

Dummy Stamps

A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material



**ISSUES
1 TO 25**

Dummy Stamps

Issue 1 "An Infrequent Look at the World of British Dummy Stamp Material" Summer 2006

Welcome to DS1

It had long been my intention to produce a newsletter that related to British dummy philatelic material, therefore enabling documentation of new finds and an expansion of our knowledge about older items.

I was finally galvanised into action by the appearance of the U S Stamp Society's publication *Dummy News and Views* (download at www.usstamps.org/dssg.html). This fine online publication fully covers American dummy stamps and was a great source of inspiration to me.

Glenn H Morgan FRPSL
Webmaster www.stampprinters.info


Why describe them as Dummy Stamps?

It is difficult to choose a word that clearly describes these items - 'experimental', 'trial', 'promotional', 'testing' - all are too specific as to intended purpose of use and so my choice of terminology and definition is:

"Dummy stamps: Items that have the general appearance of being real, but which lack the capacity to function in the postal system."

Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Welcome to DS1  Why describe them as Dummy Stamps?  Waddington Tender Labels
- 2 What are Dummies stamps used for?  Dummy DLR Self-Adhesive Stamp Book  Talking of Books
- 3 DLR Experimental Stamp 
- 4 Questa, SuperLitho and Micro-Printing 

Waddington Tender Labels

A successful attempt in proving to Royal Mail that they were capable of printing British stamps

Renowned for their posters and commercial print, Waddington's was also soon to gain a fine reputation for printing stamps following the first stamp issue fully produced by them, which was printed in 1967 for St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla.

Waddington's had previously supplied many artwork designs for Format International Security Printers and also acted as sub-contractors to them and De La Rue before starting to produce stamps in their entirety.

Whenever Royal Mail wants to add a new printer to its roster, it is normal for the company to supply samples of its work, for what better recommendation can there be than finely printed stamps already in use?

As part of its 1980 British tender process, in addition to supplying issued stamps Waddington's also designed and produced a series of dummy stamps printed by offset litho in at least the four process colours of Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black (CMYK) in perforated and gummed sheets of 25 for Royal Mail's consideration.

These labels comprise designs depicting an oil tanker, camels, the GPO* Tower in London and a lanner falcon, valued at 25x, 25x, 65x and 38x respectively. They were for the fictitious country of 'Crescent'.

*By 1980, the 'G.P.O. Tower' wording on the label had long been obsolete as a term for this telecoms building.



Continued on page 3

...Why Dummy Stamps? *Continued from page 1*

It could be argued by some that essays and proofs should be included within the scope of this newsletter, as they cannot be used in the postal service either, but these have traditionally been excluded and therefore they will not be appearing within these pages.

What are Dummy Stamps used for?

Dummy stamps can be used for a variety of purposes by Royal Mail, its printers or its business customers. Collectors may choose to include or exclude certain of the categories recorded below. As an example, I collect all types of this material but particularly focus on booklets and coil dummies.

~ **Testing new or modified equipment**, such as vending machines, printing presses or sorting machinery.

~ **Assessment of revised or new formats**, like when the so-called Swedish folded style of booklet was introduced, or when self-adhesive stamps appeared.

~ **Perfecting production methods** as might be required when a new type of product has been introduced by Royal Mail.

~ **Training of postal engineers and other staff**, usually at special internal training centres, but sometimes at the local Post Office.

~ **Prevention of theft at retailers' point of sale**, as in the case of stamp booklets when they became available at shops and not just at Post Offices.

~ **Promotion by security printers or sponsors** that would help them to secure further business or increase their sales.

So, now that we have defined our subject matter and recorded the scope of this newsletter, I hope that you will enjoy reading the rest of this publication and that you may be inspired enough to want to add this type of material to your own collection.

The world of dummy stamps opens up many different opportunities to collect unusual objects and I welcome your feedback and reports – especially if you have been lucky enough to have discovered material that you have never seen recorded anywhere else before.

I may be contacted privately via the Guest Book that is located at www.stampprinters.info/SPI_GuestBook.htm 📧

Dummy DLR Self-Adhesive Stamp Book

New discovery of previously unknown dummy stamp book made by Dutchman

Recently, a new dummy stamp book was illustrated in *Filatelie*, a Dutch magazine, as part of an article by Rein C Bakhuizen van den Brink on his visit to Dunstable to see Dutch stamps being printed for TPG Post (now TNT Post).

The book is a self-adhesive product and it is unclear whether it was produced at the High Wycombe, Byfleet or Dunstable factories – all of which have successively produced stamps for Royal Mail following DLRs acquisition of Harrison's and then Questa. The press used is also unclear and it has not been possible to get any information from the printer as to when or where it was produced. 📧

Thanks to Rein for supplying black and white low-res PDFs of this book. The frame line on the labels is in DLR dark green, everything else is black. There are two notches on edge of cover, not seen here.



Talking of Books

For some time it had been unclear whether manufacturers of stamp vending machines still used dummy stamp books. Recently I had the opportunity of asking a current Royal Mail machine supplier who confirmed that they are now supplied with normally packaged 1st and 2nd class issued stamp books. It would appear that this has been the case from the first post-trial books of ten onwards.

Apparently, the books do not appear to be defaced in any way – either by pen, rubber stamp or pre-printed bars or wording. These days it is probably cheaper to allow a relatively few packets of stamp books to be used in this way, rather than going to the expense of designing, producing and stock-managing unique dummy equivalents. (It always used to be that live stamps were deemed to be accountable paper, i.e. they had a value greater than the unprinted paper used, and so needed to be returned to Stores.)

It now seems unlikely that our album pages will see many new dummy self-adhesive books. However, policies change and so details of any finds would be welcomed, please. 📧

DLR Experimental Stamp

British stamp dealer Rushstamps (www.rushstamps.co.uk) recently offered a type of dummy stamp in its *Rush Express* listing number 57 that I had not seen advertised before.

It was marketed as: '1940s EXPERIMENTAL STAMP. Printed by Thomas De La Rue, showing a dog. Imperforate in orange-brown. Only one sheet of 50 recently found in a London dealers stock.'



Copies were reasonably priced at just £6.50 for single copies, £12.50 for pairs and £20 for blocks of four.

It appears to have been printed by the photogravure, process based on the mottled effect in the solid that is so reminiscent of the gravure stamps once produced by the Swiss postage stamp printer Helio Courvoisier SA (which is now a part of the Walsall stable of printers, of course.



It has yet to be ascertained whether this item was produced as long ago as the 1940s, as claimed by Rushstamps. I have certainly not read that De La Rue was experimenting with photogravure stamp printing equipment during that era. If any reader can add further information to this story, then it would be much appreciated if you would make contact. 📧

...Waddington's

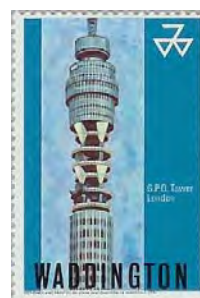
Continued from page 1



The initial Royal Mail contract that they secured was for the 4p and 20p Machin definitive stamps issued in 1980.

Waddington's ceased all stamp production upon their acquisition of the House of Questa in 1984, being unable to justify two companies in the same group producing postage stamps, while at the same time recognizing Questa's meticulous excellence in this field of security printing.

I could end the story at this point, but include two other labels that I am aware of. The first is the same as one of the labels produced at the time of the Royal Mail tender, but the face value of 65x has been replaced by the Waddington logo design and the 'country' name of 'Crescent' has been replaced by 'WADDINGTON'. What version came first?



The second label depicts Kirkstall Abbey and was prepared for (presumably) Waddington's attendance at the Rio Philatelic Congress of 1979.



Are there any other labels or interesting items from this printer that I have not listed? Reports are welcomed. 📧

Questa, SuperLitho and Micro-Printing

Getting added quality from offset lithography

There was a fascinating article entitled *A few Observations on Micro-printing* by Robert Bostock in the April 2006 issue of *The Bookmark* (published by the Modern British Philatelic Circle), which reminded me that I have a set of three trial labels produced by Questa as part of the run-up to first using its SuperLitho process on British commemorative stamps in 1998 (Endangered Species).

The labels each illustrate a Chinese dragon, are worded 'HONG KONG, CHINA' implying a post-1997 production date, and the words TEST SAMPLE on a belt at bottom right, with Chinese text. The use of the yellow graded colour at far left and a solid blue background colour was designed to stretch the capabilities of the press used.



Each label was accompanied by an unprinted definitive-sized blank stamp bearing a hand-written description of the accompanying test sample, namely:

- 'Normal litho 250-300 dots psi',
- 'SuperLitho 800-900 dots psi' (not illustrated below as it is the same as c) but without micro-printing),
- 'SuperLitho ...CHINAHONGKONG... in belt on either side of TEST SAMPLE'.



Normal litho with typical white spotty appearance, rosette pattern and a general loss of detail



SuperLitho with micro-printing giving a superior image quality and greater detail, including micro-printing



Normal Litho



Superlitho

It is hoped that by illustrating labels printed by normal litho and SuperLitho with micro-printing (each scanned at 1200 dpi), readers will be able to see the quality and capabilities of this under-utilised process. 📄

This Questa feature was first published in The Bookmark and is reproduced here in modified form by kind permission of its editor, Graham Eyre.

Sign-off

Well, that is all from me for this first issue of *Dummy Stamps*. I hope that you will have found something of interest in at least one of the short articles contained here.

Unfortunately, business, family and other commitments to the hobby mean that I will not be in a position to guarantee that I can rigidly stick to a publishing programme, so I suggest that you go to www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm where PDF files of this and all futures issues of *Dummy Stamps* will be available to download and print-off.

Dummy Stamps

Issue 2 "An Infrequent Look at the World of British Dummy Stamp Material" Autumn 2006

Welcome to DS2

This issue contains an important new discovery. Royal Mail had planned to use unique symbols and bar codes on each of its definitive stamps and some of the dummy sheets printed by Harrison's for the trial have now surfaced in Australia. Read the full story here first.

I would like to offer a big 'thank you' to everyone who wrote giving feedback on DS1 and I hope that this second issue generates at least the same level of interest.

Glenn H Morgan FRPSL
Webmaster www.stampprinters.info

M'Caw, Stevenson & Orr

Were they stamp printers in the making?

I have recently obtained two sample labels with a stamp-like appearance, imperforate and printed on ungummed paper.

MSO origins lie in the second half of the 19th century when a Belfast family created Marcus Ward & Co., a successful colour-printing and publishing business renowned for quality work. They expanded into a massive new Belfast factory and opened-up at 29 Cannon Street in London, but by the mid-1890s were struggling and dissolved in 1899.


The rival Belfast firm of M'Caw, Stevenson & Orr agreed with the liquidator by the end of 1900 to purchase the business and goodwill of Marcus Ward & Co.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Welcome to DS2  M'Caw, Stevenson & Orr 
Dummy Definition Revisited 
- 2-3 Unrecorded Royal Mail Trial 
- 4 Sellotape™ Stamps  Bradbury Wilkinson Label 
...and Finally 

M'Caw Stevenson & Orr Ltd and R R Browne Ltd were acquired in 1984 by The Baird Group and were re-formed as MSO Ltd. Then, in 2000, the John Cleland Group was acquired and amalgamated with MSO Ltd to form MSO Cleland Ltd, which is still trading following a management buy-out that occurred in 2002.

The label wording indicates that the producers were publishers and bookbinders and records their connection with the defunct Marcus Ward, putting the date of the items after 1900. Perhaps a reader can identify whether there is any special significance in the pictorial element of the design?

So, maybe this company had aspirations to print postage stamps and perhaps these publicity labels were part of that campaign. Or is there another rationalisation? 



The labels could be in better condition, but are the only examples seen.

Do other colours or designs exist?


Dummy Definition Revisited

A challenge to the definition within issue one

A recipient of DS1 has written indicating that my Dummy stamps definition is flawed as it would include errors and proofs as I suggested, but also forgeries, perforated labels of any sort, poster stamps, Cinderella's, illegal issues, etc.

He suggests the following as a basis for discussion:

'Dummy Stamps: Items made to represent stamps, which are intended to be used in place of stamps in situations where the use of stamps could result in a loss to the Post Office revenues.'

Do other readers have a different view, or do you think that the new definition better covers what I was trying to get at? 

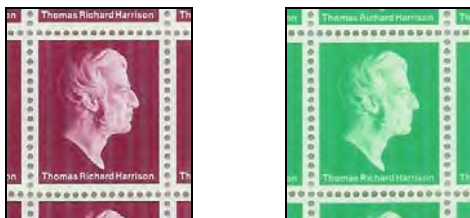
Unrecorded Royal Mail Trial

It is not often that an opportunity comes along to acquire unusual and unrecorded items for my specialised British Machin-era dummy stamps, coils and booklets collection. However, one such opportunity happened in late 2006 when an Australian online auction site offered a sheet of the Thomas Richard Harrison label design in a pane of 100.

These labels are well known to some collectors in their basic form and are known in a few colours; indeed I already owned two such items in bright blue and magenta. What made this item special, though, was the fact that it included British phosphor tagging in four unknown formats.

My bid was placed and I sat back wondering whether I had offered enough money. I had, for within seconds of the closing time of the auction I was advised that I was the successful bidder. This set about a chain of events that quickly revealed most of the history of this fascinating item.

I contacted the vendor, assuring him that I would pay for the lot immediately – “Oh, and by the way, do you have anything else like this?” He did have and a second identically formatted sheet was offered at the same price as the first piece, but this one was in an attractive emerald green instead of the crimson colour of the first sheet.



I had already been made aware in the lot description that somehow both items were creased, affecting a few stamps slightly in the right margin. Maybe the previous owner had something sitting on them, or had caused the creasing when getting them into an envelope that was only just big enough for the sheets. Either way, this damage did not reduce my pleasure at becoming their new owner.

An enquiry as to why the sheets were located in Australia brought about a simple explanation. Seven sheets had been purchased in England (three crimson and four green), while the vendor was living in London, sometime between 1993 and 2000, where he was conducting a small auction house called *Club Philatelics*. He brought these sheets over to Australia and gave a pair to a Reverend friend of his, who was also a Harrison collector and competitor.

Sadly, this friend was terminally ill and, when he died, the vendor auctioned the pair in Australia and donated the proceeds to The Australian Cancer Foundation, as his wife had asked for donations to this cause rather than flowers at his funeral ... and the sheets generated an amazing A\$62,000+. (I realise that this is not their current commercial value in the philatelic market and the high price simply reflects the manner in which this deceased Reverend had been regarded by his family, friends and parishioners.) The purchaser of these two sheets is unknown.

Major new discovery of phosphor tagging experiment

The vendor sold a further pair of sheets at auction in Australia in 2000, as a result of which he received a telephone call from the auctioneer on behalf of the overseas winner (understood to be living in Poland) asking if he also had the blue / turquoise blue sheet. As this colour has never been seen, there is no proof that such an item exists. I have accounted for six of the seven sheets known.

The panes that I purchased were clearly destined to survive because the vendor's entire stamp collection had been stolen in a burglary last August. The only items left behind were these two Harrison sheets, probably because they are not 'real' stamps and were not perceived to have any financial value. Little did the thieves realise that these were probably more valuable and interesting to a potential stamp dealer purchaser than the whole of the general collection put together!

So, that is the background to the find and what now follows is a record of the technical details of the labels.

By coincidence, I had lunch arranged with an ex-Harrison man the day following the auction and I was able to take along colour copies of the initial sheet in the hope that he would either be able to tell me their history, or make enquiries on my behalf. This request was promptly acted-on and the story unfolded.

The labels are from a trial run that was conducted by Harrison's for the Post Office R & D team at Swindon, probably during the mid-to-late 1980s. (An ex-employee who had been working in the Harrison laboratories at the time has been unable to establish the exact date.) The project was carried out under what is known as a 'Post Office Development Contract'.

The reason behind this trial was to find a means whereby Royal Mail's sorting equipment would be able to automatically detect the face value of each stamp on each piece of mail, including where more than one stamp had been used on the same letter. It would then be able to perform a calculation and check that the postage paid matched the rate for the item sent. Harrison's was asked to produce some non-accounting labels that carried phosphor in the form of bar-codes and symbols of a type specified by Post Office engineers, enabling them to undertake in-house phosphor response testing at Swindon.

The initial intention was to eventually give a different bar-code to each value of stamp, although following the testing it was decided that the project would not be implemented on the sorting machines. It is understood that the Post Office engineers probably kept the system on file in case there was ever a decision to implement this scheme.

From Harrison's point of view the proposal would have been difficult to manage reliably if each value was to have a different phosphor cylinder and would have had significant cost implications - particularly since at the time of the trial nearly everything was printed on phosphor coated paper, with only the second class stamps carrying a printed phosphor bar.

Continued on page 3



There is a diamond shaped phosphor area formed by the tips of the marginal cross hair. Also, the step wedge has a solid phosphor area in gutter.

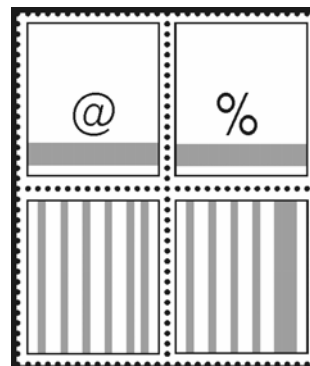
The labels were printed by photogravure in sheets of 100 on an L&M7 machine, are the size of a normal Machin head definitive stamp and are perforated on a rotary sheet perforator. Sheets were delivered to the R & D laboratories in a quantity of around 100,000 labels.

There is a 'step wedge' at foot of each pane which, perhaps strangely, is in reverse-reading. Apparently, this might have been because the plate makers noted that the emulsion was on the wrong side for gravure. The Harrison head design was a test plate which they had in store and it was not thought to have been made especially for this trial. Only the phosphor plate was made specifically.

Label Details

Value and design Undenominated Thomas Harrison head
Issue date Circa mid- to late-1980s
Producer Harrison and Sons Limited, High Wycombe
Process Photogravure
Paper Original Coated Paper (OCP)
Gum PVA Dextrin (PVAD)
Perforation gauge 14.75 x 14
Perforator used Rotary (possibly Kampf)
Label colours Crimson or emerald green
Marginal markings 'cross hair' in both vertical margins between label rows 1+2 and 9+10. Perforated 'step wedge' below bottom row of labels

Phosphor type B3 shortwave, with violet afterglow
Phosphor layout Each quarter of the sheet bears a different phosphor design



Note how the phosphor does not extend beyond the design area (interrupted phosphor)

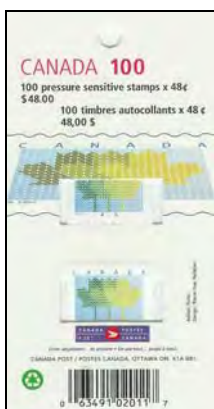
The vendor of the sheets concluded: "As a collector, I thrive on new acquisitions and I am thrilled that the item goes to someone who will treasure it. I have held on to it for these last few years because I rate it very highly, but when it is all boiled down, I will never have any use for it ... it is a very special item." I agree on all counts. 📧

My special thanks are offered to the ex-Harrison staff and Tony St. John for their assistance in providing much of the background and technical information contained within this article. My thanks are also offered to Graham Eyre for drawing the illustrations of the unique phosphor layouts.

Sellotape™ Stamps

SOHO self-adhesive stamps proposed for UK

Back in 1999, Royal Mail was approached by MDC, the Canadian owners of the House of Questa stamp printers. They had a proposal that the UK should issue stamps in mini-coils of 100 self-adhesive stamps held on a backing card to be sold via hang-sell display units in Post Offices. These would primarily have been for use by the SOHO (Small Office, Home Office) business category, which can be from 1 to 10 workers.



Canadian coil mounted on similar card format but with stamps having a backing paper

What made this proposal unique in British philately was that, unlike normal self-adhesive stamps, they never had a silicone backing sheet but, instead, the stamps stuck to each other in the same way that Sellotape™ does.

A full mock-up was supplied for consideration, but was not progressed.

I was fortunate in being able to buy a strip of the sample labels produced by Ashton Potter from a foreign stamp dealer (the labels used were in no way unique to this proposal).

It was also possible to later acquire a poor quality black and white photostat copy of the intended backing card.

Royal Mail assures me that 1st class Machin stamps with imperf top/bottom margins (left) were never produced!

A similar label produced for MDC Stamp Group's Advantage System™ and branded jointly Ashton Potter and Questa is shown below.

The label's purpose is not known, so any explanation as to the product advertised would be welcomed. 📧



Bradbury Wilkinson Label

A favourite publicity label of DS compiler

This intaglio label was one of the first that I acquired and was without doubt responsible for encouraging me to collect this class of printers' philatelic material. I have never seen colours other than blue and so would welcome reports of any additional colours. The site is now a supermarket! 📧



(top) perforated, (middle) enlargement of vignette centre and (bottom) imperforate version

...and finally

I always welcome details of any new dummy finds from printers of British stamps, past and present, and so cordially invite you to drop me a line via the Guest Book facility provided on my website at www.stampprinters.info/guestbook.htm

Unfortunately, business, family and other commitments to the hobby mean that I am not in a position to guarantee that I can rigidly stick to a publishing programme and therefore suggest that you go to www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm every so often where PDF files of this and all future and previous issues of *Dummy Stamps* will be available to download and print-off.

Dummy Stamps

Walsall and Harrison's - Banknote Printers

An attempt at getting into this lucrative market

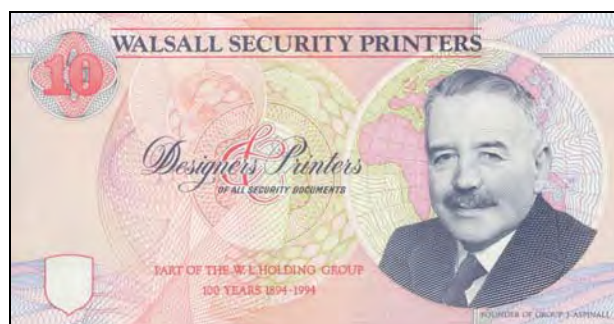
Worldwide banknote printing is a specialised area of security print dominated by De La Rue.

Changes in market-forces (such as events in the Soviet Union) were seen by some security printers as an opportunity to enter this lucrative market and take orders away from the mighty DLR.

Walsall and Harrison's had both decided to diversify into this field and each produced a sample banknote design as an advertising tool to assist its sales team when touting for business.

Walsall chose to print its notes by offset litho, as this was their area of expertise, while Harrison's went for intaglio (recess). The former decided not to progress the idea, while some say that the latter was purchased by DLR simply to remove what had become a thorn in their side, as Harrison's had apparently secured about 5% of the worldwide banknote market in a very short time.

Unlike these printers, *Dummy Stamps* will not be diversifying, but I thought readers might like to see the notes produced. The H&S sheet exists in navy blue (not shown) or brown (alongside) 📄



(above)
H&S face
& reverse

(left) WSP
face

(below)
WSP
reverse
o/printed
for IBNS
Congress

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Walsall and Harrison's - Banknote Printers
- 2 *Jim'll Fix It* Harrison Label
- 3 Did Questa Tender for Christmas Stamps?
- 4 Questa Visit Hong Kong 97 📄 American Dummy Coverage 📄 ...and Finally

There are advertising notes from the Bank of England, DLR, Bradbury Wilkinson, Waterlow's and others. They form a fascinating collection.



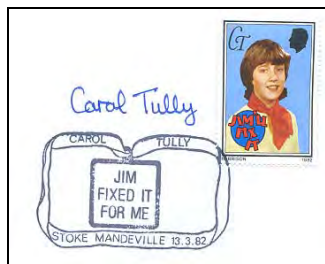
Jim'll Fix It Harrison Label

A girl gets her wish to see stamps being printed

"Now then, now then, now then." Readers of a certain age (most stamp collectors, these days!) will recall the highly successful Saturday evening BBC TV series in which Jimmy Saville made wishes come true, mainly for children. The programme ran to a staggering twenty series, amounting to no less than 295 35 minute episodes and it is still talked about with affection.

The episode on 13 March 1982 was of particular interest to stamp collectors because a young teenage girl called Carol Tully had asked to see stamps being printed. Harrison and Sons was happy to oblige and went so far as to produce a unique 'stamp' commemorating her visit to the plant.

The souvenir was printed by lithography using four colour cylinders (CMYK) in sheets of 25 labels. Cylinders 1A1A1A1A and 1B1B1B1B were utilised and two recent eBay auctions saw full sheets on sale for £50-£125 each, with signed Cotswold covers at £35, or unsigned at just £3.



Carol was presented by Harrison's with a leather folder of H&S stamps, plus imperforate and colour progressive sheets of her souvenir. She was photographed holding one of the imperforate sheets of two panes while in the Harrison factory (see *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, May 1982, page 41).

Carol's time at Harrison's was hosted by works director John Orford who showed her a separated colour transparency that was to be used as part of the 'pre-press' phase, moved on to the various stages of production and finished-up in the area where sheets of her special label were being perforated and checked by the inspection team.



Medal of the kind awarded to Carol



Logo of the programme

Carol was born in Galashiels, Scotland and was just 13 at the time of her appearance on television. So, what became of her in adult life? I set about finding out and tracked her down working at the Department of Modern Languages, University of Wales Bangor, where she is a senior lecturer in German and Head of Department.

She had gained a degree in German and Spanish, moved to London and completed a PhD on German and Spanish Romanticism and taught at King's College while working as a freelance translator. She then taught at the University of Leeds before taking up her current position. Carol has many books, edited volumes, translations, editions and articles to her name and appears lots of times on the results pages of internet search engines.

In March 2007 it will have been 25 years since she visited Harrison's and I asked her whether she continues to have an interest in stamps. Sadly she does not, for when not involved in her academic work, Dr Tully is most likely to be found in the garden, travelling or on the golf course.

To quote another TV celebrity of the period, Larry Grayson of Generation Game fame, "Didn't she do well!".

Label Details

<i>Value and design</i>	Undenominated Carol Tully portrait with silhouetted head of Jimmy Saville, CT and Jim'll Fix It logo
<i>Designer</i>	A member of Harrison's design studio
<i>Issue date</i>	March 1982
<i>Producer</i>	Harrison and Sons Limited, High Wycombe
<i>Process</i>	Lithography
<i>Paper</i>	H&S Stamp Paper
<i>Gum</i>	PVA Dextrin (PVAD)
<i>Perforator used</i>	Grover Comb
<i>Label colours</i>	Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black (CMYK)
<i>Marginal markings</i>	"PRINTED BY HARRISON & SONS LTD., LONDON" at bottom centre, cylinder numbers bottom right and traffic lights in right margin alongside row four
<i>Price</i>	The stamps were sold in a block of four or as a single copy on cover by Cotswold Covers at £1 for either format, with all proceeds benefiting the Jimmy Saville Stoke Mandeville Hospital Appeal



Did Questa Tender for Christmas Stamps?

A unique run of the 24p Christmas 1991 stamp

From 1966, Harrison and Sons had the exclusive responsibility for printing the annual Christmas stamp issue. These stamps were way ahead of any other commemorative set in terms of production requirements and were, it can be presumed, very lucrative to the printer.

The 1991 24p Christmas value exists printed by Questa instead of Harrison's and it appears that it might have been an attempt at securing the contract to print the festive stamp issue.

Alternatively, this trial print run could have related to testing the gravure printing press that Questa had installed at Royal Mail's request.

Whatever the answer, the stamps were certainly produced with Royal Mail's awareness, as Questa would have needed the artwork from them!

I have not seen a complete pane of this unusual sheet format, so I am unaware if any marginal markings exist, or how many rows there are.

There is a pale blue 'wash' over the entire area of the design left white on the Harrison printing, with a very faint Queen's head impression, smaller and lower than on the issued stamp.

Can any reader please expand on the limited information recorded here? 📧



Background image area darkened to show Queen's head nestling between base of Q balloon logo and top of stylised flower



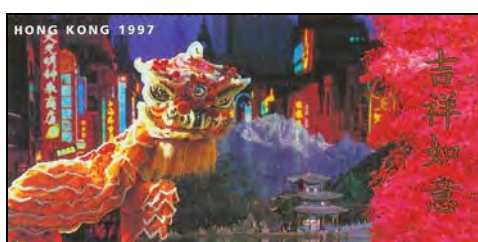
The issued 1991 Harrison printing of the 24p Christmas stamp

Questa Visit Hong Kong 97

New gravure press promoted at show reception

At the *Hong Kong 1997* stamp show, Ashton Potter and The House of Questa held a joint private reception for postal service contacts and honoured guests from all around the world.

The host, Dick Ashwell (Managing Director of Questa), presented each guest with a very limited edition souvenir sheet that had been printed on Questa's newly-acquired 850-screen printing gravure press. No copies of the sheet were made available to the general public or collectors. 📄



(left)
Stamp image
area enlarged

(below)
Close-up of the
dragon's head



American Dummy Coverage

The US Dummy Stamps Group sets out its scope

The US Dummy Stamp Study Group, which is located at www.usstamps.org/dssg.html, has defined what it regards as dummy stamps.

Their definition has been slightly edited to exclude material that is simply not applicable to the British stamp scene, such as 'demonetized embossed envelopes'.

"A general listing of the types of materials that the group would be interested in would include, but not be limited to: stamps or stamp like objects used to develop and test stamp production equipment; stamps or stamp like objects used to develop, test and adjust stamp vending equipment; stamps or stamp like objects used to develop, demonstrate and test stamp affixing equipment used by private mailing companies; facsimile stamps used for training students at business colleges and postal training centres; postal stationery, tokens used in place of coins to test/demonstrate and train postal clerks to use postal vending machines; booklet covers, coil leaders/seals on dummy rolls; dummy coil roll and dummy booklet labels or box labels; and meters."

I think that definitions have now been covered sufficiently in *Dummy Stamps* and I will leave it to the collector to decide what is included, or indeed excluded, from their personal collections. 📄

...and finally

I always welcome details of any new dummy finds from printers of British stamps, past and present, and so cordially invite you to drop me a line via the Guest Book facility provided on my website at www.stampprinters.info/guestbook.htm

Business, family and other commitments to the hobby mean that I am not in a position to guarantee that I can rigidly stick to a publishing programme and therefore suggest that you go to www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm every so often where PDF files of this and all future and previous issues of *Dummy Stamps* will be available to download and print-off. Thank you.

Glenn H Morgan FRPSL

Dummy Stamps

Issue 4

"An Infrequent Look at the World of British Dummy Stamp Material"

Spring 2007

De La Rue Phosphor Trials

New discovery found in deceased estate

An unrecorded De La Rue sample label with two phosphor bands has recently come on to the philatelic market following the death of Aubrey Walker, of whom more later. The labels were first retailed at Spring Stampex 2007 by Mike Holt.

A retired DLR employee was contacted and asked if he knew anything about the labels or the reasons behind the trial and the following notes have been compiled from his detailed response.



**Magenta solid colour and half-tone
(man facing to the right)**

The Trials These phosphor trials were done in one of the DLR factories, possibly St Albans, and they would have generated their own artwork. The phosphor ink was produced from a phosphor powder produced by Harrison's or possibly Dollis Hill, where the Post Office R&D was located at the time of the trials.

The project was taken over by Jozef Beck (not the Polish foreign minister from the 1930s), who was based at DLR Maidenhead R&D.

Date of Production 19 December 1968 was the date of the first successful use of these dummies.

Subject of Label I have yet to ascertain who the portrait sitter is on the labels, but will pursue with the National Portrait Gallery when I next visit.

He has been referred to as 'an 18th century gentleman' and it seems likely that the sculpted head could have been chosen because the Machin head of Her Majesty that had recently been introduced on British definitive stamps used that type of portrait rendition.

Apart from the fact that DLR was trying to prove that it could tackle all types of stamp production, there would not have been any other reason for simulating a Machin design. Certainly, these labels were nothing to do with the introduction of the Machin design the previous year, as DLR was not involved in that project.



**Orange solid colour and half-tone
(man facing to the left)**

This is the scarcest colour – only 24 examples recorded

Colours Known Four colours are known, namely orange, magenta, turquoise and black. Each exists in a solid or a half-tone version, i.e. eight labels in total, with head facing either left or right

Single colour trials are cheaper, which probably explains why multi-colour was not used.

Stamp Contract DLR had ambitions of obtaining a significant proportion of the Post Office contract at that time (as Harrison's had of printing banknotes!). This included an attempt at acquiring some of the definitive range, not just special stamps, which they achieved in 1969 with the PO Technology stamps.

Printing Process The proposed process was Delacryl (which was a 300 lines/inch lithographic
Continued on page two

... DLR Phosphor Trials *continued*

process) and which used trimetal plates.

As these sample labels were litho printed, and are the first successful printing by DLR of phosphor stamps, they predate the Waddington lithographic phosphor definitive stamps by over a decade.



**Turquoise solid colour and half-tone
(man facing to the right)**

Phosphor Type The phosphor used was TPA (Teraphthalic Acid) activated urea-formaldehyde resin applied by letterpress from a rubber stereo. This phosphor was made to glow blue by short wave 235 nm UV radiation.

The phosphor was extremely temperamental and the reaction between urea and formaldehyde is very violent once initiated by heat; only a very small amount of the TPA activator is required in the mix.

However, it had to be heated after the reaction had finished. This was to give the powder resistance to moisture (atmospheric and licking).

The problem was that if the heating went on too long you obtained a powder that could not be ground into small enough particles to make satisfactory printing ink. So some moisture susceptibility had to be tolerated in order to produce a powder soft enough to be ground into printing ink. Hence the impossibility of using wet litho to print the phosphor bars.

Aubrey Walker The Post Office, in the shape of Aubrey, provided DLR with its phosphor testing equipment for Quality Control purposes. He was based at Studd Street in Islington and ran the QC Materials laboratory there in the days when telephones were also a part of the Post Office.

Aubrey was a very thorough technologist who was difficult to satisfy. He was involved in the DLR projects as well as keeping control of Harrison's many stamp production activities.

It is from Aubrey Walker's deceased estate that these sets of labels originate from and stamp collectors can be therefore be grateful that he chose to hang on to them so that this story can at last be told. 📄



**Black solid colour and half-tone
(man facing to the left)**

Unrecorded Royal Mail Trial

An update on the feature in issue DS2

In DS2, I recorded for the first time the Harrison trial for the proposed phosphor barcode stamps.

I mentioned that crimson and emerald green colours exist and can now mention two further colours, although neither is recorded as being in collectors' hands at this time. I can also update their creation date.

My archive of printing articles included the start by me of a manuscript on Harrison trial material and I was surprised to see that I had compiled the following brief note:

1990 Harrison head design printed either in emerald green, maroon (crimson), **stone** or **mauve**.

These dummies were used at the Post Office Research Laboratories (PORC) for testing the idea of phosphor bar codes on stamps. Not pursued.

For information purposes only, as none of these items have, or ever will, reach the philatelic market.

It now seems apparent that the above note, the information for which had been supplied to me by PORC on one of my visits, refers to the items illustrated in DS2.

Has anyone seen the stone or mauve colours? 📄

Smilers® Dummy Sheet

An unusual photostamp trial of unknown purpose

For those unfamiliar with the term *Smilers®*, they comprise stamps with an adjoining label depicting an image. Often they are of people posing – invariably with a smile and hence the name.

A couple of entire sheets, plus blocks, pairs and singles have been available on the collector market for some time, but the precise use for them has not been ascertained. Some call them proofs, testing sheets for the personalisation process or printing press set-up sheets. Does anyone reading this newsletter know what their true purpose was?

They were printed gravure by The House of Questa and are produced in the same format as the first Smilers® 2001 19p Christmas sheets.

Prices vary wildly, but singles were sold by Gibbons at around £250 each a couple of years ago. 📧

Smilers® Coil Mock-up

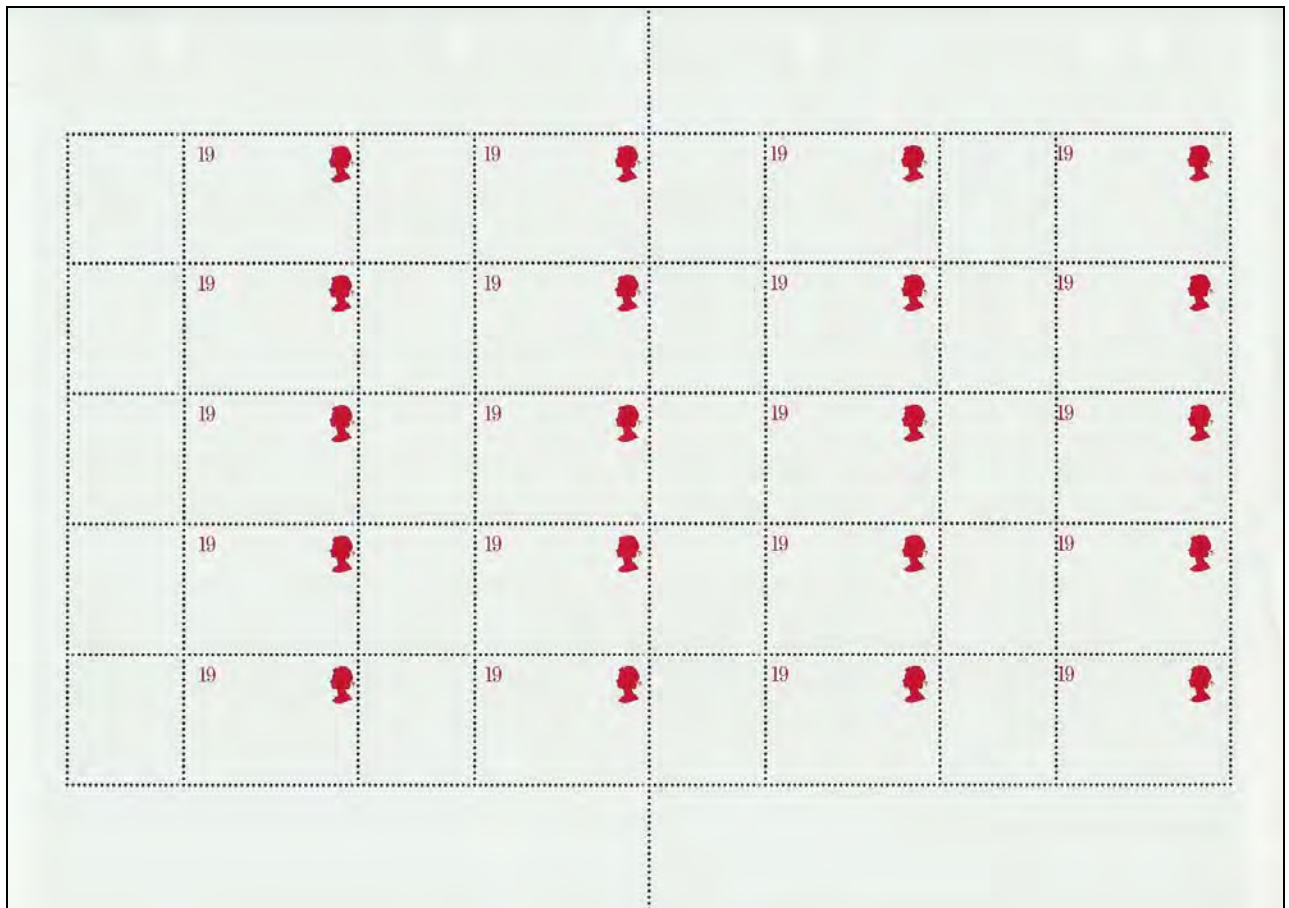
Do not go mad searching for this item!

Another Smilers® item, but this time in a coil, was shown on Royal Mail's website in 2007, although it only exists as a mock-up and not as an actual item. This new service is aimed at Direct Mail users enabling them to personalise mail to customers with an appropriately designed label. 📧



(left) Smilers® Customised Stamp Roll mock-up. Potential users should visit www.royalmail.com and search for the term "Rolls".

(below) A complete sheet of 20 dummy Christmas 2001 Smilers® stamps and blank labels with red instead of silver head and face value.



Cartor Sample Labels

A printer of British stamps based in France

Originally a French company formed in 1974 and based initially at L'Aigle and since 1999 at La Loupe, it has specialised in the printing of high-quality stamps since its inception.

In 1995, Cartor was taken over by Gilles le Baud who provided the structure for future growth and in 2004 it became a key constituent of the newly-formed ISP Group, having been bought outright by Walsall Security Printers.

Its reputation has been based around the continual development and investment in new printing processes and endeavors to react rapidly to the needs and wishes of postal administrations, now also including Royal Mail following its first print job for them in 2005.

It is especially known for the additional features applied to its stamps, such as foils and the use of thermography and aromatic inks. Further techniques are currently being developed.

This page features a selection of the publicity labels that the company has produced down the years. 📄



(WA)



(SA)



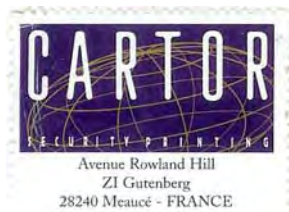
(SA)



(WA) Water activated
(SA) Self-adhesive
(MS) Ungummed

SECURITY PRINTER

< (MS)



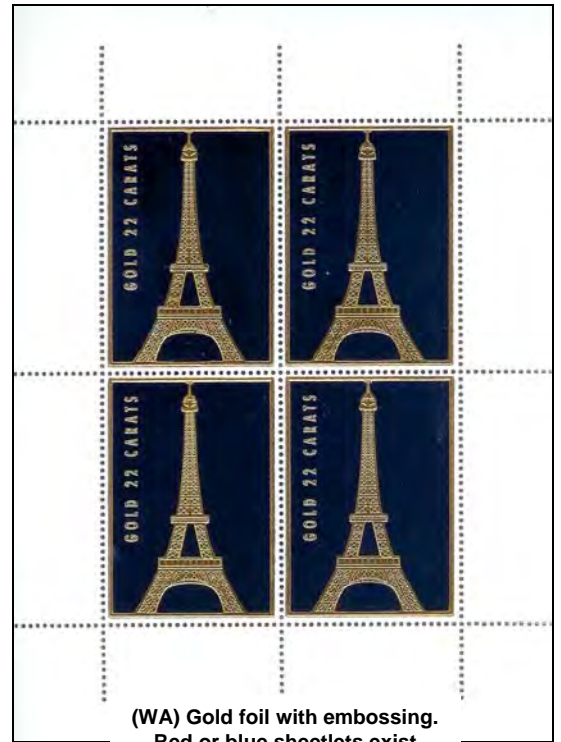
(SA)



(WA)



(WA)



(WA) Gold foil with embossing.
Red or blue sheetlets exist



(SA)



(WA)

Printers' Waste Stamps

A cautionary tale about buying stolen items

Ever wondered what happens to the waste paper left over at stamp printers after the issue has been printed? Well, sometimes it gets into the hands of stamp collectors due to a breakdown in the security control procedures at the factory or with the company disposing of the waste.

In the early 1960s, Harrison's suffered in this way and certain defaced stamps entered the philatelic market. Waddington's also had similar problems in the 1970s with an Isle of Man issue.

Interesting items to see, but they are not allowed to be possessed due to their stolen status. Incidentally, I do not own these items in case Post Office Investigators are reading this feature! 📄



Harrison's waste
(left)
1961 CEPT
(Below 1&2)
1962 NPY

Other material is also known to exist from this period in time.



Waddington's waste from Isle of Man TT issue
(right)



Harrison's Ink Colour Key

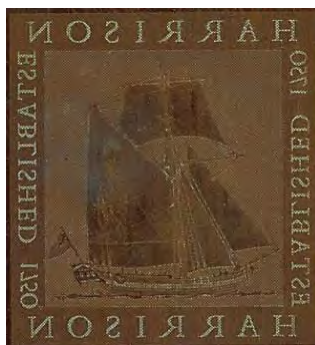
Pick a colour – any colour!

OK, so perhaps not any colour, but Harrison's did produce a colour key of the 20 most popular one-colour photogravure printing inks.

These keys were probably produced early in the current reign as they mention BY APPOINTMENT PRINTERS TO THE LATE KING GEORGE VI.



The ship design of dummy stamp also exists in sheetlets of six labels and I have recently seen the copper printing plate used to produce these labels. I will illustrate it next time, but show a small part below, plus the printed sheetlet. 📄



Encapsulated Stamp Sets

A novel way to prevent pre-use of new issues

Ever since the Penny Black was first issued there has been a dilemma within the Post Office as to how it should best publicise its new issues in the media in advance without running the risk of the stamps being misused by the recipient. This problem was largely overcome early-on by overprinting stamps SPECIMEN or CANCELLED, followed in more recent years by the provision of B&W or, later, colour photographic images. Today, high-resolution digital scans are provided to Editors instead of the photos.

Starting in the late 1960s when it became a Corporation, the Post Office altered its policy by allowing unissued stamps to be provided pre-release to news Editors in mint condition at the press conferences held for each new issue. However, there was no risk of the stamps being postally used, as they were mounted on a grey or black descriptive backing board that had been encapsulated in plastic on both sides (except the first card, where the stamps were either placed with a small descriptive sheet at foot, or with a white backing board behind,). The initial two 1969 cards both state 'Stamps issued [date]', but from 1970 all cards read 'Stamps to be issued [date]', reflecting more accurately the pre-release status of each dummy item.

It is not clear how many issues were treated in this fashion, but two dozen card versions have so far been recorded. Readers will note that there appear to be gaps in the listing of sets, but until copies are seen it must be assumed that not every commemorative stamp issue within the seven year period of use was produced in an encapsulated edition. This theory appears to be accurate, as an Editor friend with a long-term career in philatelic publishing cannot recall them appearing each time.

Encapsulated stamp cards are difficult to obtain because few are believed to have been produced, they were intended to be ephemeral and were only handed out selectively.

It is understood that by the end of 1973 regulations were relaxing still further and unmounted mint stamps were handed-out to favoured Editors pre-release and so the need for the cards had diminished. One theory is that they were possibly only given-out to overseas newspaper Editors at the end, but this still remains a matter of conjecture.

The cards cost around £35 each, with the 'To Pay', Royalty, Churchill and 1973 Christmas being the most expensive at £75 each card. The 24 cards cost around £900.

Readers may be aware that Royal Mail is once again producing encapsulated cards but for a different purpose, invariably held on a chain at the till and known as 'scanning tags'. These items contain colour reproductions of stamp book covers together with a barcode, which is swiped by retailers at the point of sale. They are an anti-theft item introduced initially at Woolworth's request due to the number of stamp books that were being stolen by shoppers when books were on open shelves. (Thanks to Dr Jean Alexander for advising me of two types of the first card.)



ENCAPSULATED CARD CATALOGUE LISTING

1969	PO Technology (<i>small sheet or backing board behind stamps</i>) Christmas
1970	Literary Anniversaries Decimal Currency 'To Pay' Labels 10p-£1 IX th British Commonwealth Games Philympia International Philatelic Exhibition Christmas
1971	Literary Anniversaries General Anniversaries Modern University Buildings Christmas
1972	Old Village Churches BBC and Broadcasting History Christmas Royal Silver Wedding
1973	European Economic Community British Trees – The Oak British Explorers County Cricket Centenary British Painters Royal Wedding Christmas
1974	Churchill Centenary
1975	62 nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference

...and finally

I always welcome details of any new dummy finds from printers of British stamps, past and present, and so cordially invite you to drop me a line at aouh40@hotmail.com

Unfortunately, business, family and other commitments to the hobby mean that I cannot guarantee that I can rigidly stick to a publishing programme and therefore suggest that you go to www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm every so often where PDF files of this and all future and previous issues of *Dummy Stamps* will be available to download and print-off. Thank you.

Glenn H Morgan FRPSL

Dummy Stamps

What's in a Name?

Corporate Identity at Harrison and Sons

A regular reader who used to work at Harrison and Sons has kindly written explaining that I have been referring to this printer wrongly in previous issues of *Dummy Stamps*.

I had been calling the printer *Harrison's* but this is incorrect for Richard Harrison, the last of the Harrison family line to be involved in the business as Managing Director, was apparently paranoid about referring to the Company in the correct way.

He always insisted it was to be preferably *Harrison and Sons* or just *Harrison* never *Harrisons*, or *Harrison's* although these versions were and are widely used by collectors, albeit mainly without the apostrophe that I had used.

Corporate identity is a very important asset to a company and I am happy to set the record straight, despite the tragic demise of this great company. 📄

Charles, Skipper and East

Tender labels mimic Penny Black design

In an attempt at getting a Post Office stamp printing contract, CS&E produced dummy labels that resembled the Penny Black of 1840. They were not successful in their bid, but the labels are attractive items to collect 📄



Walsall at Stamp Shows

Dummy souvenirs given away or sold for charities

WSP has attended several stamp shows down the years and has sometimes produced attractive dummy souvenirs that they have either given away or sold in aid of charities.

Three typical examples are shown here. 📄



(Left) 1996 A self-adhesive animals sheet with irregular die-cutting. Top sheet with labels in place, bottom sheet with labels removed.

(Right) 1997 Block of four horror themed gummed labels



(Below) Dispenser boxes containing 100 self-adhesive coil labels (shown at bottom right) were handed-out at Stamp Show 2000



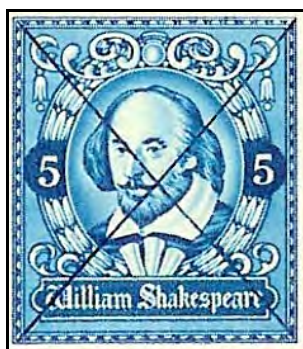
Harrison and Shakespeare

Ink Trials used The Bard's image for dummy labels

Issue Date	c1936-1940, or possibly c1950
Design	William Shakespeare dummy stamps (printed from a plate defaced by a saltire)
Face Value	5
Process	Photogravure, plate 897
Gum	Ungummed
Sheet Size	2 rows of 5 labels, sheet measures 155mm x 115mm
Perforation	Imperforate
Marginal markings	T. Lakeman, multiple SPECIMEN
Prices sold at	1988: £185 for 'set' of 29 in singles, £740 for blocks of four (Mike Holt's retail price). A 30 th colour in black had previously been sold as a sheet of ten labels 1991: £400 (Harmer's auction estimate for four colours 'green, red, orange and blue' in sheets of ten. Lot remained unsold) 1998: \$200-\$250 (Alevizos auction estimate for one sheet 10) 2000: £95 (eBay auction estimate for four colours in singles)
Label Colours	The colour names are printed on an adhesive strip in black affixed to each sheet.

Blacks:

L&B Vim Black 2909G
L&B Non-Rub Black 9433H
L&B Ivory Black 64255
Fishburns Blue Black Toner 154
Fishburns Brown-black 138/1
Ault & Wiborg Rotary Black W22
Coates Rotary Black G1450



Single (above) in L&B Tri Blue with full sheet in same colour (right)
Sheet image courtesy Mike Holt

Blues:

L&B 1d Blue 3832R
L&B Embassy Blue 66708
L&B Monastrial Blue 3925R
L&B Tri Blue Toner 3757W
L&B Tri Blue 3857
Fishburns Knight's Castile Blue 205
Fishburns Dayella Blue 237/1
Fishburns Clydella Blue 239/1
Coates Azure Blue 843

Browns:

L&B 1/- Umber 4352G
L&B Dunkirk Sepia GV2004
Winstones Red Brown AN296
Winstones Dark Brown AN1523
Coates Brown G1308

Colour?:

L&B Vivex 7686G

Greens:

L&B Green 61477
Fishburns Hartleys Green 199/1
Fishburns Mirro Green 223/1

Reds and Oranges:

Fishburns Farmer & Stockbreeder Orange 240
Fishburns P O Orange-Red 137
L&B Red Toner 8254G
L&B Bright Red 8124F
L&B Red 8254G
L&B Tri Red 8309

Maroons and Violets:

Fishburns Viyella Maroon 198
Coates Violet G776



Dummy Air Mail Letter Card

Ancient Briton appears on postal stationery item

An unfolded Air Mail Letter Card was produced by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co Ltd, probably at some point in the 1930s, for publicity purposes.

The dummy stamp pre-printed onto the sheet bore the image of an Ancient Briton, which had also been used on a series of dummy labels, probably at around the same time.



Copies were sold in 1993 by Urch Harris, stamp dealers of Bristol, for £95 and it makes for an unusual item in a collection because postal stationery does not often yield many dummy items.

It is rumoured that a similar item also exists, but with some (unknown) large or small differences to the item illustrated here. 📄

Waddington Tender Update

An explanation for one of the design choices?

Issue *DS1* included illustrations of four labels produced as part of a British Post Office stamp tendering exercise.

One design, the Falcon, may just possibly have been chosen because the labels were destined to be printed on a sheet-fed Falcon lithographic press, probably in a double pane width prior to cutting down. 📄



More Harrison Labels...

An attractive strip of unrecorded dummy stamps



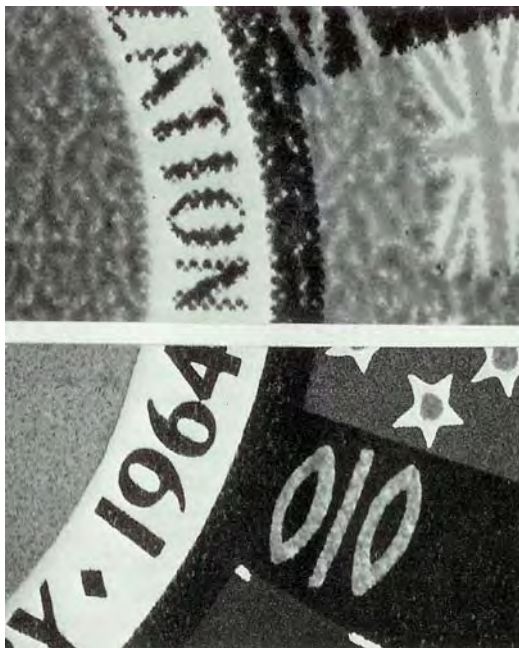
This enlarged strip of four designs incorporates different styles of artwork. Could they perhaps have been printed sometime around the 1930s? 📄

'Delacryl' and the Previously Unknown 'Harricryl'

Discovery of sample material from De La Rue, plus previously unrecorded Harrison process inspired by DLR

The glossary at AskPhil (www.askphil.org) describes Delacryl as a “secret printing process developed by the De La Rue printing firm that is supposed to combine four different printing methods, such as the 1969 GB PO Technology set.”

Delacryl itself was not really a secret process, but it certainly was surrounded in mystery at the time and was in fact simply an enhanced offset-lithographic process. But it is all in the marketing.... Delacryl produced clean, hard-edged images with areas of high-quality, flat colour.



Comparison between offset-litho printing (*top*) and the Delacryl equivalent (*bottom*) at x17 magnification

DLR was looking for a USP (Unique Selling Point) for selling stamps against cheap offset printers like Format International. They required a system for which they could charge a premium.

At the time various printing plate manufacturers, principally BASF and Dupont were developing acrylic photopolymer plates for printing by dry offset (sometimes called Letterset). It was thought that these plates together with inks with greater colour saturation (which DLR was asked to develop in Maidenhead at its ink R&D area) would form the basis of a 'new' process called Delacryl.

Unfortunately, DLR found that these plates were able only to print reliably in screen rulings up to 150 lines per inch while the 'competition' was using ordinary wet litho at 300 lines per inch. Since 150 screen is much coarser than 300, many people can see the dot structure with unaided eyes, it was decided to abandon the dry offset plates and go over to using 300 screen on tri-metal plates (chrome/copper on steel).

However, the Delacryl publicity material was already with prospective customers, so nobody was enlightened that in practice Delacryl was the re-invention of Litho and was pretty similar to the process that everybody else was using at the time. What they were able to do was to keep the process details secret.

Royal Mail ordered two issues that used the Delacryl process (1969 Post Office Technology and 1970 Commonwealth Games) and I believe that the printing process appeared in Stanley Gibbons catalogues as Delacryl. The first British stamps (which were printed at Gateshead, home to DLR banknote production), were introduced three years after the first Delacryl production in 1966.



Enlarged area showing the detail achievable from this 90,000 dots to the square inch process.

'Delacryl' and 'Harricryl' (continued from page 4)

Harrison was introduced to fine screen stamp printing in the factory they had in Hayes by a new employee fresh from De La Rue. They unofficially called the process 'Harricryl' and it was based on 250 lines per inch screen ruling, chosen because the eye could not distinguish it from 300 lines and the mid-to-heavier tones were less liable to 'clog in' on printing plates available on the market at the time.



(Left) Delacryl ink in the process of being developed at the Maidenhead R&D facility



(Right) Delacryl 'Deer' image being created in the De La Rue artwork design studio

Unusually, entering the term Harricryl into Google gives a response of "Your search - *Harricryl* - did not match any documents". A separate feature on Harricryl trial material will appear in a future *DS*.

Searches within the Trademark section of the UK Intellectual Property Office website reveals that De La Rue has not renewed the name Delacryl and a search of Google shows that the name



is now used to market a range of paint products made by Iquine Ltda out in Brazil.

I guess that the House of Questa's much later Super-Litho was a derivation of the work done by De La Rue all those years before. 📄

<p>1. 1 colour for economy, but accurate portrait rendering with striking textural contrasts avoids monotony.</p>	<p>2. Subtle delicacy in screened areas for effects of unusual charm.</p>	<p>3. Microscopic clarity of detail and accuracy of colour for crispness in miniaturisation.</p>
<p>4. 3-colour effect with 2 colours – perfect for economical short-run topical and commemorative issues.</p>	<p>5. Hard medallion treatment of portrait to engraved printing standard (unique to Delacryl) contrasts with soft naturalism.</p>	<p>6. 6 colours and exceptional register for the luxury stamps that only Delacryl can produce at reasonable cost.</p>

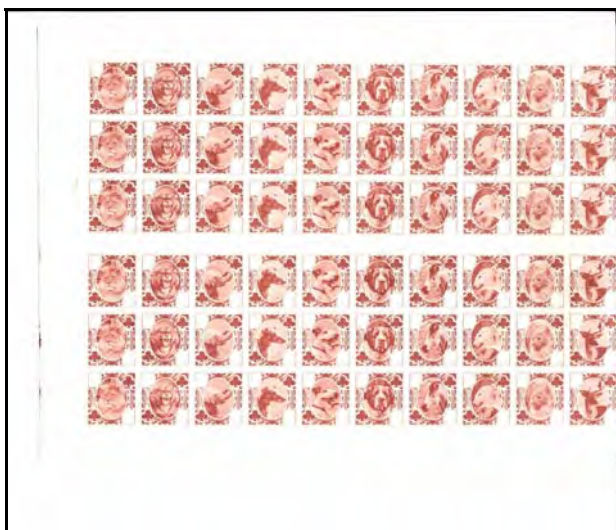
Six dummy stamp designs used to show-off the various benefits of the Delacryl process. These exist imperforate, blind perforated (i.e. not punched through – but on purpose) and perforated (Medallion and flower design only seen perforated)

Any Ideas?

Mystery sheet submitted by reader

This sheet has been submitted by Francis Kiddle and I agreed with him when he stated that it appeared that it might be a printer's sample sheet of labels. That is until I found them listed in a Rushstamps price list with apparently random letters appearing in the empty frames of Francis's (proof?) item. The write-up stated that they were from a Harrison and Sons sample book of largely Cinderella items produced for their clients.

The sheets depict a Lion, Tiger, Elephant, Great Dane, Fox Terrier, St. Bernard, Zebra, Polar Bear, Cat, Deer, Squirrel and Horse - a strange mix of the fearsome and the cuddly apparently from 1939.



Not a terribly clear image, but it does document the sheet layout of the first ten labels across the sheet



(Top) – all labels are lettered H at top left and bottom right
(Bottom) labels are lettered randomly L, P, D, B, C and M

Rushstamps (www.rushstamps.co.uk) are offering green, orange, blue, violet and purple strips of six at £15 per colour, per strip (see above imagery).

A couple of examples located in the British Library Philatelic Collections have them termed 'savings stamps' and this is probably the case. 📧

Harrison Printing Plate

An un-chromed photogravure dummy plate

It is not often that an entire dummy photogravure printing plate is able to be illustrated, but the picture below shows a full copper plate of six, as partly reproduced last time in *DS4*.

It is assumed that the plate had not been chromed because it would have only been used for a short run of the Ship design publicity labels and would probably have survived just long enough for that purpose. 📧



...and finally

I always welcome details of any new dummy finds from printers of British stamps, past and present, and so cordially invite you to drop me a line at aouh40@hotmail.com

Unfortunately, business, family and other commitments to the hobby mean that I cannot guarantee that I can rigidly stick to a publishing programme and therefore suggest that you go to www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm every so often where PDF files of this and all future and previous issues of *Dummy Stamps* will be available to download and print-off. Thank you.

Glenn H Morgan FRPSL

Dummy Stamps

Encapsulated Stamp Cards

A new variant reported for the first card and an unrecorded Philympia exhibition card discovered

Thanks to reader Roger Badman, I can report two new cards.

Post Office Technology

A third version of this 1969 encapsulated card exists. I guess that the Post Office was trying out different types before the series settled down to a standard kind of card format.

The three types can be distinguished as follows:

- Type 1** – The four stamps have a clear background to them, while the description area has a mushroom infill card.
- Type 2** – As above description, but the mushroom infill card now covers 100% of the card.
- Type 3** – As type 2, but in the description area the 'Printed by Thomas de la Rue & Co. Ltd.' imprint is repositioned in the bottom right hand corner. 📄



Card type 1

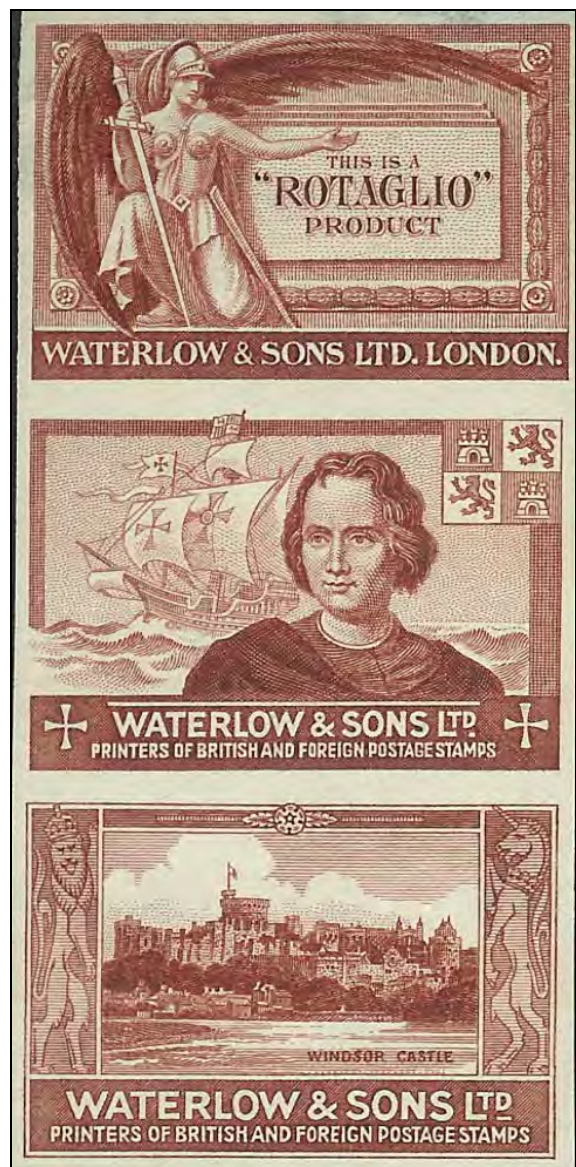
Philympia Invite

Apparently there is also an encapsulated card that was sent out as an invitation for the 1970 *Philympia* international stamp exhibition held in London that September.

Has anyone seen an example of this item? If so, a scan would be appreciated please. 📄

Waterlow Samples

Three attractive se-tenant designs by the 'Rotaglio' recess process used by Waterlow's.



Can any reader place a date on this strip of labels? 📄

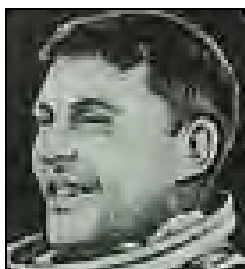
'Harricryl' *Dummy labels relating to this newly discovered printing process revealed*

I was able to exclusively reveal in *DS5* that Harrison had produced stamps by a new printing process, known internally as 'Harricryl'. De La Rue had its 'Delacryl' and this was the Harrison response to its arch-rival.

I wrote last time that "Harrison was introduced to fine screen stamp printing in the factory they had in Hayes by a new employee fresh from De La Rue. They unofficially called the process 'Harricryl' and it was based on 250 lines per inch screen ruling, chosen because the eye could not distinguish it from 300 lines and the mid-to-heavier tones were less liable to 'clog in' on printing plates available on the market at the time."

The process was never used on British stamps, but was utilised for some foreign stamp issues.

As part of the testing stage, trials were undertaken internally using two dummy stamp designs, illustrated here.



The 'astronaut' depicted in the position usually reserved for the Queen's head was a Harrison employee. Can anyone recognise him?



The lady on the dummy stamp is taken from the famous painting by Tiepolo entitled 'Lady with Parrot'.

(L) The artist on an Italian stamp

The painting was also subsequently used by the Italian state printers (IPS) for one of its intaglio dummy testing labels produced in 1972. 📄



Correction

A retired Harrison employee has kindly advised me of an error in *DS2* relating to the previously unrecorded Harrison trial.

Page three contained two statements about how the labels were "...perforated on a rotary sheet perforator", and "Perf.: Rotary (possibly Kampf)".

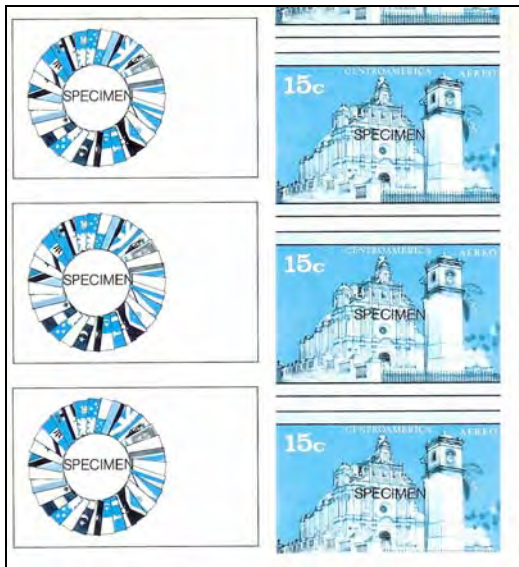
I am reminded that as they were sheet-fed on an LM7 press, they could not be rotary perforated! They were actually perforated on a Bickel 'rise and fall' perforator. 📄

De La Rue Sample Stamps Salesmen's samples appear on eBay

Some readers may be familiar with the stamps reproduced here in this feature. They go back to 1971 and are understood to have been used by the salesmen of the company.

A recent purchase on eBay (where else!) saw me acquiring a small part of a sheet that added to what I already owned.

The item comprised three copies each of two designs that were never intended to be issued se-tenant, as they are from two separate issuing countries, namely Singapore (at left) and El Salvador (at right).



Only the blue and black colours are on this part of the run and I have yet to see any other progressives for El Salvador. However, the vendor kindly sent a free gift with the lot comprising a copy of the (virtually) full sheet in a reduced format to fit on an A4 sheet (next page). This clearly shows the extra design at far right that was not part of the lot.

How do I know that the stamps are from Singapore and El Salvador? Well, I am familiar with the stamps of the former country and in any case it tells me so! As for the second country, in very light blue print above the main design is CORREOS DE EL SALVADOR. A quick look through my all world catalogue revealed this to be an issue comprising two

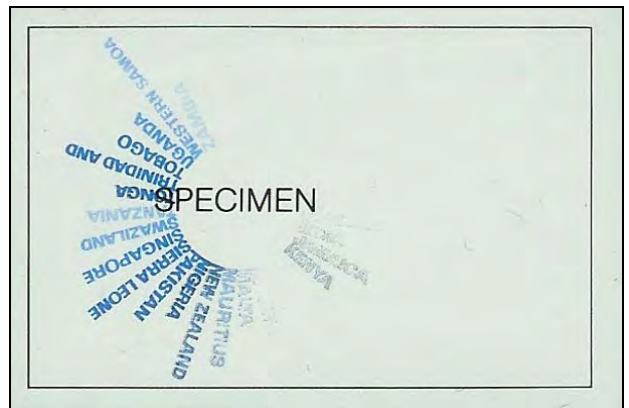
values relating to churches. The 15c trial (actually issued as a 30c value) depicts Sonsonate Church; while the 20c trial (remaining a 20c value on the issued stamp) depicts Izalco Church.



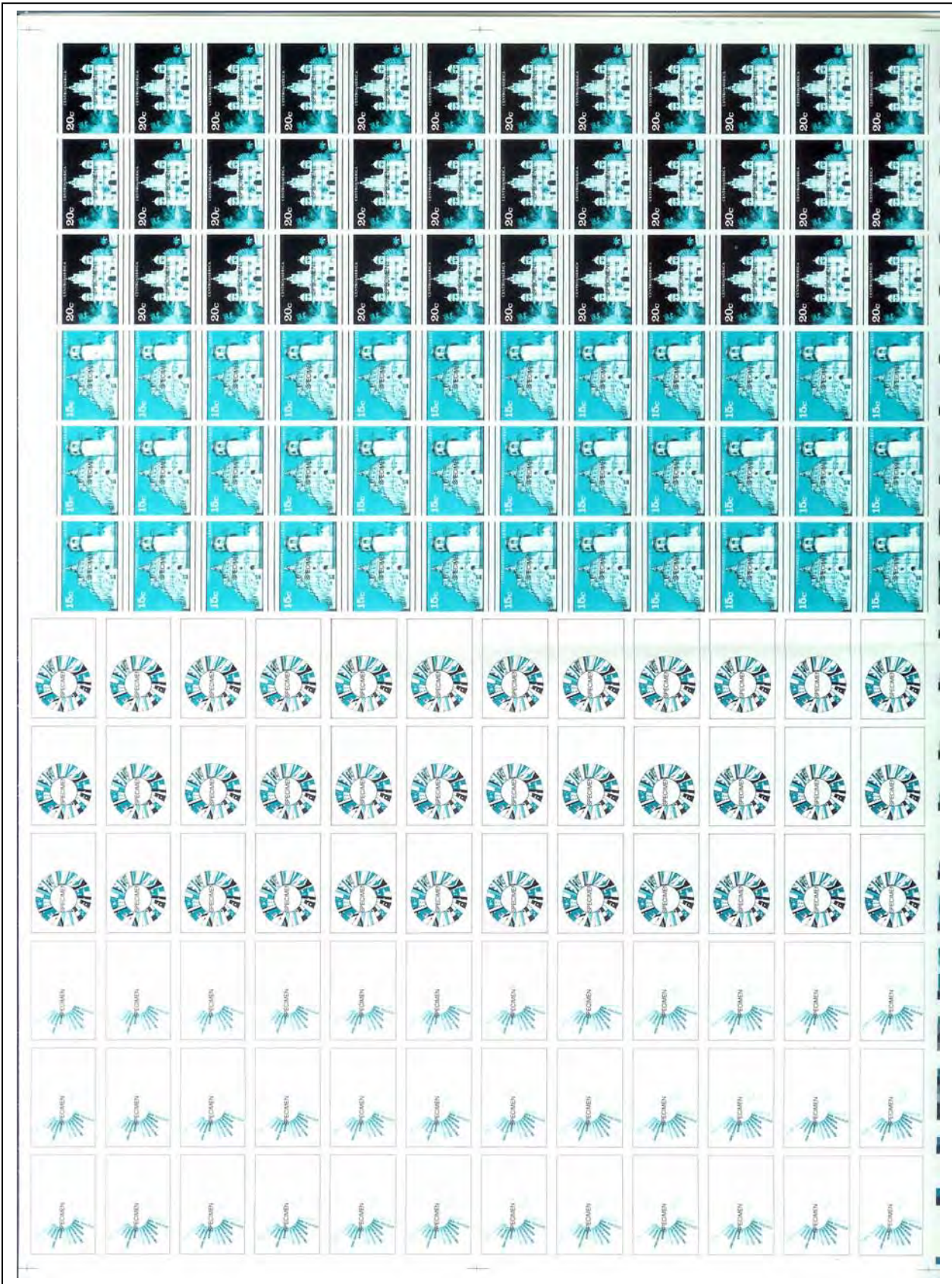
Poor quality photostat of the 20c issued

If I manage to acquire the set of issued stamps I will illustrate them in a later issue of DS.

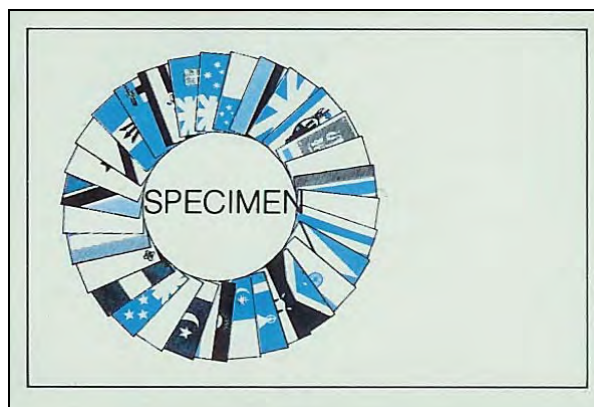
As for the Singapore items, I can illustrate what I already owned from previous purchases.



Continued on page five...



...Continued from page three



I already owned the blue/black print of the Singapore stamp designs and it is unknown whether any other colour combinations exist in collections.

To try and get more information, I delved through hundreds of news clippings relating to stamp printers and eventually found a reference to these salesmen's sample stamps, after being side-tracked several times!

Andrew Norris in *The Malayan Philatelist*, volume 30, page 67 has an article entitled "Singapore: 1971 'Heads of Government' Meeting Issue: Designs Used as Printer's Samples". He states that there were "two complete imperforate sheets of similar format" that had appeared in a London auction.

One sheet was just the blue and black colours; while the other was the complete design. Both were overprinted SPECIMEN in small capitals.

The Singapore design had its gold printing reproduced in pale yellow on these samples, probably due to cost implications. It now seems that the other progressives will not come on to the philatelic market.

Sheet format was three columns of 12 of the Singapore 'country names' stamp, with a similar block to its right of the 'flags' design. The El Salvador designs were in the same format, but set slightly lower on the sheet, as is evident from my first illustration.

For an interesting article about the designing of the Singaporean stamps see *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* for March 1971 where there is a profile on artist William Lee of Singapore by James Watson in the 'An Issue is Born' series, but the samples are not mentioned.

I came across these Singapore items with pre-sale estimates of £76 each pair of se-tenant designs in a Brian Reeve stamp auction listing, but do not know the date of the sale or whether they sold.

These are interesting items to add to a collection and I am now searching for the other El Salvador items that I do not possess, so if see any on offer... 📧

Buyer Beware

Not what it at first seemed!

I made a bad buy at a stamp fair recently when I purchased a laser copy of a publicity label originally produced by Bradbury Wilkinson. In my defence the lighting was very poor and I only paid 75p (that should have put me on warning). Still, it proves that even a seasoned collector can be fooled sometimes. Let it serve as a warning. 📧



De La Rue Tokens

Fancy a change from dummy stamps?

eBay recently offered tokens from two of De La Rue's companies. The first pair of illustrations shows the obverse and reverse of a dummy token produced by Thomas De La Rue Engineering Ltd. for the 1962 Nigerian Trade Fair.



Obverse



Reverse

The third illustration is of two identical tokens (both with blank reverses) in two different base metals produced by



Thomas De La Rue Minting Division.

The Nigerian version was offered at £35, while the other pair were on sale for £17.50 each.

Although not stamp-related, they make an interesting addition to a collection of security printers (and minters) dummy material. 📧

Dummy Books



A spare space here enables me to show two interesting booklets. Issued stamps have been invalidated by a handstamp reading: **TRAINING CENTRE / FOR TESTING / PURPOSES ONLY**, turning them into dummies.

Similar types to these booklets also exist. 📧

Ford Mondeo Labels

Help sought on these dummy promotional labels

Around 1995/6 the Ford Motor Company of Great Britain produced a set of four labels depicting the Mark One Mondeo car. This would have been around the date of the launch of this popular car model (March 1995).

The labels are presumably in colour, but I have only seen a black and white photostat, from which the scans have been taken. It looks as if the printing quality and perforating has been undertaken to a high standard. Perhaps one of Royal Mail's security printers produced them?

The labels are reproduced here at what is believed to be life-size and it is thought that Tallents House was involved in their creation or distribution in some way, but this is only something that a collector friend stated a decade ago.

Can you help by providing more information, please? 📧



...and finally

I always welcome details of any new dummy finds from printers of British stamps, past and present, and so invite you to drop me an email at aouh40@hotmail.com

Unfortunately, business, family and other commitments to the hobby mean that I cannot guarantee that I can rigidly stick to a publishing programme and therefore suggest that you go to www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm every so often where PDF files of this and all future and previous issues of *Dummy Stamps* will be available to download and print-off. Thank you.

Glenn H Morgan FRPSL

Dummy Stamps

Issue 7

"A Look at the World of British Dummy Stamp Material"

Winter 2007/08

Encapsulated Philypia Invite Card *Swiftly discovered!*

Thanks to Jean Alexander, I am able to show here the Philypia card mentioned in *DS6*.



I wrote: "Apparently there is also an encapsulated card that was sent out as an invitation for the 1970 Philypia international stamp exhibition held in London that September". Well, on the same day that I sent out the newsletter I was emailed a scan and told that the card was issued by Ron Lee of the Philypia organising committee for a press reception.

This particular example was in an auction sale of material from the collection of the philatelic journalist Ken Chapman.

Thanks Jean. 📧

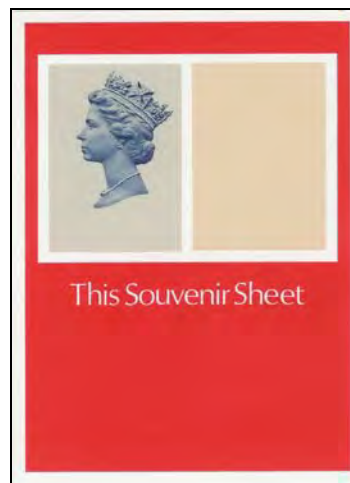
R Hoe & Company, New York and London *Press makers*

Richard Hoe once manufactured printing presses that were used for banknotes, postage stamps and bond production, having a presence in both America and Britain.

An attractive advertising sheet is illustrated here and while it fits perfectly into a banknote collection, it is equally suited for inclusion in a promotional stamp-related collection. 📧



H&S at London 1980 *Error Sheet*



The London 1980 show saw Harrison and Sons manning a large stand.

They sold to visitors sheets that incorporated dummy labels of Elizabeth II and Queen Victoria.

This example lacks all of its black printing. 📧

Bradbury Wilkinson's Bearded Ancient Briton *Dummy Label design*

Bradbury Wilkinson produced a dummy design known among collectors as the Bearded Ancient Briton. (See *DS5* for a dummy air mail letter card featuring this label design.)

Label Details

Issue Date	Circa 1930(?), or some say 1950s.
Design	Bearded Ancient Briton.
Face Value	3.
Process	Recess.
Paper	Unwatermarked.
Sheet Size	9, 3 rows of 3 (brown and green). 24, (?) rows of (?) (others). Some say sheet size is 32, not 24.
Label Colours	(Perforated): - Orange, Blue, Green, Brown and Purple. Die Proofs (Imperforate): - Brown, Purple, Blue, Red, Orange, Green, Olive and Sepia.
Marginal marks	Unknown. Sheets not seen.
Source	Ex Bradbury Wilkinson Archive sale.
Prices sold at	1988 £12.50 any colour in block of four. 1993 £19.95 each perforated (Urch Harris). 1993 £250 each imperforate single (UH).
Notes	Used for colour and ink trials. Mention in a dealers sales list states 'Lithography (brown and green labels), Recess (other colours)'. I have only ever seen recess and certainly my brown and green labels are by recess. Does anyone possess lithographic versions? Sheet sizes above are suspect at present.



A scan of a green block of four imperforate labels of this design, well spaced out with black handstamp at top left vertical margin reading **31. - 8. 10884**, can be seen above.

This is reproduced from a sales catalogue of an unknown stamp dealer and unfortunately no other details are known, as the piece has yet to be seen.

Does any reader familiar with the normal stamp output of Brads know if the '31. - 8.' might relate to August 1931? If it does, then this would tie-up nicely with the generally accepted period of introduction, i.e. the 1930s. Certainly the design treatment looks more 1930s than 1950s. 📄

BW Update to *DS2*

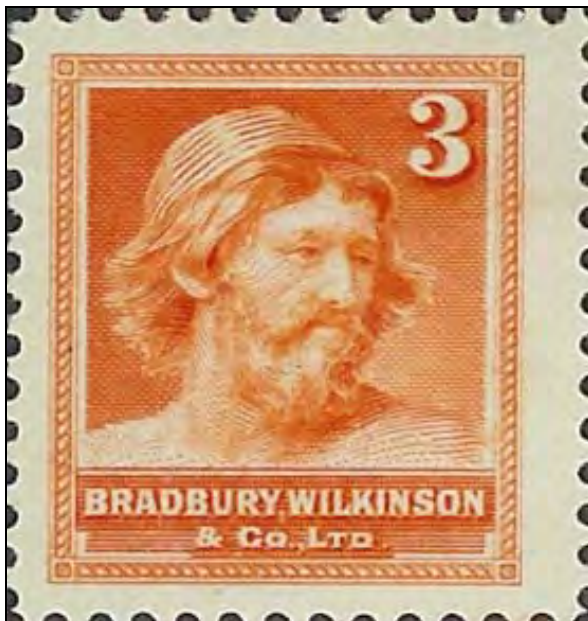
Green factory labels?

Sticking with Brads, page four of *DS2* featured the New Malden factory design labels.



I can now add that one label was apparently affixed to every packet of one-hundred banknotes produced at this site.

I can also state that the late Robson Lowe once recorded that the design also exists in green, but I have yet to see this colour. Also, would it be the perforated and/or imperforate version in that colour, I wonder? 📄



Staff Teaching Labels *DLR Produce Self-adhesive Labels for The Post Office*

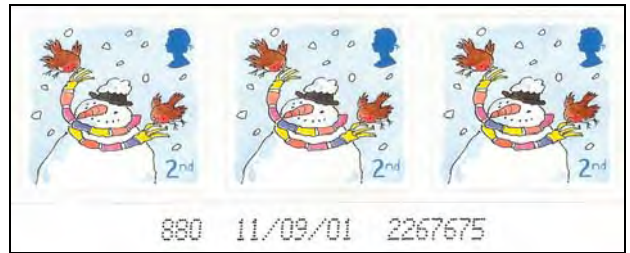
When Royal Mail issued the first Christmas stamps in self-adhesive sheet format, there was concern that postal staff might struggle with the concept of separating single stamps from a full sheet. So, De La Rue was commissioned by The Post Office to produce 'Teaching Sheets', which arrived with a covering letter explaining why they had been sent.

Personally, I think that they were an insult to the intelligence of the staff on the front line, but at least produced a new dummy philatelic item for our collections!

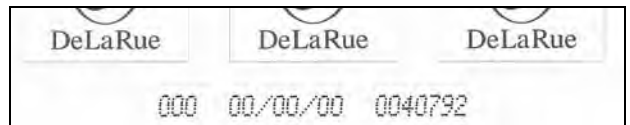


Label Details

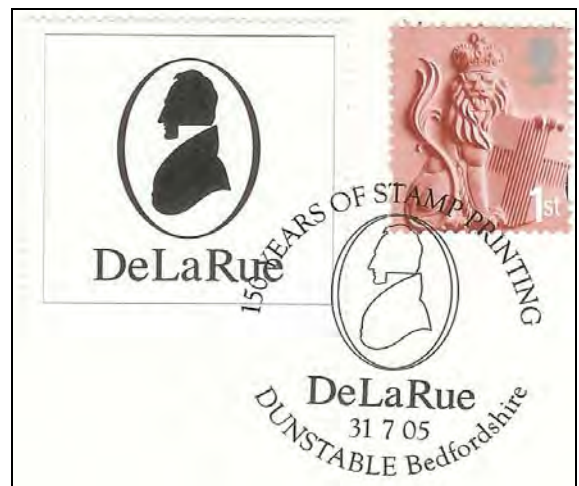
Issue Date	2001.
Design	De La Rue logo.
Face Value	None.
Process	Gravure.
Paper	Self-adhesive stock.
Sheet Size	2 panes of 25 (5x5). with horizontal gutter.
Perforation	Simulated die-cut.
Rouletting	Between labels.
Label Colour	Black.
Matrix	Retained.
Marginal markings	None pre-printed, but there is a dot-matrix marking (see image in next column).
Phosphor type	None.



Dot matrix imprint on issued stamps. Note how the print date is the 11th September 2001.



Dot matrix imprint on teaching labels, without warrant number or print date.



Label used on commemorative postcard in 2005



The DLR logo is usually depicted in green and black, but was presumably only used in black on the label as an economy measure.

These labels were not supposed to be given away or made available to collectors, but there appear to be ample supplies to go around at a maximum price of £2.50 per label. 📧

FTPO Discovery

An unknown perforation type surfaces

At a stamp fair a while back I discovered a strip of three horizontal 'For Testing Purposes Only' (FTPO) labels produced by Harrison and Sons for the British Post Office. They were in the "Odds" stock book of a part-time stamp dealer.

These labels are so common that I scarcely gave them a second glance, indeed I had turned to the next page before the significance had even registered.

He never had any further copies (I would normally collect this material in strips of five) and I handed over my £1 coin hoping that he would not suddenly realise what he was offering! Have you noticed the difference between these and the normal versions?



At the back of my mind I had a recollection that trials had been undertaken and, sure enough, it was not too long before I found my all too brief notes.

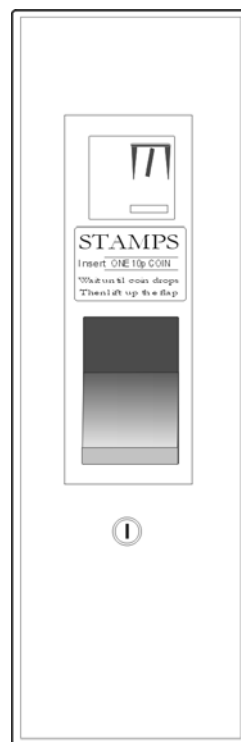
The Post Office had been experiencing disappointment at the quality of the perforations on coil stamps (and, indeed, booklets, of the period) and Harrison and Sons was asked to look into the feasibility of removing the horizontal perforation pins. These labels are the evidence of that trial.

The date that they would have been produced is not known, but I would reckon on the early 1970s.



Note how the fully perforated version of the FTPO label (alongside) has just 16 full vertical holes, as opposed to 17 full holes on the discovery.

This helps prove that the imperforate strip has not been cut down from a perforated version to deceive.



At the time, these horizontally wound coil labels would have only been used in the Type G stamp vending machine, introduced in 1969.

They might also possibly have been used in some of the stamp affixing machines used by mailing houses, but this is unclear at this stage.

Thanks to Graham Eyre for the line drawing of Type G alongside.

It is curious to note that this trial never saw the light of day on any issued British stamps. It is unknown whether actual Machin stamps were produced in this fashion and simply never issued. Maybe there are copies squirreled away in the holdings of the British Postal Museum & Archive, London?

No further strips of this coil has been seen by me in the intervening years, but there may be copies lurking in collections or dealers stocks, so do look out for them, and if you see a strip of five then you know who to contact! 📧

...and finally

I always welcome details of any new dummy finds from printers of British stamps, past and present, and so invite you to drop me an email at aouh40@hotmail.com

Unfortunately, business, family and other commitments to the hobby mean that I cannot guarantee that I can rigidly stick to a publishing programme and therefore suggest that you go to www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm every so often where PDF files of this and all future and previous issues of *Dummy Stamps* will be available to download and print-off. Thank you.

Glenn H Morgan FRPSL

Dummy Stamps

Issue 8

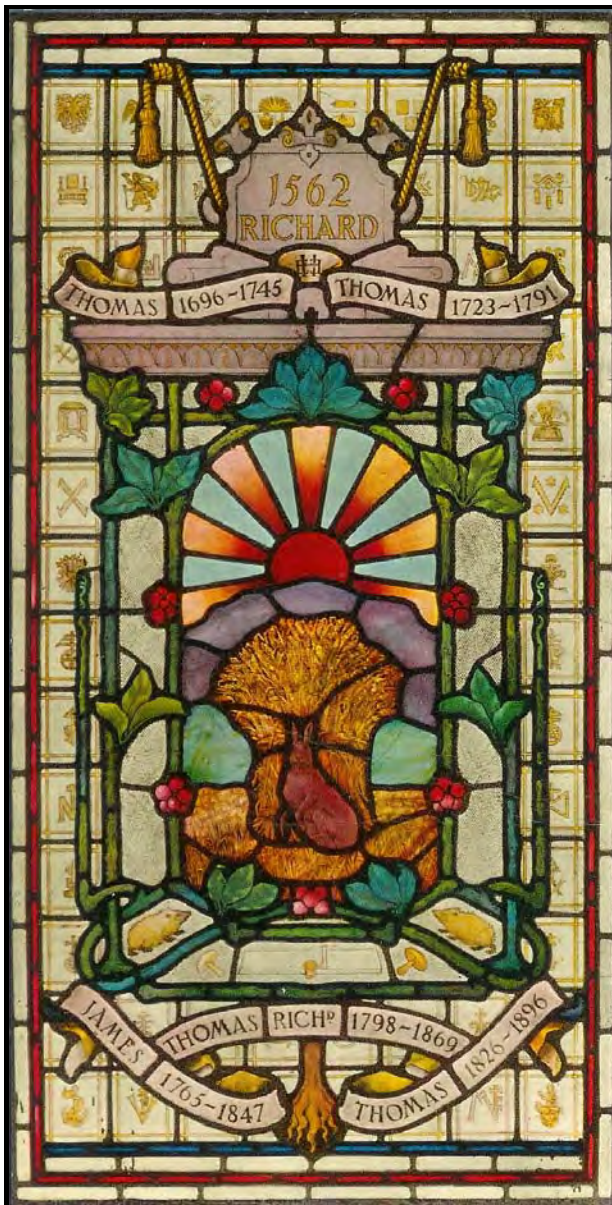
"A Look at the World of British Dummy Stamp Material"

Spring 2008

Harrison Stained Glass

Rebus and company history depicted in window

I thought that I would start this newsletter with a non-dummy item, simply because I like it!



The image is of the stained glass window that once graced the premises at High Wycombe. It comes from a photographic print that was affixed to the front cover of a pictorial booklet produced for a staff and family open day at the factory.

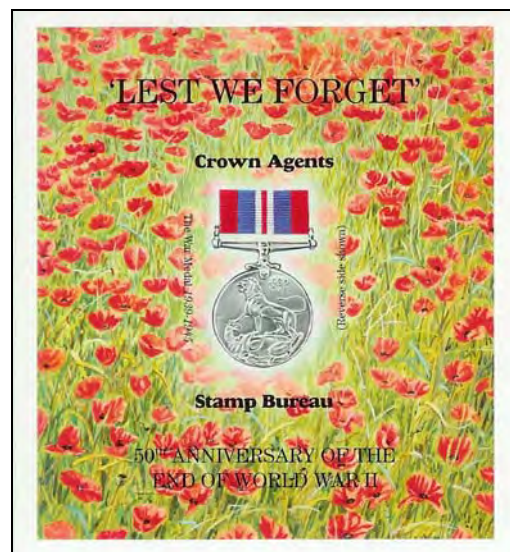
I somehow doubt that the window survived the break-up of the company, but would be delighted to be proved wrong by anyone in the know among the readership. Is it still 'out there' somewhere? Let's hope so, as Harrison and Sons are held to this day in such high esteem by stamp collectors and past employees alike, and rightly so. 📧

Crown Agents Dummy MS

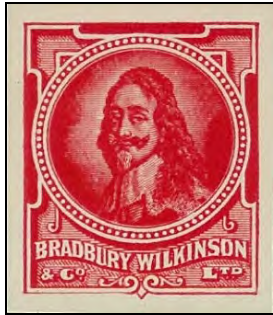
Remembering the end of World War II

The Crown Agents produced an omnibus series of miniature sheets to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII in 1995.

For promotional purposes it issued a dummy sheet where 'Crown Agents Stamp Bureau' took the place of the country name and face value. 📧



Bradbury Wilkinson Labels *Royalty and naval destroyer promotes the abilities of Brads*



Issue Date	Unknown.
Design	King Charles the First.
Face Value	N/a.
Process	Letterpress
Paper	Thin white.
Gum	Ungummed.
Sheet Size	Unknown.
Perforation	N/a.
Marginal markings	Unknown.
Source	Ex Bradbury Wilkinson Archive sale.
Prices sold at	1993 £19.95 each (Urch Harris). 2000 £15 each (Rushstamps).
Label Colours:	
Imperforate:	Orange, Dull blue, Green, Deep bright red, Brown, Purple, Blue green, Scarlet and Bright blue.
Perforated:	Deep violet blue.

Details of other colours in perforated and/or imperforated condition welcomed. 📧



Imperf Canadian proof with KEVII label head



Issue Date	KEVII's reign, circa 1903.
Design	Naval Destroyer and KEVII's portrait, as used on Canadian stamps, 1903.
Face Value	2d.
Process	Letterpress.
Paper	Unwatermarked.
Gum	Yes.
Sheet Size	Unknown.
Perforation	Line perf 12.
Marginal markings	Unknown.
Source	Ex Bradbury Wilkinson Archive.
Label Colours:	
	- Carmine. Perforated. Price: 2005 £47.50.
	- Bright blue. Perforated. Price: 2005 £47.50.
	- Bright purple. Perforated. 2005 £47.50.
	- Greenish blue. Perforated. 2005 £47.50.
	- Bright violet. Imperforate without gum. 2005 £65.
	- Maroon. Imperforate without gum. 2005 £65.
	- Black. Imperforate without gum. Only three singles were apparently available. 2005 £95.

Details of other colours in perforated and/or imperforated condition welcomed. 📧



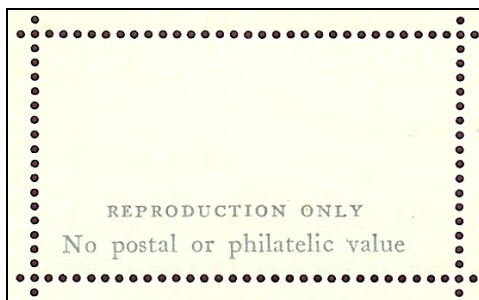
Walsall Rolls Royce Labels *Issued exclusively for Stamp 98 attendance in aid of charity*



Harrison and Sons Penrose Souvenirs *Not philatelic, apparently*

There once was a superb book produced about the graphic arts world entitled *The Penrose Annual*. The edition dated 1954 contained an excellent souvenir for philatelists, despite the wording on the reverse of each label.

Issue Date	1954.
Design	Coronation set of four.
Face Value	As issued stamps, but invalid for postage.
Process	Photogravure.
Sheet Size	Vertical strips of three of each value.
Label Colour	Black.
Marginal markings	Designer and printer information.
Formats sold in by stamp dealers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set of four singles taken from full sheet. Price: 1999 £25 for set. - Block of four taken from full sheet. Price: 1999 £40 for set. - Full sheet, removed from <i>Annual</i>. - Full sheet still within <i>Penrose Annual</i>. Price: 2002 £200. 2008 \$60 sale on eBay, but with extra \$40 postage to UK.



Wording on reverse

Presumably without any black prints, an article 'The House of Enschede, Haarlem 1703-1952' by J. Van Krimpen appeared in the 1953 edition.
An article about the 1970s Penrose H&S Industrial colour prints will feature in a later issue of DS.

Alongside the sheet was an interesting three page article about the stamps entitled *The Coronation Stamps* by Misha Black OBE FSIA.

She wrote: "None of the three younger designers' stamps is a work of genius....to incorporate the Dorothy Wilding camera portrait excluded that from the beginning." Ouch!

She softens her views somewhat by later writing: "...the twopence-halfpenny and fourpenny are scholarly, pleasing and competent. They reflect the best general standards of taste in Britain today." Oh well, not all bad then!

As an aside, my maternal grandfather was involved in the professional photographic industry, working around the 1930s for Ensign Cameras of Holborn. He would attend the annual Photographic Congresses and part of his responsibility was to produce impromptu photographs of the event as it progressed and to put together a newspaper that would be available at breakfast the next morning.

He would recount stories to me of how he had often taken photographs of Dorothy Wilding in a, shall we say, 'happy' state late in the evening slumped in her chair!

If only the photographs or newsletters still existed. I have approached several organisations to see whether these items are held anywhere, but to no avail. But I have digressed.....

The full sheet is illustrated on the next page and it makes for an attractive item when mounted with the issued stamps and other souvenirs of the Coronation, such as the Harrison and Sons presentation card, shown here. 📄





Design: R. G. Fuller



Design: M. Gossett



Design: Edmund Dulac



Design: M. C. Farrar-Ibbit

*Printed in photorelief by Harrild & Sons Ltd,
by permission of Her Majesty's Postmaster-General*

More Harrison and Sons Penrose Souvenirs

This time for the island of Malta

Harrison and Sons repeated the Coronation stamps exercise by producing a Maltese *Centenary of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception* set.

I have only ever seen a set of three singles, so do not know what the sheet format was or the issue date of the *Penrose Annual*. Perhaps 1955?

They do not appear to be as plentiful as the Coronation set, probably because they are not reproducing British stamp designs, so perhaps less books were hoarded at the time. 📖



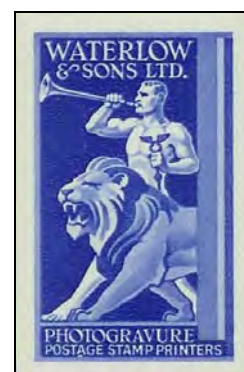
Waterlow Blow Own Trumpet! *Photogravure skills revealed on publicity labels*

Founded in 1810 as sellers of legal documents, Waterlow's first stamps appeared in the early 1850s with a lithographed issue for British Guiana and 1913 saw their first British contract.

In 1952 they celebrated a century of stamp production, but within eight years had been absorbed into DLR and the name vanished.

I do not particularly associate Waterlow's with photogravure, but these labels prove that they had mastered the art of this method of stamp printing.

I assume that the labels date from the 1930s, but cannot be sure. Other colours may exist, but not seen. 📖



...and finally

I always welcome details of any new dummy finds from printers of British stamps, past and present, and so invite you to drop me an email at aouh40@hotmail.com

Unfortunately, business, family and other commitments to the hobby mean that I cannot guarantee that I can rigidly stick to a publishing programme and therefore suggest that you go to www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm every so often where PDF files of this, future and previous issues of *Dummy Stamps* will be available to download and print-off.

Visit www.usstamps.org/dssg.html to see the American equivalent of this newsletter if US dummy material is of interest.

Glenn H Morgan FRPSL

Dummy Stamps

Issue 9

"A Look at the World of British Dummy Stamp Material"

Summer 2008

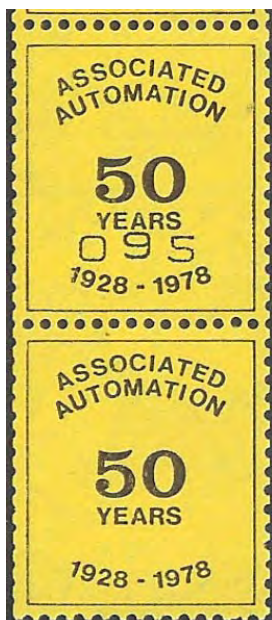
Associated Automation Celebrated Half Century

Special coils produced in 1978 just 'discovered'

Formerly Hall Telephone Accessories, Associated Automation Limited of Dollis Hill Lane is best known for producing the GPOs coin-functioning telephone mechanisms between 1928 and 1982.

In 1933 the GPO Research Station was built at Dollis Hill and during WWII the components of *Colossus*, regarded as the first electronic computer in the world, were made there and sent to the code breakers working at Bletchley Park.

The company at some point became part of the Elliott Automation Group, which is now part of GEC Alstom.



AA also made stamp vending machines (SVMs) for the GPO, Type G coil SVMs being their last product.

Two strips of five labels were 'discovered' at Philatex this year.

Every fifth label bore a serial number (095 in this example) and it is surprising that none have been found before now. Printer is assumed to be Harrison.

This dummy coil adds to the story of Britain's stamp vending history and it was probably used for testing the equipment, as well as promoting the company's anniversary. ■

Harrison and Sons Stained Glass Window Update

It seems that it might have been saved after all

A reader who is an ex-Harrison and Sons employee contacted me shortly after publication of *DS8* regarding the stained glass window.

He wrote:

"I am fairly certain that the Hare-Rye-Sun window has survived the DLR take-over. I think it is currently in the possession of Mr Richard Harrison. It is after all an ancient emblem of his family.

For many years it resided in the Harrison and Sons offices/factory in St Martin's Lane in London.



The original St Martin's Lane premises

About 1970 St Martin's Lane was sold when the window was removed to the High Wycombe factory offices where it stayed over the main staircase until the DLR take-over."

What promising news. ■

1932 Pageant of Stamps *Waterlow marked stamp show with dummy items*

This event was held 6-23 January 1932 at the Dorland Hall in London. Waterlow & Sons Ltd produced two label designs, the first in Prussian blue overprinted SOUVENIR OF THE /

Printed in rose-pink, grey-black or violet-blue, they are generally sold as singles at around £2 a copy or in full sheets of nine at £120 per colour, which makes the singles real bargains!



Statue label used on meter-franked cover.



The set of three singles (above and alongside). Imperf die-proof in grey-black (below)



Imperforate proof of the un-overprinted statue label



PAGEANT OF POSTAGE STAMPS in red. Printed recess on gummed paper and perforated 12½, the label depicts Boadicea, while the Houses of Parliament can be seen across the river Thames. They sell at around £2 per label.



Full sheet of nine labels in grey-black. Note unusual format



The issued statue label

The second design is of Tower Bridge, including vessels in the foreground. This gummed publicity label bears a black overprint similar to that used on the above label.

An excellent article that goes into far more detail than I possess about these items can be found at website www.stamp2.com/articles/cinderella/cinderella13.asp where Francis Kiddle RDP FRPSL discusses both designs and variations. There are some very interesting illustrations of die proofs and the like accompanying the text.

Thanks to Rein C. Bakhuizen van den Brink and to Graham M Wilson for most of imagery used in this feature. 📄

Don't be Fooled by De La Rue Items *They are not what they seem*



When De La Rue sends supplies of counter sheets to Royal Mail for distribution to Post Offices and Tallents House, they separate suitably sized quantities into batches. These batches are then banded with a paper wrapper, as used to happen with stamp booklets and postal stationery items in days gone by.

Around three or four years ago, DLR started using paper bands that bore a repeat pattern of the De La Rue logo design, as was used on the self-adhesive teaching labels of 2001, but this time printed in dark green and black.

A while ago, I saw a strip of these being offered by a stamp dealer at a fair as a 'rare imperforate, un gummed horizontal coil trial strip of five'. The price tag was £75 and fortunately I knew it for what it was and declined the offer to purchase – I also educated the man, but fear that he already knew! You will now also realise their status as nothing more than curiosity items.

If you are interested in owning an example of these paper bands, then be sure to ask at Stampex (where I picked-up my copy) or just possibly you may find one at your local Post Office branch. 📧

DLR Promotional Labels

At Spring Stampex this year, Mike Holt (www.mikeholt-britishstamps.com) was selling several attractive labels from De La Rue.

The first depicts Bodiam Castle in Sussex and we know that it is this location because Mike's colleague Simon Heeley has a particular interest in this subject. His opinion is confirmed by the photo below that clearly shows a view taken from the same angle to that used on the labels, perhaps with some artistic licence on De La Rue's part, especially at the far right.



Bodiam Castle today, as shown on www.castles.org

Previously unknown dummy labels surface



Bottom left hand corner single

Printed in photogravure, the items are in six separate colours, namely blue, red, orange, dark brown, black and sepia.

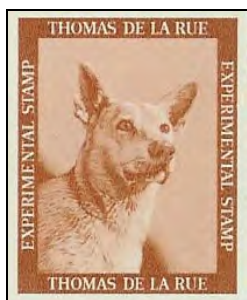
Mike thinks that this label design could date from c1955, i.e. the time when the Castle's high value definitives were newly issued.



The decimal reissued Castles in MS format



The third label is of a lady whose appearance would indicate to me that she is perhaps from somewhere like Indonesia or Thailand. If any reader is able to clarify this point, then I will record details in the next issue of *DS*.



The next new label (*above*) depicts a dog and it utilises the same artwork (*left*) that was recorded in an earlier issue of

Dummy Stamps. That was also a photogravure trial, but worded 'EXPERIMENTAL STAMP' and possibly from the 1940s era.

Before moving on to the fourth label recently found, I will mention the full page item that appears on the opposite page....

A totally separate purchase to the labels under discussion was made a few months earlier. As will be seen, the artwork design is of the non-central image area and is virtually the same as on these photogravure labels, but note the differences.

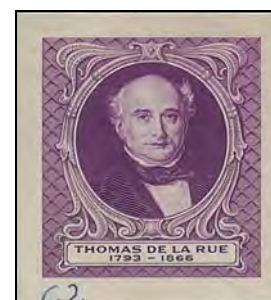
It was produced for the centenary celebration labels that had Thomas De La Rue as the central image, but those were printed by recess. As a series of labels, there are many colour trials beyond the issued four labels and they may be described and illustrated fully in a later article. For now, an issued label (*L*) and a colour trial (*R*) are shown below for comparison purposes.

Maltese 'Dogma' Penrose Annual Black Prints

Revisited....

A reader advises that the 1955 *Penrose Annual* is not the one that contained the Maltese *Dogma* Harrison and Sons 'stamps' detailed in *DS8*. He also confirms that there is no other article on stamps in that particular edition.

However, there is a Harrison and Sons contribution in the form of a series of continuous tone black and white gravure pictures illustrating an article by Sir Kenneth Clark entitled 'Art and Photography'. 📖



1. 

2. perforacja cinnia us brensal my
3. entant dth

Thomas De la Rue.
1793 - 1866.

Perforation
30 x 35 mm
1.5 mm
margin



22.5
90.0

14.4
33.6

35.1

HS.

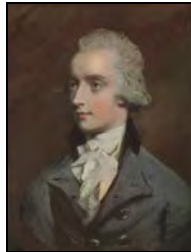
THOMAS DE

14.4
72.4
18.7
28.3
22.2 - 12.0
18.2 - 7.4
16.5
11.9 31.2

1. wykreślenie kato
2. umyć z tworzywa do
próby
3. można ustawić w paży

The final label is of a respectable looking gentleman with what I take to be a pen or brush in his hand. Does any reader know who this Regency period Dandy-like person might be?

(To the aristocratic dandies, the tying and arrangement of the cravats (neck tie) and arrangement of the hair, or hair pieces, was important. This is a picture of Gilbert Elliot painted by Daniel Gardner.)



A personal observation...

I have been buying and logging information on all types of dummy and testing related collectables since my first purchase back in 1969 and it never ceases to amaze me just how much new material can still be found after four decades of looking.

It makes you wonder just how much more is hidden away in collections and accumulations that are waiting to come to market and be recorded within these pages.

I was asked recently if *Dummy Stamps* would soon reach the end of its run. Clearly, if it does, it will not be due to lack of interesting philatelic items to record. 📧

Samuel Jones & Co. Ltd. and the Ideal Stamp, 1912

...coincidences

Life is full of coincidences. I purchased a Samuel Jones publicity label dating from 1920 and then received the special issue of *Stamp Lover* produced to mark 100 years of the publication, only to find that Francis Kiddle had written an article about the Ideal Stamp of 1912 and the follow-up show in Paris in 1913.

One of his illustrations was using the same design as my paper-maker's label.



Above imagery courtesy of Francis Kiddle



...and finally

I always welcome details of any new dummy finds from printers of British stamps, past and present, and so cordially invite you to drop me a line via the Guest Book facility provided on my website at www.stampprinters.info/guestbook.htm

Unfortunately, business, family and other commitments to the hobby mean that I cannot guarantee that I can rigidly stick to a publishing programme and therefore suggest that you go to www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm every so often where PDF files of this and all previous issues of *Dummy Stamps* will be available to download and print-off. Thank you.

Glenn H Morgan FRPSL

Dummy Stamps

Issue 10 "A look at British Dummy Stamp Material, with an Occasional Excursion Abroad" Autumn 2008

A Change to Scope of *DS*?

No, just a small alteration to masthead details....'

An article recently appeared that partly reviewed *Dummy Stamps*. In it the writer stated that, despite the wording in my masthead ("A Look at the World of British Dummy Stamp Material"), it actually included items from overseas.

Mentally, I initially challenged his statement and so looked back through all previous issues and could understand what he meant! However, to me the items covered had all emanated from British stamp printers, or ones having some connection with the UK, such as Cartor (French, with British owners), Chambon (French, with premises in Hammersmith, London) and Enschede (Dutch, with British Post Office contracts), so these could / should be included within the scope.

For the sake of clarity, I have therefore amended the masthead so that I may now legitimately "stray" into other areas where I deem it appropriate and of likely interest to the readers of *Dummy Stamps*. ■

Harrison and Sons Stained Glass Window: Update 2

Saved from the skip....

Since the previous issue of *Dummy Stamps*, it has been confirmed that the window is safe and sound and in the possession of the Harrison family.

Negotiations with De La Rue at the time of the take-over resulted in approval being given to the window's removal from the factory. It is said that it would potentially have been put into a builders' skip had it not been claimed in time. ■

Perkins, Bacon & Co., Sample Card

Imperforate stamps used for publicity

A previously unseen presentation card bearing samples of Perkins Bacon's stamp output. ■

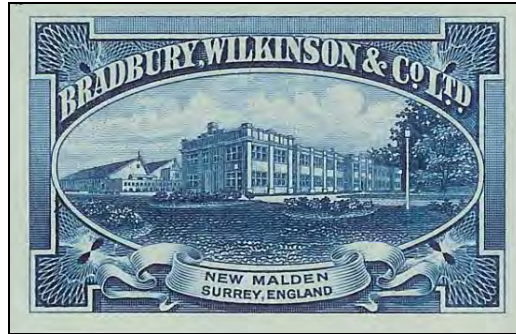


Picture from an eBay lot – the camera logo that can be seen at the bottom right is not on the actual item!

Bradbury Wilkinson's New Malden Factory *Handpainted artworks sold*

The image below depicts preliminary artworks for the well-known factory labels once used by Bradbury Wilkinson.

It was sold by stamp dealer Andrew G Lajer www.andrewglajer.co.uk a couple of years ago and is a superb piece. 📧



The issued label



Waterlow High Values *Presentation Cards*

As with other printers, Waterlow once produced presentation cards bearing stamps that they had printed. Two such items were prepared for the King George VI and first Queen Elizabeth high value issues.

These tend to command high prices when sold (around £300 each), as very few appear to have been issued at the time and even fewer copies have survived the passing of time. 📄



Enschedé at The Stamp Show 2000 *Free sample sheets given away*

Supplier to Royal Mail, Dutch security printer Enschedé was in attendance at *The Stamp Show 2000* in London, where they gave away three dummy items if you were lucky enough to realise. The items all depicted Rembrandt's "The Night Watch" that is on display at the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. 📄



(left) Pane of 10 (five rows of two) perforated water-activated labels.
(middle) Enlargement of one of the labels used on above pane.
(right) As middle sheet, but with two imperforate labels from the pane of ten instead of the year "2000".

De La Rue Self-Adhesive Dummy Stamp Books

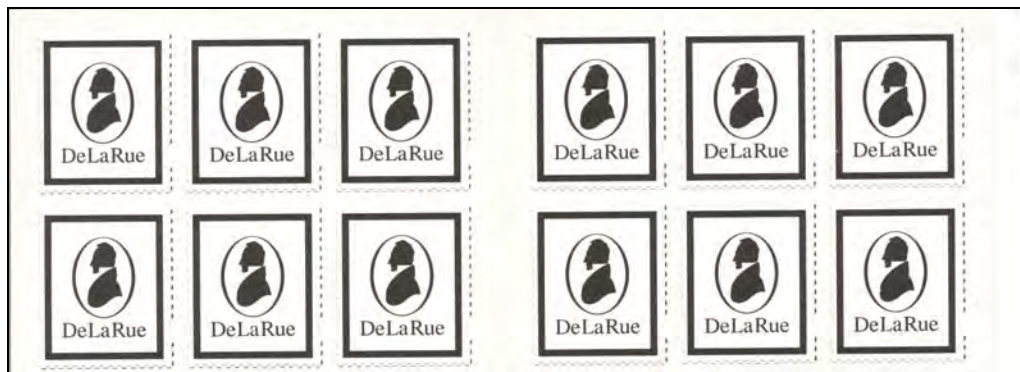
Trial book comes on the market

A while back, a British auction house (Grosvenor, I think) sold a stamp booklet from 2000 that comprised self-adhesive stamps that had been invalidated by having part of the designs removed with unprinted (white) diagonal bars at bottom left. The cover bore a typed number 5 on a small adhesive sticker.

Stupidly, I did not retain further details about this item at the time, but it is certainly a dummy booklet and one that I wish I owned in my collection!



A further book without issued designs also exists:



Although not evident from the imagery, I understand that the heavy frameline around the De La Rue logo design is in dark green, not black

Louis Chambon, 1861-1932

French, yes, but with a strong presence in Britain

Louis Chambon was born in La Voulte on 21 November 1861. He studied at the 'Ecole des Artes et Metiers', eventually becoming a mechanical engineer.

The company that one bore his name was founded in 1877 and many awards were forthcoming down the years and not all for his design and construction of rotary printing machines. Chambon had a great deal of involvement in other areas, such as the invention of a machine that would sharpen tooth picks (well someone had to invent one!).

Chambon produced various publicity labels during a long period as a stand-alone company, both in France and in Hammersmith, London and some examples are illustrated here. Of special note is my recent discovery of the De La Rue Minerva head publicity label reworded for use by Chambon.



Face and reverse of a previously unrecorded Minerva head design, more usually publicising the printing capabilities of De La Rue.



Chambon medal design – two of at least ten colours known from the two designs.



A Chambon test plate, actually unconnected with Burma (Myanmar)



**KOMORI
CHAMBON**

The multiple C (for Chambon) logo was intended to represent printing cylinders. The current logo of the merged company still incorporates that logo.



A Komori-Chambon rotogravure press

The company now only trades in France as Komori-Chambon SA, having merged in 1989 with the mighty Komori Corporation of Japan.

One of their best products is still a rotogravure printing press that is advertised as being used for stamp printing, so there is still a connection with our hobby interests, albeit that involvement has become somewhat 'watered down' these days. 📄



The name of Chambon still lives on in the factory sited in the French town of Orleans.

Courvoisier Samples...

...dating from before the purchase of the company by Walsall Security Printers

On 20 April 2007, David Feldman, the Swiss firm of auctioneers, sold the Courvoisier SA printing archive of proof material via a lavish 128 page catalogue.

The items that caught my eye were of progressives for a sample label that I was previously unfamiliar with. Depicting a peacock, it was listed under India, being sold with a similar item apparently depicting a tiger, but this was not illustrated in the catalogue.

I am unsure as to the price realised, but it was estimated at between 340 and 700 euros. 📄



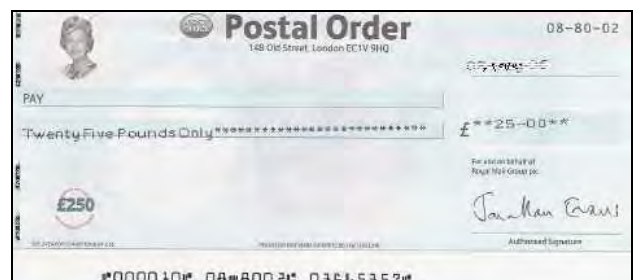
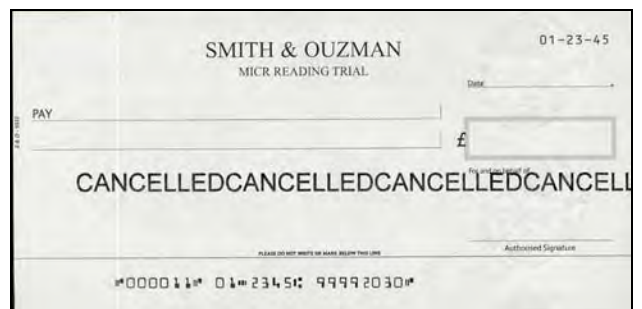
Colour separations and complete design

Postal Order Testing

MICR encoding now used

Smith & Ouzman are the printers who produce the current British postal orders. This testing item is used for the MICR encoding trial reader.

MICR stands for Magnetic Ink Character Recognition and is a language that is universally used by bankers on cheques, consisting of Arabic-type numbers printed on the bottom of each cheque. The special ink used in printing these numbers is capable of being magnetised and read by automated cheque processing equipment.



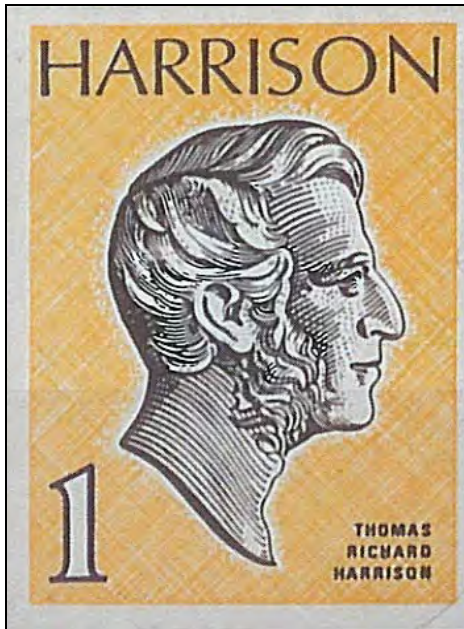
Testing item, current and old-style postal orders

This MICR technology was introduced in 2006 to help process the postal orders after presentation by the payee and coincided with the release of software that enabled completion of payee and amount details by the Horizon counter terminal system used in Post Office branches. Thanks to Vince Patel for making me aware of this item. 📄

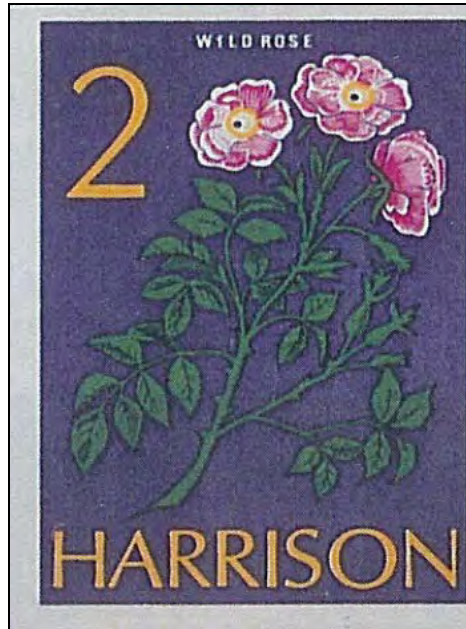
New Discovery of Harrison Sample Labels

Exciting New Find Recently Made by DS Reader

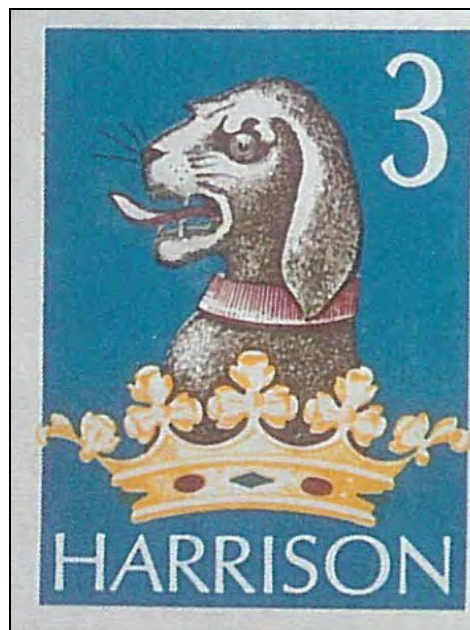
Since the last issue of *Dummy Stamps*, regular reader Roger Badman has discovered a set of four imperforate labels from the House of Harrison. I have never seen these and they are certainly an exciting new find.



Stamp 1 – Thomas Richard Harrison image.



Stamp 2 – A Wild Rose design.



Stamp 3 – Dog and crown heraldic beast design.

Stamp 4 – Red Admiral Butterfly design with Thomas Richard Harrison image.



If any reader can identify the era or background to these labels, then details would be welcomed, please. 📧

German KEVII Printing Sample

Interesting item emerges on eBay

A German printing sample of a King Edward VII stamp was recently offered at £175 “Buy-it-Now” price on the *Embassy Philatelists* eBay website.

The item was apparently printed by Bruckmann of Munchen (Munich) around 1911-1913.



It was described as “1d imperf on blue. Oversized on gummed paper with zig-zag watermark (as used on Austrian stamps of 1911). Side marginal. With certificate.”

Perhaps the story behind this item is known to readers, but it was certainly new to me. Why would the Germans have been printing Edward VII stamps – even as mere samples?

If anyone can answer this question, then I will publish the information in the next issue of *DS*.

My website www.stampprinters.info includes the printer but only has scant information, namely:

F. A. Bruckmann, Munich.

First stamps traced by compiler: 1914 for Bavaria.

Coincidentally, I have been researching the first photogravure stamps from Britain (6d National Savings stamps by Harrison and Sons) and I noted that the first photogravure stamps anywhere were from Bavaria. I also understand that those stamps were printed on a British press and that the British stamps were printed on a German press!

Perhaps it is all starting to make sense after all, but I would still like to hear the true story. 📧

Don't Dismiss Modern Stuff

It too can be appreciated if well written-up

A well-known collector of modern British philatelic material recently made the following comments to me in an email about *DS*:

“With 'modern' material, which still has a way to go in regards to respectability in the upper echelons of the philatelic fraternity, such research and provenance [*as seen in DS*] is essential to underpin a modern specialist collection.”

Interestingly, I type these words the day after having attended a meeting at the Royal Philatelic Society London, where, in addition to the ‘old’ material, a good deal of modern items were being admired by the ‘upper echelons’ of the membership purely because the pages were presented in such a way that they helped to tell the most complex story of modern stamp printing and production techniques.

Had the stamps been displayed simply as modern new issues, then I am sure that they would have been dismissed as mere modern ‘rubbish’. In fact, they would probably never have reached the display frames in the first place!

So my plea is that you fly the flag for modern philatelic material whenever you get the opportunity and endeavor to include as much recent dummy and testing material that you can.

Your philatelic audience will thank you for it and will be probably be amazed at just how interesting the material can be. 📧

...and finally

I always welcome details of any new dummy finds from printers of British stamps, past and present, and so cordially invite you to drop me a line via the Guest Book facility provided on my website at www.stampprinters.info/guestbook.htm

Unfortunately, business, family and other commitments to the hobby mean that I cannot guarantee that I can rigidly stick to a publishing programme and therefore suggest that you go to www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm every so often where PDF files of this and all previous issues of *Dummy Stamps* will be available to download and/or print-off. Thank you.

Glenn

A Bibliography of British Printing-Related Books, Brochures, Leaflets and Philatelic Articles

DRAFT COPY

Not dummy / testing related, but hopefully it will prove to be interest to readers of *DS*.

Updates and corrections to this "work in progress" would be appreciated.

A. Alexander & Sons Ltd

Barclay & Fry

Blades, East and Blades Ltd

Board of Inland Revenue

Bowater Group

Bradbury, Wilkinson & Company Ltd

- Brochure: "Bradbury, Wilkinson", a company profile booklet, undated but from circa 1981.
- Auction: "Essays, Proofs and Stamps from the Bradbury, Wilkinson Archive", Christies Robson Lowe, London, Wednesday 21 April 1993.
- Auction: "Prices Realised" for above sale, 1993.
- "History of a Bank Note Printer Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. Ltd" by W.E. Curtis, Essay Proof Journal [USA], 1969-1970 .
- "Bradbury, Wilkinson Archives Dispersal" by Barbara R. Mueller, Essay Proof Journal [USA], Quarter 4, 1986.
- "Unlisted Bradbury, Wilkinson Sample or Promotional Note Offered in Christie's Sale", Essay Proof Journal [USA], Quarter 4, 1987.
- "Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. Archives" by Robson Lowe, Revenue Journal of Great Britain [GB], March 1993.

Clarke and Sherwell Ltd

W. S. Cowells Ltd

Dando, Todhunter & Smith

Debden Security Printing Ltd

Thomas De La Rue and Co Ltd

- Book: "The Works of Messrs Thomas De La Rue & Co., as manufacturers of stamps". 1906. Wetherall.
- Book: "The De La Rue History of British and Foreign Postage Stamps 1855-1901", John Easton, 1958, Faber and Faber, 846pp. (For the Royal Philatelic Society, London), London, UK, 1958, xxii+846pp. & 48 plates. (235mm x 150mm) Bound in brown cloth, lettered in gold across the spine. Includes dust jacket.
- Book: "The House that Thomas Built: The Story of De La Rue", Lorna Houseman, 1968, Chatto and Windus, 207pp. 1968, xvi+207 + 14 plates. (215mm x 140mm) Hardbound in red cloth with gold lettering on a black background across the spine, with dust jacket. The back flap of the dust jacket carries a photograph and brief biography of the author.
- Booklet: "De La Rue Journal: Stamp Centenary Number", De La Rue & Co., London, UK, 1955, 24pp. & 12 plates. (245mm x 185mm). Also contains a copy of the *De La Rue Stamp Centenary Exhibition: Plan of Hall & List of Exhibits.*, 4pp.

- Booklet: "Postage Stamps of De La Rue", a multi-language company history (date unknown, but post 1972).
- Booklet: "De La Rue Punch Book, The" by Alan Huggins, The Philatelist and PJGB [GB], 1979
- Booklet: "The De La Rue Punch Book", RPSL, London, 1987.
- Booklet: "Postage Stamps of De La Rue" by AG Rigo de Righi FRPSL, National Postal Museum [GB], (undated).
- Brochure: "De La Rue", two corporate brochures (dates of production unknown).
- Brochure: "A Matter of Choice: A Thomas De La Rue Guide to the Printing of Postage Stamps", (date unknown).
- "Forniture all'Italia della Case De La Rue (1862-1866), Le" by Piero Zanetta, Filatelia [Italy], [when?]
- "How Stamps are Printed - A Visit to Messrs De La Rue" Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly [GB], 7 January 1899
- "The Engraving Methods of De La Rue" by John Easton FRPSL, London Philatelist [GB], 1950, volume LIX.
- "De La Rue Exhibition" Stamp Collecting [GB], 6 July 1951.
- "The Stamp of Quality", Stamp Lover [GB], March-April 1953.
- "De La Rue's Recess Printed Issues", [publication?], May 1953.
- "How Stamps are Produced by Recess-Printing" Stamp Lover [GB], Oct.-Nov. 1953.
- "De La Rue's Work for the United Nations" by WC Powell, Philately [GB], Sept./Oct. 1954.
- "De La Rue in Ireland", Stamp Lover [GB], March-April 1955.
- "One Hundred Years of Postage Stamp Printing", Stamp Lover [GB], June-July 1955.
- "De La Rue's Stamp Centenary Exhibition", Stamp Lover [GB], June-July 1955
- "The De La Rue Exhibition", Gibbons Stamp Monthly [GB], 1 July 1955.
- "How Stamps are Made", Strand Stamp Journal [GB], January 1956.
- "De La Rue and the DFI Battle", Stamp Collecting [GB], 12 September 1958.
- "The De La Rue Story", Stamp Lover [GB], Oct.-Nov. 1958.
- "Random Notes De La Rue & Waterlow [note]" by Fred E. Dixon, Revealer [USA], July 1961.
- "De La Rue "MASTERPLATE" Method of Stamp Production" by Nathan Hals, Collectors Club Philatelist [USA], July and November 1961.
- "Brief Description of Thos. De La Rue and Co.'s Fugitive and Doubly Fugitive Adhesive Stamp Printing Inks, A" by Thomas De La Rue & Co., GB Journal [GB], October 1963.
- "De La Rue Collections go to Bloomsbury", Stamp Collecting [GB], 11 March 1966.
- "De La Rue on Delacryl", Stamp Collecting [GB], 18 April 1968.
- "Design, De La Rue and Delacryl", Philatelic Magazine [GB], 10 May 1968
- "Design, De La Rue and Delacryl", Australian Stamp Monthly [Australia], May 1968.
- "Aguelifrimarkena bildar epok" by Sigurd Tullberg, Nordisk Filateli [Norway], May and June issues 1969.
- "Thomas De La Rue - Some Milestones" by J Martin-Severs, Stamp Collecting [GB], 29 May 1969.
- "De La Rue's new ROLAND Offset Press by E C Ehrmann, Stamp Collecting [GB], 16 October 1969.
- "Delacryl", Gibbons Stamp Monthly [GB], December 1969.
- "Post Office Technology 1969, Gibbons Stamp Monthly [GB], December 1969.
- "Last Look Back", Stamp Collecting [GB], 29 January 1970.
- "Mauritius and De La Rue" by Peter Ibbotson, Stamp Collecting [GB], 3 December 1970.
- "William Lee of Singapore", Gibbons Stamp Monthly [GB], March 1971.
- "Thomas De La Rue Stamp Printer", Stamp Collecting [GB], 5 August 1971.
- "House that Thomas Built, The" by Lorna Houseman, Philatelic Literature Review [USA], 1971
- "De La Rue Archives", Cameo [GB], January 1976.
- "Sales from the De La Rue Archive" by The Editor, Stamp Collecting [GB], 30 September 1976.
- "De La Rue's Ink Recipe Book Volume 1" by Philip O. Beal, The Philatelist [GB], January 1978
- "Colour Inks of the 19th Century Stamps" by Peter Collins, The Philatelist [GB], December 1978 to April 1979.
- "The Rise and Fall of De La Rue as GB Stamp Printers 1878-1910. Part 1 to Part 10" by WA Wiseman BA FRPSL, Gibbons Stamp Monthly [GB], August 1978 - August 1979.
- "De La Rue Centenary: Stamp Exhibition Souvenirs" by Robson Lowe, Cinderella Philatelist [GB], October 1979.

- "Exhibition Labels: De La Rue [letter]" by Graeme Harrison, Cinderella Philatelist [GB], October 1980.
- "De La Rue and the Propaganda Forgery" by Roy A. Dehn, London Philatelist [GB], March and April 1981.
- "Is De La Rue Giving up Stamp Printing?" by Edgar Lewy, Linn's Stamp News [USA], 13 January 1986. .
- "De La Rue and Stamps" by Edgar Lewy, Stamps UK [GB], February 1986.
- "British Printer Produced Stamps for Confederate States of America" by Edgar Lewy, Linn's Stamp News [USA], 26 May 1986.
- "Stamp Printers Compared [De La Rue & Waterlow]" by Colin Fraser, Stamp News [GB], October 1986.
- "De La Rue "Dummy" Stamp Design", Essay Proof Journal [USA], Quarter 1, 1990.
- "Possible Change of Ownership of De La Rue", Essay Proof Journal [USA], Quarter 1, 1990.
- "Reflections of the De La Rue Years 1878 - 1910. Volume Two" by WA Wiseman, Gibbons Stamp Monthly [GB], August 1990.
- "Marginal Markings on De La Rue Keyplates" by Peter Fernbank, Cameo [GB], January 1991.
- "Great Britain - The De La Rue Years 1878 - 1910. Volume Two" by WA Wiseman, Gibbons Stamp Monthly [GB], February and May 1991.
- "Printing Inks Used on British Colonial Postage Stamps" by Hubert Idl, London Philatelist [GB], July to September 1991.
- "Bicentenary of the Birth of Thomas De La Rue", Philateli-Graphics [USA], July 1993.
- "De La Rue Correspondence Books, The" by Geoff Kellow, Philately from Australia [Australia], March 1994.
- "De La Rue 1955 Cinderella Marked Printing" by L.N. Williams, Linn's [USA], 14 August 1995.
- "De La Rue Correspondence Books, The" by Geoffrey N. Kellow, Philately from Australia [Australia], December 1995.
- "De La Rue Correspondence Books, The VII. New Zealand" by Geoffrey Kellow, Philately from Australia [Australia], June 1996.
- "Printer's Sample Stamps" by Glenn Morgan, France and Colonies Philatelist [GB], December 1997.
- "British Stamps: De La Rue Return to the Stamp Catalogue" by Ken Lake, Gibbons Stamp Monthly [GB], January 1998.
- "De La Rue's Queen Victoria Revenue Heads: an Illustrated Study Linking Postage with Revenues before 1881" by P.F. Mansfield, Revenue Society of Great Britain [GB], 2000
- "De La Rue Printers" by Joe Sullivan & Paul Horton, Philateli-Graphics [USA], October 2001.
- "De La Rue Private Day Books Pricing Policies and the Charge Notation, The" by Richard Maisel, London Philatelist [GB], June 2002.
- "De La Rue Dunstable Drukt Zijn Eerste Nederlandse Emissie" by R C Bakhuizen van den Brink, Filatelie [Netherlands, The], June 2006.
- "De La Rue Duty Plates" by Peter Fernbank FRPSL, London Philatelist [GB], April 2008.
- "De La Rue's Universal Colour Scheme" by Michael Oliver FRPSL, London Philatelist [GB], Jul-August 2008.
- "Brian Janes: a Career in Stamp Printing" by Glenn H Morgan FRPSL, Philatelic Bulletin [GB], November 2008.
- "Something Borrowed" by Ron Negus, Stamp Magazine [GB], December 2008.

John Dickinson & Co. Ltd

- Book: "The Endless Web: John Dickinson & Co, Ltd. 1804-1954", Joan Evans, 1955, Jonathan Cape, London, UK, 1955, xvi+274pp. & 49 plates. (260mm x 165mm) Hard bound in red cloth, lettered in gold across the spine. Includes a blue dust jacket.

J. W. Dunn Printers Ltd

Eureka Printing Company

[George E] Eyre & [William] Spottiswood

- "Eyre & Spottiswood" by L. Norman Williams, Stamp Magazine [GB], January 1986.

Format International Security Printers Ltd

- Auction: "Essays, Proofs and Stamps from the Format Security Printers Archive", Christies Robson Lowe, London [GB], Friday 14 July 1995.
- Auction: "Prices Realised" for above sale, 1995.
- Price List: "Progressive Colour Proofs and Imperfs from the Format International Archives", dealer list from Avion Stamps UK [GB], date unknown.
- "Format International Security Printers Ltd", Gibbons Stamp Monthly [GB], 1969.
- "Right Format, The [Format International Security Printers Ltd]", Stamp Magazine [GB], March 1985.
- "Belize Philately - After Format" by Peter Bylen, The Belize Collector [where?], April to December 1989.
- "Format Follies, or the Scandal Continues" by A.E. Buzz Jehle, The Belize Collector [where?], July to September 1992.
- "Feigenbaum Acquittal Not Surprising to Some" by Philip Halward, Stamp Collector [GB], 28 November 1992.

Hanbury, Tomsett & Company

Harrison and Sons Ltd

- Book: The House of Harrison. Harrison & Sons, London, 1914, viii+118+ipp. & 24 plates. (255mm x 190mm) Hard bound in brown cloth. Lettered in gold on the front and up the spine. Price 5/- (£0.25) {Printed on hand made paper with uncut edges.}
- Brochure: "The House of Harrison: At Home" souvenir visit programme, 1950.
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Questa Colour Ltd (see House of Questa Ltd, The)

Charles Skipper and East

Somerset House

Stamping Department

T. F. Todhunter

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Williams, Lea & Co. Ltd

Dummy Stamps

Issue 11 "A look at British Dummy Stamp Material, with an Occasional Excursion Abroad" Christmas 2008

A Bonus Issue of *DS*

Treat it as an early Christmas present!

I thought that I would give you a break from preparing for the festive season by preparing an additional issue of *Dummy Stamps*.

In all honesty, the main reason for *DS11* is to include a 'timeline' article that I have prepared relating to the early stamp printing days of Harrison and Sons Limited. This covers the period from formation of the company through to the end of the reign of King George V.

As I have stated in the document, what a huge leap of faith it was by the GPO in 1910 to remove production from the safe (albeit expensive) hands of De La Rue, and to place the contract with a company that had never printed a stamp in sheets before! I cannot imagine this happening today.

I wondered whether any reader can add to the stamps listed as issued by Harrison during this period, please.

It was a time of intense activity for them and, perhaps surprisingly, there seems little written about their early output – certainly not in one place! So, while researching, I was surprised to learn that they had printed stamps for Ecuador, Peru, Maldive Islands, British Mandate of Palestine and the Gold Coast. I was previously only aware of GB, Ireland and Egypt. 📧

Christmas Greetings

The winter issue of DS will not appear until around early February, so may I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a successful, but above all healthy, 2009. I also thank readers for the valuable feedback that I have received in response to these newsletters.

GLENN 📧

New Dummy Books

Tesco Garages fuel demand for blank stamps

A couple of years ago, Tesco Garages requested that Royal Mail supply 1st and 2nd class stamp books with unprinted stamps. The idea was that potential purchasers would hand the dummy book to the cashier who would exchange it for the real thing. This was a theft prevention measure as stamps are a popular item to steal, it seems.

This idea was flawed in that they bore a valid barcode on the back cover and were occasionally sold, which was great if you were a stamp collector with an interest in dummy stamps, but not if you were a normal customer (not that I am implying that collectors are in any way abnormal, of course).

Despite what might have been widespread use nationwide, almost none have appeared on the philatelic market and they went undiscovered until too late to obtain examples. Maybe they were actually a limited trial that proved unsuccessful for the reason stated, hence the scarcity of supplies. 📧



The blank stamps are without phosphor and have normal die-cut separation.

Stocks were printed at Walsall Security Printers.



Waterlow Calendars *How to stay in the minds of your customers all year round...*

With a new year fast approaching, I thought that I would depict an unused Waterlow calendar from 60 years ago. The Beefeater looks to be quite miserable – perhaps he had to work over the Christmas break against his wishes! I have several calendars from a range of security printers and they form an interesting sideline collection. 📅



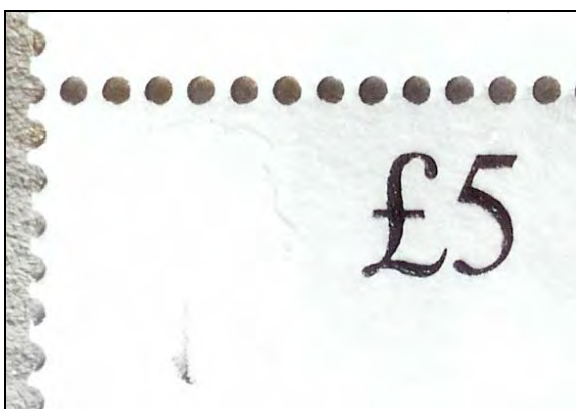
OVI Inks *SICPA leads the way in security inks for banknotes and stamps*

The dummy banknote illustrated below is from SICPA, the Swiss ink manufacturer. They supplied Harrison with the OVI (Optically Variable Ink) used on the high value stamps back in the early 1990s. It is an expensive product, partly because it is only supplied to security printers and not to commercial printers for use on cornflakes boxes! For those unfamiliar with the ink, it changes colour when tilted and the client can choose from a combination of colours to turn from and to.



Harrison had a few stamps escape largely without the OVI and these are often referred to as ‘missing gold’ when sold by dealers. In fact they are a dry-print. The photo below left is of an electron microscope image taken for me by the Post Office Research Centre and it reveals the outline of the Queen’s head (to left of value) and a few flecks of the gold (at bottom left). The error stamp appears below right, prices for which do not reflect the true scarcity of this item.

There appears to be no truth in the rumour that Harrison ran ‘make-ready’ sheets without the OVI ink to avoid wasting any ink on sheets that were, by their nature, destined for destruction. ❏



Updates *Further information on previous reports...*

Waddington

A further example of the Kirkstall Abbey label, but this time without the *Rio Congress 79* text, has recently been found.



Bradbury Wilkinson

The airletter form has now been seen and the interesting thing is that the pre-printed stamp is actually produced by the intaglio process. I had assumed that it would be a letterpress production.



The Bradbury airletter form

The format of the airletter is the same as that produced for the first such item from Iraq back in 1933, which helps to date the BW item.



The Iraqi airletter form –SPECIMEN version

Komori-Chambon

A new label from Komori-Chambon is reported. Its wording clearly relates to 1992 and is probably for a litho press installation in Indonesia. ☒



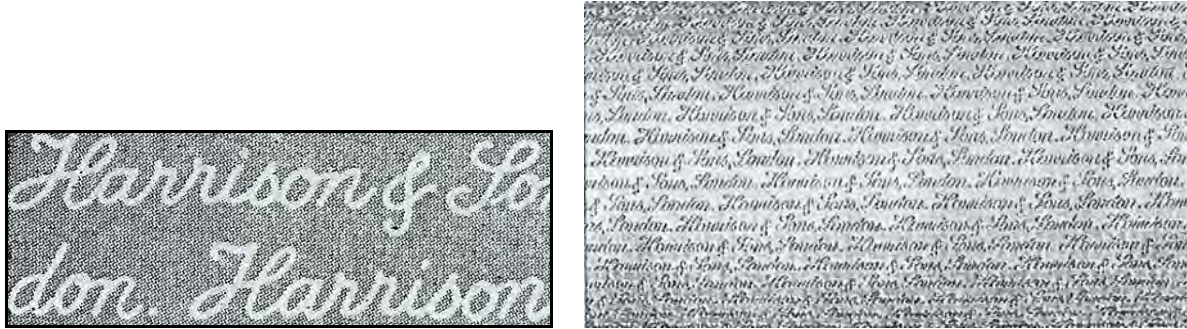
Not dummy / testing related, but hopefully it will prove to be interest to readers of DS.

Updates and corrections to this "work in progress" would be appreciated.

Harrison and Sons Limited: Timeline from George II to George V

This document serves as a record of Harrison and Sons Ltd., and its stamp production, through to the end of King George V. This reign was a key period for testing and development, after which business 'settled down' with Harrison largely using the photogravure production process* right through to their demise in 1997. Stamps are depicted at a standard % width per image, with only one value from each issue being shown.

* As would be expected, Harrison retained intaglio, letterpress, screen and lithographic printing capabilities, but these were used relatively infrequently for stamp production in the post-1934 period, with notable exceptions.



(left) The Harrison & Sons, London script watermark recorded in the text below
(right) Part of the dandy roll used to produce the above watermark

A question had been asked in the House of Commons in March 1911 about who the new supplier of postage and fiscal stamps were. URL <http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/commons/1911/mar/13/postage-and-fiscal-stamps-new-contractors> appears to contain the first mention of stamps having been created by Harrison before the British issue of 1911, which were always assumed to be the first postage stamps produced by this company. It reads:

Postage and Fiscal Stamps (New Contractors)

HC Deb*, 13 March 1911, Volume 22 cc1872-3

(* meaning = "House of Commons Debate")

Mr. TOUCHE asked the Secretary to the Treasury if he will state who are the new contractors for the supply of adhesive postage and fiscal stamps; what trade or business has heretofore been carried on by them; whether they have had any experience in the manufacture of stamps, and, if so, in what direction; and whether the Postmaster-General is satisfied that the wants of the public will be duly met in the course of the current year under the new contract, and what safeguards have been taken to insure continuous and adequate supplies to that end?

Mr. ILLINGWORTH Messrs. Harrison and Sons are the new contractors for the supply of adhesive postage stamps. The fiscal stamps and certain denominations of the postage will be manufactured at Somerset House. The firm in question are the well-known Government printers, and they have previously manufactured stamps for one of the small Colonies.

The Postmaster General, Herbert Samuel, later states in *HC Deb 28 June 1911 Vol. 27 cc420-1* "I agree that there is room for improvement in printing the penny stamp - an improvement which I hope will be secured with more experience on the part of the contractors **who have undertaken this work for the first time***, and who have been working under great pressure." So, it is reasonable to assume that the PMG knew the true situation, i.e. Harrison and Sons had not previously printed postage stamps.

(* my emboldened italics)

Harrison & Sons Timeline from George II to George V

1750 The House of Harrison established in Warwick Lane, London EC.

.....

1756 Printers of “*The London Gazette*”.

.....

1825 Private Press Established at the Foreign Office.

.....

1856 Private Press Established at the War Office.

.....

1867 Appointed “Printers in Ordinary to HM Queen Victoria”.

.....

1870 Press Established at Scotland Yard Police Headquarters.

.....

1881 Great Britain: Telegraph Forms Postal Stationery Contract Won.



Harrison had produced telegraph forms bearing an imprinted stamp through the 1880s, but these fall outside of the scope of most philatelists’ collections.

The forms had been printed at the St Martin’s Lane, London factory depicted in the image alongside.

.....

19_ Mysterious Printing of Stamps Draws a Blank!



Collectors believed that Harrison had no involvement with stamps before the British 1910 contract, but the Commons debate above implied that this was not the case. The PMG seems to have clarified the situation.

As no records of the stamps allegedly “manufactured for one of the small colonies” have been found when looking through the major stamp catalogues and contemporary philatelic magazines, readers are invited to confirm either way if they can. Maybe Mr Illingworth decided not to admit to the House that Harrison was new to stamp printing for fear of difficult questioning from MPs!

.....

.....
1901 Appointed "Printers in Ordinary to HM King Edward VII".

.....
1907 Temporary Press Established at Windsor Castle on the Occasion of the Visit of European Monarchs.

.....
1910 Appointed "Printers and Booksellers to HM King George V".

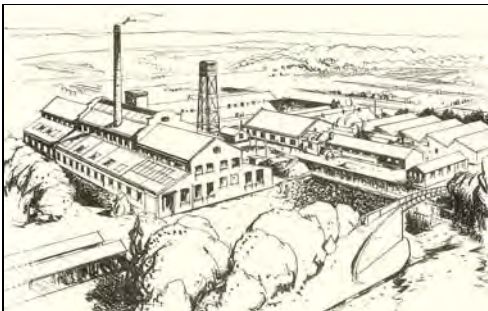
.....
1910 Great Britain: Definitive Stamps Contract Won to Print by Letterpress.



Harrison was invited to tender for the new contract by the GPO, presumably as they were a major British government print supplier that had been printing early stamp booklet covers, or because of sight of the alleged stamps above. Either way, they took the business from DLR, who had held it for sixty years, so this was a leap of faith, but saved the GPO £45,000pa on its printing bill.

Sir Thomas De La Rue died several months afterwards directly as a result of losing the contract, a loss that he had never got over believing that DLR had a "God given right" to the contract never even considering that another printer might be capable of producing the stamps!

.....
1910 Hayes Factory Opened.



Harrison needed more space, so purchased a site at Hayes in Middlesex to concentrate on the newly acquired major contract to print low value definitives for Great Britain by letterpress.

.....
1911 Great Britain: Definitive Stamps by Letterpress.



Harrison first produced stamps with the late King Edward VII's effigy, rather than that of King George V, for a full two and a half years due to delays in agreeing new designs and other reasons such as running out of the appropriate watermarked paper, neither of which was the fault of Harrison.

These stamps were produced at the Hayes printing works.

.....
1914

Bavaria: World's First Definitive Stamps by Photogravure.



The first ever photogravure stamps were issued by Bavaria. Harrison had NO involvement as they were printed by F A Bruckmann of Munich

However, this was an important development in stamp production that would later be so influential in the success and dominance by Harrison.

Bruckmann utilised a screened photogravure cell structure for the Bavarian stamps, while the 1923 Harrison stamps for Egypt utilised a grained cell structure comprising a random array of cells.

.....
1914-1918

Confidential Printers to the Admiralty, War Office and Foreign Office.

.....
1914

Great Britain: Postage Due Labels by Letterpress.



After trials with Somerset House printings, four initial values were later produced by Harrison for the newly introduced scheme of using labels to indicate that postage due had been paid to the GPO. The scheme started on Monday 20 April 1914.

.....
1920

Egypt: Definitive Stamps by Letterpress.



Harrison won the contract from DLR to print postage, service and postage due stamps for Egypt, following a competitive tender process. DLR was ordered by the Egyptian authorities to hand over the master dies to Harrison to enable them to make new plates and thus enable further stocks of the existing designs to be made. These stamps were printed at the Hayes factory on a newly commissioned watermarked paper comprising a triple crescent and star, uniquely for use by Egypt and helping to identify Harrison printings.

.....
1921-22

Egypt: Postage Due Labels by Letterpress.



A series of six postage due labels was issued – the first since the previous century.

.....

1921

Great Britain: National Savings Stamp by Photogravure.



The 6d National Savings stamp contract was won from Waterlow following a success tender process. These were the first GB ‘stamps’ by the photogravure process by Harrison and were printed at the Hayes factory. It is suspected that they were printed on the press recorded below for Egypt.

Waterlow had beaten Harrison in the use of photogravure by producing by this method War Savings stamps in July 1918. It is also understood that they had produced clandestine forgeries of the Bavarian 1914 photogravure stamps during the Great War for the British government. After this war, all British security printers possessed photogravure printing capabilities, but many were slow to use it for stamp production purposes.

.....

1922

Ireland Provisional Government: Definitive Stamp Overprints by Letterpress.



Various values of British stamps were overprinted ‘Rialtas Sealadac na héireann 1922’ (Provisional Government of Ireland 1922), in five lines of text.

These were made-up into coils (rolls) by Harrison for use in stamp vending and affixing machines, as the local printers used for the sheet-printed stamps could not undertake the overprinting.

(left) Coil stamp for use in Ireland as overprinted by Harrison

.....

1922

Egypt: Additional Definitive Stamp Value by Letterpress.



New postal rates necessitated a 15m value, so a statue of Ramases II design was produced by Harrison, which unfortunately bore an incorrect Arabic inscription. A corrected printing was produced and the incorrect stamp stock was later overprinted locally with a crown and Arabic text and put in general circulation. Some stock was also overprinted locally ‘OHEMS’ for use as Official stamps.

.....

1923

Egypt: Definitive Stamps by Photogravure.



A tender saw several British printers quote and supply proofs in a variety of printing processes for designs depicting the King of Egypt, Fuad I. The new stamps were to have been printed by intaglio initially, but Egypt later favoured the photogravure proofs that had been submitted by Harrison for design approval purposes only. The rest is history!

They were printed at the Hayes factory using a ‘Johannisberg BT.1’ German-made press. The ‘BT’ stands for ‘Bogentiefdruck’ and denotes flatbed feed of cut sheets. However..... Harrison sub-contracted some of the work to a company in the Netherlands known as NRM (see Netherlands entry, below). This was, to quote Kehr in his work *20th Century Stamps of Egypt* (1942, Kalamazoo USA), because “Harrison was not equipped to produce roto-engraved (i.e. photogravure)

stamps in such a quantity as was needed and ordered by Egypt. It required nearly eighteen months of experimentation to overcome the technical difficulties before satisfactory results were achieved". It would appear that it was the 5m, the 20m to 200m and the £E1 values that were the Dutch printings.

The plates were produced by uniformly dusting the plate with a fine bitumen or resin powder. This resists the etch when the plate is etched after transferring the image to it, so producing an irregular cell structure.

Photogravure stamp booklets were also produced as a part of this contract, which probably makes these the first British-printed photogravure stamp booklets. (Egypt was an early adopter of stamps in booklets.)

From 1925, Egypt printed its stamps locally in Cairo at The Survey Department of Egypt, so Harrison was destined to have no further involvement in the production of stamps for this country, except in 1926 when they won the contract to print one last issue (see below).

.....
1923 Great Britain: Definitive Stamps Contract Lost to Waterlow.



The contract for British low value definitives was lost to Waterlow for a decade solely, it would appear, on price rather than quality.

During this era, Harrison focused on developing its photogravure techniques and capabilities, having set-up a subsidiary company, Collogravure Ltd, to maximize the potential of this "new" process.

(left) A Harrison printed stamp overprinted "RECEIVED WITH / THANKS." (how appropriate!) and "FOR / WATERLOW & SONS" and used on a receipt.

.....
1923 The Netherlands: NRM's Involvement in Harrison Photogravure Stamp Production.



Collogravure Ltd worked in close co-operation with the Dutch firm of Nederlandse Rotogravure Maatschappij (NRM*) of Leiden, drawing "on the finest continental experience of the time".

This saw Harrison staff being trained by NRM staff in the skills required to print postage stamps by photogravure and also how to make the all-important printing cylinders.

** NRM had been formed in 1913 as publishers and printers. Their first magazine contract, Panorama, was printed on a German photogravure press and they soon developed the skills needed to utilise photogravure. They were a pioneer in the field of several chromotype techniques and developed over the years twenty printing machines.*

.....

1924 Peru: Battle of Ayacucho Centenary Commemorative Stamp by Photogravure.



The 4c and 5c values of this set were produced by Harrison, while the rest were printed at Waterlow and De La Rue.

Three printers being used for one commemorative stamp issue is quite unusual (but certainly not unique and a Papua New Guinea issue springs to mind).

.....

1926 Egypt: King's Birthday Commemorative Stamp by Photogravure.



The King of Egypt's Birthday single stamp issue was, perhaps surprisingly, given to Harrison to print. Maybe The Survey Department of Egypt did not have the capacity at that time to produce this commemorative issue.

.....

1927 Palestine British Mandate: Definitive Stamps by Letterpress.



Printed at the Hayes factory, these 14 letterpress designs featured typical views and buildings of the Mandate.

Around 400 copies exist with SPECIMEN as either overprints or perfins, plus some further supplies were overprinted for sample use by Harrison (c.\$500 each). Caveat: forgeries exist of the Harrison sample overprint.

An experimental printing of the 7m value exists with a '**HARRISON & SONS LTD., Stamp Printers, LONDON**' imprint in bottom margin. Only one strip is known, plus a pair with part imprint.

.....

1928 Gold Coast: Definitive Stamps by Photogravure.

The second issue to be printed by Harrison using photogravure was for the Gold Coast (now Ghana).



A set of 10 definitives was issued depicting Christiansborg Castle, with the four higher values being bi-coloured. This was something that Britain never utilised until around three decades later. This delay was probably due to the vast volume of stamps needed in the UK.

(Some values of?) the Gold Coast stamps exist with Harrison sample overprints. Printed at Hayes factory using a “Johannisberg BT.9” German-made press. This was the first issue printed by Harrison as part of a Crown Agents contract – the start of a long association.

.....
1930

Peru: Definitive Stamp Overprints by Photogravure.



The 1924-1929 Fall of Leguia Government 10 cent value was overprinted 2c or 4c in 1930 by photogravure with a crest design by Harrison.

.....
1930/1

Peru: Definitive Stamps by Photogravure.



Six of the values from the 1924-1929 pictorial “Portraits and Monuments” issue that had originally been printed intaglio, were printed by Harrison using the same designs but by photogravure. The background was redrawn and now appeared plain instead of a lined.

(The illustration is not of the Harrison printing, which I have yet to track down.)

.....
1932

Peru: Postage Due Labels by Photogravure.



A pair of postage due labels was printed by Harrison using their now customary 15x14 perforation. The 2c and 10c values reproduced an earlier production by another printer, but redrawn with a plain instead of lined background to them.

.....
1932

Columbia: Natural Resources Commemorative Stamps Mystery.



This is NOT a Harrison stamp printing!!

It is recorded in a contemporary philatelic magazine article about Harrison that they printed stamps for Columbia by photogravure during 1932.

However, the only issue in this era by this printing process depicts cattle, petroleum, bananas, emeralds (see image alongside), gold or coffee and all are bicoloured stamps. The Stanley Gibbons stamp catalogue for 1937 states that they were printed by the Government Printing Works in Germany, so any Harrison involvement with Columbia remains a mystery. Can anyone help?

Possibly Harrison sub-contracted the work, but it seems highly improbable that they would have chosen a German printing company, especially when they had an earlier association with the Dutch photogravure printing firm of NRM.

.....
1933

Quotation about the Photogravure Printing Process.



In August 1933, Mr B. Guy Harrison stated in an article that appeared in Stamp Collecting Weekly [GB]: “The photogravure process may ultimately become fairly general”.

Little did he know at the time...

.....
1933

Maldive Islands: Definitive Stamps by Photogravure.



The third issue to be printed by Harrison using photogravure was for the Maldive Islands. A set of nine definitives was issued, utilising the 1909 design previously printed by DLR in intaglio. Yet another contract to have been taken away from DLR by Harrison.

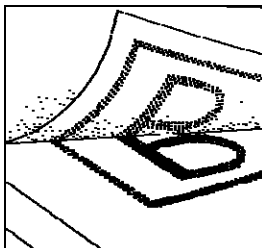
Depicts a ‘Minaret of Juma Mosque, near Male’ design. Not ideally suited to photogravure as it failed to benefit from the tonal range possible.

This set was the first postage stamp issue anywhere to be printed on

Harrison & Sons, London script watermarked paper.

.....
1933

Great Britain: Definitive Stamps Contract Taken from Waterlow and a Change of Process to Photogravure from Letterpress.



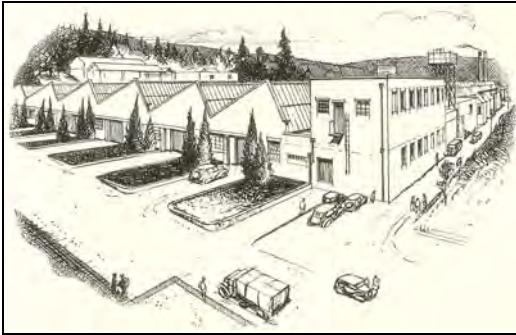
By 1933, a decision by the GPO to move to photogravure printing had been agreed at postal headquarters.

The contract for the British low value definitives was won back from Waterlow and Sons by Harrison following a competitive tender that was to be effective from the 1st January 1934.

.....

1933

High Wycombe Factory Opened.



Harrison needed more space, so purchased the High Wycombe site to concentrate on their newly re-acquired major contract to print low value definitives for Britain by the photogravure process.

This plant became known locally as “The Stamp Factory” and remained in use until their demise.

.....

1934

Ecuador: Compulsory Tax Stamps by Photogravure.



A pair of “Compulsory Tax” stamps in aid of the rebuilding fund for the GPO Guayaquil Post Office was printed on the *Harrison & Sons, London* script watermarked paper, perforated 15x14.

.....

1934

Great Britain: First British Definitive Stamps by Photogravure.



The first British photogravure postage stamp was the brown penny-ha’penny value that was issued on 20 August 1934. The remainder of the set followed over a period, including the halfpenny illustrated alongside.

The stamps were described at the time as “enchantingly beautiful” in a British philatelic magazine.

.....

1935

Great Britain: Silver Jubilee Commemorative Stamps by Photogravure.



The Silver Jubilee of His Majesty King George V saw Harrison print their first commemorative set of stamps for Great Britain in Post Office counter sheets and in stamp booklets.

.....
Until 1997 Harrison: Supremacy in Photogravure Production.



Harrison maintained its supremacy in photogravure stamp production for dozens of countries around the world for more than sixty years. This ceased when De La Rue took them over and sadly eliminated the brand shortly afterwards.

It is generally accepted that Harrison had become a thorn in DLRs side because they had managed to take from them around five percent of the world's banknote production in quite a short space of time.

“Don't get mad, get even” seems to have been the policy of De La Rue!

(above) A lead seal used on consignments of stamps delivered to Harrison customers around the world.

.....

The Spread of Photogravure

Gradually, this process gained increased use

The listing below records the introduction of the photogravure printing process on stamps for the period up to and including mainstream use on definitives by Great Britain in 1934. A country is listed more than once in cases where they used more than one photogravure printer. Not every printer is recorded in the catalogues that I consulted, so an educated guess has been taken as to the likely company. These entries are preceded by the word "[Probably (name of printer)]".

The listing does not claim completeness, but serves to illustrate how photogravure gradually became a further process in the arsenal of techniques available to stamp printers across the globe. For me, the big surprise was its use by Waterlow as early as 1918 (War Savings stamps) and 1924 (El Salvador). I never appreciated that they had the capability at that time. 📄

<u>Year</u>	<u>Country using Photo.</u>	<u>Company undertaking the Printing</u>
1914	Bavaria	F A Bruckmann, Munchen (Munich), Germany
1918	Great Britain	Waterlow and Sons, London, UK [6d War Savings stamps]
1919	Czechoslovakia	Cartographic Section, Czecho-Slovak Army, Czechoslovakia
1920	Bulgaria	State Printing Works, Sofia, Bulgaria
1921	Great Britain	Harrison & Sons, London, UK. [6d National Savings stamps.]
1922	Monaco	Helio Vaugirard, France
1923	Egypt	Harrison & Sons, London, UK
1924	El Salvador	Waterlow and Sons, London, UK
1925	Egypt	The Survey Department of Egypt, Cairo, Egypt
1925	Saar	Helio Vaugirard, France
1926	Luxembourg	"Printed in Photogravure." [By what printer?]
1927	Netherlands, The	"Printed photogravure in Holland." [Probably Joh. Enschede]
1927	Romania	Helio Vaugirard, France
1927	Switzerland	"Printed photogravure in Switzerland." [By what printer?]
1928	Italy	Government Printing Works, Rome, Italy
1928	Romania	"Printed photogravure in Bucharest." [By what printer?]
1928	Switzerland	"Printed photogravure in Holland." [Probably Joh. Enschede]
1929	Liechtenstein	Vienna Kunstdruck, Vienna, Austria
1929	Russia	"Printed photogravure in Russia." [Probably State Print Works]
1930	Lebanon	Helio Vaugirard, France
1930	Liechtenstein	Rosenbaum Brothers, Vienna, Austria
1930	South Africa	Government Printing Works, Pretoria, South Africa
1930	Spain	"Printed photogravure in Spain." [Probably FNMT]
1930	Syria	Helio Vaugirard, France
1931	France	Helio Vaugirard, France
1932	Columbia	Government Printing Works, Berlin, Germany
1932	Liechtenstein	Chwala, Vienna, Austria
1933	Hungary	"Printed photogravure in Hungary." [By what printer?]
1933	Liechtenstein	Elbemuhl, Vienna, Austria
1934	Liechtenstein	Helio Courvoisier SA, La Chaux de Fondes, Switzerland
1934	Great Britain	Harrison & Sons, London, UK on all stamps to one-shilling. 📄

Dummy Stamps

Issue 12 "A look at British Dummy Stamp Material, with an Occasional Excursion Abroad" Winter 2008/09

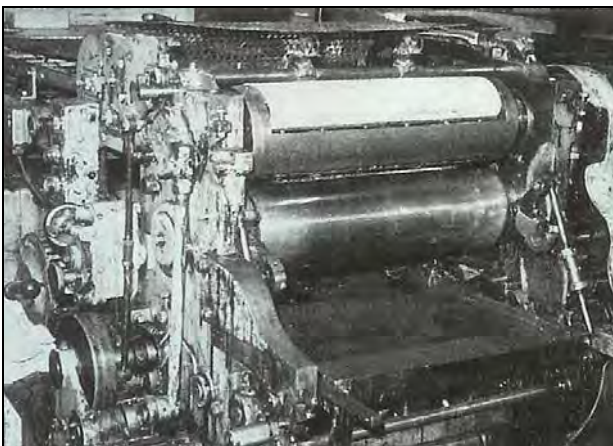
L&M Intaglio Presses

Attractive label design surfaces



A friend recently supplied me with an image of an interesting dummy label from L&M.

"L&M" stands for Line and Type Machinery Ltd and some considered these to be the best machines in the world at the time. Harrison used an L&M7 proofing press for its stamp work. ❏



A L&M7 proofing press at Harrison

The Spread of the Photogravure Process

Updated Document attached

I attach a revised final version of the document distributed with *DS11*. Please destroy the draft. ❏

"Patriots Maintain the Union!" Publicity Labels

Irish propaganda material proves to be popular

Harrison printed in / about 1912 a label by letterpress in orange ink (and other colours? Reports welcomed) that was of the same design as their publicity label of the period, but with the bottom panel having different wording.

These are very popular with Irish collectors of "The Troubles" – and not just stamp collectors - so they tend to sell for around 60 Euros when they can be located, which is not often.

This is similar in principle to what De La Rue did with its Minerva head design for French printing machine manufacturer Chambon, as reported recently in these pages. ❏



1935 Silver Jubilee Cards

Grover & Co publicity cards apparently exist

While reading Alistair Hackett's 1974 book *The 1935 Silver Jubilee Issue of Great Britain* I noticed mention of souvenir cards produced by Grover & Company, each bearing one of the four stamps.

No details were known by the author, so if anyone has an example I would like to be able to illustrate it/them here, please. ❏

The Harrison Jumelle (ex-Gemini) Press

Printing by Intaglio and photogravure in combination was feasible with this mighty printing press...



Undenominated labels produced on the Jumelle press at the time of commissioning trials.

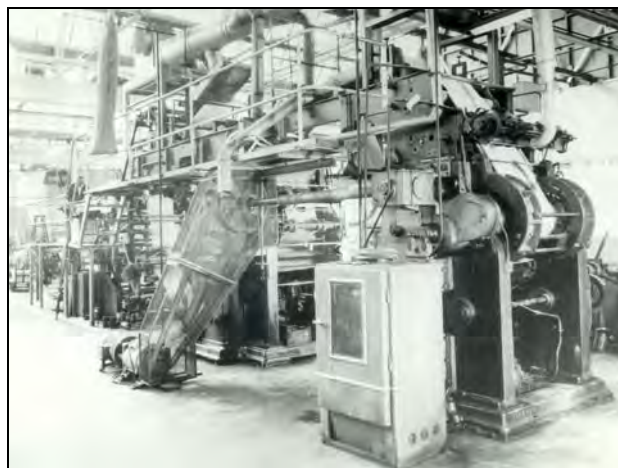
The Jumelle press was originally known as the Gemini, but had to change its title due to another product having this name.

The first stamp issue to be printed on this new press was the 1975 Sailing issue from Royal Mail. It had its teething problems and the black intaglio print was not as good as on later issues.



Sailing issue – PO publicity overprints by Harrison to corners of the stamps to invalidate them. These are actual stamps and are not from the press photograph.

It is understood that the press was eventually sold to an Indian commercial printer after the purchase of Harrison and Sons by De La Rue. 🏠



Three official Harrison photographs of the Jumelle press taken at High Wycombe in June 1974.

Die-Stamping at Harrison in 1966

The Battle of Hastings issue witnessed the start of a new embossing innovation on British stamps...

The 1960s was a period of intense innovation in British stamp issues generally and the Battle of Hastings set continued this trend by using a flat unembossed gold foil for the Queen's head for the first time, following its successful first-ever application by Harrison on a Gambia 'Founding of Bathurst' issue on 24 June 1966.

The Christmas issue for 1966 (another first) had a detailed embossed head, as seen on the testing piece shown below. There were some stamps that were missing this feature, but they were mainly created by collectors and dealers by using chemicals and it can be difficult for an untrained eye to identify these from any genuine missing foil stamps, a few of which do exist.



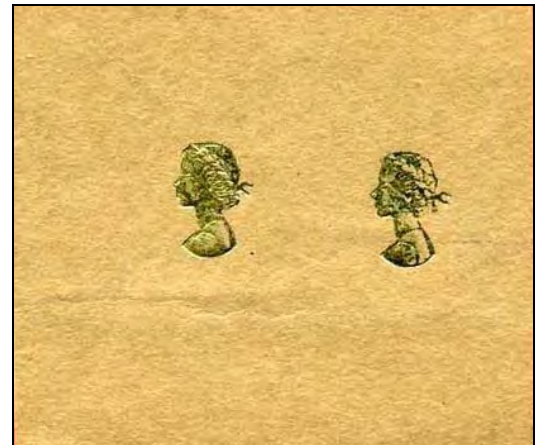
Stanley Gibbons 2005 *GB Concise* reads:

"MISSING GOLD HEADS. The 6d and 1s3d Hastings were issued with the die-stamped gold head omitted but as these can also be removed by chemical means we are not prepared to list them unless a way is found of distinguishing the genuine stamps from the fakes which will satisfy the Expert Committees. The same remark applies to the Christmas 1966 stamps."

Largely due to the cost, print volume, waste rate and difficulty of application of the foil blocking technique, Harrison developed a gold ink that could be applied as part of the printing process, rather than being a finishing function. This further 'first' was often printed in combination with an embossed head. 🏠



The Postmaster General, Edward Short, witnessing the embossing of the British Christmas stamps issue of 1966. Note the rolls of foil at bottom right of image. This gold foil working was applied by a Heidelberg platen press.



A pair of the Christmas 1966 gold foil blocked embossed heads struck on a sheet of plain brown paper during the testing period with George M Whiley Ltd., the foil manufacturers.

Did Harrison Print Stamps Before the GB 1910 Contract?

It continues to seem unlikely...

The British Postal Museum & Archive website www.postaheritage.org.uk has an entry in its catalogue (Ref. No. C1007/03/01-07, Finding Number F9718-F9722 & F9908-F9909) that I had not examined at the time of producing the Harrison Timeline attached to the previous issue of *DS*.

The file comprises an Oral History of the Post Office: Interview with Derrick Howlett (1929-), late of Harrison and Sons, that was conducted back in 2001. On the tape Derrick states:

"When someone walked into the St Martins Lane office [of Harrison] inviting tenders to print UK stamps (De La Rue printed them all at this stage), Harrison put in a bid based on the new photogravure technology they'd been experimenting with, *hadn't printed a single stamp yet*, didn't have the plant, but got the contract."

I now consider that there is sufficient written evidence to conclude this subject. ■

Birthday and Retirement Events Commemorated by Labels



Derrick Howlett (see above entry) had his 60th birthday commemorated by a mock pair of stamps that had been designed by Jeffery Matthews MBE in the style of the stamps issued to commemorate the Queen's 60th birthday.

In similar fashion, a 'One Rose' label, designed by David Gentleman was essayed by Harrison. It graced the menu of a dinner given by designers to Stuart Rose CBE and his family on his retirement from the Post Office.

Mr Rose had held the role of Design Director between 1968 and 1976 when he retired. His book *Royal Mail Stamps: a Survey of British Stamp Design*, published by Phaidon (ISBN 0 7148 2072 5) is a 'must read' for anyone with an interest in design generally and stamps in particular.

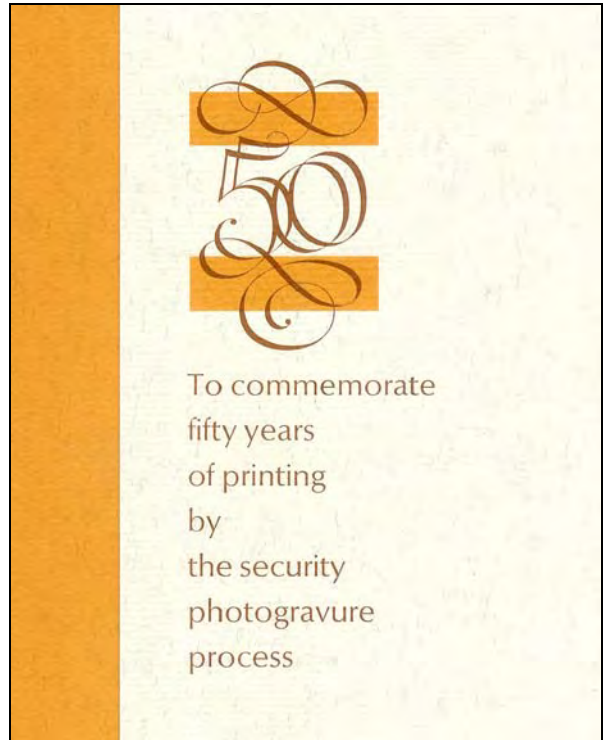
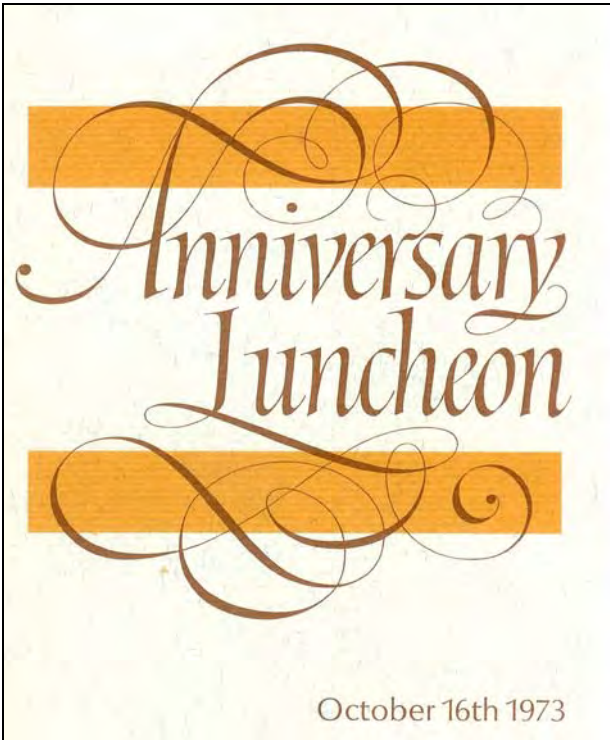


75 Years of Photogravure in Great Britain Falls this Year

An important anniversary that is probably destined to go unmarked...

The 50th anniversary of photogravure stamp printing was marked by an anniversary lunch hosted by Harrison back in October 1973 at Stationer’s Hall, London. An attractive menu card designed by Jeffery Matthews MBE was produced that included real stamps, including the first from Egypt by Harrison.

It is not expected that the 75th anniversary that falls this year will be marked in any way – unless Royal Mail has plans afoot for an as yet embargoed form of commemoration... 📄



(above left) An issued British halfpenny photogravure stamp. (middle) An imperforate 1923 Egypt proof. (above right) An issued 1923 Egypt stamp included on the menu card.

Updates *Further information on previous reports*

L&B Inks

DS5 listed Harrison Shakespeare labels on page two and frequently mentioned "L&B Inks".



I now have ascertained that the initials stand for Lorilleux and Bolton Limited of London. The company focused on producing inks that could be used for "special purposes" to quote an advert. 📄

Delacryl

The article contained in DS5 regarding Delacryl depicted an incorrect caption in column one of page four.

Unfortunately, Royal Mail got it wrong in the first place and I perpetuated the error!

The caption should read:

"Comparison between photogravure printing (top) and the Delacryl equivalent (bottom) at x17 magnification."

Thanks to Rein for being sharp-eyed enough to bring this error to my attention. 📄

What Might Have Been...

A new approach to
British Definitive
Postage Stamps

Designed by Jock Kinneir FSIA
for Stanley Gibbons Limited
and printed in photogravure
by Harrison & Sons Limited

Spring 1965
NOTE: The above are purely private productions and have not been
officially commissioned by the Post Office for authentic stamps.

Gibbons attempt to get pictorial definitives

At Stampex 1965, held between 19-27 March at the Central Hall, Westminster, London, Stanley Gibbons issued a sheet featuring ideas for a pictorial definitive series. These were later given away in copies of Gibbons Stamp Monthly.

The dummy stamp suggestions were designed by Jock Kinneir FSIA and were printed in blue on gummed paper by Harrison & Sons Ltd using the photogravure process.

Graham Wilson advises that there appears to be two different printings, one finer than the other.



Although nothing came of these ideas, they did help stimulate debate at a time when, unbeknown to most people, work was not far off being started on the ongoing Machin definitive series first introduced in 1967. A pictorial approach was clearly not deemed to be the way forward then. 📄

US Dummy News and Views

Download or view the equivalent American publication directly from this page...

In the past I have mentioned that I was inspired to create *Dummy Stamps* because of the American version that I had been sent by friend and compiler Terry Scott.

By clicking the left button of your mouse on whatever issue you require from the list below it is now possible to jump straight to the item chosen, so long as you are online and viewing this as a PDF, of course. From there you can view, print or save the newsletter. Be patient though, as there may appear to be nothing happening for a few seconds while the document is retrieved from the server. Enjoy! 📧



- Fall 2008 www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-13.pdf
- Summer 2008 www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-12.pdf
- Spring 2008 www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-11.pdf
- Winter 2007/8 www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-10.pdf
- Fall 2007 www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-09.pdf
- Summer 2007 www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-08.pdf
- Spring 2007 www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-07.pdf
- Winter 2006/7 www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-06.pdf
- Fall 2006 www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-05.pdf
- Summer 2006 www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-04.pdf
- Spring 2006 www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-03.pdf
- Winter 2005/6 www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-02.pdf
- Fall 2005 www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-01.pdf

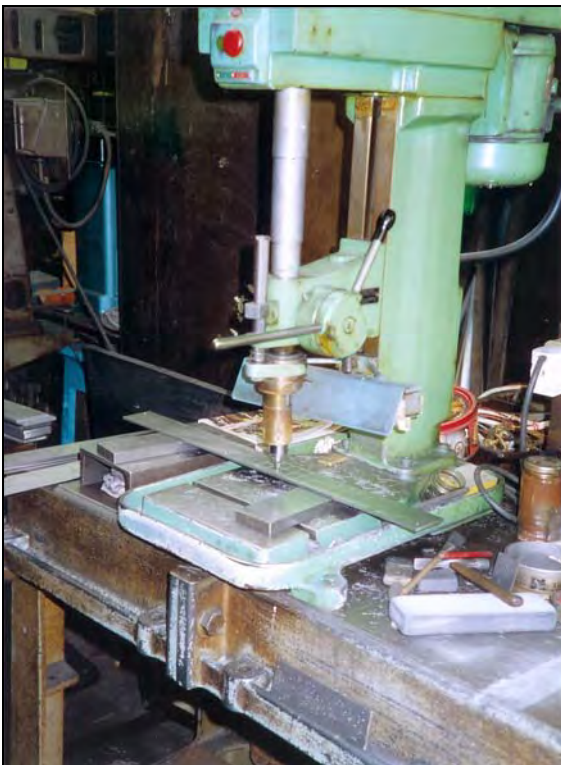
Dummy Stamps on Show at Spring Stampex, 2009

A chance to see some of the unusual material included within these pages...

Readers are invited to view a one-frame exhibit at Spring Stampex between 25-28 February at The Business Design Centre, Islington, London. Entitled *Harrison Dummy Stamps of King George V*, it tells the story of the early trial and development material produced in this era that was not intended to result in an issued stamp. This includes coil and booklet dummies and Harrison promotional and operational labels. 📧

Grover Perforators

Some shots of the engineering works before its closure...



I was lucky enough to visit Grover before it closed its doors forever and took these images depicting (clockwise from top left) drilling of the base plate, a general view of the factory, a single comb perforator with pins in place and a perforating machine minus its perforating plates.

Grover was merged into WISTA, a German manufacturer of perforating machinery. WISTA also took-over Bickel, who were also once famous for their perforating expertise. 🇩🇪



Grover Perforators

Continued...

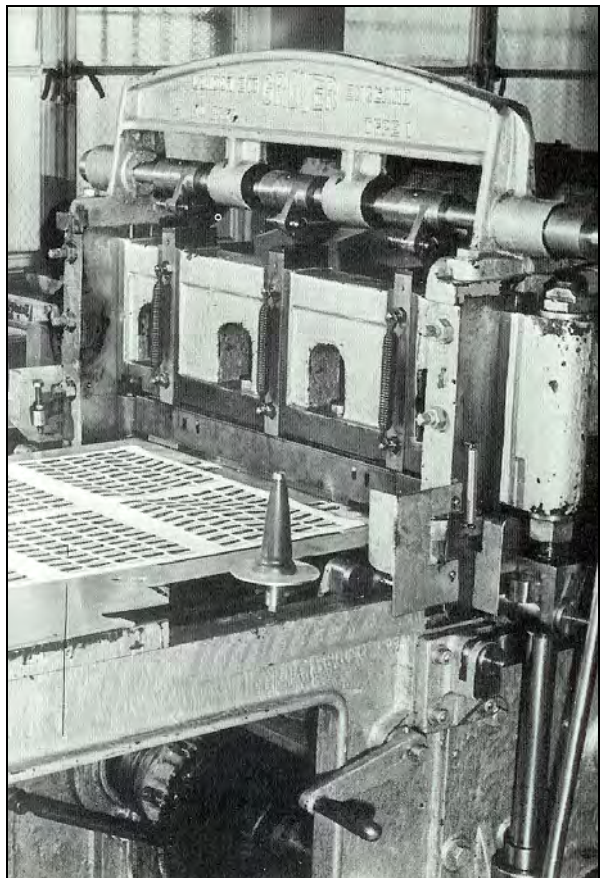


The GROVER
TYPE I. PERFORATOR
FOR BELT OR MOTOR DRIVE

Sole Manufacturers:
GROVER & COMPANY, LIMITED
BRITANNIA WORKS, CARPENTERS ROAD,
STRATFORD, LONDON, E.15
Telegrams: "Adopted, Phone, London." Cables: "Adopted, London, E.15"
Phone: MARYland 4342-3

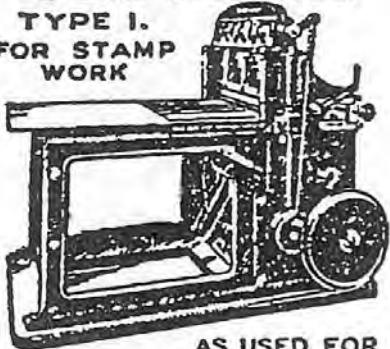
SPECIALISTS IN EMBOSsing AND PERFORATING MACHINERY

Undated flyer that promoted the Type One perforator machine.



The feed end of a Grover perforating machine.

THE GROVER PERFORATOR.
TYPE I.
FOR STAMP WORK



AS USED FOR PERFORATING THE STAMPS IN THIS BOOKLET.

Advert used in a dummy promotional stitched stamp book by Grover.

Note how it is the same image as on the labels below



Labels depicting an early coil perforator for stamps produced on the web exist in blue, red and green. Some of the red printing has a caramel coloured underprint sideways printed on the reverse, as depicted here at right.



Post & Go Comes to Britain

The successors to the 1980s Frama Royal Mail Postage Labels go live following trials...

There has been much publicity surrounding the recent launch of the Post & Go machines, soon appearing at a Post Office near you. For background to this Post Office Ltd project go to <http://postagelabelsuk.com/>

I am able to illustrate below three dummy items that are known during the lead-up to this new development, proving that dummy stamps continue to arise, even in the electronic age that we live in. I can also show here some pre-launch imagery that I took of the machinery with Wincor Nixdorf screen branding, rather than that of the Post Office.

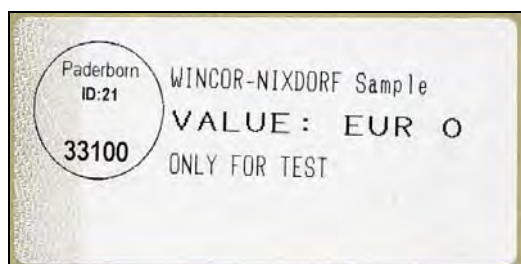
A purely personal opinion is that the Horizon counter labels will also have a design – perhaps of the Machin head? - in due course, as they currently offer little in the way of security other than the slits, being simply white unprinted labels.



National Federation of Sub-Postmasters Conference label, 9 June '08 on RM paper



PostExpo 2008 label, issued just prior to the 'go live' date for UK machines



Printed on Royal Mail security paper, this label is a Wincor Nixdorf test print.
Image courtesy Vince Patel

The labels are best collected with their receipt, as they include the unique details of the transaction - not that a receipt is always given from every machine at all times... 📄



"New" Harrison Material from the Reign of King George V

Discoveries continue to be made...

I have checked all of the documents listed in the Bibliography supplied with a recent edition of *Dummy Stamps* and sources elsewhere but none appear to have been recorded previously.

Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands Design.

A small version of this label is recorded by Robson Lowe, but this much larger design in three colours (at least) is not previously known.



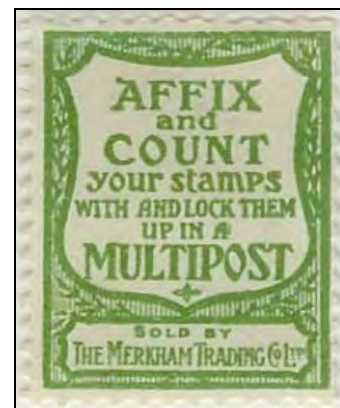
Intaglio (recess) Britannia with Trident Design in Black – Proof Pull on Thin Card

This design has previously only been recorded in red and blue colours by this printing process.



Multipost Label in Yellow-Green

Harrison printed this label for The Merkhams Trading Co. Ltd. Previously only known in red, this is also smaller than a traditional GB definitive.



Letterpress (Typography) Britannia with Trident Design in Blue

Previously only recorded printed by the intaglio process. See next page for full sheet of 25 labels.

"New" Harrison Material from the Reign of King George V

...continued



"New" Harrison Material from the Reign of King George V

...continued

Perforation Trial from 1911

The material that has been perforated would never have been used to print postage stamps, being of a very low quality and extremely fibrous and thick. Ungummed.



James William Harrison Label Design

These four labels have been printed in the colours adopted by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and were, for example, used on the British 1/2d (green), 1d (red), 1 1/2d (brown) and 2 1/2d (blue) stamp values. These are nothing to do with Paraguay, despite the wording implying otherwise. 📄



...and finally

I always welcome details of any new dummy finds from printers of British stamps, past and present, and so cordially invite you to drop me a line via the Guest Book facility provided on my website at www.stampprinters.info/guestbook.htm

Unfortunately, business, family and other commitments to the hobby mean that I cannot guarantee that I can rigidly stick to a publishing programme and therefore suggest that you go to www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm every so often where PDF files of this and all future and previous issues of *Dummy Stamps* will be available to download and print-off. Thank you.

Glenn H Morgan FRPSL

The Worldwide Spread of Photogravure Stamp Printing Between the Years 1914 and 1939

Use of this process soon became commonplace in many countries

This document records the introduction of the photogravure printing process on stamps for the period up to the end of the 1930s. A country is listed more than once in cases where they used more than one photogravure printer during the period covered.

The listing does not claim completeness, but it does serve to illustrate how photogravure quite quickly became a further process in the arsenal of techniques available to stamp printers across the globe. Perhaps the biggest surprise was its use in Britain by Waterlow & Sons as early as 1918 (on 6d War Savings stamps) and again in 1924 (for El Salvador).

<u>Year</u>	<u>Issuing Country</u>	<u>Name and Location of the Printing Company [Notes]</u>
1914	Bavaria	F A Bruckmann, Germany. <i>[These were the first photogravure stamps anywhere in the world.]</i>
1917	Mexico	Oficina de Hacienda, Mexico.
1918	Great Britain	Waterlow and Sons, UK. <i>[6d GB War Savings stamps.]</i>
1919	Czechoslovakia	Cartographic Section, Czecho-Slovak Army, Czechoslovakia.
1920	Bulgaria Württemberg	State Printing Works, Bulgaria. <i>[Name and location of printer?]</i>
1921	Great Britain	Harrison & Sons, UK. <i>[6d GB National Savings stamps.]</i>
1922	Morocco Romania	Hélio Vaugirard, France. F A Bruckmann, Germany.
1923	Egypt	Harrison & Sons, UK.
1924	Austria Netherlands, The Salvador, El	State Printers, Austria. Joh. Enschedé en Zonen, The Netherlands. Waterlow and Sons, UK.

.....

1925	Czechoslovakia	United Czech Printers, Czechoslovakia.
	Egypt	The Survey Department, Egypt.
	Libya	Hélio Vaugirard, France.
	Russia	State Printers, Moscow.
	Saar	Hélio Vaugirard, France.
	Syria	Hélio Vaugirard, France.

.....

1926	Luxembourg	Joh. Enschedé en Zonen, The Netherlands.
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.....

1927	Germany	State Printers, Germany.
	Romania	Hélio Vaugirard, France.
	Switzerland	NRM, The Netherlands. <i>[Screenless method devised by NRM.]</i>

.....

1928	Belgium	Sips and Catoir, Belgium.
	Italy	Government Printing Works, Italy.
	Romania	Filaret, Romania.

.....

1929	Liechtenstein	Wiener Kunstdruck, Austria.
	Russia	Goznak, Russia.
	Switzerland	Joh. Enschedé en Zonen, The Netherlands.
	Vatican City	IPS, Italy. <i>[Screenless method devised by NRM. The first ever Goebel reel-fed rotary. IPS purchased the first two Goebel reel-fed rotary presses]</i>

.....

1930	Belgium	Atelier de Timbre, Belgium.
	Lebanon	Hélio Vaugirard, France.
	Liechtenstein	Gebrüder Rosenbaum, Austria.
	South Africa	Government Printing Works, South Africa. <i>[Screenless method devised by NRM. The third ever Goebel reel-fed rotary.]</i>
	Spain	MAG, Spain.

.....

1931	France	Hélio Vaugirard, France.
	Norway	Emil Moestue, Norway.
	Switzerland	Hélio Courvoisier SA, Switzerland.

.....

1932	Columbia	Government Printing Works, Germany.
	Hungary	State Printers, Hungary.
	Liechtenstein	Chwala, Austria.
	Peru	Waterlow and Sons, UK.

.....

.....
1933 Liechtenstein Elbemuhl AG, Austria.

.....
1934 Great Britain Harrison & Sons, UK. *[GB stamps to one-shilling face value.]*
Liechtenstein Hélio Courvoisier SA, Switzerland.

.....
1935 Uruguay Barreiro y Ramos, Uruguay.

.....
1936 Japan State Printers, Japan.
Mexico TIEV, Mexico
Spain Olivia de Vilanova, Spain.
Spain Waterlow and Sons, UK.

.....
1937 Colombia Waterlow and Sons, UK.

.....
1938 Lithuania Spindulys, Lithuania.
Spain Orell Füssli, Switzerland.

.....
1939 Brazil Guanabara, Argentina.
Latvia State Printers, Latvia.
Slovakia Slovenska Grafia, Slovakia.

.....
DEFINITION OF GRAVURE (Photogravure/Computer-Engraved):

Until recently, collectors would have only encountered stamps that employed a photographic process in manufacturing the cylinders, but following the introduction of computer-engraved cylinders there was a need to differentiate, as photography is no longer a part of the cylinder manufacturing process.

Gravure printing uses fluid inks applied to the cylinder and held there in microscopic cells recessed into the plate/cylinder. Excess ink is removed with a doctor blade and the ink is transferred from the cells onto the paper. It is generally used for print runs of over ten million stamps and offers increased security due to its high set-up costs when compared to lithography. Although sheet-fed gravure is achievable, it is more normally web-fed printing that is utilised. [Photo]Gravure has been the mainstream process for British stamp production since 1934. 📷

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

This document could not have been revised and expanded from its draft copy to such a large degree had it not been for the kindness of Rein C Bakhuizen van den Brink, who supplied me with his researches made back in the mid-1970s. Thank you Rein. *Glenn*

FURTHER HELP:

Additions and corrections to this document are always welcomed.

Dummy Stamps

Issue 13 "A look at British Dummy Stamp Material, with an Occasional Excursion Abroad" Quarter 2, 2009

Eureka!!!

Wilding look-alikes surface on eBay

Look familiar? Then look again! The Eureka Printing Company is American in origin (possibly named after the town in California of the same name?), but did trade in the UK at one point.



These four imperforate, gummed labels from the 1950s are the only colours seen in many years of looking and recently were offered for sale by a major British stamp dealer on eBay at a price of £275. They were also seen on offer at Spring Stampex this year at the same retail price. ☒

Great Scott!!!

Sir Walter Scott label from Harrison

A British postal auction company recently offered a block of four of a label depicting Sir Walter Scott. With an estimate of £28, it went for that price when I had expected it to realise around £60, as £15 per label is the more usual price. Not that I have seen even a single on offer since 1980!

Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir_Walter_Scott states: "Sir Walter Scott, 1st Baronet, (15 August 1771 – 21 September 1832) was a prolific Scottish historical novelist and poet popular throughout Europe during his time.

In some ways Scott was the first English-language author to have a truly international career in his lifetime, with many contemporary readers all over Europe, Australia, and North America. His novels and poetry are still read, and many of his works remain classics of both English-language literature and of Scottish literature. Famous titles include Ivanhoe, Rob Roy, The Lady of The Lake, Waverley, The Heart of Midlothian and The Bride of Lammermoor."

The label is printed in black (the only recorded colour) on a shiny thick art paper and is ungummed. Harrison and Sons printed it around 1950, according to the lot description. The production method used is not obvious to me.

It is assumed that it was used for some internal production testing, as an ink sample in black only seems unlikely and it does not promote Harrison.



The quality of the image of Scott is, unusually for a Harrison production, not very well-defined.



Portrait of Sir Walter Scott by Sir Henry Raeburn (almost certainly the source image for the label)

Any further information that readers can offer about the use of this label would be appreciated. ☒

De La Rue 1955 label was reprinted a decade later

Unusual sheet overprint found in the private collection of a reader of Dummy Stamps

The launch of Thomas De La Rue AG Philatelic Services in 1965 saw the previously red sheet labels reprinted in blue. Could AG be the initials of Allan Grant of Rushstamps? I have only ever seen singles in blue sold by that company. Presumably plate 1A must also exist? Reports welcomed. ☒



Tullis Russell celebrates its 200th birthday this year

The Princess Royal launches celebrations

Tullis Russell Coaters Ltd is an international coating company. Formerly Tullis Russell Brittains and Tullis Russell Coatings, Tullis Russell Coaters is a leading manufacturer in the field of decal (transfer) papers, textile papers, stamp papers, visa papers, security papers, label face papers, educational papers and boards, coloured/inkjet films i.e. non paper substrates and a wide range of other speciality coated papers.



The Princess Royal visits the Tullis Russell Scottish paper plant

Over 120 security printers and postal authorities throughout the world are confident that anyone who tries to counterfeit their stamps will be detected.



They rely on **trusecurity** stamp paper from Tullis Russell, whose postage stamp paper is manufactured in a totally secure environment.

Functional enough to withstand the world's postal systems and continuously evolving, to keep ahead of the forgers, the water activated gums and the pressure sensitive adhesives are recognised as being market leading.



A souvenir sheet from Tullis Russell, paper makers and converters, in conjunction with Bacon and Bacon, intaglio engravers, was sold at their stand at *The Stamp Show 2000* and proved popular with those who were aware that it was available. It comprised 15 labels printed by four colour lithography, holography, intaglio, embossing and silver ink on 'Emperor Multi-Security' 102g/m² stamp paper.

The first label bears a **TULLIS RUSSELL COATINGS / 2000 / STAMP SHOW** intaglio overprint on the hologram, which was applied by hand at the exhibition, one sheet at a time.



A similar item to that above, but with the first label bearing a **TULLIS RUSSELL COATINGS / STAMP PAPERS** overprint on the hologram also exists.

This second version was overprinted in bulk away from the show and was designed to supplement the first printing, which by all accounts could not be overprinted fast enough!

With the 200th anniversary of the company currently being celebrated, it would be nice if a similar item was to be made available to interested collectors. ✉

Updates to items in previous issues of *Dummy Stamps*

Corrections to issue DS12

In true newspaper editor's style, I am hiding here on page four responses to my errors in *DS12*, hoping that most readers will not notice!! Actually, close attention should be paid to what follows.

Jumelle imagery was actually a Timson

In the previous issue on page two I illustrated three pictures of the mighty Jumelle press (previously known as Gemini), as once sited at Harrison.

Except that they were not of the Jumelle, but were of a Timson press "with a BMT stream delivery".

Readers far more knowledgeable than I am about printing presses, especially the ex-Harrison employees who responded, were able to correct me and I am happy to set the record straight here.

In my defence, the real photographs that I own of what I now know to be the Timson bear a June 1974 date on the reverse of each of them. I believed that it was the Jumelle simply because I had always understood that the Timson had been removed a fair time before mid-1974. In fact, I have notes on file stating that the Timson had been removed "by 1974", i.e. the end of 1973 at the latest.

I am advised that the Jumelle: "...was in fact a much smarter machine than those in your magazine. It consisted of seven photogravure units plus one recess (intaglio) unit which had three inking units (for three different colours of ink on the same design). It had a rotary perforator at each end, together with a sheeter and an unwind reel-stand also at each end.

The machine drive could be split at any point along the line of gravure units so it could run 2 colours (1 colour definitive + phosphor) at one end at the same time as up to 4 colours + phosphor + 3 colours of intaglio at the other end.

It could do reel to sheet at both ends and reel to reel (for definitives to be inserted into books) by running from one end to the other.

Each gravure unit had electrostatic assist to aid ink transfer and reduce 'speckle', a common fault with low pressure gravure units. Each gravure unit had its own drier, as did the intaglio unit.

The machine was designed and supplied by De La Rue-Giori and assembled by Koenig & Bauer at their factory at Wurtzburg in Germany. The gravure units were supplied to them by Andriotti of Ciprano, Italy. (Koenig & Bauer now own DLR-Giori). "

1975 Sailing Stamp Issue

Another mistake, well, misinterpretation really, occurred when mentioning the Sailing stamps issue.

I am informed that: "The Sailing issue was not the first to be run on Gemini. The press was commissioned in 1972 running definitives in duplex mode, without the intaglio unit in place. This unit was installed shortly before the Royal visit in 1972, when we ran the Silver Wedding stamps on the press in gravure."

Further correspondence revealed: "There were still teething problems with the new press so the printing was shared with the 5-unit sheet-fed Rembrandt Machine. The stamps are distinguishable according to Stanley Gibbons Catalogue."

The Sailing stamps claim to fame was that they were the first stamps to be printed by Jumelle in *combination intaglio and photogravure* processes on the same stamp.

Another correspondent writes: "Between 1972 and 1975 several multicoloured and single coloured definitives gravure-only issues were printed on the new Jumelle machine. The first issued stamps printed on the machine were two and a half pence magenta and the three pence blue, which were the 2nd class and 1st class stamps at the time (1972)." Which was printed first he has no recollection.

So, the good news is that far more of the story has now been told within these pages than had I not made the errors!

I am most grateful to the ex-Harrison readers who took the time to give the accurate information. ☒

"L&M" Intaglio Machine Manufacturer

I used the Internet to try and locate the meaning of the initials used by press manufacturer "L&M". My three sources were all apparently wrong.

I am told by a *DS* reader that: "The name of the manufacturer was in fact Linotype & Machinery and not as you state on page one.



L&M were a large company providing a wide range of printing equipment, especially the Linotype hot metal type casting machines. Gravure presses were a side-line for them." ☒

1937 Coronation souvenir labels

Philatelic Magazine shows what might have been

The 30th April 1937 issue of the defunct British stamp publication *Philatelic Magazine* explained how it undertook what it described as: "an experiment to demonstrate what might have been".

They commented on how it had, from time to time, been suggested that the UK should follow the example of other great nations by making her stamps pictorial. They believed that nobody had ever put forward concrete proposals because of cost and that the GPO make it clear in advance that they were against the idea.

The magazine commissioned an artist T A Chaplin to: "...prepare a series of 12 designs of the King's Regalia, completely finished and ready for reproduction."

A person of this same name was a member of Herts Philatelic Society and an entry on Google records him as having displayed Air Post stamps to fellow members in 1926. Could this be the same person, perhaps? If so, being a stamp collector might explain why he was the one chosen to undertake the design work.

With the artwork designs produced, the magazine approached Harrison to reproduce Mr Chaplin's designs by photogravure using the watermarked paper adopted for the then current issue of the Maldive Islands.

To recoup the costs of production, the magazine supplied stamp dealers at prices that enabled them to retail the set of 12 at 1/- (or 5p in decimal currency). According to the article, the labels exist in six colours, namely black, blue, brown, green, red and violet, i.e. 72 labels in total exist if all of the variations in colour were to be collected.

The May 2005 issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* illustrates on page 70 examples from a part sheet of 12 in orange. Could these possibly be of a previously unrecorded colour trial?

They are attractive dummy souvenir labels of the Coronation without a doubt, but they stood little chance of being accepted, for they allowed no space for the head of the King.

It was to be another three decades before anyone dared to suggest the removal of the head, when David Gentleman produced for the then Postmaster General, Tony Benn, a series of designs in what has become known as the Gentleman Album.

Within ten minutes of the essays having been seen by the Queen, a response of "the head remains" was received from the palace! ☒



The issued stamp



Mixed coloured set of the twelve Chaplin designs

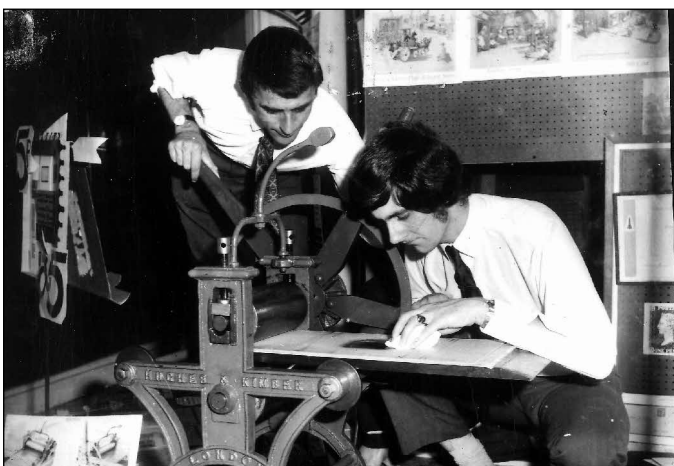
The regalia set of 12 designs depicts the St Edward's Crown, The Bible and the Crown, The Orb, The Ampulla, St George's Spurs, The Imperial State Crown, The Sword of State, St Edward's Staff, The Sword of Mercy, The Royal Sceptre, The Anointing Spoon and finally The Sceptre and the Dove.

Hinckley PS printed a Bradbury, Wilkinson essay back in 1971

Local stamp club created a unique demonstration of intaglio stamp printing in ex-haberdashery shop window!

On 8 May 1971, Hinckley Philatelic Society held an exhibition where copies of a Bradbury, Wilkinson dummy essay were printed in full view of the public using a die loaned to the society by the company.

A mere ten copies were pulled, one of which was donated to the Bradbury, Wilkinson archive, while the others were given away to members.



Excess ink being wiped off prior to printing



Printing one of twelve sheets (the first two were 'make ready' examples and were destroyed)

This was a real coup for the society and the full story makes for fascinating reading.

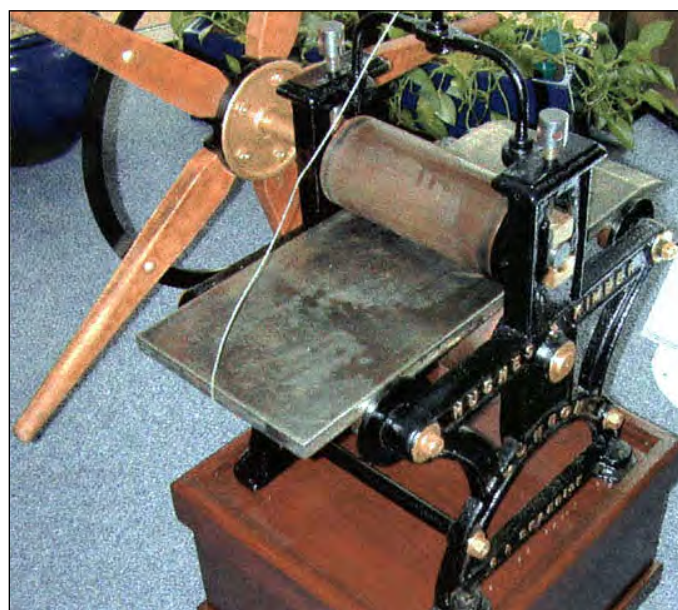
Thanks to the kindness of one of the collectors responsible for printing this essay at the time, namely Mervin W. Wallace, email subscribers to *DS* will be able to read further details in the attached supplement that Mervin has produced. ✉



Finished sheet with handstamps applied



Enlargement of the Bradbury, Wilkinson stamp essay



The Hughes and Kimber intaglio proof printing press that was used to print the essays

All imagery on this page is © Mervin W. Wallace, 2009

Thos. De La Rue at the British Empire Exhibition, 1924

Publicity label helped to promote Telenduron

A member of the National PS just happened to have bought an interesting label on the day that I last saw him. He showed me a publicity label for Thomas De La Rue at Walthamstow E17, a production site that I had never heard of previously.



Black and white photocopy of the label

Research by the new owner revealed the following information within *The House that Thomas Built*, the definitive story of De La Rue.

"In 1918, one of the director's of DLR (Stuart), "with fine abandon" acquired a collection of concerns, which bore no relation to each other, and none to DLR.

Included was a small plastics affair, (originally the property of two Germans).

Late in the 1920's, during a visit by a DLR representative to Bangkok, they obtained an order from the Ministry of Finance, and sold a quantity of Insulators (for telegraph poles) to the Siamese Post Office, which were to be manufactured at "the little plastics factory" in Walthamstow.

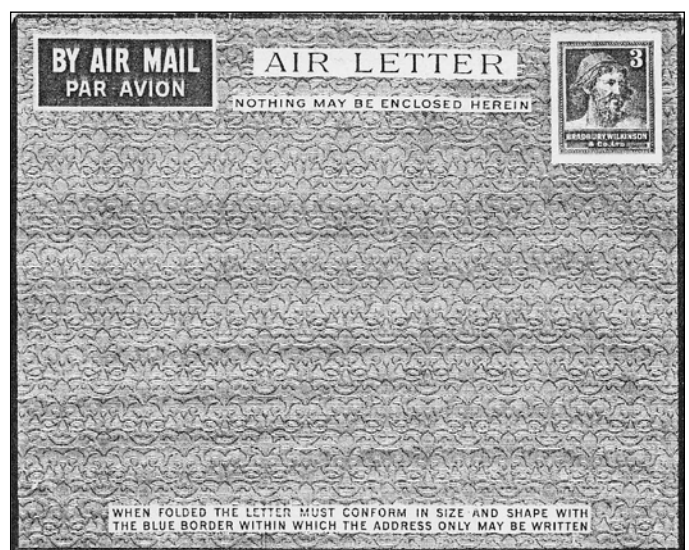
In the 1930's, DLR decided they must expand the plastic manufacturing side, so bought a ten acre site in Avenue Road, Walthamstow and built a new factory, thus Formica Ltd was born. One of their first orders, (via Plessey's), came from the Post Office for telephone mouldings." Thanks, Ray! ☒

Bradbury, Wilkinson Dummy Airletter Form

Robson Lowe collection reveals unknown airletter form

Thanks to a reader of *DS*, it has been possible to examine black and white photocopies of the Robson Lowe collection of Bradbury, Wilkinson dummy stamp material.

Much was known to me previously, but I was interested in seeing an airletter form that is along the same lines as the Letter Card illustrated in an earlier edition of *DS*. Accompanying text states that these two items of postal stationery were: "...sent out as samples to the various postal administrations".



Black and white photocopy of the airletter form

A hand annotation made to the page indicates that the so-called 'Ancient Briton' stamp design is printed in a vermilion coloured ink and that it was lithographed, whereas the stamp on the Letter Card was printed by the intaglio process and was printed in red ink. ☒

Harrison display wins gold medal

Spring Stampex one-frame competition success

Mention was made in *DS12* of the opportunity to view a 16-page display entitled "Dummy Stamps of King George V" at Spring Stampex 2009.

It won a gold medal for the exhibitor on its first outing and the judges commented that it was: "An excellent exhibit of an unusual subject". ☒

1975 Architecture Stamps Overprinted

Publicity samples produced for Post Office branches

In *DS12*, I illustrated the Sailing stamps issue with black bars overprinting the lower right hand corner of the stamps. I have now found examples of the 1975 Architecture stamps with a similar overprint.

I must reiterate that this is an overprint and not just a pen cancellation, which did happen on some issues supplied to Post Office overseas agencies.



These stamps were used in the black and chrome display frames once sited within Post Office branches at the time and if anyone knows of other issues that have been treated in this way, then I would welcome details please. ☒

Buyer Beware

eBay material can be dodgy!!

eBay is great and I have been a registered user for the past 11 years, securing many items that have given me much pleasure down the years.

Sometimes though, items are not what they seem and vendors may intentionally be creating material from their home computer or via a rubber stamp.



The above are typical of such dummies. Take a stamp or book of no particular value and apply a previously unknown SPECIMEN or PROOF overprint and you have something that will probably sell for much more than it would otherwise be worth.

Caveat Emptor, Buyer Beware, applies here. ☒

...and finally

I always welcome details of any new dummy finds from printers of British stamps, past and present, and so cordially invite you to drop me a line via the Guest Book facility provided at my website:

www.stampprinters.info/guestbook.htm

Unfortunately, business, family and other commitments to the hobby mean that I cannot guarantee that I can rigidly stick to a publishing programme and therefore suggest that you go to:

www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm every so often where PDF files of this and all future and previous issues of *Dummy Stamps* will be available to download and print-off. Thank you.



THE STORY OF THE HINCKLEY PROOF - The 1971 Luxembourg Essay

Bradbury, Wilkinson Essay Die

Barrie Cross and I printed only 10 proofs in full public view on 8th May 1971, and of these I have two of them, and the remaining ones to 7 other members, the final one went of course to Bradbury, Wilkinson and Company for their archives.



The printing of a Proof

In the window of one time haberdashery shop, Barrie and I crouched down for 1 hour on Saturday 8th May 1971 and printed the stamps. People gathered outside and watched as I prepared the die with special cleaning clothes and chemicals, inked the die with the special black recess printing ink sent by Bradbury, Wilkinson, and positioned a small square of special repro paper on the face of it. Barrie turned the large handle and then I peeled the printed proof from the die.

Perfect printing -

Each time we printed another proof the results got even better, and in all we only destroyed the first two copies, which though good were not perfect. We didn't want to send anything to Bradbury, Wilkinson that was not of the absolute highest quality, as we wanted to be able to keep the other 9 that were not destroyed as they had instructed us to do on grounds of inferior quality.

Forty or more years on and I can confidently say the project was and is still unique.



Above: I prepare the die for printing assisted by Barrie Cross.

The printing machine has since been donated to the Cockermouth Printing Museum



THE STORY OF THE HINCKLEY PROOF -
The 1971 Luxembourg Essay

The Thomas De La Rue Letter

Thomas De La Rue



THOMAS DE LA RUE AND COMPANY LIMITED

BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE, ENGLAND

TELEPHONE: 0256 29122

TELEX: 85621

CABLES: DELARUE BASINGSTOKE

24th March 1971

Mr. M. W. Wallace,
5, Farm Road,
Burbage,
Hinckley LE10 2PL

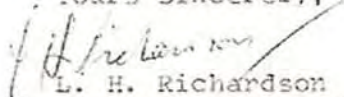
Dear Mr. Wallace,

We acknowledge your letter received today enclosing a photograph of a hand operated press. We return the photograph herewith.

These machines were used during the 18th and 19th century to print Banknotes with recess engraved plates. To operate the press the plate is first warmed and inked and then surface wiped leaving the ink in the engraving, damp paper is then placed on the plate which is made to pass between the two rollers under considerable pressure. Similar machines were used in the 16th century by artists to produce copies of their engravings and etchings. Within living memory these machines were used for proving engravings. There is no doubt that machines like this one were used to print early postage stamps.

We can't help you much about the cost of making a printing plate to suit the machine today. It might cost £100 or a lot more, we would suggest you approach a commercial engraver.

Yours sincerely,



L. H. Richardson
Training School Supervisor

Above: The letter from Thomas De La Rue, though not of help with printing from our press, did make a quite collectable letterhead from the company. Note the Thomas De La Rue watermark.





THE STORY OF THE HINCKLEY PROOF - The 1971 Luxembourg Essay

The Bradbury, Wilkinson Letter

18th October, 1971

**BRADBURY, WILKINSON & COMPANY
LIMITED.**

Dear Mr. Wallace,

NEW MALDEN, SURREY.

Thank you for your letter of the 8th October with reference to the essay die loaned to you for your exhibition.

We agree on the dies similarity to the stamps of Luxembourg but we have no record that this die was an engraving of this particular issue.

This die is not recorded in our books against any special job but is kept with our "stock" work. This usually means specimens of engraved work that can be submitted to clients - or to apprentice engravers - as examples of the engravers art. The die is some years old and we are unable to give the name of the engraver.

We are sorry we are not able to give you more precise details of this die, but trust you will agree it is a very fine example of the engraver's art

Yours sincerely,



The original Leicester Mercury photograph - 8th May 1971

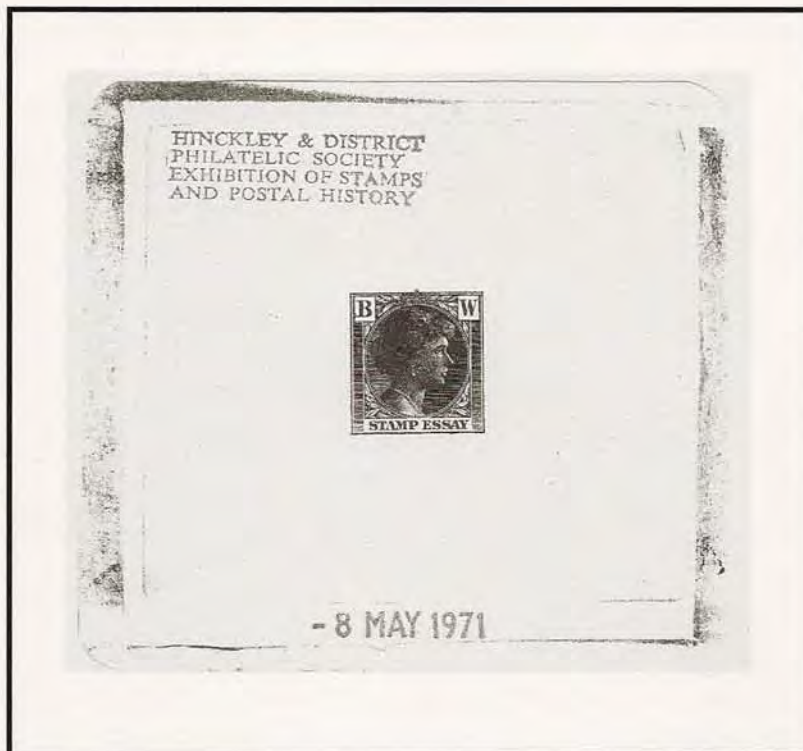




THE STORY OF THE HINCKLEY PROOF - The 1971 Luxembourg Essay The Printed Proof

LUXEMBOURG STAMPS

Sometime after producing the Stamp Proofs it was thought that the Original Die was of an Essay produced for stamps of Luxembourg*. Apart from the Crown and other minor differences the Essay and the issued stamps are pretty much the same. The detail in the engraving of the head of The Grand Duchess Charlotte is perfect and even better than the issued stamps - * I have since learned that the die was engraved by Bradbury, Wilkinson, and was possibly a test piece made with the permission from The American Banknote Company, and was used extensively for colour trials of 1953 Commonwealth Definitive Issues.



One of the two proofs I own of the original 10 that were printed.

Each proof sheet was printed on a White Chalk Surfaced Reprographic Paper
They were stamped in black with the title
HINCKLEY & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY EXHIBITION OF STAMPS
AND POSTAL HISTORY
Each sheet was dated - 8 MAY 1971



THE STORY OF THE HINCKLEY PROOF -
The 1971 Luxembourg Essay
The Printed Proof and the Bradbury, Wilkinson Letter

BRADBURY, WILKINSON & COMPANY
LIMITED. NEW MALDEN, SURREY.

Dear Mr. Wallace,

We thank you for your letter of the 20th April, together with the photograph of the old proving machine you have purchased. This photograph is returned herewith.

We now refer to your request for a recess plate (die) to be loaned from this company for use at your display in May. In the ordinary way we would not permit engravings to leave this company as we are very jealous of our reputation from a security point of view for all plates under own control.

However, as it is very evident from your letter that it would give you so much satisfaction to display your machine at your exhibition in May, we have agreed to loan you the enclosed "stamp" die with the proviso that prints from the die are not distributed to the public, but are destroyed when your exhibition is over. There are two reasons for this:

1. It could well be that some unsuspecting member of the public is prevailed upon to part with money for one of these prints.
2. It could well be that some of the prints you pull will not be up to the standard we would wish - and we would not wish our name to be associated in any way with poor prints!

Also, we would ask you to insure the die for £20 against its replacement value.

We are sorry to impose these somewhat stringent conditions but we are sure you will recognise the need for us to be careful with all the security material in our charge.

No doubt you are aware that the die has to be first wiped all over with "ink" and then the surplus printing ink cleaned off first with a coarse hessian and then a soft cloth (samples of which are enclosed) leaving only the ink in the recessed lines.

We enclose also a mount into which the die is placed otherwise the pressure of the roller dropping off the edge of the die would cause damage to both die and machine.

The pressure of your machine will press the proving paper into the recess lines transferring the ink to the paper and so giving you the desired print.

We will be pleased if you will return the die to us, under registered post, when it has served your purpose, and we wish your display every success.

Yours sincerely,

E.R. Smale

5th May, 1971





THE STORY OF THE HINCKLEY PROOF -
The 1971 Luxembourg Essay
The Grand Duchess Charlotte stamps of 1926



SG 245
5c Mauve



SG 246
10c Olive



SG 250
50c Red-Brown



SG 251a
70c Violet



SG 252a
75c Olive - Brown



The Grand Duchess Charlotte of Luxembourg
Printed Recess by The American Banknote Company
from dies engraved by
Bradbury, Wilkinson and Company Limited



THE STORY OF THE HINCKLEY PROOF - The 1971 Luxembourg Essay

Essay and Issued Stamp Comparison



THE LUXEMBOURG ESSAY AND 5c VALUE - A COMPARISON

Sometime after producing these Stamp Proofs it became obvious that the Original Die was of an Essay produced for stamps of Luxembourg in 1928 as a test piece only. The die was never used as part of the 1926 issue. Apart from the crown and other minor differences the Essay and the issued stamps are pretty much the same. The detail in the engraving of the head of The Grand Duchess Charlotte is perfect and even better on the essay than the issued stamps, a point that was also noted by Bradbury, Wilkinson themselves.

To loan the actual printing die was something that no other group has ever done, but to privately print stamps from it was, and still is quite unique.

CROWN

The crown on the issued stamp is larger than on the essay - made possible by the smaller head on the stamp.

VALUE TABLETS

On the stamp it is smaller than the area allowed on the essay.

LEAVES

The leaves between the two are different in style and look.

TYPEFACE AND BORDER

The typeface and size used for the country of origin is quite different to that used on the stamp which is a non-serif block shaded type whilst the essay has a serif face similar to Bodoni.

The border ladder panels at the side are wider and more pronounced on the essay.

As for the overall engraving - the style of the essay is bolder with more contrast in the head, whilst the stamp has a much softer look to it.



THE STORY OF THE HINCKLEY PROOF - The 1971 Luxembourg Essay Publicity after the event -

Hinckley commemorates the Penny Black

THIS BROCHURE IS A SPECIAL LIMITED EDITION OF 250 COPIES. DESIGNED AND PRINTED BY M. WALLACE. THIS COPY No. 

A HINCKLEY PROOF

The secretary of Hinckley and District, Leicestershire, remained, surprisingly, very loyal! For Mr. Stone left early about the general release of the Penny Black that was a special demonstration of the printing of a postage stamp on a printing plate.

It is noted with the assistance of the late Professor of the University of London (University) and John C. Stone (University) that the printing of the Penny Black was a special demonstration of the printing of a postage stamp on a printing plate.

And so it was in various conditions that Mr. Stone (secretary of the Leicestershire Leicestershire) remained, surprisingly, very loyal! For Mr. Stone left early about the general release of the Penny Black that was a special demonstration of the printing of a postage stamp on a printing plate.



1971

Hinckley group print and destroy stamps

Marie Cross (left) and Mary Westwood (right) printing the very first 1971 Hinckley & District stamp printing press. Photo courtesy Leicestershire Library.

HINCKLEY & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

1971



SPECIAL BOOKLET

On the only other occasion that a plate was made reproducing the Luxembourg Essay it was for a Special Limited Edition Booklet to commemorate 131 years of the Postage Stamp. The plate was made by producing a negative film from the original Stamp and Essay Proof. The film was then placed on an Anodised Aluminium Lithography plate which was then subjected to strong light and the image area hardened with the light. The offset plate was then inked and printed on Art Paper for the Booklet run of a limited 250 copies. Each copy was numbered and given out at the Annual Stamp Fair of the Hinckley and District Philatelic Society. Only a few copies now remain in my hands.

THE STAMP MAGAZINE ARTICLE

Soon after the event I contacted the Stamp Magazine who printed my own article exactly as produced in the booklet, complete with photograph.



Above part of the original negative film of the Luxembourg Proof - The Litho Plate and subsequent print -



THE STORY OF THE HINCKLEY PROOF - The 1971 Luxembourg Essay

The Story Continues -



The Hinckley Proof

The story continues - The first two really good proofs from the press are the ones in my own collection, and differ only in that one of sheets is smaller. As for the other 8 copies I do not know where any of them are now, except that following the return of the die and a single proof to Bradbury, Wilkinson, the company complimented me on the quality of the print.

I was once tempted to part with one of my copies when I offered it to the children's television programme director Biddy Baxter, of *Blue Peter*, this was for charity auction for *Children in Need*, the offer was never taken up.

As for the Hughes and Kimber printing press the machine was restored to its former glory after years of being kept in pieces at my place of work, and not since I had renovated it in 1971 had it looked so splendid. It now resides in the Printing Museum at Cocker mouth, following a brief spell in the foyer of the printing firm of Jarvis Porter, now closed, and who took over from Ferry Pickering Printers Ltd.

I did contact Bradbury, Wilkinson some months after the event to try and find out about the reason for the proof, and they had little information about it at the time. I have since deduced that the proof was probably made not by Bradbury themselves but by their parent company at that time, the American Banknote Company. The issued stamps were subsequently printed by the American Banknote Company, though quite how the proofs came to be here in Britain is still a mystery.

Bradbury, Wilkinson are alas no more, being swallowed up eventually into the De la Rue organisation, along with Harrison and Sons Limited.

Only on one other occasion was the original die proof made into a printing plate, and that was a Lithography Plate for a private printing of 250 copies of a Special Edition Booklet commemorating 131 years of the Postage Stamp - The Penny Black.

The Luxembourg Stamps

As for the issued stamps themselves, there are 27 in the Grand Duchess Charlotte issue of 1926. Two values were printed in black, the 15c and the 1 franc, and the proof differs from the issued stamps in a number of ways. However the Essay Proofs are far better quality prints than the issued stamps.

I have never displayed the complete story of the Luxembourg Essay, and only on a small number of occasions have I shown the proofs in public.

The event will never happen again, and I hope the exhibition pages do justice to the story of this unique event from all those years ago.



THE STORY OF THE HINCKLEY PROOF - The 1971 Luxembourg Essay

The Bradbury, Wilkinson 'Dummy' stamps



DETAILS FROM THE BRITISH EMPIRE CATALOGUE - LONDON 7th JULY 1987:-

BERMUDA - For the 1953 Definitive Issue

Die printed in Olive-green, Red, Blue and Emerald

GRENADA - For frame colours for 1953 Definitive Issue

Die printed in Brown, Deep Emerald, Sepia, Deep Violet and Reddish Purple.

MONTSERRAT - For the 1953 Definitive Issue

Die printed in Black, Grey-Black, Green, Orange-Brown and Chestnut.

NEW ZEALAND - For the 1953 Definitive Issue

Die printed in Slate Green, Lake-Brown, Myrtle-Green, Dull Vermilion and Blue.

All of the above had a reserve price of £200 each, and it is not known what they sold for or to whom.
I am grateful to Mr. J. Parsons for the information [see full letter].





THE STORY OF THE HINCKLEY PROOF - The 1971 Luxembourg Essay

The Stamp Magazine Article and Letters

A Hinckley Proof

The townsfolk of Hinckley and District, Leicestershire, witnessed something very unusual last May. Some 131 years after the general release of the Penny Black they saw a special demonstration of the printing of a stamp from an engraved plate.

It all started with the determination of the two Founders of the Society, Mervin Wallace (Secretary) and Barrie Cross (Archivist). After renovating a Hughes & Kimber Press, dated around 1840, they decided to write to all the postage stamp and banknote printers in Britain, in the hope that one would sell or loan a test plate for no other reason than to try out the machine. Then with just one week left of the Society's display in the shop window of a member, John Noon, all seemed lost and the machine sat in full view, forlorn, in its state of disuse for over 100 years. However, the course of local history was changed when on 6 May a registered parcel arrived from Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co Ltd, New Malden, Surrey, accompanied by a letter from Mr E. R. Smale, who explained that it was not at all normal for a security printing company to part with plates—not even on loan—for many obvious reasons, such as the cost of the plate, the print obtained from the plate—last its quality imply had engraving not up to the usual high standard of the company in question.

And so it was on certain conditions that Mr Wallace (printer) and Mr Cross (composer) were able to give the public a rare exhibition of printing black die proofs obtained by the masterpiece of engraving, to which local press reports exclaimed, 'Hinckley Society print stamps and then destroy them'. People who watched with interest came into the shop and asked if they could purchase the proofs, with offers of up to £5.00 per copy, only to be told 'We are terribly sorry but we are not at liberty to sell them and they will all eventually have to be destroyed'. Even though the proofs obtained were perfectly printed, Messrs Wallace and Cross acceded to the letter accompanying the materials and plate, even to the extent of insurance for £200 to cover theft, loss or damage.

To the Society, it was an event so unique that it will be talked about with a sort of schoolboy excitement for many years; to the public it was a chance of a lifetime to see how postage stamps were printed in the days of their grandfathers, and for Bradbury, Wilkinson & Company, it was a tribute to an extremely skilled craft in the world of printing and philately.



Ref: AB/EGB/SM



22 July 1971



Link House
Dingwall Avenue Croydon 1
CR9 2TA
Telephone 01-686 2599
Telegrams
Aviculture Croydon

Dear Mr. Wallace,

Thank you for the interesting details, and photograph about your printing activity on behalf of the Hinckley and District Philatelic Society. Congratulations on such a good publicity idea.

I should like to give further publicity to the good cause by using your photograph and story in the Stamp Magazine. We have gone to press with the August issue, so your news would appear in the September issue, out at the end of August.

Would you please clarify three points:

- (1) To whom do we give credit for the photograph.
- (2) Will other philatelic magazines be publishing this story before we do.
- (3) Have you a photograph of the impression pulled from the press.

Yours sincerely,

EGBm co

pp Arthur Blair
Editor

LINK HOUSE PUBLICATIONS LIMITED,
CENTRAL LONDON OFFICES,
19-21 SOUTH CRESCENT, STORE STREET, LONDON, W.C.1. TELEPHONE: MUSEUM 9787

9 September 1971

Dear Mr. Wallace,

I am now returning the stamp essay which we shall be illustrating in the October Stamp Magazine, together with the photograph and news item.

A photograph of your stamp essay is enclosed with compliments.

Yours sincerely,

Arthur Blair

Arthur Blair
Editor

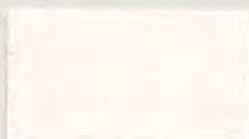
Stamp Magazine printed my article in full in the October 1971 edition and included the photograph of the essay.





THE STORY OF THE HINCKLEY PROOF - The 1971 Luxembourg Essay

The Letter from Mr. J. D. Parsons



Dear Mervin

I thank you for your letter of the 11 April and think you did very well to borrow a Die from Bradbury Wilkinson. I remember a conversation with Harry Mears, Head of Stamp Printing whilst they still had a good share of the market in the 40's to the 60's, Keeper of the Royal Collection, John Marriott said "Harry, I would love a die print of the first Falklands Head Type, as submitted for the Surface Printing Contract in 1879 ex Griffiths for the Royal Collection".

Harry - "No chance I'm afraid". He never let on that he had the Die in his left hand drawer of his desk at the time.

The BW Essay produced in 1928 was the last Dummy stamp specifically to show the excellence of their work to prospective buyers. It is not known if BW sought or required permission to print a design closely similar to the American Bank Note Co. stamp printed in 1926. The only time the proofs were used was as colour sample proofs for the new Elizabeth stamps of 1953. I have only seen four different countries and the colour proofs were mostly low values.

Details from British Empire Catalogue London 7 July 1987:-

2T (P) Bermuda (5) in olive-green (1/2d.), in red (2d., additionally marked "Border") in blue (4d. additionally marked "Iceland Blue"), in emerald (4-1/2d.) and in brown (2/-). Photo £200

Note: These proofs were prepared for the 1953 definitive issue.

3T (P) Grenada (5) in brown (1/2c), in deep emerald (1c), in sepia (2c), in deep violet (5c.) and in reddish purple (12c.) £200

Note:- These proofs were prepared for the frame colours of the 1953 definitive issue.

- 1 -

Cont...

4T(P) Montserrat (5) in black (1c.), in grey-black (1c. crossed through in pencil), in green (2c.), in orange-brown (3c., dated "Feb. 11th 1953"), and in chestnut (3c., crossed through in pencil) £200

Note:- These proofs were prepared for the 1953 definitive issue.

5T(P) New Zealand (5) in slate green (1/2d., crossed through in pencil), in lake-brown (1-1/2d., crossed through in printing ink), in myrtle-green (2d., crossed through in pencil), in dull vermilion (3d., crossed through in pencil) and in blue (4d., torn at lower right) £200

Note. These proofs were prepared for the 1953 definitive issue.

Once colours had been agreed with the issuing country and/or the Crown Agents, they would be placed in a guard book and checked as a guide when subsequent printings were made.

Notes in pencil were made tying each colour to a value in the new issue and this was then cross indexed by number in Bradbury's records - only low values seem to have been printed in this respect.

Yours sincerely

J D Parsons

The letter explaining the use the die was put to by Bradbury, Wilkinson and pictured three of the colour proofs.





THE STORY OF THE HINCKLEY PROOF - The 1971 Luxembourg Essay

The Hughes and Kimber Line Engraved Proof Printing Press



Dummy Stamps

Issue 14 "A look at British Dummy Stamp Material, with an Occasional Excursion Abroad" Quarter 3, 2009

Mystery demonstration label

Could this be a new British dummy discovery?

The label depicted here was purchased from an on-line auction site recently and has never been seen by me previously, not in over 40 years of researching this type of material on a worldwide basis.

It was simply described as a "British testing label" and it probably is due to its perforations (15 x 14.5) and general "feel" and appearance.



The label and extra enlarged portion to highlight the mystery "C" logo design in bottom left quartile.



The largest recorded multiple is this block of nine labels. Marginal copies remain unknown.

American contacts tell me that due to the perforations it is not likely to be of US origin.

The wording is all in UK- / US-English, i.e. there are no words that are spelt differently in these two countries that could have possibly provided help as to its origin.

The only potential clue as to the producer of the label lies in the bottom left quartile, where an ornate letter "C" appears. Could this be the logo of a long-forgotten company in the printing sector? I am unaware of a company name beginning with a letter C that might be a contender, despite extensive searching.

That said, there is a small possibility that it might have something to do with the Chambon Machine Company of France, as they did have involvement with Harrison and De La Rue for many years, but

use of this type of logo has not been confirmed by the company, which still exists as part of Komori.

The labels are printed approximately in the colour of old British 1/2d stamps and they appear to be printed by the photogravure printing process. They are on unwatermarked paper with crazed cream gum.

Copies were selling for US\$7 each as singles, but I struck a deal on a block of nine, the only block on offer. The only two singles being sold were also purchased. Eleven copies would therefore *appear* to be all that are known at this point.

It is highly appropriate that they are very well centred copies in view of the printing and perforating operation that the labels were promoting.

As ever, any help that readers can give that will add to the story of these interesting labels would be much appreciated. ☒

Questa Proof in Gutter Pair

A previously unrecorded format surfaces on eBay



In a previous issue of *DS*, I illustrated a Questa proof impression of the 1991 24p Christmas stamp.

I am now able to illustrate a gutter pair format that is previously unrecorded from the trial printing that was produced to prove to Royal Mail the quality of output that was achievable by Questa. ☒

Jagger Mystery Label

Any ideas?

A reader submitted this image of a label depicting Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones. The question is whether it was produced as an essay for a genuine stamp, a dummy printing label by a stamp printer or perhaps it was simply a "fun" item created by a Jagger enthusiast or as a record label publicity item?



It comes in sheets of 50 labels, is ungummed and its perforations do not correctly butt-up vertically in a couple of rows. Can anyone help, please? ☒

Waterlow Receipt label

An unusual find

The scans depicted below are of a Waterlow & Sons invoice from their Counting House in Great Winchester Street, London and dating from 1911.

Addressed to Messrs Challinor and Shaw, Solicitors of Leek, it bears an interesting and previously unknown (to me, at least) label reading "RECEIVED FOR / WATERLOW & SONS / LIMITED / £_____" and bears a unique number, in this case 37858. '£5:16:6' has been hand inserted and it is signed and dated.

Looking at the enlarged scan of the label, you could be excused for thinking that the printing process must be intaglio. It is not, as the surface is totally flat without any of the tell-tale signs of a tactile feel to the printing.

The label bears an overprint of an orange ONE / PENNY tax stamp, so there is something for the revenue, ephemera, stamp and Cinderella collector making this an interesting item for several different types of collector! ☒



Major New Series About Coil Testing Labels of Great Britain

A start has finally been made!

For a long time now, I have been wanting to produce a series of papers on the various types of coil testing label used within Great Britain, one per type.

The following list is what I am intending to write about and if others have been missed, then they will also be produced in due course. This is a major project that is intended to put to bed some of the errors that have been perpetuated down the years and which have eventually been accepted as "fact", despite the erroneous nature of some of the information.

I have utilised the official records held by the British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) when available (the 'thirty year' rule applies to some of the official files) and there are already some revelations contained within the papers produced so far.

I will not be producing these documents in strict chronological order. Those listed below with an asterisk before the title have been completed already and can be downloaded now from my website at www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm

Introduction and any Pre-KEVII era labels

1910+ KEVII to KGV De La Rue blank labels

1910+ KEVII to KGV Harrison blank labels

1910+ KEVII to KGV Waterlow blank labels

1911 KEVII 'CANCELLED' vertical delivery green and red labels

1924-9 GVR British Empire Exhibition and the PUC vertical delivery labels

Dummies are not thought to exist, so a paper may not be produced

*1935 GVR St Andrew's Cross vertical delivery green labels (three pages)

*1936 GVR green 'poached egg' vertical delivery green labels (seven pages)

1937 KGVII watermark FTPO vertical delivery grey-black labels

1938 KEVIII watermark FTPO vertical delivery grey-black labels

1952 QEII Tudor Crown watermark FTPO vertical delivery grey-black labels

1955 QEII St Edward's Crown watermark FTPO vertical delivery grey-black labels

*1957 QEII Scouts double-size FTPO vertical delivery red labels (six pages)

1958 QEII Multiple Crown FTPO vertical delivery grey-black labels

*1962 QEII Multiple Crown FTPO counter sheet-printed red labels (four pages) (Not coils, but so closely allied to the Scout issue, they are included here)

*1967 QEII no-watermark FTPO horizontal delivery grey labels and blank horizontal delivery labels for Type G coil machines (ten pages)

*1970 QEII Decimal training labels in counter sheet format (three pages) (Not coils but included here as the issued stamps did appear in that format)

1989 QEII Greetings stamp coil for *Sunday Times* postcard promotion

1990+ QEII blank vertical delivery labels

Affixing machine makers - branded coil publicity labels

Printers - DLR branded coil publicity labels

Printers - Enschedé branded coil publicity labels

Printers - Harrison branded coil publicity labels

Printers - Questa branded coil publicity labels

Printers - Walsall and Cartor branded coil publicity labels

SVM Makers - Such as Associated Automation and Hillday Leasing

Use of Post Office Coil Testing Label Design by Other Users

As will be seen, six papers have already been completed (comprising 33 pages). Some others have been started and I hope to issue at least one or two with each new issue of *DS*. ☒

Sir Walter Scott Update

Harrison does not appear to have had any involvement

In *DS13*, I depicted a block of four Scott labels and, based on three different dealer's listings, attributed them to Harrison, commenting that the quality of the head design was not up to their normal standard. That should have been enough to set the alarm bells ringing.



A reader kindly drew my attention to an article within the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* that explains who would appear to have actually produced the label. From *PJGB*, Volume 89 (4), December 1979, page 88, we learn the following:

THE WALTER SCOTT DUMMY STAMP

The letter from Mr. F.E. Dixon which appeared on page 62 was accompanied by an illustration of this stamp. Therefore we referred our enquiry to Drew Watt the Production Manager at Woods asking him to enquire of various ink suppliers. His first enquiry was a lucky one for Drew received a letter from Mr. J. Moore, Head of the Printing Department of Croda Inks Ltd.

"The block was found in our old Granton factory about 1952 among some old blocks. It was probably engraved between 1930 and 1939 possibly by Hislop & Day, Edinburgh, who made blocks for Flemings. The block is mainly used for testing ink tint colours for cheque printing and fugitive inks. It is the only stamp block we have."

A full sheet has been seen and so we now know that the format is eight stamps across by four stamps high, with no marginal markings. ☒

How 'Dummy Stamps' is produced

A response to questions posed by readers

Within a day of each other, I received two questions as to what software I use to produce *DS*.

Until issue 12, the answer would have been *Word for Windows 2007*. However, from issue 13 onwards I have been using Serif Europe's *PagePlus X3 Publisher Professional 2008*.

It seems to me to be quite a powerful package and has coped with all that I have asked of it so far, but does not require that you take a degree course in computing before it can be used!

It costs about £57 on Amazon UK's website. ☒

London 2010 Stamp Exhibition

It's now just a few short months away....

Be sure to put this major stamp exhibition into your diary now, as it is only held once a decade. ☒

London 2010
International
Stamp Exhibition

LONDON
2010
FESTIVAL OF STAMPS

2
WALTER SCOTT

3½
POSTAL UNION CONGRESS LONDON 1929
THREE HALFPENCE

3½
POSTAL UNION CONGRESS LONDON 1929
THREE HALFPENCE

3½
POSTAL UNION CONGRESS LONDON 1929
THREE HALFPENCE

From 8 to 15 May

The Business Design Centre
52 Upper Street, Islington
London N1 0QH

www.london2010.org.uk

...and finally

I always welcome details of any new dummy finds from printers of British stamps, past and present, and so cordially invite you to drop me a line via the Guest Book facility provided at:

www.stampprinters.info/guestbook.htm

Unfortunately, business, family and other commitments to the hobby mean that I cannot guarantee that I can rigidly stick to a publishing programme and therefore suggest that you go to:

www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm every so often where PDF files of this and all future and previous issues of *Dummy Stamps* will be available to download and print-off. Thank you.

Dummy Stamps

Issue 15 "A look at British Dummy Stamp Material, with an Occasional Excursion Abroad" Quarter 4, 2009

Christmas coil labels

A new British dummy discovery?

Pride of place this issue goes to a coil stamp strip that implies it is British by the inclusion of the silhouette head of Her Majesty and "1st" NVI wording, but American or Canadian by the imperforate top and bottom edges. It's owned by a reader of *DS*.

I have a theory that it could be Canadian AND British at the same time, but seek confirmation from any reader more knowledgeable than me.



The House of Questa was once owned by MDC, a Canadian company who also owned the American and Canadian stamp printer Ashton Potter at the same time. This was prior to HoQ being taken-over and absorbed into the mighty De La Rue.



Readers may recall from an earlier issue of *DS*, that Ashton Potter produced so-called Sellotape stamps in self-adhesive format and that these were



shown to Royal Mail through HoQ in the hope that they would be adopted. There is the possibility that a similar thing happened here. The date is unknown, but could they be part of an early trial that eventually reduced Christmas stamps to definitive size? ☒

Foiled!

Reprints of issued stamps in printing advert sheet

A reader of *DS* has kindly supplied scans of two interesting examples of gold foiling first used by Harrison and Sons on postage stamps in 1966.

The first is of the GB Christmas stamps. Note how the Queen's head blocking on the publicity item is different to that used on the actual stamps, possessing detail that is lacking on the issued stamp.



Issued 3d at left (with missing T from T Shemza on second stamp) and the printed pair with different blocked head at right.

The second item is of the Ascension BBC Relay Station set (issued stamps are not owned, so I am unable to tell if the foiling is different).



I am told that the items were used to advertise Heidelberg's then new foil blocking platen press.

The special sheet was given away with a magazine printed in Leicester by printers Raithby Lawrence called "The British Printer".

The paper was made by Samuel Jones and was a high quality esparto art and the foil was made by George Wiley & Company. Harrison and the Post Offices of Ascension and GB presumably allowed these lithographic reproductions to be produced.

The embossed detail on the Queen's head is to a much higher standard than on the issued stamps, which were subject to numerous problems of application owing to the newness of the process.

The size of the Ascension stamps x2 is 6.75cm x 4cm, while the British Christmas issue measures 6cm x 3cm approximately. ✉

Foiled again!

What is the background story to this item?

While on the subject of foiling, the image below is of a British £1 Machin definitive in gold foil.



Is it a dummy stamp of some kind, or simply an impression intended for use on, say, a stock book cover?

The owner would welcome further information, please. ✉

Find me on Flickr

glennmorganuk image database goes live

I have recently made a start on uploading to Flickr any imagery of a philatelic nature that I have taken down the years - not stamps and the like, but items, events and places of relevance.

Some stamp production related images are included, but due to the security nature of printers it is rare to be able to take photographs inside their premises, or they are copyrighted images, so do not expect too many!

At present the 300+ photographs already uploaded are primarily of stamp vending machines (including the new Post&Go units), letter boxes and allied postal subjects, TSS2000, etc. To follow will be pictures of stamp exhibitions that I have attended around the world.



Unfamiliar with the concept of Flickr? It is the world's most popular photo management and image sharing website. Enter the following URL into your favourite browser

www.flickr.com/photos/48015769@N00

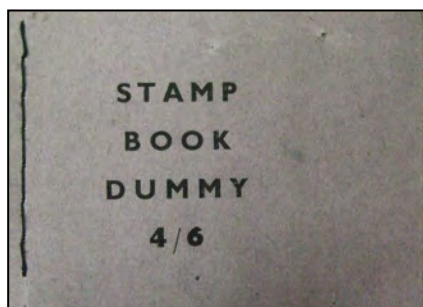
and you will be taken straight to my photostream **glennmorganuk** which is sorted by folders such as "Stamp Production", "SVMs", "Post&Go" and "Letter Boxes". Then store the page as a Favourite for future ease of access.

I have given permission for all imagery to be downloadable for personal use if required, so do have a look round.

If you possess any stamp printing imagery that you own the copyright to and wish to add to the database, then email the pictures to me and I will upload them to my site for all to see. It could build into a useful repository of stamp production imagery over time with your help. ☐

"New" Dummy Booklet

BPMA files contains previously unknown 4/6d booklet



250 copies of this lavender coloured booklet were produced by Harrison in April 1963 for the Post Office. Unknown in collections. ☐

Tesco Envelope Sample Indicia

Get a pack while they last...

British supermarket chain Tesco is currently selling packs of five DL-sized envelopes with pre-paid indicia on them. I consider them to be overpriced.



The cover sheet that bears product details and barcode on it also has a Machin stationery indicia over-printed SAMPLE. It additionally incorporates the otherwise near-invisible phosphor bands.

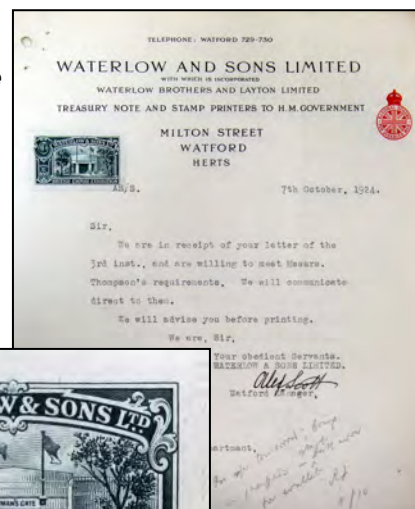
OK, so this item is probably a little to one side of many of your interests, but British readers could use four of the five envelopes for postal purposes and just retain a single copy, plus the cover sheet and its protective clear pocket, as I have done.

It is not known for how long these items will be available, so it may be best to purchase your requirements as soon as possible and to bear in mind that smaller branches probably do not stock them.

Note: WHSmith's are also selling this product in its own packaging, but be aware that the cover sheet does not bear a SAMPLE indicia. ☐

Waterlow Labels used on its Letterheads

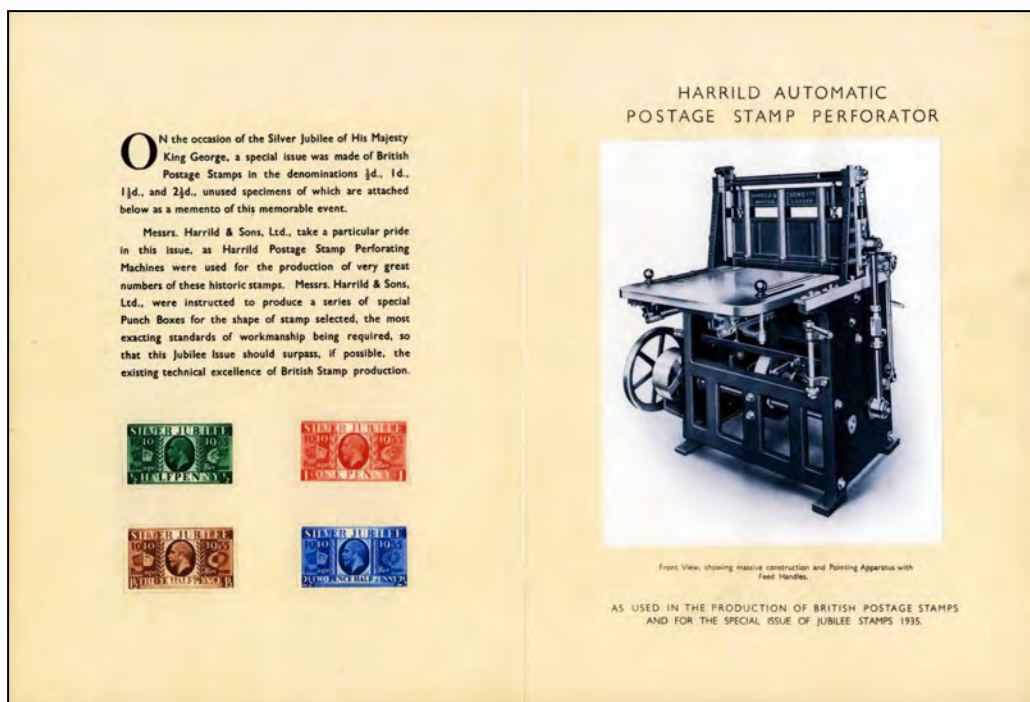
The Postman's Gate labels appeared on printer's stationery in 1924



Harrild Automatic Postage Stamp Perforator

It was previously assumed that Grover had perforated the Silver Jubilee stamps. We now know differently....

Thanks to a reader of *DS*, I am able to illustrate the promotional folder issued by Harrild for their automatic postage stamp perforator that was used for the production of the Silver Jubilee stamp issue of 1935.



ON the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty King George, a special issue was made of British Postage Stamps in the denominations $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., unused specimens of which are attached below as a memento of this memorable event.

Messrs. Harrild & Sons, Ltd., take a particular pride in this issue, as Harrild Postage Stamp Perforating Machines were used for the production of very great numbers of these historic stamps. Messrs. Harrild & Sons, Ltd., were instructed to produce a series of special Punch Boxes for the shape of stamp selected, the most exacting standards of workmanship being required, so that this Jubilee Issue should surpass, if possible, the existing technical excellence of British Stamp production.

My contact advises that he had come across my reference to a possible Grover card for the Silver Jubilee stamps. He had never seen one before and there was apparently nothing in the Grover archive, but he was able to record this folder that had been issued by Harrild, who were also perforator manufacturers, for these stamps and he wondered if this is what was meant.

I was additionally informed that specialists do not know much about Harrild - they seem to have disappeared soon after producing this folder - possibly during the second world war. Grover made replacement 'boxes' for Harrild machines from time to time, as well as for other manufacturers machines. ☒

A Miscellany

A page of various British dummy images...



An attractive DLR Victorian label



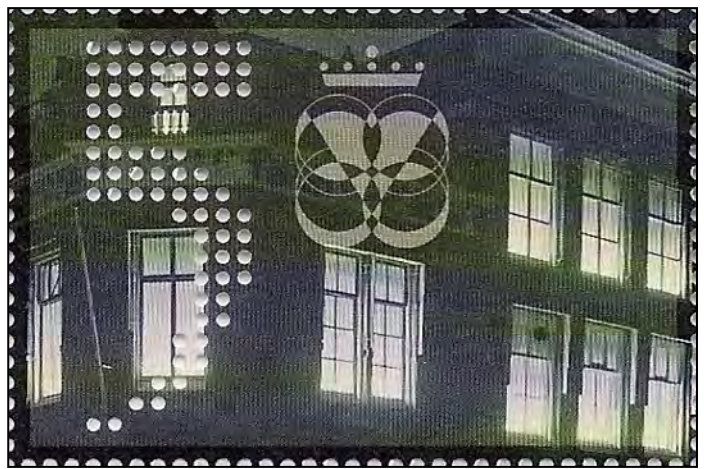
A silver coloured unissued Machin definitive stamp



305 years of Enschedé MS from WIPA08 stamp exhibition.



The BPMA used the Machin head design with a value of "40th" to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the use of the Machin head on British definitive stamps. An American dealer produced singles of this design at stamp size, selling them on eBay.



Close-up of the "stamp" revealing the multi-pinned "5" perfin.



Miniature sheet from Komori Currency Technology of the UK that depicts four intaglio engraved dummy stamps relating to Thomas Cubitt (1788-1855) revealing their engraving and printing skills.

The sheet is printed on a much larger sized sheet of blank PVA gummed stamp paper. This has been cut-down in the above scan as it added nothing to the story.

Incidentally, Sondes Place that is depicted on stamp one is where the company is currently based. See alongside for an enlargement.



BBC Children in Need Presentation Packs

The House of Questa helped raise funds by printing a dummy Miniature Sheet free of charge

British charity BBC Children in Need has been going since 1927 and has made a big difference to the disadvantaged children of the United Kingdom.

In 1985 a presentation pack was produced by Cotswold Covers Ltd that incorporated a Cinderella sheet designed by Clive Abbott and printed by The House of Questa. It was made available for sale, with all of the proceeds going to the charity. ☒



The perforated miniature sheet



Inside of the presentation pack



The presentation pack when viewed from the front. Note how it is in the old style of Royal Mail packs.

Enlarged so-called "Giant Machin" dummy

Harrison produced giant Machins to help with quality assurance by checking tonal values of the head before printing

Reproduced below is an undenominated example of the master negative of the head only with background. They exist in various colours and are printed on either gummed or ungummed stamp paper. Uncommon. ☒



Dummy Stamps

Issue 16 "A look at British Dummy Stamp Material, with an Occasional Excursion Abroad" Quarter 1, 2010

Welcome....

to Dummy Stamps issue 16

It has been a busy first quarter for me, and so the first issue of *DS* for 2010 is running rather late, for which apologies. However, I hope that there will be something of interest to you in this latest issue.

Unfortunately there has been no feedback on my "discoveries" in the past couple of issues and I guess that probably reflects the specialised nature of the content of *DS*. Remember that I always welcome correspondence on this subject.

Accompanying this quarter's publication is a Cumulative Index of article titles for issues 1 to 15. I do not pretend to be an indexer, so apologies to those folk that I know are among the mailing list who would have done a far better job. However, I hope that it will at least serve to assist in more quickly locating an article among the 185 pages of original content matter that has appeared between 2006 and 2009 on what has previously been a rather neglected subject.

My cumulative index has been added to the new database project recently started by the Royal Philatelic Society London. I consider this to be such an important new development that I am devoting some space to it alongside, by reproducing from the April issue of the *Philatelic Bulletin* my initial mention of the scheme. If you can supply further indexes, do please get in touch with "The Royal".

Finally, I have also attached two new Testing Label papers covering the 1989 *Sunday Times* postcard promotion and the 1984 Frama stamp trial material. There is also a revised version of the Type G paper now that I have managed to add scans and obtain further information. I would ask that you substitute the new version for the old. GLENN ☒

RPSL Online

Exciting new database project launches....

In January the Royal Philatelic Society London launched an on-line catalogue of its extensive philatelic resources stretching back more than 140 years to a time when the hobby was in its youth.

From the beginning, parts of the contents are made available to collectors in the United Kingdom and worldwide, so for the first time philatelists who are not members of "The Royal" have access to *The London Philatelist* online. The *LP* has been published without a break since 1892 and over the last 118 years, a wealth of advanced philatelic knowledge has been printed in its 33,000 pages, and all of these are now available at www.rpslcatalogue.org.uk

Individual issues can be downloaded in searchable PDF format, with the price to non-members being £4 per magazine, payable only by PayPal.

The Society meets every two weeks, and displays and talks are usually accompanied by printed handouts. Its collection of these goes back to 1918, and these too are now available for download for a small fee.

A new and completely free of charge service to collectors is the Cumulative Index. Any philatelist knows that philatelic journals contain an enormous amount of information, often hidden because they lack electronic indexes, or they are inaccessible since they have ceased publication. The RPSL has 2,400 or so such journal titles, which makes its library one of the most complete in the philatelic world.

Since June 2009, with the generous help of other societies, it has set out to create a single index of all specialist society journals. Indexes will continue to be added progressively, as supplied by Societies and made compatible with the RPSL Catalogue database.

This is a very long term project, and it is hoped that societies both in the English speaking world and elsewhere will join with "The Royal" to build a philatelic resource which could not exist without the Internet. I have already found many references to articles of interest that I was simply unaware of previously.

Enquiries: Contact Chris King on 07768 422 840 or 020 8346 1366. ☒

Tuck's Dickens Sheet

Raphael Tuck, printers by intaglio

A recent lot on eBay comprised a complete sheet of 12 perforated labels issued by the Charles Dickens Centenary Testimonial Committee, 1912.

The margin of the sheet states "Engraved and printed direct from steel plates on hand made paper by Raphael Tuck & Sons Ltd., London and New York".

I was previously unaware that Tuck had the capability to print what effectively resemble stamps. I wonder whether they actually sub-contracted the work to another printer?

The records of this printer, who operated from 1866, were destroyed in the London Blitz on 29 December 1940 on one of the worst nights of bombing in the war. In the late 1960s a fire destroyed the balance of the Tuck archives.

Might Raphael Tuck have printed stamps for a postal administration? We may never know. ☒



Johnny English

Film prop stamps surface

A recent eBay lot offered a pair of first and second class "stamps" used in the 2003 film *Johnny English*, starring Mr Bean, aka Rowan Atkinson.



Johnny English, a British secret agent who dreams of rising beyond his menial job within the MI-7 organization, is hired to protect the Crown Jewels after all the other agents are killed.

When the jewels are stolen, he eventually uncovers a plot to replace Britain's monarch with what the nation fears the most: a French king! Everything is ready for the inauguration of Pascal Sauvage, as played by John Malkovich and depicted on the prop stamps. Sauvage has one problem though, Johnny English!

The "stamps" were on offer at £20 the pair, but I am unsure whether they sold.



A still taken from the film, just prior to the Coronation scene.

I understand that the prop stamps are printed on unperforated paper and note how the eBay versions are rouletted, whereas those used in the film appear to be conventionally perforated. This brings into doubt whether the eBay items are genuine film memorabilia, or merely unconnected reprints. ☒

Commonwealth Postal Conference

Delegates received a special souvenir by Questa

On 6 November 1989 a dinner was held for delegates of the Commonwealth Postal Conference.

They each received a uniquely numbered sheetlet of 20 designs produced for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's 85th birthday omnibus stamp issue by CAPHCO Limited and The House of Questa.

These were housed in a four page A4 folder, with the sheetlet mounted in a Hagner-type card on page three. The outside back cover was unprinted.

You may well recognise the sheet, as a similar one that was unnumbered and bearing marginal text instead was given away with an issue of *Stamp Magazine* at the time of the birthday

Print quantities of the CAPHCO sheet are unknown to me, but at least 630 were printed as that is the number quoted on my sheetlet. It is doubtful that many will have been retained, certainly I have only ever seen my copy offered for sale.

I had been seeking this special printing for the past 20 years, as I had become aware of it at the time, but had never seen an example. My patience finally paid off!

It was only while scanning the items, thereby bringing both sheets together for the first time, that I realised that there was a significant difference between the two printings. Note how one has imperforate margins (the CAPHCO version), while the other is fully perforated (the *Stamp Magazine* version). The former is more attractive, I feel.

(See page four for scans of both of the sheetlet types and the two printed pages of the folder that was used to house them.) ☒

Tesco Envelope Sample Indicia

You're too late...

The envelopes mentioned in the previous issue of *DS* had gone from all of my (many) local Tesco supermarkets by Christmas 2009, as had the second type of packaging that had previously been available uniquely from WHSmith branches.

Sales of both types of envelope pack cannot have been very high, as they were never properly publicised - other than in stamp magazines, of course! ☒

Lasergravure Trials

Harrison and Crosfield Electronics experiment

Back in 1980 there were early experiments under-way that involved the use of a laser beam to engrave printing cylinders. The aim was to avoid the out-moded acid-etching then in use.

Crosfield Electronics were undertaking the engraving trials, while Harrison & Sons undertook the printing of giant Machin heads (200mm x 255mm) on its L&M7 sheet-fed gravure press.

Stamp dealer Mike Holt (www.mike-holt.com), has in the past offered items from this development trial describing them as follows in his price list:

1980 (SEPT). THE LASERGRAVURE SYSTEM 700. GIANT HEAD. Printed for Crosfield Electronics Ltd by Harrison & Sons on FCP ungummed paper. With photocopy of letter to Harrison from Walker at Quality Assurance stating that "our PHQ staff are quite impressed with the examples". With other notes concerning this interesting item. Superb and very rare. £695

There is an interesting background story about the development work at www.caffnib.co.uk/lg.htm but do take note that the author, Nigel Bromley, had no knowledge or involvement in the stamps project, as I have already communicated with him, so please do not trouble him further. He believes that the stamp experiment work was kept "totally under wraps" at the time.

Deegam Report issue number 73, as published by D G A Myall, also includes an extensive report on the trials that makes for interesting reading.

Interestingly, a copy of a letter in my possession from Aubrey Walker of The Post Office Procurement Executive to K Scrimgeour of Harrison dated 30 October 1980 comments on the trial giant Machin heads. He "could see how the definition could be improved to meet required standards" and proposed that stamp-sized examples should be produced and that "if this is successful, PHQ will select the original artwork of two Special Issue stamps previously printed by Harrison and these can be Lasergravure printed for direct comparison with the photogravure versions."

It appears that the stamp-sized Machin head stamps were never produced and the project was to eventually die, without further proofing exercises.

(See page five for a scan of the giant Machin head design with its Lasergravure text at foot. Two close-ups have been inset in a darkened shade to help show the detail.

This is a different trial to the purple giant head design depicted in DS15.) ☒

COMMONWEALTH POSTAL CONFERENCE



PRE-CONGRESS MEETING

NOVEMBER 1989



*Presented to Delegates by
The Directors of
CAPHCO Limited
and
The House of Questa
on the occasion of their Dinner
on 6 November 1989*



The House of Questa is renowned throughout the world as producers of fine quality printings in both the field of postage stamps and commercial productions.

It is with great pleasure, that The House of Questa and CAPHCO Limited present you with an example of the co-operation and experience within the security postage stamp world.

Opposite is a sheetlet produced for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's 85th Birthday, printed by The House of Questa for CAPHCO Limited, on CA Spiral Watermarked Paper.



630

Presented by Crown Agents Stamp Bureau



Printed at The House of Questa

The CAPHCO delegate sheet (left) and Stamp Magazine giveaway (right).
The two delegate folder pages are not to the same scale as the sheetlets.



Engraved by Lasergravure System 700

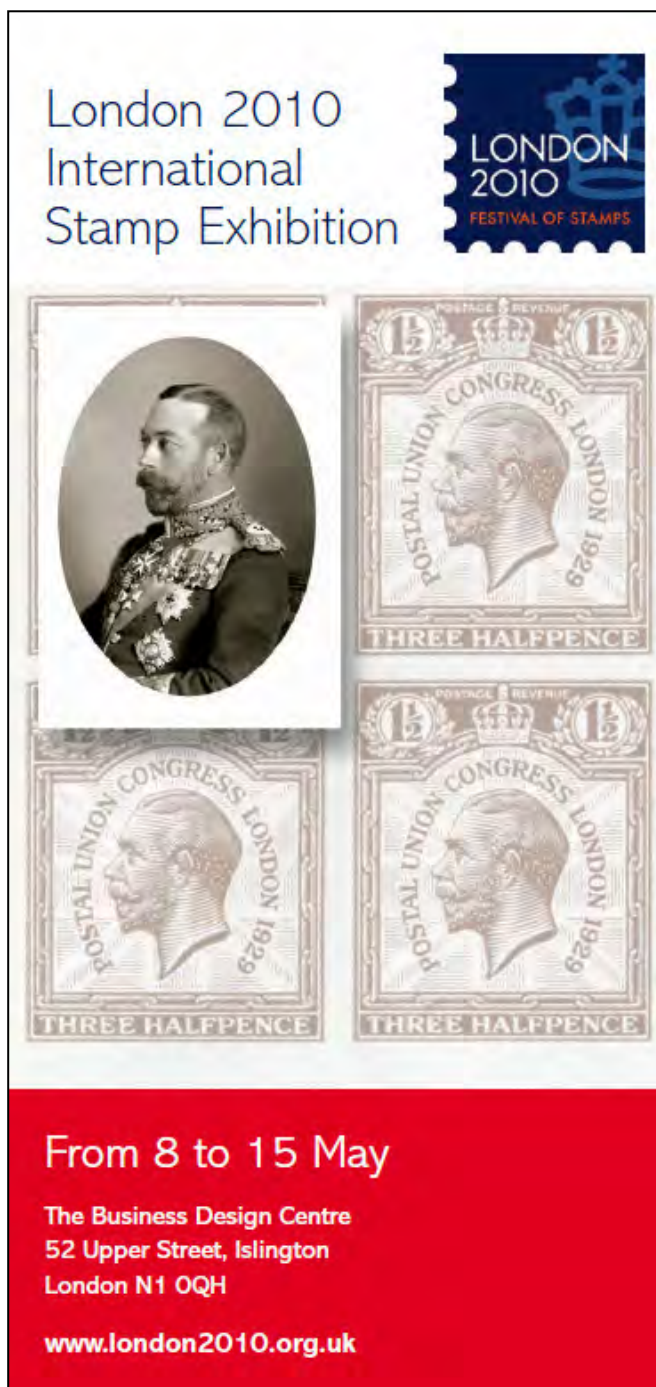
Printed for Crosfield Electronics Ltd. by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd.

London 2010 Stamp Exhibition

It's nearly here....

Be sure to check that you have planned your trip to this major stamp exhibition, as it is only a few short weeks away.

There will be lots to see at the show and a visit to www.london2010.org.uk will provide all the information that you will ever need to make the most of this once-in-a-decade event. Or perhaps I should say series of events, as the *Festival of Stamps* is a year-long run of displays, exhibitions, lectures, etc. nationwide.



The poster for the London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition features a white background with a red banner at the bottom. The text 'London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition' is in blue. A blue logo for 'LONDON 2010 FESTIVAL OF STAMPS' is in the top right. The central image shows a portrait of King George V in an oval frame, and three 'THREE HALPENCE' stamps featuring his profile, with the text 'POSTAL UNION CONGRESS LONDON 1929'. The red banner at the bottom contains the dates 'From 8 to 15 May', the address 'The Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH', and the website 'www.london2010.org.uk'.

If you only make one event other than the Business Design Centre show, make sure that it is a trip to the Guildhall Art Gallery in the City of London.

Between the 8-15 May **ONLY** there will be regular demonstrations of intaglio printing by Dutch stamp printer Joh. Enschedé. As this issue of *DS* was being compiled, fuller details were not available, but I understand that the £1 PUC Congress stamp of 1929 will be reprinted "before your very eyes".

Exact times of these demonstrations are unknown at this point, but I have asked that the London 2010 website displays timings once known and if I receive details before or during the event, then I will send an email to those folk on my mailing list.

It appears that the stamps will not be available to buy from the Art Gallery, but blocks of four in a presentation pack will be sold by Royal Mail at the main event, priced £4.95, probably from stock printed earlier. Any unsold packs will be available after the exhibition closes from Tallents House.

A similar idea proved very popular at *TSS2000* when copies of the 1d Black stamps were printed. Packs of these blocks of four now sell at around £30.

It is a shame that the main venue was not large enough to accommodate this feature, as many interested collectors will miss out on seeing stamps being printed. That said, the demonstration is just a small part of a larger exhibition entitled *Empire Mail: George V and the GPO* and this must-see show is being put on by BPMA and the Royal Philatelic Collection, featuring a mix of rare stamps, artwork and postal hardware. It runs from 7 May - 25 July (10am-5pm Mon-Sat, 10am-4pm Sun). £2.50 admission (concessions £1) applies. ☒

...and finally

I always welcome details of any new dummy finds from printers of British stamps, past and present, and so cordially invite you to drop me a line via the Guest Book facility provided at:

www.stampprinters.info/guestbook.htm

Unfortunately, business, family and other commitments to the hobby mean that I cannot guarantee that I can rigidly stick to a publishing programme and therefore suggest that you go to:

www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm every so often where PDF files of this and all future and previous issues of *Dummy Stamps* will be available to view, download or print-off. Thank you. ☒

Dummy Stamps

Issue 17 "A look at British Dummy Stamp Material, with an Occasional Excursion Abroad" Quarter 2, 2010

Chichester Printing by Questa

Yes, you did read correctly - Questa

Cast your mind back to 1967 when Sir Francis Chichester was commemorated on a GPO stamp. Now look at the image below and identify what is different to the one that you probably own.



If you cannot readily find a difference, it is that the imprint in the bottom margin is missing, albeit created by me using a software package. Why?

A little known fact is that the House of Questa also printed this stamp to show-off the quality of its stamp printing capabilities to the then GPO.

Questa Director, Wally Rodgers, recorded a series of three oral history tapes for the BPMA in 2001. (Repository GB 1971 British Library, The National Sound Archive. Finding No F9723-F9725)

On tape three, side A in an interview summary, Wally states:
"Broke into P.O. work by persuading them that they (Questa) could do the work. P.O. gave them a piece of Chichester artwork, told HoQ to go away and do some proofs from it. Went back three or four weeks later, P.O. thought they were excellent."

I have never heard of these stamps entering the philatelic market, indeed even the BPMA online catalogue does not record that copies are held, so it will probably remain a gap in our stamp collections.

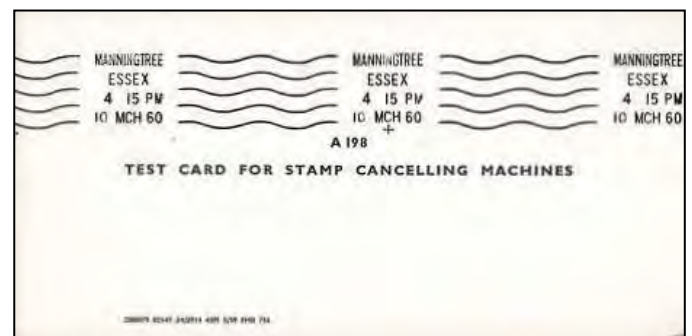
If ever found, House of Questa copies should be obvious, as they bound not to have a Harrison imprint, obviously, hence my manipulation of the issued stamp image alongside.

This is an interesting story and one that was repeated in the early 1990s when Questa printed the 24p value from the Harrison Christmas issue of 1991 (see DS3).

We all know that Questa did end-up on the list of preferred print suppliers to Royal Mail, who continued to use them until they were sadly swallowed-up into De La Rue. ☒

Not just stamps...

Stamp Cancelling Machines also produce testing items



The illustration above is of a stamp cancelling machine test card relating to Manningtree Post Office, dated 10 March 1960. It is from the model type that is illustrated alongside.

I took this photograph recently at the Museum Store of the British Postal Museum & Archive Store, Debden.



Christmas Labels Identified

The designs were printed by Harrison... but why!

In DS15 I posed a question from a reader regarding a mystery religious-themed pair of stamps with the Queen's head and 1st class indicia.

I can now reveal what appears to be at least a partial answer to the query. I was wrong in thinking that it might be a Questa production, but it is British. Harrison can take credit for printing the labels and I can thank another DS reader for identifying that the designs are from a 1976 Swedish stamp issue.

In the mid-1970s, Harrison Launched for Royal Mail the first so-called Swedish folded stamp booklets. The experimental stage was done in conjunction with the Swedish stamp printing works at Kista.

It is presumably due to this collaboration that the Swedish Post Office commissioned Harrison to print some stamp postage stamp issues for them.

One such issue was the Christmas 1976 set in both coil and booklet formats. At the foot of two of the se-tenant designs was a panel with the country name and face value on it. For some unknown reason, Harrison guillotined off the panel and added the head and 1st class indicia.

This was done to the booklet stamp format and not to the coils. This is proven by the fact that the coil stamps had imperforate side edges and perforated top and bottom edges, i.e. they were in vertical delivery format.

As a reminder, I illustrate below the strip of three labels that formed the basis of the original query and you will see how easy it was for Harrison to create the dummies, but the question remains: *why* did they produce them?



The Stanley Gibbons catalogue confirms that the Swedish stamp issue was printed in photogravure by Harrison and also records the design information. The pictorial stamp depicts the Virgin Mary visiting St Elizabeth, while the text design is taken from a late 15th century Austrian prayer book.

One final thought - GB did not premiere 1st and 2nd class indicia stamps until 1989!! ☒



Harrison version (right) alongside the Swedish booklet pair (far right) to show how the dummy would have been created by cutting-off the base area.



Low-res images of used booklet stamp pair (left) and booklet pane of ten (below).



London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition



8th - 15th May 2010
Business Design Centre
 52 Upper Street
 Islington
 London
 N1

The 8-day London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition will feature the finest competitive exhibits from collectors around the world, plus stamp dealers, auctioneers and postal administrations, including a major presence from Royal Mail. This show takes place in London just once every ten years and is not to be missed by enthusiasts!

The Business Design Centre is located at the junction of Upper Street and Berners Road; the nearest Underground station is Angel (Northern Line).

Hours of opening
 8 - 14 May 10:00am to 6:00pm
 15 May 10:00am to 5:00pm

Enschedé PUC £1 Pres Pack

Don't forget the Guildhall Art Gallery demonstrations

From 8-15 May, Enschedé will demonstrate intaglio printing at the Guildhall Art Gallery.

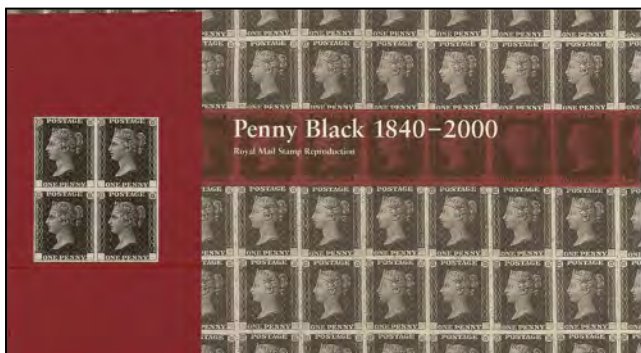
I am told that there will be up to four sessions each day and that times will be shown at the BDC exhibition and at www.london2010.org.uk in due course. There are no known sales restrictions on the 2010 PUC £1 packs, indeed Rushstamps are already selling packs on eBay at around double cost - £9.95.



I illustrate above a mock-up of the intended pack design. The final product may possibly differ slightly and, if this is the case, I will illustrate the revised pack in the next issue of *DS*. They will be on sale at the BDC and by mail order from Royal Mail, Tallents House, Edinburgh in the normal way.

TSS2000 "Penny Black" Pack

The first "Royal Mail Stamp Reproduction" was in 2000



For anyone who is unfamiliar with the first pack produced in 2000, the face and reverse are depicted at the foot of the previous column.

The TSS2000 stamps sold in the packs came from a different printing to those printed at the exhibition, none of which are understood to be in collectors' hands but were destroyed after the show.



Printer Mark Balakjian*, plus Knud Mohr of the FIP and John Roberts of Royal Mail posing at the printing demonstration

The *Independent* newspaper stated at the time:

"The world's first postage stamp is to be recreated using the original printing press to coincide with a major international exhibition.

The Royal Mail will print reproduction Penny Blacks 160 years after the stamp was first issued on 6 May 1840. The printing will take place during The Stamp Show 2000 in London next month and will make use of the Perkins-Bacon printing press loaned by the British Library philatelic collections.

The Royal Mail said the printing process would use the original Victorian printing method and would be "extremely slow", with only 10 sheets printed a day - and a maximum of 70 sheets produced during the show.

David Beech, curator and head of the British Library philatelic collections, said the historic press was given to the library in 1963. It has been lent to exhibitions before, but has not been used."

The forthcoming third edition of *British Stamp Exhibitions 2010*, as co-compiled by Graham M Wilson and myself, notes: "Sales were limited to one pack per purchaser, although this restriction could be circumvented by queuing again! A limited edition of 12,000 copies, prices quickly rose to £25 per pack. Sold for £5, but is currently £32.50." ✉

*Mark Balakjian grew up in Lebanon before arriving in London in 1966. He studied painting at Hammersmith School of Art and did a Postgraduate in printmaking at the Slade School of Fine Art. Mark has had numerous group and solo exhibitions including many International Print and Drawing Biennales in Europe, Japan and the USA where he has received many awards. He will be aged 70 this year.

De La Rue Phosphor Trials

Image of man on labels has now been identified

In *DS4*, I illustrated phosphor trials by De La Rue. The person depicted on the labels had been a mystery, but thanks to a customer of stamp dealer Mike Holt, his name can now be revealed.

I had always thought that I recognised the person, but could not come-up with a name. It transpires that it was no less a personage than Captain James Cook, of explorer fame.



Wedgwood had created a medallion of Cook and it appears that it was this image that had been used by De La Rue as the basis for the phosphor trial designs, according to the Cook expert. ✉

Bradbury, Wilkinson sample folders

How styles have changed

I have recently come across a couple of sample presentation folders produced by Bradbury, Wilkinson for distribution to their potential and existing clients.



Mid-1950s sample folder.

The one above is of a high quality with several sample stamps from different countries attached in a leather or mock-leather hardbound presentation format that dates from around about the mid-1950s.

The stamps are pin-perforated SPECIMEN or have a similar printed overprint.



1969 High Values Machin Folder

By the late 1960s, the folder style had become multi-coloured glossy card and, while still attractive in its way, it lacks the quality of its earlier counterpart - but that's a purely personal opinion. ✉

Questa Dummy Sheet Errors

Even these humble items do not escape mistakes

Perforation shifts are not an uncommon mistake to make when producing a stamp issue. It is all the more galling for a security printer, though, when the error happens on a sheet designed to show-off their printing expertise!

Such an error happened to Questa when they produced a trial sheet for their new gravure printing press in June 1998 (*alongside*). A similar shift of perforation happened three years earlier with their souvenir sheet printing for the Design a Stamp competition held during Stamp 95 (*below*). ☒



Gummed perforated sheet depicting the four winning designs in the 1995 Design a Stamp Competition on the theme of "Wildlife".

The sheet was printed at the House of Questa on 20 June 1995.

The four designers were Zoe Arbuckle (Young Telegraph winner), Nikesh Patel (5-9 years winner), George Castaldini (10-13 years winner) and Anh Nguyen (14-16 years winner). The sheet was given away in the August 1995 *Philatelic Bulletin* and free copies could also be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the exhibition organisers.

The print run was 70,000 copies.

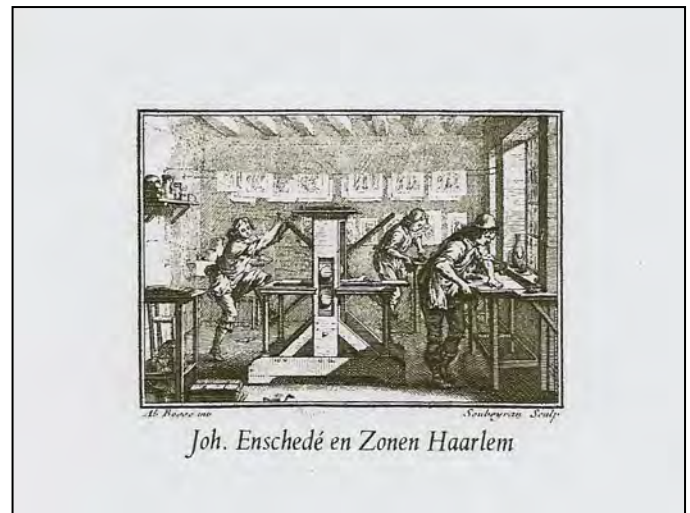
Enschedé in London

Dutch printer travels to London 2010... and Stamp 97

As I type these words it is under a week before the Guildhall Art Gallery exhibition opens. I have been given an invitation to the pre-launch event to be held on 6 May and plan to take some photographs of the intaglio printing press that Enschedé has brought over from Haarlem, if in-situ by then.

Those photographs (and others related to printing, philately and London 2010) will be able to be viewed on my [Flickr](http://www.flickr.com/photos/48015769@N00/) photo website by entering the URL www.flickr.com/photos/48015769@N00/

I illustrate here some pictures of the same press in its more usual home in Haarlem, together with an engraved sheet of a similar looking press that had been in operation a very long while ago.



Engraved sample print of a very similar looking press in use. It appears that this earlier version may be of wooden construction.



Inking the plate.



Enschedé sample from Filacept.



Applying pressure to plate.



Slowly and carefully removing the printed sheet from the plate.

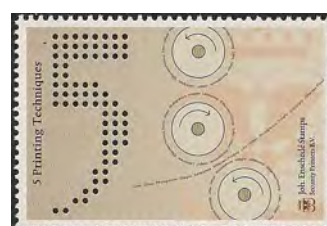


Enschedé's in-house engraver, Mrs Inge Madlé.

A supporter of philately, Enschedé also attended Stamp 97 and gave stand visitors a card depicting Mrs Inge Madlé together with the Castles high value definitives that she had engraved for Royal Mail.

Inge was on hand to illustrate the technique of engraving and to answer questions at set times during the show and she signed relatively few cards.

Joh. Enschedé has also depicted other printing presses and allied aspects on its publicity labels, as shown in the examples depicted here. ☒



Cartorelief

Thermographic printing process developed for stamps

Some time before being taken-over by Walsall, Cartor was perfecting a printing process that it described as being new. The sample sheet illustrated

below was produced to promote what has every appearance of being thermography. They went on to use this process on a few stamp issues and it is still one of the printing options, but the name Cartorelief appears to have fallen into disuse, possibly because the name is used elsewhere by a company involved in mapping, or CARTO[graphic] RELIEF. ☒

Printed in France by **CARTOR** 61300 L'AIGLE FRANCE

NOUVEAU PROCÉDÉ CARTORELIEF SUR PAPIER FILIGRANÉ

NEW PROCESS CARTORELIEF ON WATER-MARKED PAPER

B.P. 141 Télex : 170295 Tél.(33) 24.42.55

Intaglio versus Photogravure

Harrison compared two of its printing processes

Face and reverse of a sample card produced to demonstrate the comparisons to be made between intaglio and photogravure printing. ☒



The striking features of photogravure printed stamps are the strength of colour and the greater delicacy of portraits obtained by the photographic nature of the process.

But photogravure printing for security work has other advantages, three of which are important. The preparation of the printing cylinders is quick, which together with the high speed of the printing machines allows for rapid deliveries of large quantities. The speed of production results in low costs. The amount and complexity of the precision equipment act as effective barriers to forgery.

Harrisons now print over twenty-eight million stamps a day for the postal authorities of many nations, and has grown into what is probably the largest security works printing by this process in the world.

The accompanying examples are intended to show the deep range of tone provided by the process when using only one colour. Attention is also invited to the examples of two-colour and full-colour stamps, the production of which this Company has special facilities.

Vanished Coaching Inns of London

Off-topic, but of possible interest to those visiting GAG

Before railways, coaching inns were the hub of long distance transport services and a focal point in every town. In their heyday, they were a popular subject for artists. At the time of their decline, in the latter half of the nineteenth century, they also became a subject for photographers wishing to make a documentary record of this characteristic but passing feature of urban life.

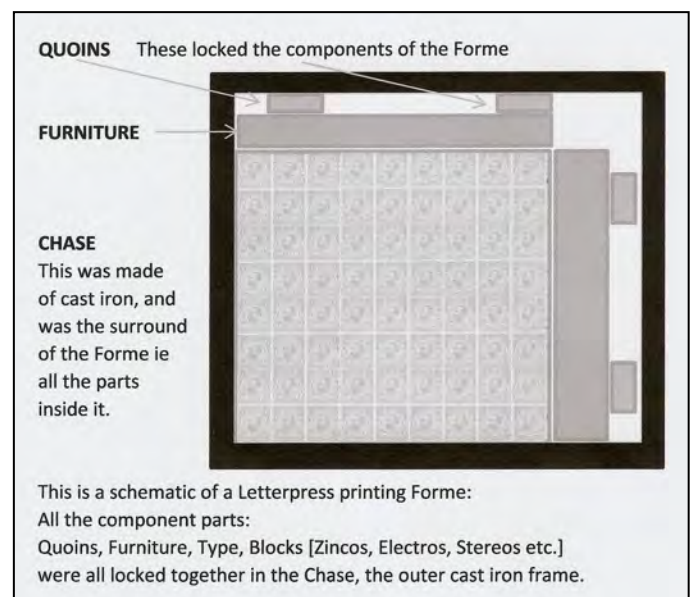
An exhibition includes examples of these engaging images alongside maps and some related ephemera and is being held at the Guildhall Art Gallery from 22 April to 12 May and is free when purchasing an admission ticket to the Gallery. So, if visiting *GPO and Empire*, why not view this extra display. Note that the closing date is three days before the end of London 2010. ☒

Correction

Forme and Chase mix-up

When recently describing letterpress printing elsewhere, I erroneously stated that the Forme is what the blocks etc. were locked into, but that is the Chase, the whole thing then becoming the Forme.

A reader has kindly corrected me and I am happy to set the record straight here and to display his picture that explains all. ☒



...and finally

I always welcome details of any new dummy finds from printers of British stamps, past and present, and so cordially invite you to drop me a line via the Guest Book facility provided at:

www.stampprinters.info/guestbook.htm

Unfortunately, business, family and other commitments to the hobby mean that I cannot guarantee that I can rigidly stick to a publishing programme and therefore suggest that you go to:

www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm every so often where PDF files of this and all future and previous issues of *Dummy Stamps* will be available to download and print-off. Thank you.

Dummy Stamps

Issue 18 "A look at British Dummy Stamp Material, with an Occasional Excursion Abroad" Quarter 3, 2010

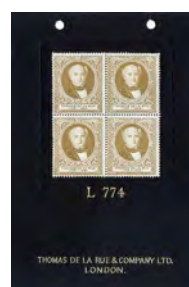
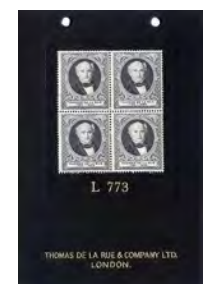
De La Rue Colour Sample Cards

Surprising location reveals unrecorded examples

De La Rue used the well-known label depicting its founder in perforated blocks of four on black punched cards as colour samples.

These cards were originally held together in a booklet of some kind and each gold-blocked item was numbered to identify the specific ink colour.

A small range of cards was recently offered on eBay by an Ecuadorian seller at around £7 each. Such items normally sell at a much higher price, especially as they are all in previously unrecorded colours. ☒



£1 PUC 2010 Facsimile

A photographic record

Thanks to our friends at *Stamp Magazine*, I can share images of the facsimile £1 PUC being printed at the Guildhall Art Gallery as part of the Festival of Stamps exhibition about King George V, the British Empire and the GPO.

These images were first shown in a major feature contained in the July issue of the magazine that celebrated London 2010 held in May.

None of the special Guildhall printing was made available to collectors - despite passionate pleas, including one from an overseas gentleman who apparently got out a wad of cash from his wallet and was insistent that he should be allowed to purchase!

I then depict the general print run that was sold by Royal Mail in presentation packs for £4.95 each.

THE GUILDHALL EXHIBITION PRINTING



The printing press that was brought over from Enschedé Haarlem especially for the period 8-15 May - all 800kg of it! This proved to be quite a logistical challenge to get it safely into the exhibition area.

All Guildhall imagery is courtesy of

STAMP MAGAZINE

www.stampmagazine.co.uk



Removing excess ink from the surface of the printing plate by buffing it with a cleaning cloth.



The inked plate comprising a block of four of the iconic and much loved £1 PUC design in a cleaned state and ready to be placed on to the printing press bed.



The printing plate on the flat bed of the press with hardboard at top and bottom to help keep it in position.



Printed sheet alongside plate. Dark blue ink was used for this printing, rather than black.



Paper placed on top of plate in readiness for printing.



The printed block displayed behind a cardboard mount.

THE ISSUED PRINTING



The block of four, as sold by Royal Mail.



A defacement was used on the reverse of issued block.



Pre-publicity imagery implied that sheet margins would exist, but unfortunately they did not.



Postal Union Congress stamp pack

These stamp reproductions were printed in intaglio on a Giori Intaglio colour 8 press by Joh. Enschedé Stamps, Haarlem, Netherlands.

Printing technique:

front: intaglio + offset

reverse: two colours offset

Stamp size: 45mm x 37.7mm

Image size: 42mm x 34.7mm

Comb perforation

Composition: one design in blocks of four

Paper: base paper uncoated, not gummed

Print sheets will contain two columns of four blocks of four stamps positioned directly next to each other, without blank margins in-between.

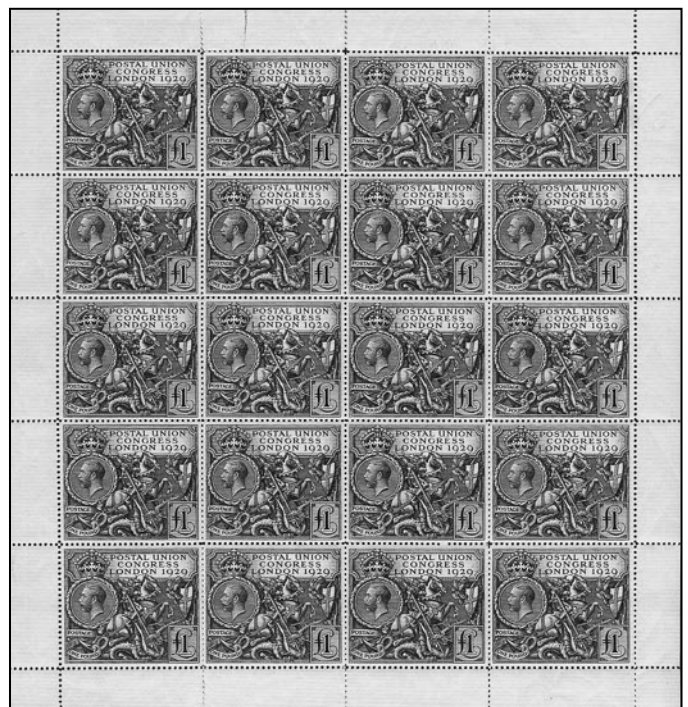
Perforation will run off in blank/unprinted sheet area to facilitate tearing out separate blocks of four stamps.

The pack was designed by Silk Pearce, written by Douglas Muir, and printed by St Ives plc. All images, courtesy of The British Postal Museum & Archive, are copyright Royal Mail Group Ltd 2010, except the PUC delegates, courtesy of Dr Jean Alexander. All rights reserved.

Further details about British postage stamps and philatelic facilities may be obtained from: Royal Mail, FREEPOST, Edinburgh EH12 9PE or visit our website: www.royalmail.com/stamps. Royal Mail and the Cruciform are registered Trade Marks of Royal Mail Group Ltd © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2010. All rights reserved.



Text panel from presentation pack explaining printing technique.



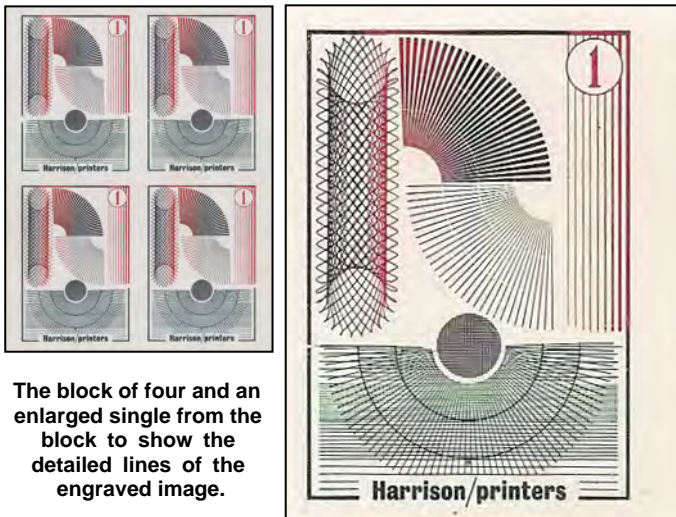
A full sheet of the original 1929 PUC £1 shown here for no other reason than it is both attractive and desirable!

McGairy Spirograph Design

Harrison Jumelle press trial surfaces

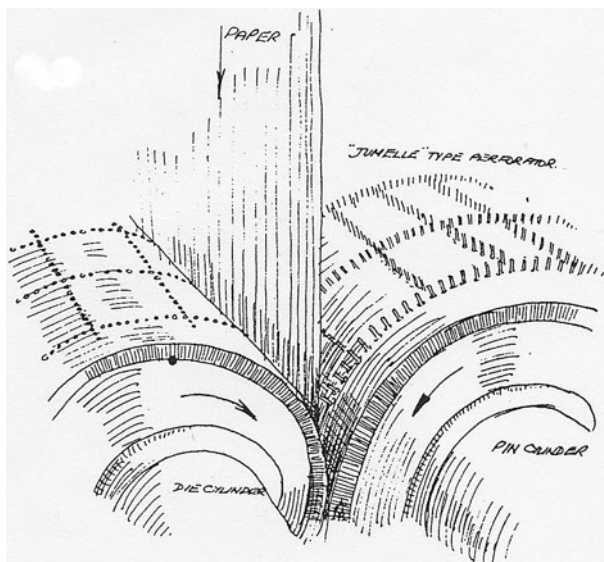
At the time of the commissioning of the Jumelle press by Harrison at its High Wycombe plant, Don McGairy prepared a test design in a Spirograph-type pattern around 1972.

It was printed in brownish-red, grey and black, with colours merging into each other, using the intaglio portion of the press on PVA gummed paper stock. It is currently only recorded imperforate.



The block of four and an enlarged single from the block to show the detailed lines of the engraved image.

Just a single block of four is recorded (while recognising that others may/must exist) and this was broken into singles and sold a couple of years back.



McGairy was also responsible for the artwork used on the Philatelic Wall Chart produced by Harrison, an illustration from which appears above.

It is unclear if this talented graphic designer ever produced any further stamp-related designs, nor whether he was a freelance worker, or on the Harrison payroll. Does anyone know? ☒

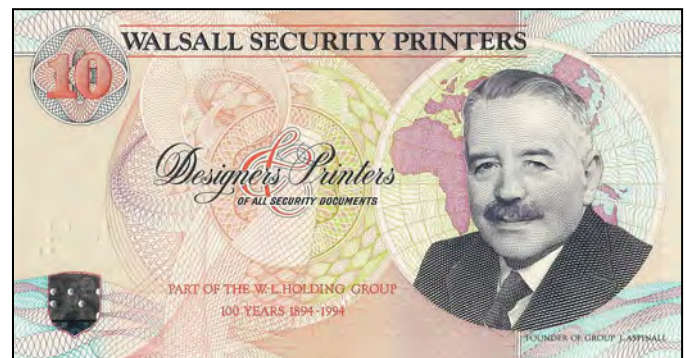
Walsall Trial Note with Intaglio

WSP trialled banknote printing in litho with added intaglio

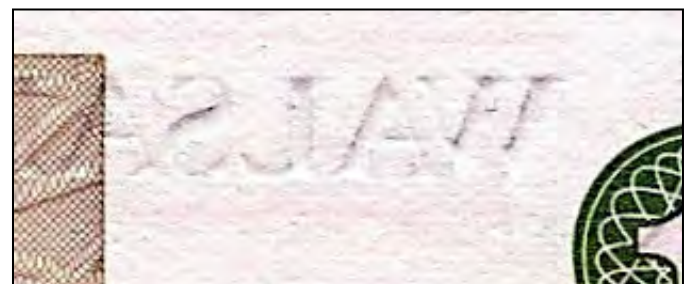
Many issues back, I illustrated WSP's first promotional banknote design printed by offset-lithography.

This was reprinted in 1994 with extra security features such as embossed text, a hologram, Braille text and the addition of intaglio printing (the dark blue portion of the design).

These notes rarely surface, but they reveal how committed the company was to enter the banknote printing sector by offering intaglio. That said, it is not thought that they produced any actual banknotes, but I am happy to be corrected on this point.



Face of banknote depicting J Aspinall, the founder of WSP.



Enlargement of part of the reverse revealing the depth of the intaglio engraving and its debossing effect on the paper.



Reverse of note with its commemorative 30 years text.

As with Harrison, Walsall had seen a business opportunity, especially in eastern Europe where political changes had created a vast new demand for bank notes from countries that were keen to depict their new-found independence on its currency. ☒

Waterlow and its 'Rotary Direct Plate Process' Labels

Example found that lacks the company name

The two labels below appear at first glance to be the same, except for the colour and the punch hole on label one, but actually they are different.

One has a bottom margin that mentions Waterlow & Sons Ltd, while the other does not. Quite an omission when trying to publicise your company and its printing capabilities! ☒



Note printer imprint at foot of lower label.



Waterlow Recess Printed Publicity Labels

Example found in a larger design size

The recess printed 'lady with a lamp' (Liberty?) colour samples have been found with the artwork showing an extra portion of design at its foot when compared to the other colours seen.

The first two labels depicted below are reproduced to the same scale and it will be noted that one is, perhaps not surprisingly, taller. ☒



< Extra design area at foot.



Maddox pre-Jumelle Printing Press Trial Design

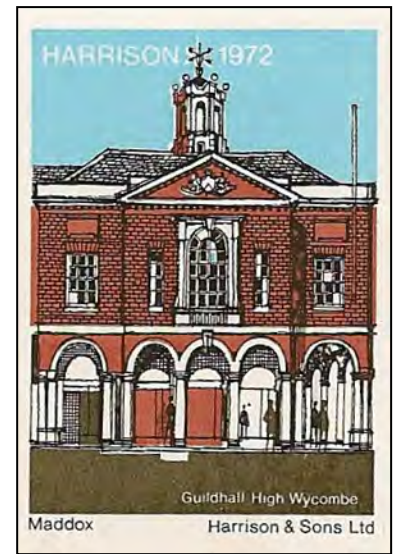
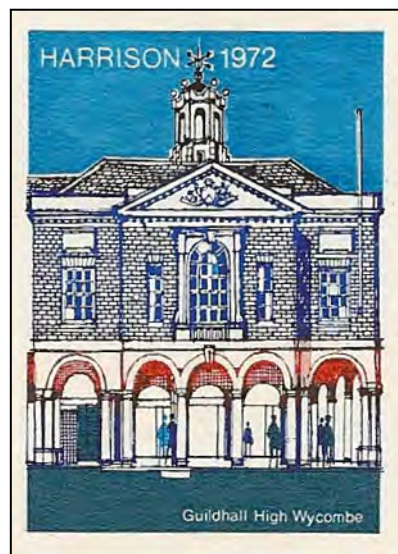
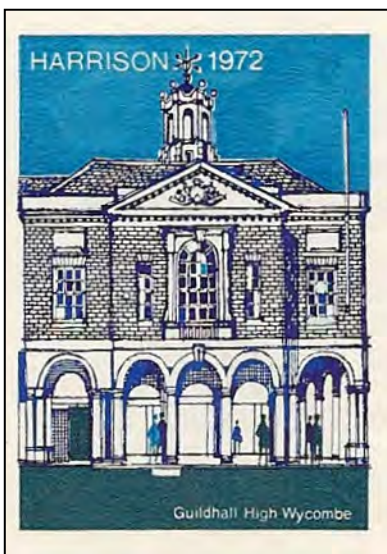
A second design appears to pre-date Jumelle

Page five of this issue of *DS* depicts the McGairy design of label used in the commissioning trials of the Harrison Jumelle press.

I am reminded that a second design by illustrator and graphic designer Ronald Maddox depicting the Guildhall at High Wycombe was produced. This 18th century listed building is located on the High Street and is now seen as an ideal location for training, meetings and exhibitions, having lost its earlier more traditional use in the community.



The Guildhall, High Wycombe, in 2009.



The first two label designs are known in vertical pairs only.

At a lecture given by Ronald Maddox in the British Postal Museum & Archive's ongoing series held earlier in 2010 he privately confirmed to me that this design was for Jumelle commissioning trials. The date conveniently incorporated into the artwork is also the correct time period for such a trial.

However, an uncredited typed note from the vendor who sold to the stamp dealer stated in part: "Again, when Harrison planned to go into the deep-etch process resulting in the purchase of the Jumelle press, trials took place on a very old single colour deep-etch press saved from scrap in France. A stamp was designed by Maddox ...only one stamp on the sheet ...I would be very surprised if more than one stamp exists - of which I have, so it is extremely rare." This seems to indicate that the third label above was created prior to the purchase of the Jumelle press. Clarification is sought, please.

The first two labels, despite being se-tenant, use different inks as the second label has additional black and brown-red colours using the 'deep-etch' process (similar to intaglio) mentioned above. They are printed on gum arabic paper and apparently almost all of those printed were out of register. This is because of the intense pressure that was required by the deep-etch printing process. Fortunately, or intentionally, the artwork is quite forgiving in this respect, with mis-registration being less obvious. Just two pairs are philatelically recorded (while acknowledging that others may exist).

The third label above is printed in light blue, red-brown and olive (photogravure) and black (deep-etch process) with PVA gum and is the only recorded example. ☒

Waterlow at BEE 1924 and 1925

Stand numbers differed each year on publicity labels

Waterlow attended both years of the British Empire Exhibition and publicised the events with labels that it used on its correspondence and also as colour sample labels (1925 only?) with a variety of coded overprints. Printed intaglio in Seahorse size, perf 14.

The design was of *Postman's Gate* and was finely engraved, as the vignette enlargement reveals. ☒



1924



1925



The Palace of Industry still stands today, a mere shadow of its former magnificence, but at least it has survived.

New Bulletin Board

Stamp production discussion area opens for business

A new Bulletin Board has just been launched as this issue of *DS* was being finalised. It is hoped that it will serve as a useful central location for anyone interested in the world of stamp production.

It has been set-up by enthusiastic Dutchman Rein C Bakhuizen van den Brink, a man who possesses a wealth of print-related philatelic knowledge.

Go to www.galeoptix.nl/phpbb/ and see what has been uploaded so far. Do remember though that this is a brand new site and that it will take a while for it to gain momentum, but once it does I can see it being of great value to collectors. I suggest that you bookmark it and return to it on a regular basis.

If you have a question about stamp production relating to anywhere in the world, why not ask for help at the site and see if readers can assist you. Similarly, if you can offer information to visitors, then why not post it to the site. ☒

Laser Engraving Promo Banknote

Jura JSP Direct Laser Engraver

Paul Eimers of Enschedé gave a BPMA lecture in May and mentioned the direct laser engraver used by them to create printing plates. This machine has appeared on a Jura promotional banknote. Sorry that it is a relatively low-resolution image. ☒



...and finally

I always welcome details of new dummy finds from printers past and present, and so invite you to write via my Guest Book at stampprinters.info/guestbook.htm, where requests to subscribe to *DS* can also be made.

Business, family and other commitments to the hobby mean that I cannot guarantee that I can rigidly stick to a publishing programme and therefore suggest that you visit stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm every so often where PDF files of this and all future and previous issues of *Dummy Stamps* will be available to download and print-off. Thank you. ☒

Dummy Stamps

Issue 19 "A look at British Dummy Stamp Material, with an Occasional Excursion Abroad" Quarter 4, 2010

Harrison Bi-Coloured Dummy Stamp Surfaces after 100 Years

New discovery comes as a surprise

Thanks to a lucky auction house purchase by a reader of *Dummy Stamps*, this Harrison label, which was previously unrecorded as a bi-colour, can take its rightful pride of place as the lead story.



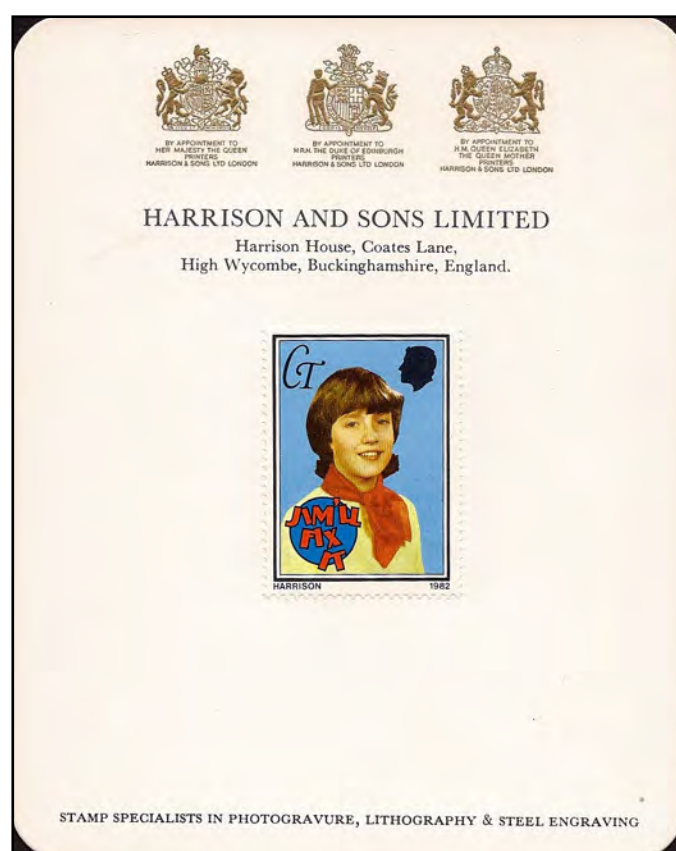
The label is on gummed, unwatermarked paper and is in the red of the one-penny and the green of the half-penny British postage stamp ink colours of the early 20th century, as most readers will realise.

You can see where the registration is not 100% and the colours therefore overlap slightly. The misalignment of these colours is to be expected and I am sure that Harrison will have perfected this particular problem as a part of this dummy stamp print run.

This is a lovely item and one to look out for. ☒

BBC Television's "Jim'll Fix It" Harrison Visit Label Revisited

Presentation / proof card found on eBay



Not known previously by compiler of *DS*, but it is probably a presentation item rather than proof. ☒

Merry Christmas

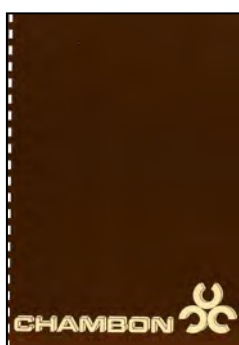
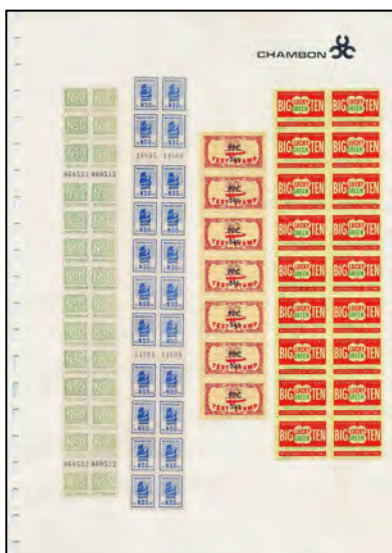
This issue of *Dummy Stamps* has been published in the run up to Christmas and will hopefully be a welcome diversion from trips to shopping centres.

Many thanks to all who have written to me and for the strong interest shown in *DS* this past year. ☒

Chambon Sample Labels

London branch of company produced sample album

The company of Chambon was founded in France in 1877 and an album of sample stamps from the UK has recently been found. Inside it states "...90 years of experience...", indicating that it must have been produced in 1967, although some of the labels included were certainly printed well before that year and had probably simply remained in stock at the Hammersmith premises. ☒



Page of sample trading stamps and outside cover of album

CHAMBON

An international group

90 years experience in the service of the packaging and graphic arts industry.
 6 factories employing over 1000 people worldwide. Well proven designs combined with advanced technology.
 A worldwide reputation for outstanding quality and reliability.
 We also offer you the services of our Chambon study and design department. With its 50 people, which will advise on, design and manufacture equipment tailor-made to suit your personal requirements.
 For any special requirements, please consult us !



Test label from coil strip shown in previous column.



Burma sample (above), outside back cover (below left) and Iran (?) label (below right). Text translation would be appreciated.



Machin Stamp without Value

Printer and purpose sought

Does any reader recognise the item illustrated below? The scan comes from an unrecorded source and the stamp has not personally been seen.



It is unusual in that it does not bear any face value, unlike the many De La Rue ink colour standard dummy stamps recently offered by stamp dealers that each bear a "00p" face value. It appears to be metallic and any help in identifying the printer and purpose for this dummy would be appreciated. ☒

The Waterlow "Australian Essays", or, rather, "Dummy Stamps"

Article clarifies status of KGVI Labels

Pages 13 and 14 of this issue of *DS* reproduces an article by Brian Livingstone and myself that first appeared in the February 2010 issue of *Stamp Lover*, the magazine of the National Philatelic Society.

Unusually, it did receive a reader response, so the letter and its reply, which is probably best read after reading pages 13 and 14, is reproduced below.

More Dummy Stamps

From Michael J James, Torksey, Lincolnshire

Dear Michael,

For many years I have owned the single copy and block of four of the "stamps" shown in figure 1 (*not depicted here*). I have never known how they came to be printed or for what purpose.

So when I saw the article in the previous issue, I read it from beginning to end. I examined my own specimens and also remembered I had kept a copy of an auction catalogue from Phillips dated February 2000 which included at lot 66 the "stamps" and brief description. (*Lot 66 Essays: KGVI imperf engraved essays by Waterlow, four in different colours on gummed paper, rare, see illustration. Est: £600 to £650.*)

Response by Brian Livingstone:

I am not sure that I can really say how much these dummy stamps are really worth. As with any collectable the buyer has to decide himself depending on how rare he knows it to be and how much he wants it.

The point we were trying to make in the article was not that these are valueless but that they had been incorrectly described for many years. To be fair to Phillips, it was generally accepted that they were some sort of essay rather than a dummy stamp. I think very few people would have been aware of the note in *GSM* written in 1956. My generation of collectors (now aged 60-ish) would probably not have been reading *GSM* in those days and the previous generation (70-ish now) were probably more interested in "other things" at that time and so were unlikely to be reading *GSM* either.

Interestingly, a dealer's catalogue produced this month shows a single stamp in the $\frac{3}{4}$ face version with the marginal colour bar and that was priced at around £75.

It is correctly described as a dummy stamp probably printed to demonstrate "Rotaglio", so that may be a guide for future values.

When I presented this information to the King George VI Collectors Society several members agreed that the stamps had probably been overvalued in the past but no-one accepted my offer to take them off their hands now for a nominal sum.

(*Stamp Lover*, Volume 102, April 2010) ☒

DLR Christmas Greetings Card

Does anyone know its vintage?

As this issue of *DS* is appearing at Christmas, I thought that I would illustrate a greetings card that was sent by De La Rue executives to important customers.

The date of this Christmas card is unknown, but it is an attractive item that appears to bear engraved text within the inside front cover. It has an apparently handwritten signature of a G L Newman, but I have been unable to ascertain the years during which he served at the company, or his position. ☒



*The 4d. Great Britain was engraved by
Jean Ferdinand Joubert de la Ferte (1810-1884)
It was the first postage stamp printed by
Thomas De La Rue and was issued on
July 31st 1855.*

Reconstruction of inside front cover text.

*With all Good Wishes
for Christmas
and the New Year
from
G. L. Newman*

*Thomas De La Rue & Company Limited
Bunhill Row
London E. C. 1*

Reconstruction of inside back cover text.

Waddington's "Pop Stamps"

"Stamps" appeared earlier than previously thought

The first postage stamps fully produced by Waddington's was in 1967 for St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla.

However, reading *The Waddingtons Story* published in 2008 by Jeremy Mills Publishing and written by Victor Watson, Waddington's ex-Chairman, this can possibly be questioned.

On page 74 he writes: "At Waddington's, for playing cards we used 175 dots per inch and prided ourselves on it. In about 1960, we learned from Bob Lewin's company, Brett Litho of New York, how to print 300 dots per inch and *from then on we used that process for postage stamps*" (my italics).

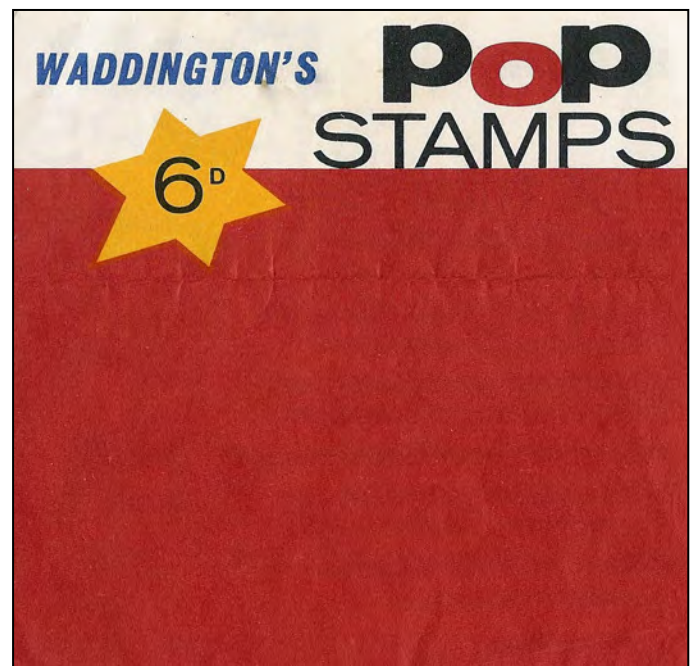
Prior to postage stamp production, they had been printing trading stamps for Green Shield and also got involved with marketing "Pop Stamps". While these are not dummy stamps, per se, they are a good indication of their ability to print stamp-like items. So far, Dusty Springfield, the Beatles and The Bachelors have been seen in this series, which must have also included other pop artists from the 1960s era. The single larger hole on each side and at each corner of these pop stamps indicates that they probably used their trading stamps perforator.

Later Waddington also became involved with the American giant Sperry & Hutchinson following an agreement with Eureka Security Printing of Pennsylvania. Maybe Mr. Watson (who was in his nineties in 2008) is referring to these stamps when he writes about the screen process in use?



Dusty Springfield's "Pop Stamps" in a poor state.

The backing card for The Bachelor's pop stamps is numbered 108, but it is doubtful that Waddington produced that many different labels, especially as they are so rarely encountered. Maybe they started at number 101, making at least eight sets (at least) far more likely. ☒



Front and back of pack and single Bachelor's label. Note poor print quality >>

WADDINGTON'S pop STAMPS

USE THEM TO—

- * Identify your Records and Record Sleeves.
- * Stick on Letters, Greeting Cards and Packages.
- * Illustrate your Autograph Albums and Scrapbooks.
- * Brighten your Book-covers.
- * Make Gay Lamp-shades and Party Decorations.
- * Send with Gift Cards and Invitations.




No. 108 THE BACHELORS

PRINTED IN ENGLAND

The House of Questa and Ashton Potter's Linerless Coil Format Stamps

Newly found information reveals that two versions were produced

In issue 2 of *DS*, I recorded the Ashton Potter / Questa self-adhesive label promoting linerless coil dummy stamps. To recap:

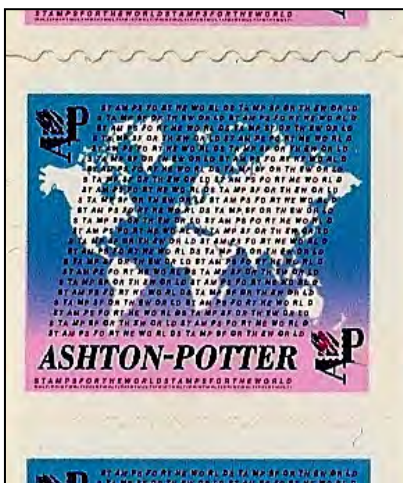
"Back in 1999, Royal Mail was approached by MDC, the Canadian owners of the House of Questa stamp printers. They had a proposal that the UK should issue stamps in mini-coils of 100 self-adhesive stamps held on a backing card to be sold via hang-sell display units in Post Offices. These would primarily have been for use by the SOHO (Small Office, Home Office) business category, which can be from one to 10 workers.

What made this proposal unique in British philately was that, unlike normal self-adhesive stamps, they never had a silicone backing sheet but, instead, the stamps stuck to each other in the same way that Sellotape does. A full mock-up was supplied for consideration, but was not progressed.

Royal Mail assures me that 1st class Machins with imperf top/bottom margins were never made!"

When going through my stack of North American related dummy research papers I rediscovered an email exchange with an American philatelic friend in 2001 that sheds more light on these labels. The relevant portion is reproduced at the foot of this page and shows how both litho [Ashton Potter, Canada or USA] and gravure [House of Questa, UK] versions were produced.

Royal Mail was one of the administrations to receive a test roll, together with a hang-sell card mocked-up by either Ashton Potter or Questa [I suspect that it was AP, due to the imperforate top and bottom of the simulated Machin NVI definitive]. My earlier article illustrated the card as a poor quality black and white image, but it can now be shown in colour, alongside.



Sadly for my contact, I have not discovered any more examples and my copy is, perhaps not surprisingly, the gravure version produced by Questa.

The small text on the label bears a repeat **STAMPS FOR THE WORLD** inscription across the world map, while the micro-printing at foot of label reads **MULTIPRINT**, again in a continuously repeated line. ✉



I have been contacting Ashton Potter about the linerless test coils you were able to buy. Of course I did ask them for samples knowing full well the request was probably in vain.

This is what I heard from a Mr. Joe Sheeran. "These stamps were designed, printed and finished at AP USA several years ago as test samples of our linerless capability. We also had Questa print some so that we also had gravure print samples of this process. These stamps were distributed to many Postal Administrations to evaluate, unfortunately I cannot provide you with any of these stamps."

I was happy I got an answer but sorry no samples were able to be had.

The interesting thing is that they were printed here in the USA by Offset methods and by Questa in the UK by gravure. What type is yours? Now you have to find the other type.

PLEASE try and find a sample for me somewhere, sometime.

CASCO Philatelic Course

Better image of management sheet sought

In 1987, the Crown Agents held a course about how to manage a philatelic bureau operation.



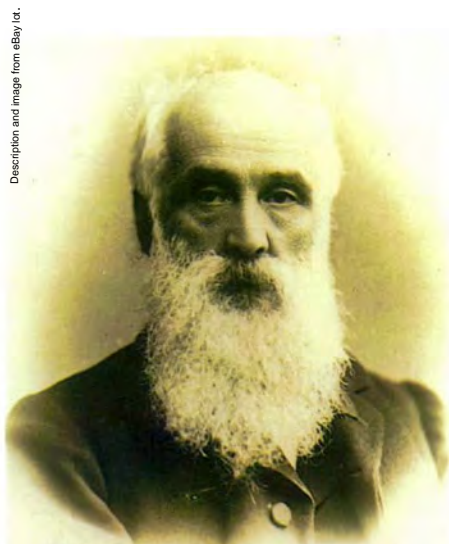
As a souvenir keepsake, Walsall produced a sheet of 15 perf'd labels depicting those who had taken part.

The illustration above hardly does justice to the item so if any reader can supply a quality scan it will be depicted in a future issue of *DS*. ☒

William Ridgeway, Engraver

Putting a face to a name

William Ridgeway engraved the dies of the early stamps of Sarawak (1869/1871), including the



Revenue receipt stamps, on behalf of the printer Maclure, MacDonald & Macgregor of London and Glasgow. It is believed he was freelance. He also engraved currency notes and stamps of other countries.

☒

DLR and Captain Cook

Stamps depict DLR dummy stamp design source

In the December 2010 issue of *Themescene*, the journal of the British Thematic Association, there is an article entitled "Captain Cook Observed" by Alwyn Peel. It describes how he was the collector able to identify Captain Cook as the person depicted on the 1968 De La Rue phosphor trial dummies.

He illustrates a coinage stamp from the Cook Islands issued in 1975 that has an accompanying label showing the Wedgwood plaque by Flaxman.



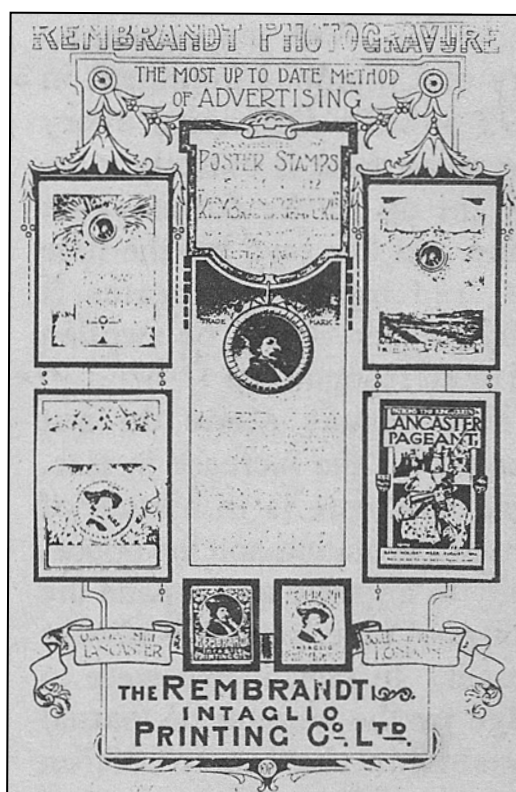
However, an earlier 1970 Cook Islands stamp also depicts the bust on a Royal Visit miniature sheet for anyone wishing to show

the source image alongside the DLR dummy stamps. Expect to pay c£7 for a mint copy of the MS. ☒

Rembrandt Intaglio Printing Co

Better image sought

As with the item in adjacent column, a better quality image of the item below is sought, please. ☒



Cartorelief Update

New information comes to hand

In a recent issue of *DS*, I recorded the thermo-graphic sheet produced by Cartor. More information has recently come to light in that "the sheet was printed using a highly-refined version of the commercial silk-screen process, good enough to imitate some forms of die-stamping, which is marked under the name of *Cartorelief* and has been used for some African stamps to enhance normal lithographic work." This information was recorded by the late and much respected Edgar Lewy in an unknown 1984 British stamp periodical.

We further learn that the sheet depicts an eagle and was chosen because the address of Cartor in France at that time was "L'Aigle" (The Eagle). The sheet was certainly available in 1984, but may have been produced even earlier.

The silk-screen process is not encountered very often in stamp production today, any more than thermography is. These processes are defined in my work for Royal Mail, entitled *British Stamp Printers*, as follows:

[Silk]-Screen (also known as serigraphy). A printing process in which the ink is forced via a giant squeegee through a fine screen (once made of silk, hence name) onto the paper surface of the stamp below. A protective coating on the screen allows colour to pass through in some places (the image area), but not others (the non-image area). Invariably used when heavy ink coverage is required, it is a comparative newcomer in the field of stamp printing. Screen printing was first applied to a British stamp using a thermochromic ink on the Nobel Prizes 2nd class value of 2001.

Thermography. A finishing technique whereby slow-drying ink is applied to the paper and, while the ink is still wet, is lightly dusted with a resinous powder. The sheet of stamps passes through a heat chamber where the powder melts and fuses with the ink to produce a raised surface, giving the effect of recess printing. It is most frequently encountered by the general public on invitations and on business cards. ☒

Waddington Produced Imitation Aerogrammes

Have you ever seen examples?

The article referenced above by Edgar Lewy also mentions that John Waddington of Kirkstall, Leeds, was in attendance at IMPA 84 (Hamburg, Germany) and he states that "...John Waddington, Leeds, displayed imitation aerogrammes...".

Has any reader ever seen an example of one of these dummy airletters? ☒

Harrison "Peaceland" Design

Help Appreciated

The label shown below is a poor quality photocopy reproduced from an [unknown] issue of the British publication *Cinderella Philatelist*, as issued to all members of the Cinderella Stamp Club. This is an excellent club and full details of membership are available from www.cinderellastampclub.org.uk



From the caption in the magazine we learn that this dummy stamp was "... engraved by E W Carter of Harrison & Sons, prepared in the 1930s to demonstrate his engraving ability." {But did Harrisons also print it, as they were basically photogravure printers?}

My research papers describe the design as being of a bird in flight over the sea, inscribed 1c / ONE CENT / 1c above and PEACELAND below with an ornamental frame left and right, but no other details.

Can any reader please clarify colours known, the printing process, whether imperforate, perforate, or both exist and any other information. Also, a better quality scan would be appreciated. I will publish any feedback in the next issue of *DS*. ☒

Walsall Advert on Back of Stamp



Format International Security Stamp Printers

Background to company activities is now online

A new website devoted to the stamp output of Format International is now accessible at <http://golowesstamps.com/reference/formatprinters/FormatInternationalSecurityPrinters.htm> (note the lack of www in the URL).

It contains a lot of information about this company and its eventual demise and although no dummy stamps are recorded within the pages, it will interest collectors who specialise in print matters.

I find the use of a black background with turquoise, magenta, green and red emboldened text to be tiring on the eyes after just a minute or two of viewing. In fact I tend to copy the text and paste it into a Word document and change the text colour to black before attempting to read a long passage. However, this should not be allowed to devalue the content of this site.

About the company:

The origins of Format go back to the early 1960s with a company called Caldew Colour Plates Ltd, which was a colour reproduction specialist producing the plates needed for high quality printing. Caldew advanced the idea of 300-screen and gradually realised that this had an application in stamp printing. Working with colleagues in the paper and ink industries the outcome was an issue of stamps from Yemen depicting the paintings of Rembrandt.

An uncredited article in the March 1985 issue of *Stamp Magazine* [GB] entitled 'The Right Format' stated: "One must remember that in those days the company was still Caldew Colour Plates Ltd: the actual printing was the result of co-operation with other printers. Stamp printing in litho was in fact undertaken on behalf of other established stamp printers: a name plate was held in readiness which could be screwed up should visitors ever call expecting to be shown to a stamp printing plant, in the belief that these were the premises of another printer."

Gradually, the expertise of Caldew and its associates at an established printer (Questa Colour Ltd) came together and it was decided that the time had come to launch a new company.

A suggestion was made by the Questa founders that a 'one-stop-shop' package could be offered to clients with well-known stamp designer Victor Whiteley offering his design services, Caldew Colour Plates producing the plates and Questa Colour Ltd printing the stamps. This consortium was given the name of Format International Security Printers Ltd, trading out of premises in Bermondsey, London, and, at that time, Format's name appeared on many issues that had actually been printed by Questa, including those for the Crown Agents, from 1968. ☒

Harrison Dummy Stamps of the Reign of King George V

Display wins Cinderella trophy

Pages 9 to 12 of this newsletter contain a sixteen page display on the above subject reproduced at 40% of actual size. If viewing the PDF version of *DS*, then enlarging the viewing size will enable the pages to be seen adequately. The display recently won the prestigious Cinderella Stamp Club's annual competition *Glass Slipper* trophy for its owner. ☒

Harrison Shakespeare Labels Exist in "New" Colours

Two further sheets of ten discovered

These labels have been written about previously in *DS*. Sets of 29 colours were first sold some years back, with a 30th sheet having been sold intact by the same dealer before making-up the sets. Now two further sheets can be added, making 32 colours. ☒



Coates Inks
1d Red P18061



Fishburns Inks
Mirro Green 223/1

...and finally

I always welcome details of new dummy finds from printers past and present, and so invite you to write via my Guest Book at stampprinters.info/guestbook.htm, where requests to subscribe to *DS* can also be made.

Business, family and other commitments to the hobby mean that I cannot guarantee that I can rigidly stick to a publishing programme and therefore suggest that you visit stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm every so often where PDF files of this and all future and previous issues of *Dummy Stamps* will be available to download and print-off. Thank you. ☒



Harrison Dummy Stamps of King George V

1910 saw Harrison and Sons take the British low value definitive stamp contract away from the mighty Thos. De La Rue, despite never having printed stamps before.

Development trials perfected stamp production techniques for sheets, booklets and coils for vending and affixing by use of dummy stamps, with publicity labels promoting their new-found skills. This rarely encountered material specifically excludes any essays, colour trials and proofs produced for any issued stamps.

Letterpress stamps were initially produced, with intaglio capability not utilised in this reign, despite producing publicity labels. Photogravure was adopted by 1921 - one of the first security printers anywhere to do so - and this proved to be an excellent decision. Harrison called on expertise from Dutch company NRM to train staff in making cylinders and to print by photogravure. Several dummy stamp designs were printed in Holland by Harrison staff, while NRM later helped them print some values of its photogravure contract for Egypt in 1923.

With Harrison expertise in photogravure stamp production growing, they were guaranteed worldwide contracts, going on to print almost all British stamps this way until, perhaps ironically, they were taken-over by De La Rue plc in 1997. The gravure technique still remains Royal Mail's stamp printing process of choice.

Contains much original published research and discovery, as marked **item first reported and recorded by owner.*



The Harrison house watermark, design (left) and portion of dummy (right) used in some of the dummy stamps, as annotated "H&S Script watermark paper" on the silicon pages that follow.

Plan of Material in Display

Introduction and Plan

1 page

1. Letterpress and Intaglio

- 1.1 Thomas Richard Harrison Labels.
- 1.2 Seated Britannia Labels.
- 1.3 Royal Coat of Arms Labels.

3 pages

2. Stamp Affixing and Vending

- 2.1 Unprinted Label Trials.
- 2.2 "CANCELLED" Testing Labels.
- 2.3 Affixing Machine Demonstration Labels.
- 2.4 Stamp Vending Machine Testing Labels.

5 pages

3. Introduction of Photogravure

- 3.1 Harrison Get Help in Holland.
- 3.2 Int. Colour Matching Labels.
- 3.3 Promission of Photogravure.

7 pages

1. Letterpress and Intaglio

1.1 Thomas Richard Harrison Labels

Circa 1910, labels showing the founder of Harrison were initially used for production trials prior to issuing their first stamps. The red label was the first colour later used for publicity purposes and as it resembled a current one-penny stamp the GPO requested a change of colour.

Perf. 15 x 14 on unwatermarked paper. Printed by letterpress.



Blue: Un-defaced for various testing uses. Purple. Grey-green. Dark blue. Red. Brown: Defaced for use as booklet trials.



The then current penny stamp.



Sheet of eight labels from Post Office counter sized sheets of 240.



Vertical coil pair.



D H Evans store 1281 1/2 perfor on Harrison label with all four edges cut by the Beam affixing machine.



D H Evans perfor layout.



(right) Test piece of six labels from D H Evans (Beam) Poke affixing machine showing misplaced detachment cuts on one label.



1.2 Seated Britannia Labels

A seated Britannia with trident and shield design was produced around 1911. Two versions bear either a rising sun design with horizontal lines in the background, or have an overall solid background to the sky area.

Perf. 15 x 14 on H&S script watermarked paper (brown label) or unwatermarked paper (others).



Red. Black impref proof pull printed on card. Blue. Chocolate brown by letterpress process. Booklet size (left). Coil one (above and below).

Three samples using intaglio. No issued postage stamps were printed by Harrison using this process between 1910 and 1916.



Sheet of 25 (5 x 5) labels using the letterpress process. Note that a single fine comb head was used, as shown by the non-alignment of the horizontal perforations at foot of each label.



Coil pair.

* Item first reported and recorded by owner

1.3 Royal Coat of Arms Labels

Royal coat of arms labels were introduced in 1913 following a letter from the Inland Revenue stating an objection to any dummy design bearing an effigy. Appears to have been used only on coil vending, affixing and booklet development trials, as blocks from sheets remain unrecorded.

Perf. 15 x 14 on H&S script watermarked paper. Printed by letterpress.



Reddish ruby.

Powder blue.

Violet blue.



Unusual violet blue and reddish ruby coil pair strip of three labels.



Red horizontal pair. Possibly from a booklet pane.



Reddish ruby applied booklet pane. Possibly from a larger booklet pane.

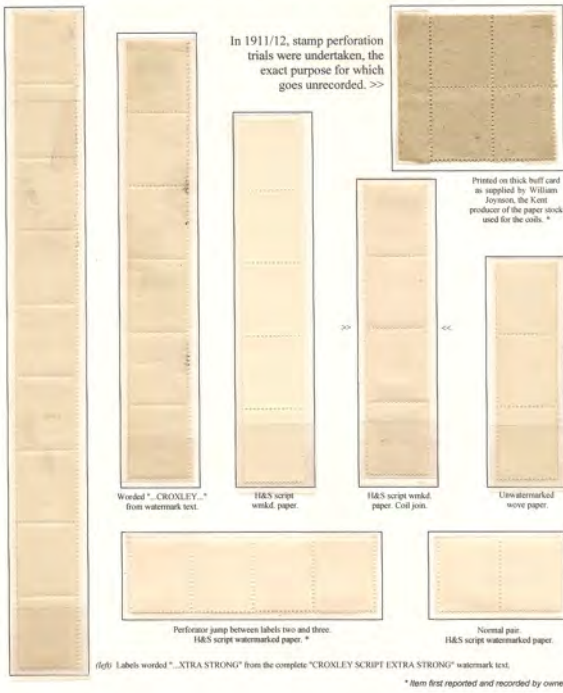


Test piece of eleven labels with two gripper marks and locating pin marks, as separate label shows. The 1/2 stamp affixing machine applied these labels.

2. Stamp Affixing and Vending

2.1 Unprinted Label Trials

From 1910, Harrison created dummy rolls of stamps uniquely for stamp affixing machine suppliers. Initially made-up from sheets of different grades of plain or watermarked unprinted paper, Harrison versions are identifiable from those of De La Rue by their unique 15 x 14 perforation.



2.2 "CANCELLED." Testing Labels

In October 1911, Harrison produced at the request of the Post Office labels overprinted "CANCELLED" using a serif typeface in green or red ink to simulate 1/2d and 1d stamp values.

These were supplied to the British Stamp & Ticket Automatic Delivery Co. and were produced in more than one print-run as Harrison responded to feedback from each trial.



2.3 Affixing Machine Demonstration Labels

Demand for preventing theft and rapidly affixing stamps saw three machines dominate: 'Beam/Poko' [Germany], 'Fixo' [GB] and 'Multipost' [USA]. Others were 'Lightning', 'Brooker's' and 'Standard' [all GB].

Harrison printed dummy rolls with branding for these suppliers (except Beam/Poko) and they were an important rehearsal for the development of stamps in coils by the Post Office in 1912.



2.4 Stamp Vending Machine Testing Labels

Harrison was commissioned by the GPO to produce printed dummy labels for stamp vending machines in March 1935 as there had been problems with using unprinted testing labels.

The first design used 5% ink coverage. This was followed by an interim blank label, then in 1936 by the 'Poached Egg' labels that closely resembled the ink quantity on real stamps.



Harrison Dummy Stamps of King George V Display ~ Pages 5 to 8 of 16.

3. Introduction of Photogravure

3.1 Harrison Get Help in Holland

Nederlandsche Rotogravure Maatschappij (NRM) produced many printing cylinders for Harrison and crucially helped train its technicians in using the photogravure method.

Labels based on Dutch subjects or previously issued postage stamps were printed by Harrison staff who were training in The Netherlands. Robson Lowe, a famous dealer and collector, wrote: "Some 1,200 perforated labels of each design are believed to have been produced on paper supplied by Harrison. The imperforate were colour trials or proofs and are very rare."

This Dutch series of trial labels was to prove pivotal to the future long-term success of Harrison and Sons as printers of postage, trading, promotional and revenue stamps by the photogravure process.

Church of St Nicholas, Amsterdam, built 1887.



Carmine and sepia - imperf. H&S script wmk'd paper.



Brown and green - imperf. H&S script wmk'd paper.



Carmine and green - imperf. H&S script wmk'd paper.



Green and sepia - imperf. Unwatermarked paper.



Brown and sepia - imperf. Unwatermarked paper.



Brown and sepia - perf. Unwatermarked paper.



Green and sepia - perf. Unwatermarked paper.

Maximilian de Robespierre, 1758-1794.



Blue - imperf. H&S script wmk'd paper.



Orange - imperf. H&S script wmk'd paper.



Green - imperf. H&S script wmk'd paper.



Orange - perf. H&S script wmk'd paper.



Blue - perf. H&S script wmk'd paper.

3.1 Harrison Get Help in Holland

Bernardino Rivadavia, 1780-1845.



Green - perf. Unwatermarked paper.

Sultan of Djokjakarta, Java.



Greenish blue - imperf. Unwatermarked paper.



Brown - imperf. H&S script wmk'd paper.



Greenish blue - perf. Unwatermarked paper.

Netherlands Numeral Type Stamp Design, as issued stamps of 1922.



Brown - imperf. Unwatermarked paper.



Purple - imperf. H&S script wmk'd paper.



Brown - perf. Unwatermarked paper.

Thomas Richard Harrison, 1798-1869.



Source image of Harrison label design.



Blue - imperf. Unwatermarked paper.



Black - imperf. Unwatermarked paper.



Green - imperf. Unwatermarked paper.



Red - imperf. Unwatermarked paper.



Blue - perf. Unwatermarked paper.

3.1 Harrison Get Help in Holland

Javanese Negro Girl.



Green - imperf. H&S script wmk'd paper.



Bright blue - imperf. H&S script wmk'd paper.



Orange - imperf. H&S script wmk'd paper.



Dull blue - imperf. H&S script wmk'd paper.



Dull blue - perf. H&S script wmk'd paper.

South African Springbok - Worded "Postzegel Inkomst" (Income Stamp).



Blue and black - perf. Unwatermarked paper.



Blue and purple - perf. Unwatermarked paper.



Green and Carmine - perf. Unwatermarked paper.



Red mono colour - perf. Unwatermarked paper.



Blue and purple - perf. Unwatermarked paper. Full sheet of ten. No copies known with margins intact.

Chateau de Chillon, Switzerland, built 1160.



Mauve and green - imperf. H&S script wmk'd paper.



Mauve and sepia - imperf. Unwatermarked paper.



Green and brown - imperf. Unwatermarked paper.



Mauve and brown - perf. Unwatermarked paper.



Mauve and green - perf. Unwatermarked paper.

3.1 Harrison Get Help in Holland

Queen Wilhelmina, 1880-1962 - Design based on the 1923 Netherlands Indies stamps produced for the 25th anniversary of the assumption of the Netherlands government by Queen Wilhelmina at age 18.



Source image of Wilhelmina label design.



Bright blue - imperf. H&S script wmk'd paper.



Dark green - imperf. H&S script wmk'd paper.



Orange - imperf. H&S script wmk'd paper.



Light green - imperf. H&S script wmk'd paper.



Light green - perf. H&S script wmk'd paper.



Pink - imperf. H&S script wmk'd paper.



Pink - perf. H&S script wmk'd paper.



Green - imperf. Unwatermarked paper without gum. *



Orange - imperf. Unwatermarked paper without gum. *

* Item first reported and recorded by owner

3.1 Harrison Get Help in Holland

Queen Wilhelmina, 1880-1962.



Source image of Wilhelmina label design.



Red and green - imperf. Unwatermarked paper.



Green - perf. Unwatermarked paper.



Red - perf. Unwatermarked paper.



Blue - imperf. Unwatermarked paper.



Purple - imperf. Unwatermarked paper.



Sepia - imperf. Unwatermarked paper.

Prince Hendrik, 1876-1934, Queen Wilhelmina's Prince Consort.



Purple - imperf. Unwatermarked paper.



Blue - imperf. H&S script wmk'd. paper.



Orange - imperf. H&S script wmk'd. paper.



Purple - imperf. Unwatermarked paper.



Light green - imperf. H&S script wmk'd. paper.



Dark green - imperf. H&S script wmk'd. paper.



Dark green - imperf. Unwatermarked paper.



Light green - imperf. H&S script wmk'd. paper.

3.2 Ink Colour Matching Labels

Harrison used inks from five main suppliers and by the mid-1930s had produced photogravure ink colour matching labels in sheets of ten on un gummed paper depicting a defaced Shakespeare. 30 colours known.



The Art and Waborg Co. - USA, Rotary Black W22.



Source image of William Shakespeare label design.



Coates Brothers Inks Ltd. - UK, Azure Blue GB43.



Finkburn Printing Ink Co. Ltd. - UK, Hartley's Green 1991.



Lovell & Babin Ltd. - UK, Red K254G.



B Wainman & Sons Ltd. - UK, Red Brown AN296.

3.3 Promotion of Photogravure

Harrison promoted its mono-colour photogravure printing capabilities by producing publicity labels for the sales teams to show to potential postal administration clients.



Blue Only known perforated.



Purple Only known imperforate.

Ignoring previous requests not to use an effigy on labels, they produced a design depicting Thomas Richard Harrison in the size and general style of the new British definitives.



Source image of James William.



Harrison dummy label design.



These sample labels depicting James William Harrison (1830-1912), used Universal Postal Union (UPU) regulation stamp rate colours, as utilised on British 1/2d, 1d, 1 1/2d and 2 1/2d values. *

* Item first reported and recorded by owner.

3.3 Promotion of Photogravure

In 1927, Harrison set-up Collogravure Ltd to capitalise on photogravure opportunities. The block of green labels below is understood to have been produced to promote this new organisation, probably around 1934.



The "C" logo at bottom left is thought to stand for "Collogravure", the trade name used by Harrison for his photogravure process in the early days. *

The perforations are the antique Harrison gauge, as in the paper, gumming and ink shade, and it had the capabilities to perforate 'in one operation'!



Largest known extant block. *



Strip of four designs from full sheet that comprised six strips. *

Ahead of its time, impressive attempts were made by Harrison around 1935 to print multi-coloured photogravure publicity labels.

By the end of King George Vs reign, photogravure printing at Harrison and Sons had come of age.

The use of letterpress and intaglio processes slowly declined, while today lithography is very much in the ascendency.

* Item first reported and recorded by owner.

The Waterlow "Australian Essays", or, rather, "Dummy Stamps"

by Brian Livingstone and Glenn Morgan

"Lot 547...King George VI 1937 essays incorporating the Australian Head in imperforate pairs in green, blue, red and brown, fine. Photo, valuation £100"

"Lot 339...Australian Commonwealth 1937-52 King George VI Issues". Waterlow Essays in Green block of four on perforated, unwatermarked gummed paper, one unit showing diagonal flaw. Scarce in this shade. Photo. \$200

The first quotation is from a Robson Lowe GB sale catalogue for lot 547 on 15 June 1983. Items identical to those in the lot described are illustrated in **Figure 1**.

The second quote is from Millennium Philatelic Auctions (an Australian house) General Sale catalogue on 26 March 2009 and an example similar to that item is illustrated in **Figure 2**.

The quotations are of interest in perpetuating what we believe is a myth about these stamps. In fact, the items illustrated are some of a number of "dummy stamps" designed and printed by Waterlow & Sons Ltd, as demonstration showpieces for their rotary direct plate printing machine ("Rotaglio").

One of us (Glenn Morgan) has a copy of a Waterlow publication about the "Rotaglio" process (*Reference 3*) and the story behind these printings was recounted in *Gibbon's Stamp Monthly* (GSM) in August 1956 (*Reference 4*). The development of a rotary machine for intaglio printing had been led by the Institut de Gravure in Paris during the 1930s. Waterlow ordered some machines before World War II and French technicians came over as instructors. These dummy stamps using two effigies of King George VI but with identical framing were from several designs illustrated by Waterlow in their own publication. (**Figure 3**)

There is no evidence that these dummy stamps were ever intended as essays for Australia and there are good reasons that indicate they could never have been printed for that purpose.

The King's head on the stamp in **Figure 4** is based on a photograph by Bertram Park one of the court photographers (*reference 1*). This was the basis for the effigy in the vignette on many of the colonial pictorial definitives issued under the aegis of the Colonial Office and the Crown Agents before World War II. De La Rue, Waterlow, Bradbury, Wilkinson and Harrison all printed stamps in which it featured.

Waterlow made at least two engravings from this photo (**Figure 5**). The most commonly used one is exemplified by the detail from the Grenada 5/- stamp illustrated and this was used on the majority of the colonial stamps printed by Waterlow. The other was by J A C Harrison and was used for the Cyprus high value definitives. The effigy on the dummy stamp is not as well done as either of these.

In blocks based on this Bertram Park photo and which include the sheet margin, one finds coloured bars, typical of continental practice (**Figure 6**), but we have not seen these on printings using the Wilding portrait.



Figure 1.
Example identical to one of the items in Robson Lowe (1983) sale, lot 547. The King is facing 3/4 left



Figure 2.
An example similar to the item described in the Millennium Philatelic Auctions (2009) sale, lot 339. The King is shown full face



Figure 3.
The Illustration of examples of Rotary direct plate printings from Waterlow's own publication (*Reference 3*)



Figure 4.
Bertram Park's 3/4 face portrait of King George VI
"© Royal Mail Group Ltd 2009, courtesy of The British Postal Museum & Archive". (BPMA)

Figure 5.
One of the dummy stamps with details from Waterlow printed stamps. On the left Cyprus 90 piastres (J A C Harrison) and on the right detail from Grenada 5/-



Figure 6.
Illustration of a marginal pair showing the colour block on sheets of the dummy stamps with the effigy based on Bertram Park's photo. On the right is an example printed by the Institut de Gravure showing a similar use of the colour block.

Figure 7 includes the photograph that was the basis for the other dummy stamp. The Colonial Office had instructed the Crown Agents that this should be used for all new definitive designs produced after 1939. Waterlow first used it on their second Somaliland Protectorate set in 1942. Again, the engraving of the dummy stamp head is not as good as on the production stamp.

It is not recorded which, if any, stamps Waterlow printed from the rotary machines before or during the War but afterwards they were transported to Brussels to be used at their Belgian subsidiary, Imprimerie Belge de Sécurité.

There, "Rotaglio" was used for the Queen Elizabeth II Rhodesia and Nyasaland 1d and ½d coil stamps in 1955/56 (SG 2a and 1a). It was very suitable for this because the machine printed onto paper from a continuous reel. It also perforated and cut the sheets on the same pass. It could print up to four colours at a time and so it was hoped (at least by the writer in GSM) that this cheaper process would lead to increased use of intaglio printing even for GB low values. It was used again for the Nigeria 2d (SG 72c) in 1956 and the 3d (SG 73a) (References 5 & 6).

In the event, photogravure remained more economical and did not incur the costs or the skill of an intaglio engraver.

An Australian Essay?

It is not clear how the idea has arisen that these were connected with Australia but as the quotes from the auction catalogues show, this is a persistent concept.

We take the term "Australian Head" to mean the effigy of King George VI that was used on the Australian low value definitives for 1937 onwards. These were designed by R A Harrison and engraved by Frank Manley in Australia for the Government Printer (at that time John Ash).

This is not based on the Bertram Park portrait but on one by Peter North and it is a different pose. Figure 8 illustrates this with a detail from Peter North's photograph.

Similarly, it is difficult to see how it came to be described as an essay for an Australian stamp. A reference to this is made in 1990 by Bill Hornadge who wrote in his "Cinderella Corner" for Stamp News Australasia (Reference 2):

"In 1937 Waterlow and Sons, UK, prepared an essay of a King George VI Australia Head stamp printed in violet and prepared in both imperf and perf 15 x 14 format in a bid to procure a contract from the Australia Post Office. They failed as the Post Office produced its own design and had the stamps printed in Australia".

Looking at either of the dummy stamps this seems incredible. Apart from the lower quality of engraving and the absence of space for "Australia" or a value, perhaps the most telling feature is the nature of the floral decoration in the framing. (Figure 9)



Figure 9.
Detail of the floral elements in the dummy stamps.

One can make out an English Rose, Scottish Thistle and Irish Shamrock. The flower pointing to the right is not easily identifiable as anything Welsh. It is probably meant to depict a daffodil (Reference 7). At any rate there is nothing in the least Australian about the design.



Figure 7.
Dorothy Wilding's photo, one of the dummy stamps and detail from Waterlow's 1942 Somaliland Protectorate printings. Photograph "© Royal Mail Group Ltd 2009, courtesy of The British Postal Museum & Archive".

Figure 8.
One of the 1937 Australian definitive set engraved by F Manley with the detail from original photo by Peter North



Waterlow produced stamps for most of the Empire countries but Australia was never one of them.

The Australian Government printed all its own stamps after the contract with Perkins Bacon to produce dies and plates for letterpress George V stamps in 1914/1915.

Thus we conclude that there is no evidence to support the term "Australian Head" or the suggestion that these were essays for Australian stamps. The evidence against that is very convincing. In fact, these dummy stamps were printed purely to demonstrate the products from the Rotary Direct Plate Printing Machine.

References

1. *Photographing Royalty for Stamps, Interview with Mr Bertram Park, Stamp Collecting*, vol XLVIII, no.20, August 1937.
2. *Cinderella Corner by Bill Hornadge, Stamp News Australasia*, vol 38, no.10, p 106, October 1990.
3. *The Printing of Value Papers with special reference to our Rotary Direct Plate (formerly known as "Rotaglio") Products*, Waterlow & Sons Ltd., January 1950.
4. *An Interesting G.B. Essay*, *Gibbon's Stamp Monthly*, vol XXIX, no.12, p 168, August 1956.
5. *British Colonials Now Printed Abroad*, *Gibbon's Stamp Monthly*, vol XXIX, no. 5, p 50, January 1956.
6. *Commonwealth and British Empire Stamps 1840 -1970*, Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue, 110th ed. 2008 p 453.
7. T H S Duke, Chester Herald, College of Arms, Personal communication, August 2009

Acknowledgements

The images of the dummy stamps in Figures 1, 2, 5 and 7 are from specimens lent by Don Brookfield, King George VI Collectors Society. The copy of the photo by Peter North in Figure 8 is courtesy of George Darby.

The 1983 Robson Lowe GB sale catalogue was obtained for us by Paul Skinner, British Library, Philatelic collections

George Stewart FRPSL, tracked down the full citation for Reference 2.

Dummy Stamps

Issue 20

A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material

Quarter 1, 2011

PUC £1 Printed in Blue Ink

Enschedé Guildhall sheets sold in a limited edition

The Postal Union Congress £1 is one of the most desired of all British stamps. It was issued in 1929 to commemorate the ninth Congress held in London.

50 copies of the facsimile sheets of four stamps that had been printed by Enschedé at the *Empire Mail: George V and the GPO* exhibition were made available to purchase from the BPMA from 13 December 2010. The price was £50, plus £4 to cover the cost of Special Delivery. They came with a uniquely numbered insert and all profits will be used to help further the important work of BPMA.

There was a great deal of interest in these sheets and sales enquiries were coming in from around the world, as a result of which they quickly sold out.

This is a lovely souvenir of a great exhibition and is sure to be treasured by the few lucky purchasers. ☒



As part of the London 2010; Festival of Stamps, The British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA), in partnership with the Royal Philatelic Collection and Guildhall Art Gallery, staged the exhibition *Empire Mail: George V and the GPO*.

At the exhibition, between 6 - 15 May 2010, facsimiles of the 1929 Postal Union Congress £1 stamp were produced in blocks of four in a shade of blue similar to one of the original colour trials.

In order to produce the facsimile stamps, Joh. Enschedé Security Print created a newly engraved intaglio plate based upon the original 1929 die held by the BPMA.

The facsimile stamps were printed by staff from Joh. Enschedé Security Print at Guildhall Art Gallery, using the new plate and a nineteenth century intaglio press loaned by Museum Enschedé in Haarlem, Holland.

The BPMA is custodian of two significant collections that together span 400 years of postal heritage: the Royal Mail Archive and the museum collection of the former National Postal Museum. Records in the Royal Mail Archive are Designated as being of outstanding national importance.

The ink is applied by hand to the intaglio plate.
Image courtesy of British Museum

The plate and dampened paper are passed through the roller under pressure.
Image courtesy of British Museum

Artwork for accepted £1 design by Harold Nelson, 2 January 1929.
Image courtesy of Royal Mail Group Ltd 2010



Above - Face and reverse of the numbered insert card that accompanied each sheet.

Alongside - The sheet was printed on thick card torn from much larger sheets, hence the depiction of uneven edges.

Below - Enlargement of a single stamp that has been electronically cropped from the full sheet to reveal the fine detail of the engraving.



00p Value Machin Stamps

Colour standards for use in ink shade matching

These dummy stamps surfaced on the philatelic market in 2007 and have been given many different descriptions since that time in dealer lists, auctions and the like, e.g.:

- Printer** - Enschedé, Walsall, De La Rue, Harrison, Questa.
- Type** - Error of value(!), Chinese forgeries, colour trials, proofs.
- Printing Method** - Litho, photogravure.

The truth is that they are gravure colour standards printed by De La Rue when at Byfleet and circulated to Royal Mail's Machin stamp print suppliers to ensure that a colour match could be achieved by each printer and for each print run.

I understand that the initial print run (pre-2003) was supplied imperforate, the second run (circa 2003) is illustrated here and are perforated 14.75 x 14 with ellipses, while a third run replaced these once Royal Mail Specification (RMS) paper had been introduced in 2005. Types one and three are not believed to be in the hands of collectors. Prices vary greatly, but seem to have generally settled at around the £120 mark per stamp, with examples of far cheaper and far dearer not being unusual.

Marginal or joined copies are unrecorded. The sheet format is thought to be three rows of three stamps, as previously used by Harrison for its testing labels and probably continued by DLR when they bought the company. A Harrison sheet (with much larger unprinted margins cropped from the scan) is below.

An article on the 00p stamps by Gerry Fisk appeared in MBPCs journal The Bookmark in October 2007.

The colour names used here are from Douglas Myall's The Complete Deegam Machin Handbook. Be sure to visit his website www.deegam.com to buy the award-winning handbook on every aspect of Machin definitive stamps.



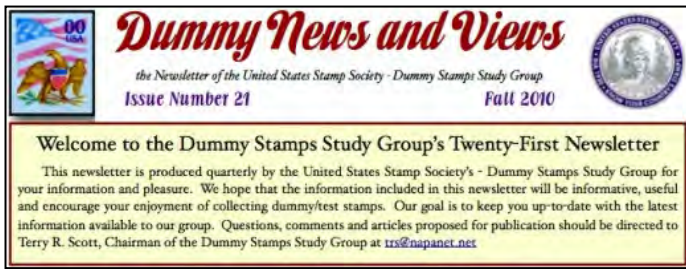
I have slowly been amassing scans of each value from many sources on the Internet since they first appeared and I can at last illustrate all 34 recorded colours. ☒

Note that the various scanners used by the vendors has not always preserved the exact colour shade.



The American Equivalent to Dummy Stamps

Long-term readers of Dummy Stamps will recall that I was inspired by the American Dummy News and Views



Issue 21 of *Dummy News and Views* was recently made available online, along with the previous 20 issues, at www.usstamps.org/dssg.html

This is an excellent publication that covers the U.S. equivalent philatelic material to that contained within DS. Its masthead design is depicted alongside.

The Welcome statement reads: *"This newsletter is produced quarterly by the United States Stamp Society's Dummy Stamps Study Group for your information and pleasure. We hope that the information included in this newsletter will be informative, useful and encourage your enjoyment of collecting dummy/test stamps. Our goal is to keep you up-to-date with the latest information available to our group. Questions, comments and articles proposed for publication should be directed to Terry R. Scott, Chairman of the Dummy Stamps Study Group at trs@napanet.net"*

The latest issue contains discoveries by DSSG members, useful auction price realisations and details of recent articles appearing elsewhere. Typical US dummy stamps appear below, but not depicted at same scale.



If your collecting interests extend to America, then I highly commend this free publication to you. ☒

The Royal Philatelic Society London and its Catalogue Website

The Dummy Stamps newsletters were accessed 212 times in nine months via the RPSL Catalogue website

The Royal Philatelic Society London has an invaluable website at www.rpslcatalogue.org.uk that will, in time, list all of the Society's archives, artefacts and printed material, fully searchable both at 41 Devonshire Place, its London home, and with selected material made available through the Internet, including some for non-members.

The facility that has really taken off is the usage of the cumulative indexes, and the resultant hits through to society websites. An astonishing number of links were passed through to other societies in 2010 and *Dummy Stamps* came in at a very respectable position 20 in the list of the most popular sites visited, with an average of 21.6 visits per month being redirected from the RPSL Catalogue website.

If you are one of these collectors that found us this way, then I hope that you will have benefited from your visit and that you may consider being a regular subscriber to this free newsletter by dropping me a line. See *"...and finally"* at the end of each publication for details. There should be no more than six emails from me in any calendar year and your details are never passed on to anyone else, with all emails 'blind copied' (also known as the 'bcc' facility), thus maintaining your privacy. Subscribers are sent a link when the latest issue is available and file sizes and the number of pages are advised enabling you to decide whether to download, print-off, or simply view on-screen. This stops your inbox being filled with data. You can unsubscribe at any time with ease. ☒

Guernsey Occupation 50 Years On ~ What Might Have Been in 1991

While not dummy stamps, these unadopted designs tell the story of stamp production under wartime conditions



Design and artwork preparation.



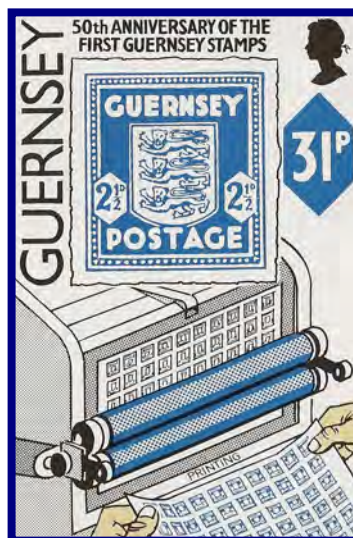
Mounting bromide to make negative.



Cleaning and polishing the plate.



Gumming stamp sheets by brush.



The stamps are printed.



The sheets are rulletted.

All illustrations on this page are © Guernsey Post Ltd and are reproduced here with its kind permission.
Visit www.guernseystamps.com to see current issues.

These designs were never destined to be issued by the Guernsey Post Office, but are fascinating because they depict the story of how Guernsey's wartime stamps were designed and printed.

The Guernsey Press Company of St Peter Port were the producers and, indeed, they printed the commemorative stamp booklet issued 50 years later in 1991 (but not the issued stamps within, which were produced by BDT in Dublin in three sheetlets of three stamps with details of each wartime value and quantities in the margins).



Graphic designer Tony Theobald had submitted these six designs which I consider to be of great interest to collectors. The three issued stamps, above, were by the late Clive Abbott.

It is pleasing that Guernsey Post used Tony's unadopted designs on the interleaving of the commemorative stamp booklet, which depict the



six main procedures that were involved in preparing the stamps for issue under what were clearly difficult wartime occupation conditions.

The cover of the booklet is illustrated above to identify it to anyone wanting a copy. Available from dealers, but no longer from Guernsey Post.

Guernsey issues many interesting stamps, but for me none more so than this booklet, which I have only recently 'discovered'. ☒

Bruckmann of Munich

KEVII Dummy Stamps

Exciting "new" finds reach the British market

King Edward VII dummy stamps of the one penny design have surfaced (as reported by me in *DS10*) and are currently being marketed by Rushstamps (www.rushstamps.co.uk) who state in their advert:

"They were produced almost 100 years ago in 1913 and then re-discovered 7 years ago in an auction in Germany. These British King Edward VII trial 1d stamps were printed in deep blue, imperforated and on gummed paper using the multiple "zig zag" watermarked paper as used for 19th Century Bavarian stamps in small sheets of 25 with wide margins.

"Bruckman (*sic*) of Munich, the German printers, wanted to tender for the contracts to produce British stamps on their new Heidelberg machines. They used Edward VII stamps during the reign of King George V to protect the Post Office revenue so they could not be used for postage – and additionally these 'sample stamps' were produced slightly oversize also to detract from possible usage. With the outbreak of World War I imminent negotiations were cancelled.

"In April 2008 a single copy was sold by Apex Auctions of Surrey for £240 plus 15% buyers premium (£276!). The cheapest Edward VII trial stamps listed by Stanley Gibbons start at £1500 each! and generally realise full catalogue or over. Fully authenticated with a DAVID BRANDON certificate."

I struggled to believe that a German printer thought that they could win the contract to print British stamps, much less that "...imminent negotiations were cancelled.", so I set about trying to find information that might help clarify this.

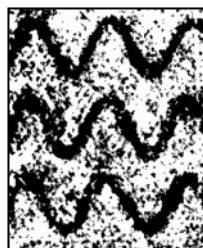
F Bruckmann AG of Munich is mentioned at www.metropostcards.com : "A major printing and publishing house founded in 1858 in Frankfurt by Friedrich Bruckmann, a classical art scholar. In addition to high quality picture books they produced maps, calendars, brochures, and postcards."

I state in *DS11*: "The first ever photogravure stamps were issued by Bavaria in 1914 and were printed by F Bruckmann, who utilised a screened photogravure cell structure."

The company had actually started using the photogravure process for non-stamp work from 1903 and were the first company in Germany to do so.

Interestingly, Bruckmann produced a similar item to the KEVII trial for America. An (unrecorded) auction sale listing states : "(5c) Washington brown photo-etching test stamp on wove paper, wide right sheet margin block of twelve (6x2) with ample to large margins on the other three sides, left block of four with natural pre-printing paper creases, otherwise fresh and Very Fine; only 372 stamps exist in private hands. The photo-etching process was tested by the firm of Bruckmann A.G. of Munich, Germany. A photographic negative was used to etch the image on an intaglio metal plate. A defaced design of the then current 5c Washington was utilized, probably in hopes of showing a saleable product to the U.S. Post Office Department."

So, maybe Bruckmann *did* try to tender for British stamp production, for it is clear that they were a major printing house. If any reader can add to this story, then I will share the information next time.



The watermark used on the blue dummy stamp and a typical Bavarian stamp of period that used this watermark.



Towards the end of 2010, mirror images of the blue stamps in red or black started appearing for sale via other stamp dealers and, again, they have been described as being part of the Bruckmann stamp tendering process. No further information is known about these two interesting "new" items.



Mirror-images of printings in black and red (much scarcer than black). Note the guide dots and that the design area is larger (23mm W x 27mm H) than the blue versions (21mm W x 25mm H) above.

Update: In January 2011, Rushstamps began selling unwatermarked versions of the blue dummy stamps in an otherwise identical printing to the water-marked equivalent. ☒

Feedback from DS19

Many thanks...

Issue 19 of *DS* produced more feedback and new finds than any previous number and I am grateful to everyone who has added to our history and knowledge of these interesting items. If feedback continues at this rate, you, the readership, could well be compiling every page for me!

This inter-action is the primary reason why I produce *DS* and proves to me that this area of collecting has a strong following. Indeed, the 75th subscriber has just registered, which may not seem a lot, but for such a specialised field is acceptable, especially as many more read the newsletter by simply downloading it without ever registering.

Coronation Labels, 1937

"Further to your coverage of the above in DS13, I attach scans which add to the information.

The scans show the insert card and the envelope in which the sheetlets were sold. I know you will be aware of other souvenir issues..." (The 'other issues' mentioned were by Vallancey and Parkshaw and are not shown here as they are outside of the scope of this publication.)



CORONATION SOUVENIRS OF THE KING'S REGALIA

DESCRIPTION OF THE DESIGNS.

ST. EDWARD'S CROWN.

A golden crown of two arches crossing at the top, and rising from a rim or circle of gold, over a cap of crimson velvet, lined with white taffeta and turned up with ermine. The base of the arches on either side is covered with a cross pattée; between the crosses are four fleurs de lys of gold, which rise out of the circle, the whole enriched with pearls and precious stones. On the top, at the intersection of the arches, which are somewhat depressed, is a globe of gold surmounted by a cross pattée adorned with jewels, particularly by three large oval pearls, one of which is on top of the cross, and the others pendant at each limb. This is the official crown of England, but being used solely for the Coronation, is never worn twice by the same monarch.

THE BIBLE AND THE CROWN.

After taking the Coronation Oath, the King proceeds to the Altar, where he kisses the Bible and signs a transcript of the Oath. Later the Bible is handed to the King. The Ring, by which the King is wedded to his people, is of pure gold, with a large table ruby of violet colour, on which a plain cross of St. George is engraved. The Ruby is surrounded by twenty-six diamonds. The Ring is made like a bracelet, with a spring snap.

THE ORB.

The Orb, or Globe, which is put into the King's hand immediately before St. Edward's Crown is placed upon his head, and carried in his left hand in the subsequent procession, is a ball of gold, six inches in diameter, surrounded by a band of gold decorated with rose diamonds and pearls. On the top is a large amethyst, which forms the pedestal of a cross of gold, three inches and a quarter in height, and three inches in breadth, and decorated with precious stones. It is the symbol of universal dominion.

THE AMPULLA.

A vessel of pure gold containing the holy oil for anointing the King, shaped like an eagle with expanding wings, nine inches in height. The width between the tips of the wings is seven inches. The head unscrews at the neck and the oil pours from the beak.

ST. GEORGE'S SPURS.

Sometimes called the Great Spurs, they are of gold and are brought from the Altar after the anointing, by two Earls, who, kneeling before the King, touch his heels with them as a sign of knighthood.

THE IMPERIAL STATE CROWN.

Originally made for Queen Victoria. In the front of the crown is the great ruby which belonged, 600 years ago, to the King of Granada, to obtain which he was murdered by King Pedro of Castile, who later presented it back to the Black Prince. Other gems in the crown are a sapphire from the finger ring of Edward the Confessor, pearls from ear-rings worn by Queen Elizabeth, and the smaller of the two largest portions of the Cullinan Diamond.

THE SWORD OF STATE.

A large two-handed sword, having a scabbard of crimson velvet, decorated with gold plates of the Royal Badges. The handle and pommel of the sword are embossed with similar devices in silver gilt. The sword of State is borne before the King as he proceeds to the Altar after taking the Oath.

ST. EDWARD'S STAFF.

A staff or sceptre of gold, four feet eleven and half inches long, having a foot of steel, about four and a quarter inches in length, with a mound and cross at the top. St. Edward's Staff is borne before the King in the procession which precedes the Coronation.

THE SWORD OF MERCY.

Curtana, or the pointless Sword of Mercy, has formed part of the English Regalia from the earliest times. The name Curtana, or Curtein, was that of the sword wielded by Ogier the Dane, in the romances of chivalry. The blade is about thirty-two inches long, and nearly two inches broad. The handle, covered with fine gold wire, is four inches long. The pommel and cross are plain and steel gilt. The scabbard is of rich brocade, studded with gilt ornaments.

THE ROYAL SCEPTRE.

Borne by the sovereign in his right hand, and sometimes called the Sceptre with the Cross. Made of gold and richly adorned with precious stones, including the largest portion of the Cullinan diamond. The top rises into a fleur de lys of six leaves, out of which arises a mound formed of a large amethyst, garnished with diamonds and other precious stones. The Queen Consort's sceptre is fashioned like the King's, but is shorter.

THE ANOINTING SPOON.

The Spoon, into which the holy oil is poured from the Ampulla, is of silver, heavily gilt, and is adorned with four large pearls in the broadest part of the handle. The bowl is grooved and shaped for two fingers as used in the anointing.

THE SCEPTRE AND THE DOVE.

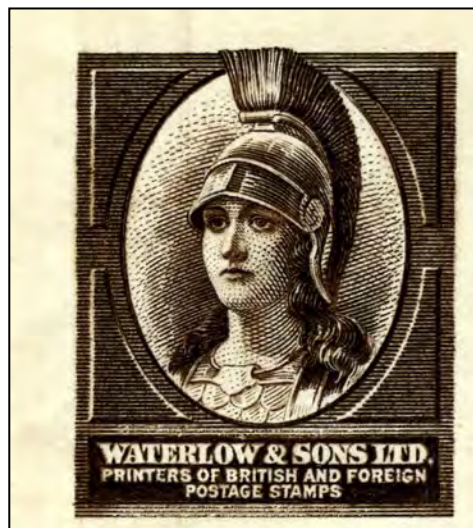
A sceptre of gold, decorated with precious stones, surmounted by a globe and cross, and a dove, as an emblem of mercy, enamelled white, with wings expanded.



Waterlow Britannia Head Design

I had previously seen the perforated version in a reddish colour, but thanks to a reader I can now also illustrate the imperforate version in brown ink and record that they were printed in sheets of 60 labels.

Can anyone put an approximate date on these two items, please?



1975 Turner Paintings with Defacing Bars

A further set from 1975 cancelled for publicity use.



The cancelling bars on each stamp were applied by Harrison in a limited overprinting run by the letterpress process.

The stamps were *not* cancelled by a fibre-tipped pen, unlike some modern P.O. training stamps.

Harrison Booklet Pane

A reader kindly made me aware of an attractive complete booklet pane on offer by stamp dealer Candlish McCleery in his February 2011 sales list (go to www.candlishmccleery.com).

The offer read:

"1912 Harrison & Sons trial booklet pane. A complete u/m trial booklet pane of six (P perf) in plum excised from a trial booklet with plain red covers inscribed on front "I H&S 13/7/12". Rare! £595"



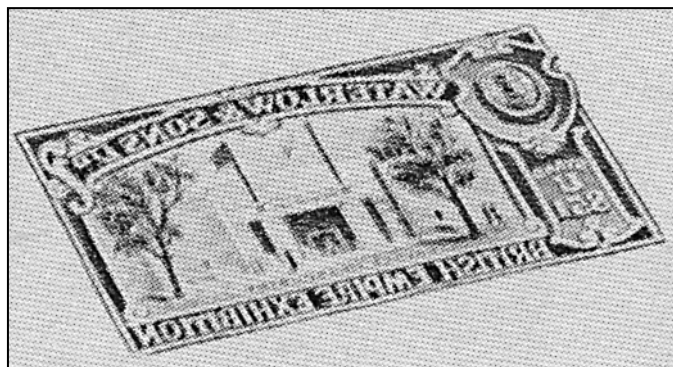
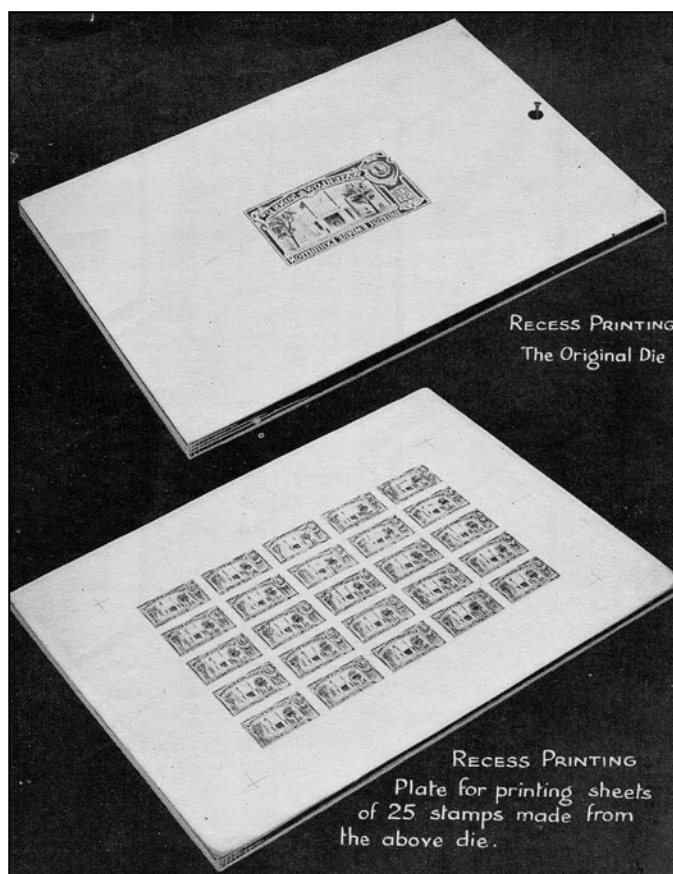
A poor quality scan, but it gives an idea of what the item looks like.

Waterlow BEE Label Plates

The Palace of Engineering labels produced by Waterlow & Sons for the British Empire Exhibition in 1924 and 1925 were recently featured in *DS*.

I have been reminded by a reader that he had seen the plates for these, both single image and full sheet versions, in a well-known philatelic book, although neither of us can recall in what book they appeared.

However, I had previously scanned the images, so can at least illustrate them here. I will publish the title of the book in due course if I ever recall it. ☒



Close-up of the single image revealing that it is the U851 stand number version from 1925.

Feedback from DS19 continued...

Waterlow Travelling Salesman's Sample Sheet



Rembrandt Intaglio Printing Company

This printer has always fascinated me, so to receive not just the colour image that I requested, but others too was a real bonus. For a history of Rembrandt and others in the once mighty Sun Printers group visit www.sunprintershistory.com

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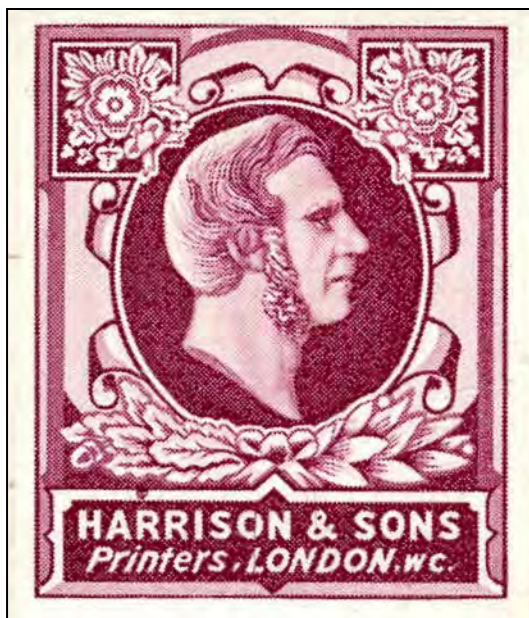
This interests you if you are a manufacturer.

REMBRANDT INTAGLIO PRINTING CO. LTD.
 QUEEN'S MILL, LANCASTER. 36, BASINGHALL ST, LONDON.

IMPORTANT NOTICE See Other Side

Early Photogravure Harrison Label

"This is quite scarce compared with its letterpress equivalents." This is true, as prices over the past couple of years have risen from £15 to £40 and latest prices are around the £95 mark.



Royal Visit to Harrison & Sons

"This is a three-part card for the visit of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Philip The Duke of Edinburgh to Harrison & Sons Limited, High Wycombe on Tuesday 30th May 1972."

Note that the stamps depicted on the card are real.



Outside front cover (right) scanned to a different scale to the inside of this item

Inside spread (below)

Traditionally the portrait of the Sovereign has appeared on all British postage stamps since the publication of the Penny Black in 1840.

This 'keep-sake' illustrates some of the ways in which the portrait has been used on recent issues. On definitive stamps it has always filled the dominant place in the design and even the early special issues of previous reigns have tended to emphasise the monarch's effigy.

The first stamps of the current reign bore a reproduction of a photographic portrait by Dorothy Wilding. The gradated tones which the photograph provided were eminently suitable for printing by photogravure, particularly as it was then only practicable to print in monochrome.

Stylistically however this portrait had an inhibiting effect on the design of special issues, for the size at which it could be reproduced adequately often made it the predominant element and so tended to encourage an heraldic style of design. The representational nature of the photograph made it difficult for a satisfactory association with other figurative elements in a design to be achieved.

In 1966 Arnold Machin RA, the sculptor, was commissioned by the Post Office to make a new portrait of The Queen for use on a new issue of definitive stamps. He had already been working on a bas-relief portrait for the decimal coinage and he therefore took those studies as the basis for his portrait for the stamps.

By taking the profile pose for his portrait Arnold Machin invested his design with all the classical dignity and simplicity of the early stamps and produced a result unequalled in previous definitive issues. The profile head was also more readily adaptable to a silhouette and so enabled it to be integrated more satisfactorily with other elements in the design of special issues. It could also be reproduced at a smaller size without loss of recognition. By using the head either as a flat colour silhouette or in its toned variety the designer now has greater flexibility in choosing the most suitable version for a particular design, than was possible with the three-quarter view photograph.

Photograph by Dorothy Wilding taken in 1952

Elizabethan galleon
The Machin head in a modified silhouette in half-tone on David Gentleman's ship issue 1969

The modified silhouette in flat colour on Rosalind Dease's Tutankhamun stamp 1972

Photograph by Cecil Beaton taken in 1968

Bas-relief by Arnold Machin made in 1966

The modified Machin silhouette die-stamped in gold on Fritz Wegner's Christmas issue 1969

The definitive Machin silhouette hot-press foil blocked in aluminium

Painting by Annigoni made in 1954

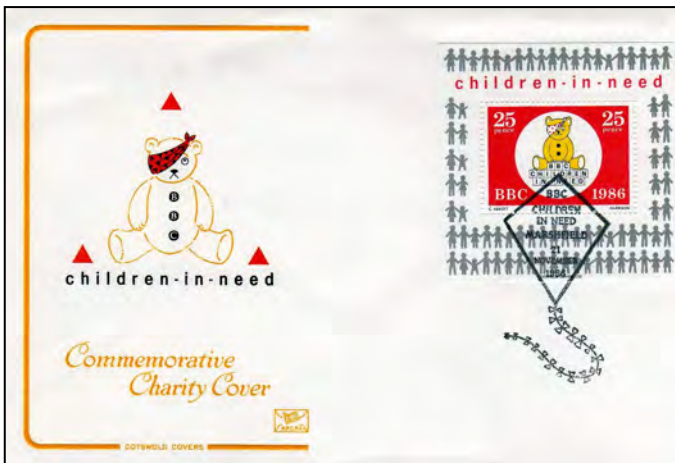
De La Rue Christmas Card

"One answer to your question re DLR greetings card. The image on the front of the card was created as a card (not as far as I knew as a greetings card) in 1955 to celebrate DLR's centenary of producing GB postage stamps."

Children in Need

"Further to your reference to the above in DS15, I attach a scan of an FDC for 1986 which may be of interest."

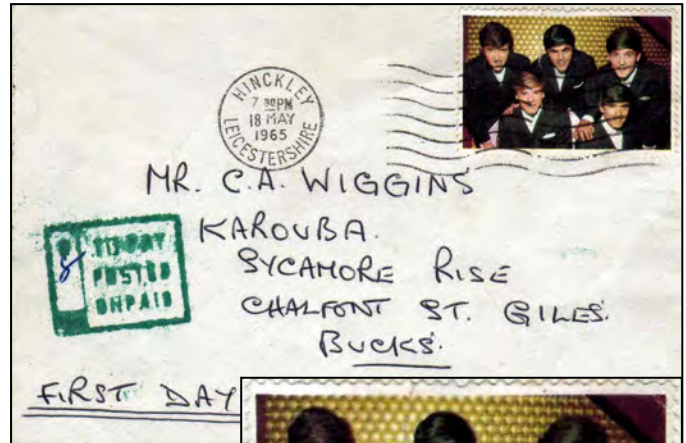
It certainly is. Note how the printer is Harrison and the designer Clive Abbot, while Cotswold Covers were the producers. I wonder if presentation packs also exist, as with the DS15 item?



Waddington Pop Stamps

"Re your article in DS19 re Pop Stars. I have similar stamps depicting the Dave Clark Five, Dave Clark on his own and the group Manfred Mann."

The Dave Clark Five stamp is on a posted cover marked 'First Day Cover' and dated 18-5-1965. It also bears an '8d to pay posted unpaid' cachet."



The Dave Clark Five band

There is nothing to prove - or disprove - that the 18 May 1965 was the first day of issue for this dummy stamp, but the era would certainly imply that it could well be correct. I wonder if every Pop Stamp was issued on that day, or over a period?

KGV Stamp Display

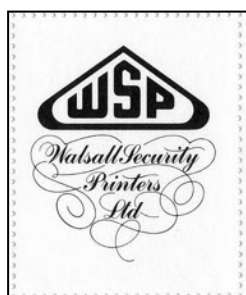
"One point, on the Cinderella display (which was brilliant) - in the top right corner of sheet 2.1 you have a block of four on coarse brownish paper."

"A quantity of these came on the market many years ago and have had various descriptions as to what they represented - usually perforation trials. I showed some to Len Young at Grover's some years ago, and he immediately said it was 'perforators waste'. He said if the machine was left for any length of time the gummed 'holes' from the perforation tended to 'set' in the die plate and this type of paper was run through to clear the waste."

"Sounded reasonable to me, so I pass it on."

Stamp Advisory Committee Visit to Walsall, 1989

Dr Jean Alexander writes: "With reference to the CASCO sheet, a similar item was presented to members of the Stamp Advisory Committee after a tour of the factory and a special lunch to commemorate the printing of Walsall's first booklet for Royal Mail. I think it was one in the Dickens series and a proof sheet signed by several of us is held in the philatelic archives at BPMA." This is an interesting souvenir of a special day in WSPs history and one that I had not heard of previously. ☒



Dr Alexander signing a proof sheet of booklet definitive stamps during her VIP visit to Walsall Security Printers in January 1989.

...and finally

I always welcome details of new dummy finds from printers past and present, and so invite you to write via my Guest Book at stampprinters.info/guestbook.htm, where requests to subscribe to DS can also be made.

Business, family and other commitments to the hobby mean that I cannot guarantee that I can rigidly stick to a publishing programme and therefore suggest that you visit stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm every so often where PDF files of this and all future and previous issues of *Dummy Stamps* will be available to download and print-off. Thank you. ☒

Dummy Stamps

Issue 21

A Newsletter Covering Dummy Stamp Material from British Stamp Printers

Quarter 2, 2011

Harrison Stamp Active Labels

Labels printed free of charge at High Wycombe

This sheet was produced by Harrison in 1990 to support the launch of Stamp Active at *Stamp World London '90*. The sheets were given out to school clubs as part of the Stamp Active pack when they joined or were sold for £1 to raise funds. Harrison donated the print run to help support the hobby



There appears to be no record of the numbers that were printed, but the scheme organiser thinks it may have been 5000 sheets. He recently stated: "You see very few appearing on the Cinderella market", which is certainly the case.

The Stamp Active Network continues its work. ☒

Sefi's "Advanced Philatelic Research" on CD from The Royal

Limited stocks available, so do not delay

The fascinating 1932 second edition of the book *An Introduction to Advanced Philately* by Alexander J Sefi is now available as a digital PDF edition from The Royal Philatelic Society London. Edited by John Wills and Geoffrey Eibl-Kaye, it was published last year at a very reasonable £5, plus £1 (UK), £2 (worldwide) postage and packing.** It is available to members and non-members of The Royal and, if the latter, why not ask for an application pack to be included with the disk, as membership is certainly worthwhile.

What makes the original *printed* publication especially interesting to readers of *DS* is that it included several sheets of actual dummy stamps printed by Perkins Bacon & Co Ltd., all to the same design, but using different printing processes to highlight visually the many differences between the processes.

The digital edition does, of course, NOT include actual sheets, but they are included as PDFs, as you would expect. There are also photographs of dies, etc., all of which go towards helping the reader to obtain a higher understanding of "the art and mystery of printing", to quote an early Harrison & Sons publication.

The printed book tends to sell at well over £100.

** Payment must be made in pounds sterling either by a cheque drawn on a UK bank or by credit card (Visa or MasterCard only). PayPal can also be used via accounting@rpsl.org.uk. Please allow 28 days for delivery. If sending in a cheque, post it to The Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY and please mention DS when ordering. ☒

Napoleon and Rembrandt

Clarification regarding Napoleon dummy stamps



The contentious label.



Napoleon in his study.

“Made in Germany as pro-Boer propaganda” has been constantly repeated in stamp dealer listings as the source of these dummy stamps, but it has not been possible to understand why this would be the case, or where the 'explanation' originated.

The first Boer War was held between 1880 to 1881 and the second war between 1899 and 1902. Both were between the British Empire and the Afrikaans speaking inhabitants of the Transvaal Republic and the Orange Free State.

Why would the Germans have been producing stamp-like labels depicting the French military commander Napoleon Bonaparte? Incidentally, *“Anti Boer war propaganda”* has also been reported, which equally makes no sense.

Thanks to an auction description, this design is known to have existed before March 1914, and to have been produced by Rembrandt, as that is the date of a letter from the company that enclosed samples of this and other designs.

A 1991 Phillips auction sale included in Lot 415 a group of 279 essays. The lot description mentions that there had been previous attributions to the essays but *“would appear to be the work in photogravure or intaglio of The Rembrandt Intaglio Printing Co Ltd., Lancaster, as they are accompanied by two letters from W M Duncan on their letterhead to a Mr. Stamford, both dated March 1914, the second of these – “Please keep any stamps you like. All these stamps were done about the time of the change of Contract with the P.O., and were in most cases shown by (sic, should read “to”) the P.O.*

“In fact we got our name put on the list of contractors.

“I believe the P.O. took a Yankee process, though we told them, so far as I can remember, that their demands could not be complied with in photogravure, but that would not stop a Yankee out for brass.

“The P.O. ought really to get an expert in intaglio work to advise them on such an intricate question as printing and adaptability to their requirements, but Government Offices cannot demean themselves to take advice.”

The discovery of Rembrandt’s printing of these items will hopefully stop the (apparently) erroneous comments, unless a reader can definitively prove that it did relate to the Boer’s and that they are of German origin.

At the risk of adding to the confusion, your compiler wonders whether the design of Napoleon was chosen to ensure that it could never be confused with an issued British stamp, for his image would have been instantly recognisable to people, especially around 100 years ago.

The Fictitious Stamps Act was vigorously enforced and Rembrandt may have been concerned that they may have fallen foul of it had the stamp depicted the current monarch.

Black, olive, carmine and orange colours have been recorded. Can anyone offer any further information or add to the colours listed ?

Hytech Labels at Spring Stampex

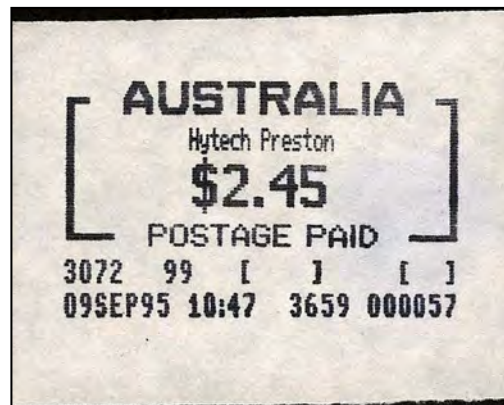
New label machine type given field trial

Back in September 1995 I was in Singapore at the international stamp exhibition. Running alongside was a postal industry show called *PostTech 95*, which I managed to gain entry into.

One of the exhibitors was Hytech Scales Pty Ltd., of Preston, Australia. They had three machines (at least) in operation dispensing three different postal label types. Unfortunately, I had concluded at the time that they were of minimal interest to me and so stupidly I only got one example of each dummy stamp, with either an exact receipt that matched the label, or a non-matching receipt from an earlier dispense. I have never seen these items recorded in the specialist philatelic literature, or for sale.

The Papua label incorporates to the right of the butterflies a holographic vertical strip, while the final image of a Papua receipt shows how the system could also handle non-postal transactions. As these labels were dummies, they do not bear an adhesive coating on the rear (which in any event would have been water-activated, rather than today's self-adhesive stock), so they could not be affixed to cover. The PostTech and Papua branding colour printing was done by a fairly primitive printing method, with dot matrix print heads being used to print the unique details, as distinct from today when a direct thermal method is used.

So why include Papua in *DS*? Well, at Spring Stampex this year Hytech machines were in operation as a trial for possible Tallents House use and I thought that readers might like to see the forerunner to the British labels from 16 years before. ☒

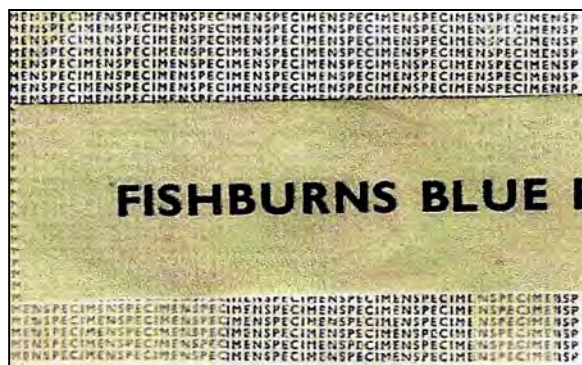


Shakespeare Revisited

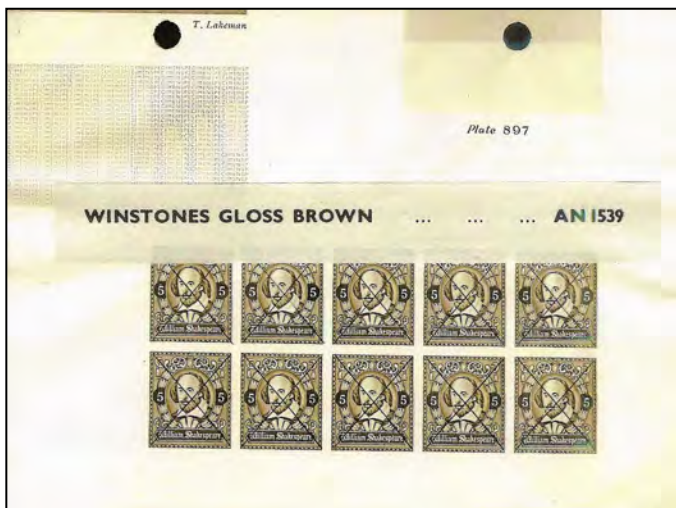
Further colours discovered

More colours have surfaced in complete sheets of the Harrison & Sons Shakespeare series of defaced labels, namely:

- Fishburns *Blue Black* AN1523,
- Coates *1/2d Green* G1285,
- Winstones *Gloss Brown* AN1539,
- L&B *Red Toner* 7833G,



Thanks to a reader, I can show photostats here. ☒



PUC £1 Printed in Blue Ink

Prices soar for this limited edition sheet

Stamp Magazine [GB] noted in its February 2011 issue that stamp dealer Rushstamps is willing to pay up to £250 per copy for this sheet (see DS20).

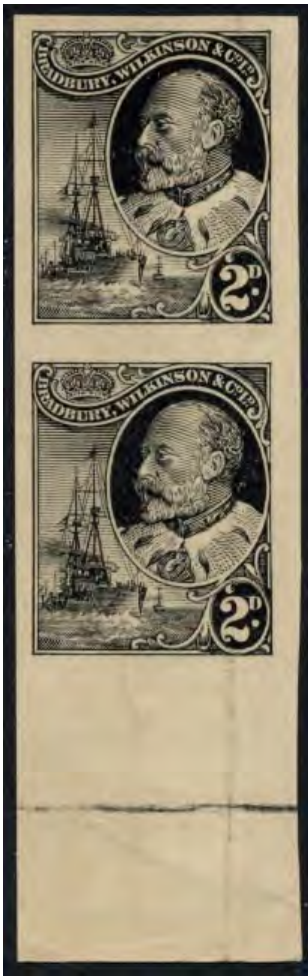
Clearly at least one person responded to the appeal

for stock, as a single sheet was on offer at spring Philatex in London for £350. It is unclear whether there was a purchaser.

I think it is a shame that someone deprived one of the many disappointed genuine collectors who had tried to obtain one of the 50 sheets when they were first offered by BPMA at £50, but clearly the vendor saw pound signs in front of his eyes! ☒

Bradbury, Wilkinson Ship Design

Further examples found by DS reader



"In DS8 you refer to the 2d stamp as being known printed in black imperf no gum with only three singles available.

I attach a scan of an imperf corner marginal pair which would suggest that there are a few more than three around." ✉

Harrison Factory Derelict

A sad end to a landmark building for stamp printing

The 7.2 acre stamp printing factory of Harrison and Sons, then of De La Rue for a short period after its takeover, is virtually no more.

A visit to the Flickr photo-site www.flickr.com/photos/liamch/sets/72157622705487167/ shows the factory following its decommissioning and what a sorry state it is now in.

For anyone like me who was privileged enough to visit the factory in its heyday cannot fail to be moved. Yes, it was just a building and it is what went on inside that mattered more, but it is still sad.

Bradbury, Wilkinson's site ended-up as a Tesco supermarket, while the Harrison site has been the subject of much local debate over its future use. ✉

The Recent Royal Wedding

It's off-topic, so apologies in advance

One of my other collecting interests is modern Royal Household mail from the palaces and offices associated with the British royal family, having written the book *Royal Household Mail* in 1992.

As my invitation to the recent royal wedding of Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton would appear to have been lost in the post, I would really appreciate a 300dpi scan of the invitation and its envelope if any reader has access to such an item.

Similarly, scans of any other envelopes from invitations, 'thank you's' and general royal mail from 1990 (yes, nineteen-ninety) to date would also be appreciated, please, for an article that I am planning to produce with a philatelic friend. It may, in time, result in a new edition updating my earlier work.

Many thanks in advance.

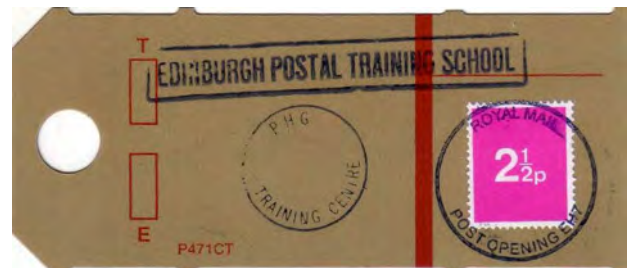
Note: My book *Royal Household Mail* is long out of print, but it can be downloaded for free in several PDF sections from the Site Plan to be found at my website www.stampprinters.info/SPI_SitePlan.htm ✉

PO Training School: Suspect Items

Material is not what at first glance it seems to be

There are a lot of items appearing on eBay at present allegedly from the Edinburgh Postal Training School. They are invariably attractive items with various handstamps and stamps.

If I tell you that they include modern PHQ cards with King George VI stamps affixed and cancelled, you will start to see the problem!



It is apparent that the handstamps must have been liberated at some point and put to use creating these philatelic confections.

I especially like the set of five mailbag tags using the 1971 dummy decimal training labels, but will not be a purchaser! Buyer beware. ✉

Walsall 1990 VIP Reception

Previously unrecorded cover found

All readers of *DS* will be aware that 1990 marked the 150th anniversary of the introduction of postage stamps by Britain. Walsall Security Printers marked the anniversary by hosting a reception at the Grosvenor House Hotel on 9 May 1990, presenting invited VIP guests with a commemorative cover.



The pictorial element at left depicts the first and fifth Earl of Lichfield, with the latter personally signing each cover. The two labels were cancelled by a special cachet and, while the right hand label is well known having been produced for distribution at the Stamp World 1990 show, the left hand label is new.



I had initially thought that it might have been a label torn from a mixed-value pane of a Prestige stamp booklet, but it is not. It is therefore assumed that it was created solely for this cover. Confirmation either way would be appreciated from any reader who happens to be in the know. ☒

De La Rue Sample Cards Revisited

Further colours reported by DS reader

"Referring to *Dummy Stamps* issue 18, Quarter 3, 2010 and the *De La Rue Colour Sample Cards*, I have cards numbered **L722R** and **L791**, which you state as previously unrecorded colours.

I also have card numbered **L785**." ☒

Presentation cover addressed to Mr D Mazimbamuto, Director Posts - Zimbabwe.

V&A Brugger Coil Testing Labels

New label design reported after more than 30 years

A coil format test/promo label that I was not familiar with was shown to me recently. I did a company search for V&A Brugger Ltd of East Harling and found that it became the well known Hillday Leasing & Supplies Ltd., on 7 November 1978. ☒



...and finally

I always welcome details of new dummy finds from printers past and present, and so invite you to write via my Guest Book at stampprinters.info/guestbook.htm, where requests to subscribe to *DS* can also be made.

Business, family and other commitments to the hobby mean that I cannot guarantee that I can rigidly stick to a publishing programme and therefore suggest that you visit stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm every so often where PDF files of this and all future and previous issues of *Dummy Stamps* will be available to download and print-off. Thank you. ☒

Dummy Stamps

Issue 22

A Newsletter Covering Dummy Stamp Material from British Stamp Printers

Quarter 3, 2011

Enschedé Lady Needs Identifying

Any idea who she might be?

A recent purchase from The Netherlands of some Enschedé labels included one depicting a lady of unknown identity. Can anyone please assist? Some of the other labels are illustrated below as they had not been seen previously. ☒



The labels with large X's were used for coil testing purposes, while the other two were for company publicity purposes.

De La Rue Photographic Essay

Oversea Dominions dummy stamps

Understood to be from around 1925, this pair of photographic essays was recently on offer at a German auction and had a starting price of €150.



Printed versions exist imperforate (in single colour) and perforated (two colours) with a favourite being the one worded THOS. DE LA RUE & CO. LTD. in place of OVERSEA DOMINIONS ☒

Wiggins Teape and Samuel Jones Dummy Stamps

...but are they only to be found printed in brochure?

Ever on the look-out for dummy stamps, your compiler recently came across a brochure entitled *Wiggins Teape Stamp Papers* in a library.

Tantalisingly within were some lovely dummy stamps printed directly onto the pages and not known to exist in true stamp form. As the brochure was for reference only, the designs were photographed with a hand-held camera and are as good as could be achieved without access to a scanner or tripod. Note how four of the stamps relate to Samuel Jones. ☒



Esparto Grass,
Soft Wood Trees,
Rags and
Fort William



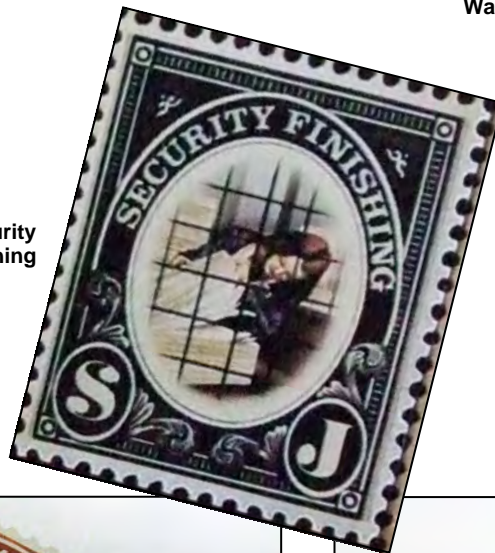
Quality Control,
Print Testing



Coater Number 3,
Waterton



Despatch



Security
Finishing

Gum Breaking



St. Neots Mill

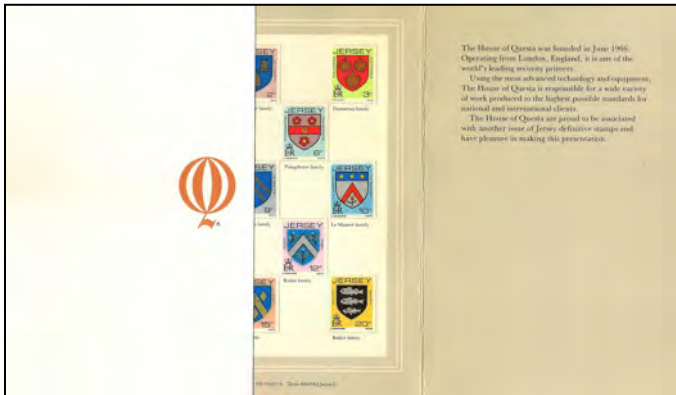


House of Questa Jersey Arms Presentation Card

Previously unrecorded card commemorated Jersey heraldry

In 1976, the Jersey Post Office issued a new definitive series that commemorated the Coats of Arms of Jersey families. Questa produced a three-

panel presentation card, the inner portion of which was covered in an adhesive-coated film preventing stamp removal and use for postal purposes. ☒



(left) Outside left front panel, right half of middle inside panel and right inside panel.
 (right) Inside left panel, left half of middle inside panel and blank outside right panel. The back cover is unprinted.
 The Questa balloon logo below is pre-printed onto the page and not a separate dummy stamp.

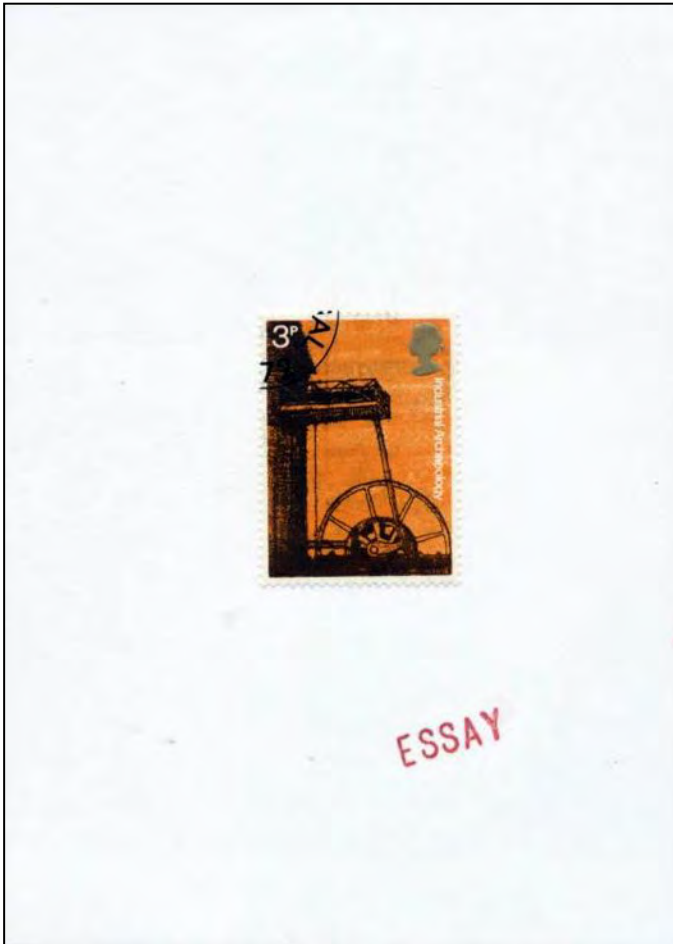


The House of Questa, Parkhouse Street, London SE5 7TP England Telephone 01-703 7162/3/4 Telex 884054 Questa G

Dodgy Harrison 'Essay' Card

Origins unlikely to have been High Wycombe!

The item depicted below is surely a home-made production. Nothing about it seems to ring true, despite having a €200 estimate in a recent reputable German auction house sale.



The pane of dummy stamps from the 1972 *Penrose Annual*, including the orange 3p value used on the above 'essay' card.

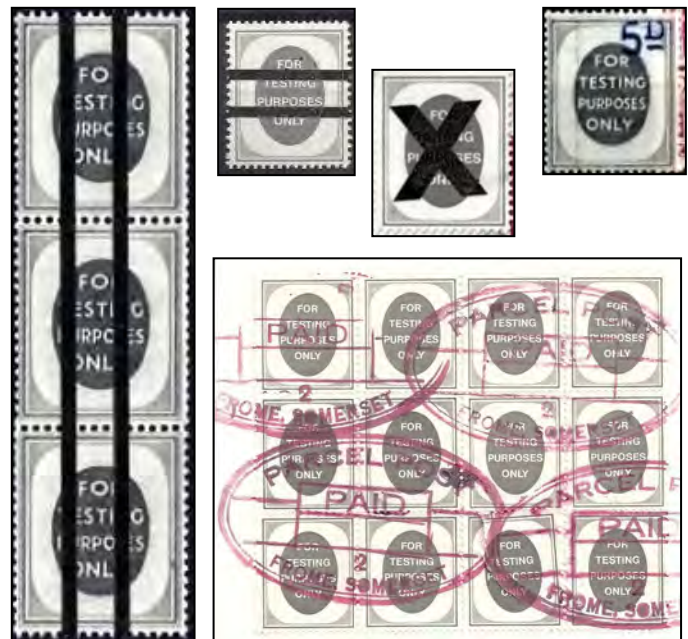
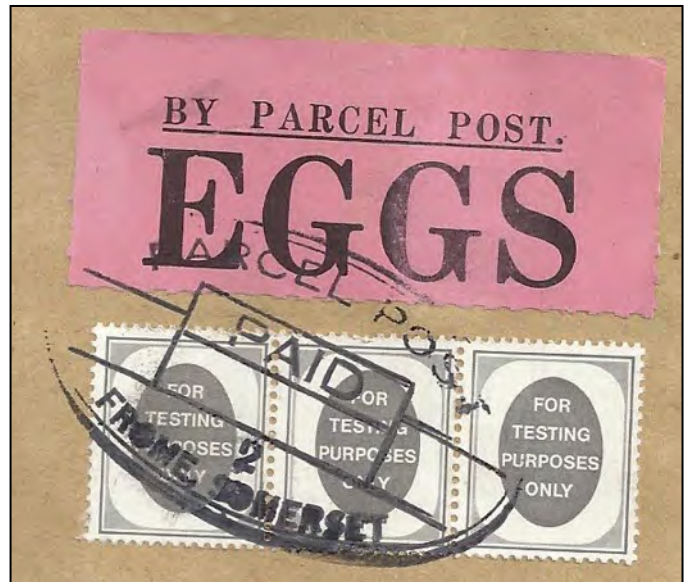
Harrison would have had no reason to create such an item and in any event did not use blank card for essays, or utilise handstamps worded **ESSAY** - and where are the other three designs in the perforated block of four designs from the *Penrose Annual*?

It never sold and I think that was the right result. It is probably another one of those situations where the phrase "I know it's genuine, I made it myself today" seems to apply! ☒

More Home Created Rubbish

Second eBay seller now cashing-in on testing items

Further to the item in the previous issue of *DS*, another seller on eBay, this time from France, is producing items that are clearly dubious in nature, despite often using 'liberated' official handstamps.



As these labels are known as "poached eggs", I guess there is some French humour in using the labels in conjunction with an Egg Parcel Post label!

Seriously though, an increasing number of such items are being created and sold, especially through online auctions. Prices may only be around a fiver, but it does not take too many sales to start making some serious money out of items that would otherwise sell for next to nothing. Beware!! ☒

Prince Regent Essays

Do they depict King William IV?

This dummy stamp had been a mystery to your compiler for many years until he chanced across a snippet in *The Great Britain Philatelist* [GB] for August 1962 where it states: "Prince Regent Essays – Copies of this essay on the left*, rather crudely lithographed** in blue and inscribed "SPECIMEN", have recently been seen. Harry Nissen# tells us that they were submitted to the GPO by Perkins Bacon & Co earlier this century, and that he has seen a reversed engraved die proof^."

While your compiler cannot state categorically that this is not King William IV, the image on the dummy stamp appears not to be too life-like based on contemporary paintings examined. ☒

* of the magazine. ** believed to actually be letterpress.

a stamp dealer. ^ presumably pulled from transfer roller.



Engraved die proof comprising paste-up of frame and portrait on wove paper

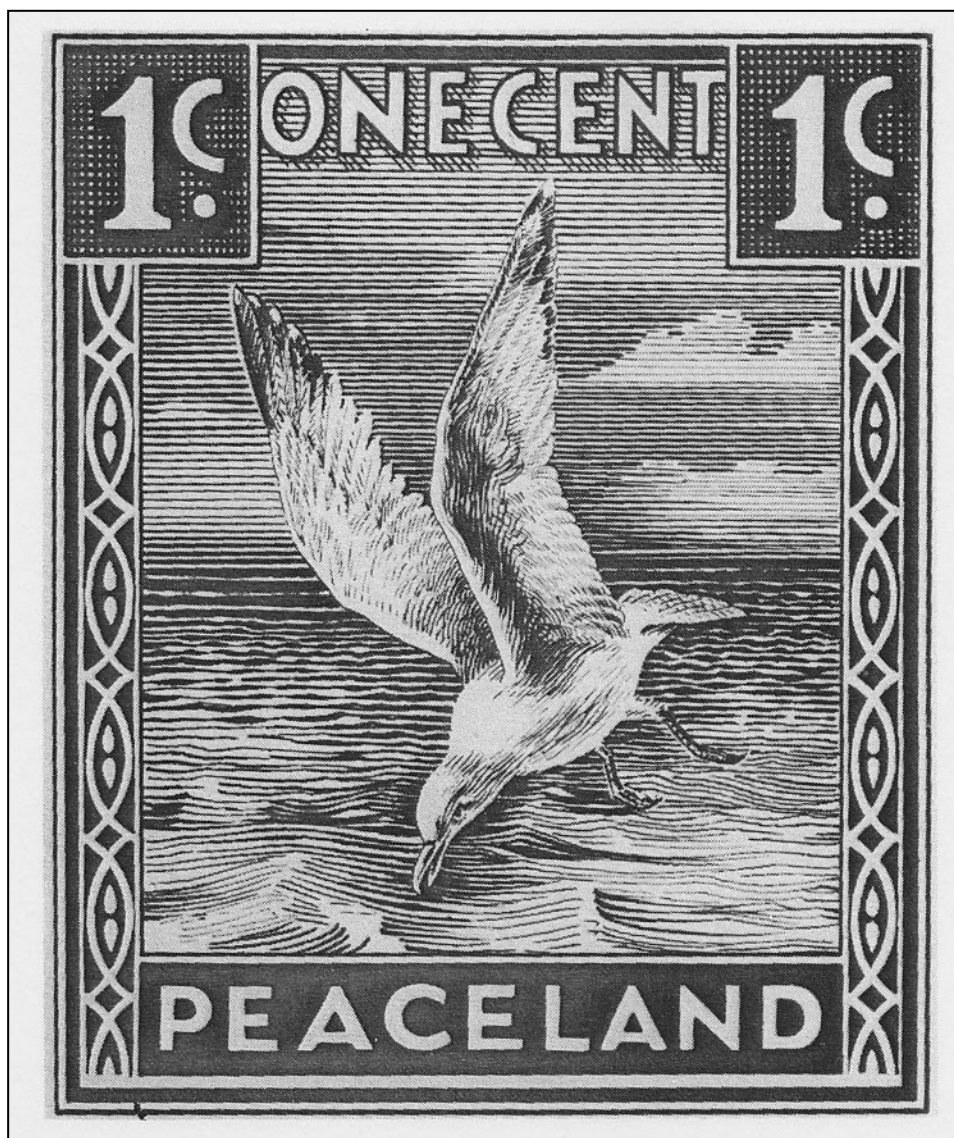
Harrison Peaceland Design Update

More information has been found in America

While going through a complete run of the sadly-defunct *Essay-Proof Journal* [USA], information was found about this, and 33 other (non-dummy) designs by this Harrison freelance engraver.

The seven page article by Robson Lowe appeared in the Q4 issue from 1984, where we learn that the engraver's name was E W Crafer. Lowe writes: "PEACELAND: A charming black and white drawing of a dummy stamp which we have not recorded before is represented by the original sketch, 100 x 125mm and an imperforate proof 22.5 x 28mm., the last being typographed (*Ed: i.e. letterpress*) in black. The design looks familiar with the diving gull. It would have made a nice stamp for Newfoundland."

It is now possible to show a better quality scan of the artwork, together with a reproduction of the dummy stamp at its intended size. ☒



French phil@poste Joins the Ranks of Printers of British Stamps for the First Time Since 1943

Cartor sub-contracts its intaglio printing

The 50p Castles pane intaglio print in the recent *Aerial Post Centenary* Prestige Stamp Book (PSB) was printed by the French State Printing Works (known these days as phil@poste).

Only the intaglio part, though, as the rest of the pane (i.e. the offset element) was printed by Cartor, along with the rest of the booklet. It uses a brand new die engraved by phil@poste and there are variations between it and the Enschedé version from last year, apparently. phil@poste was not supplied with the original dies from BPMA unlike with Enschedé's 2010 PSB panes.



This is the first time that phil@poste has printed for the British Post Office since the 1943 Jersey 'Views' wartime issue, under very different circumstances and when it was known as the French State Printing Works.



Mise-en-Train (make-ready) proof on pink paper and the equivalent issued stamp.

This is the fourth such issue of late from Cartor to have utilised phil@poste, who are in partnership with them for intaglio work, having done this recent issue for GB, plus Slovenia, Thailand and Japan.

Although not dummy stamp related it was thought to be of sufficient significance to record within these pages, as the information has yet to appear in any other publication examined thus far. ☒

McCorquodale 1879 Tender Cards

Dummy stamps pre-printed on postcards

Postcards have been found for sale that use the McCorquodale dummy stamp from the 1879 tender process, each with SPECIMEN defacement.



Inset at right is the dummy stamp from counter sheets also submitted during the tender.

The set of three had a starting price of £795 and measure 70mm (down), x 120mm (across). They are numbered '1', '2' and '3' in manuscript on the reverse. Item '3' is on a pale buff card, while the other two are apparently on white card (although the scan indicates otherwise). All are 'Size A'.

They are listed and detailed in the book *Specimen Stamps and Stationery of Great Britain* by Samuel and Huggins and have not been seen for sale previously by your compiler.

The scan quality is poor, but is worth illustrating in the absence of better images in the interim. ☒

Newly Found Waterlow Items

Discoveries continue to be made

Two new Waterlow labels have recently been found for sale online. The first item comprises a block of ten Columbus design in a new layout (extremely low-resolution image only available, hence the pixelated look of the enlargement).



The other item (*below*) is of an oversize intaglio receipt label, with embossed 2d duty stamp. ✉



Raphael Tuck feedback

A new slant on the Dickens label sheet

A reader kindly responded with valid points on this issue. He wrote: "You speculate that Raphael Tuck were not known as printers of stamps: that may well be the case but I am unsure whether this is actually claimed. The inscription on the right-side margin reads 'Engraved and printed...on hand-made paper by...Tuck...'. At first reading I took it to mean that the printing was by Tuck, but a second reading makes me wonder if this is the case or whether they are actually meaning 'Printed (by A N Other) on paper handmade by Tuck'?"

Another web-site that I Found (dickensfellowship.ca > 'Dickens on Stamps') recognises the existence of this sheet printed in England on which the labels have a face value of one penny, but says that there was also an American version with a label face value of 2 cents.



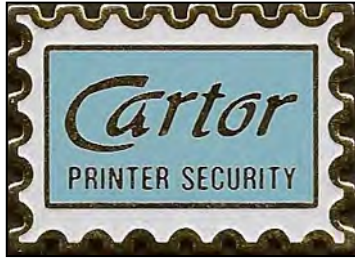
Seeing that the *Strand Magazine* (as publishers of the sheets) and Tuck (as (at least) suppliers of the paper) are both quoted to be of 'London and New York'. This sounds feasible.

This same site shows a label used on an envelope posted in London with a postmark of 10 January 1910 - somewhat early for the centenary of Dickens' birth on 6 February 1811. ✉

Cartor Dummy Stamp Pin Badge

A new approach to dummy stamps?

A recent purchase saw your compiler acquire a pin badge from the early days of Cartor when based in its previous factory location of L'Aigle (which translates as The Eagle) in France.



The badge is enamelled in gold, white and what was Cartor's corporate colour of blue and incorporates a sharp point on its reverse for pushing through an item of clothing, which is then secured by a clasp.

OK, so maybe it is not really relevant to our stamp collections, but it's a bit of fun and when will another one appear for sale, so it had to be bought, especially as it cost under one euro. ☒

Questa Badge

Not to be outdone, Questa also issued a badge

A less exciting badge (and even less relevant to these pages!) was issued by Questa many years ago.



A dummy stamp with the design used on the badge.

Circular, it depicted the iconic balloon logo design on a white background and was given away at shows that Questa attended. It was presumably aimed at children, although only adults were ever observed picking-up examples for their collection.

Has any reader seen badges from other British stamp printers, as yet another sideline collection may be forming! ☒

Crown Agents Souvenir Cover

Dummy Sheet officially issued on CASB envelope

I have never seen the Crown Agents officially issue one of its dummy stamp sheets on cover, but that is certainly what happened for the De La Rue printed Coronation anniversary stamp issue in 2003.



Close-up of the pseudo-postmark and the two dummy stamps.

The attractive dummy stamps sheet has been cancelled by a commemorative handstamp depicting Westminster Abbey in London and is worded "CROWN AGENTS STAMP BUREAU / . 2 JUNE 2003 ."

Has any reader of *Dummy Stamps* ever seen similar covers for any of the (many) other so-called 'Omnibus' stamp issues? If so, reports are welcomed please for illustration here next time. ☒

New Size of Harrison Arms Dummy Stamp Reported

Unknown for decades but now found by a DS reader

The well known so-called "Arms" issue produced by Harrison and Sons has been discovered by a reader in an enlarged size when compared to the normal version.



The photostat above left is imperforate and in black. The horizontal lines are from the photostat and are not on the actual dummy stamps. The image above right is of the normally encountered size and to the same British definitive stamp scale (actually, the *Patriots Maintain the Union* version is illustrated).

Has anyone seen a similar item before, maybe in other colours, or perforated? ☒

Samuel Jones Papers: USA Labels

Poster-style dummy stamps from Newark NJ

Further to the items on page two of this issue, the three scans below are from an eBay lot relating to the American arm of paper-makers Samuel Jones.



They are certainly attractive items in your compiler's opinion and none of these particular designs have been observed previously.

Although they publicise non-stamp printing papers, they are related items, as they are for the printing of poster stamps. Other American SJ designs exist. ☒

Harrison Proofing SPECIMEN Handstamp

Known used in 1962, but previously unseen

Plate proofs of the United Nations 1962 *Housing and Urban Development* commemorative stamp issue have been found with a previously unrecorded Harrison & Sons specimen handstamp.

The stamp proofs had a start price of €400 and were seen in a German auction house sale catalogue long after the auction had closed. It is unclear if the item sold and, if so, at what price.



The handstamp is oval and reads "**HARRISONS PHOTOGRAVURE** / — * —" around the edge with **SPECIMEN** across its centre. ☒

BPMA PUC £1

Second copy offered by Rushstamps

It is understood that Rushstamps (Retail) Ltd purchased a second copy of the limited edition of fifty copies of the Enschedé printed 2010 PUC £1 Guildhall Art Gallery sheetlet of four in blue ink.

They are offering it for sale at the same price as the original copy, i.e. a whopping £350.

It was overheard in the food area at the recent Autumn Stampex exhibition that both copies remain unsold and that the offer to purchase further examples has been withdrawn, at least until the first two sheets find a buyer. ☒

Tullis Russell Celebrated 200 Years of Existence in 2009

Attractive souvenirs were issued for its clients

Tullis Russell is a specialist British stamp paper coater that celebrated its bi-centenary with four souvenir items that are of likely interest to readers.

There were two sheetlets of stamps depicting designs from local schoolchildren, a stamp booklet and an attractive

miniature sheet. As if to emphasize its green credentials, the MS has a pronounced green tint to the gumming.

Your compiler can reveal exclusively that all items were printed by BDT, a security stamp printer based in the Irish Republic. These are the first dummy items known to have originated from BDT - a printer that seems to seek zero publicity, taking the security part of its title very seriously.

Please be aware that Tullis Russell has confirmed that they do not have any stocks of these items remaining and therefore would not be in a position to supply copies to enquirers. ☒



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Security papers that come from renewable and well-managed forests. ✓ Cellulose-based films from a sustainable resource, which are biodegradable and compostable. ✓ Water-activated gums and a pressure-sensitive adhesive that are biodegradable and compostable.  <p><small>TT-COC-002727 Tullis Russell Coaters Ltd. United Kingdom has achieved FSC certification. The FSC Logo identifies forests which have been certified in accordance with the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council. ©1999 FSC A.C.</small></p>	<p>For further information about our trusecurity® ECO range, please call +44 (0)1625 573051 enquiries@trcoaters.co.uk or www.trcoaters.co.uk</p> <p>Tullis Russell Coaters Ltd, Church Street, Bollington, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 5QF UK</p> <p><small>Printed on Tullis Russell Coaters ECO range 102g/m stamp paper from trusecurity®</small></p>	<p>Tullis Russell COATERS</p> <p>trusecurity® ECO range</p>  <p><small>FSC TT-COC-002727</small></p>
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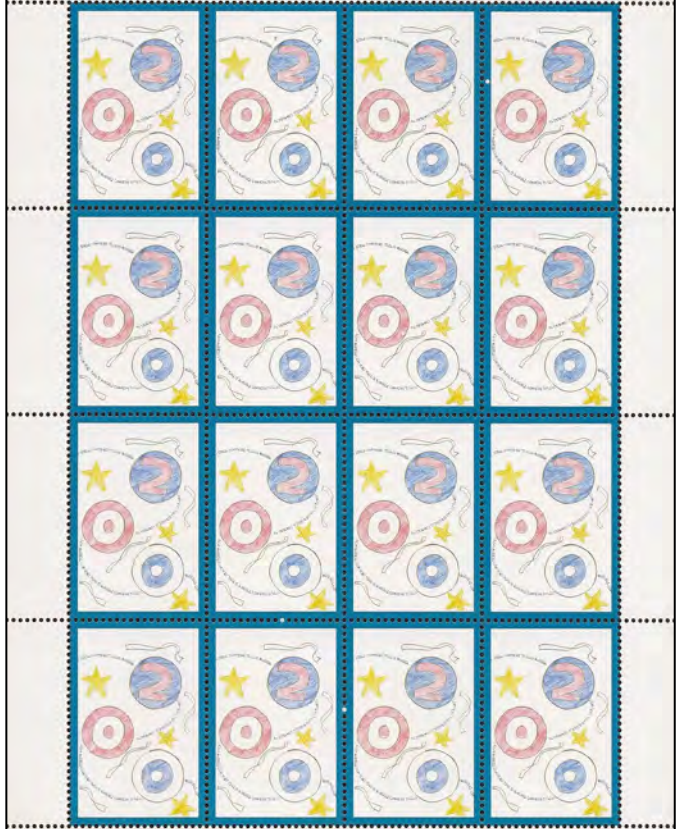
Designed by Eva Colclough age 8 as part of the Tullis Russell Group's 200 year anniversary celebrations.



Printed on 102 gsm trusecurity Stamp paper



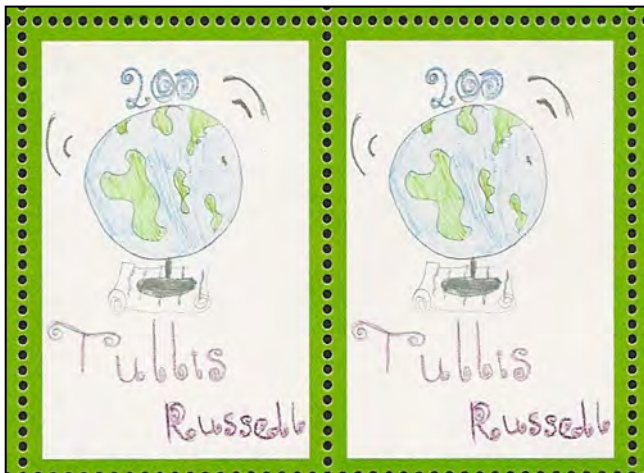
Designed by Jessica Duffy aged 12 as part of the Tullis Russell Group's 200 year anniversary celebrations.



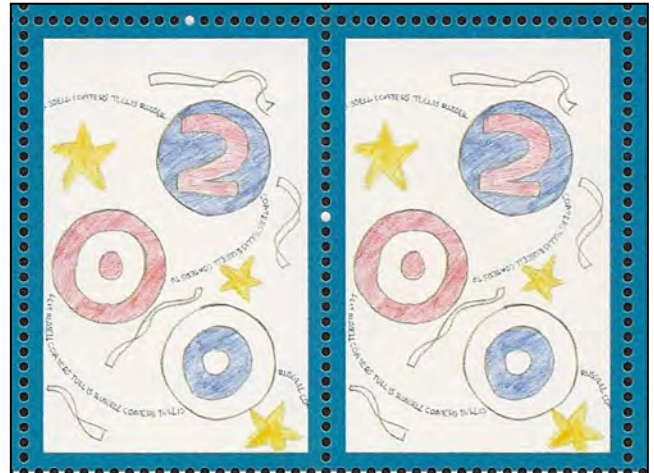
Printed on 102 gsm trusecurity Stamp paper



Full sheets of 16 dummy stamps in both designs.
The left-hand design is by Eva Colclough (aged 8) and the right by Jessica Duffy (aged 12).



Printed on 102 gsm trusecurity Stamp paper



Printed on 102 gsm trusecurity Stamp paper



Close-up scans of the bottom marginal imprint revealing the paper type used.

World War One Intelligence Forgeries of German Stamps

Dummy stamps helped the war effort

The American CIA states that "Government-sponsored postal forgery for intelligence purposes began near the end of the first world war" and that "The British were by far the best because they were done by regular postage stamp production facilities in England".

The CIA report continued: "In 1918 the British, having decided to organize a propaganda system to undermine the enemy will to resist, mounted from Crewe House, their propaganda headquarters, an operation for distributing anti-regime pamphlets, leaflets, and newspapers in the territory of the Central Powers. They planned to use air drops but also to post propaganda to selected addresses through the enemy mails. For this purpose they reproduced regular issue common-denomination stamps, such as German of 10pf and 15pf."



"When copies of these stamps appeared on the philatelic market in 1921 (*Ed: by stamp dealer Walter Behrens of Brunswick*), the philatelists soon discovered where and by whom they had been printed. They found, by comparing the papers, printing methods, gums, and perforations, that they could have been produced only in England, and only in the plant of De La Rue and Co, one of the three printers then making stamps for the British post office. The British government, pleading the Official Secrets Act, has never admitted to authorship of these issues."

Your compiler would not normally choose to argue with the mighty CIA, but all other reports examined have shown the printer to be Waterlow & Sons, possibly confirmed by marginal annotations indicating that they had been printed at Watford, a Waterlow location, but also because of comments in the following paragraph.

In 1930 Sir William Waterlow was in court defending the company from charges involving the Bank of Portugal. As part of his defence he stated:

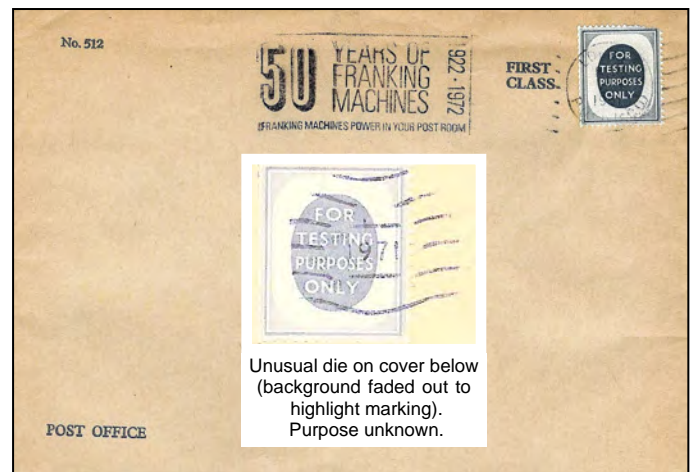
"The most controversial of all my jobs was one for the Secret Service during the war. I never told any of my colleagues about it..." Allegedly this task consisted of assisting the Secret Service in counterfeiting German stamps. ☒

Testing Coils on Slogan Covers

Official Post Office slogan covers surface

Recently, a reader kindly provided your compiler with examples of testing labels with slogan postmarks on official covers.

The fact that they are genuine is not in doubt, but the reason for their creation is not. Can any reader assist, please? ☒



...and finally

I always welcome details of new dummy finds from printers past and present, and so invite you to write via my Guest Book at stampprinters.info/guestbook.htm, where requests to subscribe to *DS* can also be made.

Business, family and other commitments to the hobby mean that I cannot guarantee that I can rigidly stick to a publishing programme and therefore suggest that you visit stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm every so often where PDF files of this and all future and previous issues of *Dummy Stamps* will be available to download and print-off. Thank you. ☒

Dummy Stamps

Issue 23 A Newsletter Covering Dummy Stamp Material from British Stamp Printers Quarter 4, 2011

Further Enschedé Dummy Stamp

Any idea when this might have been issued?



The dummy stamp above has not been seen before and cannot currently be dated. It bears the word "opleidingen" (which translates as 'training').



Who exactly was being trained and in what capacity remains a mystery at this stage of investigations.

The same word appeared on the 'chicks and egg' dummy stamp depicted in a recent issue of *Dummy Stamps*.

While dating has not been possible, the Enschedé Museum advises the following periods of name use for the company:

Izaak Enschedé	1703 - 1743
Izaak & Johannes Enschedé	1743 - 1761
Johannes Enschedé	1761 - 1777
Joh. Enschedé en Zonen	1777 - 1932
Joh. Enschedé en Zonen NV	1932 - 1972
Joh. Enschedé en Zonen BV	1972 - 1992
Joh. Enschedé [Holding]	1992 - 2003
Koninklijke Joh. Enschedé	2003 - date

Based on this, the label may date from the 1970s / 1992, and possibly later rather than earlier. ☒

Testing Labels Slogan Covers

Probable explanation of usage found on StampBoards

Your compiler has recently joined StampBoards and is finding it to be a useful source of information. In the last issue of *DS*, a query was raised re testing labels used on slogan covers.

www.stampboards.com/viewtopic.php?f=13&t=15002 states: "You see these items from time to time. As I understand it they come from the PO cancelling machine repair shop - i.e. once the machines had been overhauled they ran some tests to make sure they worked properly, using PO brown envelopes, these testing labels and whatever old slogan dies were to hand.

"(You'll note that in this case the 'dater die' part is a semi-dumb format, reminiscent of those used in some lines of one of the experimental packet cancelling machines tested 'live' about 1960. It's dated 1971 with a slogan dated 1975! Not all are like that - some have the normal style circular dater dies.)"

This explanation sounds reasonable enough. ☒

More Samuel Jones Labels

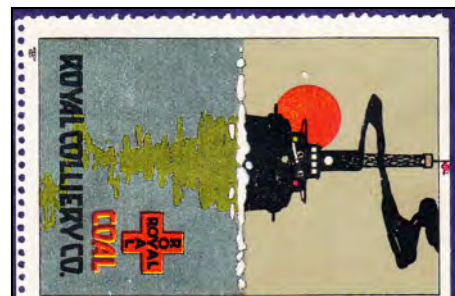
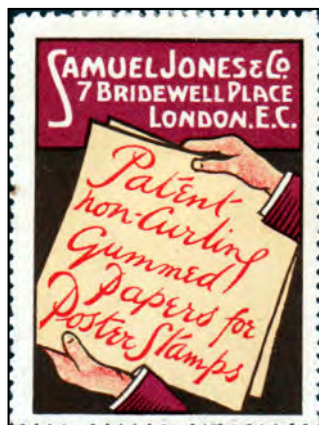
Further UK and USA versions come to light

If you go to www.posterstamps.org.uk and look under Catalogues, you will see Charles Kiddle's excellent *Story of US Poster Stamps*, together with several other poster-stamp books.

Some of the labels depicted below are from that publication and are used with permission. ☒



A Samuel Jones advert for its non-curling papers.



Royal Joh. Enschedé's New Printing Press Installation of 2008

Souvenir of the launch day comes to light

On 13 November 2008, Royal Joh. Enschedé launched its new Muller Martini Alprinta 52V offset press and gave a dummy sheet to guests.

- Q74 sheeter with stacker for the signature placement of self-adhesive materials; with escape gate for quality control.

The press offers infinitely variable sizes and features ten offset press units, being one of the longest Muller Martini printing presses in Europe coming in at an impressive 43 metres in length.

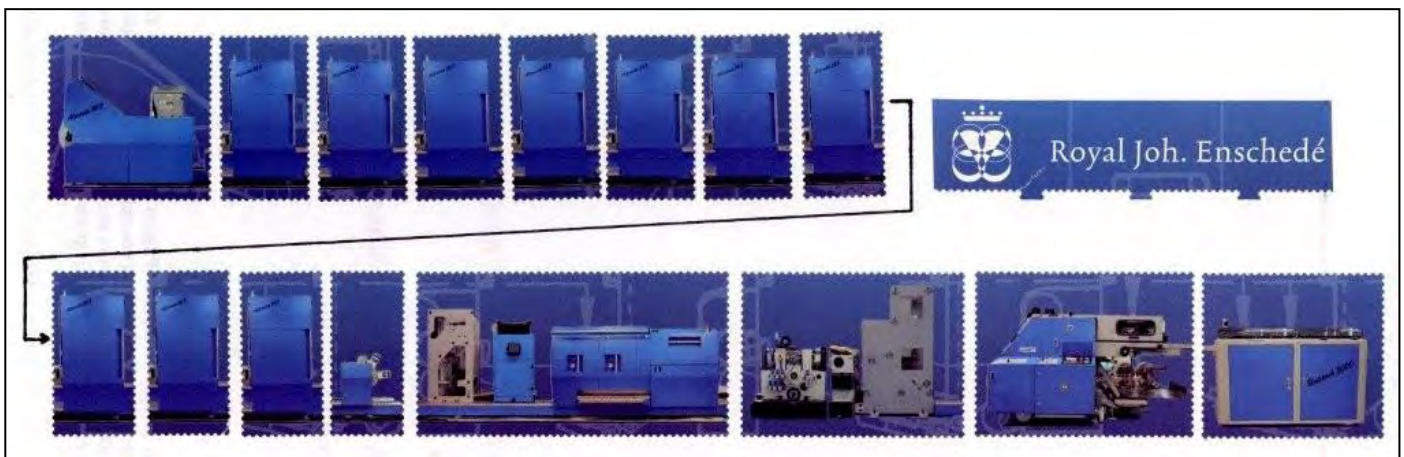
Complete Automation Package

The Alprinta 52V features a 'lexo-cassette', which can be used to convert one of the offset press units into a flexo printing unit. It also has a complete automation package including IDM 4000 in-line ink control, automatic AR 4000 register control with several measuring cameras offering short response times, video web monitoring, printing image inspection and rubber blanket wash-up system. Finally, an eight lamp system from IST Metz supplies UV drying."

For the technically minded, the manufacturer advises (in its own words) that there are "four bump turns for front and back printing in a single run, as well as numerous inline specialties including:

- hot foil stamping unit for finishing (e.g. gold leaf and holograms),
- postage-stamp perforator for the manufacture of perforated postage stamps,
- label stamping for the manufacture of self-adhesive postage stamps, and a

The press is "predominantly used for postage stamp printing", according to Arie Piet, Enschedé's CEO, speaking at the time of the installation. ☒



These images have been lifted from the website <http://www.postzegelblog.nl/2008/11/23/joh-enschede-heeft-nieuwste-druktechniek-de-rotatie-offsetpers/> with permission of the webmaster.



The **dummy stamp sheetlet** (top row), **schematic line drawing** (middle row) and **side view of the press** (bottom row).

De La Rue 'Oversea Dominions' £20 High value Dummy Stamps

Why 'Postage ~ Postage?', asks reader

The Oversea Dominions dummy stamp is a good example of what De La Rue could produce, especially design-wise.

A reader rightly queried the date that your compiler gave in *DS22* (1925) and wrote: "I read somewhere that they were another Printex (Miller & Motley) process stamp, very similar to the Paris Exhibition stamp which should put it earlier, just before WWI.

"Presumably it was an attempt to replace the various Grover embossing machines that the colonies used? Mr Fenn of Grover always said that the colonies liked their embossing machines and that they brought in more money than postage stamps. They were also cheaper, with taxes and stamp duties being so much higher, not like all those one penny stamps (or local equivalent).

"That said, why do they say "Postage ~ Postage" and not 'Postage ~ Revenue'?"

A good question and one that remains unanswered. Also, were they printed by the Printex method? ☒



A King George V £20 bi-coloured version with a date of October 23rd 1911, massively pre-dating 1925 stated as the possible date of introduction in *DS22*.



Black printing of the £20 design.



King Edward VII £10 "THOS. DE LA RUE & Co." high values worded 'POSTAGE ~ REVENUE' and the £20 worded 'POSTAGE ~ POSTAGE'.

Intelligence Forgeries Revisited

A reader adds his perforating knowledge to the story

A regular correspondent has written in with some more information about the wartime intelligence stamps recorded in the previous issue of *DS*.

He wrote: "As regards the WWI forgeries, Grover records definitely say that they produced the perforating head for Waterlow Bros & Layton on 22nd May 1918, rather late in the war but it was by no means obvious that Britain was going to win at that time. In fact Germany was throwing everything that they had into the war.

"It was very urgent [*Ed: to produce the stamps*] because the record says that they couldn't wait for a new master perforating plate, so they used another and put an extra hole in each side of each stamp(?).

"As well as the Germania design, they also forged the Austrian Crown and Bavarian King Ludwig stamps, but what are the chances of finding these on cover proving usage? Slim I should think!"

It is correct about what Grover state, I am sure. The timing makes sense based on CIA records seen and I can understand why Britain's chances of winning the war only became obvious after hostilities ceased.

I am told that the postal communications that had used the forged stamps were destroyed upon receipt, so used examples would be as rare as hens teeth and probably retaining them at the time would have contravened the instructions in place. ☒

Waterlow's Centennial Publication

Prices are rising

The excellent company publication *Waterlow & Sons Ltd: A Century of Stamp Production* has recently been seen for sale at £250.

This unsurprisingly is the version with the 27 issued stamps over-printed SPECIMEN within, plus the two plates of colour reproductions of stamps. The version without the stamps/plates is much cheaper. ☒

Micro-Embossing at Cartor

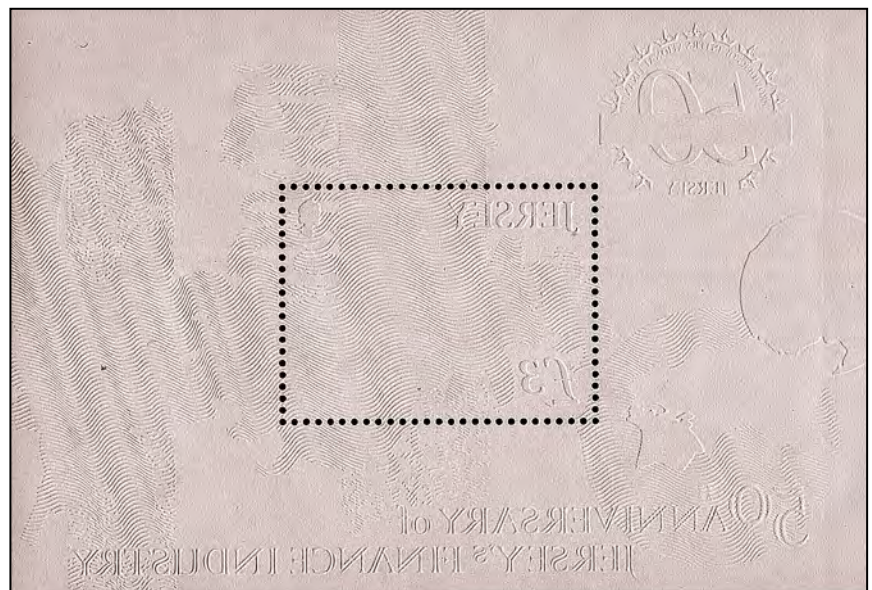
New technique simulates the intaglio process

A new issue catalogue listing for Jersey in a recent issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* [GB] recorded that the Financial Industry MS had been printed in recess (intaglio) and lithography by Cartor.

Intaglio has not been used, but instead this is the first issue printed by litho at Cartor that utilises micro-embossing, which is intended to mimic the intaglio process used so extensively on banknotes. Clearly it did its job admirably and it is totally understandable why the cataloguers were fooled.

The MS is depicted below together with a scan that has intentionally had its colour values and highlights / shadows adjusted to best show the effect of the extensive debossing on the reverse.

For micro-embossing to be truly effective it requires totally accurate registration with the fine lines of printing being raised on the design side. ☒



Machin 00p in Strips of Four with tantalising hand annotations in left-hand margins

The Machin 00p strips depicted below disproves your compiler's theory that they came from sheetlets of 9 (3x3). See *The 'Bookmark' Journal* [GB], volume 41, issue 2, October 2011 for the full story, as recorded by Robert Bostock . The poor cropping of the image was supplied this way to Robert by the owner. ☒



The Prince Regent Has Now Been Correctly Identified

As suspected, it was not King William IV on the dummy stamp but King George IV

There is a phrase 'Life is for sharing' and that certainly applies to philately, for the readers of *DS* can invariably be relied on to come up with the (not inconsiderable) gaps in your compiler's knowledge.

So it is with the Prince Regent essay included in *DS22*, where I had expressed doubts as to it being King William IV, despite what is recorded by the philatelic literature. I can now confirm that it is King George IV who is depicted.

Proof comes in the form of a one guinea banknote, issued by Leith Banking Company. Equivalent to one pound and one shilling, the note was issued on 1 September 1825 and depicts the arrival of King George IV to Leith, where he began his state visit to Scotland in 1822. In the background is the Leith Custom House. The note was printed by Perkins, Bacon and the date has been written by hand.



The world's first commemorative banknote, with the Prince Regent's image in top left corner. (Low-res image)

The Leith Banking Company was founded in 1793 and ceased operating in 1842, with debts of £123,582.

One of the account holders at the bank was no less a person than Sir Walter Scott of dummy stamp fame.



William Holl the elder (1771-1838)

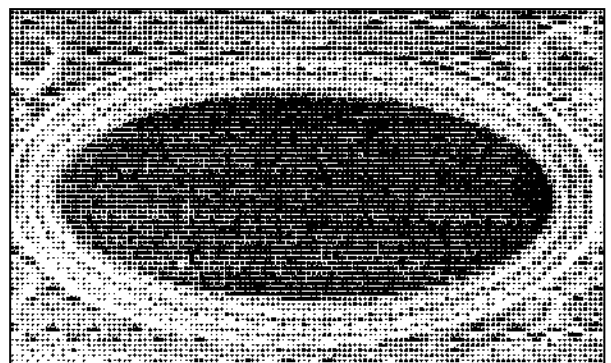
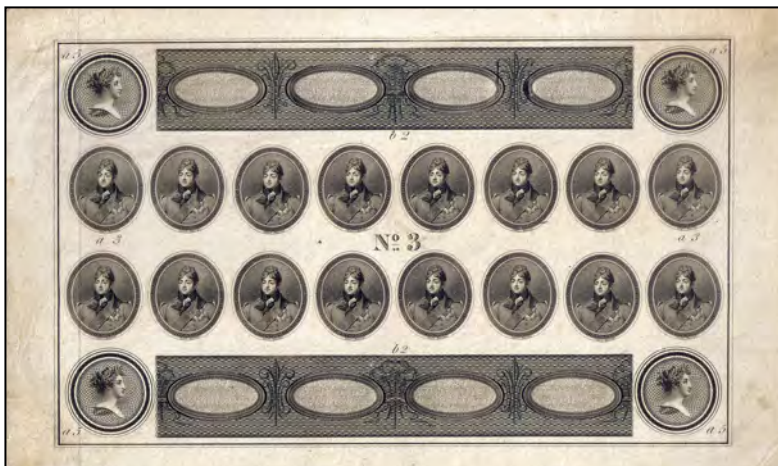
I have been provided with extra information regarding William Holl who made the engraving of George IV. You can just make out the words 'Holl Sculp.' in the border.

The Holl family of printmakers (c.1800-1884) first gained notability (*Ed: no pun intended!*) with the engraver William Holl the elder (1771-1838). His prints were mainly carried out using the stipple technique and included a number of plates of portraits and statues from the works of contemporary artists.

He was one of the first engravers to try out the new mould of the steel plate for engraving banknotes in 1819. All four of his sons were apprenticed to him as engravers namely William Holl the younger (1807-1871), Charles Holl (c.1810-1882), Henry Benjamin Holl (1808-1884) and Francis Holl (1815-1884). ☒



Contemporary cartoon of The Prince Regent (left) and a more flattering engraving of unknown origin (right).

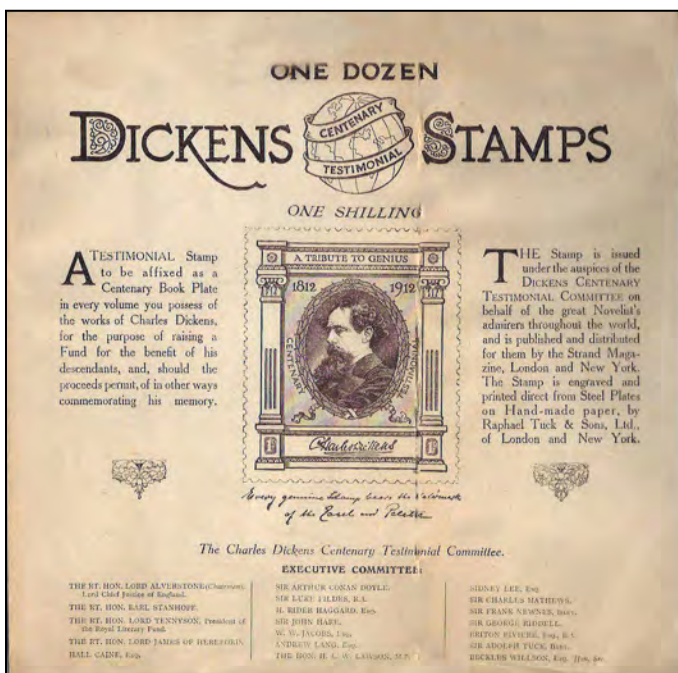


The eight oval text panels (left) depict in micro-printing the Bank of England Charter, with every word able to be read (above). Note the 16 images of the Prince Regent (also left).

Dickens Tuck Sheets Revisited

The American version can now be illustrated

The Dickens two-cent is quite rare but, thanks to a reader, the complete sheet (and blow-up of both values) can now be shown. The original purpose-printed envelope with the dummy stamp value expressed in British Currency is also shown. ☒



Harrison's Specimen Overprint

Could these be coil stamps?

The low-resolution scans depicted below are from a recent eBay lot.

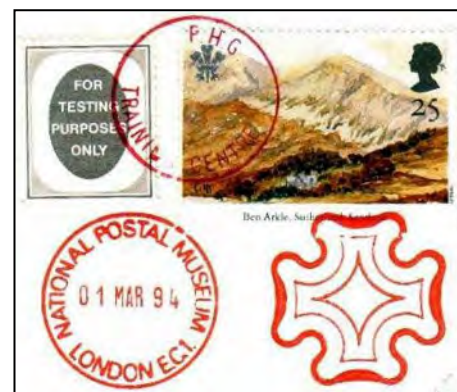


They depict two vertical pairs of Gold Coast stamps that each bear a 'HARRISON'S / SPECIMEN' overprint in black on the 2 1/2d and 3d values.

As is obvious from the scan, the stamps are in extremely poor condition and whether they found a buyer is unknown. ☒

Further eBay Testing Rubbish

Genuinely cancelled item has been 'doctored' pre-sale



A Post Office Archives postcard with the later addition of a testing label and use of an undated 'PHG Training Centre' hand-stamp. ☒

Labels Resembling Postage Stamps

The Postmaster General clamps down in 1908

The lovely poster image on the next page was sent to me by British stamp dealer and philatelist Andrew G Lajer. His latest specialist GB stamp offerings can be found at www.andrewglajer.co.uk

Harrison & Sons fell-foul of the ruling imposed by the Postmaster General with its so-called 'Harrison Head' dummy stamps and had to change the design at the insistence of the GPO. ☒



USE OF LABELS RESEMBLING POSTAGE STAMPS.

THE practice has recently been adopted by some persons of affixing to the covers of letters adhesive labels, somewhat resembling postage stamps, which are used for advertising or other purposes. Although these labels are obviously not issued with any intention of defrauding the revenue, their use on postal packets, especially when they are placed on the address side, causes embarrassment to the officers of the Post Office, and gives rise to delay in the treatment of other correspondence. In these circumstances, the Postmaster General has deemed it necessary to issue instructions that, after the 31st of July, any letter or other packet observed in the post bearing on the front a private label in any way resembling a postage stamp shall be returned to the sender.

By Command of the Postmaster General.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
21st July, 1908.

Waterlow Wembley BEE Label

A souvenir of the British Empire Exhibition

A recent display at Chelmsford Philatelic Society related to the 1924/5 British Empire Exhibitions.



One item on display was the sheetlet of six dummy stamps that were offered (free?) to visitors to the Waterlow & Sons stand.

Thanks to the owner it was possible to photograph the sheet, which is imperforate and includes punch holes through each label at bottom left. ☒

Penny Red Reproduction

While not a true dummy stamp, it is most collectable

Royal Mail has issued its latest money-maker in the form of a block of four reproductions in intaglio of the penny red stamp.

It is produced by Enschedé and is quite superbly printed as would be expected. ☒



Children in Need 1986 Update

Inspiration from the late Jimmy Saville's BBC programme

Cotswold Covers state that the idea for its Children in Need sheet of 1986 came about because of the



Jim'll Fix It dummy stamps that had been issued back in 1982 for the girl who had wanted to see postage stamps being printed at Harrison & Sons factory in High Wycombe. ☒

General von Witzleben German Intelligence Forgeries of 1944

Who was the British stamp printer of this forgery?

Sandafayre.com offered in its 8 November 2011 auction (lot 6289, sale 5193) an interesting item.

The British Intelligence produced a skilful propaganda forgery of the German 1943 24pf+26pf brown-red Putsch stamp. The forgery shows a portrait of General von Witzleben, instead of that of a storm trooper. An inscription at the top reads 'Gehängt am 8. Aug. 1944', meaning 'Hanged on 8th August 1944'.

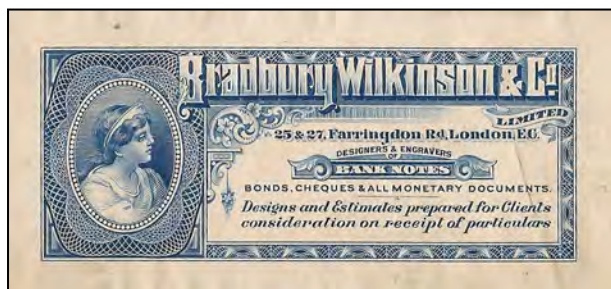


The forgery is in sheets of 20 (4x5) by photogravure and was probably printed by Waterlow or Harrison, but does any reader know for sure? ☒

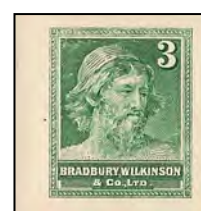
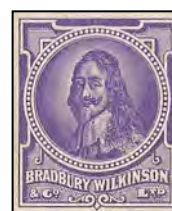
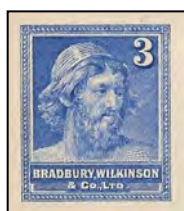
Bradbury Wilkinson Dummy Stamps Recently on Offer

No new designs, but some rarely encountered material

Several Bradbury Wilkinson dummy stamps have recently been offered by dealers. Many of these, while known previously, have rarely been seen on the open market. Unfortunately a couple have been cut very close to the design (as is often encountered with postal stationery cut-outs), but as your compiler had only seen poor quality black and white images previously it was good to finally show readers quality scans in colour. Some of the colours below are believed to be previously unrecorded.



A personal favourite showing the Farringdon Road works, people, a horse and cart, dog and motor car. It is recorded by James Negus as dating from the 1910's.



Exist.

The labels to left and right of this text are shown two ways - as a mirror image (i.e. in reverse) and correct way reading.

These only exist as mirror images - the correct way reading scans are shown simply to enable the designs to be seen had they been printed normally. Being in reverse implies that they were probably pulled from a transfer roller. ☒

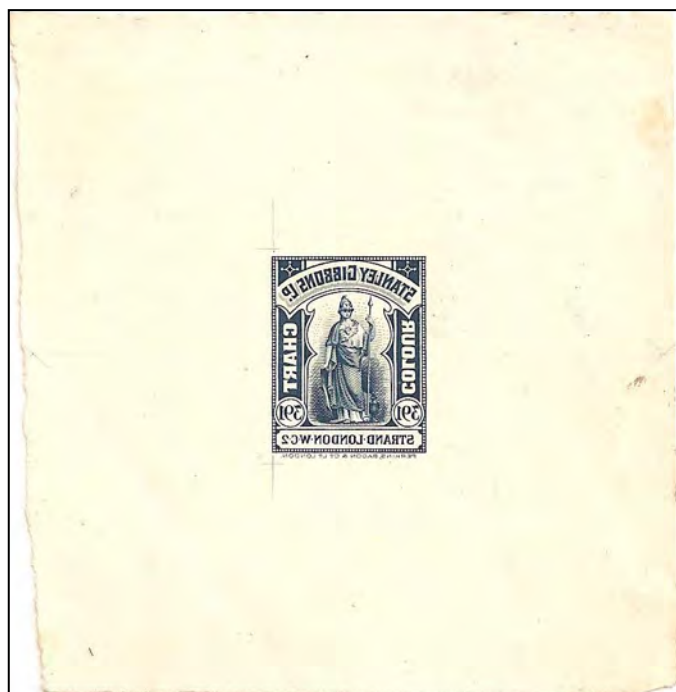


Do not exist. 'Flipped' scans only.

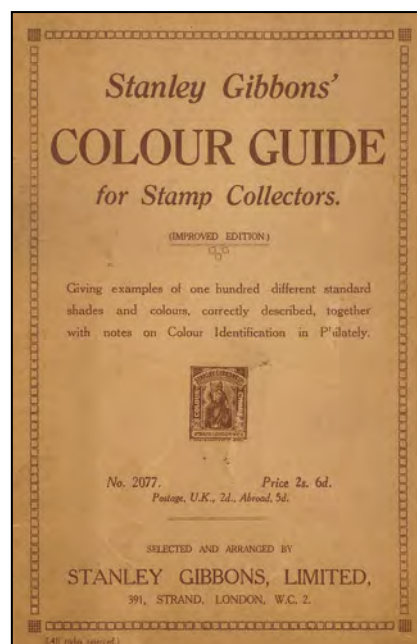
Stanley Gibbons Colour Guide

Dummy stamps produced as colour guide for collectors

A reader queried whether the image below is really a dummy stamp as per your compiler's definition. I think it does warrant a place here as it was produced to show stamp ink colours using a simulated design.



A selection of the Perkins labels appear above, while below is the front cover of the colour chart which, incidentally was printed by Harrison & Sons. ☒



...and finally

I always welcome details of new dummy finds from printers past and present, and so invite you to write via my Guest Book at stampprinters.info/guestbook.htm, where requests to subscribe to *DS* can also be made.

Business, family and other commitments to the hobby mean that I cannot guarantee that I can rigidly stick to a publishing programme and therefore suggest that you visit stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm every so often where PDF files of this and all future and previous issues of *Dummy Stamps* will be available to download and print-off. Thank you. ☒

The top items depict the Stanley Gibbons colour chart stamp printed by Perkins, Bacon. It is unusual to see mint multiples of these dummy stamps as they are normally only seen as one hundred singles in different colours and pre-affixed to the chart.

The bottom item is a lovely black die proof of the design in reverse implying that it would have been pulled from a transfer roller.

Dummy Stamps

Issue 24

A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material

Quarter 1, 2012

Further Bruckmann Sheet Surfaces
Margins trimmed at some point by a philatelic vandal!



A further sheet of the watermarked Bruckmann of Munich KEVII One Penny Blue trial has recently surfaced on eBay. The vendor claims that it is additional to the Rushstamps haul and was bought directly from the original German archive discovery made back in 2005. It was re-offered in November 2011 for a "Buy it Now" price of £3,459.95.

The vendor justifies his price by stating: *"The rest of the archive was bought by RUSHSTAMPS and they have sold out of the original key watermarked gum trials. Almost all of the sheets were broken up and sold as individual stamps, which sold upwards of £295.00 per stamp. Therefore the retail value of this sheet in 2009 would have been £7,375.00. Therefore an extraordinary investment holding!!!"*

Readers of DS can decide if they agree with the comments, but it was unsold as of 18 December. ☒

Waterlow Rotaglio Dummy Design
A further colour recorded by DS reader



Festival of Britain Design
Not strictly dummy, but interesting. Any info, please?



Cartor at Bangkok 2010

Dummy stamp created on a silk substrate



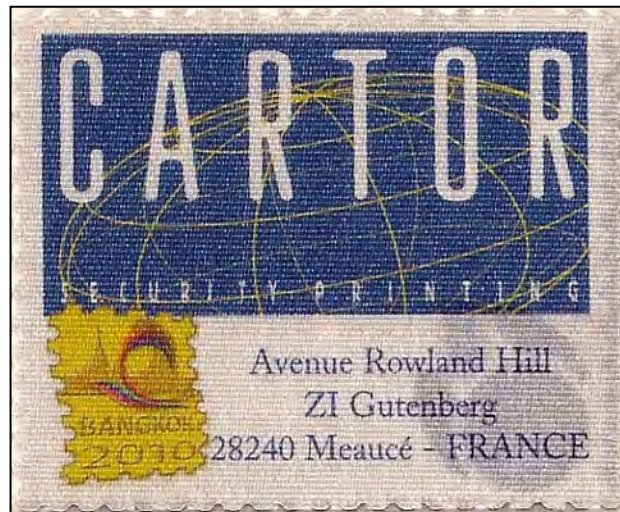
The postcard face used as a maxi-card.



The handstamp used. (Substantially enlarged.)



Reverse of postcard, with silk dummy stamp at bottom of card. The other dummy stamp at top left is pre-printed on the postcard and has mock perforations.



Unknown in any format other than pre-affixed to the postcard. Mint copies appear not to exist. (Substantially enlarged to help reveal the silk fibres.)

The Stamping Department and the Late Harry Dagnall

'Experimental - No Duty' Dummy Stamps



As a tribute to the recently deceased Harry Dagnall FRPSL, I illustrate a label design that he had made me aware of. He wrote: "The head is that of Britannia, as in the embossed revenue stamps, but the dolphins would suggest that the design might have come from the Royal Mint." Any more information, please? ☒

De La Rue 'Advertising Stamps' - Sheet Sizes Revealed in Archives

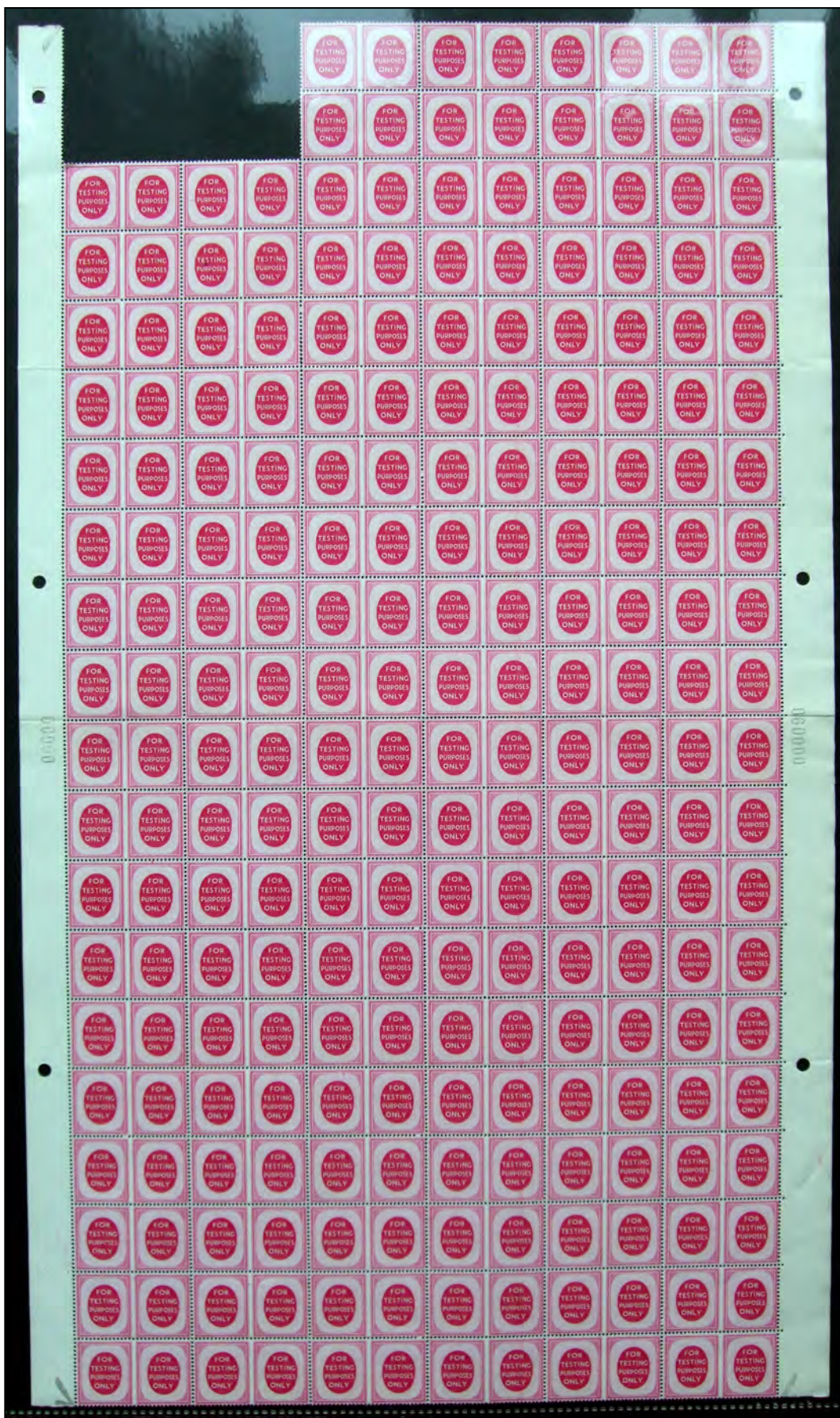
Royal PS digitises archive slides for members to access



The above items are shown in full sheets within the De La Rue Archive of digitised images held at the Royal Philatelic Society (page ref: V17-0654_DeLaRue). The left dummy stamp is printed by lithography, while the right is in photogravure, both in sheets of 25 (5 x 5). ☒ *Sorry for poor image quality.

Pink "For Testing Purposes Only" Sheet Surfaces

Previously unrecorded in anything larger than a block of six that had been used to simulate a booklet pane



It had been hoped that a quality scan of the sheet alongside could be made before this issue of *DS* was issued, but other commitments have prevented this. However, I wanted to share it with you as soon as possible for it is a fascinating item.

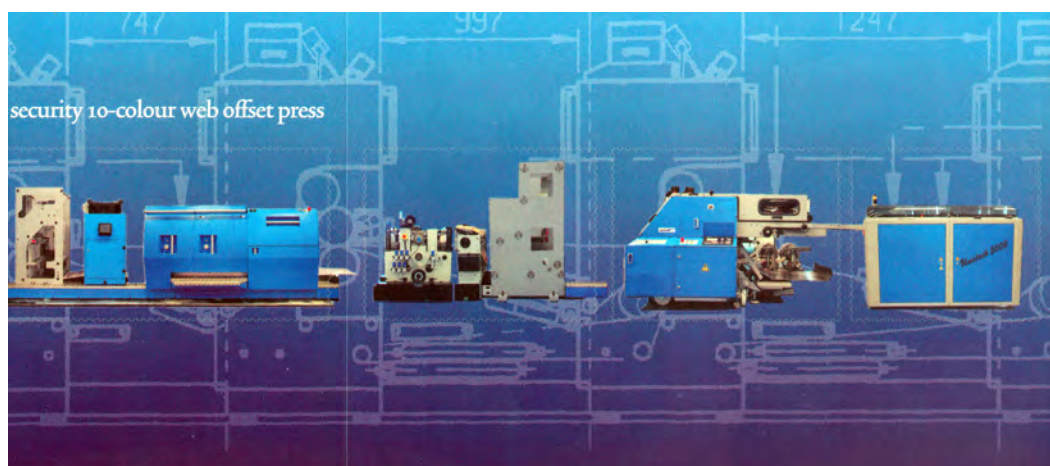
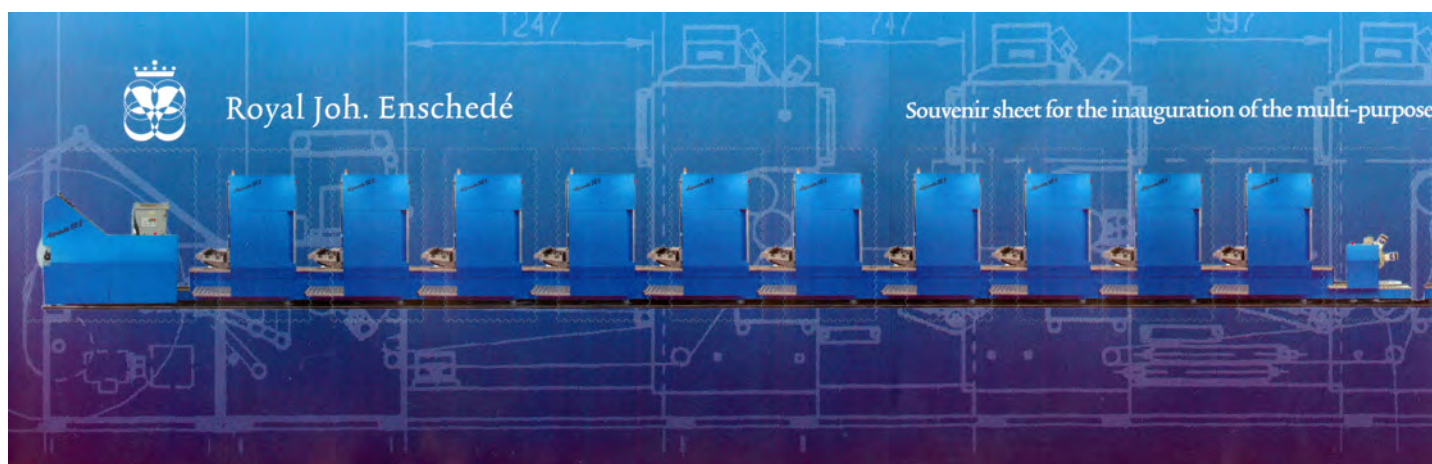
The story was told in your compiler's coil paper entitled "*1962 QEII Multiple Crown Double-sized Pink FT-PO Labels*" (go to [www.stamppers.info/1962-64/Red Testing Label.pdf](http://www.stamppers.info/1962-64/Red%20Testing%20Label.pdf) to read about it). That paper will be updated to reflect this find when time permits and will also incorporate the improved scan.

The BPMA records indicate that the GPO was willing to accept sheets of 240 (or rather 120 double-sized) dummy stamps without top and margin margins and this clearly happened, as the black overprinted arrows show where the sheets were to be torn from the web-printed roll, i.e not cut.

It is a shame that the sheet has four stamps removed, but at least the margin has been retained. Anyone seen large multiples of the grey version? ☒

Enschedé Press Launch Revisited

A quality scan reveals 16 die-cut labels



A Dutch friend very kindly sent a high-resolution scan of the Enschedé souvenir sheet depicted in DS23. It is an extremely long sheet, as befits the real printing press, and therefore it could not be scanned in one piece.

The lower image has been electronically "stitched" together and depicts the sheet in its entirety. Your compiler has then overlaid a series of white rectangular frame lines over the areas where die-cut perforations appear. There a total of sixteen labels

created of varying widths, but all of the labels are of a constant height.

It will be noted that the text reads: "**Royal Joh. Enschedé / Souvenir sheet for the inauguration of the multi-purpose security 10-colour web offset press**".

There is an overall background image consisting of a schematic line drawing of the printing press and it clearly made a fine souvenir of the launch. ✉

Similar Engraved Image to the Bradbury, Wilkinson Farringdon Road Factory Dummy Stamp Found

Can any reader identify the engraver of the image below?



The day after DS23 was circulated your compiler came across his copy of an undated, but possibly 1970's, booklet by Bradbury, Wilkinson that gave a detailed profile of the company.

While reacquainting himself with the content one image jumped off the page, as it appeared at first glance to be the engraving that had been used for the Farringdon Road factory dummy stamp.

When putting the engraving and the dummy stamp together it quickly became apparent that there were actually several differences. For example, the dummy stamp has more people, a dog, a different car and horse and carts, while the adjacent buildings are a different height, etc.

The engraver is not credited, but it is probably reasonable to assume that it is the same person who engraved both of these similar images. ☒



More on the Samuel Jones Range of Papers

Poster stamps were so popular at one time that they even formed a collectors club



Forceful
Concentrated
Economical
Publicity



Sell the
POSTER STAMP IDEA
to your Clients
and always remember to use

BUTTERFLY BRAND
NONCURLING
GUMMED PAPER

Camdenwell Beauty

Made by
SAMUEL JONES & COMPANY LIMITED
NEW BRIDGE STREET, LONDON, E.C.4. GRAMS: NONCURLING 'LUD' LONDON. TEL: CENTRAL 6500

At the height of their popularity, Samuel Jones & Co set-up a collectors club for those interested in poster stamps. At right is a 1950's advertisement from the Penrose Annual depicting six dummy stamps promoting products, while at left is what appears to be a page from an album designed to house SJ poster stamps. ☒

Tullis Russell Fundraising at The Stamp Show 2000

£1,000 raised at TSS2000, as contemporary press release reveals, plus it adds new details about the press used



"07.07.2000 Promotional stamp sheetlet raises money for the NSPCC
Tullis Russell Coatings Ltd raised one thousand pounds for the NSPCC at the recent international Stamp Show 2000. The money was raised through donations made from the printing of promotional stamps at the show in London. On the stand was an antique, hand intaglio press from 1857, owned by specialist intaglio printers Bacon & Bacon, which was used to print over a hologram on a stamp paper sheetlet.

Tullis Russell Coatings is a world leader in the production of papers for postage stamps and supplies over 120 countries worldwide, including the UK. The company was delighted to be able to put its promotional material to use for a good cause and thanks all those who contributed." ☒

Waterlow Brothers and Layton - Forgeries Revisited

New information surfaces

WATERLOW. BROS. & LAYTON M.P. $\frac{102}{10}$

1818 G. or B Stamp. (GERMAN) also Austrian

Dimension Taken across sheet (longway)

1 Stamp of 18 perforations = $.98'' \times 100 = \frac{98}{1800}$

$\frac{98}{1800} \times \frac{7}{1} = \frac{392}{1800} = \frac{49}{225}$ = wheels = $\frac{42 \text{ into } 90}{35 \text{ into } 75}$

Dimension Taken way sheet travels (shortway)

1 Stamp of 15 perforations = $.84'' \times 100 = \frac{84}{1500}$

$\frac{84}{1500} \times \frac{4}{1} = \frac{336}{1500} = \frac{168}{750}$ = wheels = $\frac{28 \text{ into } 50}{40 \text{ into } 100}$

$.035'' \text{ pins} \times 20 \text{ pins} = 10 \text{ Stamps in all}$

P.S. Waterlow B. & L. could not wait while M.P. was made so used M.P. $\frac{102}{2}$ EDWARD VII, worked from dowel pin holes & centre stamp & put extra hole each way in each stamp

perforations
16 x 18

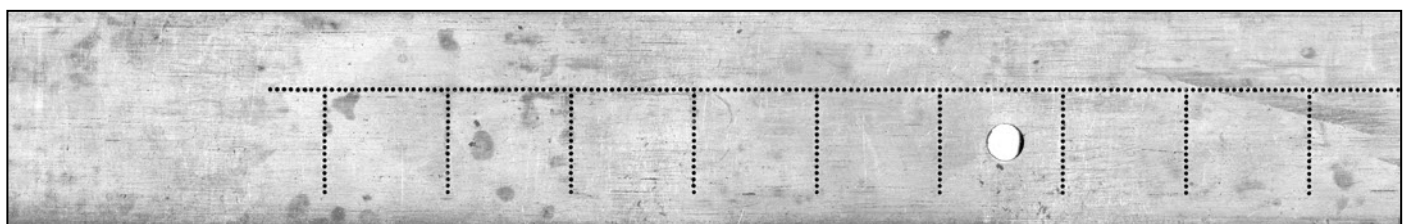
As soon as DS23 appeared, a regular reader wrote concerning the wartime forgeries recorded in that issue.

He wrote: "I started reading and suddenly realised that some photocopies that Len (from Grover's) had given me years ago, now made sense. He said they were GB related but I assumed he had made a mistake as they seemed to be for German and Austrian stamps even though it is headed G and B!!

"Fortunately I still have the bits of paper (my flat is full of bits of paper which might come in useful one day!!) and attach scans which you might find of interest.

"The metal Master Plate is ten stamps across with nine extension holes at the left end and eight at the other."

This story goes to prove that nothing should ever be thrown away just because it does not make immediate sense, as it might do one day! ☒



Chambon Iranian Label Update

Translation of text allows identification to be made



In issue 19 of *Dummy Stamps*, your compiler had illustrated a label produced by Chambon's London premises at Hammersmith requesting a translation of the text at the foot of the label.

A friend and reader recently advised that he had examples of colour progressives for the labels and generously gave a set in blocks of four (*see next page*). This made me determined to get to the bottom of this particular dummy stamp. Contact with the UK specialist society for Iran proved fruitless and several other attempts also failed. Never one to give up, I finally tried an English-speaking collector in Teheran who had a website and invited correspondence. Within 24 hours I had the answers that had eluded me for so long!

I had previously written that the company of Chambon had been founded in France in 1877** and that an album of sample stamps from the UK offices had recently been found. Inside it stated "...90 years of experience...", indicating that it must have been produced in 1967. That said, some of the labels included were certainly printed well before that year and had probably simply remained in stock at the Hammersmith premises.

** It has since become clear that the year 1877 was incorrect, despite the reliable source used. The Komori-Chambon website indicates an establishment date of 1887, which makes more sense to this story, as the sample album would therefore have been produced in 1977, not 1967. Closer examination of the contents of the album also reveals that there is a sheet dated 1975 within.

The correction of the date helps to more accurately determine when the Iran label might have been produced, as my new contact is of the opinion that it would have been a 1970's creation and not as early as the 1960's, making it a better fit.

I am told that the single line of text on the label says 'Ayatollah Alamme Seyed Mohammad Hosein Tabatabae'. Ayatollah is his title and it is an Arabic

word meaning 'The sign of God'. It is the most important degree in Islamic education and reaching such a standard takes many years of education. 'Alamme' means 'scientist', while 'Seyed Mohammad Hosein' are his given names. (Coincidentally my contact's three given names are also the same.) 'Tabatabae' is the Ayatollah's family name, although strictly speaking his real family name was 'Ghazi Tabatabae', but on the label it appears just as 'Tabatabae' for brevity.

I am advised that he was not involved in politics, but was instead a great Islamic scientist and a major researcher and a master of teachers in the Islamic university and, like all Ayatollahs, was very popular with the Iranian people.

Ayatollah Tabatabae died in 1981 and the Post Office issued two stamps, one that year to mark his passing and another in 1986 for the 5th anniversary of his demise. Both stamps appear below at 50%.



The original Ayatollah label is in photogravure and would have been designed in England and printed on the newly constructed press manufactured for Chambon's client, presumably the state stamp printer in Iran, before being taken apart and shipped to Teheran.

I see on an Internet blog that a reel-fed Chambon photogravure press had been ordered by Iran in the "early 70-ies / late 60-ies; a press very similar to the one used in the Note Printing Branch of Australia, or the Israeli State Printers (there aren't that many of these presses around)".

Upon receipt in Teheran the press would have been reassembled and trials made before putting it into use on the stamps of Iran. Based on other Chambon press installations, it is likely that the Ayatollah design printing plates (and sample progressive sheets?) would have been shipped with the press to facilitate and compare printing results.

So, to summarise, these labels were printed in London on a Chambon photogravure press and so fit perfectly into a collection of British dummy stamps, albeit with a strong overseas slant. ☒

Chambon Iranian Label Update

...(continued from previous page)



All scans above are at 70% of life-size.

The Phantasmagoria Security Printing Company Labels

No comment!

Keeping politics out of *DS* and focusing solely on the philatelic aspects, the artist has a clear talent for creating artworks with a period feel to them. It is possible that they are the work of Gerald King, renowned for generating "spoof" type label designs, such as those for Snark Island and Wonderland.



Widow's Mite Not...



...or Widow's Mite

The Rt Hon. Dr James Gordon Brown MP
(title 1996–present day)

Philately need not be a totally serious hobby, as the creator of the above two labels clearly believes.

Ok, so the Phantasmagoria Security Printing Co does not exist and the labels are not really dummy stamps, but they are fun whoever you vote for. ☒

Care - Training CDS in circulation

Continued vigilance needed with eBay purchases

Two days after circulation of *DS23* with its warning about testing stamps bearing a Postman Higher Grade cancellation, the actual handstamp was on sale by a different vendor on eBay! So, at the risk of repeating myself, take care when buying testing material, especially via online auction sites. ☒



...and finally

Details of new finds from printers past and present are welcomed and so feel free to write via the Guest Book at stampprinters.info/guestbook.htm, where you can also subscribe (it's free) to *DS*.

Other commitments mean that a rigid publishing programme may be difficult, to achieve so be sure to visit stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm every so often where PDF files of this and all future and previous issues of *Dummy Stamps* will be available for downloading and printing-off. ☒



Dummy Stamps

Issue 25

A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material

Quarter 2, 2012

Harrison Timeline, KGII - KGVII

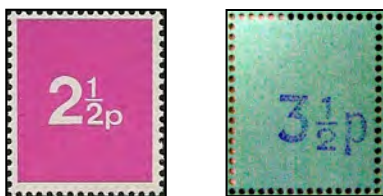
Updated and extended key-dates supplement

This issue of *Dummy Stamps* includes an updated 18 page Harrison & Sons Timeline that has also been extended to the end of KGVII to mark 15 years since DLR took over the company. QEII will follow. ☒

Post Office Decimal Training, 1971

Further essays found recorded in the philatelic press

In preparation for change-over to decimal currency five training stamps were produced (*sample value below*). These were the subject of a research paper by the compiler of *DS* and downloadable from www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm



These labels are quite common and still cheap owing to the quantity 'liberated' by staff at the time. Less well known are the essays previously recorded in green with purple hand-stamped value (*above*).

In *Stamp Collecting Weekly* [GB], 2 April 1971, the following small piece was included:

DECIMAL TRAINING LABELS

The Curator of the National Postal Museum, A G Rigo de Righi, reports that he has reference sheets of earlier, provisional examples. They take the form of perforated labels without inscription, in yellow, green, orange-red, pale blue and pink. There are also examples of the same labels overprinted in purple by hand-stamp in new pence as follows: 1p on yellow, 2p on pink, 2 1/2p on blue, 3 1/2p on green (*ED: as image above*) and 5p on orange-red. These were "essays" which were not adopted.

It is almost certain that copies of these essays are not in private hands, but solely at BPMA. ☒

Training Stamps for 1924 BEE?

Genuine, or yet more dodgy items?

The scans below are of the 1924 British Empire Exhibition commemorative stamps that were recently offered by a reputable British auction house with an estimate of £150 to £170.



They look plausible enough, but did such overprints exist for Post Office staff training purposes as far back as the 1920's, or is it yet another attempt by a vendor at extracting money from the ill-informed collector? Proof either way welcomed, please. ☒

Harrison Dummy Stamps found in Canadian Stamp Printers Archive

Why were Thos. R Harrison labels sent to / used in Canada?



The out of alignment gutter strip above comes from sheets of 310 (10 x 31) dummy stamps. They are often offered in Canada and purport to have been found in the BABNC printing archive. Invariably scuffed, they make for an interesting addition to a British dummy stamps collection. They are recorded as "contemporary to Canadian Centennial issue". ☒

Bradbury, Wilkinson Prueba Label

Mexican dummy stamp incorporates PROOF wording

An April 2012 US auction sale included a Mexican stamp that incorporated the wording PRUEBA (PROOF) into the actual artwork, as distinct from the more normal overprinting method.



Mexico, 1895, 1c blue, 'Prueba' essay.
Scott No. 242E; Estimate \$100 - 150.

The lot description stated: "Designed as a sample by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. for their bid on the production of the upcoming new 1899 issue, to be similar to the then current 1c issue with the upper left test banner incorporated into the design."

The item remained unsold at close of auction.

Surprisingly, only a couple of days previously a poor quality photostat of a presentation or salesman's folder was seen that incorporated this very stamp, albeit pin-perforated SPECIMEN. (Second panel below with stamp given a red frame.)

Festival of Britain Cards Revisited

Numbers produced are in some doubt

In DS24 your compiler sought help regarding the cards produced to mark the event. A reader kindly supplied a PDF of an article that had appeared in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* [GB] in September 2011, written by Derek Connell, that held the answers.

It appears that the philatelic magazine *Stamp Mirror* held a competition to design FoB and High Value stamps and in December 1950 the winners were announced. A Mr C W Elsworth won the best commemorative with his outline map design, while Mr AT Derbyshire won the best high value with his George and the Dragon design. Each card was signed by the artist and placed on sale at the Festival stamp shop, selling out on the first day.

The reader went on to write: "If you do a follow up article in *Dummy Stamps* I would like to know whether the limited edition of 100 is correct, since I bought one on eBay with a number higher than 100."

Can anyone assist with the answer to this question on volumes? Maybe a reprint was made? ☒

1948 London Games Facsimiles

Reproductions of the set of four to be released



A facsimile pack is to be produced by Royal Mail. It will include unadopted designs from the 20 artists and printers who were invited to submit designs for consideration.

A non-postally valid facsimile sheet of the four stamps will be included in this limited edition pack.

It will be printed by the gravure process in a block of four stamps. ☒

DLR FDC Specimen

An example of Sloper-type pin-perforating

De La Rue clearly also printed FDC envelopes when the client requested, as this 1991 example for a Togo issue on Forests proves.



The pin-perforations are usually only seen used on postage stamps and generally only on those affixed to a presentation or proofing sheet. Note how the French text translates as "The Forest / Circulation Limited No. 0000". ☒

Free Advertisements

A chance to buy and sell between yourselves

As a free service to readers, advertisements are now accepted in *Dummy Stamps*, subject to the rules recorded below.

1. Adverts must relate to worldwide dummy stamps only and no other area of collecting.
2. All correspondence and disputes must be between reader and advertiser and must not involve the publisher of *Dummy Stamps*, Glenn H Morgan.
3. Adverts will appear in one issue of *DS* only, as all back issues are available online for consultation at any time.
4. Adverts must be text only and comprise no more than four lines of one column, excluding address or email details.
5. Only one advert per person, per issue is allowed.
6. The publisher reserves the right to exclude or amend any advert submitted. ☒

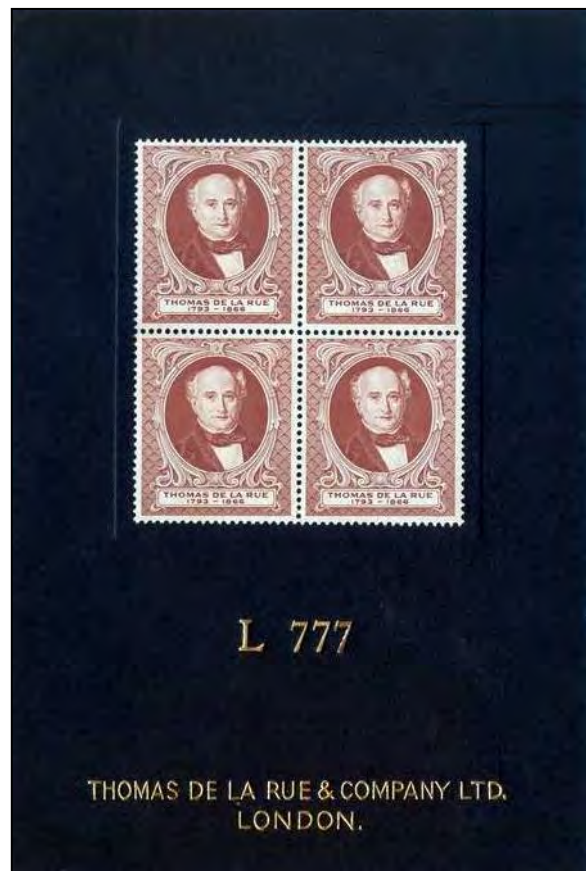
Advert from John Larson:

I collect, buy and sell world-wide test stamps, and would welcome correspondence from others with similar interests. My email address is j_larson1@mac.com

De La Rue Colour Sample cards

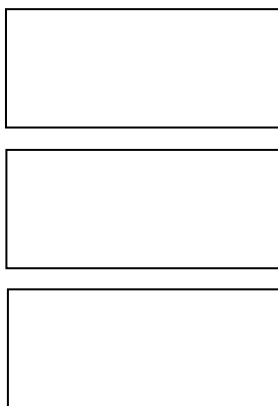
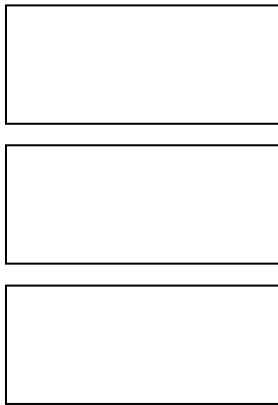
Further to the DS18 discoveries...

...two more colours have been discovered. ☒



Birds Post and Go Test Labels PO staff can generate test labels to help them adjust the equipment

With the early Birds designs being restricted to a mere 30 machines nationwide, it is no surprise that the initial test labels are proving especially difficult to obtain suitable scanned images of. Apologies for gaps! ☒



Images are from the Internet and most are therefore of a poor quality, for which apologies.

Charles Whiting Treasury Competition Essay Reprints

The Congreve process produced lovely output of high quality



Art Journal page bearing reprints of four of Whiting's treasury competition essay entries including embossed Queen Victoria head in oval with 'PAID' above and the square 'Beaufort House' essays in one and two colours.

The reverse side has a complex 'PRINTED BY CHARLES WHITING FOR PROTECTION AGAINST FORGERY' design.

The tipped-in page appeared as part of an 1847 article on printing. ☒

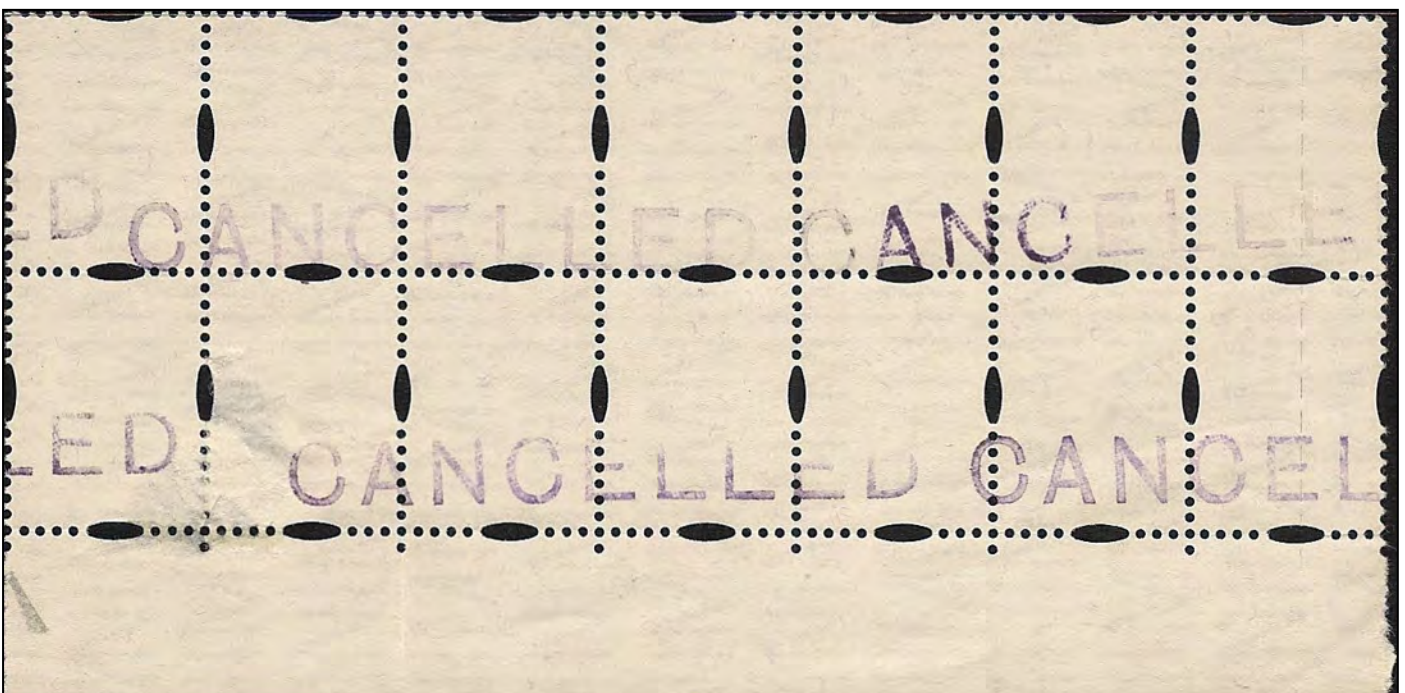


The design that appeared on the reverse of the sheet.

Unprinted Blank Stamps Overprinted CANCELLED by hand

Note roulettes at right and elliptical perfs on all four sides. The arrow in margin possibly signifies a Harrison production

Part sheet of blanks thought to relate to National Savings, National Insurance or trading stamp issues. ☒



Caledonian Philatelic Society and the Harrison Old Masters Sheet

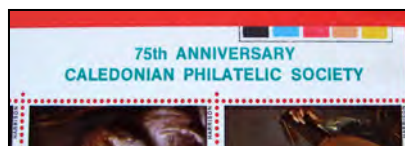
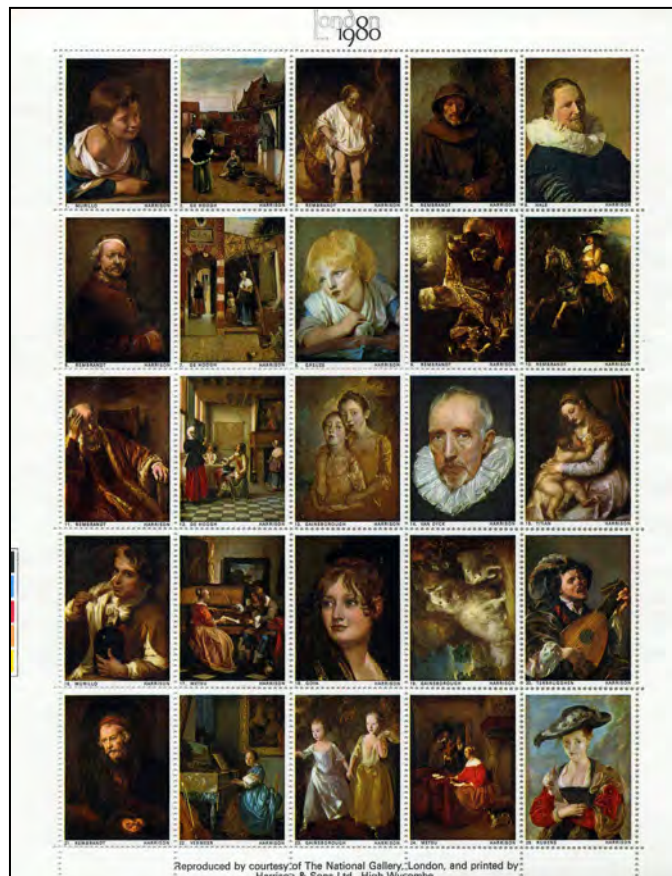
Newly discovered overprint on London 1980 souvenir

In 1980, Harrison produced a sheet entitled "Masterpieces in Miniature" which was enclosed in a folder and made available at London 1980, the international stamp exhibition.

Thanks to a reader, it is possible to show here a variant of the sheet that bears privately applied overprints commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Caledonian PS in 1981.

The dummy stamps were printed in printers sheets comprising two panes side-by-side prior to guillotining into single panes at Harrison and so conceivably examples might exist with colour bars in right or in left sheet margins on the variant.

The original London 1980 sheet is depicted immediately below - note that it has left margin colour bars, while CPS version has right bars. ☒



Harrison Clipped Corner Wildings

A set on a card mock-up folder has recently been seen

Readers may be familiar with the set of Wilding definitive stamps with clipped corners and overprinted **CANCELLED** in serif black text. Rarely seen, they command a high price when offered for sale and are often sold as broken sets or as singles when not in their original book.

The set exists on a folded card produced by Harrison and the album page text accompanying it adds "A design mock-up for a sample card using Wilding stamps". Note how to the left of the stamps are many hand-drawn straight lines, designed to mimic where text would go. ☒



The outside cover depicts sheets of definitive stamps drying as they pass through a press at Harrison & Sons, High Wycombe.



A full set of Wilding definitive stamps (including the later 11d value).

Coates Ink Presentation Cards

Do other versions exist beyond these three?

Thanks to two friends, three Coates presentation cards can be shown. These are hard to find and are rarely offered. Is any reader aware of any similar examples?

It was pointed out that all three cards are on identical base card stock. I had wondered why stamps were duplicated, but missed the blindingly obvious! The cards were probably printed by Harrison. ☒



Festival of Britain, Wilding Defins and Coronation Cards.

Chambon: Australia and Papua & New Guinea

Update on the London-based part of the company

In DS24, mention was made of the probability of the colour separation sheets depicted in the last issue having been sent to Iran with the printing press. This is all the more likely now that your compiler has seen notes relating to a Chambon press purchased by Note Printing Branch (NPB) [AUS].

In 1958 approval was given for NPB to obtain a new photogravure printing press from Chambon in London. Trials were undertaken in London (hence inclusion in DS) using various designs that had been submitted from Australia.



According to Arthur W Gray of Sydney (who recently displayed some of his wonderful Australian collection to members and fellows of The Royal Philatelic Society, London) "*Records held at the Note Printing Branch indicate that cylinders for the above two designs, a number of printed sheets including colour separation trials* were sent to NPB by Chambon*". (* Compiler's emboldening.)

The above designs comprise a Papua New Guinea 5/- value that was rejected owing to the Native Patrolman being depicted armed, while the bird design by Betty Temple-Watts of a Black-Backed Magpie was also rejected, but for unknown reasons.

Both artworks were, however, deemed appropriate for the photogravure trials undertaken in London.

The above image is another bird design comprising a full sheet of 16 (4 x 4) dummy stamps depicting a Red-Backed King-Fisher. This specific sheet is in the archives of Australia Post and is thought to be the only *truly* complete sheet in existence.



However, a second sheet is in private hands in the collection of the aforementioned Arthur W Gray, but there is a difference between Mr Gray's copy and that held at Australia Post - his copy has the CHAMBON LTD. / LONDON header cut-off, as can be seen above by the scissor-cut top edge. This sold for €1,300 last year at a German auction. ☒



A 10d airletter form of a Stockman was also printed in London as part of these early trials.

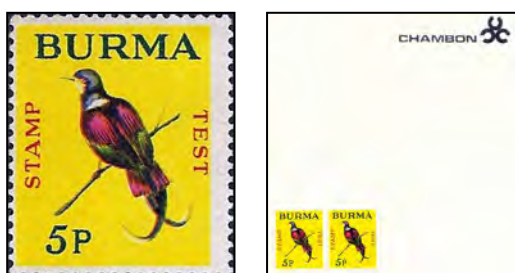
Chambon: Burma Test Stamp

Update on the London-based part of the company

While discussing Chambon, further information has now been seen regarding the Burma bird stamp previously mentioned in *DS*.

Unusually, it was printed in three colour photogravure using carmine, blue and yellow inks, but no black. This is borne out by marginal examples having been seen with rules in each of these colours.

The second image below is part of a page from a Chambon catalogue, clearly confirming that they were responsible for the production.



Stamp Magazine [GB] for September 1996 includes a piece written by the late Norman Williams as a follow-up to his earlier queries posed in the April and August 1982 issues (yes, 14 years earlier!).

The Burmese government ordered a photogravure press from Chambon, London, to print its stamps with. It was due to be the first of two presses, but a change of regime stopped the second order from being fulfilled.

The test stamp is described by Williams as being on unwatermarked paper, white wove, gummed and perforated 13.2.

An ex-employee wrote to a collector with details



Ornithologists are unsure as to the exact bird on the dummy stamp, but it may be a *Wilson's Bird of Paradise*.

of the story, which Mr Williams quoted in full. It is repeated here with the kind permission of www.stampmagazine.co.uk

"Burma Test Stamps Printed by Messrs Chambon of Hammersmith, circa 1960

The Burmese Government ordered two stamp printing machines in the 1960s. The first was delivered but, so far as is known, was never used. For Chambon, these were early machines where the printing was by the photogravure process. Extensive trials were therefore required to test the quality of the plate preparation, printing and perforating. A 3-colour process was used (see printer's marks in the margin in yellow, blue and red).

"The test printings we have were made on a second machine built in anticipation that an order for another machine would be forthcoming. These machines are quite complex and cost around £500,000 each. There was probably a reasonable interval between the delivery of the first machine and the manufacture of the second.

"I understand that a military junta took over control of the country about this time and so a definite second order never materialised. The machine remained at Hammersmith with its final fate being unknown. Somewhere around 1980 Chambon went and no longer exists. (ED: *Now Komori-Chambon.*)

"Sheet details: two panes of 100 labels (10 x 10). Gutter between panes. On unwatermarked wove paper. Ungummed (gumming is too expensive to use during trials of this kind). (ED: *gutters never seen.*)

"Perforation 13.25. Design: Peacock on tree branch against a yellow background. This simple design therefore had all the features likely to be associated with a proper stamp of this period."

The former employee went on "I have three sheets, all of which have the same "blind" perfs where the paper has not cleared the punch holes. It is probable that many sheets were produced during the tests which went on as the machine was improved. Most of these sheets would have been destroyed as waste material - there was no security worry."

The odd detail above varies from the report by Mr Williams, but an interesting story. ☒

A British Summer of Sport and Stamps

'Instant' stamps to be produced for the greatest of all sporting events

All eyes are on the UK this summer and official dummy mock-ups for the instant stamps have been sent to the media. Design is subjective, but the arrow-head shaped live action shots work well.

The Gold Medal stamps will be on sale by lunchtime the next day after each Team GB win, at 500 selected Post Offices across the UK. At the same time the stamps will go on sale at royalmail.com, while a further 4,500 Post Offices nationwide will be issued with the latest Team GB Gold Medal winners' stamps three times during the Games.

Royal Mail is keeping specifics of its print and distribution effort under wraps, but base stock will be "under the control of Walsall Security Printers" with digital overprinting at six secret regional locations.

I am curious how well teams will fit into the arrow shape and how names of team members will fit onto the stamps, but these aspects will have been resolved by now.

This is a mammoth task for Royal Mail and its printers, but one that they will excel at, I am sure. ☒



Single miniature sheet from an A4 sheet of four MS in a vertical column with 18mm selvedge. (above)

Royal Mail photo of dummy stamp mock-up of the design to be used for each gold medal Team GB win. (left)

Examining a press sheet. (below left)

Guillotining press sheets into A4 counter sheets. (below centre)

Packing sheets for despatch to Post Office outlets. (below right)

Photo credits: Royal Mail / P A Wire.

The official Emblems of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Ltd are © 2007 The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic



Australia's Digital Games Experience at Sydney in 2000

Admittedly this is to one-side of normal DS content, but is deemed to be relevant at this time

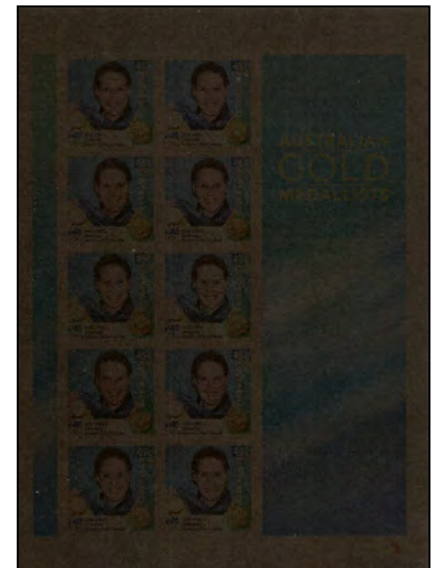
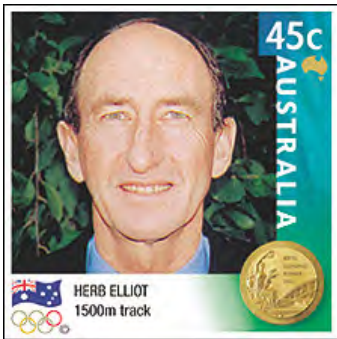
It is common knowledge that Australia Post pioneered the use of digitally printed "instant stamps" at the Sydney 2000 Games. It is no surprise that Royal Mail has improved the process, as the table below shows. Sources: Media Releases from AP and RM.

	<u>AUSTRALIA POST</u>	<u>ROYAL MAIL</u>
Design Type:	Templated with square images for flexibility, especially for teams.	Templated with arrow-shaped images.
Paper:	Pre-perforated, water-activated.	Pre die-cut, self-adhesive.
Printing process (overnight stamps):	Fully digitally printed.	Digital overprint onto litho base stock.
Printing process (follow-up stock):	Fully litho on pre-perforated stock.	Fully litho, or digital/litho combination?
Sheet dimensions:	A4.	A4.
Sheet content:	Two A5 panes of 10 stamps.	Four Miniature Sheets of six stamps.
Image type:	'Action photos (note 1) as they are actually competing, or as they stand on victory dais.'	Action shots.
Image processing:	Electronically sent to a design studio in Sydney.	Electronically sent to Royal Mail's design team who will have one hour to choose an image and complete design.
Number of regional printing locations:	Six Fuji Xerox sites in capital states.	Six secret locations nationwide.
Overnight distribution to Post Offices:	68 outlets by noon next day.	500 PO's by noon next day (inc Sunday).
Follow-up stocks:	Printed same day, and at 80% of outlets within 48 hours.	4,500 PO's nationwide within week, replenished three times during Games.

Note 1: In the end, action shots were not utilised in Australia and all are dais shots. Why the change of heart, I wonder if difficulties were encountered?

In order to test all aspects of this massive project, a full rehearsal was carried-out at the swimming trials held in Sydney in May 2000. The project brought together many different fields including design, photography, research, information technology, finance and accounting, marketing, production, printing, distribution, logistics, security, public affairs and retail.

Some Herb Elliott test sheets escaped into the market and command huge prices. A second sheet with a "Who Will WIN?" design was circulated to journalists, but only as a laser sheet, not as actual dummy stamps. Thirdly, every issued digital sheet had a black spacer sheet to keep the Xerox drum clean and had the actual stamps printed on to it. Copies should not exist, but do. ☒



Harrison & Sons Wedgwood Sweet Dish from 1984

One for the Machin head fans out there, this souvenir is rarely encountered as it was a presentation piece.

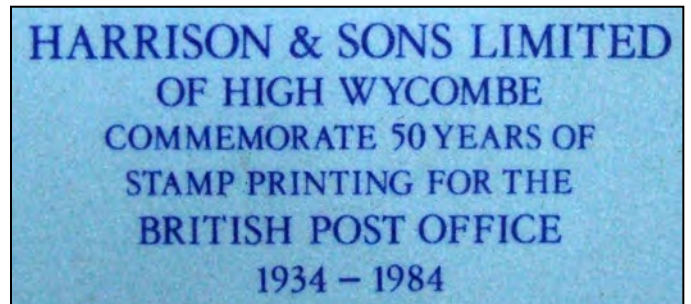
In 1984, Harrison & Sons celebrated 50 years of stamp printing for the GPO with a Wedgwood sweet dish depicting an undenominated Machin head. With a vivid imagination, this could possibly be regarded as the world's first ceramic dummy stamp! In [an unlucky] 13 years later the company would be no more. ☒



Horizon Training Labels

'Void' stamps recently discovered

The white Horizon labels have been seen in five VOID versions with a fictitious postcode area of AA1 and dating back to 2003. Other service types may exist, but have not been seen at this time. ☒



The reverse text actually celebrates 50 years of *photogravure* stamp printing for the British Post Office, not just stamp printing in its widest sense, as it disregards all previous letterpress work.

...and finally

I always welcome details of new dummy finds from printers past and present, and so invite you to write via my Guest Book at stampprinters.info/guestbook.htm, where requests to subscribe to *DS* can also be made.

Business, family and other commitments to the hobby mean that I cannot guarantee that I can rigidly stick to a publishing programme and therefore suggest that you visit stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm

every so often where PDF files of this and all future and previous issues of *Dummy Stamps* will be available for downloading and to print-off. ☒

