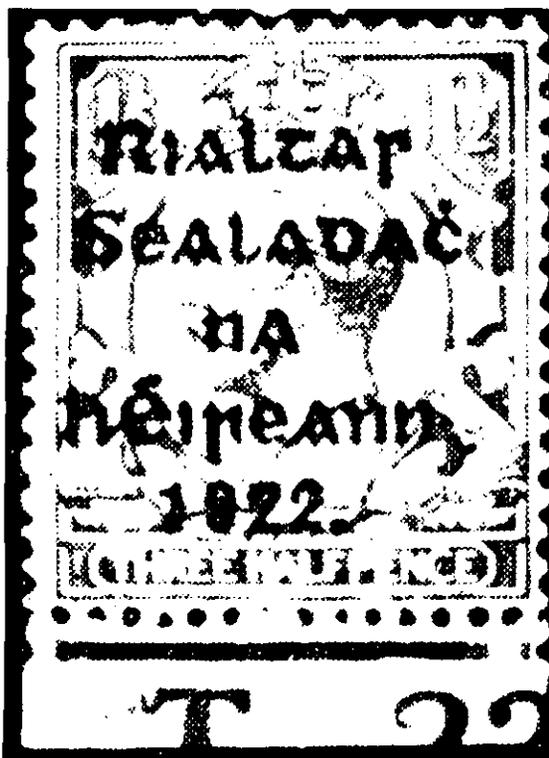


THE HARRISON COILS WITH CONTROL LETTERS

By Malcolm G. O'Reilly, E. P. A.



The British Empire edition of Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue, the one major catalog which lists and prices control letters (and the stamp attached thereto) for the British typographed values overprinted by Messrs. Dollard and Thom for Irish use, denies the existence of control pieces from the two overprintings made by Harrison and Sons for their coils. Gibbon's statement reads, "The Harrison printings [sic] being issued in rolls only, are unobtainable with control attached." This statement would be correct if it were qualified to read, "--unobtainable with full control attached." for, as the three illustrations show, the Harrison overprintings are obtainable with sufficient control letters attached to readily identify the control. Each is a 1 1/2d. value, two of the five-line overprint and one of the three line overprinting.

The logical reason for Gibbon's statement is found in the fact (and to the best of my knowledge it is true) that none of the Harrison

overprintings have ever appeared in other than coil form, i.e. singles or horizontal and vertical multiples. The coils are manufactured from panes of 120 stamps (which have been previously overprinted) by splicing the panes into the desired form to permit cutting into vertical or horizontal strips depending on whether the coil is to be an 'end-delivery' or 'side-delivery' coil. The stamps are joined by attaching each succeeding strip to a selvage-remnant left, 1) on the bottom of the preceding strip, if an end-wise coil, and 2) to the right side of the strip, if a side-wise coil. The only exceptions to this 'rule-of-selvage' occur, 1) in the lead stamp of a "Delivery Top End First" coil where the stamp is attached to the leader by a selvage-remnant from the top of the strip; 2) in the trail stamp from a "Delivery Lower End First" coil where that stamp is attached to the trailer by a selvage-remnant from the top of the strip and 3) in the case of the lead stamp from a "Delivery Left Side First" coil where the stamp is attached to the leader with a selvage-remnant from the left side of the strip. As there were no "Delivery Right Side First" coils prepared there is no exception for that type. (None of the affixing machines, those instruments which necessitated the manufacture of the coils, required right-side-first delivery.)

(continued on page 565)



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LITERATURE

Recently I received a booklet to review. It is a copy of The Baile Atha Cliath (dublin) Postal Handstamps 1922-1962, by Noel J. Langton, EPA Member # 335. Published by O.M. Richards 10 Esslemont Avenue, Aberdeen, Scotland. Copies are available from the publisher at 50¢ each plus 10¢ postage. I can take orders for the same. To me this booklet entailed a lot of research in order to compile this comprehensive 11 chapter booklet on the capital city of Ireland. This definitive work distinguishes the cancellations used on various forms of mailing such as Registration, Prepaid Bulk Mail, Customs Clearance, Telegraph Office, Official Paid, etc., all illustrated on 6 pages. This is a good reference book for collectors of first day covers and used stationery as most of the first issues are cancelled from various Dublin Post offices.

Also available from Fred E. Dixon, 15 Terenure Road East, Rathgar, Dublin 6 Ireland is his booklet on the Blogan Cancellations of the Republic of Ireland 1922-59. Price 2/9 by post.

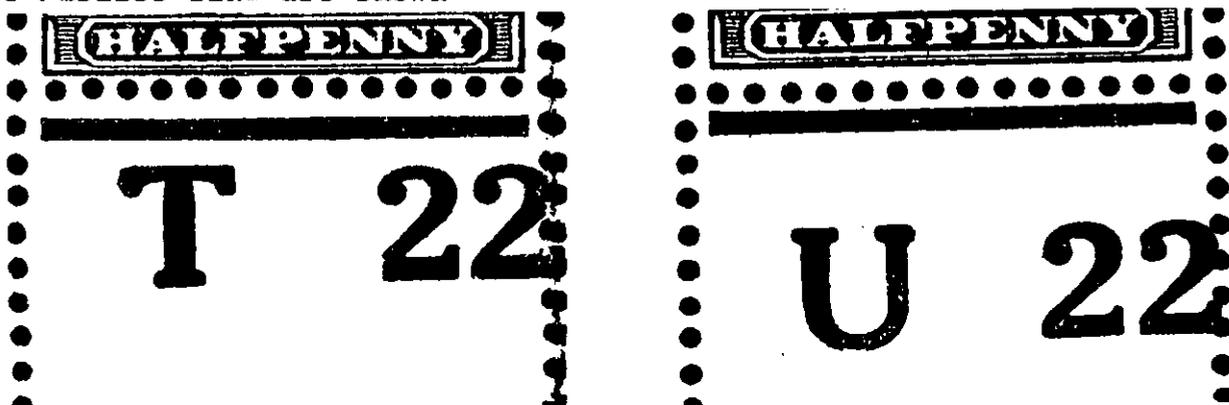
In the November 1962 issue of the Great Britain Philatelist, there is an excellent article on "Irish Republic" American Sponsored Fenian Essays, compiled by H.G. Leslie Fletcher, T.D. and continued in the February 1963 issue. Later in the year, Mr. Fletcher will have an article on the 1908 and 1916 Sinn Féin Propaganda Labels, also in the Great Britain Philatelist.

William P. Hickey

Our good member, Robert D. Corless 1826 W. Indianola Ave., Phoenix 15, Arizona has been nominated for the post of Secretary of the American Philatelic Society. Your support and seconding of his nomination by our members who are also members of the A.P.S. will be deeply appreciated. Bob is a well-known philatelist and we are sure that he will make a very fine Secretary.

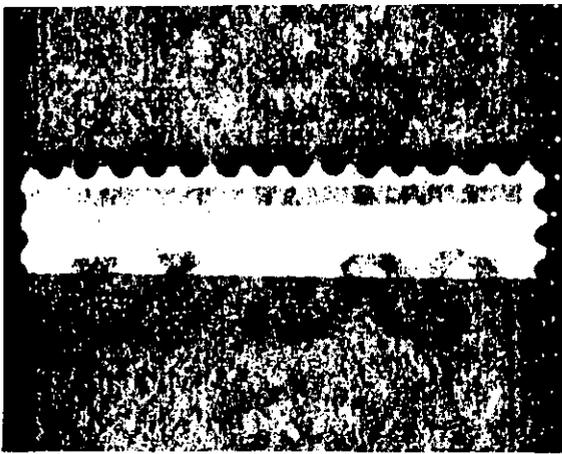
Have you mailed in your vote on the proposed constitutional changes? Please do so.

From a knowledge of the position of the control letters it can be reasoned that they can be found only on lengthwise coils. Examination of some 110 joined pairs from vertical coils shows that the width of the normal selva-remnant used for joining is approximately 3 1/4 mm and ranges from 3 to 3 1/2 mm. The measurements on the three control pieces illustrated measure approximately 4 mm. A study of the control pieces from the Dollard and the Thom overprintings make it fairly obvious that but a few electros (as distinguished from control letters) have the control letter in a position sufficiently close to the Jubilee line to show, even in part, after the selva is cut to within 4 mm of the perforation line. The measurements given here are an average of the distance between the edge of the joined selva and the middle of the perforation holes at both sides of the stamp as this was the easiest way to take measurements from the backs of so many pairs. To illustrate the wide range that can be found in the spacing of the control letters from the stamp, enlargements of one control only 1 mm from the Jubilee line and another slightly over 4 mm from the Jubilee line are shown

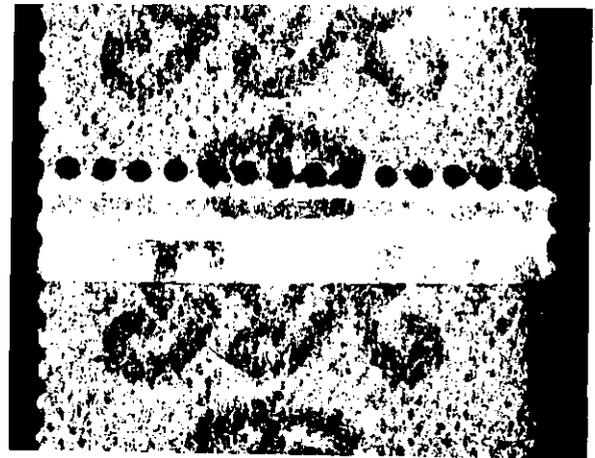


(This is the normal way to measure controls, that is from the top of the Control letters to the bottom of the Jubilee line.) A listing of the electros which have the control letters sufficiently close to the Jubilee line (hence the perforation line) would seem, at first glance, a logical addition at this point. However, as none of the control pieces illustrated could be identified with electros from any Dollard and Thom overprintings having the same control letter (presently in my collection) and as I do not have sufficient information on the unoverprinted controls to offer any real value such a listing was dismissed as too limited to be of sufficient value. As can be detected from the illustrations the two T 22 controls on the 1 1/2., five-line overprint are from different electros.

The single-copy control piece illustrated on the front page was lot number 101 when the "Agnew" collection was sold by H. R. Harmer on May 26th, 1930. It was described as follows: "June 1922, Harrison Rialtas Overprint, 1 1/2., a ,int copy from a joined pair, with Control T 22, imperf., exceedingly rare and unique piece." Fortunately the lot was illustrated and the accompanying illustration is an enlargement from the photo-plate in the sale catalog. (Courtesy of the Collectors' Club Library, New York, N.Y.). The other two control pieces [illustrated on the following page] are less clear having been photographed from the back while in a sea of benzene; neither of the owners wished to separate their pair. Each of these two control pairs was also sold at auction but not described in keeping with their rarity and with their real identity known only to the fortunate purchasers, their present owners.



1 1/2. chocolate
HARRISON 3-LINE OVERPRINT
Control U 22 Perf.
"O'REILLY" Copy



1 1/2d. chocolate
HARRISON 5-LINE OVERPRINT
Control T 22 Perf.
"ZERVAS" Copy

In forty-one years there have been reported only three Harrison control pieces; two of the three in this article. Perhaps as a result of these notes a new search will be made and more control pairs uncovered. Let us hope so.

N.B. To those of you who follow Meredith religiously do not be misled by his reference to the Harrison control letters for those to which he refers are those of the Post Office letter-code which identifies the type and size of the coil.

(A follow-up article of the other hidden treasures to be found in joined pairs of the coils will appear in a coming issue. Adrien Boutrelle, 230 Jay Street, Brooklyn 1, New York prepared the photo reproductions for this article)

RANDOM NOTES by F.E. Dixon

In the January-February issue of the Revealer (page 554) it was reported that there was no special cancellation for the September Conference of the International Air Transport Association held in Dublin, although there was a cachet. Thanks to Mr. Brady that must be corrected. There was a cancellation of the temporary type, inscribed "I A T A MEETING DUBLIN". Yet I was assured at the time that there was none.

Also thanks to Mr. Brady, I depict a Dublin P0stage Due marking of 1871 - in the period when the Penny Postage covered only 1/2 ounce. It was extended to 1 ounce the following year.

Mr. Brady's third discovery is a variant of the P0sted without Late Fee handstamp, used in 1958 on the Dublin-Cork T.P.O.

Rather more difficult to draw is this rubber stamp, which I saw for the first time recently. My example is only a pull on part of a telephone slip, but

I suspect that it was used as the franking stamp of the Convention's Secretariat.

The term "precursor" covers a great variety of items. I offer this Dundalk handstamp as a precursor of the Irish forms of postmark. It occurs on a picture postcard of November 1911 but was applied before the stamp was affixed.

