

IRISH FREE STATE - ISSUE 9T

SOMERSET HOUSE CONTROL BLOCK with OVERPRINT by ALEX. THOM

CONTROL REFERENCE TC164 U22 IMPERFORATE

6d. OVERPRINTED STAMP
REFERENCE T55

REDDISH PURPLE & BLUE BLACK INK

PRINTER SOMERSET HOUSE
PRINTER'S PLATE 6 PRINTING A

OVERPRINT CONTRACTOR THOM
'SAORSTAT' OVERPRINT SETTING 1

WATERMARK W14 - Type III

PERFORATION COMB SETTING - Type 2

(5 x umm incl. control)



CONTROL BLOCK FEATURES and VARIETIES

Plate 6 Printing A displays a projection in the jubilee line under 'X' of 'SIX' of stamp R20/1. With Printing A the control letter and numerals display a fine impression and the control dot is below the level of the first '2'.

Setting 1 from a 12 x 10 stereo

Raised '1' in '1922', stamp R20/1 - UF9q

€70

CONTROL REFERENCE TC164 U22 IMPERFORATE

6d. OVERPRINTED STAMP
REFERENCE T55

REDDISH PURPLE & BLUE BLACK INK

PRINTER SOMERSET HOUSE
PRINTER'S PLATE 6 PRINTING A

OVERPRINT CONTRACTOR THOM
'SAORSTAT' OVERPRINT SETTING 1

WATERMARK W14 - Type III

PERFORATION COMB SETTING - Type 2



CONTROL BLOCK FEATURES and VARIETIES

With Printing A the control letter and numerals display a fine impression and the control dot is below the level of the first '2'.

Setting 1 from a 12 x 10 stereo

(fm)

€15

IRISH FREE STATE - ISSUE 9T

SOMERSET HOUSE CONTROL BLOCK with OVERPRINT by ALEX. THOM

**CONTROL REFERENCE TC164
U22 IMPERFORATE**

**6d. OVERPRINTED STAMP
REFERENCE T55**

REDDISH PURPLE & BLUE BLACK INK

**PRINTER SOMERSET HOUSE
PRINTER'S PLATE 6 PRINTING A**

**OVERPRINT CONTRACTOR THOM
'SAORSTAT' OVERPRINT SETTING 2**

WATERMARK W14 - Type III

PERFORATION COMB SETTING - Type 2

(4 x umm incl. control)



CONTROL BLOCK FEATURES and VARIETIES

Plate 6 Printing A displays a projection in the jubilee line under 'X' of 'SIX' of stamp R20/1. With Printing A the control letter and numerals display a fine impression and the control dot is below the level of the first '2'.

Setting from 4 x 4 stereotypes and 4 x 3 part stereotypes

Second '2' in '1922' raised, stamps R20/1 & R20/2 - UF9m

560

6d Reddish-purple with Blue-black Overprint T55.

Royal Mint Plate 6 Characteristics

R20/1 Projection in base line under 'X' of 'SIX'.
Inland Revenue Stamping Department, Somerset
House Control Characteristics Printing A.
'U22' impression finer than found with printing B.
'22' raised above level of 'U'.

Dot in control lower level than first '2'.
Top of 'U' to jubilee line 1.7mm.

Thom Overprint Setting 2 Characteristics
Dull black ink. Measurements R20/1,2,3.
A 20.25mm, B 40.75mm.

Setting Variants

R20/1 & R20/2 Second '2' of '1922' raised.

R20/1 Right leg of first 'A' of 'SAORSTAT' damaged.

R20/2 first 'c' in 'SAORSTAT' undamaged, see fig. 51.



TC164 Imperforate Proof Control Block

IRISH FREE STATE - ISSUE 9T

SOMERSET HOUSE CONTROL BLOCK with OVERPRINT by ALEX. THOM

CONTROL REFERENCE TC164
U22 IMPERFORATE

6d. OVERPRINTED STAMP
REFERENCE T55

REDDISH PURPLE & BLUE BLACK INK

PRINTER SOMERSET HOUSE
PRINTER'S PLATE 6 PRINTING B

OVERPRINT CONTRACTOR THOM
'SAORSTAT' OVERPRINT SETTING 4

WATERMARK W14 - Type III

PERFORATION COMB SETTING - Type 2

(5 x umm incl. control)



CONTROL BLOCK FEATURES and VARIETIES

Plate 6 Printing B displays a projection in the jubilee line under 'X' of 'SIX' of stamp R20/1. With Printing B the control letter and numerals display a bold impression and the control dot is below the level of the first '2'.

Setting 4 is from a 10 x 6 stereo and parts 10 x 4, 2 x 6 and 2 x 4. Relative positioning of the overprints on stamps R19/1, R19/2 and R20/1, R20/2, compared with R19/3, R20/3 show use of a 2x 4 part stereo in the control block.

IRISH FREE STATE - ISSUE 9T

SOMERSET HOUSE CONTROL BLOCK with OVERPRINT by ALEX. THOM

CONTROL REFERENCE TC164
U22 IMPERFORATE

6d. OVERPRINTED STAMP
REFERENCE T55
REDDISH PURPLE & BLUE BLACK INK

PRINTER SOMERSET HOUSE
PRINTER'S PLATE 7

OVERPRINT CONTRACTOR THOM
'SAORSTAT' OVERPRINT SETTING 1

WATERMARK W14 - Type III

PERFORATION COMB SETTING - Type 2

(4 x umm incl. control)



CONTROL BLOCK FEATURES and VARIETIES

Setting 1 is from a 12 x 10 stereo

Damaged accent over 'a' of 'SAORSTAT', stamp R19/4 - UF9i

Raised '1' in '1922', stamp R20/1 - UF9q

Overprints display a major shift to the right - UF9u

€150

IRISH FREE STATE - ISSUE 9T

SOMERSET HOUSE CONTROL BLOCK with OVERPRINT by ALEX. THOM

CONTROL REFERENCE TC164 U22 IMPERFORATE

6d. OVERPRINTED STAMP
REFERENCE T55
REDDISH PURPLE & BLUE BLACK INK

PRINTER SOMERSET HOUSE
PRINTER'S PLATE 7

OVERPRINT CONTRACTOR THOM
'SAORSTAT' OVERPRINT SETTING 2

WATERMARK W14 - Type III

PERFORATION COMB SETTING - Type 2



CONTROL BLOCK FEATURES and VARIETIES
Setting 2 is from 4 x 4 stereos and part 4 x 3 stereos.

€65

(umm)

Second '2' in '1922' raised, stamps R20/1 & R20/2 - UF9m



CONTROL BLOCK FEATURES and VARIETIES

Setting 4 is from a 10 x 6 stereo and part 10 x 4, 2 x 6 & 2 x 4 stereos.
Relative positioning of the overprints on stamps R19/1, R19/2 and
R20/1, R20/2, compared with R19/3, R20/3 show use of a 2 x 4 part
stereo in the control block.

'POSTAGE' watermark misplaced

Overprints display major right shift, stamps R19/3 & R20/3 - UF9u

(umm)

CONTROL REFERENCE TC164 U22 IMPERFORATE

6d. OVERPRINTED STAMP
REFERENCE T55
REDDISH PURPLE & BLUE BLACK INK

PRINTER SOMERSET HOUSE
PRINTER'S PLATE 7

OVERPRINT CONTRACTOR THOM
'SAORSTAT' OVERPRINT SETTING 4

WATERMARK W14 - Type III

PERFORATION COMB SETTING - Type 2

IRISH FREE STATE - ISSUE 9T

SOMERSET HOUSE CONTROL BLOCK with OVERPRINT by ALEX. THOM

CONTROL REFERENCE TC165 V23 IMPERFORATE

6d. OVERPRINTED STAMP
REFERENCE T55

REDDISH PURPLE & BLUE BLACK INK

PRINTER SOMERSET HOUSE
PRINTER'S PLATE 6 Printing A

OVERPRINT CONTRACTOR THOM
'SAORSTAT' OVERPRINT SETTING 3

WATERMARK W14 - Type III

PERFORATION COMB SETTING - Type 2



€65

CONTROL BLOCK FEATURES and VARIETIES

Setting 3 is from a 10 x 6 stereos and part 10 x 4, 2 x 6 and 2 x 4 stereos.
Relative positioning of the overprints on stamps R19/1, R19/2 and R20/1,
R20/2, compared with R19/3, R20/3, show use of a
2 x 4 part stereo in the control block.

(3 x umm incl. control)

Overprints from stamps R19/3, R20/3 shifted to the right - UF9u

CONTROL REFERENCE TC165 V23 IMPERFORATE

6d. OVERPRINTED STAMP
REFERENCE T55

REDDISH PURPLE & BLUE BLACK INK

PRINTER SOMERSET HOUSE
PRINTER'S PLATE 6 Printing B

OVERPRINT CONTRACTOR THOM
'SAORSTAT' OVERPRINT SETTING 3

WATERMARK W14 - Type III

PERFORATION COMB SETTING - Type 2



€40

CONTROL BLOCK FEATURES and VARIETIES

Setting 3 is from a 10 x 6 stereo and part 10 x 4, 2 x 6 & 2 x 4 stereos.
Relative positioning of the overprints on stamps R20/1, R20/2,
compared with R20/3 show use of a
2 x 4 part stereo in the control block.

(umm)

IRISH FREE STATE - ISSUE 9T

SOMERSET HOUSE CONTROL BLOCK with OVERPRINT by ALEX. THOM

CONTROL REFERENCE TC165

V23 IMPERFORATE

6d. OVERPRINTED STAMP
REFERENCE T55

REDDISH PURPLE & BLUE BLACK INK

PRINTER SOMERSET HOUSE
PRINTER'S PLATE 6 Printing B

OVERPRINT CONTRACTOR THOM
'SAORSTAT' OVERPRINT SETTING 4

WATERMARK W14 - Type III

PERFORATION COMB SETTING - Type 2



CONTROL BLOCK FEATURES and VARIETIES

Setting 3 is from a 10 x 6 stereo and part 10 x 4, 2 x 6 & 2 x 4 stereos.
Relative positioning of the overprints on stamps R20/1, R20/2,
compared with R20/3 show use of a
2 x 4 part stereo in the control block.

€50

(umm)

'POSTAGE' watermark misplaced

Overprints from stamps R20/1, R20/2 shifted to the left - UF9u

CONTROL REFERENCE TC165

V23 IMPERFORATE

6d. OVERPRINTED STAMP
REFERENCE T55

REDDISH PURPLE & BLUE BLACK INK

PRINTER SOMERSET HOUSE
PRINTER'S PLATE 6 Printing B

OVERPRINT CONTRACTOR THOM
'SAORSTAT' OVERPRINT SETTING 4

WATERMARK W14 - Type III

PERFORATION COMB SETTING - Type 2



CONTROL BLOCK FEATURES and VARIETIES

Setting 3 is from a 10 x 6 stereo and part 10 x 4, 2 x 6 & 2 x 4 stereos.
Relative positioning of the overprints on stamps R20/1, R20/2,
compared with R20/3 show use of a
2 x 4 part stereo in the control block.

€40

'POSTAGE' watermark misplaced

(2 x umm)

Overprints from stamps R20/1, R20/2 shifted to the left - UF9u

IRISH FREE STATE - ISSUE 9T

SOMERSET HOUSE CONTROL BLOCK with OVERPRINT by ALEX. THOM

CONTROL REFERENCE TC165

V23 IMPERFORATE

6d. OVERPRINTED STAMP

REFERENCE T55

REDDISH PURPLE & BLUE BLACK INK

PRINTER SOMERSET HOUSE
PRINTER'S PLATE 6 Printing B

OVERPRINT CONTRACTOR THOM
'SAORSTAT' OVERPRINT SETTING 4

WATERMARK W14 - Type III

PERFORATION COMB SETTING - Type 2



CONTROL BLOCK FEATURES and VARIETIES

Setting 4 is from a 10 x 6 stereo and part 10 x 4, 2 x 6 & 2 x 4 stereos.
Relative positioning of the overprints on stamps R19/1, R19/2 and
R20/1, R20/2, compared with R19/3, R20/3 show use of a
2 x 4 part stereo in the control block.

(umm)

IRISH FREE STATE - ISSUE 9T

SOMERSET HOUSE CONTROL BLOCK with OVERPRINT by ALEX. THOM

CONTROL REFERENCE TC165

V23 IMPERFORATE

6d. OVERPRINTED STAMP

REFERENCE T55

REDDISH PURPLE & BLUE BLACK INK

PRINTER SOMERSET HOUSE

PRINTER'S PLATE 7

OVERPRINT CONTRACTOR THOM

'SAORSTAT' OVERPRINT SETTING 4

WATERMARK W14 - Type II

PERFORATION COMB SETTING - Type 2

(5 x umm incl. control)



CONTROL BLOCK FEATURES and VARIETIES

Setting 4 is from a 10 x 6 stereo and part 10 x 4, 2 x 6 & 2 x 4 stereos.

Relative positioning of the overprints on stamps R19/1, R19/2 and R20/1, R20/2, compared with R19/3, R20/3 show use of a 2 x 4 part stereo in the control block.

'POSTAGE' watermark misplaced

IRISH FREE STATE - ISSUE 9T

SOMERSET HOUSE CONTROL BLOCK with OVERPRINT by ALEX. THOM

**CONTROL REFERENCE TC165
V23 IMPERFORATE**

6d. OVERPRINTED STAMP
REFERENCE T55
REDDISH PURPLE & BLUE BLACK INK

PRINTER SOMERSET HOUSE
PRINTER'S PLATE 7

OVERPRINT CONTRACTOR THOM
'SAORSTAT' OVERPRINT SETTING 4

WATERMARK W14 - Type II

PERFORATION COMB SETTING - Type 2

(5 x umm incl. control)



CONTROL BLOCK FEATURES and VARIETIES

Setting 4 is from a 10 x 6 stereo and part 10 x 4, 2 x 6 & 2 x 4 stereos.
Relative positioning of the overprints on stamps R19/1, R19/2 and
R20/1, R20/2, compared with R19/3, R20/3 show use of a
2 x 4 part stereo in the control block.

'POSTAGE' watermark misplaced

€60

Irish Free State
 Alex Thom & Sons Printers
 Six Pence Purple
 Blue Black Ink

TSS / TC 165

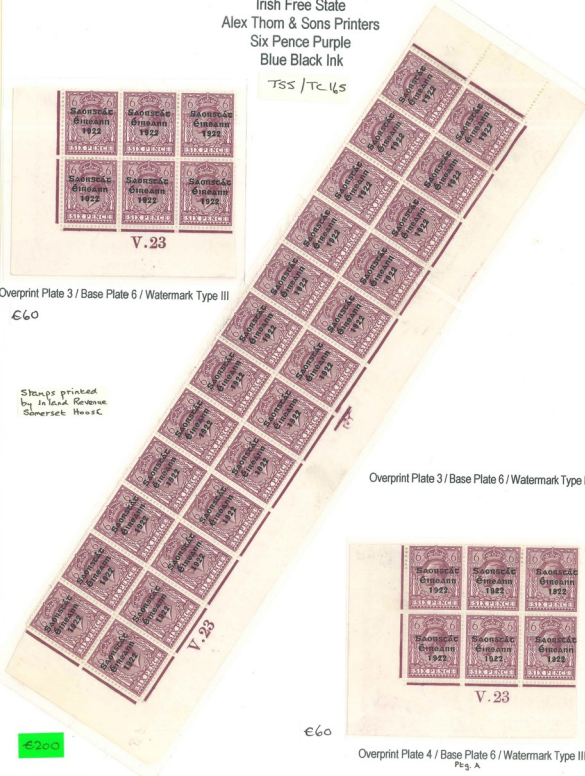


V.23

Overprint Plate 3 / Base Plate 6 / Watermark Type III

€60

Stamps printed
 by Inland Revenue
 Somerset House



Overprint Plate 3 / Base Plate 6 / Watermark Type III



V.23

€60

Overprint Plate 4 / Base Plate 6 / Watermark Type III

PE3. A

€200

IRISH FREE STATE - ISSUE 9T
SOMERSET HOUSE CONTROL BLOCK with OVERPRINT by ALEX. THOM

CONTROL REFERENCE TC165/1
V23 PERFORATE

6d. OVERPRINTED STAMP
REFERENCE T55
REDDISH PURPLE & BLUE BLACK INK

PRINTER SOMERSET HOUSE
PRINTER'S PLATE 6 Printing B

OVERPRINT CONTRACTOR THOM
'SAORSTAT' OVERPRINT SETTING 3

WATERMARK W14 - Type II

PERFORATION COMB SETTING - Type 2A

Unique example - Rare
ex T. E. Field collection
MacDonnell Whyte Certificate 1552 dated 21 September 1985

Acquired 3rd December 2015 Cherrystone Auction collection
John Pedneault.

Price paid €1,900 including buyers commission.

Returned as
fake by BC

(umm)



CONTROL BLOCK FEATURES and VARIETIES

Setting 3 is from a 10 x 6 stereo and part 10 x 4, 2 x 6 & 2 x 4 stereos.
Relative positioning of the overprints on stamps R19/1, R19/2 and
R20/1, R20/2, compared with R19/3, R20/3 show use of a
2 x 4 part stereo in the control block.

IRISH FREE STATE - ISSUE 9T

SOMERSET HOUSE CONTROL BLOCK with OVERPRINT by ALEX. THOM

**CONTROL REFERENCE TC165/1
V23 PERFORATE**

**6d. OVERPRINTED STAMP
REFERENCE T55
REDDISH PURPLE & BLUE BLACK INK**

**PRINTER SOMERSET HOUSE
PRINTER'S PLATE 6 Printing B**

**OVERPRINT CONTRACTOR THOM
'SAORSTAT' OVERPRINT SETTING 3**

Certificate of Opinion

Item

Ireland 1922-23 Thom 3-line 6d, lower left corner block of 6 showing marginal control V23 perf. (lower margin perforated through). DF T55 CL153 SG60.

Condition

Unused with original gum. Without defect.

Remarks

Genuine in all respects. Ex. T E Field collection.



Date

September 21, 1985

David MacDonnell

1552



ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES EXPERTS EN PHILATÉLIE
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PHILATELIC EXPERTS
INTERNATIONALER VERBAND DER PHILATELISTISCHEN EXPERTEN
ASOCIACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE EXPERTOS FILATÉLICOS

David MacDonnell
102 Leinster Road
Dublin 6, Ireland
Tel. +353 1 4977 449
Fax +353 1 4977 440

IRELAND: STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY

I have examined the item described below:

Ireland: 1922-23 Alexander Thom ΣΑΟΡΣΑC Free State 3-line overprint in blue-black on Royal Cypher 6d. purple, Somerset House printing on surfaced (chalky) safety paper, perf. 15 x 14, a lower left corner block of six, base plate 7 (official) with overprint setting 3, showing printers' Control V.23 in lower margin, unused with original gum.

MW T55. SG 60.

Both left and lower margins exhibit extra lines of perforations which suggest type 2A, but are inconsistent with the beat of the comb which has perforated the stamps, and the perf. type does not appear to be 3A with left encroachment.

In the absence of further definitive evidence at the time of examination, it is not possible to properly explain the extra lines of perforations in the margins, and whether this piece can be considered to be V.23 Perf. in the accepted sense at present.

For centring and perforations see attached illustration.

Ex T. E. Field (lot 783) and B. S. Wallas (lot 31706) collections.

Dublin, 31 March 2016.

David MacDonnell, AIEP





V.23



V.23

A RELOOK AT THE MACKENNAL 6d. VALUE STAMP

by Barry Cousins

All GB King George V low value definitive stamps, using the 'profile head' design by Mackennal, were printed by Harrison & Sons, with the exception of the 6d. value, which was printed by the Inland Revenue's stamping department, based out of Somerset House. *see below.*



This raises the basic question of - why was this necessary?

On further examination some interesting findings arise, which are equally applicable to the overprinted stamps of this value, which were in use in Ireland, during the 'transitional' period. *see below.*



Fundamentally it was first established that the 6d. stamp had a dual purpose, being designated for both postal and fiscal use.

As a result of this factor, for added security, the inks and papers used in the printing process differed from stamps, which were intended primarily for postal use.

For postal use the printing inks were described as 'singly fugitive', whereas for fiscal use the inks adopted were classified as 'doubly fugitive'.

In the case of 'singly fugitive' inks, the supplier of the time was Slater & Palmer, a London based firm.

These particular inks were intended to render the postage stamps proof against the removal of the postage cancellation mark.

For 'doubly fugitive' inks the purpose was twofold. Firstly being to protect against the removal of the postage cancellation mark and secondly, to a degree, give protection against the removal of hand writing, on stamps used for revenue purposes.

Interestingly 'doubly fugitive' inks were only available in two base colours, being purple and green.

The manufacturer of these specialist inks was Mander Brothers of Wolverhampton.

As a further protective measure, established to compliment the use of special inks, the stamp for fiscal use was printed onto chalk surfaced paper.

Both standard and coated papers were supplied by William Joynton & Son, a paper mill located in St. Mary Cray, Kent.

For postage, the main requirement for the 6d. stamp was for parcels. At the time the parcel rate was 9d. for packages under 2lbs, 1/- for parcels below 5lbs and 1s. 6d. for packages under 11lbs. in weight. *see below.*



For fiscal purposes the uses were directed towards the collection of non postal revenue and taxes. An example below, being the levy for an annual dog license fee.

No. of Dogs	Description and Breed	Date of Birth
1	Bulldog	1922

Beyond stamps of Great Britain, the first dedicated definitive stamp of Ireland for the equivalent value, was also designated for dual use.

The stamp in question is the 'Sword of Light' in claret, a colour which is derived from purple.

The coated paper and 'doubly fugitive' ink was also sourced from the same two firms, who were contracted to Somerset House.

IRISH FREE STATE - ISSUE 9T

SOMERSET HOUSE CONTROL BLOCK with OVERPRINT by ALEX. THOM

CONTROL REFERENCE TC165/2 W23 IMPERFORATE

6d. OVERPRINTED STAMP
REFERENCE T55

REDDISH PURPLE & BLUE BLACK INK

PRINTER SOMERSET HOUSE
PRINTER'S PLATE 6

OVERPRINT CONTRACTOR THOM
'SAORSTAT' OVERPRINT SETTING 3

WATERMARK W14 - Type II

PERFORATION COMB SETTING - Type 2



CONTROL BLOCK FEATURES and VARIETIES

Setting 3 is from a 10 x 6 stereo and part 10 x 4, 2 x 6 & 2 x 4 stereos.

'POSTAGE' watermark misplaced

(umm)

e50

CONTROL REFERENCE TC165/2 W23 IMPERFORATE

6d. OVERPRINTED STAMP
REFERENCE T55

REDDISH PURPLE & BLUE BLACK INK

PRINTER SOMERSET HOUSE
PRINTER'S PLATE 6

OVERPRINT CONTRACTOR THOM
'SAORSTAT' OVERPRINT SETTING 3

WATERMARK W14 - Type II

PERFORATION COMB SETTING - Type 2



CONTROL BLOCK FEATURES and VARIETIES

Setting 3 is from a 10 x 6 stereo and part 10 x 4, 2 x 6 & 2 x 4 stereos.

Relative positioning of the overprints on stamps R19/1, R19/2 and R20/1, R20/2, compared with R19/3, R20/3 show use of a 2 x 4 part stereo in the control block.

(3 x umm incl. control)

e60

IRISH FREE STATE - ISSUE 9T

SOMERSET HOUSE CONTROL BLOCK with OVERPRINT by ALEX. THOM

CONTROL REFERENCE TC165/2
W23 IMPERFORATE

6d. OVERPRINTED STAMP
REFERENCE T55
REDDISH PURPLE & BLUE BLACK INK

PRINTER SOMERSET HOUSE
PRINTER'S PLATE 6

OVERPRINT CONTRACTOR THOM
'SAORSTAT' OVERPRINT SETTING 4

WATERMARK W14 - Type II

PERFORATION COMB SETTING - Type 2



CONTROL BLOCK FEATURES and VARIETIES

Setting 4 is from a 10 x 6 stereo and part 10 x 4, 2 x 6 & 2 x 4 stereos.
Relative positioning of the overprints on stamps R19/1, R19/2 and
R20/1, R20/2, compared with R19/3, R20/3 show use of a
2 x 4 part stereo in the control block.

(umm)

€65