)

BALPEX

E.P.A. also conducted a regional meeting in connection with BALPEX, sponsored by the Baltimore Philatelic Society at the Emerson Hotel, Baltimore on October 4th under the chairmanship of Svend Yort.