

Dummy Stamps

A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material



**ISSUES
26 TO 50**

Dummy Stamps

Issue 26

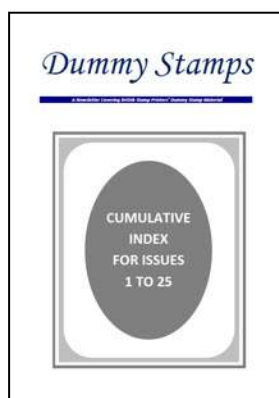
A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material

Quarter 3, 2012

Volume Two of DS Starts Here

Cumulative Index for Issues 1 to 25 produced

Regular readers who receive notification of new issues of *DS* by email will be aware that a Cumulative Index for issues 1 to 25 comprising 26 PDF pages of A4 text was recently issued.



It is available to download, print or save now from www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm along with various title pages that may be of use to those choosing to bind their issues of the newsletter and the additional coil research papers, appendices and supplements issued so far.

Although, not specifically stating so in the masthead information above, this issue of *Dummy Stamps* is the first issue of volume two. ☒

Harrison Britannia Label in Israel

Article proves overseas use and provides a date

Being a wide reader helps with research. While searching *BAPIP Bulletin* [GB], your compiler came across reference to the Harrison Britannia coil dummy stamp being used in the Middle East.

Norman J Collins wrote in May 1991 that 100 rolls were supplied under requisition 9631/1 in 1938 for testing coil dispensers and a further 40 rolls in 1946 under requisition 2450/3. The colour was deep brown and they were supplied in continuous rolls of (?).



Collins book *Palestine Mandate Issues 1921-1948, The Crown Agents Requisition Books*, published 1987, apparently mentions these coils within. ☒

Further Enschedé Chicks and Egg Dummy Stamp Discovered

Similar to previously advised item, but design element is now across two dummy stamps

This chicks and egg design was previously used on another label, but this version is worded on the left-hand dummy stamp 'Joh. Enschedé en Zonen' and on the right-hand 'Goebel' (a famous German printing press manufacturer). Not seen before and probably used as part of a newly acquired press 'running-in' test.



Note how there is a black printed rule through where the perforations have been struck to monitor accuracy. Also the concentric colour markings at top-right of the 'Goebel' dummy stamp, indicate that five colours were used.

It is fair to assume that the original (right of this text) was also part of the same press commissioning trials. ☒



This originally recorded dummy stamp includes the Dutch word 'opleidingen' (which appropriately translates into English as 'training').

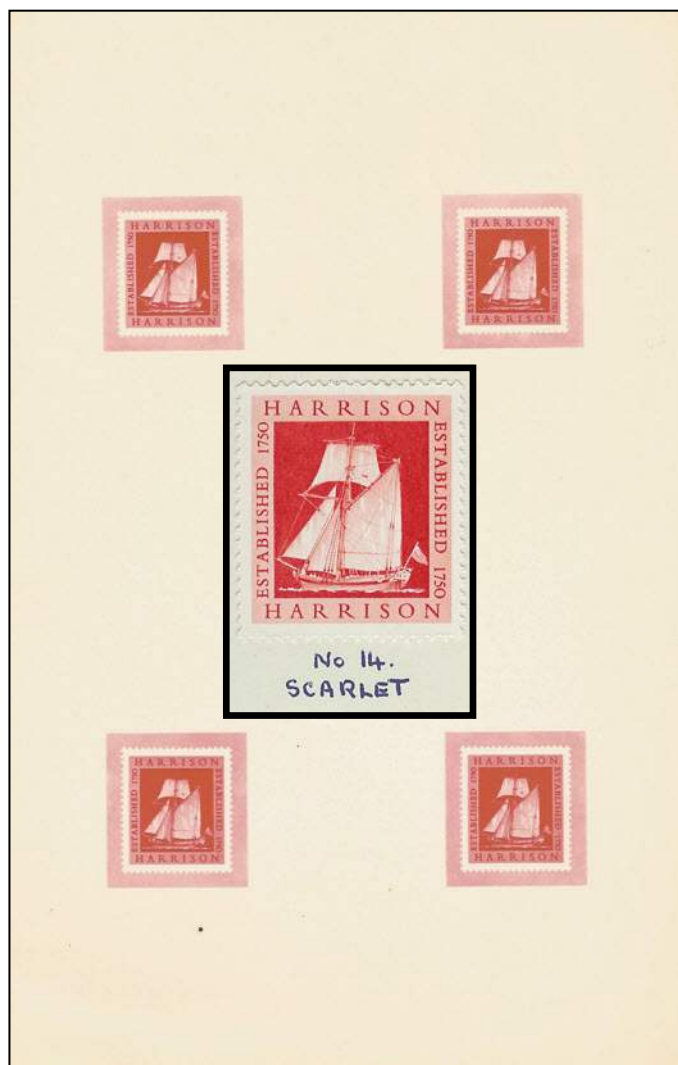
Harrison at Stampex 1957

Scan of red ship print only provided by reader

Some readers may be familiar with the free 1957 Stampex Harrison card depicting a ship that had been produced to promote the company and its photogravure capabilities (*mint and used copies below*). Well, a reader has kindly supplied a scan of the red print only in an uncut sheet of four.



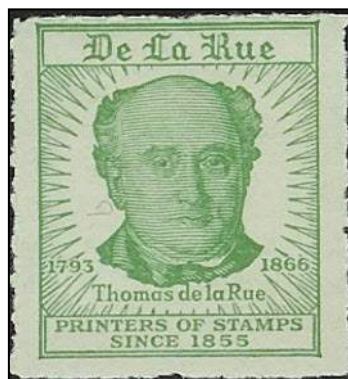
The original design was produced in 1954 for use by Harrison when developing photogravure printing on the web. Single perforated, gummed labels of the same design (*superimposed centrally below*) are to be found on numbered cards, housed within red tooled leather or cloth covered wallets. ☒



De La Rue Head Label Rouletted

Was this official or "created"?

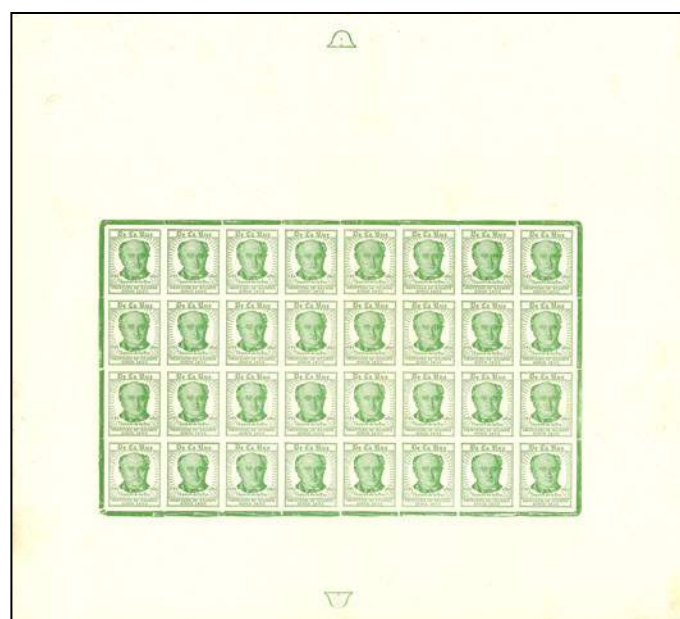
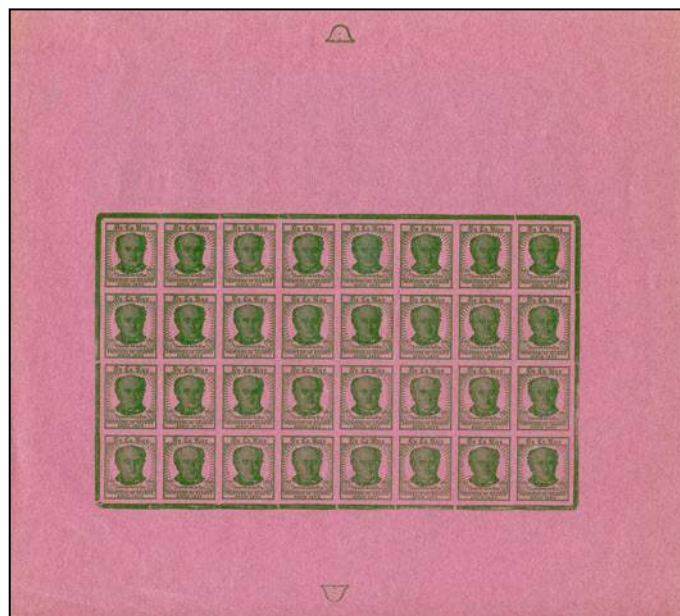
The label depicted below is normally only found fully perforated, but the example shown is rouletted. Does anyone know whether this was an official De La Rue production, or might it have been created by a collector/dealer from imperf proof sheets? ☒



(alongside) Rouletted label.

(below on pink paper)
Imperforate proofing sheet.

(below on white paper)
Imperforate proofing sheet.

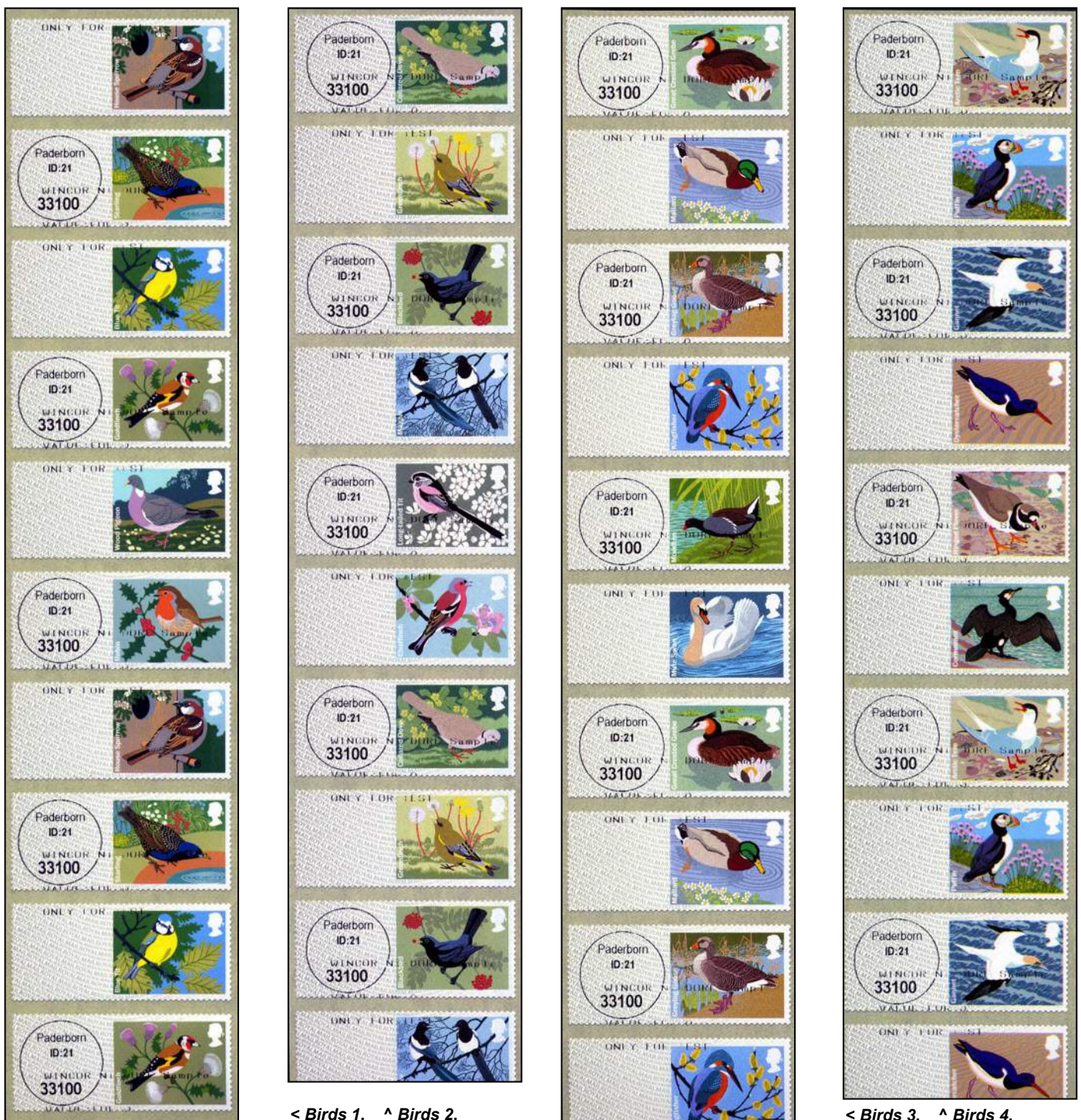


Birds Post and Go Test Labels Further information now available

In *DS25*, as many examples of the *Birds 1* to *Birds 4* testing labels that had been found were depicted. As hoped, a couple of readers have enabled a full set to be illustrated. So, after the end of this newsletter will be found a replacement page. A full PDF of *DS25* has also been uploaded with the replacement page in place.

Interestingly, all 24 *Birds* designs have been provided as scans in long strips revealing how the testing labels appear when the 'magic button' within the machine is pressed. Note how impression is too tall for one label.

A P&G engineer confirms that the facility to print this type of label (known as Paderborn labels) has recently ceased on all but the large format *Fast Stamps* and rumours that the *Sheep* and *Pigs* designs are available, has not been proven. Reports to contradict this statement are welcomed, especially if scans can be provided.



Another type of test print for Post & Go is the 'Printer Configuration' information. Of particular interest is the 'Test Print Intensity' section, as it uses real labels to undertake a dummy function. These should not exist in collectors hands, but clearly they do as they appear on eBay regularly! ☒



Fast Stamps. (Royal Mail repeat wording at left of labels)

Sheep Breeds.
(Farm Animals.)

Pig Breeds.
(Farm Animals.)

Union Flag.
(Diamond Jubilee & London Games.)



Chambon of Hammersmith Sheet

Usually spelt in French, these are London productions

Henry & Leigh Slater Sheet

Interesting paper producer's publicity sheet

Louis Chambon and the stamp output of the company once bearing his name has featured on these pages several times. Recently a full sheet of English language publicity stamps (*below*) was acquired. The dummy stamp states: 'LOUIS CHAMBON / 1861 - 1932 / PIONEER / IN MULTICOLOUR / ROTARY STAMP PRINTING'.

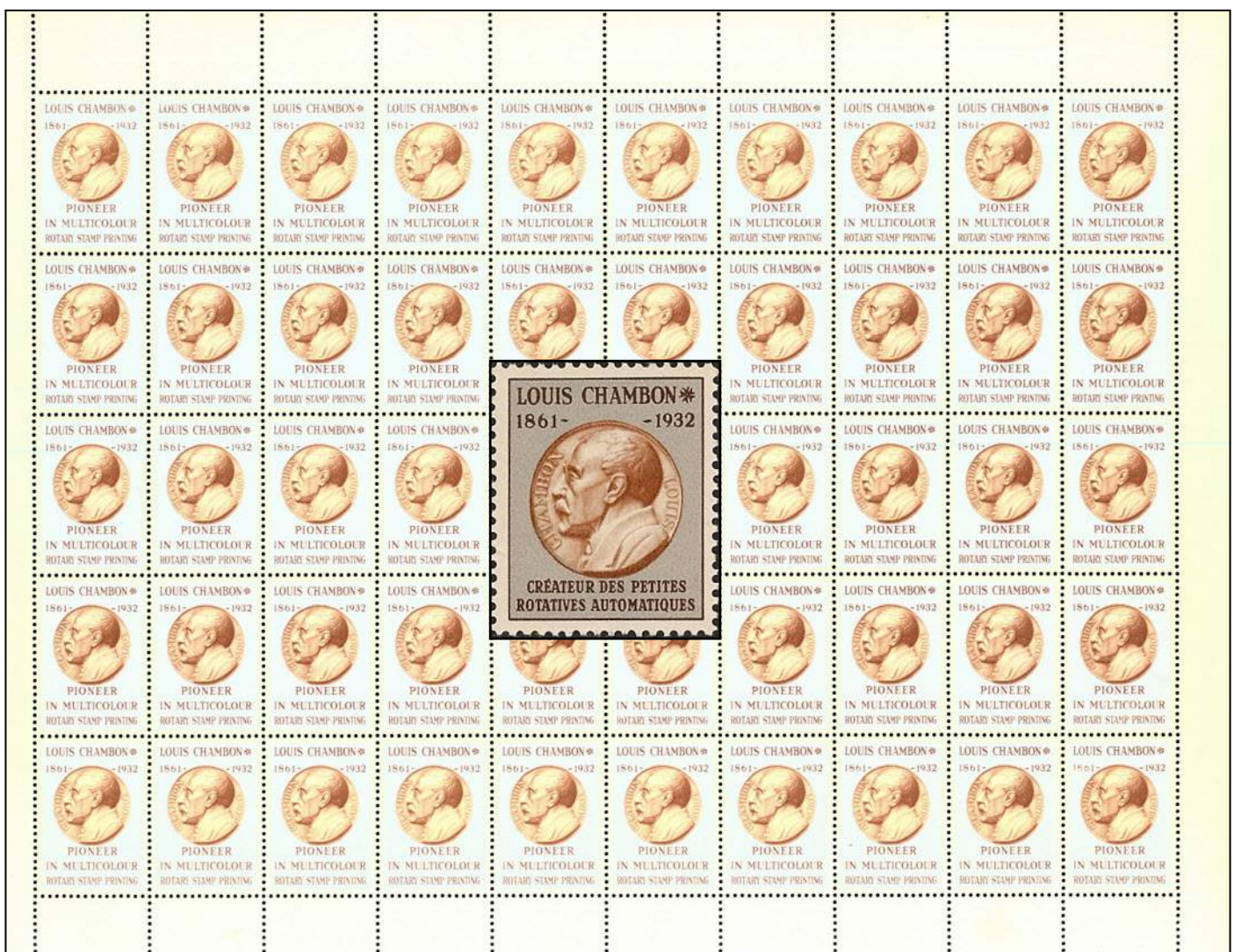
The English language version of this dummy stamp is encountered far less often than its French language equivalent (*an example is superimposed below*), as the British operation was much smaller in its scope and, indeed, was eventually wound-up sometime in the late 1960's.

These items are more spectacular when found in full sheets, as they help show the formats available for the issued stamp equivalent, although acquiring a block of four or a single often has to suffice. ☒

Many years ago, HLS kindly supplied your compiler with the sheet depicted on the following page. It was printed at The House of Questa in London by offset-lithography and bears the paper details at the bottom right of the sheet. The two designs appear to be totally random choices, as they have no obvious association with Slaters.

Both halves of the sheet depict a pseudo-cylinder number, or stock code, of **AP1**, the significance of which is unknown. It could simply mean something like "Advertising Publicity [sheet] 1", or similar. AP2 appears not to exist, as the question was asked at the time (the mid-1990's).

Note that the right-hand vertical selvedge is, in reality, the same width as the left-hand margin, but the sheet-size is marginally wider than the A3 scanner could handle. ☒



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API

API

Printed at The House of Questa London England
on Litho 300 PVA Gummed Stamp Paper 102 g/m²

Trial Versions of Gold Medal Stamps in Full A4 Sheet Format

Royal Mail utilises two dummy sheets during testing

On the next page will be found the first unissued A4 dummy sheet created during trials of the Gold Medal Winners stamps at Walsall Security Printers a few months back.

The issued A4 sheets will each bear a number in the series (GMW01 up), issue date and printer location.



An example of the first type dummy FDC.

On the page after that will be found a surprise second dummy sheet featuring Mark Cavendish MBE from the Isle of Man in a recent race winning moment. The sheet is interesting on a few levels.

Firstly, note that the printer location in the margin of the sheet is shown as Attleborough, which might be a red-herring intended to fool collectors into thinking that we have been told one of six secret printing locations, or it could be an actual site.

Secondly, Mark was recently commemorated on a set of stamps and sheet from the Isle of Man Post Office. One of the chosen images (depicted in next column) is by Getty Images the agency providing the Royal Mail instant stamp images.

Thirdly, it is understood that it was always Royal Mail's intention with the first dummy sheet to feature an athlete who would not be competing in the 2012 London Games, lest the competitor be jinxed in any way.

Mark, was not treated to this consideration. Let's hope it does not affect his performance*, although as these words are being typed he has just crashed during the Tour de France requiring stitches!

**Update: Mark failed to get Gold at the London Games. Prophetically, the dummy sheet shows the actual date of his (hoped for) win. As of the start of Day 4 Team GB has won no Golds, so the instant process has yet to be used.*



One of the issued Isle of Man stamps depicting the so-called 'Manx Missile' using a Getty Images photograph.



Mark Cavendish enlarged from the A4 dummy sheets. Note the lack of mention of his MBE honour on the sheet and margin text.

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 Games Limited. All rights reserved.

It is a shame that none of these special items will be marketed to collectors, as they would have sold very well, it is suspected, even if they needed a VOID overprint. Perhaps it is still not too late for Royal Mail to consider such an idea? ☒

1948 Olympics Facsimile Pack

Mentioned in previous issue, an image is now to hand



A poor quality image of the forthcoming (at time of writing) 'Royal Mail Stamp Reproduction Pack' can now be shown here. It is priced at £5.95 when it is purchased from Royal Mail Talents House. ☒



London 2012 Olympic Games

Team GB Athlete
Date of Medal Win
Venue and Location



The XXX Olympiad

London 2012 Olympic Games

Team GB Athlete
Date of Medal Win
Venue and Location



London 2012 Olympic Games

Team GB Athlete
Date of Medal Win
Venue and Location



London 2012 Olympic Games

Team GB Athlete
Date of Medal Win
Venue and Location



GW01 Issue date 2 August 2012
Printer location





The XXX Olympiad

GMW01 Issue date 1 August 2012

Printer location Atterborough



5 014721 122403



London 2012 Olympic Games

Mark Cavendish
Saturday 28 July 2012
The Mall



London 2012 Olympic Games

Mark Cavendish
Saturday 28 July 2012
The Mall



London 2012 Olympic Games

Mark Cavendish
Saturday 28 July 2012
The Mall



London 2012 Olympic Games

Mark Cavendish
Saturday 28 July 2012
The Mall



More on London 2012

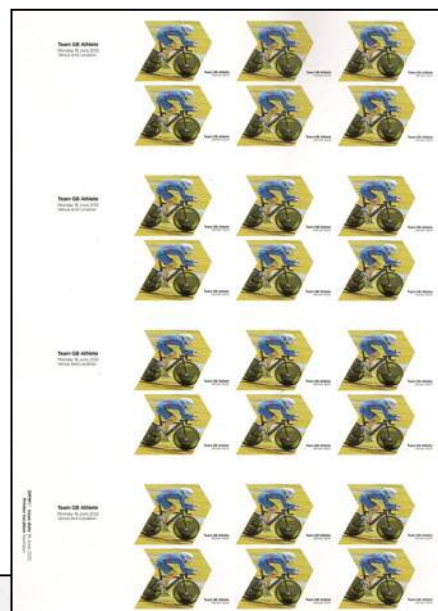
The story continues to unfold.....

Apologies for going into Olympics overdrive this quarter, but the dummy stamps story is developing all the time. We are four days into the Games as these words are typed.

A third dummy sheet has just been 'discovered', having sold on eBay for £50. It will be noted that the printing is similar to the first dummy sheet, but it incorporates the date when the (pretend) winner secured Gold in the cycling (Monday 18 June 2012). It also comprises just the digital print on plain card and not the imagery and wording that is on the base sheet. There is text in the left margin reading "**GMWE1 Issue date 19 June 2012 / Printer location Swindon**".

This test printing (described as a proof by the seller) was apparently supplied to one of the few Royal Mail approved 'day of issue' distributors for Games stamps.

The issued sheets will be printed at six regional centres, as previously mentioned. What is now clear, though, from a Dauwalders stamp dealers' order form is that the printers are located in the North of England, West of England (Swindon based on this new dummy sheet), East of England (Attleborough, based on the Mark Cavendish dummy sheet), London, Scotland and the West Midlands. ☒

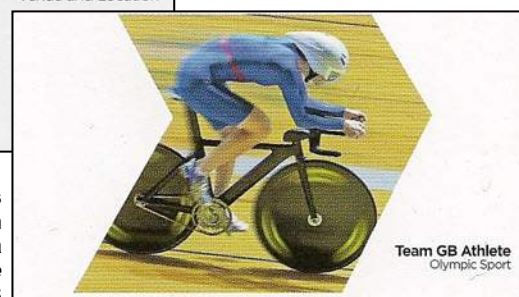


GMWE1 Issue date 19 June 2012
Printer location Swindon

Team GB Athlete
Monday 18 June 2012
Venue and Location

The appearance of the stamps does not imply digitally printed.

Part of this same design was used on a Welcome to the Games MS.



Australia Post Gets its Instant Stamps Programme underway

Royal Mail was pipped to the post when the Australian's won their first gold medal ahead of Team GB

The Australian women's 4 x 100m freestyle relay team comprising Alicia Coutts, Cate Campbell, Brittany Elmslie and Melanie Schlanger became the first athletes to feature on the Australia Post's Gold Medallist Stamps for London 2012 on day one of the competitions. It is interesting to contrast Australia Post's approach to the design of the stamps, compared to that of Royal Mail.



As with GB, Australia Post is producing stamps for every Australian gold medallist from London 2012, and they are expected to be available in participating Australia Post retail outlets within 48 hours of each gold medal presentation while stocks last.

"This program recognises the hard work and success of our athletes. It also provides the public with an exciting opportunity to collect their own memento of the Olympic Games", said Australia Post Managing Director and CEO Ahmed Fahour. ☒

Enschedé Windows Promo Book

William III of The Netherlands design mimics Machins

A nice booklet from 1996 produced as an attempt to secure the lucrative Royal Mail window stamp book printing contract, but without success to this day. ☒



(above) Front and back covers. (below) Stamp pane.



Waterlow KGV Imperforate Label

Green seen without perforations for the first time



This item should be well known to many readers, but it has not been seen in an imperforate version by your compiler before now.

It was sold for A\$29.95 to a lucky Australian. ☒

Training Stamps for 1924 BEE?

Genuine, or yet more dodgy items?

Following the small piece on page one of *DS25*, a reader offered some helpful information: "Regarding your query: The Post Office training schools were started in 1920, so it is plausible that the BEE stamps could be found with "training bars". Though they are of course very easily faked with a felt-tip and a ruler."

Readers may be aware that modern Machin design issues were officially produced with felt pens towards the end of this type of stamp usage and often sell as 'mint' for under face value. ☒

Dummy Stamps Study Group

For those with an American dummy stamps interest

A reminder that the United States Stamp Society runs a Dummy Stamps Study Group for those who are collecting American dummy stamps. Go to www.usstamps.org/dssg.html for 27 issues of the interesting *Dummy News and Views* and Group information. ☒

Free Advertisements

For Terms and Conditions, see DS25

From Jim Noll:

I collect, buy and sell dummy and test stamp sheets used with Bank ATM machines, USA and world-wide. I can be reached at jenca@pacbell.net ☒

...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 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. ☒



Birds Post & Go Test Labels P O staff could until recently generate test labels to adjust equipment

With the early Birds designs being restricted to a mere 30 machines nationwide, it is no surprise that *Birds* test labels proved hard to obtain suitable scanned images of. A kind reader has resolved the problem! ✉



Dummy Stamps

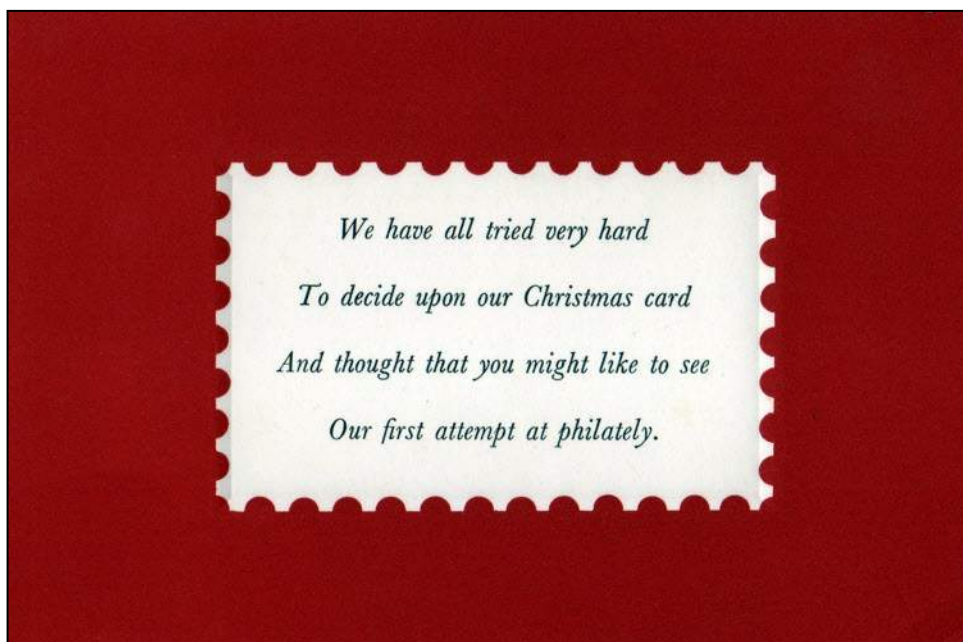
Issue 27 A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material Quarter 4, 2012

"Happy Christmas" from Polly and Hugh Harrison and Family

DS reader supplies scans of an attractive unrecorded dummy stamp produced by a member of the Harrison family

What better item to get you into the Christmas spirit than a 1957 Christmas card from a member of the Harrison family depicting his home, Horsenden?

The lovely 300 year old Manor still exists and is the residence of British jazz funk and acid jazz singer from the band Jamiroquai (real name Jay Kay).



(Above) The dummy stamp depicting Horsenden Manor.

(Below) A photo taken from a similar camera angle without bridge.



Hugh F G Harrison was part of the dynasty that held on to the British stamp printing contract for so long. He is shown below at a 1950 H&S Board meeting. ☒



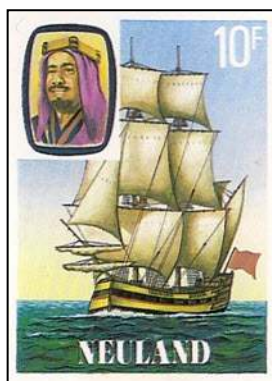
De La Rue Gravure Fine-Line Trial, 2000

An interesting sheet of various designs tested the capabilities of the Jumelle press

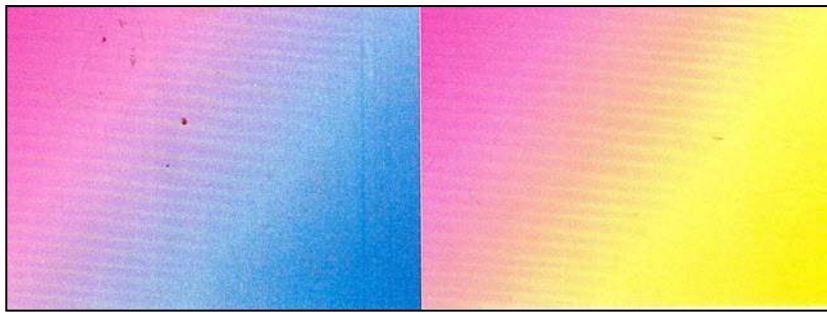
In 2000, De La Rue Security Print undertook a gravure trial designed to test the capabilities of the Jumelle press when it came to printing fine-line text and imagery. A B2-sized sheet was created comprising dummy stamps, micro-text, photographs, colour bars and the like. In fact, virtually all potential print requirements were tested on the one large PVA-Dextrin gummed sheet.

Reproduced on the following two pages are all of the dummy stamp designs, a couple of the photographs (but not those depicting children, as this was considered by your compiler to be inappropriate in today's world) and some of the text variants. The full sheet is not shown, as scanning such a large item proved too hard, but the individual portions give an indication of the content of the whole sheet, which was badly folded resulting in some creasing through items.

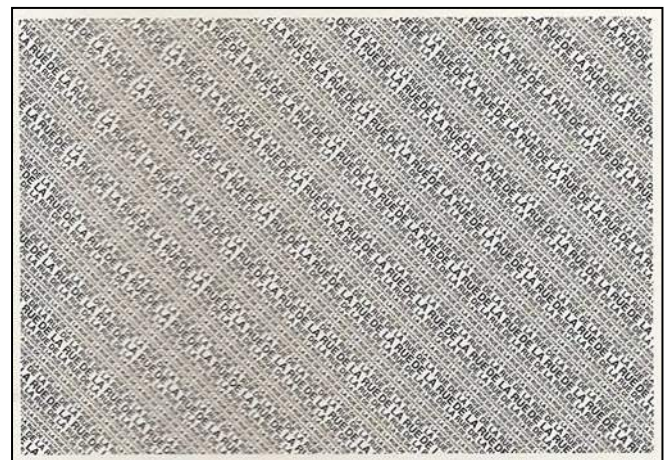
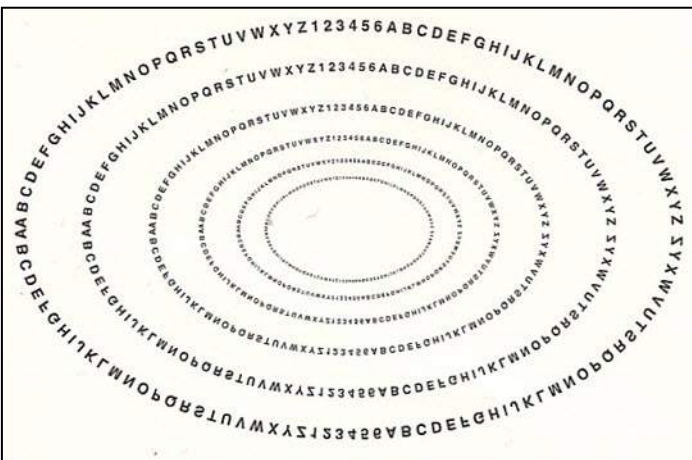
Note that the vertical pair of the car design (*below right*) had been cut-from the sheet and perforated, so imperforate examples probably do not exist. Imagery is not shown to the same scale. ☒



<p>0123456789 ABCDEFGHIJKLM NOPQRSTUVWXYZ This is an example of (LYDIAN CHRISTVSB C) type face printed by gravure.</p>	<p>0123456789 ABCDEFGHIJKLM NOPQRSTUVWXYZ This is an example of (BEMBO) type face printed by gravure. A MEMBER OF THE DE LA RUE GROUP</p>	<p>0123456789 ΑΒΧΔΕΦΓΗΘΚΛΜ ΝΟΠΡΣΤΥΖΩΞΨΥΖ This is an example of (FRENCH) type face printed by gravure. A MEMBER OF THE DE LA RUE GROUP</p>	<p>0123456789 ABCDEFGHIJKLM NOPQRSTUVWXYZ This is an example of (DEAD HISTORY) type face printed by gravure. A MEMBER OF THE DE LA RUE GROUP</p>	<p>0123456789 ΑΒΧΔΕΦΓΗΘΚΛΜ ΝΟΠΡΣΤΥΖΩΞΨΥΖ This is an example of (SYMBOL) type face printed by gravure. A MEMBER OF THE DE LA RUE GROUP</p>	<p>0123456789 ABCDEFGHIJKLM NOPQRSTUVWXYZ This is an example of (ZAPF CHRONOCERY) type face printed by gravure. A MEMBER OF THE DE LA RUE GROUP</p>	<p>ABCDEFGHIJKLMNPOQRSTUVWXYZ THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF GRAVURE MICROTTEXT PRODUCED BY DE LA RUE A MEMBER OF THE DE LA RUE GROUP</p>
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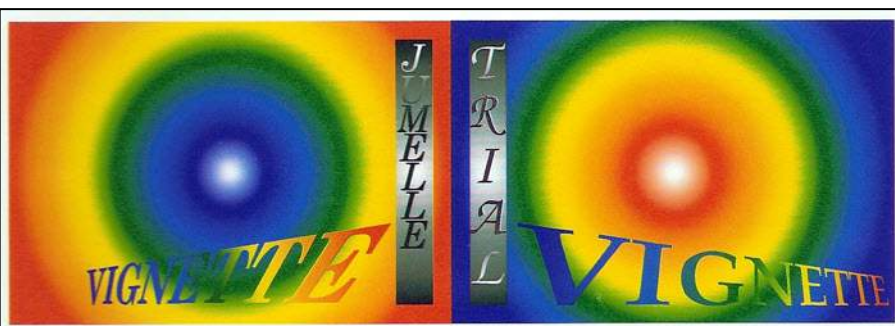
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<p>TRUE TRUE</p>	<p>TRUE TRUE</p>
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<p>ABCDEFGHIJKLMNPOQRSTUVWXYZ THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF GRAVURE MICROTTEXT PRODUCED BY A MEMBER OF THE DE LA RUE GROUP</p>	<p>ABCDEFGHIJKLMNPOQRSTUVWXYZ THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF GRAVURE MICROTTEXT PRODUCED BY A MEMBER OF THE DE LA RUE GROUP</p>
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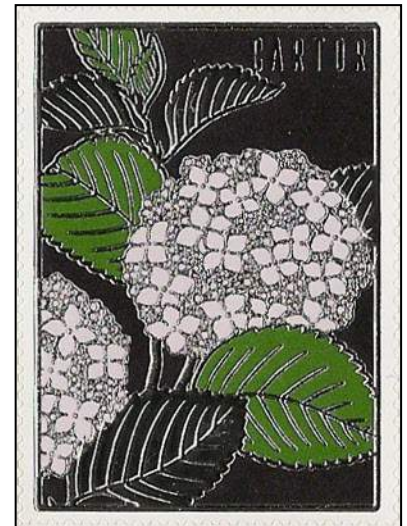
SIZE : 0.75mm



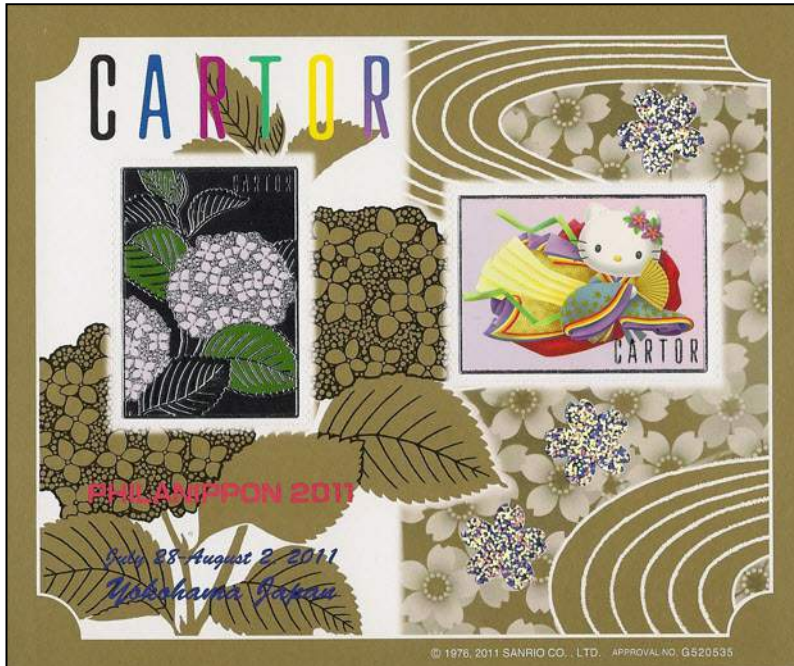
Cartor Attendance at Philanippon 2011 Show

Attractive sheet given to visitors in quite limited numbers

The sheet depicted here had two Cartor Security Printing dummy stamps as part of a peel and stick sheet. A second sheet with a William Morris theme also exists but has yet to be acquired. Both sheets are rarely encountered in the Western world.



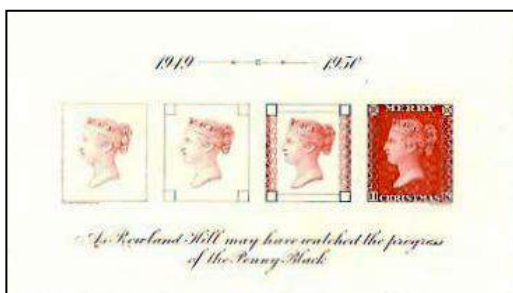
Note the extensive use of hot-foil blocking in silver to add richness to designs. ☒



Progress of the Penny Black

Attractive 1949 Christmas card design seen

A 'B Honan' produced a Christmas card in 1949 that incorporated the engraving of the Penny Black design. The wording states: '1949 [scroll] 1950 / Sir Rowland Hill may have watched the progress of the Penny Black'.



The (poor) scan above is all that has been seen, but it is an attractive item and an appropriate one for the Christmas timing of this issue of *DS*. Note how the completed Penny Black design has been suitably amended to read 'MERRY / CHRISTMAS' in lieu of 'POSTAGE / ONE PENNY'. Sold: US\$120. ☒

Training School at Fritham

Stamp Agency taught staff how to separate stamps

In 1984 at the Philatelic School in Fritham, staff working for Philatelists [1980] Ltd were trained in the technique of tearing stamps from counter sheets using a pair of St Lucia stamp designs defaced with a large black cross. At the time of use, the stamps



were not due to be unissued designs, but for some reason they never saw the light of day on St Lucia. Part of the (in)famous *Leaders of the World*, most collectors were against the long series due to lots being for tiny islands. Your compiler loved many artworks, while realising their philatelic status. ☒

The Paralympic Games Sheets

GB Paralympians given GMW stamps, just like the Olympians

The Paralympic Games would not appear to have required testing in advance of launching the scheme. The Olympics testing will have covered that aspect, so it is unlikely that any 'real' printed dummy stamps will have been created, especially as such a late decision was made to issue Gold Medal Winners stamps for British Paralympians. Instead, Royal Mail supplied the media with mock-ups in electronic form worded "Who will be Next?" using the arrow template. This design was embargoed until 29 August 2012.



Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson with mock-up of stamp.



The FDC mock-up did not incorporate a photograph within the arrows template, but a greyed-out area.



A new dummy design has recently been discovered that was for internal use only within a Post Office "Branch Instructions" publication. The quality of the image within the booklet was poor, but it included the athlete Anthony Joshua in an action shot.

Special thanks to a regular *Dummy Stamps* reader who kindly provided scans of the Anthony Joshua dummy miniature sheet and the Post Office booklet.

The ParalympicsGB series of Gold Medal Winners stamps appears to have been met with almost universal acclaim, which is a tribute to the large team behind the project at Royal Mail and its print partners. ☒

The Prince Consort Essay in Blue

Perhaps the most expensive dummy stamp ever sold

Swiss auctioneer David Feldman auctioned a lovely dummy stamp back in September. The lot read:

"THE UNIQUE EXAMPLE IN PRIVATE HANDS OF THE PERFORATED 'PRINCE CONSORT'• ESSAY IN BLUE. 1850 Essay in finished form of the head of the Prince Consort in blue and perforated 16, large part original gum, very fine (SG Specialised DP71 3a).

"The unique example in private hands, grossly under catalogued and a superb addition to both line engraved and surface printed exhibition collections. There are only two other finished perforated examples in blue, one in the British Postal Museum & Archive and one in the Royal Collection. Expertise: Certified BPA (2005).



"Note: These essays were produced as evidence that Henry Archer could produce perforated and gummed stamps more cost effectively than Perkins, Bacon, who were contracted with the Government to print stamps at the time."

With an estimate: €20,000 - €30,000, the bidding was up to an astonishing €50,000 a week before the end of the auction. It previously sold for £38,080 in 2005 through Apex Auctions. ☒

Egyptian with UK Connection

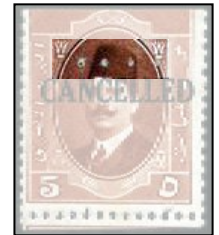
Not 100% 'dummy', but interesting use of issued stamps

The first items (*top of next column*) comprise a coil produced by Harrison for Egypt's experimental stamp vending machines. The horizontal pair is not capable of being vended and was probably torn from the master uncut sheet.

The second item (*bottom right*) is odd in that the lot description implies that the overprint was made by De La Rue on a Harrison printing. Perhaps DLR had been eyeing-up H&S for longer than we knew!

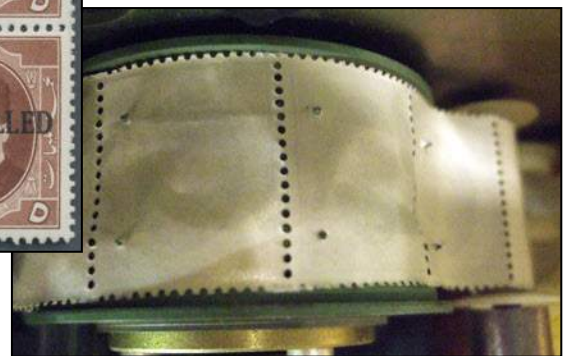


"1923, 1st King Fouad Portrait issue (Arabic) RARE 5m Red-Brown Coil Vending Machine Experiment in a vertical strip of 6, Overprinted "CANCELLED" in black, fresh and fine, Unmounted with original gum. Hard to find in large multiples. (Nile Post D95o.). Est. €220."



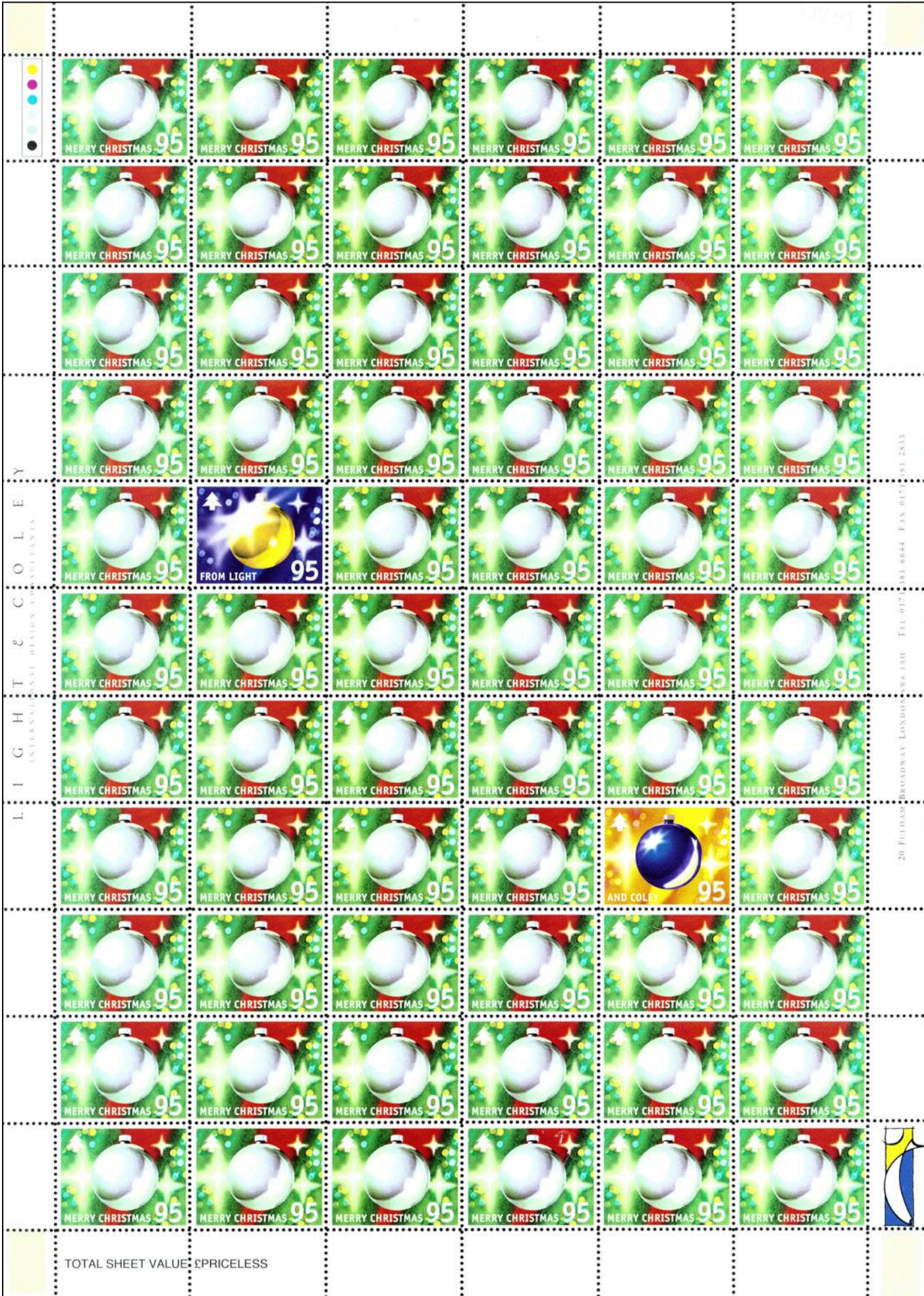
The single above has either been separated from the roll by the vending machine, or by a stamp affixing machine. Note the four holes made by gripper pins that should fall in the perforation holes to help advance the coil. They should not puncture the stamps.

The photo below shows two pins from a British Type F SVM puncturing stamps.



"1914 Egypt. 50m block of four of the Pictorial set overprinted with De La Rue hand-stamped 'HARRISON'S / SPECIMEN'. Rare to find and even more rare in multiples. Similar to all issues of these specimens, it is in relatively poor gum condition. (Nile Post D60 Specimen)."

The item bore a €750 starting price. ☒



L I G H T & C O L O R
INTERNATIONAL DESIGN CONSULTANTS

20 FULHAM BROOKWAY LONDON W6 1AH TEL: 01753 81 6644 FAX: 01753 81 2833

TOTAL SHEET VALUE: £PRICELESS

Concorde Presentation Pack from Allied Graphic Arts

New presentation pack reported by a reader

This presentation pack may appear familiar to some readers, but look again. It is not the well-known version from Harrison & Sons and BA but instead is from Allied Graphic Arts, using the Harrison template and revised wording. This is a rare item printed by Harrison and previously unseen by your compiler. ☒



Please accept with our compliments these historic commemorative stamps heralding not only the inaugural flight of the Concorde on the British Airways London-Bahrain run, but the beginning of a new era in business relationships throughout the world.

U.S. Government permitting – we believe a country dedicated to technological advancement will not knowingly impede progress – Allied Graphic Arts U.K. will be able to operate a same-day return service between its U.S. and U.K. offices. Its importance is obvious...

AGA U.K. opens up to you the complete London/European creative scene: new locations, new faces and new concepts. Now your catalogues can have that extra dimension you have been looking for; including even printing in one of the world's finest gravure plants here in Europe if you so desire.

The fast flying time is enhanced by the special Concorde clearance facilities enabling you to save those additional hours and minutes that frequently matter.

... just a few hours away to  U.K.

Light & Coley Celebrated Christmas 1995 with a Philatelic Souvenir

A novel approach to marking Christmas instead of sending greetings cards

International design consultants Light & Coley chose to issue a sheet of mock stamps for Christmas 1995. The labels were intended for use as seals on envelope flaps, although the back of each sheet corner bore a double-sided adhesive tab for affixing to a wall if so desired. See previous page for the sheet, which was clearly well thought out, although what printer produced the item is unrecorded. Print quality is excellent, but it is line perforated, probably implying use of a non-stamp printer. L&C ceased trading in 2001. ☒

Olympics Roundup

A post-event update on the dummy stamp designs

Mark Cavendish

It is understood that the Mark Cavendish sheet depicted in *DS26* probably only exists as a computer file supplied to journalists and that it did not progress to print. Copies are therefore unlikely to ever be available to collectors.

Cyclist - Full Design

This can now be recorded with two distinct printings, although neither is understood to be in the hands of collectors, unless you know differently... but first

April Testing Undertaken -

It is now known that an internal end-to-end test was undertaken at some Post Office branches back in the month of April.

A letter dated 14 June to participating Post Office branches tantalisingly stated: *"We did a test on 19 April, which really helped with our planning, thank you to those involved in that."*

This probably means that a sheet would have been produced by all six printers and distributed to those involved. Your compiler has not seen any dummy sheets with an April date on the margin, so look out for them.

Print run one -



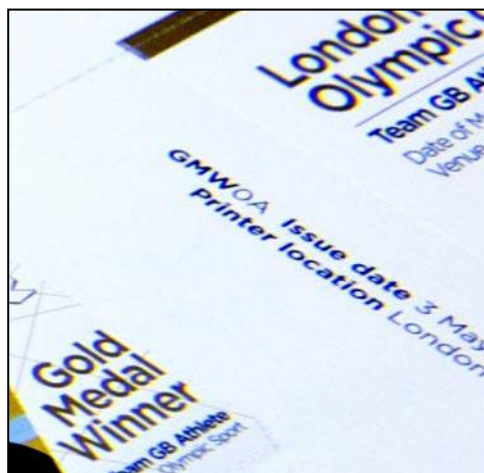
Sheet Code: **GMW0A**

Date of Win on Stamps: None

Date of Printing on Selvedge: 3 May 2012

Printer Location: London

It is unknown if this printing was ever distributed to Post Office branches, or whether it was purely an internal printer test.



Close-up of marginal text from print run one.

Print run two -

Sheet Code: **GMW01**

Date of Win on Stamps: None

Issue Date on Selvedge: 2 August 2012

Printer Location: Blank space



Close-up of marginal text from print run two.

Location of the Printers -

East of England - *Attleborough, Norfolk*. West of England - *Swindon, Wiltshire*. London - *London*. Midlands - *Solihull, West Midlands*. Scotland - *Edinburgh*. North of England - *Preston, Lancashire*.

Three further printers were on standby in the event of difficulties at any of the above locations, or the need for greater stocks at short notice. They are understood not to have been utilised by Royal Mail.



One of the issued Olympics stamps from Royal Mail that depicts Sir Chris Hoy, Britain's best ever Olympian with six gold medals to his name, beating Sir Steve Redgrave's tally of five.

One of the *Welcome to the Olympics* stamps from Royal Mail that depicts part of the cyclist dummy stamp image.



Cyclist - Image Portion Only (arrow +black text)

The cyclist depicted is Wendy Houvenaghel of Northern Ireland, a member of Team GB. Wendy was not in the final team chosen to take-part in the Games and caused controversy when she was especially vocal about her exclusion.

Her comments to the media included the following:

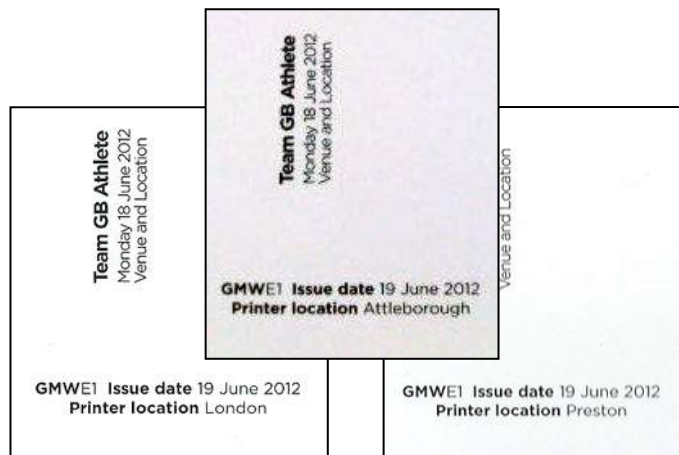
"I feel particularly aggrieved that the head coach made the decision to put in a rider who wasn't 100% well on the start line twice. Thankfully the girls did go on to win their race but perhaps had I been allowed to do my job that world record could have been faster. I do feel I have been deliberately omitted from that opportunity that was mine and the opportunity to bring home a gold medal to Northern Ireland. The last gold we had was 40 years ago with Dame Mary Peters. It's a very shocking and upsetting decision."

The dummy design incorporating Wendy was a part of the end-to-end testing of the production and distribution process. The gold coloured outer envelopes included an adhesive label with the name of the Post Office Branch and its address, plus the delivery route number and the quantity of dummy sheets enclosed and sheet code GMW-E1.

Upon opening the package, a quantity of A4 sheets would be found with a despatch note clearly stating **IMPORTANT: TEST ONLY PLEASE DESTROY THE SHEETS**

The destruction request was ignored at some offices, as around 40 sheets have been seen on offer through eBay with selling prices between £10 and £65 per sheet. Increasingly either a single MS or even single stamps are being sold. However, despite several not initially selling, it is clear that these sheets will never be plentiful.

Now for the interesting part! Only sheets with a Swindon printer location were ever seen for sale initially and it was assumed that only this version existed. Not so. Scans of the Attleborough, London and Preston sheets have recently been seen and it is clear that Solihull and Edinburgh must also exist.



It is understood that these printings are on different types of card stock, which would not have mattered.

Cyclists - Gold Postboxes Launch Reveals Yet Another Dummy Stamp Version!

Royal Mail painted pillar boxes gold for every GB Olympian and Paralympian that won a gold medal. When the scheme was launched to the press, a box at Westminster, close to the Abbey, was chosen.

The photo opportunity included a large dummy stamp with different wording to that used on the trial production runs recorded on previous page.



Royal Mail's Olympic Director, Mark Thompson.



"Athlete Name / Olympic Sport / Olympic Discipline" wording instead of "Team GB Athlete / Olympic Sport" wording used on the trial sheets, promo items and the original blow-up imagery (below).



Sally Gunnell MBE at stamp launch in April.

Point of Sale Material Featuring the Dummy Cycling Velodrome Stamp

A vinyl cling-on window or door sticker was produced for promotion in post offices, together with a floor-standing display.

As photographing inside a Post Office branch presents a security risk and potential arrest, only low-resolution images taken from the Internet are shown below.



A4/A3 Vinyl cling-on sticker (left) and floor standing board (right).

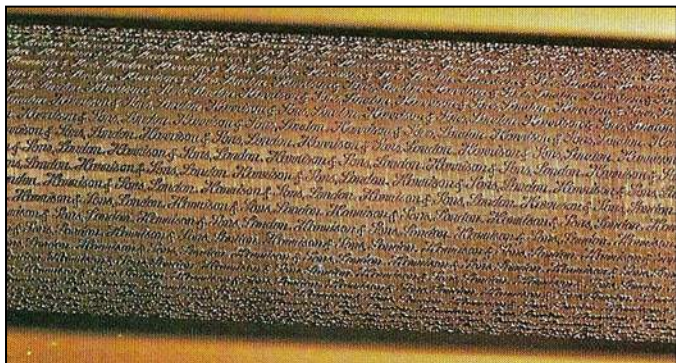
So, an interesting range of dummy stamps and allied material that is most fitting for such a successful Games that had the motto "Inspire a Generation" ...of philatelists, maybe? Let's hope so.

Special thanks to a regular *Dummy Stamps* reader who kindly provided scans of the cyclist dummy A4 sheets from London and Preston, together with information on the delivery process. ☒

Harrison & Sons Dandy Roll

Device reading "Harrison & Sons, London" in script text

A unique H&S dandy roll was used not only on some issued stamps but also on dummy stamps, such as the so-called poached eggs. The image below appeared in the *Philatelic Bulletin* and is the only time that your compiler has seen such an image. Does any reader possess a better photo, please? ☒



Waterlow's King George VI

Dummy Stamps

A highly priced - sorry, prized - lot offered recently

The latest Chartwell Collection sale from Spink Auctioneers (Volume 8, Lot 43, 12 September 2012 at their London salerooms) had an interesting selection of the Waterlow King George VI dummy stamps.

These were the so-called "Australian essay stamps" that were nothing to do with Australia and fortunately Spink did not fall into the trap of calling them by the wrong name.

There were eight blocks of four, a strip of three and a single, plus some photographic essays of unadopted designs on offer at a staggering £3,000-£3,500 estimate.

Consulting the prices realised for this sale, your compiler was surprised to see that the lot had sold for a healthy £2,100, probably plus commission charges. ☒



Three-quarter face and full-face versions were offered in the lot.

FTPO Coil was Reverse Rolled

Unusually wound roll of poached eggs found

Traditionally, rolls of British postage stamps and, indeed the equivalent dummy stamps*, have been rolled with the stamps facing outwards.



For an unknown reason, the roll shown above (and recently sold on eBay, from where the image comes), was reverse rolled with gum side visible.

Unfortunately, the vendor had thrown away the leader and its wax seal, so any identifying wording that may have explained this oddity has been lost.

Once stamps are torn into strips or singles, there is, of course, no way of distinguishing them from normally rolled versions. That said, the end of the roll is complete with its brown paper. Sold: US\$69.



UPDATE:

* As can be the case, the moment you've finished typing, something comes along to contradict your statement! Another eBay lot found later that same day comprised a part roll of the original green poached egg and, yes you've guessed it, the item is reverse rolled!

Maybe this method of rolling was more common- place than had been assumed? If any reader can comment, then please write. ☒

Harrison Booklet Pane of Six

Poorly cut pane found on eBay

Your compiler has previously seen a horizontal pair of this design with left-hand margin and had always suspected that it was probably from a larger pane.



Stamp panes with poorly guillotined edges are clearly nothing new! After spirited bidding, this item sold for £92.50 at a recent online auction. ☒

Harrison at Stampex 1957

Proof that cards were printed at stamp show found

A card was issued by Harrison & Sons Ltd with a photogravure dummy stamp of a sailing ship on a scarlet background and with simulated perforations.

It was issued to mark attendance at Stampex and it had been assumed that it had been printed at High Wycombe. No, it was printed on their stand, as scan of the H&S entry in the show catalogue (*below*) reveals. Now if only a reader has a photo of the stand in their files.... ☒

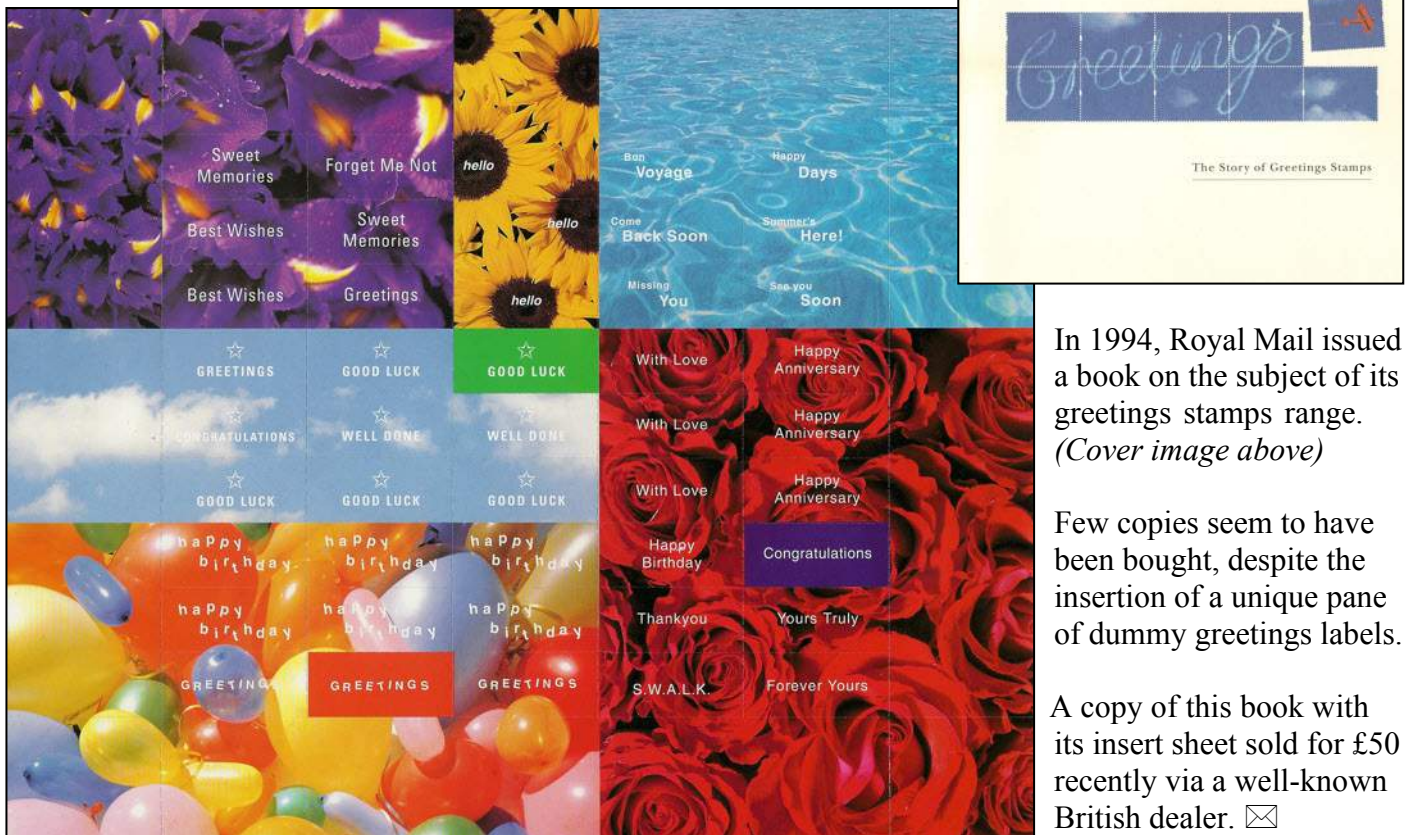


**Stand 36—HARRISON & SONS, LTD. Telephone : TEMple Bar 4567
(Photogravure Specialists), 45, St. Martin's Lane, London, W.C.2.**

A corner-sited stand showing examples of photogravure printed stamps and a display unit displaying the processing of a photogravure stamp from artwork to the finished stamp. This is also illustrated with photographs. On the stand will be a small press printing specimen stamped cards to be given away.

Greetings Stamps from Royal Mail

The issued stamps whether in books or packs invariably included tear-off labels for use with the appropriate stamp



In 1994, Royal Mail issued a book on the subject of its greetings stamps range. (Cover image above)

Few copies seem to have been bought, despite the insertion of a unique pane of dummy greetings labels.

A copy of this book with its insert sheet sold for £50 recently via a well-known British dealer. ☒

Harrison Brunel Polymer Dummy Banknote

Printing banknotes using a polymer (plastic) substrate was trialled by H&S, one of the few printers worldwide to do so



Polymer notes were pioneered in Australia and are popular where used. When H&S got into banknote printing, they produced a polymer dummy note. The eBay scan (top right) makes mention of RBA (Reserve Bank of Australia) in the uncut top margin.

Note that there is either a clear window at bottom right of the face of the note (bottom left when viewed from the reverse side) or it has a black printed shape on it (as superimposed on scan above).

Very few trial notes were produced, apparently. ☒



Industrial Archaeology Engraving by Harrison and Sons Undertaken for the Penrose Annual

RSA Contest launches new designer into the marketplace

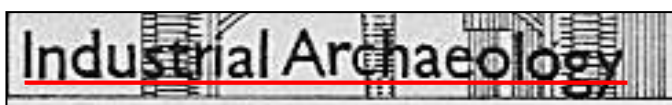


Enlargement of the superbly engraved sheetlet.

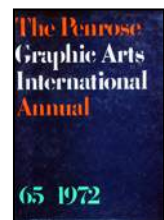
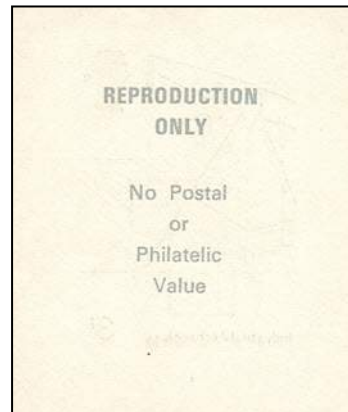
Royal Mail has for decades been proud sponsors of the annual Royal Society of Arts bursary for stamp design. In 1970 the first ever bursary of £200 was offered for a design for a set of stamps depicting the interesting theme of Industrial Archaeology.

Michael George of Kingston Polytechnic produced the above design, which, although not used for an issued postage stamp, was 'tipped-in' (i.e. stuck by its top edge) to copies of the 1972 Penrose Graphic Arts Annual. *Note: As copies may not exist that were not mounted in the book, all examples seen have a small to large degree of damage at top, depending on the care taken when removing copies.*

One of the judges of the bursary competition was no less a person than Stuart Rose, the Post Office's



It is suspected that the artwork lettering was undertaken using Letraset (rub-down transfer lettering popular at the time) because each letter is far from straight, as the superimposed red line helps to demonstrate.



^ 1972 Penrose Annual cover.

< Life-size scan of sheet reverse stating that it has "no postal or philatelic value". An example was recently offered for £50.

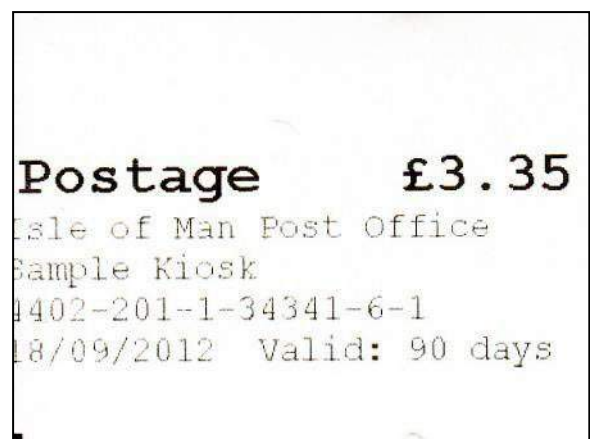
Design Director of the period. Mr Rose stated: *"Mr George's splendid presentation and fresh approach to the set test were very highly commended. He had submitted an original portrayal of the subject and his treatment was highly appropriate to the kind of contemporary drawings of the period that he was illustrating."*

The other judges were Sir Paul Reilly, David Gentleman, J R Baxter and R F York (the Work's Director at Harrison & Sons).

So, an impressive start to Mr George's career, but what became of him? Unfortunately no information has been found, but it is hoped that his talent was utilised to good effect, as he deserved to make a success of his undoubted skills. ☒

PostExpo 2012: Isle of Man Sample Kiosk Label

Demonstration labels given away at industry show ☒



1956/7 Hulton Boys and Girls Exhibition: Harrison and Stanley Gibbons Dummy Stamps

Has any reader seen imperforate examples of this label design?

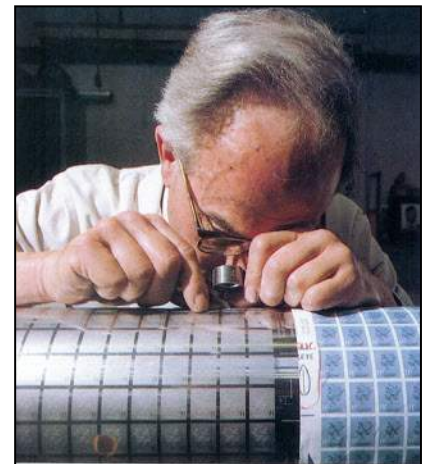
John Holman refers to these gummed reddish violet labels produced in two designs se-tenant in sheets of 72 (perf 14 x 14½) at p.126 of his Stanley Gibbons Guide to Stamp Collecting (London & Ringwood: SG Publications Ltd., 1989): "In 1957 Harrison & Sons Ltd. demonstrated perforating on the Gibbons stand at the Boys and Girls Exhibition at Earl's Court. Sheets of labels were perforated and given to visitors; they were produced in mauve and the SG label depicts the Cape of Good Hope triangular and the Simplified Catalogue, while the Harrison label shows a photogravure cylinder being retouched."

This suggests a possibility that there may still be remainders in the imperforate state, although none appear to be recorded, or can you report such an item?



The highly skilled hand technique of retouching the cylinder changed little until EME computerised engraving of cylinders was introduced.

The image at right is from circa 1982 and shows the Machin definitive being given the same treatment as the earlier Wilding on dummy at left. ☒

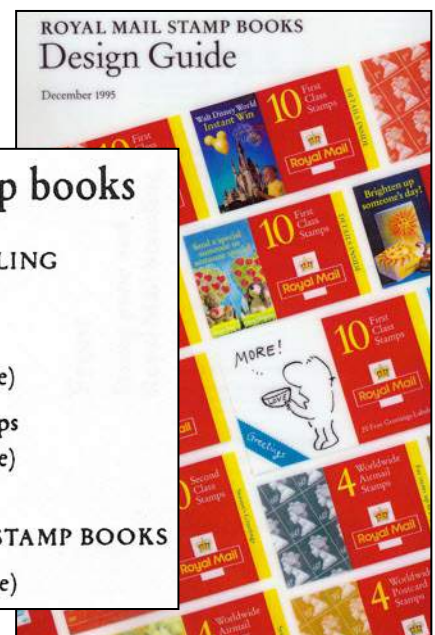


ATM and Hang-Sell Stamps Planned by UK

Any doubts are quashed by inclusion in Royal Mail Stamp Books Design Guide

The December 1995 *Stamp Book Design Guide* made space for not just ATM sheets, but also the 'Hook and Hang' (or Hang-Sell) formats.

It may be recalled from earlier issues of *DS* that Enschedé produced dummy stamp books (really sheets, but referred to as books by Royal Mail and many collectors) in both formats and submitted them to Royal Mail around that time as samples of what could be achieved by them. A contract for both types was not forthcoming and it is assumed that these formats are not in any later editions of the RM guidelines. ☒



Other stamp books

- 6.10 AUTOMATIC TELLING MACHINE (ATM)
 - Normal Stamps
 - 6.10.1 (information to come)
 - Self-Adhesive Stamps
 - 6.10.2 (information to come)
- 6.11 'HOOK & HANG' STAMP BOOKS
 - 6.11.1 (information to come)

Walsall Self-Adhesive Dummy Stamp Booklet

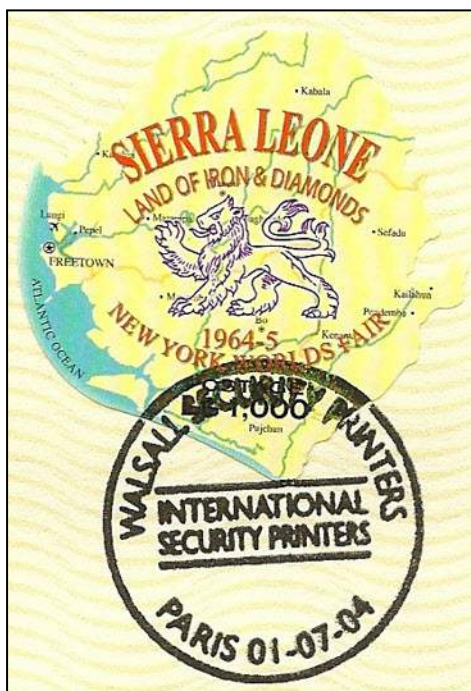
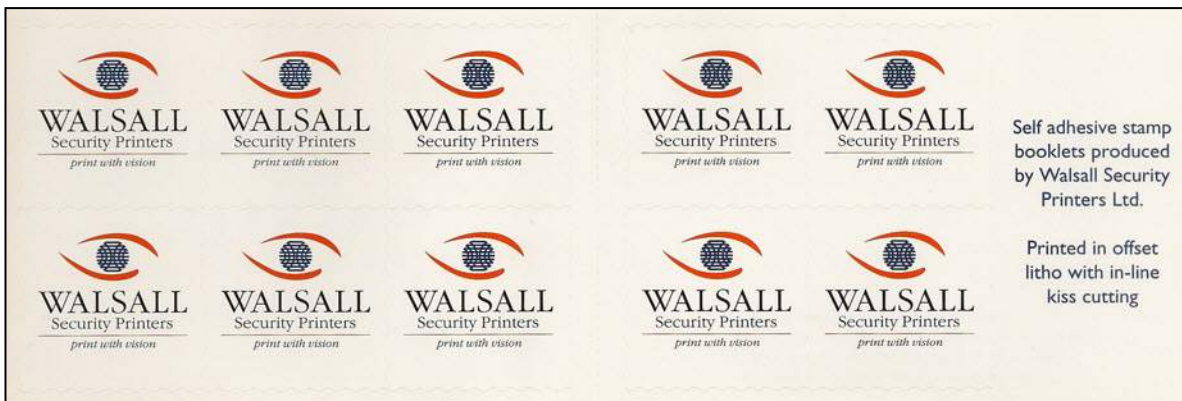
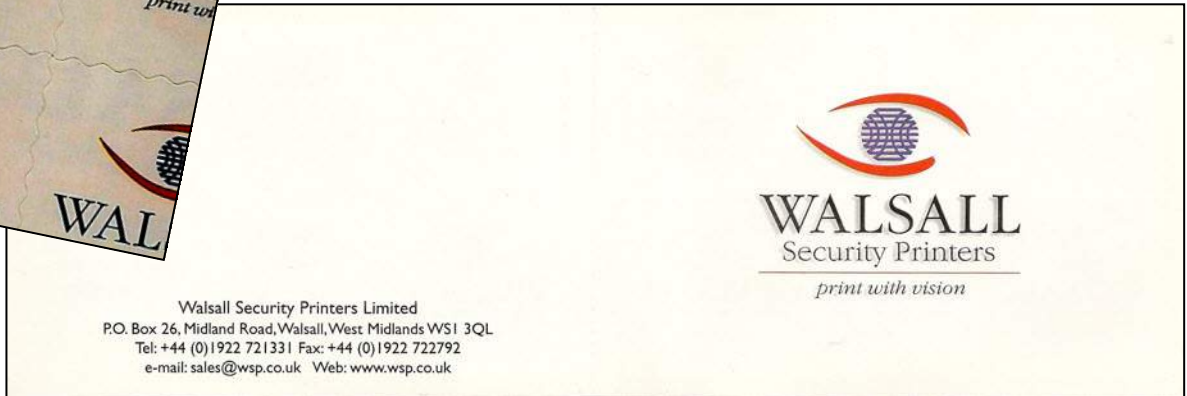
Produced around the time of the launch of International Security Printers

This dummy stamp booklet utilised the new 2004 logo for Walsall, namely the 'eye' image. Individual labels had been seen used on outgoing WSP mail, but their source had been unknown until now. Printing was by a sheet-fed lithographic press prior to removal of this production process to Cartor, who now print the many shorter runs needed by its worldwide customers. (WSP still print web-fed litho stamps, just not sheet-fed.)



A darkened scan that better reveals the nature of the die-cutting of the dummy booklet, which used the less secure method of wavy-lines for separation.

Die-cut mock perforations are used on Royal Mail booklets as they offer a far higher level of product security.



international security printers

The Chairman and Directors of International Security Printers invite you to be their guest for an evening river cruise aboard the Onyx, to celebrate the launch of their new enterprise

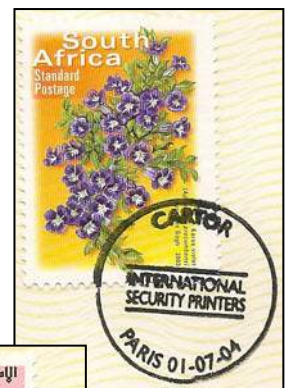
on
 1st July 2004
 7.30pm - drinks
 8.00pm - sailing

at
 Bateau Parisiens,
 Au pied de la Tour Eiffel,
 Port de la Bourdonnais,
 75007 PARIS

(Smart casual dress, please) RSVP

< Invitation to the launch of ISP on the River Seine, Paris on 1st July 2004.

<< (far left) "Passport" handstamp used on a WSP stamp.



^ Cartor handstamp.

< Courvoisier Handstamp.

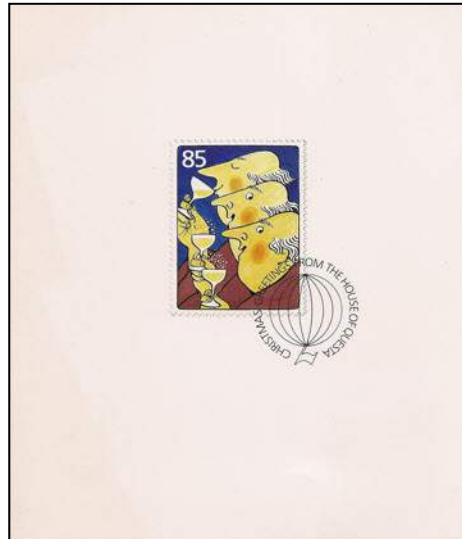
Guests were given a passport in which to choose and affix issued stamps.

Questa Christmas Cards

Some cards have a dummy stamp attraction

The House of Questa Christmas cards were often of a general nature and were always printed by the company. Clive Abbott was often the designer, who seemed to favour monks as a recurring theme, no doubt due to his surname!

Four cards are of possible interest to readers of *DS*. The first has not been seen and is therefore just a black and white scan of what can only be assumed to be six actual dummy stamps, but there is a possibility that they were printed onto the card and simply given mock-perforations.

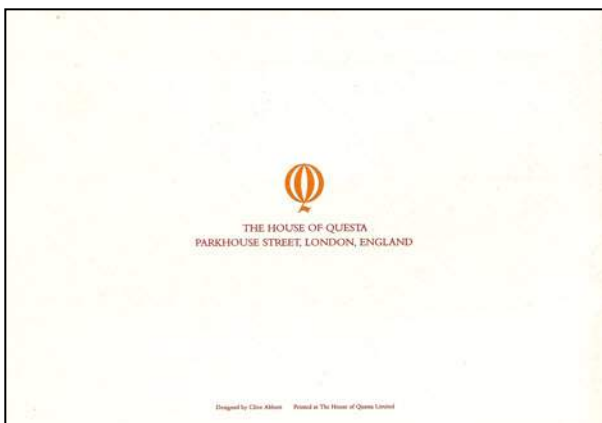
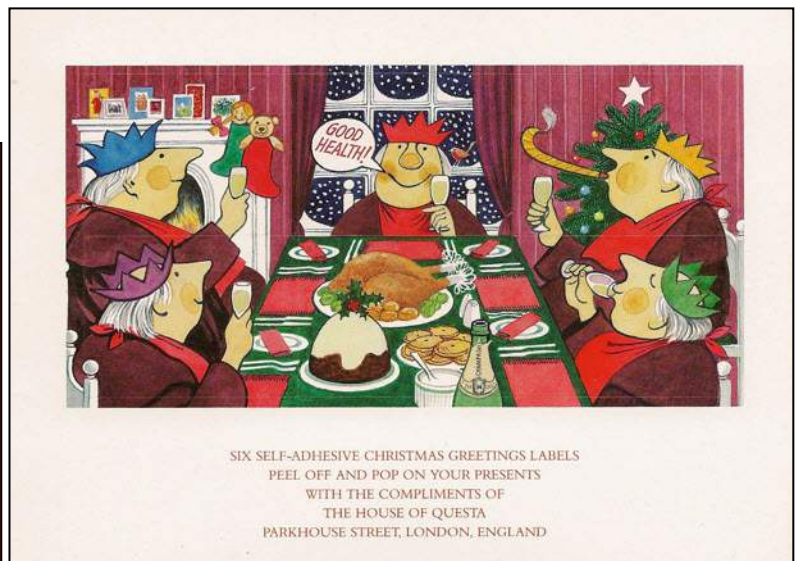


Card two is a 1985 card and it again depicts the monks theme.

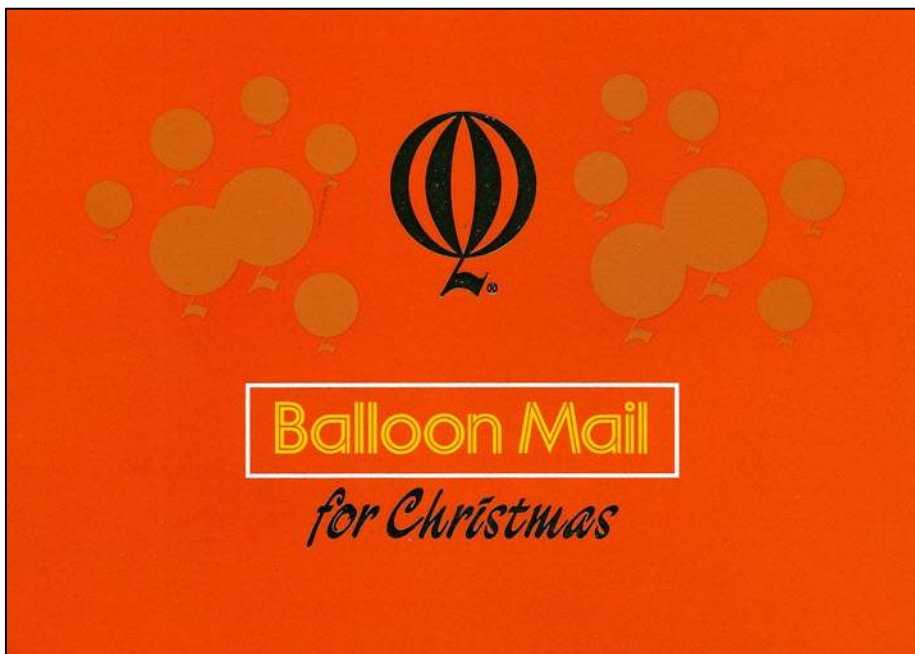
The dummy stamp is merely printed onto the card, as is the mock cancellation, so is of less interest.



The other two cards incorporate a Royal Mail stamp booklet theme, a contract that Questa was heavily involved in. They are undated.

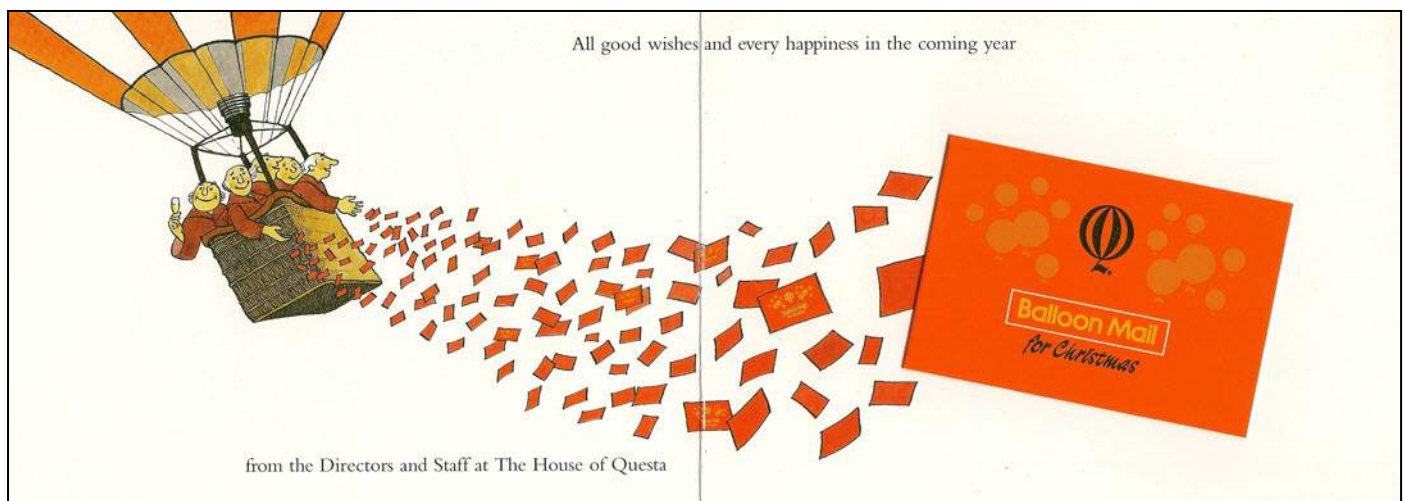


The self-adhesive labels and greetings page of card three.



Outside back cover of card four.

Card has mock dummy stamp book cover mounted on page three, signed by directors/staff at HoQ. There was no 'stamp' pane.



Inside spread of card four, with dummy stamp booklet affixed by its back cover. The booklet cover matches that of the Christmas card.

Special thanks to two *DS* readers for making their Questa items available for scanning and sharing. ☒

Translation of Chinese

Words on dummy stamps now known

Thanks to the kindness of two Forum users, it can be revealed that the yellow panel tells of how the Chinese people are the self-proclaimed descendents of the dragon and then basically says that Chinese artists have drawn inspiration from the dragon for thousands of years.

The red panel reads "Ji Xiang Ru Yi", one of many Chinese phrases which essentially reads 'Good luck and (everything) you want'.

One of the respondents states that calligraphy was considered one of the essential accomplishments of a scholar-gentleman in the old days. Many scholars would collect choice specimens, and many non-Chinese speakers to this day appreciate it simply as abstract art. ☒



Waterlow Savings Gravure Sample

National Savings stamps found on sheet

Waterlow was a pioneer in Britain in the use of photogravure for stamps, albeit savings stamps initially.

Recently, a page from within a hard-bound book of samples was found with the early National Savings stamps included in a block of six and overprinted SPECIMEN. The asking price was in excess of US\$1,000.

At top left of the page is the phrase "WATERLOW'S SPECIAL GRAVURE PROCESS." ☒



Waterlow & Sons 2013 Calendar

An item that is useful for an entire year!

The next page comprises a 2013 calendar mocked-up from a Waterlow & Sons example from 1949. The original had a separate page for each month that you tore off as each month commenced, rather than a year to view as here. You may wish to print it off for the stamp den, ideally on period cream paper. ☒

A Secret no More...

Printer names revealed

As this issue of *Dummy Stamps* was about to be published, Royal Mail released details of the six printers responsible for the Gold Medal Winners series of Olympic and Paralympic Games stamps in the summer, including, of course, the dummy sheets.

East of England

Breckland Print Services Ltd (Colchester Print Group),
Attleborough, Norfolk.

London

Aquatint bsc, Wimbledon, London.

Midlands

Crescent Press Ltd, Solihull, West Midlands.

North of England

B&D Print Services Ltd, Leyland, Lancashire.

Scotland

Allander Print Ltd, Edinburgh.

West of England

Acorn Press Swindon Ltd, Swindon, Wiltshire. ☒

"What are the Weird Squares for?"

Queries from readers make a response desirable

The odd design below with many black and white squares is known as a QR (Quick Response) Code.

If you aim a device such as a smart phone at the code it will take you to straight to the www.stampprinters.info website without typing out the URL. ☒

...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. Glenn ☒

Dummy Stamps

Issue 28

A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material

Quarter 1, 2013

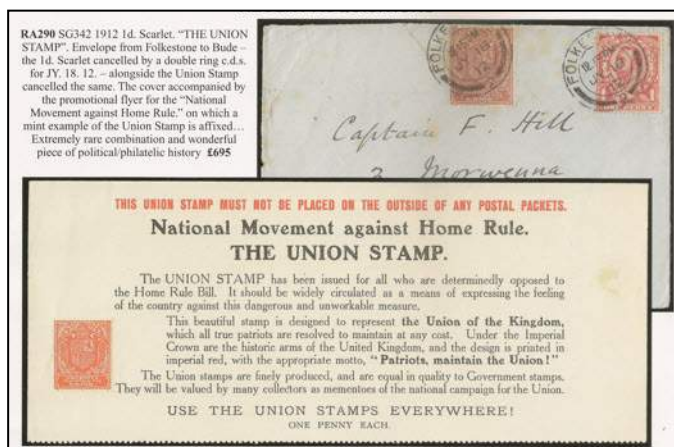
Patriots Maintain the Union

The dummy stamp offered on original sheet and on cover

This Irish-related dummy stamp was printed by Harrison and Sons and has always been of interest to those who collect Irish material, plus the many Cinderella collectors, so it sells readily when offered.

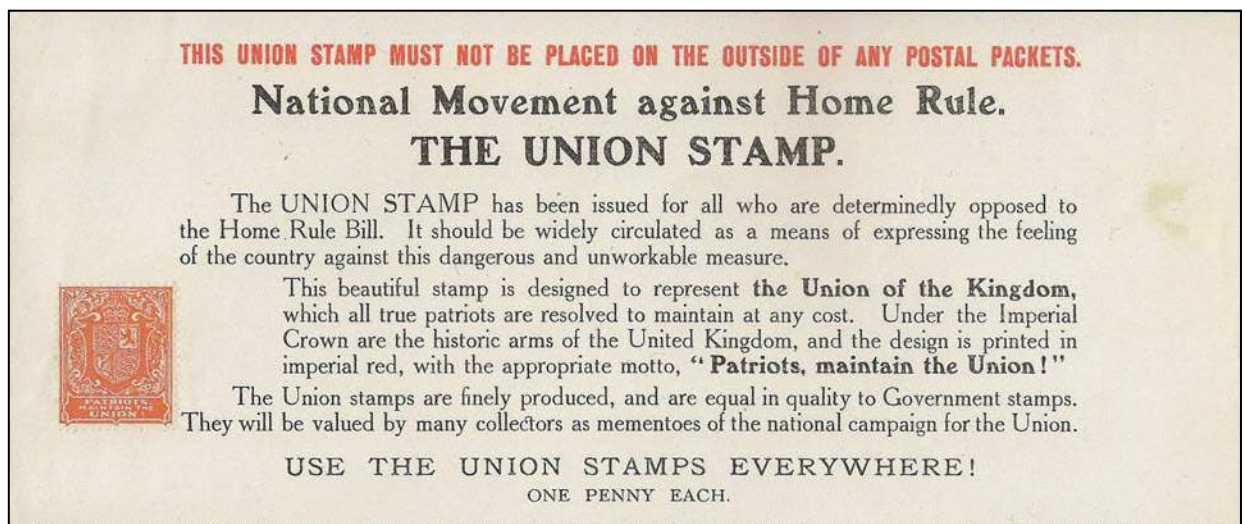
It is unusual these days to see a copy affixed to its original sheet, much less used on cover, so the recent offer by Andrew Lajer (www.andrewlajer.co.uk) was of special interest to many. It sold for £695.

The label was used on 18 July 1912 in Folkestone, so we know that labels were available from at least then. ☒



Has any reader ever seen what was below the set of perforations on sheet header?

It would be of interest to finally find out!



Update on Coil Reeling

Do poached eggs exist in two winding formats?

A regular reader wrote-in about the testing labels reeled gum side out, as mentioned in the previous issue of *Dummy Stamps*.

He writes that: "All the Kermode coils produced for the Post Office had to be reeled gum side out, something to do with the tension in the machines. Although the name Kermode was removed from coil leaders in 1928 and replaced by the code letters W, X, Y and Z they still had to be reeled gum side out."

It is thought that this may mean that early poached egg labels were produced BOTH ways to meet the demands of testing, i.e. reeled gum side out and gum side in.



Leaders of these early days of coils would reveal if this is the case, for when reading the text on the leader one would either see the face or the reverse of the attached stamp(s) alongside the buff wrapper.

Do any readers have coils wound the other way to that shown above, i.e. showing the unprinted side of stamps when reading the leader? ☒

The Ford Galaxy Zetec Promo Stamps

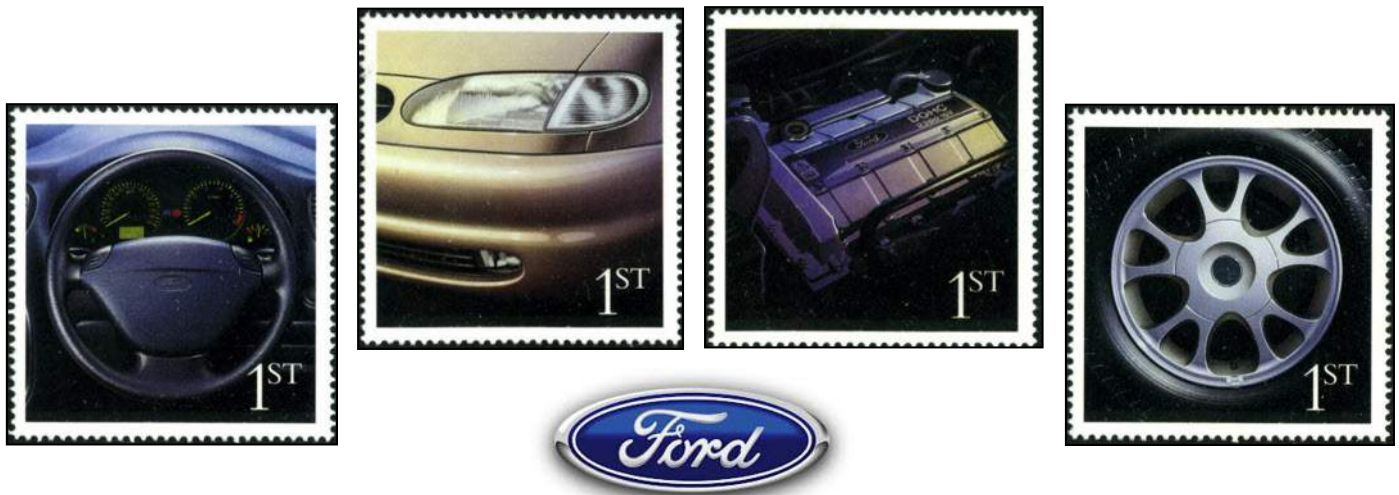
Mystery of stamp-like labels solved

Back in issue six an appeal went out for details of the dummy stamps depicted below. Seven years later, a response has been received from a reader.

The presentation pack shown advertises the Ford Galaxy Zetec (not the Mondeo as previously reported) and is in the same format as the 1996 Classic Cars set (*alongside*). The pack filler card folds out normally.



The stamps are mounted within a Hagner-type stock card, but the dummy stamps are stuck down to it so that they don't move. This is possibly due to dampness, for surely there would have been difficulty in inserting 'licked' stamps into Hagner's? The surrounding card unfolds like a normal pack and it solely advertises the new car. As mentioned in the initial report, it is thought that Tallents House was involved in the creation of this interesting item, which would make sense if they used their stamp printers to produce the stamps and their internal presentation pack assembly equipment for insertion and pack make-up. ☒

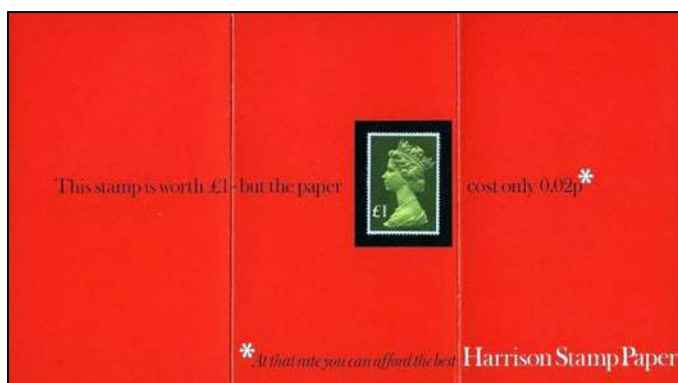


a celebration of our new
firstclass
delivery service



Harrison Stamp Paper

Presentation card with £1 Machin surfaces



It is not often that presentation items appear relating to stamp paper, so the three-fold card shown above is of particular interest.

Either side of the mint £1 Machin stamp is the phrase "This stamp is worth £1 - but the paper only cost 0.02p*".

At the foot of the inside of the card is the phrase "*At that rate you can afford the best. **Harrison Stamp Paper**". ☒

Advertising in Dummy Stamps

Have you something to sell or maybe require?

A reminder that readers may place short free advertisements or announcements in *Dummy Stamps* if they relate to this topic.

See recent issues for information on how to comply with the simple terms. ☒

WIFAG Listing

Foreign element in DS to cease

Attempts at widening the scope of *Dummy Stamps* last time by producing a foreign element met with an almost stony silence from readers, with just one person commenting about it.

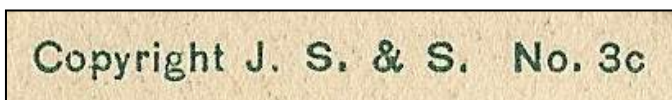
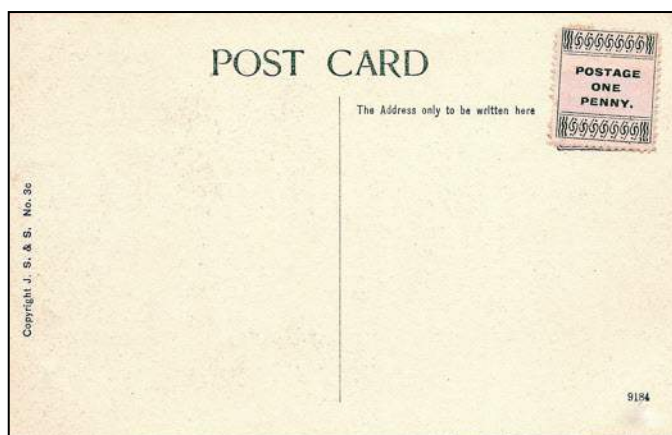
In future content will be restricted to solely British material and only when there is a British connection will overseas be covered, as had originally been the intention. ☒

Postcard Upgrade Dummy Stamp

Never seen before, then two come along separately!

The label below is believed to have been produced at the time of a postage rate increase and was a means of upgrading unsold stocks of postcards. As the rate had become one penny, it is odd that it was not printed in red when green was the colour of the halfpenny stamp.

Postage rates for postcards increased from 1/2d to 1d on 3 June 1918, so the upgrade stamp must have been produced between then and the next increase to 11/2d on 13 June 1921 - a small window.



It has to be a private production as these have not been mentioned in official records, so far as is known. The quality of print and perforation would indicate that the label came from one of the UK security stamp printers, as distinct from any commercial or jobbing printer.

The producer of the postcard, JS&S, tended to order their cards from Saxony (Germany). This is put forward as another reason for covering-up the stamp area, as this is where the printer imprint would have been and with war still raging at the time of the postage increase to 1d, British folk would not have wanted to knowingly purchase German cards. ☒

Blank Coloured Dummy Stamps by Harrison

Printer helps advertising agents and the Post Office to produce essays and dummies

Every so often coloured blank labels matching the format of British definitive stamps appear for sale. These were used late-1960's to mid-1970's internally by the PO advertising contractor, Weiner, then Canonsreach, together with other PO contractors to make essays and dummies for proposals to PO departments.

The dummy stamps exist in three colours, namely yellow, orange and blue. The colours were chosen to roughly (very roughly, it has to be said!) match the 1d olive, 4d red and 5d blue definitive Machin stamps that had recently been introduced. (See SPECIMEN versions of issued stamps below, ex-publicity Cooks book.) The yellow and blue are on dyed paper understandably meaning that the reverses are also yellow or blue, while the remaining item was printed in orange ink on a white paper resulting in a normal white reverse.



Reconstructed below are two notes produced at the time, the first of which accompanied the supply of blanks to Mr Hills in 1968. There is no indication as to who sent the first note, as it bears no sign-off. The second note is from a Mr. P M Bulley to Mr. Hills a year later, indicating that a second batch was supplied.

March 3rd 1968.

Dear Mr Hills,

Herewith sets of dummy stamps in assorted colours, perforated by Harrisons, for making-up stamp books for presentation to prospective Clients.

MEMORANDUM

Date 29th April, 1969

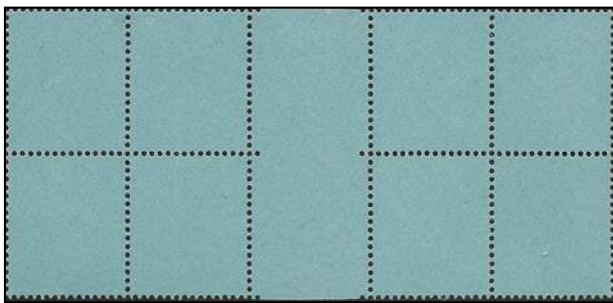
Subject: From: MR. P.M. BULLEY To: Mr. S. Hills

Miss Mantz has just phoned me re the dummy books you are making-up for Agencies.

She said there was some problem with letting you have actual stamps but she asked me to tell you that she has made an arrangement that Mr Yorke should put some coloured sheets on to his machine and perforate in the appropriate places. He will then send these coloured blank sheets to Miss Mantz who will get in touch with me again so you can go and collect some to put in your dummies.

I hope this will be of assistance.

[signed] Christine



A double cylinder gutter block of the 5d value dummy stamp.

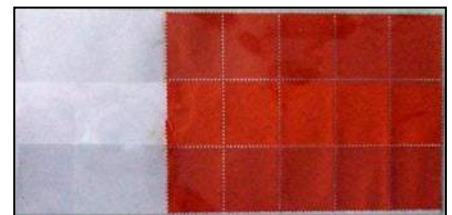
In 1969, work was underway for what became the fore-runner to the Prestige stamp booklet format, namely the *Stamps for Cooks* book from 1969. As a part of the process of mocking-up the booklet, Stuart Rose (Design Director at the PO during this time) prepared at least seven mock-booklets for the PO Users Council for their observations. Two panes from those booklets are shown below. The blue labels were not used.



Panes of 15 dummy stamps stuck to unprinted white card with space at left for the informative text that appeared on the issued panes.

< >

(Reproduced with kind permission of owner.)



If any reader has access to examples of these three dummy stamps used in other stamp booklets (they do exist), then scans would be appreciated. Such examples will be illustrated in a future issue of *DS*. ☒

Moore & Matthes Tender

A new British stamp printer could have emerged in 1972

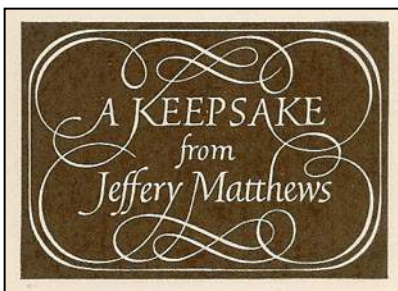
Incorporated in 1933, Moore & Matthes (Printers) Ltd. had an association with Royal Mail for many years as producers of presentation packs and (if memory serves your compiler correctly) the *Philatelic Bulletin*, plus grille cards and the like. For a couple of years (1971 and 1986), they helped Father Christmas by printing his Santa Mail Cards that Royal Mail delivered on his behalf. It is now sadly recorded as a dissolved printing company.

However, back in 1972, things were good for M&M and the company produced a pair of previously unrecorded trial proofs for the Royal Silver Wedding stamp issue using Jeffery Matthews MBE stamp design proposals, as they "...were making an approach to print British stamps" at that time.

The text below the left design reads in pencil: "2 Silvers + 4 Col[our]. Process", while the right-hand stamp states: "Silver, Black and Grey". The perforations appear to be printed, not punched out.



This revelation is taken from an excellent series of articles by Paul Brittain about the stamp output of the aforementioned Jeffery Matthews. The series is currently appearing in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* [GB] and gives a fascinating insight into the work of one of Britain's best loved stamp designers.



An imperforate stamp-sized "keepsake" label produced by JM for use on Christmas cards sent by him and wife Chris in the 1980s.

This example was on a PHQ card sent to Derrick Howlett of Harrison and Sons, Christmas 1987.

Special thanks to Jeffery Matthews and to Stanley Gibbons and Paul Brittain for permitting this information to be included here. ☒

Bradbury Wilkinson POKO Label?

Could this dummy stamp have a British link?

The scan below of a German POKO stamp affixing machine label bears a perforation of BW.



Could this possibly mean that it has a Bradbury Wilkinson connection of some kind? If so, then why? ☒

Enschedé Open Day, 2001

'Open Dag' held at Haarlem print works

It is unusual for a security printer to throw open its doors to the public to let them see what they produce for world governments, banks and postal authorities.

Enschedé did just that in 2001 and more to the point issued an attractive souvenir sheet for the event. Your compiler was privileged to be a part of a similar day at the Belgian stamp printing works a few years ago, but no souvenir was produced that day, sadly!

Although it does not mention it on the sheet, it is just possible that this event was restricted to friends and families of employees, as it is known to have been done in that way elsewhere. ☒

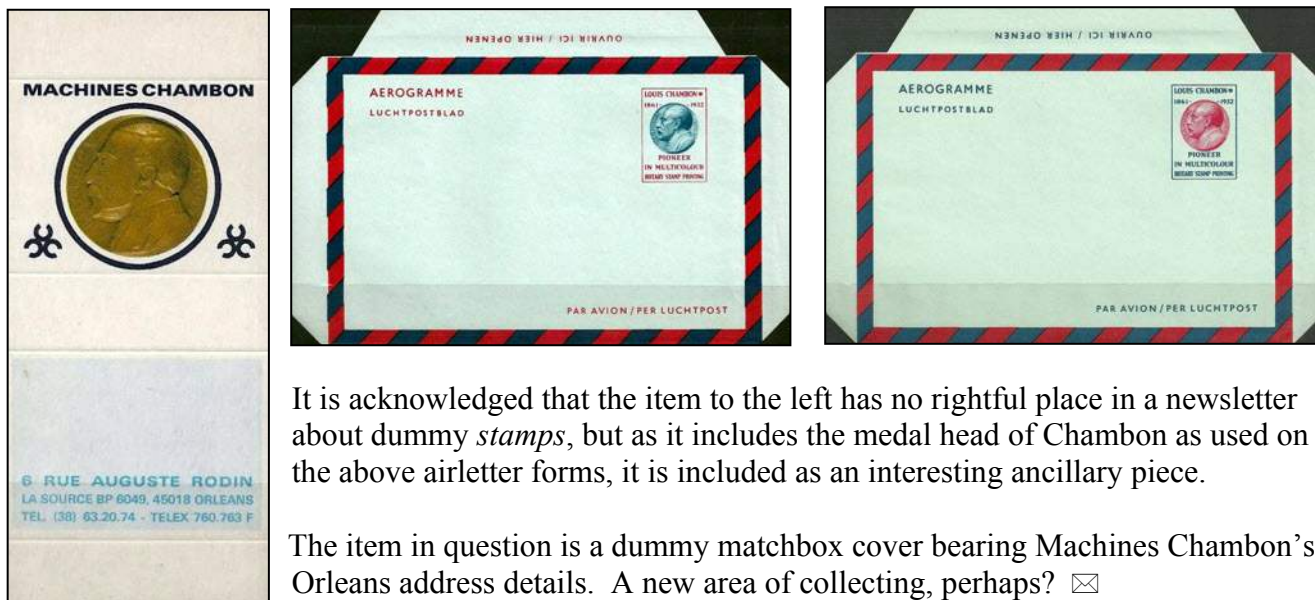


Chambon Dummy Airletters (and Matchbox!)

It is unusual to come across dummy postal stationery, especially with Chambon's English language dummy stamp

The dummy airletter forms depicted below were recently offered on Delcampe by a regular vendor.

They are rarely encountered and went for around €100 each, being particularly interesting as they have the English language dummy stamps imprinted in one of two colour-ways. According to *Catalogue des Vignettes Experimentales* (G Gomez, 4th edition, 2008), they were printed in 1966 for Surinam. French and Dutch languages appear on the rest of the forms and they normally sell for up to €200 each.



It is acknowledged that the item to the left has no rightful place in a newsletter about dummy stamps, but as it includes the medal head of Chambon as used on the above airletter forms, it is included as an interesting ancillary piece.

The item in question is a dummy matchbox cover bearing Machines Chambon's Orleans address details. A new area of collecting, perhaps? ☒

Harrison Booklet Pane

Further information comes to light

A regular reader writes the following: "Glenn, per your page 12 of *DS27*, Harrison booklet pane of six, the attached may be of interest. This was recorded by Stanton in *The British Philatelist* as sold by him when with Nissen, then recorded by Alexander & Newbery in *British Stamp Booklets*, July 1987, page 16 (as part of the GB Journal) and now resides in a prominent collection. You will note the pencil to the right of the pane which says that Ross Candlish had another pane recently and that pane came from the same book as my pane. My book is complete with four panes. I do not think that "your" pane is from the same book as the other two, although the staple gauge appears to be the same – so a number of books were produced but I do not know of another complete. Also, note that this was not perforated on a booklet sheet perforator bottom to top but a counter sheet perforator from right to left (as it goes through the selvedge). Your eBay bidder did very well at £92.50 – the copy with Ross was priced £495 and I would certainly have bid up to £250 if I did not have it."

An album page was kindly supplied revealing the pane and the booklet that it came from. The page write-up reads:

1912 Harrison Trial Booklet. The purpose of this trial is not known. Inscribed "I" on issued red glazed card covers. Signed "H&S". Dated "13/7-12". The booklet has five thick blank paper interleaves at the front and behind each of four Harrison head label panes, was this a suggestion to revert to four 1d panes only?

Note that special dummy booklet panes were produced, not cut from normal counter sheet stock. Also the selvedges are perforated and it can be seen that they were perforated with a vertical perforator, probably on half sheets as for part of booklet editions (8), (9) and (10).

It is most interesting to learn about such an early dummy stamp booklet. ☒

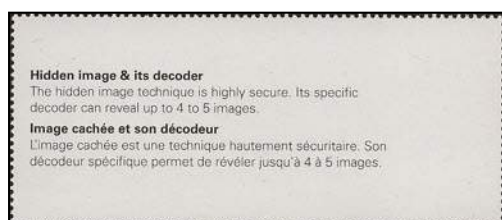
Cartor and Scrambled Indicia® on Dummy Stamp

Hidden images and text magically appears on some postage and dummy stamps

www.graphicsecurity.com states that “Hidden Indicia™ is the base technology from which all SI® products are derived. Hidden Indicia™ is a patented pre-press process that manipulates graphics, rendering the encoded information within them invisible to the naked eye. Encoded information is revealed with an optical or digital decoder.” (The decoder comprises a piece of clear plastic with engraved parallel lines on it.)



When the decoder is placed on the Cartor flower dummy stamp (left) and it is rotated correctly a butterfly suddenly lands on the flower (right). Scanning* proved impossible, so a macro-photo was taken.



**It must be remembered that despite the novelty effect, SI® was created as a covert security feature initially, so almost certainly incorporates ‘anti-scanning’ and ‘anti-copy’ devices within its software.*

In 2012 Cartor printed a scrambled indicia dummy stamp with explanatory label in English and French.

The effect is created as part of the pre-press stage and not the stamp printing stage of production.

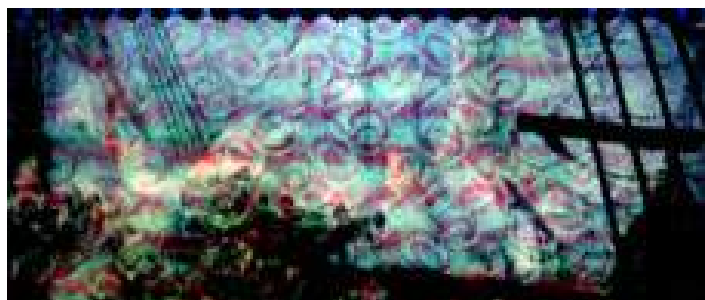
As far as your compiler is aware, it has not been recorded before that the 2005 Royal Mail *Trafalgar* mini-sheet incorporated scrambled indicia in the top margin and on stamp two of row one (only). Reading the text is not easy and it proved to be even harder to scan for use on these pages. However, it is hoped that you can more-or-less see what is revealed when the lens is rotated and used at the correct angle.

It is assumed that the difficulty in getting the wording and dates 1805-2005 to ‘snap’ into view clearly is why Royal Mail did not announce the availability of this novelty feature. Simplicity is key to easy reading.



ENGLAND / EXPECTS reading normally left to right across the clouds at top centre of stamp in two lines of outline type.

Unlike with the Cartor dummy stamp, macro-photography gave indifferent results compared with scanning (1200dpi). Note that colours have been altered to black and white (using infrared) to assist with the reading of text. The engraved lines of the decoder are especially prominent in this scan.



1805-2005 in repeat pattern diagonally across the whole stamp and reading from bottom left to top right. (Poor) macro-photo.



The whole top margin of the MS also bears the iconic phrase ENGLAND EXPECTS THAT EVERY MAN WILL DO HIS DUTY. The words above ...AFAL... read ...THAT EVERY...



The issued miniature sheet from Royal Mail. ☒

Teetgen and Coppen Bros

These are not dummy stamps

Every so often your compiler is asked about two designs frequently sold by Rushstamps. The query is generally "who are these people?" and "are the items dummy stamps?".

Augustus Teetgen was, in fact, a tea merchant originally trading out of Bishopsgate in London, then elsewhere. He was the founder of the company which had begun in 1834.



Excuse the image quality, but items were not available to scan.



While nothing has been found about Coppen Bros, it is apparent that the labels are the same basic design as the Teetgen examples, as are the colours, and it is therefore reasonable to assume that they are from the same printing house. There probably was also a connection between the two businesses.



A Teetgen tea caddy.

They have been seen described as "dummy stamps from Harrison & Sons", and while the printer name could be accurate, they are NOT dummy stamps but promotional labels produced for these companies.

Hopefully this will also dispel the misinformation that the company names are simply fictitious. ☒

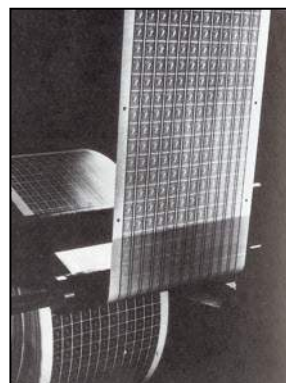
Forged Dummy "Graphite Lines"

More eBay rubbish surfaces online

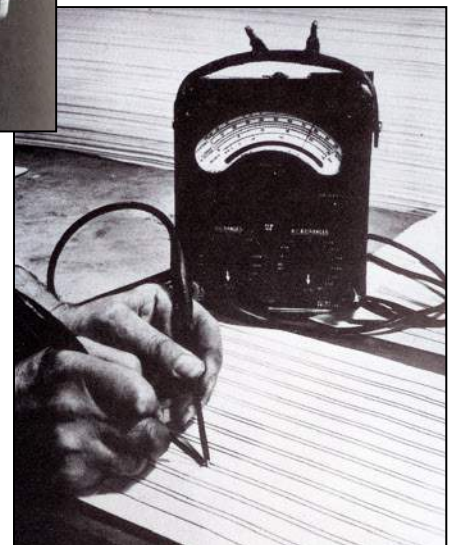
No longer content with adding 'training' bars to the face of FTPO dummy stamps, we now have pseudo-graphite lines appearing on the back for sale!

The only problem is that they will not be made of graphite and they do not comply with the method of production in that the printed lines fall short of the perforations instead of being continuous.

The photos below were taken at Harrison and show a meter reading being made and the graphite lines applied to stamps on the web. The images both show continuous lines. As ever, exercise 'buyer beware' when buying dummy stamps on eBay. ☒



eBay rubbish currently on offer.



Genuine graphite lines were used on five Wilding stamps from 1957 and were printed UNDER the coating of gum.

The forged dummy FTPO labels has to have the laser(?) printing on top of the gum coating.

...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 29

A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material

Quarter 2, 2013

Charles Skipper and East Tender

Based on 1d Black, a fine 'specimen stamp' was created

A favourite item of your compiler has always been the Charles Skipper and East rendition of the Penny Black design, albeit with obvious changes.

Another fan was Robson Lowe and a recent re-read of his 1943 book *Masterpieces of Engraving on Postage Stamps, 1840-1940* revealed the source image for the head. Robson wrote:

1879. For nearly forty years Perkins, Bacon & Co. had printed the penny and twopence stamps of Great Britain, but their contract ran out at the end of 1879. Unfortunately, the Postmaster-General, bent on economy, failed to renew the contract and allowed De la Rue & Co. to produce surface-printed penny and twopenny stamps. The design was of poor conception and the printing brought the delivery to a hideous level. Before this occurred other tenders were made, notably one by the firm Messrs. Charles Skipper & East, of London, who submitted a beautiful line-engraved "SPECIMEN STAMP" which combined some of the charm of the first British (1840) and the first French (1849) labels. It bore a head of the goddess Persephone with corn and flowers in her hair, closely copied from certain Greek silver coins of Cyziens. A pity it was not adopted!



The coin, by artist Euainetos, has Persephone depicted as a young woman with a luxuriant coiffure embellished by a wreath of wheat stems without ears, as a sign that while she is in the Underworld the earth will not produce a harvest.

Charles Skipper, who was a master printer, went into partnership with Williams Edmund East, primarily as banknote engravers. In 1879 they submitted many designs for the stamp tender using more than one printing process. They were unsuccessful, despite a track record for the production of intaglio revenue stamps for Peru (at least) from around 1871-1888, but in 1887 they did print stamps for Haiti. ☒

Harrison: The Paraguay Connection

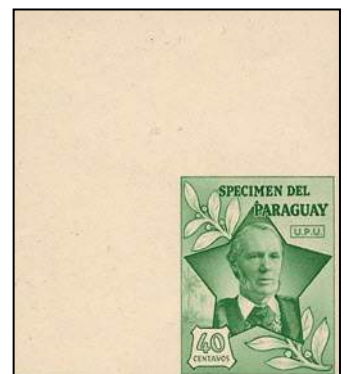
Why was Paraguay chosen for these dummy stamps?

For more than 30 years your compiler had been looking for a set of Harrison dummy stamps. The landscape format set of four, while rarely seen, does get offered every so often, but the portrait version does not. Finally, three out of the four* suspected colours were recently seen. The missing colour is sure to be red.

* Together, the four values represented the standardised UPU colour scheme as used for the British 1/2d (green), 1d (red), 1 1/2d (brown) and 2 1/2d (blue) definitive stamps that were in use for decades.



B&W image of the sheetlet of six.



These dummy stamps are taken from a sheetlet of six (3 x 2). The design comprises a large five-pointed star enclosing a three-quarter portrait of a Harrison & Sons Ltd. family member, with a diagonal spray of leaves behind the star. Denomination at bottom left '40/CENTAVOS' in shield. Inscribed above the portrait 'SPECIMEN DEL / PARAGUAY / U.P.U.'

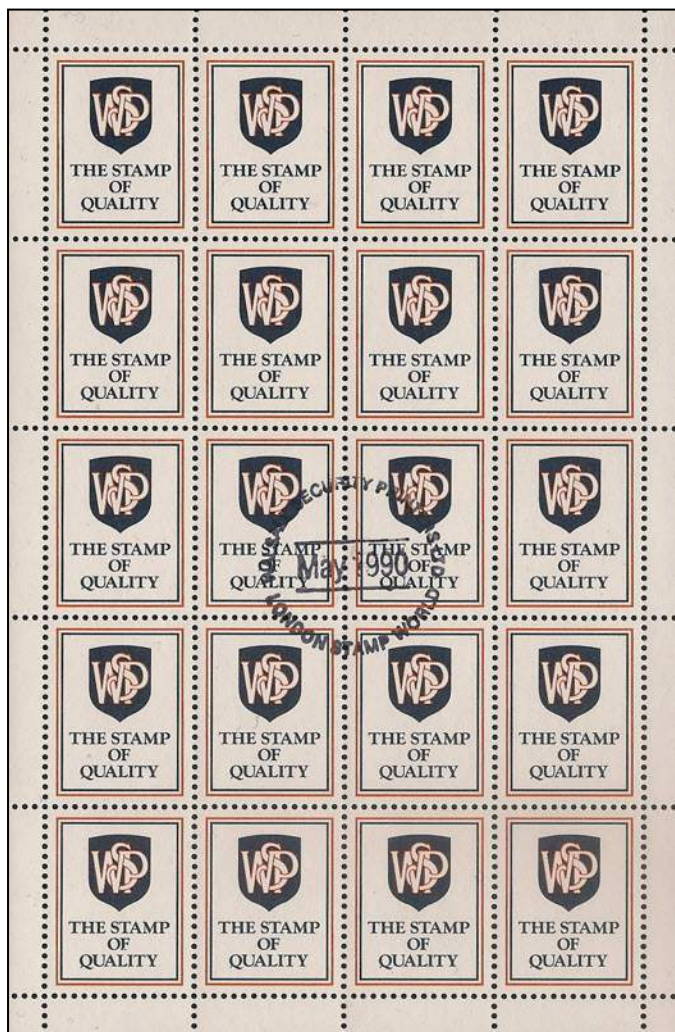
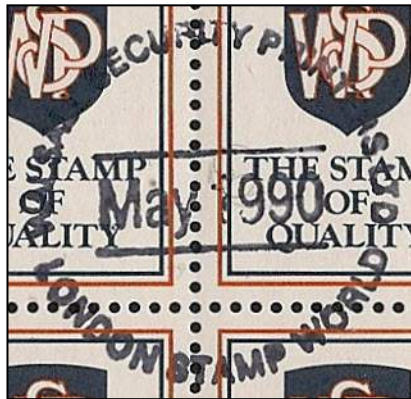
Two questions remain - why was the real country name Paraguay chosen for these dummy stamps and do they exist perforated? Help appreciated. ☒

Walsall at Stamp World 1990

Sheetlet now found with WSP cachet

The sheetlet depicted below was issued by Walsall Security Printers for sale at its stand at the Stamp World London 1990 stamp exhibition.

A copy has now been found in an online auction with a WSP cachet applied to the mint sheet. The un-cacheted sheet usually sells for around £20, so at a price of just £1 the example with the cachet was a steal. ☒



BW Stamps and Banknotes

Two great hobbies come together

The item below recently sold on eBay for £177 and perfectly unites the hobbies of dummy paper money collecting and dummy stamps.

The vendor stated "This is a very unusual combination test Bank Note and Test Stamp SPECIMEN piece by Bradbury & Wilkinson (sic) in 1956 ENGLAND. It is 315 mm by 190 mm. The test included many pressure design holding tests with incredible results. Note says 'EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN' and no watermark is present. Both banknotes appear to be identical, the 15 sound test stamps are surrounded by another 20 stamps that are only partially printed."



Note the unusual spacing of the dummy stamps and that they are inverted in relation to the pair of dummy banknotes.



The dummy stamp is the so-called Ancient Briton design and is shown above in a blue colour and in a pair with similar spacing to the green sheet.

This is certainly an unusual piece and it has hopefully gone to a good home, sadly not that of your compiler who was outbid! ☒

Samuel Jones Look-Alike Labels

Design now known to be used for three purposes at least

The imperforate black coloured dummy stamp shown here (*below left*) was issued by Samuel Jones, paper makers, in 1920 to mark its 110th anniversary.



The same design had previously been used at the 1913 Philatelic Congress in Paris (*above right*) and has now been found on a 1916 National War Savings Committee 5/- stamp. A photostat only was given by the dealer with the above Parisian labels.



Imperforate proof (presumably) of the NWSC stamp dated 1916 with Britannia head.

Your compiler has always been interested in designs that have been recycled (or 'Unoriginal Stamp Designs' to borrow a title from a Stanley Gibbons magazine article title from decades ago).

It is assumed that this latest find is printed by the Printex method, as were the 1913 and 1920 dummy stamps, but this has not been confirmed. ☒

De La Rue: 200th Anniversary

A major milestone has been reached, but postage stamps were not even mentioned in the press release

Congratulations are offered to De La Rue who celebrated 200 years of trading back in February. ☒

Waddington: GPO Tower

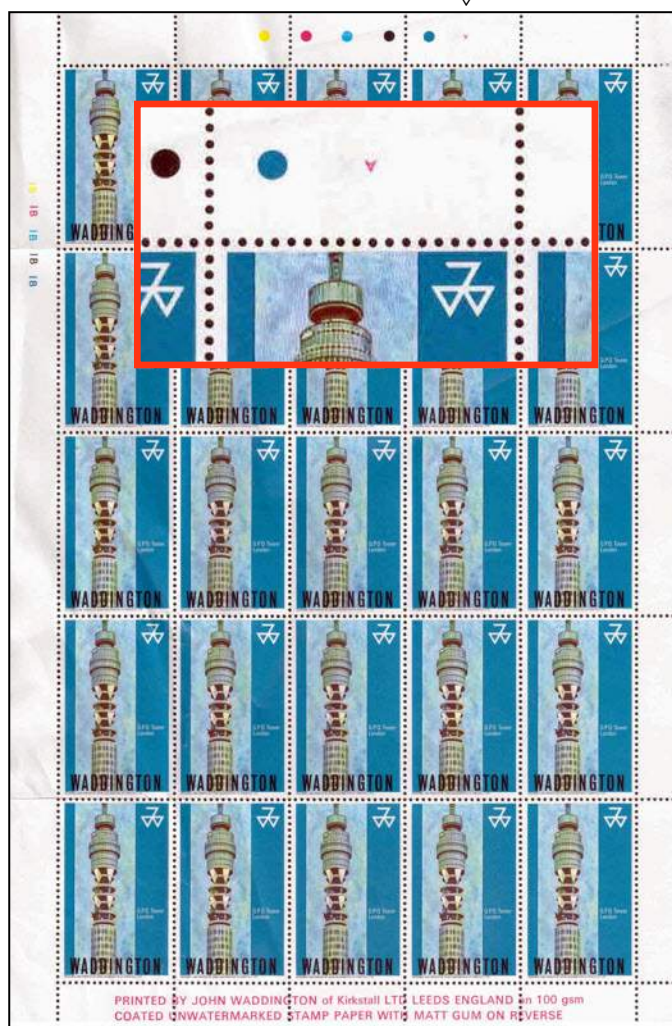
Interesting marginal text on full sheet

The complete sheet shown below was sold for a bargain price of £10 recently. Sadly, it was sent without any packaging at all and every dummy stamp was seriously creased, so had to be returned for a refund, but not before it had been scanned.

Why do collectors not consider that it has to withstand the rigours of the postal system? They invariably charge enough postage. And let's not even talk about people who cut imperforate sheets of stamps with scissors in a way that often cuts into the design. And what about... No, ranting over with!

The bottom margin states: PRINTED BY JOHN WADDINGTON of Kirkstall LTD., LEEDS, ENGLAND on 100gsm / COATED UNWATERMARKED STAMP PAPER WITH MATT GUM ON REVERSE. The matt gumming is of particular interest, as it had previously been assumed that singles seen were either ungummed or soaked-off copies.

A small magenta inverted letter "A" appears to right of the colour dabs, but for what purpose? ☒



The Grieg Dummy Stamp is not from Norway, but from Britain

Various items recently offered for sale

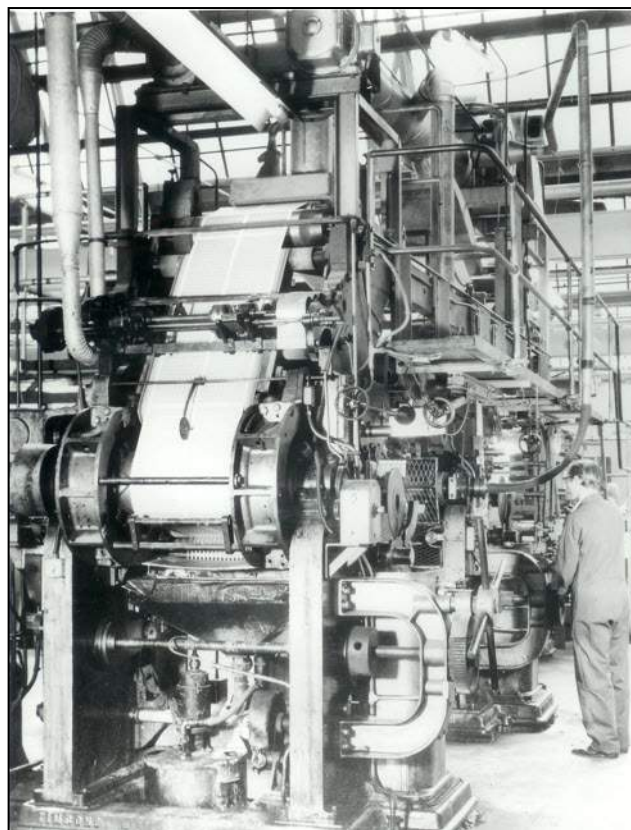
Some readers who also collect foreign dummy stamps may be aware of the design illustrated below, together with its issued equivalent as shown alongside it. While the item sits happily in a Norwegian collection, not every collector realises that the dummy version was actually printed in Britain.



Edvard Hagerup Grieg (15 June 1843 – 4 September 1907) was a Norwegian composer and pianist for those unfamiliar with the individual and his work.

The issued stamp appeared in a set of four in 1943 and seven years later when printer Emil Moestue A/S of Oslo was looking for a new printing press they chose the Grieg design for the testing of a British Timson press that it was considering buying.

Founded in 1896, Timson's remain to this day a family owned business employing over 150 people at its Kettering based design and manufacturing facility. An installation at Harrison and Sons is depicted at the top of the next column. The Timson brand name is at bottom left of the photograph.



The perforated version in the above block of 40 is on offer at eBay as these words are being typed for US\$770 (circa £495) as a Buy it Now item.

Offered for £677 by the same British dealer was a sheet of 200 (*below left. Excuse scan quality*). It was described as '1950 Grieg design Timson Press Trial Printing for testing purposes in a complete sheet of the full plate showing the two panes each of 100.'



A drilled perforation guide hole is shown on the imperforate block above (as a black dot in the margin), proving that this was, as one would expect, a separate operation that was undertaken prior to commencement of perforating.

Incidentally, the perforating of the relatively small proportion of these sheets was undertaken by Harrison at High Wycombe, no less. ☒

Open Day at Joh. Enschedé Stamps

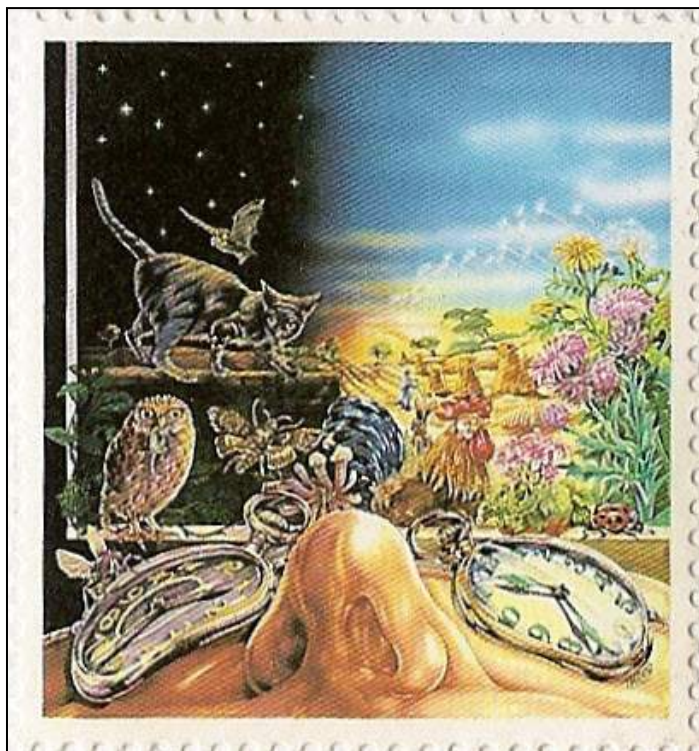
Further 'Open Dag' items recently discovered

In the previous issue of *DS* a souvenir sheet was illustrated from the 2001 Open Day at Enschedé.

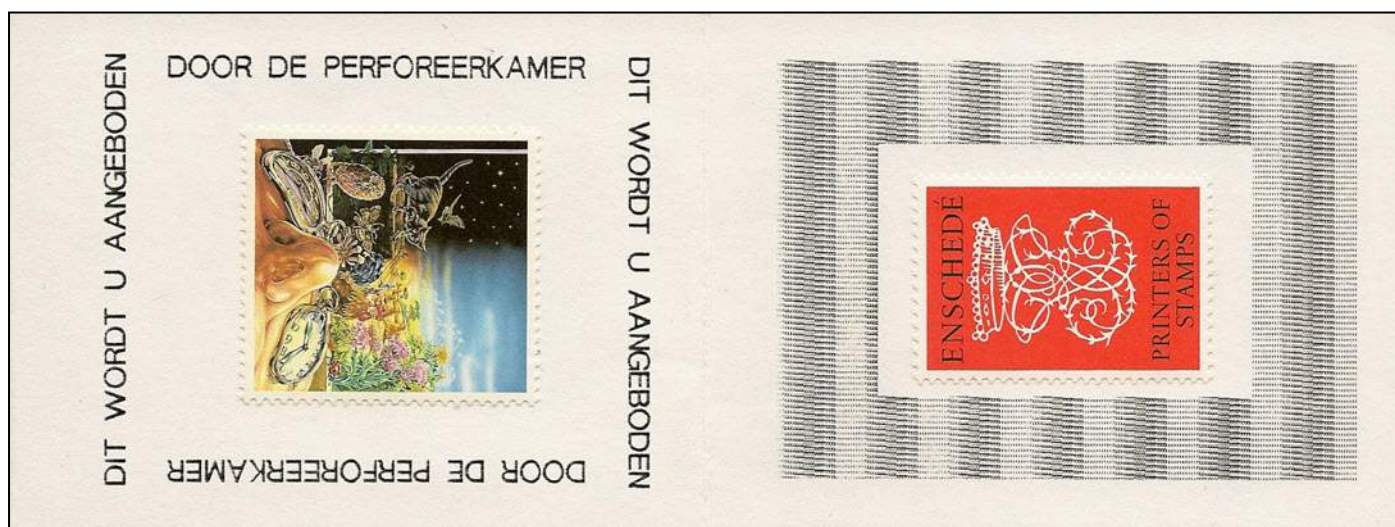
Two new items have been obtained, but they do not bear a date on them. However, they are thought to also be from 2001. The material comprises printed folders, creased centrally and with unprinted insides.

The text on the cover reads DIT WORDT U AANGEBODEN / DOOR DE PERFOREERKAMER (twice), translating as "This is presented to you by the perforation room" (i.e. department).

My Dutch friend further states: "The label with the nose is quite some artwork. It seems to be a fantasy image just made for this give-away item" and your compiler tends to agree. He would not like to get inside the head of its designer who clearly has some issues! Each of the dummy stamps are stuck by one corner using the gum on their reverse. ☒



The above design was "dragged and dropped" into Google's image comparison facility, but it never found any further examples of this picture. It appears, therefore, not to be a famous artwork, but quite probably is unique to Joh. Enschedé Stamps.



Feedback from DS28

More facts and corrections come to light

Coil reeling -

A new slant is placed on the comments regarding the reeling of coils, as a reader writes: "I never considered the Kermode coils were reeled gum out just for tension. Having loaded a made up coil into my Kermode machine it needed to be gummed side out for the stamp to be delivered face up and not gum side out." Good point.

Ford Galaxy Zetec Promotion -

Your compiler applied a misguided logic to the explanation about the stamps being stuck down, i.e. dampness! The above reader advises: "In no way has this been caused by dampness. The labels were all completely stuck down whether they were on gummed paper or otherwise. They are all evenly spaced. I would assume this was done before photography to prevent the labels slipping. If the packs were being sent out to agencies they would not want the labels slipping and this prevents this."

This makes complete sense and your compiler undertook a similar process when working as a print and production manager, but failed to note the similarity in methods at the time of writing *DS*.

BW POKO Perfin is NOT British -

A reader kindly checked the BW perfin against the German Catalogue and reported that it is German, having been used in the town of Karlsruhe.



The original BW query. (left)
The German catalogue BW impression. (right)

The letters BW stand for "Badische Landeselektrizitätsversorgung (Badenwerk)" and it is recorded as having been in use between 1922 and 1927.

So, it has no connection with Bradbury, Wilkinson, or indeed British philately in the wider sense, but is still an interesting item.

Sloper Perfins on Yellow Labels -

The Harrison printed labels in blue, orange and yellow struck a chord with a reader, who writes: "Your talk of yellow dummy stamps reminded me that in Slopers later ledgers (which the Perfin Society mostly hold now) where they recorded what perfin they used for what client, Slopers usually recorded the perfin on a bit of perforated yellow paper as per attached photostat (one of many).

"The numbers indicate a single or 12 wide perfin die, the other columns are usually Commercial Overprints and occasionally National Insurance stamps (usually perfined with numbers but we haven't researched these even if it's possible as most National Insurance stamps were put on "cards" and ultimately destroyed).

BURROUGHS WELLCOME & CO.	12-12	BW	
BORROWS & J. CLEMENTS WIRCH & SONS.	12	BC	
BURTON SON & SANDERS LTD.	12	B	
BURT CHAS LTD.	1	B	THE NEW CO PERFIN
BURY ST. EDMUNDS BOROUGH OF	12/12 1	B	BURY & SONS BURY ST. EDMUNDS
BURY ST. EDMUNDS BOROUGH OF		B	BURY & SONS BURY ST. EDMUNDS
BURN W.J. & CO. LTD.	12	B	
BUSHKILL H & SONS	12	B	
BURY DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.	1	B	BURY DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.

A scan of a perfin photostat page of poor reproduction quality, but no less worthy of illustrating here. Note how the first item is of another "BW", in this case Burroughs Wellcome & Co.

"It's unlikely you'll ever come across these but as well to keep in mind." How interesting, proving that there is always something new to learn and how one find can act as a catalyst for reporting another!

The labels were almost certainly printed by one of the British security printers of the time.

Moore & Matthes DID Print Stamps -

Thanks to a reader, more information can be offered regarding M&M, as it appears that they did print stamps. OK, strictly speaking they were British local carriage labels for the Summer Isles, but they look as good as any printed by the well-known British security stamp printers.

Our correspondent writes: "You mention Moore & Matthes as printers of the *Bulletin*. Yes, they were between 1977-79 and 1984-91. Moore & Matthes also printed three sets of local stamps for the Summer Isles (Scotland) - 1977 Silver Jubilee,...



...1978 25th Anniversary of the Coronation...



All 12 stamps are printed in the same size and perforation gauge.

...and 1979 Island Flowers.

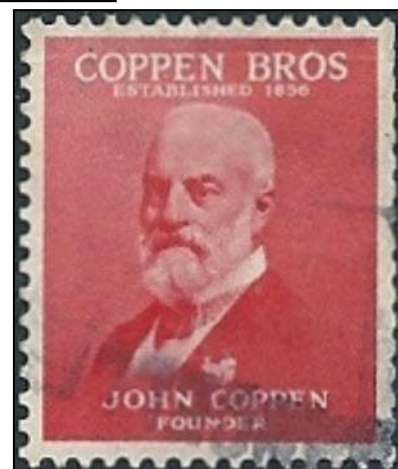
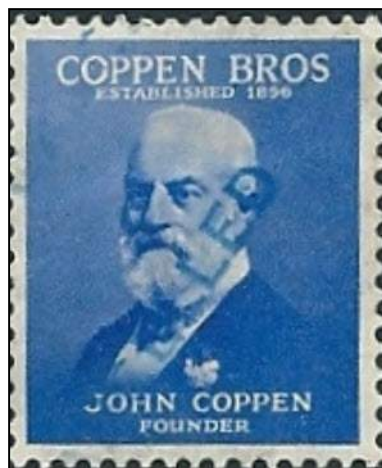


"The Coronation set was designed by Stuart Rose of The Post Office, and the Silver Jubilee set was by Gordon Huntly who designed the 3d Scottish regional of 1958 and the Burns stamps of 1966."

Coppen Brothers

A reader writes: "I have just read the latest issue of the *Dummy Stamps* newsletter with interest. Strangely, Coppen Bros was next on my list to write to you about, but it seems now that there are as many questions as answers.

Anyway, herewith images from which you will see that both labels have a CANCELLED stamp on them. The blue label overprint is in blue, but the red label overprint is black, upside down and in a different direction. The red label also has trimmed perforations at right. What CAN this all mean?"



The handstamps that have been applied do not look familiar for either of the two companies that were able to print in photogravure (Harrison & Sons and Waterlow & Sons) at that time, so they could have been privately applied in more recent times. In fairness this does seem unlikely, as the handstamped and unhandstamped versions of the dummy stamps are not sold for very high prices to this day.

The red label with its trimmed perforations to the right tends to possibly imply coils and this may indeed have been the purpose of the items at the time of issue. Perhaps they are undenominated savings stamps?

Your compiler cannot resist ending the feedback section with the joke relating to Burns that was contained in the email about Moore & Matthes: "What do you call the society for dedicated collectors of Robert Burns stamps? - the Serious Burns Unit. Boom-boom!"

Whoever said that stamp collectors are a stuffy and serious bunch needs to think again! ☒

Counter Training Handstamps

eBay sells more Post Office cancellation devices

More training handstamps are on the open market. Look out for dodgy philatelic items that may be produced from the following dies. The top one sold on eBay for more than £100 and had 15 bidders!



The handstamp dies and typical type case.



Stamp World Souvenir

An interesting connection may have been discovered

The Spanish item below was recently on offer by a dealer. Its inclusion here is possibly inappropriate, but there may just be a British connection and your compiler wonders if anyone can please clarify.

For *Stamp World London 90*, Harrison printed intaglio images of the One Penny Black and Two Penny Blue with blank bottom corners for sale by the organisers as souvenirs of the exhibition. To make the Palmares menu extra special the two corner check letters of S and W (standing for Stamp World) were added.

The Spanish intaglio printed souvenir for their EXFIME 90 show utilised a die with the same SW check letters. This seems too coincidental and it is thought that Harrison may have either supplied FNMT (the Spanish State Printers) with the die, or maybe even printed the 300 copies of the limited edition at High Wycombe. They sell for c£150. ☒



Palmares Banquet
Grosvenor House, Park Lane
Saturday 12th May 1990

The Spanish scan is low-res, but is clear enough to see the letters SW.

The reduced Palmares menu alongside is less clear, so the Penny Black has been enlarged above it.

1958 De La Rue Colour Trial

Blue is the norm, green is scarce

It is unusual for colour trials to exist for dummy stamps, for invariably designs may appear in a multitude of colours and shades, but not usually for the printer to decide on a version to “issue”.

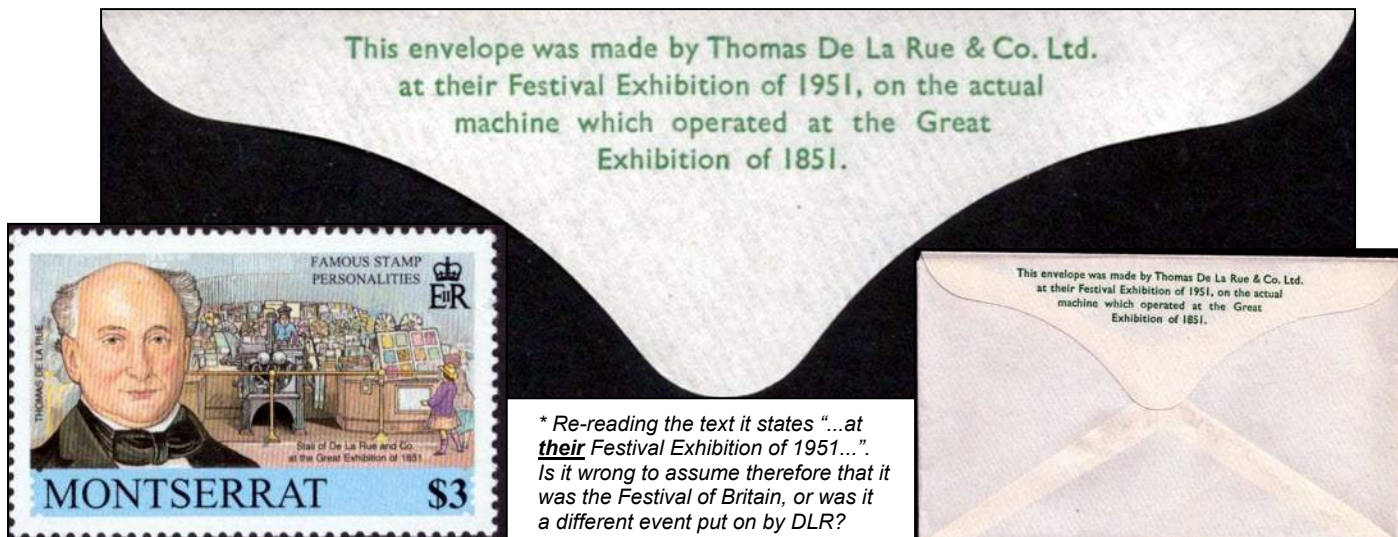


The green version of the 1958 De La Rue dummy stamp shown here is one such example. Navy blue was the preferred, and eventually issued, colour.

Your compiler has been seeking the green colour for many years and narrowly missed-out on acquiring a copy recently at an overseas auction. ☒

According to the British Postal Museum & Archive, the catalogue for the exhibition records: *"This machine works at the rate of 2,700 envelopes per hour, and although superseding hand labour in folding, it is satisfactory to find that, instead of displacing hands, its introduction, by extending the consumption, has, in reality, created work for more than it has displaced"*. By 1851 De La Rue had eleven such machines in use.

Unbeknown to your compiler until recently, the same machine was demonstrated at the 1951 Festival of Britain* and a mint dummy envelope reverse with its commemorative text is shown below. The envelope face is totally unprinted and therefore is not depicted here. It is suspected that 1851 samples also exist. ☒



* Re-reading the text it states "...at their Festival Exhibition of 1951...". Is it wrong to assume therefore that it was the Festival of Britain, or was it a different event put on by DLR?

De La Rue at 1951 Festival

An unrecorded dummy envelope surfaces in America

In 1851, Great Britain hosted the Great Exhibition (or, to give it its full title, ‘The Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations’) in London’s Hyde Park. By all accounts it was magnificent.



One exhibitor at the show was Thomas De La Rue, who were demonstrating envelope making and also displaying over 250 of their other products.

www.postalheritage.org.uk/page/victorian-machines states: *"Rowland Hill's brother Edwin invented a prototype envelope-folding machine. Warren De La Rue patented various developments of this, and the machine was demonstrated at the Great Exhibition."*

Harrison: Guildhall Design

Incomplete variant surfaces

In a previous issue of *DS*, a dummy stamp of the Guildhall, High Wycombe as designed by Ronald Maddox was described and illustrated.

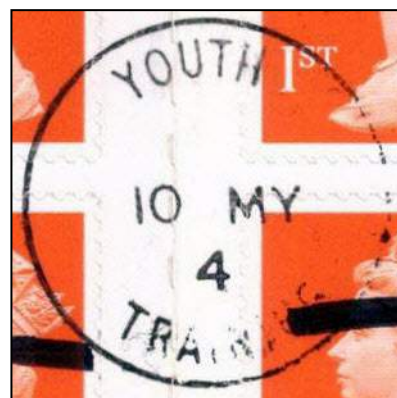
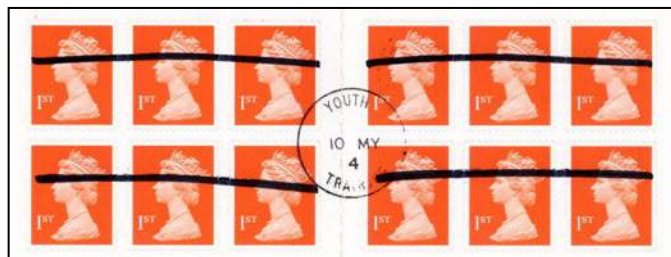


A further variant has recently surfaced that is perforated at the top and bottom, but is imperforate at the sides and is far from being a complete design. The vertical perforations may have been cut-off, of course, as the dummy stamp appears to only be as wide as the design and excludes side margins. ☒

Dummy First Class Stamp Booklet

Youth Training cancellation is a new find

It is not unusual to find 'dodgy' dummy booklets on the likes of eBay, but this one appears to be OK for the reason detailed below.

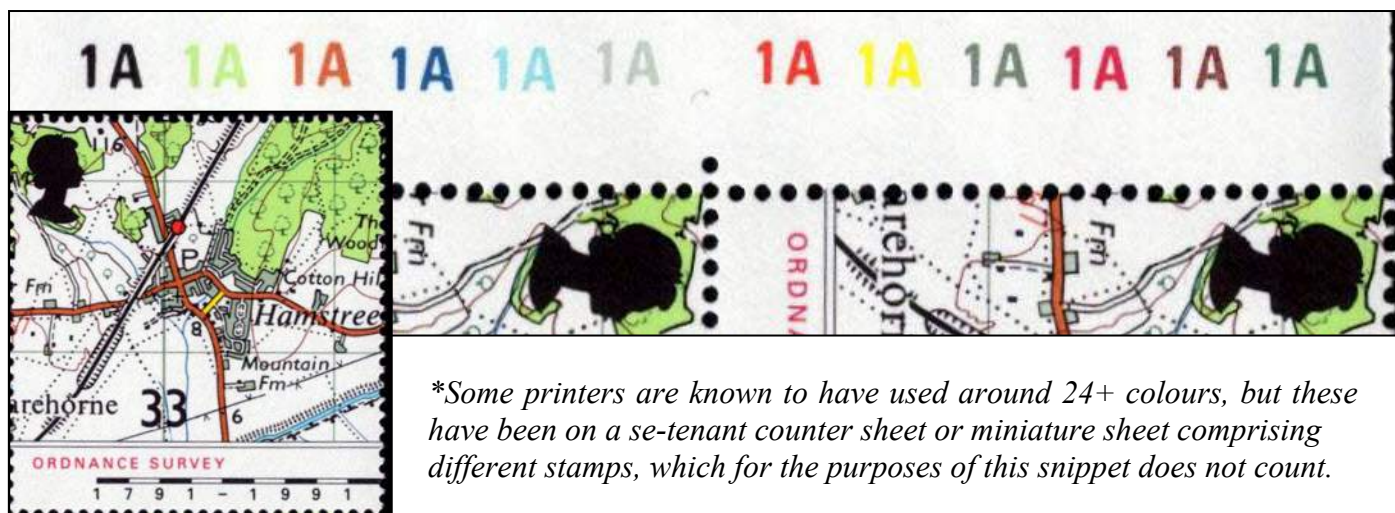


This example was sold for £2, well under the 2004 face value and certainly less than the current face value of £7.20. If the stamps had not been struck through with a marker pen, then far more money could have been obtained by selling the booklet uncanceled. Certainly it was worth £2! ☒

Questa: 12 Colours Were Used on a Single Postage Stamp

Not dummy-related, but a no less interesting 'filler' piece relating to our British stamp printers

The *Ordnance Survey Bi-centenary* 33p value from the British 1991 commemorative stamp series comprised a massive 12 colours. Could this possibly be unbeatable for a single* British or world postage stamp? ☒



*Some printers are known to have used around 24+ colours, but these have been on a se-tenant counter sheet or miniature sheet comprising different stamps, which for the purposes of this snippet does not count.

Harrison 'Trade Stamps' Booklet

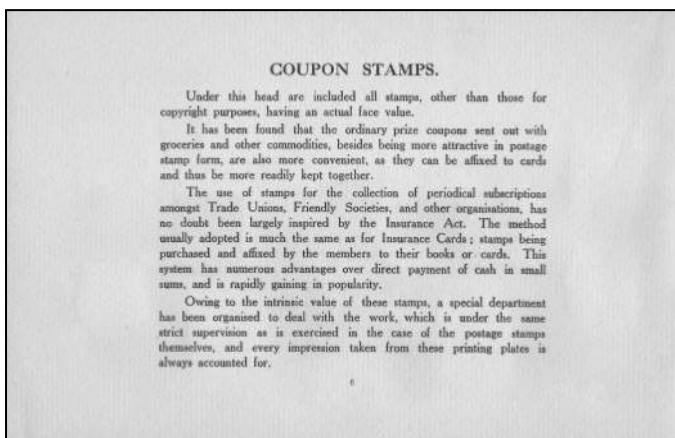
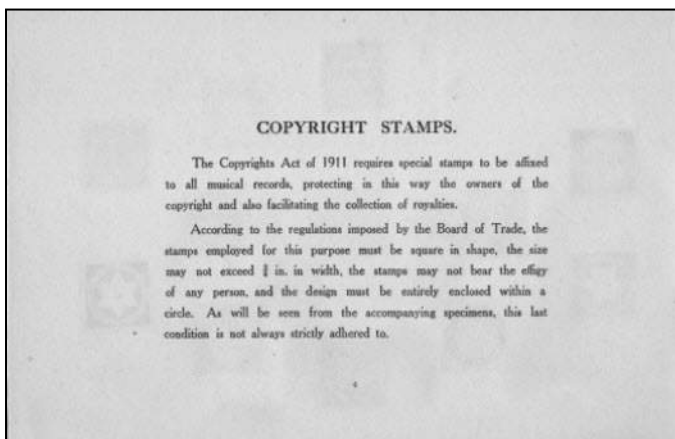
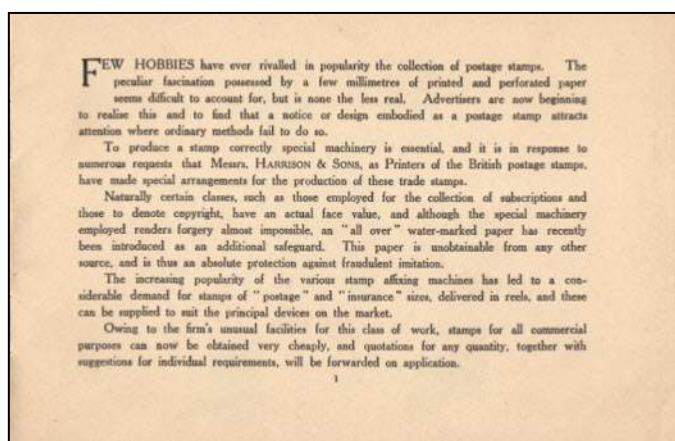
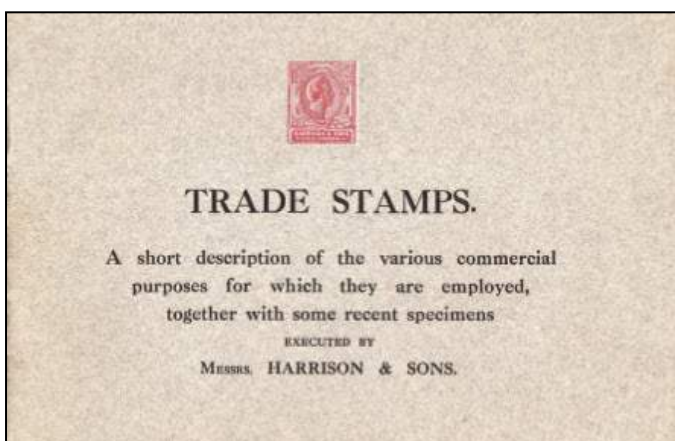
Lovely c1912 item yields new bi-colour Harrison Head

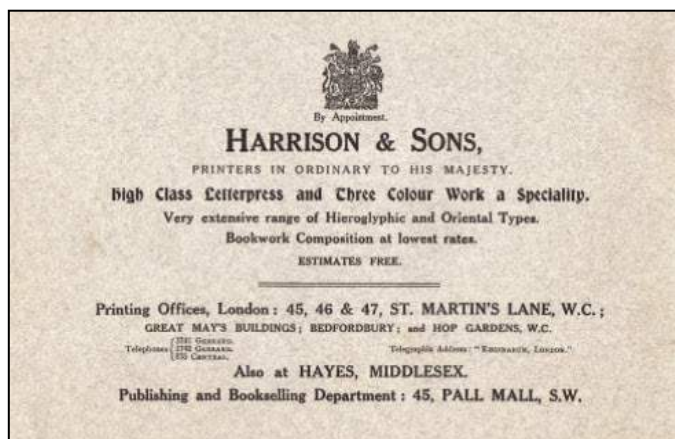
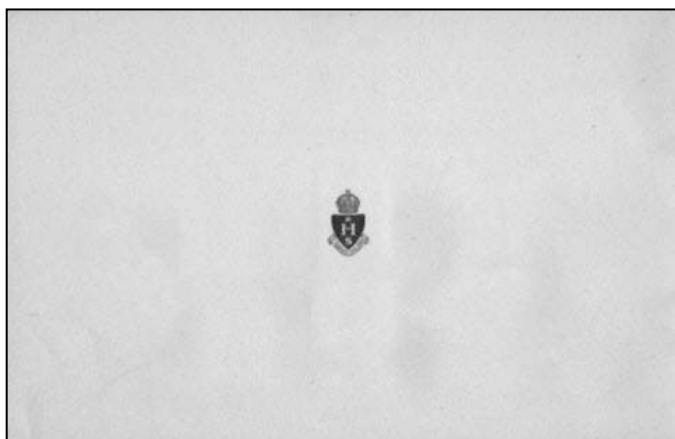
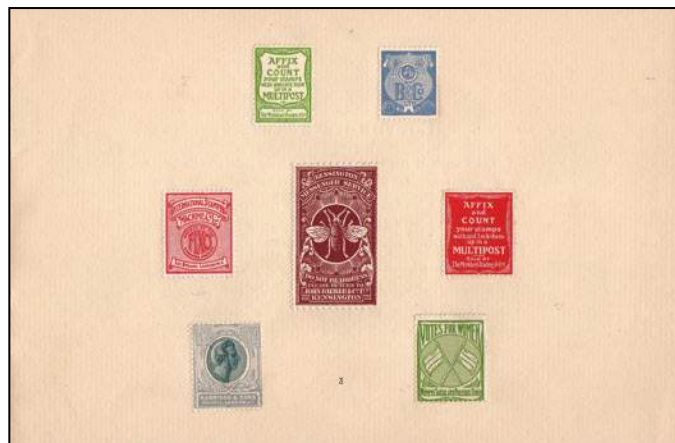
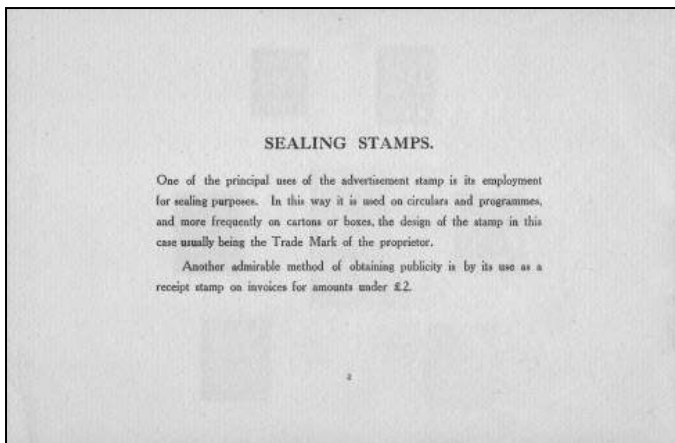
Thanks to a reader, a rare H&S booklet is shown. All pages are here, albeit that most labels are beyond the scope of *DS*. H&S calls dummy stamps 'Trade Stamps', a term not generally used in philately.

The item alongside is the gem (in-situ overleaf), as this bi-colour of light grey frame and dark green head is a new colour combination. The previously reported red/green version is also shown. Note the further discovery relating to the size of the head. ✉



The pale green head is larger than the dark green one. This is no doubt because of difficulties with the registration of the head initially. The solid line around the original was removed on latest discovery.





Cartor Image Revealed

A 2012 dummy stamp conceals three roses

For anyone who owns the laytex-covered dummy stamp below, the hidden image is revealed here without requiring you to scratch your original! ☒



Waterlow & WBL Scans sought

Help requested in securing better images

Has anyone decent colour (or even B&W) scans of these four poor-quality photostats, 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 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. ☒



Dummy Stamps

Issue 30

SPECIAL EDITION

Quarter 2, 2013

Die Proofs of the Harrison Head Dummy Stamps Discovered in Files at the City of Westminster Archives

These records appear not to have been accessed by philatelists before and contain much useful information

A few streets away from St James's Park underground station in London will be found a hidden gem. It is The City of Westminster Archives Centre, which contains a wealth of fascinating items, no less so than in the files held in the *Harrison and Sons Collection*.

Here is not the place to go into the non-dummy material; however you can expect to see not only business records, but also details of the early days of stamp printing by the company, such as the number and brand of perforating machines held. The collection had been safely deposited before Harrison was absorbed into De La Rue .

To browse details of material held, click on or type this link to the contents page of the *Harrison and Sons Collection*:
www.calmview.eu/Westminster/CalmView/TreeBrowse.aspx?db=Catalog&field=RefNo&key=1272%2F1%2F4%2F5

Your compiler consulted hundreds of pages of information, and with much of it being of

interest, was constantly diverted from the task of searching for dummy stamps. However, letters from a Thomas Macdonald, owner of the City of London Engraving Bureau, looked interesting. There were also items held to the back of the letters by paper clips and upon examination they proved not to be simply postage stamp proofs (which would have been great to see), but actual die proofs of dummy stamps.

The eight pages contained within this special edition of *Dummy Stamps* illustrates the two letters and each of the die proofs found.

An initial observation is that H&S outsourced its die production (for dummy stamps, at least) to Thomas Macdonald, rather than undertaking the work in-house. Little has been found about the Engraving Bureau on the Internet and it begs the question as to what happened to their archives when it ceased to exist.

Its headed notepaper includes the tantalising statement: "...Postage stamps and guarantee labels engraved and duplicated, facilitating large quantities being quickly and economically printed direct by steel plates".

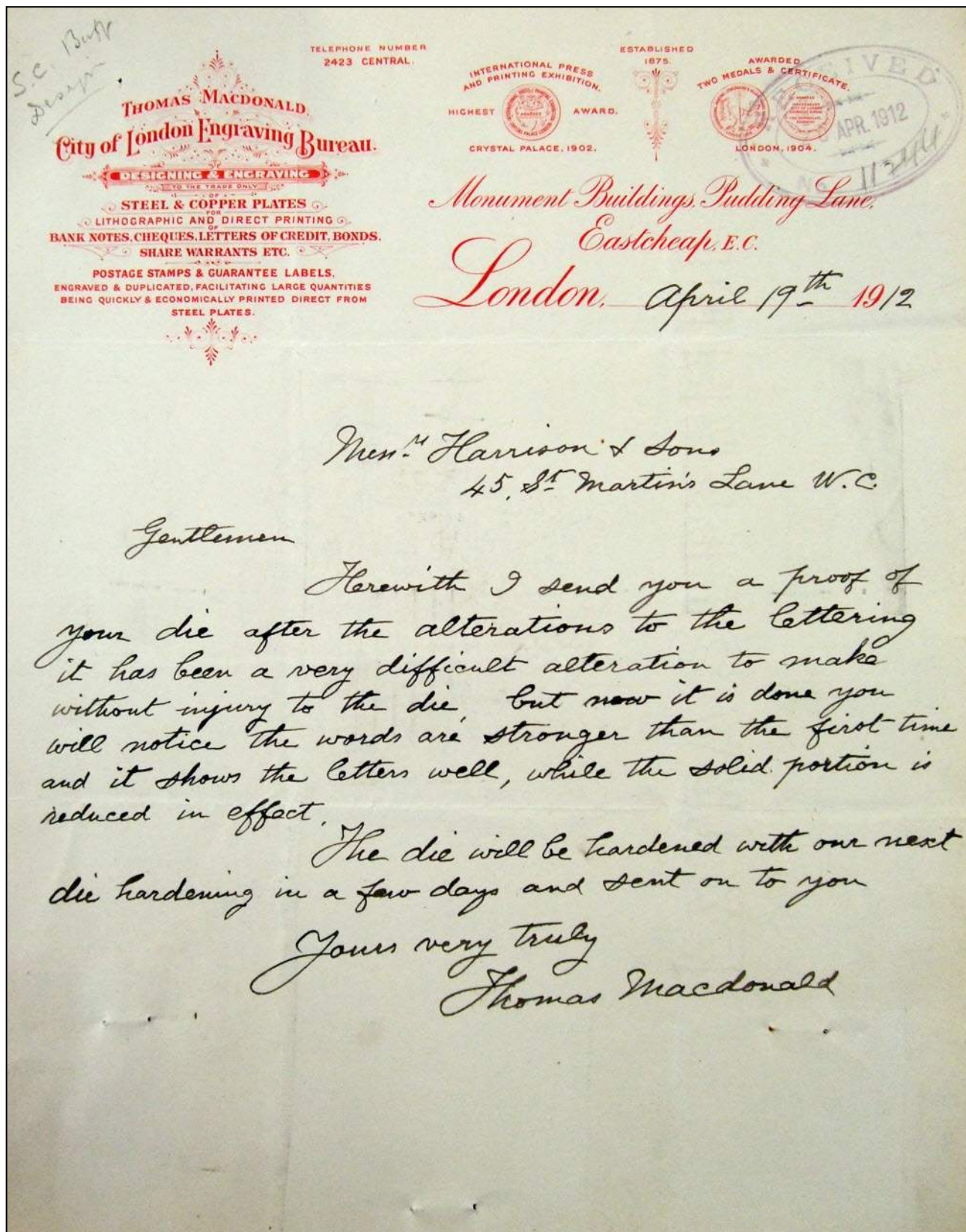
Scale: Imagery in this document is invariably not to the same scale.

Source of Material: The letters and die proofs are contained in the CWAC file entitled 'Harrison & Sons Ltd. File No. 2'. Finding Number: 1272/121.

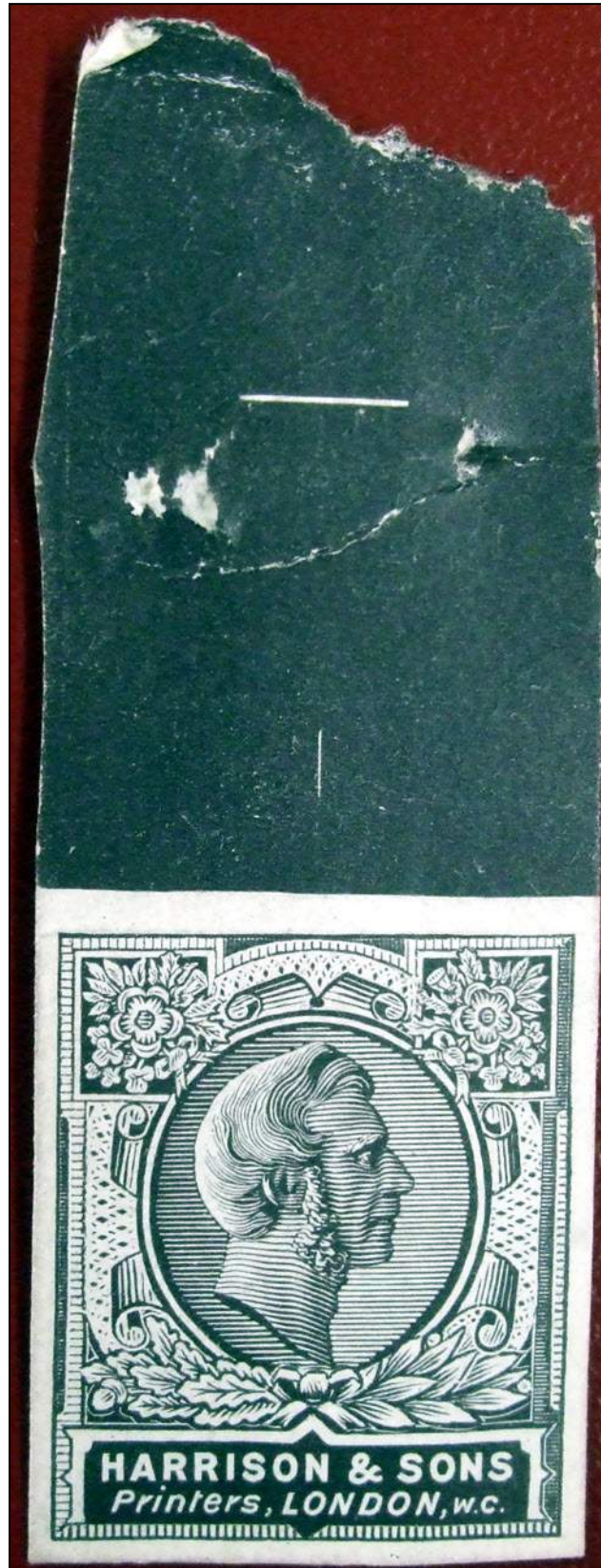
Sincere thanks are offered to the helpful staff of the City of Westminster Archives Centre in London (www.westminster.gov.uk/services/libraries/archives) for supplying the *Harrison and Sons Collection* files for examination and for granting permission for photography and subsequent reproduction within these pages.

Letter from Thomas Macdonald to Harrison & Sons dated 19 April 1912.

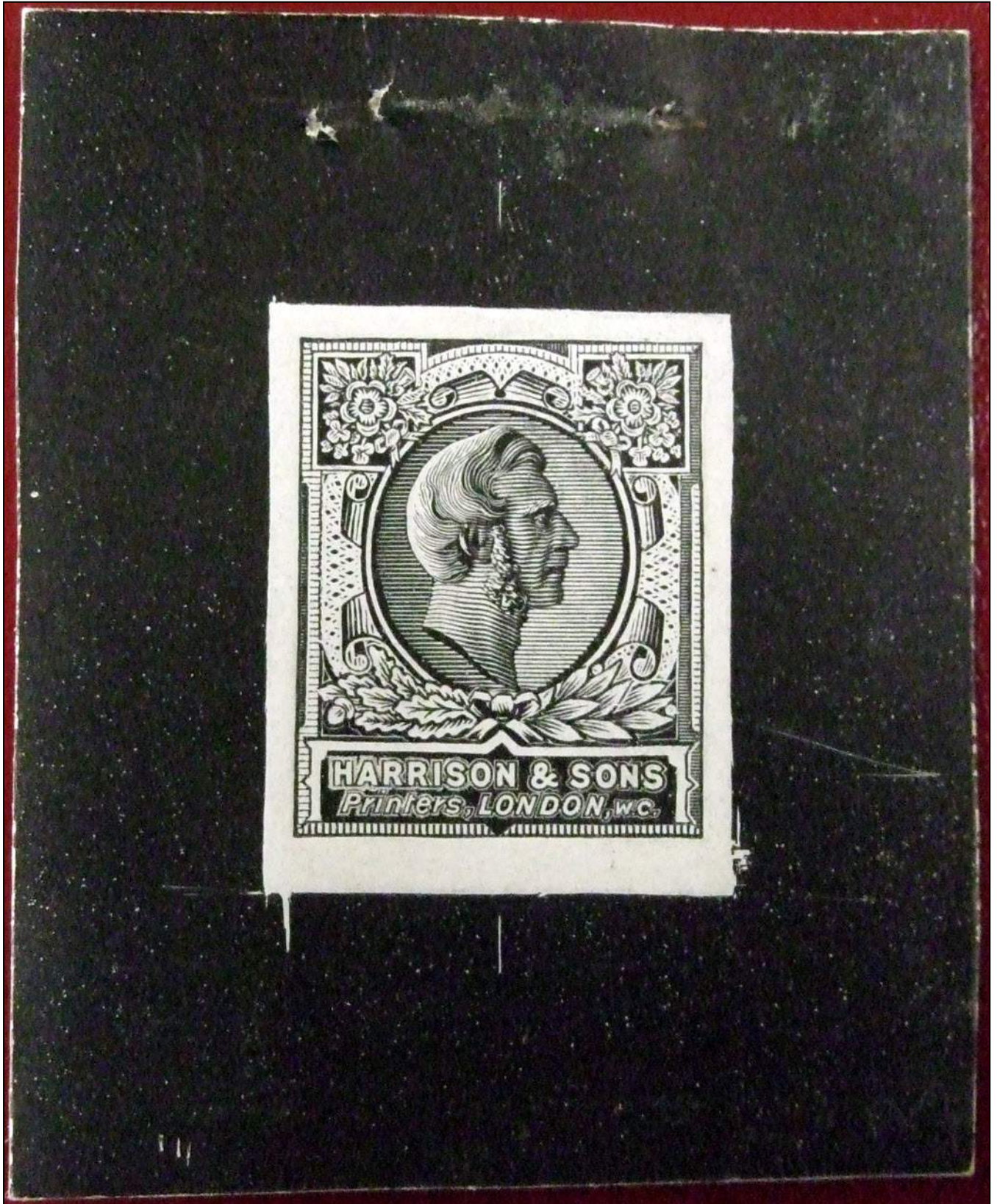
"Gentlemen, Herewith I send you a proof of your die after the alterations to the lettering. It has been a very difficult alteration to make without injury to the die, but now it is done you will notice the words are stronger than the first time and it shows the letters well, while the solid portion is reduced in effect. The die will be hardened with our next die hardening in a few days and sent on to you. Yours very truly, Thomas Macdonald." (Three die proofs were attached to rear of letter by paper-clip.)



Original proof with small, thin lettering for the word 'Printers', etc.



**Interim proof between original and altered.
Area around lettering not completed.**

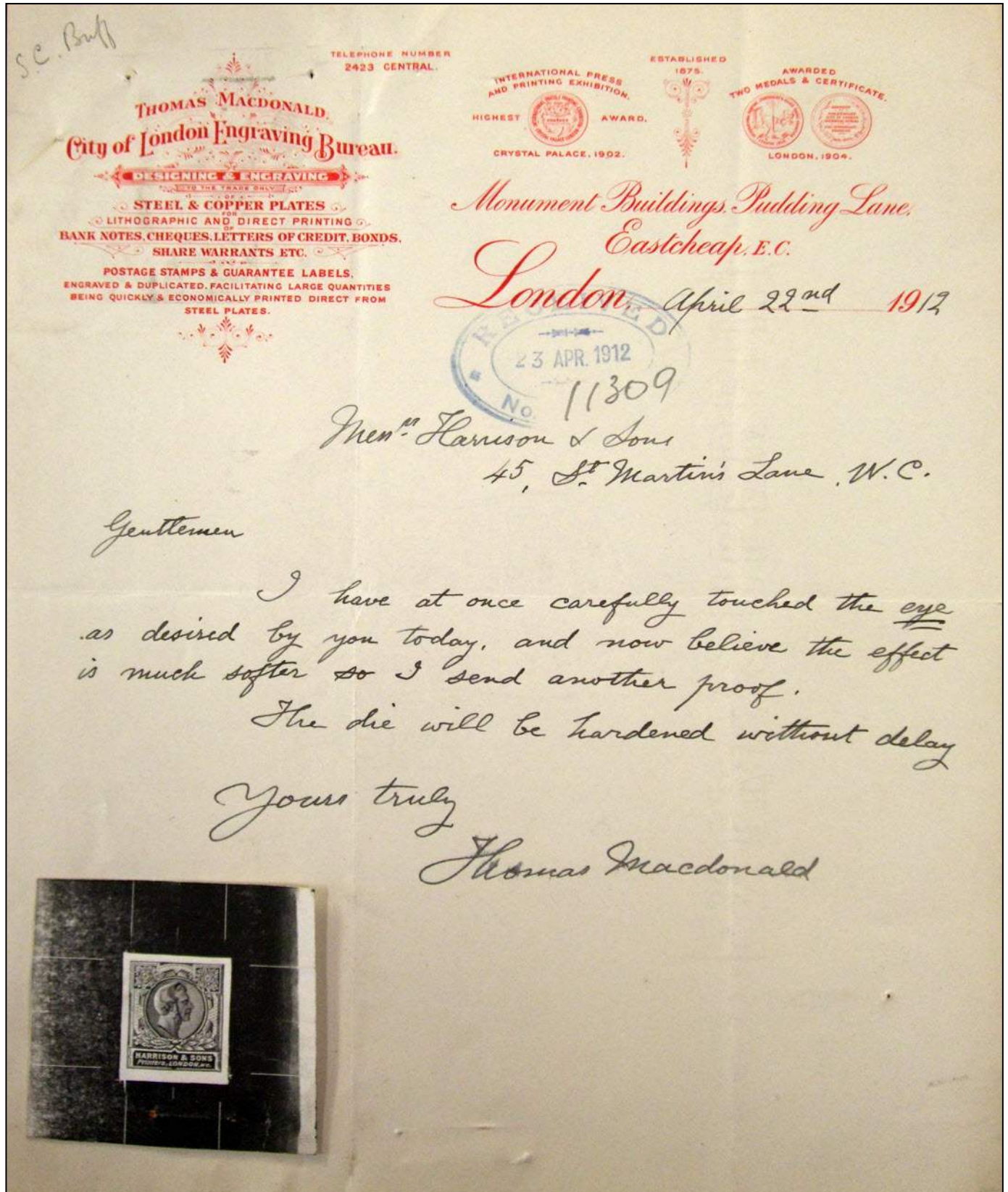


Altered proof with larger wording of 'Printers', etc.
Eye not as Harrison wanted.



Letter from Thomas Macdonald to Harrison & Sons dated 22 April 1912.

"Gentlemen, I have at once carefully touched the eye as desired by you today, and now believe the effect is much softer so I send another proof. The die will be hardened without delay. Your truly, Thomas Macdonald."
(One die proof was attached to rear of letter by paper-clip. It was placed onto the letter prior to photographing.)



**The final proof, as used for the issued dummy stamp,
with the eye 'softer', as requested by Harrison.**

(The scratches in the cartouche are presumably caused by the paper-clip. They are not a die fault.)



Summary of the die proofs and a comparison with the issued dummy stamp.

The items shown below are cut-outs from the complete items depicted on the preceding pages to enable direct side-by-side comparisons to be made between each stage of the development of the dummy stamp die.



Original proof with small, thin lettering for the word 'Printers', etc.



Interim proof between original and altered. Area around lettering not completed.



Altered proof with larger wording of 'Printers', etc. Eye not as H&S wanted. Bottom rule weak.



The final proof pull, as used for the issued dummy stamp, with the eye 'softer', as requested by Harrison and Sons.

(The scratches seen above in the cartouche area were presumably caused by the paper-clip. It is not a die fault.)



An issued dummy stamp printed by letter-press. The paper used did not give such a crisp impression as that used for the proofs.

In any event, the dummy stamp was soon withdrawn at the request of the GPO for too closely resembling a postage stamp.



Much later, a photogravure version of the same design was produced, which used a coated paper enabling the design to be seen at its best at last.

The GPO appears not to have objected to this second version, or never saw one!



Dummy Stamps

Issue 31

A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material

Quarter 3, 2013

Walsall Lithographic Became Stamp Printers Half a Century Ago

2013 marks important anniversary for the famous West Midlands stamp printer

The Walsall Lithographic Company was founded in 1894. Walsall as a town was renowned for its leather products in the 19th century and Walsall Litho was originally established to print catalogues for the harness and saddlers businesses. It was the purchase of a German letterpress 'seal' stamping machine in 1913 that indirectly was to lead to the first stamp contract fifty years later.

Despite a wide product range prior to 1963, stamps had never been offered by this specialist label printer. This was set to change when the company was approached to produce a revolutionary new type of postage stamp for the Kingdom of Tonga. The issue was of Polynesian gold coinage and the brief was that they had to resemble the coins.

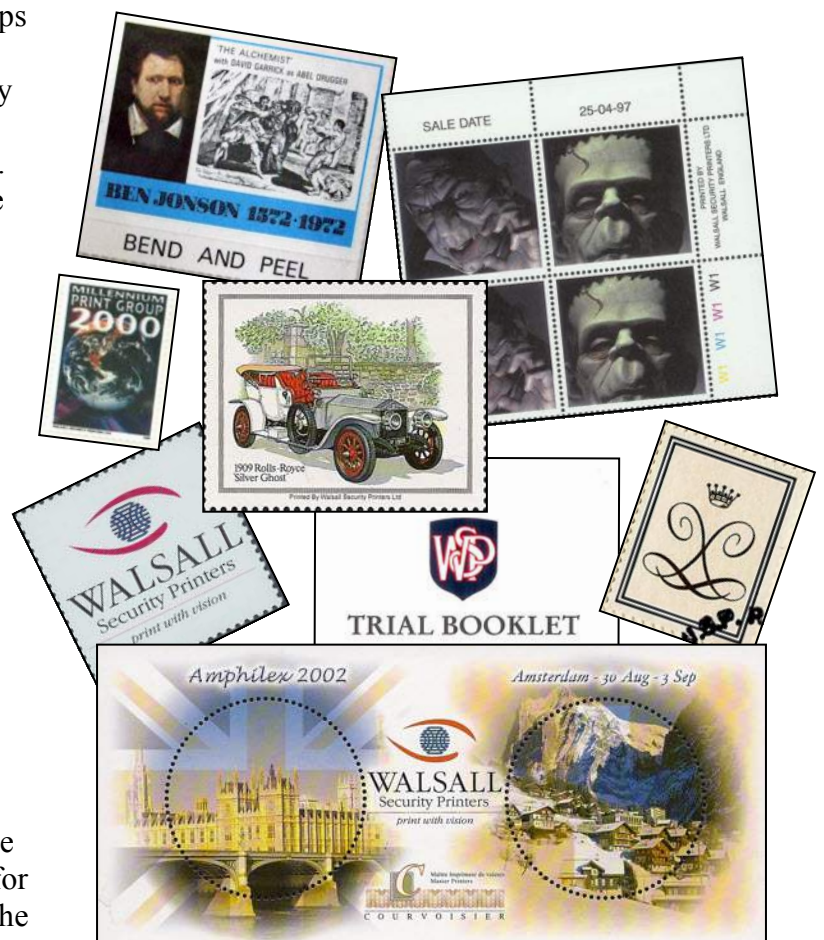


One of the issued water-activated Tongan Polynesian Gold Coins stamps from 1963.

In a move that they may later privately have come to regret, De La Rue had recommended Walsall for the job, as DLR did not feel they could produce the stamps. This year, owing to a move of premises by DLR, WSP was again to produce an order, this time for Royal Mail stamps, where the required delivery schedule had prevented DLR from fulfilling.

Trial runs must presumably have been undertaken to perfect these stamps, but none have been seen by your compiler. There is a recollection of unissued colours entering the philatelic market, but no gold-foil dummy stamps, as such, are recorded.

Congratulations are offered to Walsall on reaching this important company milestone. In celebration, a selection of their dummy items are depicted here.



Note that Walsall Security Printers Ltd (WSP) was established in 1966 to concentrate on the specialist skills required for postage stamp printing, as this aspect of the business was becoming important, as it continues to be to this day. ☒

The Tribal House Dummy Stamp is not from Indonesia, but from Britain

Following on from the Norwegian Grieg story in DS29, a further 'foreign' dummy stamp that was printed in the UK

Those familiar with foreign dummy stamps, and Indonesian ones in particular, will be familiar with a design depicting a tribal house in front of which stand a couple in traditional costume. These have always been attributed to Indonesia, and do have a connection there as will be read below, but were actually printed in Britain, or more specifically London.

Independence from the Netherlands was declared on 17 August 1945 and acknowledged on 27 December 1949, so was a fledgling country when in 1954 the Indonesian government was looking to purchase a stamp printing press to establish a local means of printing its stamps and approached Chambon. Whether that was Chambon in France, or Chambon in London is unclear, but the latter seems more likely in view of the location used for printing the dummy material. What better way for Chambon to demonstrate the quality of its five-colour photogravure printing presses than with a dummy stamp - one of the primary purposes for this type of interesting collectable.

The item bears the date year of 1954 spread in two halves on either side of the main image, while across the foot is the phrase 'TIDAK BERLAKU', which translates into English as 'PRINT AND PACK', known to be the name of the local Chambon agent in Indonesia at the time.



Left to right: dummy stamp, a 'missing yellow' version and postcard using same design, but mono-coloured.

The dummy stamp measures 21mm x 28mm and is perforated 13. They were printed in sheets of 100 (10x10) and the sheets have no marginal markings other than a machine applied six-digit serif consecutive number printed in black ink below dummy stamp number 99 in each sheet (number 085738 has been seen in an article, but there is no guarantee that the serial number printing started at 000001, as that is an awful lot of dummy stamps!). Single copies sell for up to €30 on the few occasions they are seen for sale.

Your compiler has not seen actual multiples, although they do exist of course, but it is stated in the philatelic press that the paper is too thin for the purpose of printing stamps and that they are known to split along the perforations rather too readily, so buyer beware! It may also explain the lack of blocks seen for sale.

Even rarer than the dummy stamps are the dummy postal stationery postcards. These were printed on a lightly coated white card stock in a single colour bluish-grey to the same design as the dummy stamp and measuring 147mm x 99mm. Only the face of the postcard bears any printing. The wording translation into English is obvious and reads POSTCARD, NAME AND ADDRESS OF SENDER and ADDRESSEE. They sell for around €45 in fine condition, with a French specialised catalogue value of up to €200.

It is understood, that Chambon ended-up selling two of its presses to the government and these dummy stamps and postcards are rarely seen. This is largely because they do not bear a country name and the company name is unknown to most collectors and so they tend to be found lurking in dealers boxes of 'odd stuff', or are given a fanciful name in online auction sales, making searching difficult. They deserve a higher price-tag, as they are an important part of the early post-independent philately of Indonesia.

STOP PRESS - Aerogramme now known to exist. Size: 195mm x 308mm. Stamp: as postcard. Not seen. ☒

Feedback from DS29

The information keeps on coming...

CSE 1879 Tender Essays

A reader writes:

“Glenn, Great find at City of Westminster Archives!

With regard to the Skipper & East 1879 Tender, the essays were designed by Alfred Benjamin Wyon, I think. I'm doing some research on the Wyon family, the last member Alan Gaidener Wyon became vicar of Newlyn. His wife gave the family archives to Cambridge University, however AGW had previously given all the stamp essays to a Charles Hoare, a Penzance stamp collector, the above essays appeared at Cavendish's auction of 25 January 2012 when the collection of GB Essays of Frank & Peter Thompson was auctioned.

I am writing something for *Stamp Lover* (the journal of the National Philatelic Society) on it as this Charles Hoare got a medal from the Junior Philatelic Society in 1949 for some other essays that ABW did of Spain 1876.”

If any reader can help with the above research being undertaken, then do please make contact and any information will be passed on.

De La Rue Effigy Dummy Stamps

A French reader new to *Dummy Stamps* newsletter kindly wrote in about the green label described in *DS29*. He states that it was printed in France by Chambon using héliogravure (photogravure) during a test carried out to sell stamp presses to De La Rue.

He states that here is also a further example printed in France in blue that is different to the British-printed blue example, again in photogravure.

The comment is made that the two French printed ones are common in French dealers stock, in the same way that the two British-printed examples are common in Britain. This makes sense, although the French ones are quite hard to get anywhere in your compiler's opinion, at least from dealers accepting online payment.

Our reader appended a scan of the four dummy stamps, as seen here across the foot of this page. (a) and (b) are British, (c) and (d) French. (a) is printed by lithography, (b), (c) and (d) are by photogravure.

It is difficult from the scan to see the difference between (b) and (d), the latter of which has a price-tag three times that of (c).


On page six of this issue is another piece about Chambon and DLR. It is therefore just possible that anyone having access to multiples of the British and French dummy stamps described here may spot a similar difference between them, such as in the perforation format or marginal inscriptions.

De La Rue 1851 Great Exhibition Envelope

A scan of the 1851 dummy envelope is shown here.

The flap reads: “MACHINE FOLDED AND GUMMED BY THOMAS DE LA RUE & CO. / AT THE GREAT EXHIBITION 1851.”

A nice item to put with the 1951 version in *DS29*.

philamercury.com/viewimg.php?id=25025 



2012 Olympics Birds Trial

Can any reader expand on what appears below?

If collectors of British stamps wish to keep up with all that is new in their chosen field, then they turn to the website run by Norvic Philatelics. Their blog is to be found at <http://blog.norphil.co.uk/> The site regularly contains information that is not to be found elsewhere, or at least not until much later.

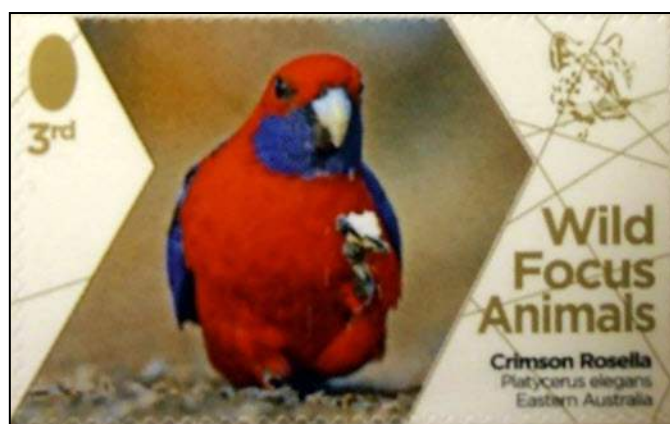
All text and imagery below appears with the kind permission of Norvic's webmaster, Ian Billings. The quality of the scans, while not the best, is what Ian was supplied with and we are grateful for having the chance to share them within these pages.

The inscription indicates that they were used to test the overprinting process, see the text 'Leopard Heading - Overprint text trial' at the left.

The Leopard head is in place of the Olympic / Paralympic logo. At the foot of the stamp the Royal Mail logo takes the place of Olympic / Paralympic logo in the margin, and the gold text there indicates that the phosphor area is 29mm deep. (Readers will recall that the phosphor is applied only to the white background area, and on the right excludes the area of black text indicating the winner and the event.)

The wildlife design is clearly intended to make them very readily distinguishable from the real gold medal winners stamps (unlike the one used for publicity purposes) but we were told that they were printed, perforated and finished on 100% authentic Royal Mail stock.

We have no way of knowing - and cannot find out - where they were printed, when they were printed, how many (and how many different designs) were produced, or even whether they still exist. We were made aware of these in November last year and tried to find out more but to no avail.



2012 Olympics Birds Trial

(continued)

The source image for the Hyacinth Macaw can be traced to a magazine from Brazil translating as “Building Consciousness - Science - 6th Year - 5th Grade”. Author: Paula, Helder and de Figueiredo; Santos Barbosa Mairy Loureiro dos; Caro, Maria de Carmen. Publisher: Scipione.



Harrison: Paraguay Revisited

Bargains are still to be had...

A reader purchased for £19 the three sheetlets shown here. Interestingly, it is again the red version that is missing from the set of four. The same reader was offered elsewhere all four colours for a whopping £395! ☒



Royal Mail may actually have obtained the image from a photo library and not from the magazine cover, but clearly it is the same picture and reveals the amount of cropping that was undertaken to the chevron-like area on the dummy stamp. The exact image source of the Crimson Rosella bird had not been traced at time of going to print.

Spoof Olympic Stamp

Not something that Royal Mail would approve of...

Reproduced below is a spoof ‘stamp’ allegedly from a firm of solicitors that was stumbled across when looking for proper dummy stamps online. ☒



Harrison and De La Rue: More Archival Finds...

...but not by your compiler this time!

Looking at many photostats made years ago and finally just examined in detail, two British-related items were found in French stamp magazines.

Upon reading, it became apparent that both Harrison and De La Rue had either purchased, or had considered purchasing, French Chambon-branded printing presses.

The articles from 1986 and 1987 both refer to Chambon and its archives, where the discoveries recorded below were found lurking in files by the authors. Komori of Japan took-over Chambon and it now trades as Komori-Chambon, and whether the archive still exists has not been pursued - especially as the content will, in any event, be 99% in French and not GB-related.

The following text and the (poor) black and white images have been taken from the original articles.

Thomas De La Rue Dummy Stamp - Chambon asked for a dummy stamp design from Thomas De La Rue and Co of London, "which used the same kind of machines". A block of four was found in the archives of Mr J F Brun, but it is to Mr J L Trassaert that we owe the discovery of an entire sheet of 50 dummy stamps in the archives of Chambon. The dummy stamps can be recognised because the margins have two perforation holes while the material from the DLR printings made in England using the same Minerva head design (apparently) have just one hole in left or right margins. Note: the article does not mention the colour of the 'French' block (could be red). Printing process assumed to be letterpress.

Does anyone possess 1- or 2-hole marginal copies?



^ Ignore this portion of a French stamp booklet. It has no relevance to this article, but is the result of overlapping in the printed article.



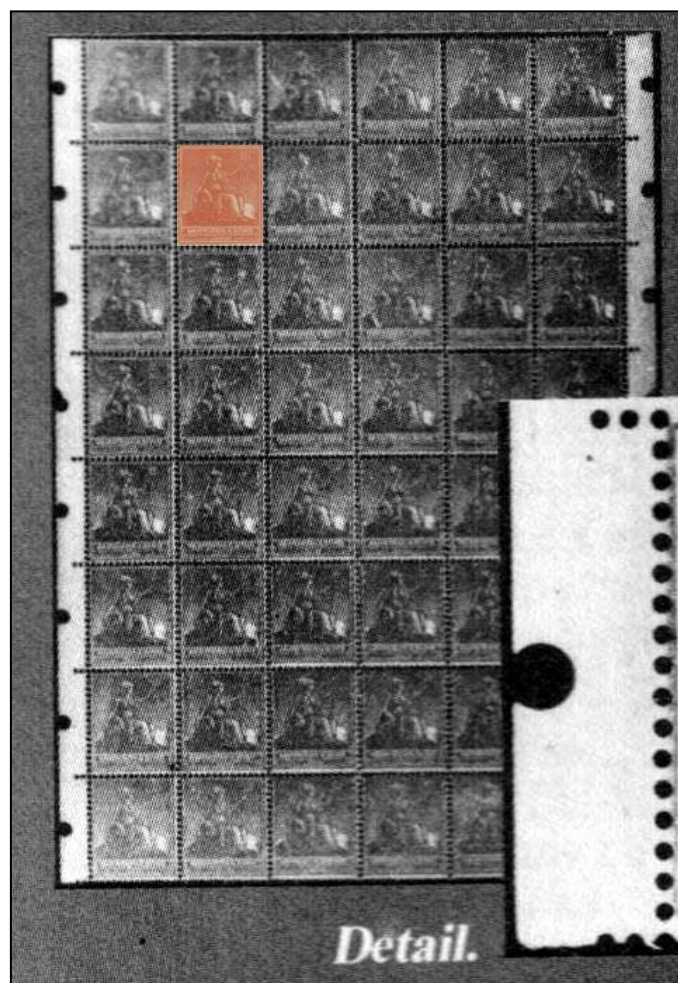
The 'discovery' by your compiler of the above Minerva Head dummy stamp design with Chambon name instead of the De La Rue brand at foot now makes more sense. This Chambon type has not been seen recorded in any French catalogue or magazine .

Harrison & Sons Dummy Stamp

The second article states that a "most curious item was discovered" in the archives - a fragment of 48 dummy stamps (8 x 6) of a Harrison design (Britannia Head). Note: Article does not mention the colour of the 'French' block (but see next page). Printing process assumed to be letterpress.

The article suggests that "by trimming into blocks of six, we obtain the same kind of panes that are in French stamp books of 30 of the 10c type 2 Sower".

It seems likely that the format of the sheet was indeed related to stamp booklet production at Harrison and Sons in some [unknown] way.



Harrison and De La Rue: More Archival Finds... (continued)

Maintaining scans and paper records for your chosen philatelic field is always sensible and a chance find among the archives of your compiler came up trumps when a scan of an auction lot was found.

The German auction description stated nothing but the obvious, so did not expand our story. However, the image does show the colour to be orange and the margin to have two holes, implying that it was printed by Chambon in France if the French article is correct.



and finally....

While the Chambon connection is not in any doubt, can any reader expand on, or correct, any of the information recorded above?

Does anyone know for certain that De La Rue and Harrison possessed Chambon presses? If so, between what dates, as the articles fail to date the British material? That said, it is thought to be at some time in the reign of King George V because the dummy designs sent by De La Rue and Harrison to Chambon largely date from that period.

There was no record of the Britannia Head dummy stamp held by the Harrison Company Archivist when he was approached some years back, but he reckoned printed "circa 1910 to 1925". As for the De La Rue Minerva Head design, it is known as having been in use between 1891 and 1925.

References:

La Semeuse Camée by Jean Storch and Robert Francon. *Le Monde de Philatélie* [France], November 1986 issue.

Timbres factices et vignettes d'essai de 1912 a nos jours by Jean Storch and Robert Francon. *Le Monde de Philatélie* [France], February 1987 issue. ☒

Dummy Stamp Booklets

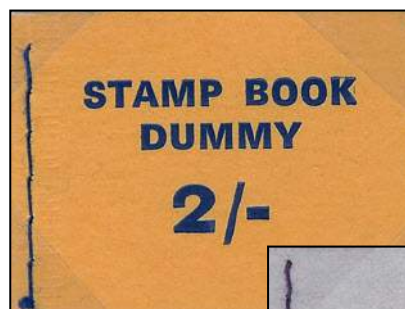
A fascinating (and very large) field of collecting

Rarely touched on in *Dummy Stamps* are the many British stamp booklets that exist in a dummy format, as produced by the stamp printers for production testing of equipment or processes.

This is a massive subject and one that your compiler has been amassing scans of. One day it may be the subject of a handbook, but for now a few examples are illustrated below to whet the appetite. ☒

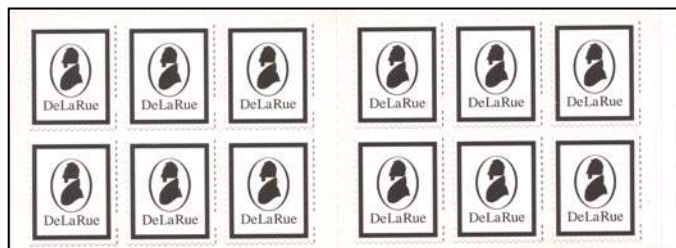
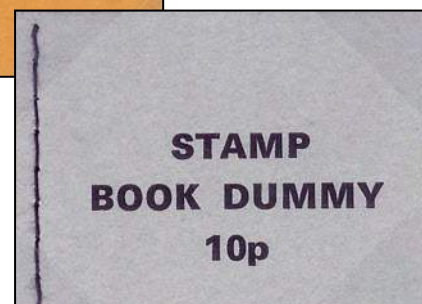


Questa [T]EST BO[OK] wording to cover. Contents comprise six blank unprinted labels with ellipses at top, not bottom.



Pre-decimal 2/- orange and decimal 10p grey cover versions.

Harrison booklets with blank panes of four within.



De La Rue mock-up of a Royal Mail 2nd class booklet.

Harrison: Westminster Archives:

A brief indication of what lies within the files

DS30, with its Westminster Archives 'discovery' resulted in several readers writing in about what else was found in the files that might relate to their own research. While the focus was on dummy stamps, it was a bitterly cold, snow covered day and it proved impossible to get warm, so 'research' was undertaken at a rapid pace, concentrating properly only when the subject matter within DS30 was found.

Your compiler may possibly go back at some point, but this cannot be guaranteed, for while there was lots of fascinating material, he is no longer writing for his living, so will leave it to others to record the rest, should they choose to.

What must be realised is that Harrison appear to have somewhat randomly deposited material at Westminster. There are no long runs of information and, in any event, the purpose appears to have been about depositing their *business* records and not really the philatelic. Almost by accident, possibly, gems do however abound. Even unadopted artwork can be found among the papers.

The information recorded below will hopefully give a flavour of the archive for you. As the files are Westminster City Archives copyright, it is not possible to record anything in proper detail here.

Cecil H Harrison writing on 21 June 1911 to Giles (who Giles was failed to be recorded on the day owing to a brain that was not functioning properly due to the cold!) states: *"Herewith I enclose copies of the new 1/2d and 1d stamp. I am afraid it will not be very much assistance to you as the portrait is to my mind decidedly bad."*

-
We learn that in July 1911 there were 22 regular workers and 12 temporary hands in the perforation department, plus 29 stamp examiners.

-
There are records of waste in 1913/14, plus details of stamps delivered to the GPO.

-
Perforators at H&S as at 22 September 1911 were:

- 2 Grover 480-set
- 1 Grover 480 for books
- 1 Grover 480 (crossed out and marked in pencil
"Delivered to Somerset House")
- 3 Grover 240
- 3 Harrild 240
- 2 Fischer 480

There is a very revealing letter, from 11 August 1910, where Cyril H Harrison writes (in part) to R J Lake, Master Printers Association, EC....

"....May I ask you to ascertain from them (De La Rue) whether they would care to enter into negotiations with us in respect of any of their machinery employed in the stamp contract?"

"While doing so please assure them that the contract was given to us without any aggressive action on our part.

"We found ourselves in a position in which it was difficult to refuse making a tender...."

Talk about Harrison being reluctant GPO stamp printers! This bombshell has probably not been recorded anywhere else in the philatelic literature.

So, clearly there is lots of fascinating information to get your teeth into at Westminster that may well expand our knowledge of the early days of Harrison as stamp printers. Researchers with a good working knowledge of issued stamps will be in the best position to interpret what they are reading.

Elsewhere within this issue of DS are details of the research locations traced that contains material relating to British stamp printers, including Westminster City Archives. ☒

Cartor: Logo on Stamp Margins

First sighting of Cartor logo used on issued material

The current Cartor logo has recently been seen used on the top right margin of a 2005 stamp issued by Iceland that depicts a spider and its web. ☒



(Left)
Multiples of the logo as depicted on Cartor's 2010 calendar front cover.

Harrison and a Connection with Argentinean Stamps Still Unclear

Did Harrison ever quote or print stamps for Argentina?

A regular reader wrote regarding the Republica Argentina Rivadavia 3 centavos item that is forever associated with the NRM trials in Leiden that Harrison took part in during 1923 when creating and learning about how photogravure cylinders are produced.

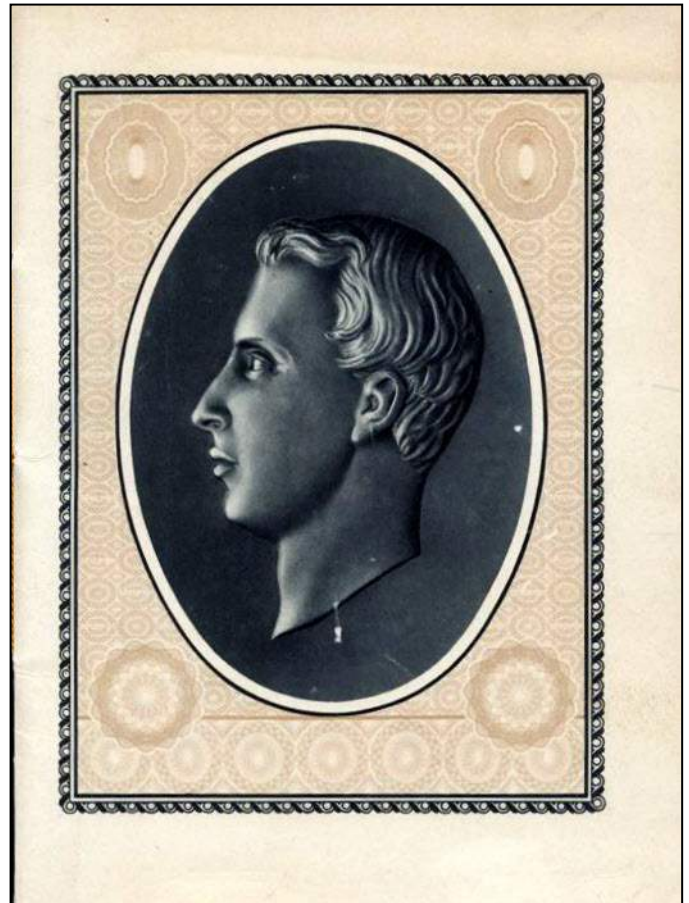


Your compiler has always been a little uneasy about the connection (the Argentinean item is intaglio, for starters), and wondered if this dummy stamp, looking every bit like a true stamp, was simply found in a collection or dealer stock with the NRM items at some point and that it was therefore assumed from that day forward that it was a part of the Dutch trials.

Fortunately, a large collection of worldwide scans is maintained and it was possible by trawling through them to find this dummy stamp in an album created by Harrison containing primarily the Dutch trial material, so it appears to be a legitimate Harrison item. A hand inscription on the front page of a copy held by the Dutch Communications Museum implies that the album was compiled in 1926.

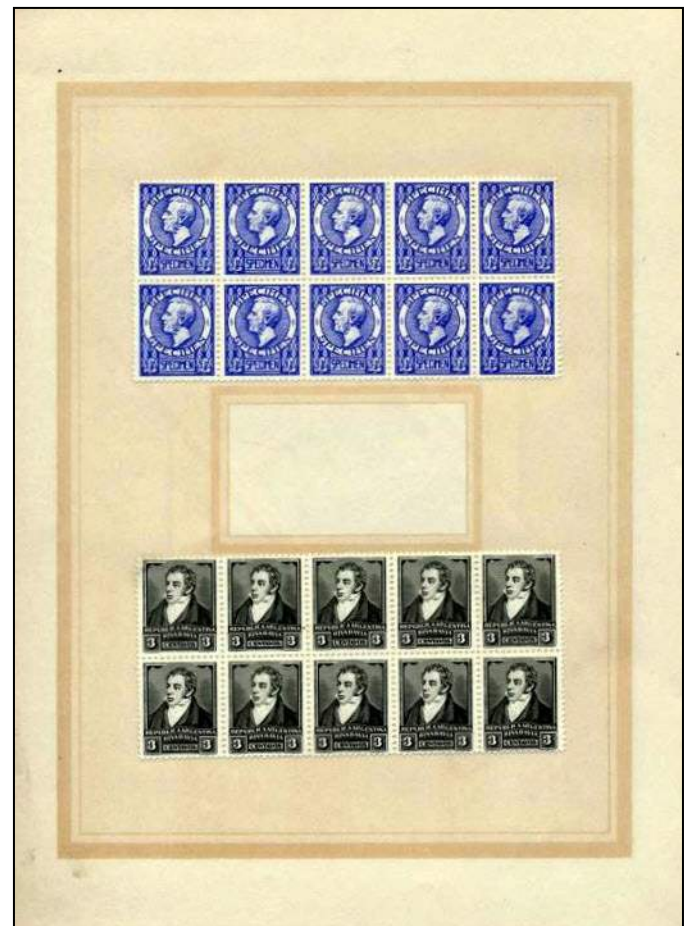
Interestingly, the front cover of the album helps explain the H&S connection, as it is worded:
“**COLLOGRAVURE / RECESS AND SURFACE / PRINTING** / applied to the / Production of / Postage and Revenue Stamps / Bank Notes and Security Work / by / HARRISON & SONS, Ltd. / Printers in Ordinary to His Majesty, / 44-47, St. Martin’s Lane, / London, W.C. 2.”

So, the reason for including an intaglio item is apparent, but the question still remains as to why a dummy stamp from Argentina is within, for it does not appear that there was ever a stamp connection with Harrison and that far off land. Any ideas? ☒



Frontispiece to Album.

The Argentinean Page.



Victory Kidder Stamp Presses

Can anyone confirm the UK dummy stamps connection?

Let's clear one thing up first - it is Victory KiddeR, NOT KiddeN, as is erroneously recorded in search engine results and dealer listings quite often.

The Victory Kidder Printing Machine Company was founded in Birkenhead in the 1800s and for many decades was an honoured name in the world of the graphic arts, with its machinery at one time found all over the world in great newspaper and general printing establishments. In 1947 it was a listed exhibitor at the British Industries Fair, specifically mentioning 'Stamp Printing Machines' as part of its product range. It was eventually absorbed into the Lamson-Paragon Company.



The two colours of dummy stamp shown here have always been attributed to Victory Kidder, and there is nothing to confirm or dispute this, other than the views of philatelists and dealers in various snippets.

A stamp dealer when replying to a question posed by a potential purchaser recently stated that: *"It is a 1945 stamp printed in Cremona and not circulated because it was not officially recognised. This is also the reason for the absence of perforations that were never made because of the private nature of the production. I have no idea about the circulation, nor of who the character is depicted, and even less of its listing as it is not listed in any catalogue of my knowledge. More than that I do not know!"*

The dealer was trying to be helpful, but there is nothing found to indicate 1945, or that it was printed in Cremona, a city in Italy. Most reports indicate UK printers trials dating from circa 1920.

A Hungarian trial design is also known from 1920 printed by V-K, allegedly also in the UK.



In the absence of more information, these Cremona items will continue to be linked to these British-made presses. Unless you know differently? ☒



The largest multiples seen - blocks of 25.

Stamp Printers Archival Material Deposited in the UK

An initial listing

The following archives are known to be deposited around the UK. If any reader is aware of other sources for the companies recorded below, or perhaps knows of records held for printers currently unrecorded here, then do please make contact. Who knows what dummy stamps may be lurking in the dusty files, as proved to be the case with the Westminster City Archive.

The Crown Agents Philatelic and Security Printing Archive

Archive held at: The British Library, Philatelic Collections, London.

Content includes: A wide range of philatelic and written material which were the Crown Agents original working records.

Records between: [to be ascertained]

See: www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelprestype/philatelic/philateliccollections/articles/articlescrown/articlescrown.html

De La Rue plc

Archive held at: University of Reading Library, Reading, Berkshire.

Content includes: Mainly business records, with just the odd philatelic item.

Records between: 1830 and 1965.

See: <http://archiveshub.ac.uk/features/0702delarue.html>

and

Archive held at: The British Postal Museum & Archive, London.

Content includes: The correspondence and day books.

Records between: [Start date?] and about 1940.

See: <http://postalheritage.org.uk/page/gbstamps>

Harrison and Sons Ltd

Archive held at: The City of Westminster Archive, London.

Content includes: Mainly business records, with just the odd philatelic item.

Records between: 1739 and 1971.

See: www.calmview.eu/Westminster/CalmView/Overview.aspx?src=DServe.Catalog

and

Archive held at: The British Library, Philatelic Collections, London

Content includes: Mainly Egypt 1921-22 issue and Palestine 1927-45 issue.
Donated by De La Rue plc in 2002.

Records between: 1921-22 and 1927-45.

See: www.bl.uk

Perkins Bacon & Co Ltd

Archive held at: The Royal Philatelic Society London.

Content includes: 1) Printing warrants, 1840 to 1845.
2) Engraving book, 1837-1840.
3) Daily printing record, 1840 to 1844.

Records between: 1837 and 1845

See: www.rpsl.org.uk/catalogue_pbindex.asp 

DLR and 'Ruritania' Experiments

Has anyone seen these items from this fictional country?

Christie's Robson Lowe sold as a part of its 17 October 1991 sale (lot 1204): "A fascinating series of essays showing the stages in producing a three-colour recess printed experimental stamp, comprising initial photographic scenes (2), rough pencil and crayon sketch, artist's hand-painted stamp size essay on card, and the final engraved three-colour proof on card. Circa 1955. Very fine. Estimate £100." The lot realised £440.

There was a photo of the design in the catalogue, but this was not photocopied at the time. If anyone has this sale catalogue and is willing to make a scan, then this would be much appreciated, please. If you were lucky enough to have bought the lot, then scans of all items would be even better! ☒

Olympic Trial Stamp Used on Mail

It had to happen some time!



The fully perforated and gummed version of the Biker dummy stamp has been found used on piece in kiloware with a totally indistinct inkjet machine cancellation giving no indication as to where it was posted from. The mint version is illustrated above. Acknowledgment: <http://blog.norphil.co.uk/> ☒

Harrison : A Further Sample Page Found

Variation to labels

It is not unusual for modern printers' presentation packs to contain a varied mix of stamps in the same basic folder. The same clearly applied many years ago also, as a reader supplied item alongside in response to DS29 and the Trade Sample booklet that was illustrated. ☒



DLR: Africa Essays

Not all are created equal

www.grosvenorauctions.com/content/blog/Blog-23-01-12.php states that "The AFRICA essays incorporating the head of Minerva, used by De La Rue through the 1890s, have been longtime under-performers although some are as scarce as the popular IMPERIUM trials". They ask "Are all essays in equal demand? Certainly not, there are plenty of poor relations, that remain undervalued". ☒



...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

Mother and Child, plus Virgin on Clouds from De La Rue

Source imagery found

Through a chance conversation at a recent society meeting, your compiler was shown a scan of the source image for one of the earliest and loveliest De La Rue dummy stamp designs. As Christmas is about family, it makes for a nice lead article.



This design has been known as *Mother and Child*, a fair reflection of the subject, but it is officially known as *Madame le Brun and her Daughter* and is taken from a 1789 self-portrait by Louise Elizabeth le Brun with her daughter Jeanne Lucie Louise.

This, and next, dummy stamp may originally have been an essay for 1897 PoW Hospital Fund labels.



(left) The painting on a Mother's Day stamp from Dubai.



(right) self-portrait of Louise on French stamp.



Close-up of DLR engraving.



Mini-sheet from Rwanda showing the full painting on show at The Louvre.



Close-up of the painting.

Knowing that the above design has a companion item referred to by collectors as *Virgin on Clouds*, the source was then sought for this second item.

It was soon located on the Internet*, but no mention of the artist could be found on any website that was using the image. So, having shared the scan with a fellow enthusiast, he went to a London museum where the curatorial staff were able to confirm that it is known as *The Immaculate Conception* and that it was painted by Murrillo, who had created about 18 examples of this image in 1650, with this one being held in the Prado Museum, Madrid.



* drag and drop an image into Google Images browser and it will return any matching, or closely matching, results. A useful tool.



"A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all readers of DS"

Artisan Press and De La Rue

Do dummy stamps exist for this trial run?

While going through hundreds of issues of *Stamp Collecting Weekly* [GB] recently, a snippet in the news pages of its 28 August 1969 issue proved of interest. It had been extracted from the *Bulletin* of the Leicester Philatelic Society, who had in turn first seen it in a print trade journal.

The piece in part read: "De La Rue had won a GPO contract for printing the *Post Office* commemorative stamps by offset-litho. De La Rue ordered, and received, a four-colour sheet-fed press, which was installed at their Gateshead works for this purpose. It is a Roland Rekord type RVKIII having a maximum sheet size of 25 5/8 inches x 38 inches, manufactured by Faber & Schleicher AG out in Germany.

"Before placing this order, De La Rue insisted on tests being made on a Roland press to ensure that it would meet the register requirements necessary for stamp printing. These tests were run at the Artisan Press at Anstey, near Leicester, using gummed paper; test plates and ink were provided by De La Rue."

The obvious questions that spring to mind are what was the test plate design and do copies exist from that trial? The Artisan Press still exists to this day, but it is unlikely that they would have any records on the trial, which would have no doubt been accomplished in one shift working.

Does this project ring any bells with anyone who reads *Dummy Stamps*?

BW Bearded Briton

Die proof surfaces

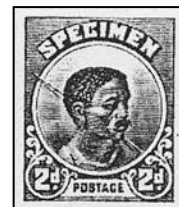
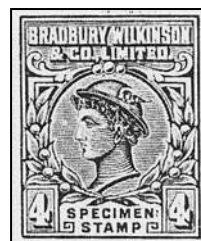
An attractive die-proof of the Bradbury, Wilkinson Bearded Briton design was recently sold. ☒



Help Needed re Several Bradbury, Wilkinson Dummy Items

No man is an island....

Can anyone supply scans of the following dummy items from Bradbury, Wilkinson, please, as only these poor photostats have been seen. ☒



DAVAC Gumming

A new gum from 1963 aided production of Gold Coins

In issue *DS31*, your compiler used the term ‘water-activated’ to describe the gumming used on the Tonga Gold Coins stamps. This is the term that is invariably used by stamp printers to signify stamps that require either saliva or a wet sponge to activate the gum on the reverse. This term was unfamiliar to more than one reader, so if you were one of them, it is now hopefully clear to you.

Space on the front page prevented full details of what was then a new gum type from being described, for while the Tongan issue was water-activated for sure, it actually comprised a new invisible gum called DAVAC. The producers, Samuel Jones, wrote at the time.....

DAVAC is a clear, matt adhesive. Made and pioneered by Samuel Jones for Walsall's Tonga coins of 1963. A suspension of discrete particles of adhesive in a non-aqueous solution of a resin binder, which is then coated on a paper and the solvent dried off. This leaves a paper, on the surface of which lie the small individual particles of the water soluble adhesive anchored to the body paper by a small proportion of resin. On moistening, the binder permits the water to permeate through to the adhesive particles, so giving a tacky gummed film indistinguishable from normal gumming.

The advantage of DAVAC is that it does not cause the paper to curl under extreme climatic conditions. It also enables specialised papers and foils to be used, which could not normally be processed by mechanical non-curling processes.

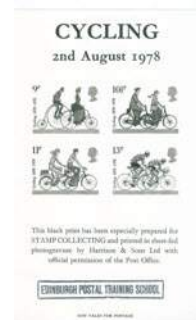
The “mechanical non-curling processes” that are referred to above are the ‘gum-breakers’ used for normal paper production. The reel of paper is drawn across steel blades, or similar, under tension resulting in minute gaps between the particles of gum that allows the paper to expand or contract depending on climatic conditions without causing a curling of the substrate - the bane of postal counter clerks and collectors. On most stamps, this process is invisible to the eye when examining the gum on the issued stamp, but on some German, American and possibly stamps from other countries as well, there are colourless lines across the gum at intervals that serve the same purpose.

The Tonga gold-foil stamp substrate was too thick to pass across the steel blades without causing damage before printing, hence the new gum.

DAVAC was also used on two issues of stamps from Canada, but as these comprised normal thickness paper, it may explain why they did not continue with this gum type. However, it fails to explain why the Canadian printers ever bothered with DAVAC-gummed paper in the first place, as there are no obvious benefits when used on normal thickness paper. ☒

More eBay Rubbish

Continue to be vigilant when buying on eBay



eBay continues to be a great source for philatelic items, but also a place where vendors sell material that is not that which it purports to be.

The item alongside has never seen the inside of a training school, so do not purchase. ☒

Waterlow specimen dummy stamps surface for the first time

Exercise caution when buying

A couple of examples of the Lady with the Torch design have been seen for sale with a SPECIMEN overprint in black.

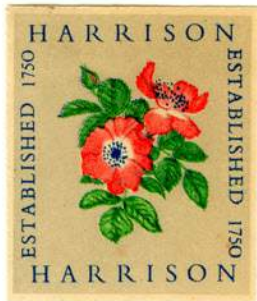
They appear to be “right”, but as they have not been seen, examine closely before buying. ☒



Interesting Finds since the Previous Issue of Dummy Stamps

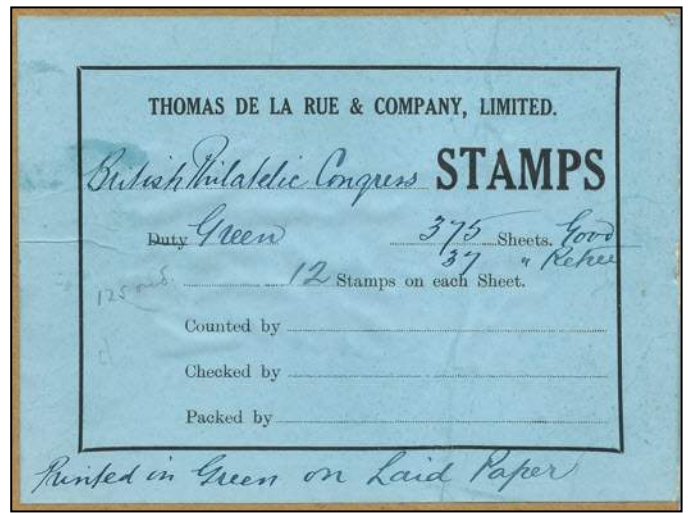
.....and still they keep coming

With thanks to those readers who supplied scans. ☒



The Harrison Alexandra Rose design has been seen in an imperforate condition.

It is just possible that all colours exist imperforate, but having never seen these until now it seems unlikely.

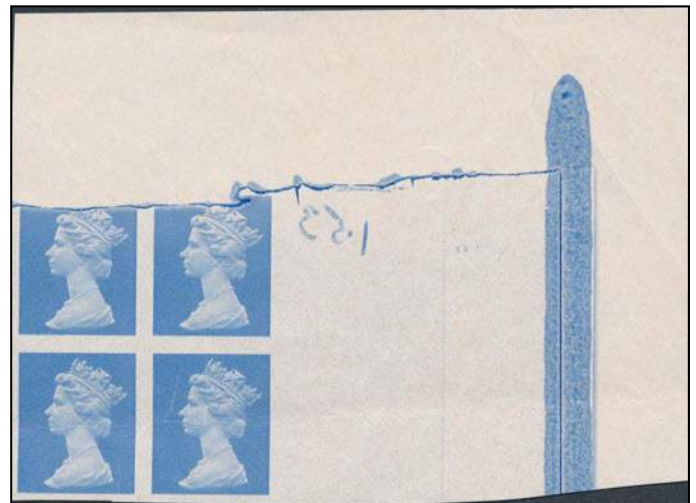


It is unusual to find box end labels, this being for the Postman's Knock Philatelic Congress of GB design dating from 1933.



All three of these £20 dummy stamps are modern prints.

Worded FAKE on reverse, they may still fool some, so if offered this design for under a fiver... beware!



Harrison Jumelle trial block.



These Broadway Cinema labels recycled the Arms dummy design.



Previously unrecorded, both values (3d / 6d) were printed in brown, surely making correct selection at point of sale difficult?

Contained in a book of Trade Stamps printed by Harrison with the Patriots label at centre. All overprinted in blue 'SPECIMEN'.

The cinema was in Waltham Green, Fulham and closed in 1955. ☒

International Security Printers to Relocate Printing away from Walsall

Exciting new plans to relocate the Midland Road, Walsall, premises to the i54 site at Wolverhampton

Many months ago, your compiler became aware, through idly surfing the web one afternoon, of a planning application that would relocate ISP's British stamp printing premises away from the town of Walsall to a new site known as i54, which is in Wolverhampton. It was thought best not to comment before now but as the press were advised in November the information can be freely shared with those who have not heard.

ISP intends building a seven-figure state of the art security stamp printing facility on five acres of land at the i54 site. Initially comprising 70,000 square feet, it has the flexibility to expand by a further 30,000 square feet if demand for its stamp products continues to increase in the future.

The 80 staff will be relocating from Walsall following completion of the new building in 2014, enabling it to seamlessly continue its core production of printing self-adhesive stamps, where more than 60% of total output is destined for overseas, including major contracts for postal administrations in Europe and Japan.

Speaking about the move, ISP's managing director Paul White said to the press last month: *"This is a major investment and key strategic acquisition for the company. The new manufacturing premises on the prestigious i54 site, coupled with an ambitious programme of investment in state of the art printing technologies will provide us with a firm foundation from which to expand our business operations.*

The proximity of the site to key transportation networks will be invaluable in efficiently servicing UK, European and global clients."

The new building was designed by Wolverhampton architects Tweedale and is to be constructed by A & H Construction of Halesowen, thus giving a major boost to two further locally-based companies.

For ISP to make this major financial commitment to new premises is proof that they see stamps as a part of daily life for many years to come, despite those who talk of the imminent demise of the postage stamp. (The meter franking machine was to have killed-off stamps in the 1920's, so nothing changes.)



When Walsall Security Printers Ltd acquired Cartor, a new company named International Security Printers Ltd was set up to head up both of these trading companies offering the services and combined resources of both manufacturing plants to its clients.

(above and right) Visuals of the new premises. All wording and use of imagery on this page has been approved by ISP.

Your compiler wishes International Security Printers Ltd well in this exciting new venture. ☒



Bradbury, Wilkinson Album

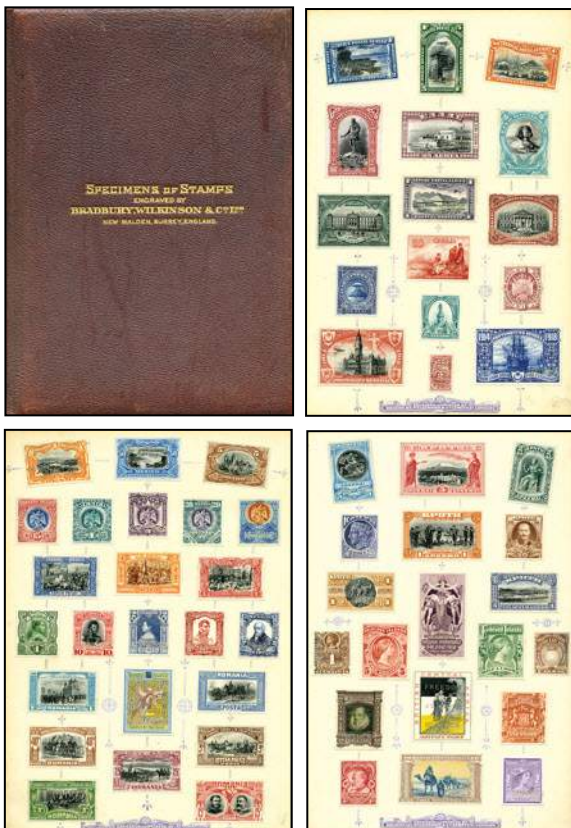
A rare opportunity to purchase samples

An attractive album is on offer as these words are being typed. The lot description reads:

Presentation book by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. containing imperforate colour trials and essays of various countries, each perforated "SPECIMEN," including:

- Belgian Congo 1920 airmail set of 4 in issued colours.
- British Central Africa Freedom, Justice, Commerce revenues.
- British East Africa 1890-94 8a in brown.
- Chile 1894 1c in brown.
- Crete 1905 & 1907 values in unissued colours.
- Egypt 1906 5m Sphinx and 10m Bedouins & Camels essays.
- Falkland Islands 1898 2s6d in green and 5s in red.
- Greece 1913 25l in unissued colours.
- Mexico 1899 and 1910 values in unissued colours (16).
- Romania 1906 values in unissued colours (2 with different central design to that issued) and 1906 semi-postal with value.
- Salvador 1903 MarozÁ;n monument 12c in unissued colour and two fiscals.
- Serbia 1915 King Peter & Staff 25p in unissued colour.
- Spain 1916 Cervantes issue set of 4 in unissued colours.
- Turkey 1914 (14) plus 2 postage dues in unissued colours.

However, it is the final part of the offering that interests us here, namely: "Specimen dummy stamps depicting Mercury and King George V*, and vignettes with Portsmouth Memorial & Portsmouth's Heroes vignette and Milan 1906 Exhibition vignette."



These enlargements are too large for clear rendering and are becoming pixilated. However, they do show that the dummy stamps are indeed pin-perforated at foot SPECIMEN.



* Actually King Edward VII!

Described as a "wonderful item for the connoisseur", the lot bore an estimate of € 10,000 - € 15,000. ☒

200 Years of De La Rue Banknote

No stamps, but an attractive Guernsey banknote. ☒



...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 33

A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material

Quarter 1, 2014

Questa's Chichester Printing is Reported in the Collection of a DS Reader

This exciting new discovery has been verified as genuine by an ex-Questa Director at the recent Spring Stampex

In an earlier issue of Dummy Stamps, mention was made of a Questa printed Chichester trial proof. This lead article takes details from that original piece and now incorporates additional information and images.

Think back to 1967 when Sir Francis Chichester was commemorated on a GPO stamp. Now study the image below and decide what is different to any copy that you might own, while ignoring that the scan is imperfect!



If you cannot readily find a difference, it is that the GOAMAN and HARRISON imprints normally found in the bottom margin are absent and the overall look is brighter. Why? The House of Questa also officially proofed this stamp to show-off the quality of its stamp printing capabilities to the British Post Office.

One-time House of Questa director Wally Rodgers recorded a series of three oral history tapes for 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, the transcriber of Wally's words wrote: "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 that they were excellent." (* held by BPMA.)

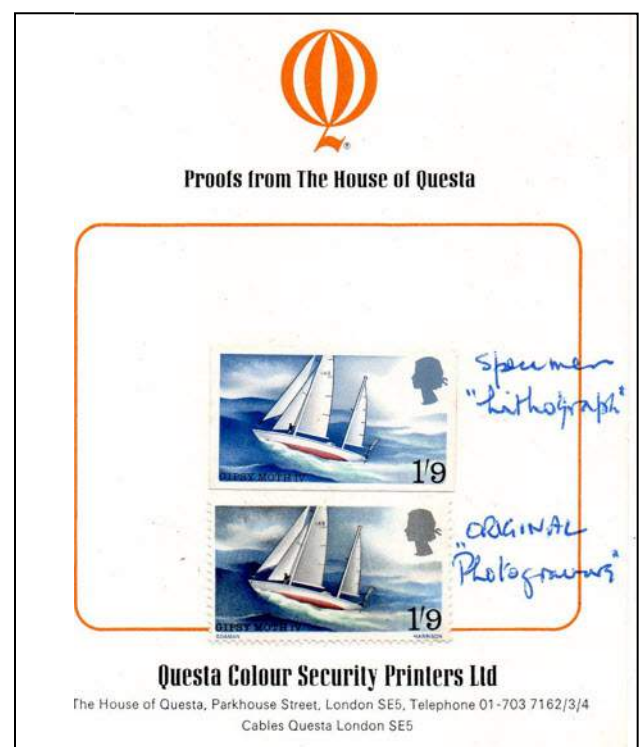
This trial had not been seen before, indeed copies seemed not to have entered the philatelic market, so it came as a surprise when regular reader and supporter

of *Dummy Stamps* Derek Weston came forward with a scan of his Questa proof card, as reproduced here with his kind permission.

The proof is better than the scan implies and it will hopefully be seen that the quality is excellent, indeed it is much better than the Harrison version that Questa have affixed below their proof. Colours are more vibrant, text is easier to read against the sea and the paper is much whiter. In fairness to Harrison, the proof was not part of a multi-million print run, but a controlled item comprising just a few copies.

Derek owns a second card with the proof marked with biro (not seen). This damage probably occurred after despatch from Questa, as any essay not up to standard would have been destroyed before mounting on a presentation card.

While not a dummy stamp, per-se, the chance of sharing this item with readers could not be missed. ☒



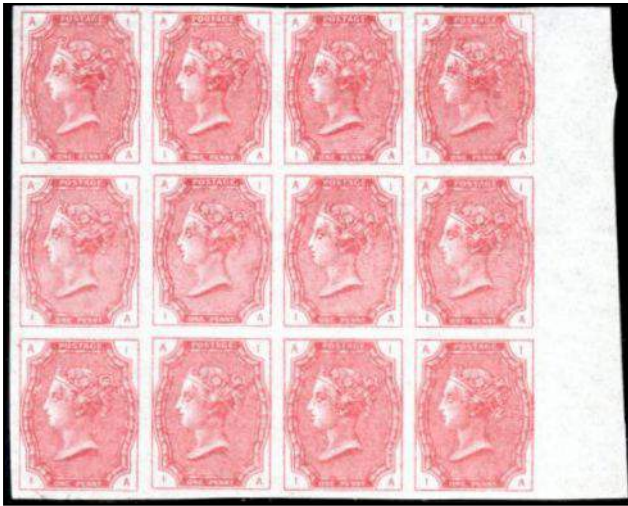
An item of great importance to the story of Questa and its involvement with the printing of British stamps.

McCorquodale Interest is High

Why was there such a demand for this item?

The McCorquodale 1879 tender design below is relatively common and can invariably be obtained for between £10-£20 per copy.

eBay recently sold a block of 12 for £133 (£11 a copy, which is fair enough). The biggest surprise was that this lot attracted a massive 47 bids! ☒



Training Stamps with Controls

Probably the best sheet position to purchase

An attractive pair of King George VI definitive stamps overprinted using letterpress by Harrison with the all-too-familiar training defacement bars are depicted below. These pairs are the first seen by your compiler from this important sheet position that identifies the printing. ☒



More eBay Rubbish

The output continues....

Your compiler is against publicising these items as they are not worthy of inclusion, but they have to be revealed, lest anyone buys under a false pretext.

The De La Rue £20 Oversea (*sic*) Dominions design was included last time. The lot description showed the word FAKE on the back, but copies supplied were *without* this text. They WILL fool some. (The three copies cost 58p for the 'set' and were bought for reference purposes only. A moral dilemma!)

Now from another seller we have the same design but with Jubilee rules in the margins and a price (including P&P) of around a fiver. Not purchased!



These are of far more concern as the paper has been aged and while the reverse states COPY in the auction description maybe the actual items do not have this hand-stamp inscription.

This is a worrying trend.

To end this section, a new faked version of the poached egg label with the addition of four parallel horizontal lines.

This type of overprint was never sanctioned by the Post Office. Buyer beware, as usual. ☒

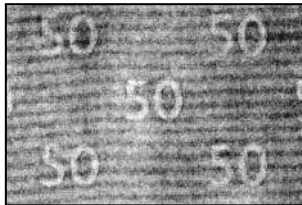


Watermarked Paper Samples

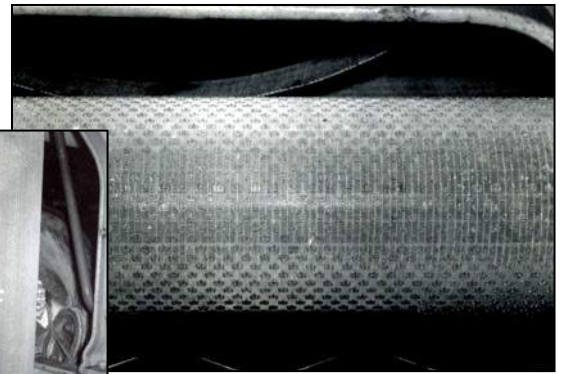
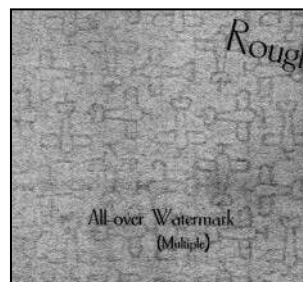
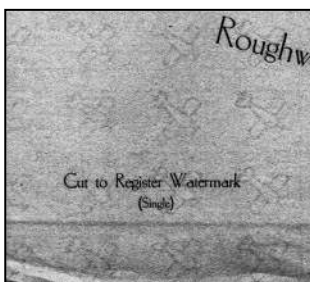
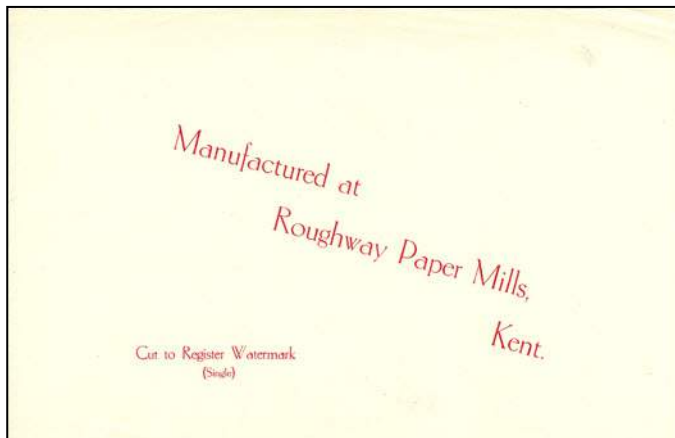
Given away by Royal Mail at exhibitions and in the *Bulletin* in 2002, and by a paper mill in 1923

Many readers will be aware of the use of a watermark device comprising a repeated number 50. It was used on philatelic products marking the Golden Jubilee of the Accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Samples of this paper in an A5 format were given away at exhibitions and bore no printing on each piece. However, a second version exists from similar sized sheets that appeared as a gift in the February 2002 issue of the *British Philatelic Bulletin*. A much reduced A5 sheet appears below, together with an enlargement of the text used.



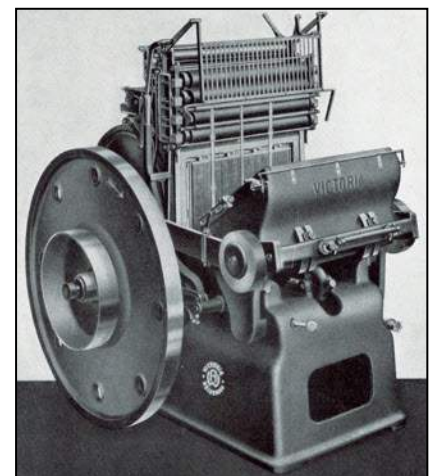
It is not often that such gifts are made and your compiler can only recall one other instance dating back to 1923 by the Roughway Paper Mill in single and multiple watermark bit versions. ✉



A QEII multiple crown watermark dandy roll on and off of the paper making machine. Photo taken by Harrison in the 1960s.

The Victoria Printing Press

New label surfaces depicting this British press



The scan above is sadly severely pixilated (the actual item has not been seen at this time).

It is interesting because it depicts a Victoria platen printing press, as shown on plate **xxxi** of the 1949 book *Postage Stamps in the Making* by John Easton. In fact, the photo appears to be identical to that used on the promotional dummy stamp and was probably the source image. For this reason, it is almost certain that the dummy stamp is of British, not German, origin.

Easton wrote: "*Victoria platen machine. This is used for fine colour printing, and is a great improvement on the earlier types. The ink is distributed by a series of rollers working in pyramid on a drum. The inking rollers are shown, just clear of the type-forme, and about to descend. The three steel fingers in front of the type forme are used for attaching a frisket*.* (Courtesy of Frank F Pershke Ltd.)"

* Frisket definition: a thin metal frame for keeping the paper in position during printing on a hand press.

These presses are of German descent, as originally made by Rockstroh-Werke AG of Heidenau, but they were subsequently (also?) made in the UK by Frank F Pershke of London, a company now shown as being dissolved. ✉

Of Marginal Interest

Error in placement of guide arrow



While these items are not strictly of relevance to these pages, they are interesting.

Your compiler therefore decided to show them here...



... and where else could he have used the play on words! ☒

King George V Post Office Training Stamps

Early instructional school material offered

It is not often that pre-King George VI overprinted British training stamps are offered for sale.



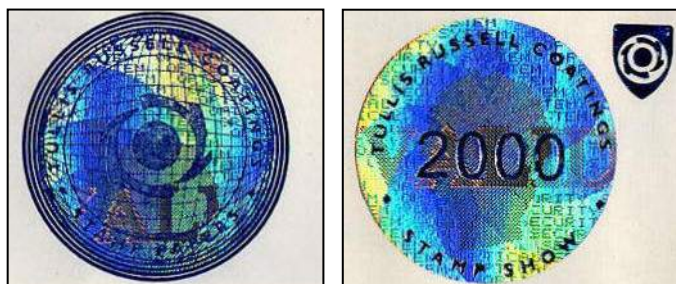
These examples are nice additions to a collection of such material.... assuming that they are genuine. In fairness, they were offered by the British firm of Sandafayre, the well-known auctioneers, so all should be well and they do look 'right'. ☒

Tullis Russell and Polymer Fibres

The results from checking your stamps may surprise you



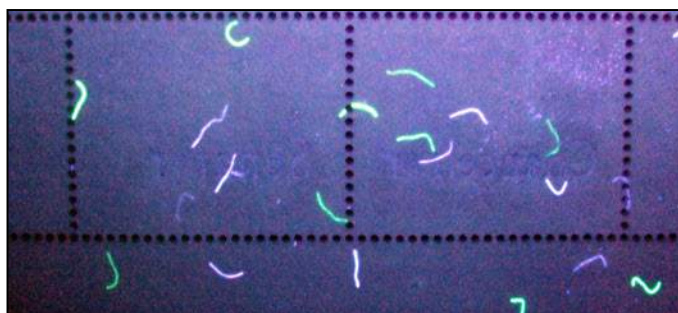
One of the two issued sheets.



Both types of light-refracting foil, as overprinted by navy intaglio ink.

Many readers will be aware of the Tullis Russell sheets that were available at The Stamp Show 2000 (was it really 14 years ago) and that two versions exist. *See both types of the differing foiling used on the full sheetlets.*

Recent examination of these items under Ultra Violet lighting revealed that the paper contains fluorescent fibres on the reverse side only.



They resemble glowing micro-organisms grown by a mad biologist in a Petri dish (a shallow cylindrical lidded dish used to culture cells). They are actually a covert (hidden) security feature to protect the stamp against forgery and comprise fine polymer fibres that are machine readable under UV light. They can be ordered in various colours and lengths.

It always pays to check your stamps - and not just the face, but clearly the reverse also. ☒

Stephen Mayer International (SMI) and its Involvement with the Automation of Philatelic Products

A company with a long history of assisting philatelic bureaux to efficiently prepare packs and covers for customers

If you collect worldwide Presentation Packs (PP) and / or First Day Covers (FDC), there is every likelihood that you possess material created with the assistance of automated equipment produced in the United Kingdom by SMI.

THE COMPANY

The company was founded by the late Stephen Mayer and was registered at Companies House in 1970, initially using the name **Philmec** for each of the machines produced, having obtained the licensing rights for manufacturing the early products from the British Post Office. The **Philmec** product name was later changed for copyright reasons.

Since Stephen's retirement in 1992 the company has been under the ownership of David C Faulkner.

SMI still manufactures bespoke sheet bursting, presentation pack assembly and FDC stamp affixing machinery, although it has to be said that demand is not what it once was. This is in part due to falling demand for philatelic products, coupled with the change-over by many postal administrations to self-adhesive stamps, which can utilise "off the shelf" labelling equipment, often using bespoke coils of stamps instead of sheets for the purpose.

SMI's EARLIEST CUSTOMERS

The first was Jersey in 1984, followed by Norway, Austria, Zimbabwe, Ireland and Isle of Man.

The British Post Office bureau in Edinburgh (now known as Tallents House) was the seventh SMI customer and many other bureaux followed.

THE FIRST MACHINE

SMI commissioned The Monotype Corporation to develop and manufacture the first **Autophix** (then known as **Philmec**) machine in 1981/2.

Development took three years at a cost of around £95,000. Over 30 postal administrations and security printers were to become users of this innovative equipment by 1990.

WHAT FOLLOWS....

The sections that follow describe the types of equipment, their function and the dummy stamps and dummy covers that have resulted. It is thought to be as true and complete a record as is feasible with the passage of time and the demise of the founder.

This article has been seen and approved by Dave Faulkner in advance of circulation of this issue of *Dummy Stamps* and his considerable assistance is acknowledged here with grateful thanks.

STAMP BURSTING MACHINE

How does it work? Well, after feeding in the stamp sheets in batches of 5, the burster will tear off strips as required before transporting them forward for separating into individual stamps or groups of stamps, with the selvedge being removed by a vacuum removal system. As many as 10,000 stamps per hour can be processed, depending on stamp size.

The stamp products are then inserted into hoppers (a.k.a. cassettes) of the presentation pack assembler or FDC affixing equipment for further processing.

The **SB500** bursting product has been used in several post offices, the first of which was Belgium.

No dummy material exists with Stamp Burster branding, as any stamps destined for use in presentation pack or FDC hoppers would have used the unique dummy material created for those products. Today, it is not unusual for sheets of unprinted blank, perforated stamps, as supplied by the relevant postal administration, to be utilised during the testing phases of a new machine.



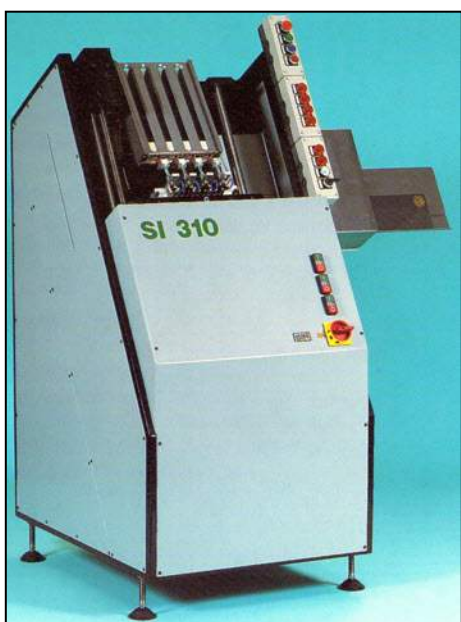
SB500 Stamp Burster

PRESENTATION PACK ASSEMBLY

Presentation pack assembly involves the insertion of stamps under a clear sheet of plastic film that is glued along the bottom edge with a rubber cement to a carrier sheet.

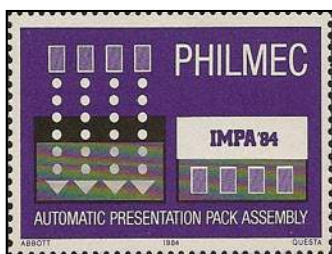
These were for many years separate black cards, but today can be an integral part of the printed pack information folder, or “wrap around” as they are referred to in the philatelic industry.

Insertion is achieved by a row of suction cups that opens up the flap while simultaneously a second row pulls down the stamps from the cassette and inserts.

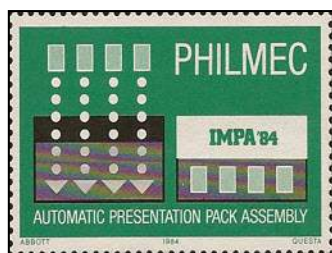


(The small **SI 310** stamp inserter.

The equipment employed for this operation has used different product names down the years. **Philmec**, **Versatile Pack Assembler**, **Autopak**, **Stampac** and the smaller **SI 310 Stamp Inserting Machine** (for customers with low/medium output requirements) being five such names.



SMI-84-1



SMI-84-2

Date: 1984. Designer: Clive Abbott. Printer: House of Questa [GB].



SMI-87-7

Date: 1987. Designer: 'Garnier'. Printer: CPE [Australia].



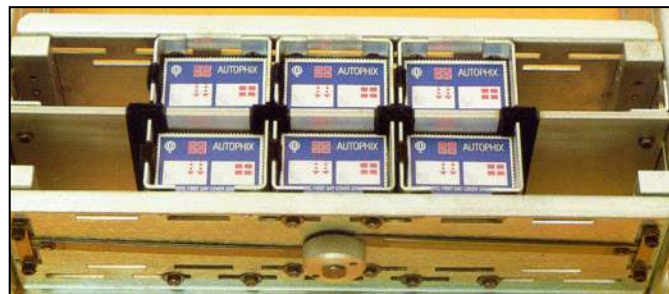
SMI-00-12



Date: c2000. Designer: SMI. Printer: Walsall Security Printers [GB].
The above version in green was used for pack and FDC use.

FIRST DAY COVER STAMP AFFIXING

To process FDCs, the water-activated stamps are loaded into the hoppers and the single or multiple stamps or miniature sheets required for each cover are extracted by a vacuum platen. The stamps are then advanced, moistened, positioned, lowered and pressed home on to the envelope.



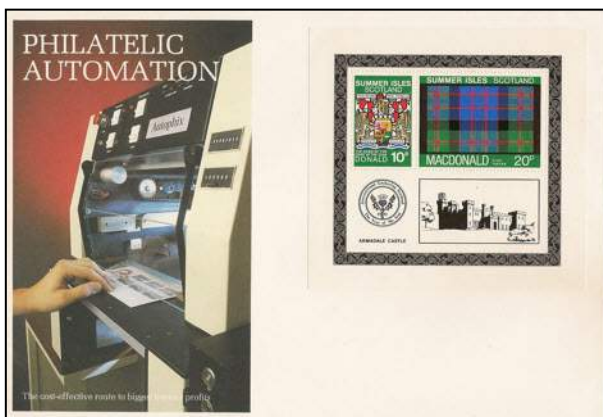
Dummy **Autophix** stamps in their cassettes awaiting affixing.

As with the packs, the FDC stamp affixing equipment has used different product names down the years. **Philmec**, **Autophix**, **Autofix** and **SAM21** being four such names.

A later development saw the optional addition of an auto-feeding device, rather than manual feeding of covers. Postmarks can be applied using a **Super Autophix** machine or **SAM21**, both of which can incorporate an FDI cancelling system.

Jersey was the first purchaser of **Autophix** in 1985, having bought it following demonstrations at IMPA, Hamburg, in 1984. It was used “very successfully” in its first year, from the *Artists VI* stamp issue onwards. Of 33,000 envelopes processed for one issue just four covers were damaged.

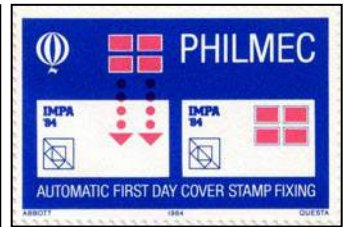
In 2011, the Hong Kong Post Office bought a newly designed model, renamed **Autofix**, with a second machine being purchased the following year.



SMI-84-3



SMI-84-4

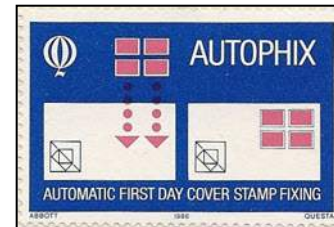


Date: 1984. Designer: Clive Abbott. Printer: House of Questa [GB]. IMPA '84 branded versions.



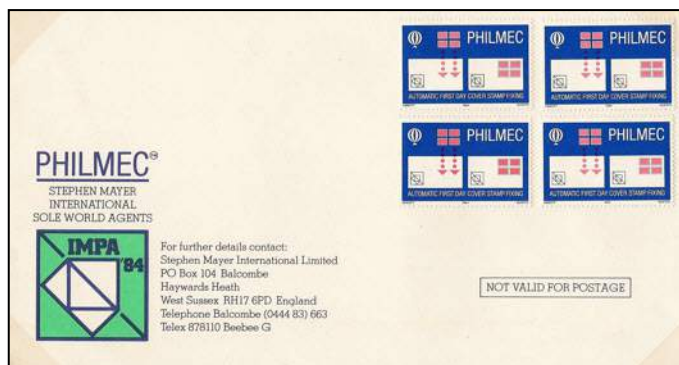
SMI-84-5

Date: 1984. Designer: Clive Abbott. Printer: House of Questa [GB]. Generic post-IMPA version, still retaining show logo on FDCs.



SMI-86-6

Date: 1986. Designer: Clive Abbott. Printer: House of Questa [GB]. Generic post-IMPA version, still retaining show logo, and with change of product name to **Autophix** and 1986 imprint at foot. Machine first seen at the Stockholm 'Posttec' technical postal services exhibition held that year, where SMI and the Norwegian PO designed a stand in Oslo, transporting it to Stockholm for the duration of the show.



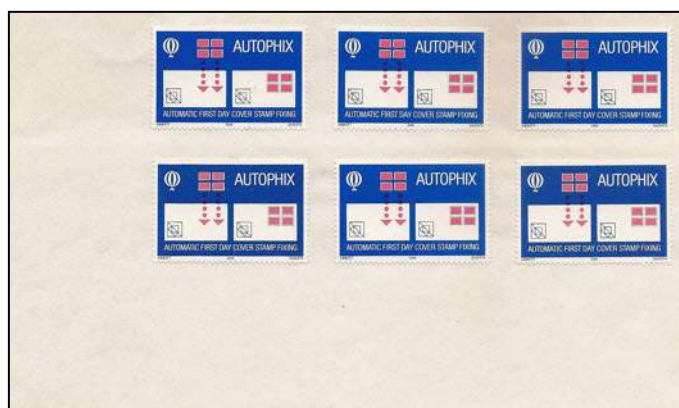
SMI-87-8



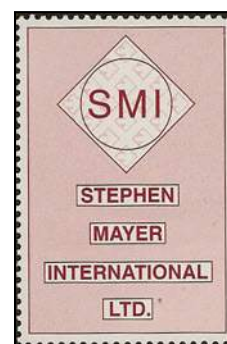
SMI-87-9



Date: 1987. Designer: 'Garnier'. Printer: CPE [Australia]. **Autophix** spelling (left), **Autofix** spelling (right), an error as this product name was not introduced until 2011 (see preceding column).



Three covers using a) Summer Isles issued Miniature Sheet (demonstrating how the machine could cope with large affixings), b) **Philmec** and c) **Autophix** dummy stamps respectively.



SMI-00-11



SMI-00-12

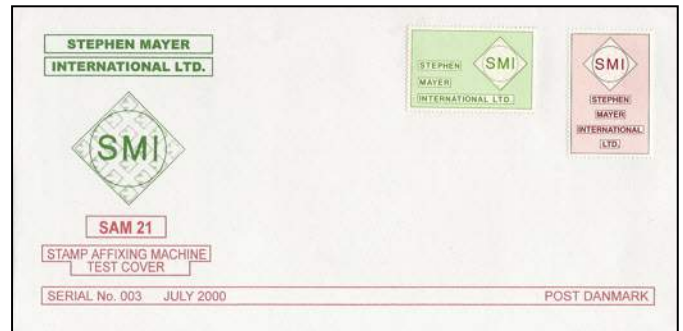
Date: c2000. Designer: SMI. Printer: Walsall Security Printers [GB]. The above horizontal format version printed in green was used for pack and FDC use.



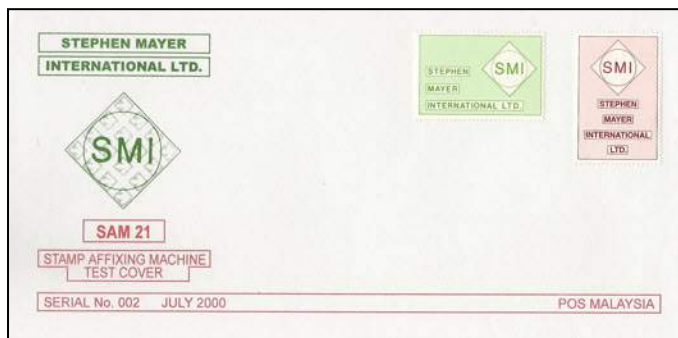
An IMPA '84 cover signed by John England, the designer of one of the machines, using the four show dummy stamps for PP and FDC.



1. SAM21. Poste Italiane. February 2000 demonstration.



3. SAM21. Post Danmark. July 2000 demonstration.



2. SAM21. Pos Malaysia. July 2000 demonstration.



4. SAM21. La Poste / De Post Belgium. October 2000 demonstration.



An IMPA '84 exhibition cover using six Jersey Post Office issued stamps instead of the more usual dummy stamps.

SELF-ADHESIVE STAMP HANDLING

As mentioned previously, dealing with self-adhesive stamps is totally different to water-activated stamps, with a new approach required.

SMI was contacted by the United States Postal Service (USPS) in 2007 to produce a machine that could process the vast quantities of philatelic material needed for every new stamp issue.

It is the only machine of its kind that is capable of handling such stamps and accommodates a wide variety of formats - including booklets - and an even wider range of target materials, such as FDCs and presentation sheets. The machine automatically peels the stamps from their backing sheets and affixes them to the target material individually, in a line, or in a grid, depending on the requirements.



As there are no dummy items available, fuller details of the **PAC-24** machine will not be provided here, but visit <https://www.ppma.co.uk/pubs/pdf/MU-2007-November-Component-Matters.pdf> for the story.

This latest machine ably demonstrates that British engineering skills are still very much in demand across the world at a time when it is easy to think that this country no longer produces anything in the manufacturing sector.

STAMPAC MODEL

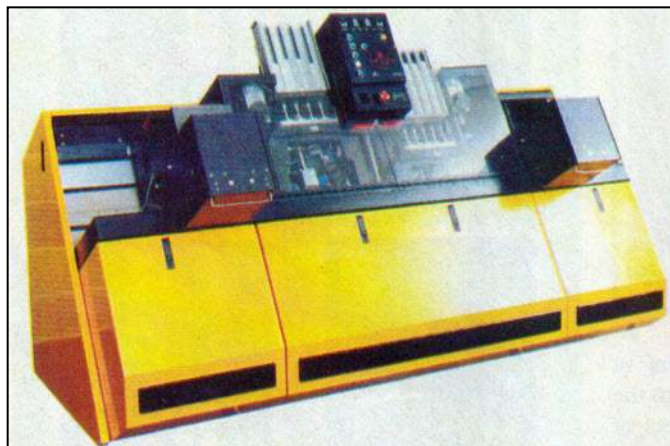
A model of the **Stampac** machine in a glass display case, sitting on green and grey block is inscribed 'STAMPAC' on yellow backing with black double outline letters and is held by the British Postal Museum & Archive at its Debden store in Essex.

The museum catalogue entry reads: "Rectangular machine, mainly yellow with black and silver parts. Consists of a unit with operating buttons in red, green, yellow, white and blue.

Inscribed on it is 'VERSATILE PACK ASSEMBLER BRITISH PO'. Adjoined to this are slots with small blank pieces of paper in. There are two trays on either side of this, one with sheets of stamps in. Below this is a pane of glass and mechanical parts."

BPMA finding aid -

Title: Stampac Machine Model
Accession Number: 2003-0523/05
Previous Number: E6832/19



This **Stampac** model was made by Richard Pendell Model Makers.

The **Stampac** machine is still in active use around the world at several postal administrations.

ONE FURTHER DUMMY STAMP

The three blue and red dummy stamps with outline drawings of the machines on previous pages have a fourth label that promotes the stamp printer CPE (Cheque Printers and Encoders Australia Pty Ltd), resulting in a block of four designs. Mr Mayer wrote to your compiler in 1990 stating: "not a successful venture".



SMI-87-10

It will be noted that the designer and year are stated. The artist "Garnier" has not been traced and may have worked for CPE, or as a freelance designer.

...AND FINALLY

While the story of Stephen Mayer International continues, its use of dummy stamps does not.

These days, postal authorities are far more willing to permit the use of real stamps during machine testing phases. This is one reason why the **PAC-24** self-adhesive machine did not result in any dummy stamps for our collections.

It is hoped that the information and imagery relating to SMI, told here this completely for the first time, will start you searching for available material. ☒

Harrison at WIPA 1933 International Stamp Exhibition

Interesting information regarding intaglio printing

In 1933 Harrison and Sons attended / displayed at the WIPA international stamp exhibition held in Vienna, Austria that year. This was brought to your compiler's attention when the medal awarded to the company for their participation was seen.

The owner of the medal undertook some enquiries and he reported back with his findings, which are shared here, albeit marginally amended.

"On page AB of the WIPA show catalogue is recorded the following text:

20, Printing offices of postage stamps.

Harrison & Sons Ltd., Hayes (England), 1m², -V.

The enterprise existing already since 1750 has been occupied since 1910 with printing of postage stamps by means of recess-printing and photogravure and has executed such stamps for Great Britain, Egypt, Palestine, Gold Coast, Peru and Columbia, as well as entires for South Africa. There are being shown samples of the stamps.

The above 20 is apparently their display number, and it assumed that the 1m² probably signifies one table or display frame of one square meter. The -V may stand for "Verlag"*, because all the others in this category have that same designation except for the Austrian Staatsdruckerei which had a large area in the Sezession building.

The Harrison entry was found in a list of displays, and is not indexed in the list of philatelic exhibits."

* German for publishing house.

From the above information, the opportunity was taken to delve deeper into this, especially as the words contained in the catalogue would have been supplied by Harrison, as is normal practice for any show catalogue entry to this day. It can therefore reasonably be assumed to be accurate information.

Of particular interest is the fact that they claim to have printed stamps by recess (intaglio), but make no mention of their letterpress printings. Photogravure was an exciting new venture at that time, but it plays second fiddle to intaglio, which seems odd, given an apparent lack of recess stamps.

The entry states that Harrison had : "...executed such stamps for Great Britain, Egypt, Palestine, Gold Coast, Peru and Columbia, as well as entires for South Africa."

All of these stamps are recorded in the Harrison Timeline (available for free download at [www.stampprinters.info/Harrison Timeline KGII to KGI.pdf](http://www.stampprinters.info/Harrison%20Timeline%20KGII%20to%20KGI.pdf)), with the exception of Columbia and the "entires for South Africa" (for another issue of DS, if traced).



HARRISON & SONS LD, LONDON

taken from an imperforate proof and an issued stamp

It was finally recalled that three Columbian stamps overprinted HARRISON'S SPECIMEN had been shown in an issue of DS. It had previously been assumed that these had been printed by letterpress (real examples had not been examined, just poor online scans), but it is now apparent that intaglio was used following research into this stamp issue.

In 1916, the mighty American Bank Note Company had produced the very same stamp series and the enlarged imprint is shown here.



AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY

So, that's the end of it, then? Well 'no' actually, as the same stamp series was then found to have been printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson, De La Rue, Perkins, Bacon AND Waterlow & Sons.



BRADBURY, WILKINSON & CO. LTD



T. DE LA RUE & CO. LD, LONDRES



PERKINS BACON & CO LD, LONDON



WATERLOW & SONS LTD, LONDRES

Excuse the terribly poor quality of these imprints which are from very low-resolution internet scanned images. The imprint wording appears below each image for clarity.

So, it would have almost have been rude not to have included Harrison in the contracts, as all of the big

players of the time were included. Maybe even more imprints exist, but they have not been seen, or looked for, at this time.

There must have been a huge demand for these revenue stamps for so many stamp printers to have been involved in their production. The full story is probably told in one or more of the philatelic works relating to Colombia, but these are not going to be searched, at least not for now.

It is unusual to find so many British printer imprints available on the same stamp series and they make for an interesting set of generally inexpensive revenue stamps, but the temptation for yet another side-line collection sometimes has to be resisted!



As this feature is not really about dummy stamps, the opportunity has been taken to show above the only pre-1933 intaglio dummy stamp designs from Harrison and Sons in an attempt at bringing us back 'on topic'. ☒

Further Olympics Trial Discovered

The true origins are probably being masked by seller

British stamp dealer Brandon Stamp Auctions has recently sold copies of a previously unrecorded Jessica Ennis 2012 Olympic Games trial.



The new discovery (low-res), as sold by Brandon Stamp Auctions.



The issued stamp.

His site recorded: "SGa3353Var. 2012 Olympics 1st Gold Medal Winners Jessica Ennis MAJOR ERROR OF VIGNETTE. The Image Shows Ennis Facing Forward Instead Of Sideways Otherwise Exactly As Issued. Purchased from a Post Office in the the Midlands and two panes (12 stamps) showed the variety. As these were issued in panes of twenty-four it is probably reasonable to assume that 24 stamps may/do exist, as there was very limited time to choose/print the image (just 1 hour) that the printer either adopted the wrong image or quite conceivably 'old stock' may have found it's (sic) way into the hurried shipments. A Highly Dramatic & Truly Wonderful New Variety."

A lovely new discovery for sure, but the chances of it having been sold at a Post Office branch in the Midlands, or anywhere else for that matter, seems pretty unlikely, as the image was not even taken at the Olympics, but at an athletics meet in Istanbul earlier in 2012.

And the price? £475 for a week or so in February, then up £50 to £525 for a single copy. None left. ☒

Early Harrison & Sons Essays and Dummy Stamps with a South African Connection

Interesting photographic images were made available by the South African Government Printer or SAPO

In 1974 the South African Government Printers or SAPO produced 30 sets of photographs depicting undated coloured essays.

Three of them were of Harrison designs, as shown alongside.

An accompanying part album page stated: "Harrison and Sons Ltd. Not dated. On gilt-edged cards with rounded corners, 113 x 88mm or 88 x 113mm. All printed."

It is not clear what the final sentence means.

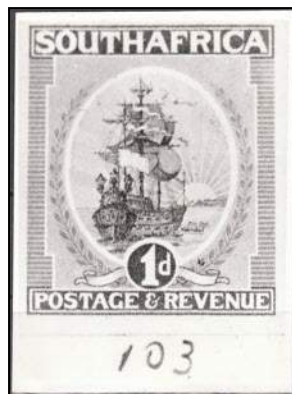
The images are as shown and have been randomly cropped prior to photography! Still, at least the previously unrecorded) HARRISON & SONS, LTD handstamp proves a Harrison connection.

The reverse of each photograph has a violet '24' indicating that they were from set 24 of the 30 made. There is a separate poorly applied handstamp that reads: "UNION ESSAYS REPRODUCED UNDER GOVERNMENT PRINTER'S COPYRIGHT AUTHORITY 5250 OF 28-8-1974." The same text is then repeated in Afrikaans.

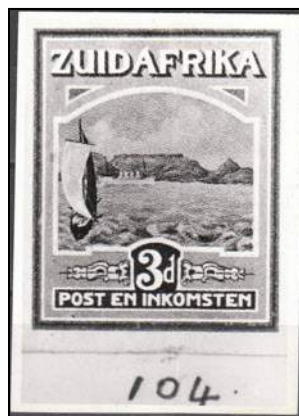
That appeared to be the end of the story, until use



The 'Ship' design.



The 'Table Bay' design.



The 'Gnus' design.



was made of Google Images and its drag and drop system mentioned in the last Dummy Stamps.

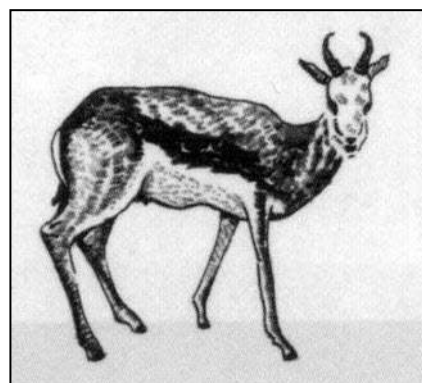
A new set of photographs was then found, but in black and white this time. It also revealed that the 'set' in column one is missing a crucial image (recorded as design 102, and shown on next page).

These images are referred to by a South African vendor as being "photographic proofs", stretching the truth somewhat. They bore a price tag of 560 Rand each, or c£31.

The reverse of each photograph has a black '32' indicating that they were from set 32 of the [?] sets made. Date unknown.

There is also a separate explanatory boxed handstamp, as depicted below, which is in a different format to that on the colour set of photographic images.

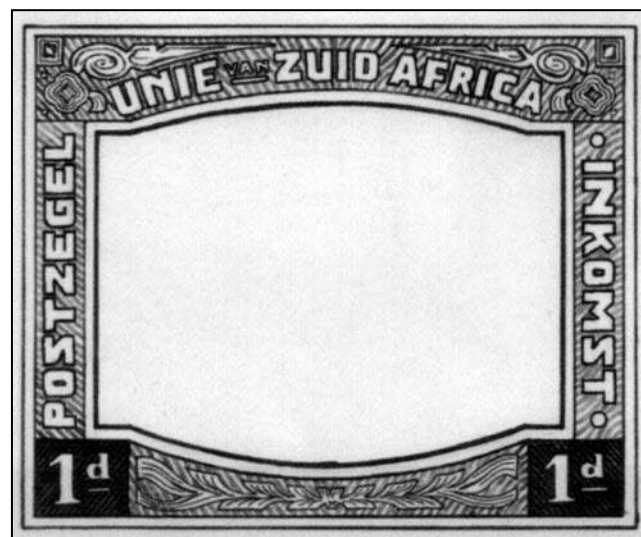




(left and below)

The original artwork for the horizontal format Springbok design.

Produced in black pencil and ink on thick white paper, the design was by B G Harrison.



Two of several colour schemes used for the Springbok design. As shown, they exist as mono- and bi-coloured printings.

The issued pair of Springbok stamps, thus revealing the differences between the dummy and the issued product.



The top image depicts the horizontal format Springbok design, known to have been printed at NRM in The Netherlands in 1923 while Harrison staff were being trained in cylinder creation techniques.

The vertical format design below it has not been seen before and certainly not as a dummy stamp. The equivalent colour photograph from the first set of images presumably exists to better show it off.

With bit between teeth, a visit to the library of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, was made. These essays were found reproduced in the 1979 book *"The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910-1961. Handbook Catalogue Definitive Edition. Editor S J Hagger RDPSA"*, as published by Reijer Publishers.

This book proved to be invaluable, for we learn that the essays were submitted in 1923 in various colour combinations on unwatermarked, ungummed paper using the photogravure printing process.

Also, the Springbok dummy stamp design exists in unscreened* and screened versions in differing sizes. While previously unknown to your compiler, clearly collectors of South Africa were aware.

Unscreened*: (Worth 50% more than dearest screened version.)

1. Perf. 14 (size 20.75 x 17mm) in black, blue, purple or carmine.
2. Imperf (23 x 18.75mm) in black, blue or purple.

Screened:

3. Perf 13.5 x 13 (23 x 18.75mm) in carmine/green, black/blue, purple/blue, carmine/blue, black/green or orange/black.
4. Perf 13.5 x 13 (21.5 x 17mm) in blue or carmine.
5. Imperf (23 x 18.75mm) carmine/green, black/blue, purple/blue, carmine/blue, black/green, purple/green or blue/green.

It would have been useful had the handbook illustrated the clear differences in appearance between the unscreened and the screened types, so Hagger's omission is rectified below with 1200dpi images. In both cases, the top right quartile is shown enlarged.



Unscreened* (left) and screened (right). Both stamp images have been converted to black and white. Look especially at the thin rule at the top edge of the design. The serious break-up of that line into screen dots is evident on the right-hand version.

The trials undertaken by Harrison while in Leiden at NRM were printed in sheets of ten, two rows of five dummy stamps. (The overly-large sheet margins were removed by H&S on this presentation page.)



A second printing cylinder was made (possibly back at Harrison in Hayes, England?), as a block of 15 has recently been seen. This enlarged sheet format appears to be previously unrecorded.



As the *Ship*, *Table Bay* and *Gnus* designs were not produced as dummy stamps (but were printed as essays), their story is not told here, but they (and the *Springbok* design) were used with considerable amendment for the issued series of definitive stamps BUT contracts for printing them went to Waterlow and to Bradbury, Wilkinson, not Harrison, despite all the effort that they had clearly gone to in an attempt at securing the contract.

It is assumed that the archives of the South African PO, or maybe the Government Printer, hold the four original essays (plus two further designs by DLR).

It is recognised that much of this article started off somewhat “off-piste” by showing essays rather than dummy stamps, but the topic was able to be rapidly brought back on track with the ‘discovery’ of the photographic reproduction of the Springbok designs.

There is always something new in this fascinating hobby of ours and the final word on the subject will probably never be written.

** Despite Hagger describing one type as being “unscreened”, it is felt that the term “fine screen” might be more appropriate, as it is apparent from the blow-ups that there appears to be a screen visible across the entire dummy stamp, albeit resulting in much smoother edges to straight and curved lines.*

This is a subject that deserves greater investigation. ☒

'Lady with Parrot' by Harrison

An intriguing marginal hand annotation reported



The offset dummy stamp design shown alongside was printed by Harrison at its Hayes factory (from where it printed its offset litho stamps, as Wycombe was not used for stamp printing by this process).

There is an intriguing inscription by hand that reads "Phos HS6 / 1630 / 15%" in top margin.

The purchaser, a French reader of *DS*, is the fortunate new owner and it was probably missed by collectors in Britain as it was described as being Yugoslavian by the Slovakian vendor!!

Your compiler exclusively revealed in 2007 (in *DS6*) that Harrison had produced stamps by a new printing process, known internally as 'Harricryl'. DLR had 'Delacryl' and this was the Harrison response.

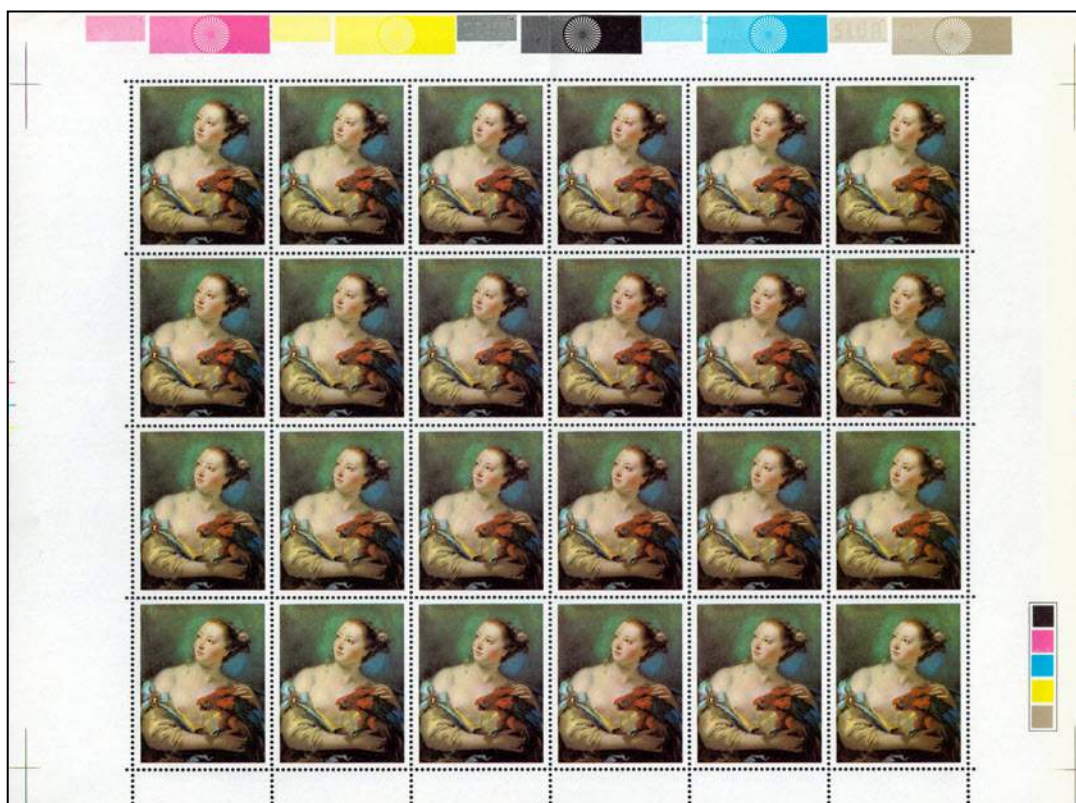
He wrote that Harrison was introduced to fine screen stamp printing in the factory they had in

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 was unable to distinguish it from 300 lines and 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 it was utilised for some foreign issues.

As part of the testing stage, trials were undertaken internally using the famous painting by Tiepolo entitled 'Lady with Parrot'. This design was sent in complete sheets to almost all post offices throughout the world by Harrison in 1969, 1970 and 1971 to try and secure new stamp printing contracts.

As this item bears phosphor (the owner states: "*paper is slightly phosphorescent with UV*"), then it is potentially of even more interest to collectors of British dummy stamps as 1969 was the year that the British Post Office first started to use litho for its special stamps (albeit recorded under De La Rue's 'Delacryl' brand name).

Maybe Harrison saw that a move away from only gravure in GB was potentially on the cards (as is frequently the case today) and thought it prudent to experiment with phosphorised litho stamps just in case? Pure speculation at this time, of course. ☒



A full sheet of the *Lady with Parrot* design, as sent to all post offices worldwide by Harrison and Sons.

Harrison Paper Types Described

Several paper types exist, but more information needed

Mention is made on the previous page of Harrison paper type **HS6**. This is one of eight main types used by the company and thanks to Ian De La Rue Brown and Graham Eyre's useful contribution, a preliminary list can be provided here, together with details of their intended use, where ascertained.

Can anyone assist with further details where there are gaps in the information, please?

The **HS** prefix stands for **H**arrison and **S**ons and the code is always followed by a number, thus **H55**, **H51**, etc are simply incorrect interpretations of poor hand writing.

HS1

HS2 * For gravure, intaglio or combination printing. Chalk coated, FCP.

Plain or watermarked, coated and gummied stamp paper suitable for printing postage stamps by gravure and line engraved printing methods in up to six colours gravure and three colours line engraved. Extremely white, highly reflective and an excellent vehicle for phosphor/luminescent tagging.

HS3 Not used for Royal Mail stamps.

HS4 For gravure printing. Chalk coated. /B4, PCP, /ACP.

HS5 Not used for Royal Mail stamps.

HS6 * For litho and, in some circumstances, combination printing. Clay coated. /B4, PCP /ACP.

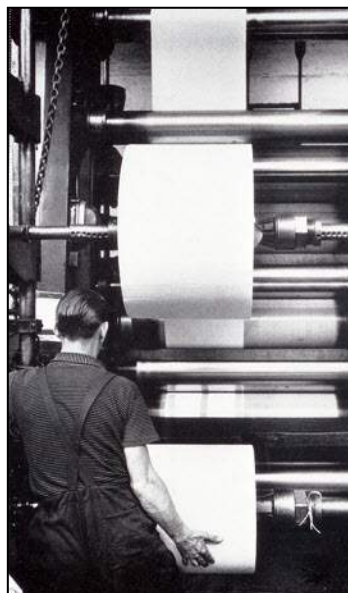
Extremely white, highly reflective and an excellent vehicle for phosphor/luminescent tagging.

HS7 For litho printing.

Grade A phosphor coated paper for stamps printed by litho. Produced with a high phosphor and paper properties between **HS6** ACP and ACP paper. The paper had a higher absorption property than **HS6** which should have improved print definition.

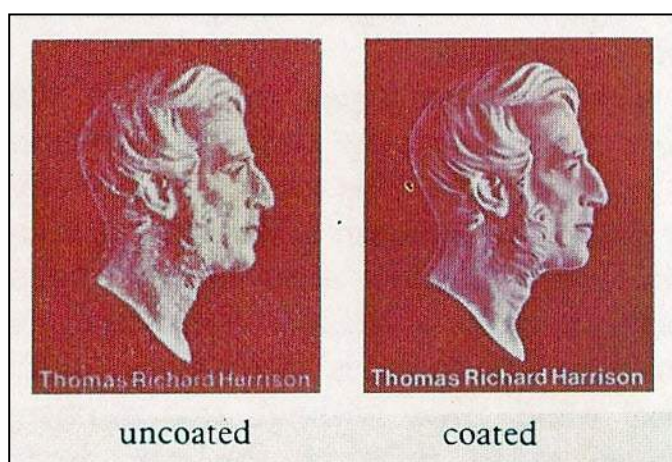
HS8 For litho printing. Clay/chalk coated. PCP/ACP.

* The two most commonly used Harrison papers. ☒



Paper receiving a final polish at the paper making area in High Wycombe.

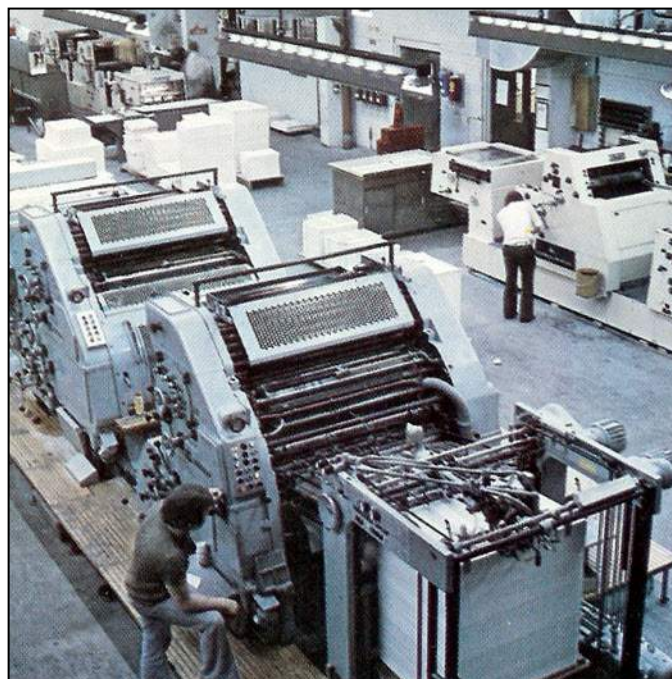
(Harrison, 1969)



Magazine scan of uncoated and coated papers made by Harrison.

The right hand version is clearer, as uncoated paper tends to soak-up the ink like a sponge, rather than sit on the surface. Question: Why would you ever print on uncoated paper today?

Answer: Sought, please!

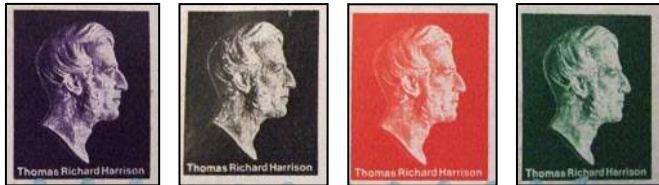


Stamps being printed by litho on **HS6** paper at Hayes where the 'Lady with Parrot' dummy stamp was produced. (Harrison, c1975)

Harrison Dummies Used in 1982 with pre-Decimal Machin Colours

Surprising use of colours for postal mechanisation trials

Four imperforate examples of the Thomas Richard Harrison design were recently seen used on a single PO internally used cover (i.e. it did not enter the postal stream) from an "opacified tape trial 1982". It bore additional text reading "Harrison Opacified".



3d violet. 4d Sepia. 4d Vermilion. 9d Green.
The issued Machin head stamps from 1967/69.



Note the partial blue phosphor dots on the bottom edge of each of the dummy stamps, as highlighted in the enlargement above.

A second cover bore a joined pair of the vermilion colour with text reading "KoRes Opacified 1982".

These labels are well-known, but not in the colours shown. Printers and postal research areas are renowned for using-up old stocks of dummy and postage stamps found "lying around" and it seems that this is probably the case here for there is no other apparent reason for the choice of the old pre-decimal Machin colours. Assistance appreciated. ☒

Questa Christmas Tender Design Presents a New Perforation Error

What's with the double vertical perforations?



The unremarkable scan seen on eBay at £25. This unusual perforation error was still for sale mid-March.

The scan alongside was seen recently on an eBay offering. A quick glance saw that it was a typical example of the gutter pair, but severely damaged.

Taking a closer look it was apparent that the vertical perfs were repeated, but with no impact on the horizontal ones. It seems that the sideways second strike was precisely the spacing between two perf holes, otherwise all horizontal 'bridges' between the perfs would have been punched out. ☒



Enhancing the scan by darkening and enlarging, the double vertical perforations are much better revealed. (Excuse the pixelation.)

Harrison Once Printed Stamp Errors Deliberately...

but keep calm and read on!

It's true, but unlike another British printer who did it with real postage stamps, Harrison can still claim an untarnished record in this respect because they did it with *The Sun* Soccerstamps in 1971.



The promoter placed an order for 75,000,000 gummed Soccerstamps in 500 numbered designs. A potential 150,000 sets could therefore exist, but clearly do not due to loss down the years, plus the fact that many (most?) collectors will not have pursued the entire series. They were given away in response to coupons cut from the newspaper daily and were a huge success for Harrison and *The Sun*.

Due to the run length, they were printed in up to five different colours by photogravure and were given normal stamp perforations. Marginal copies are not thought to exist, at least none have ever been seen by your compiler.

And the errors? The promoter requested a 'small quantity' to create interest in the campaign and to 'add a rarity value' to the series. This entailed 'omitting certain colours and printing some subjects upside down'. It is not thought that details of the numbers of errors produced exist, or how many different artificially created varieties were printed.

All good fun, even if not one for the purist! ☒

Harrison Spirograph Design by Don McGairy

A talented Harrison employee

At the time of the commissioning of the Jumelle press by Harrison at its High Wycombe plant, Don McGairy prepared a complicated 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 known imperforate, with just one block of four recorded,

until it was later broken-up for sale by Mike Holt and priced at £70 for each single copy.

Your compiler had queried in an earlier issue of *DS* whether Don was a freelance worker, or on the Harrison payroll. Well, Donald McGairy worked in the Research and Development section in the early 1970s (at least), so was clearly an employee.

This confirmation was found while trawling through issues of *Harrison Forme*, the award-winning in-house staff magazine, from where the information about the Soccerstamps alongside was traced. ☒

Links within Dummy Stamps

Easily go to sites highlighted within these pages

If you are reading this PDF in Windows (may also work with Mac) and are online, it is possible to click on any of the blue underlined links to go straight to the page required rather than have to type out often complicated strings of characters.

By way of an example, hover your mouse over www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm and the hand symbol now contains a letter W. Click the link with the left-hand button of your mouse and go to the home page for *Dummy Stamps*. A Security Warning box may appear first - click ALLOW.

This may be obvious to many readers, but not everyone was aware, as revealed by a recent query. ☒

Waterlow and Tokalon Cosmetics

Strange word on label finally understood

The example of this design (middle top row and enclosed within a red border, with better B&W example at right) appeared within a 1950 four page brochure on Waterlow's Rotary Direct Plate process, along with five other designs.



Harrison Double-width Panes?

Single marginal copy poses a question...

Sight of a right-hand marginal copy of the Harrison head dummy stamp leads one to believe that these were from double width panes, as remnants of vertical perforations are visible at far right edge where cut. Gutter pairs may therefore exist. ☒



The cropped image at right has been darkened and enlarged to help better reveal the perforations discussed above.

There had been a mystery surrounding why such an 'odd' name would be chosen by Waterlow. Research has now revealed that Tokalon is actually a brand of cosmetics, so it is not strictly a Waterlow dummy stamp but a publicity label for the cosmetics maker but used in a dummy sense by Waterlow, so it is exceptionally able to be included within these pages.

The powder puff and 1949 advert from *Paris Match* above includes the logo as proof of the logo user. The copyright aspect of that logo is almost certainly why Waterlow handstamped the publicity label examples with a SPECIMEN marking. ☒

Bumper Issue

Where does it all keep coming from!

Dummy stamp news came thick and fast this past quarter. It seems that there is no end in sight for new information on this type of collectable material.

As a result, this is a bumper issue of 22 pages and it is hoped that there will be much of interest. ☒

NCR Post & Go

New vending machine produces kiosk printer test prints

Royal Mail has a new *Post & Go* vending machine made by NCR USA, first used at Harpenden in February.

They issue the familiar Machin, Union flag or flora and fauna labels.

A test print checks print quality. ☒



Harrison and the Gemini (later renamed Jumelle) Press Trials of 1973

New formats for these well known dummy stamps found

Delcampe auctions recently had the two blocks depicted below for sale with an estimate of £950 for each block. They help to show the format of the master sheet, although whether the pale or the dark impression was at the top of the sheet is not known to your compiler. For illustration purposes here, the pale is at top on both blocks showing that one is from the left and the other from the right hand margins.



For the purpose of page layout, the violet version is overlapped by the blue version but does not hide anything other than the continuous dark violet line.

Note how creased many of the dummy stamps are in both blocks. With prices for singles falling as more copies appear to enter the philatelic market-place the proposed estimated prices seem excessive for these invariably damaged examples. ☒

Harrison Dummy Stamp in Violet Finally Found

After years of searching, eBay offers this missing colour found in Machin collection

DS2 included details of a Royal Mail phosphor trial. The next issue mentioned that violet and stone colours also existed, but not in collector hands. Wrong! Violet has just surfaced with the four phosphor types. Only stone to find now. ☒



Harrison and the Maltese Dogma

Penrose Annual Samples

Reader advises the volume that the item appeared in

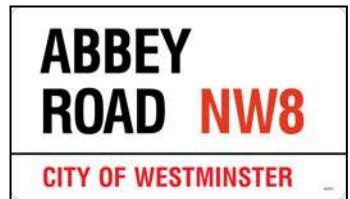
Your compiler had not traced when the Dogma sheet had been in the *Penrose Annual*. A reader of *DS* kindly advised that it was 1956 and that it had comprised volume 50 in the much-missed series of annuals that once contained so much of interest on the graphics and printing front.

A search of Amazon or eBay will reveal occasional offers of the book at recent prices ranging from £13 to a whopping £146. Choose your supplier wisely if you are interested in procuring a copy!

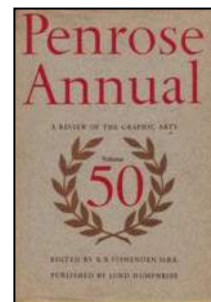
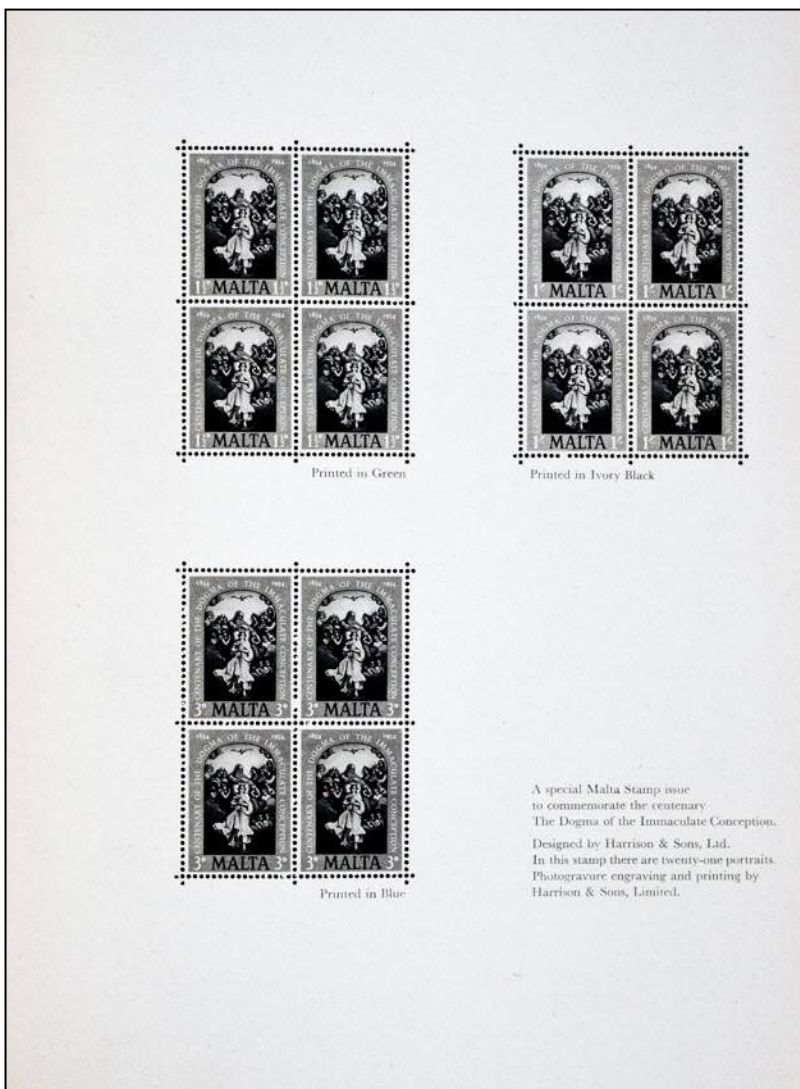
The book was recently purchased (at £13!), but at the time of circulating this issue of *Dummy Stamps* it had not arrived and is feared lost in transit after more than two weeks. Any further information that might have been contained within the book about the sheet cannot therefore be shared at this time.

Incidentally, in *DS6* it was stated that Misha Black (designer of one of the Coronation stamps in the 1954 *Penrose Annual*) was a man. Wrong! A reader wrote: "Please find below information on Sir Misha Black, who was a man and not female as you surmise. I suspect that he was also a private philatelist, but I cannot confirm this." See Wikipedia page http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Misha_Black for more.

Sir Misha Black OBE KBE (16 October 1910 – 11 October 1977) was a Russian-born British architect and designer.



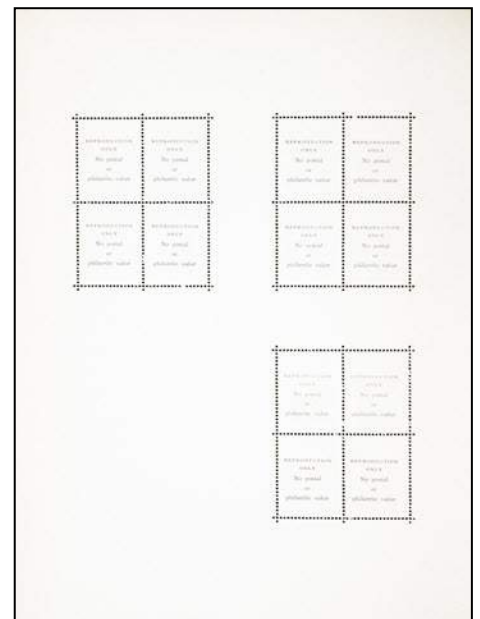
Misha was perhaps best recognised for designing the iconic City of Westminster street signs to be found across the area to this day. ☒



(far left) The full sheet of dummy stamps.

(left) The cover of the 1956 *Penrose Annual*, the fiftieth in the series.

(below) The reverse of the sheet with its "No Postal or Philatelic Value" warnings.



Text of sheet bottom right reads in part: "Designed by Harrison & Sons, Ltd. In this stamp there are twenty-one portraits. Photogravure engraving and printing by Harrison & Sons, Ltd."

Stamp Printing Plates, Dies and Rollers: from Vault to View

A great new project from BPMA

The British Postal Museum and Archive has recently announced that it is to digitise objects from its collections, including printing dies, rollers and plates, over the coming year. These objects are difficult to photograph and are not currently available for consultation by the public.

This project, funded by Share Academy, will provide access to these important items through a combination of a number of technologies. The final output will be a set of 3D digital objects for use by philatelic enthusiasts, researchers and the general public.

It must be stressed that this is a pilot with only 12 to 15 objects being scanned. It is also a test of the technology available with three different types of scanning being tried. If the pilot scheme is successful BPMA will see what it can do to introduce 3D scanning when the new museum opens. By that time technology may well have gone far forward in any case. Go to the following link to read the BPMA blog on the matter:

<http://postalheritage.wordpress.com/2014/01/29/stamp-printing-plates-dies-and-rollers-from-vault-to-view/> ☒

Anonymity ...or not

Henceforth, it's your chance to be credited for help given

Your compiler has adopted a principle of not revealing the names of the owners of items that are submitted to *DS*, as not everyone has wanted this to be known to the wider world, using instead the term "...a *Dummy Stamps* reader...", or similar.

However, some collectors are happy for their name to appear alongside their piece. So, in future issues anonymity will still be preserved *unless you specifically request each time you supply news that your name can be included within these pages.*

Either way, the assistance of the many contributors who provide either snippets or major revelations is gratefully acknowledged here, for without this kind co-operation this quarterly newsletter would be much the poorer. ☒

A Correction re Grieg Dummy Stamp and its Perforations

A gremlin crept into the copy

At the foot of page four of *DS29* are the words: "*Incidentally, the perforating of a relatively small proportion of these sheets was undertaken by Harrison at High Wycombe, no less.*"

This is totally wrong, for which apologies, as a small section of text somehow got deleted during compilation in error.



Will you please substitute the following sentence that contains the missing text:

"*Incidentally, the perforating of a relatively small proportion of these sheets was undertaken by Grover & Co at its Stratford premises, while the production of the cylinder used to print the dummy stamps was undertaken by Harrison at High Wycombe, no less.*"

It has since been found out that, perhaps not surprisingly, the dummy stamps were printed at Timson's own premises in Kettering on the photo-gravure press type that Moestue was considering purchasing at the time. ☒

...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 34

A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material

Quarter 2, 2014

The First Harrison "Dummy Stamps" from High Wycombe for Sale

Interesting trial piece from the first months at High Wycombe factory

British specialist stamp dealer Candlish McCleery of Worcester is currently offering for sale an item of great importance to the first British photogravure postage stamps of Harrison and Sons.

It may still be unsold, so enquire at www.candlishmccleery.com

The item comprises an album page with a strip of five whole and two additional partial images of, presumably, a film or stage actress of the period. She could, of course, even be an employee of Harrison, as Enschedé used (a) the daughter of its managing director (the image that is wrongly referred to as being the child film star Shirley Temple) and (b) an unknown woman (both shown at foot of page). These two dummy stamps appeared around the same time as the Harrison item. Does anyone recognise either of the unidentified women?

The page is annotated as being from the Hassan Shaida collection of British stamps, much (all?) of which was sold by auctions in the 1990s. A description of the piece and the story behind it is ably told on the album page write-up, which is reproduced below with permission of the stamp dealer.

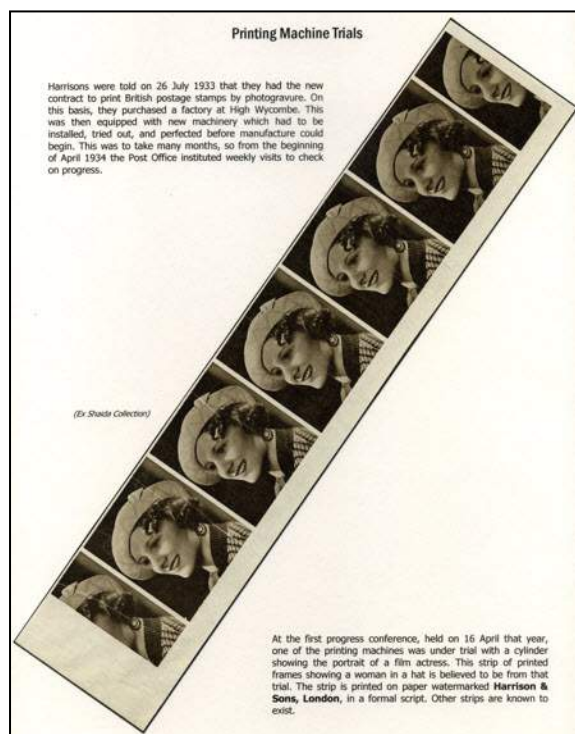
Harrisons were told on 26 July 1933 that they had the new contract to print British postage stamps by photogravure. On this basis, they purchased a factory at High Wycombe. This was then equipped with new machinery which had to be installed, tried out, and perfected before manufacture could begin. This was to take many months, so from the beginning of April 1934 the Post Office instituted weekly visits to check on progress.

At the first progress conference, held on 16 April that year, one of the printing machines was under trial with a cylinder showing the portrait of a film actress. This strip of printed frames showing a woman in a hat is believed to be from that trial. The strip is printed on paper watermarked **Harrison & Sons, London**, in a formal script. Other strips are known to exist.

The final sentence is a little unclear, in that the 'other strips' could conceivably be of other people depending on how you read it, so this is maybe something to look for, especially if your find is on H&S script watermarked paper! ☒

(right) Enschedé. Daughter of MD.

(middle) Enschedé. Unknown woman.

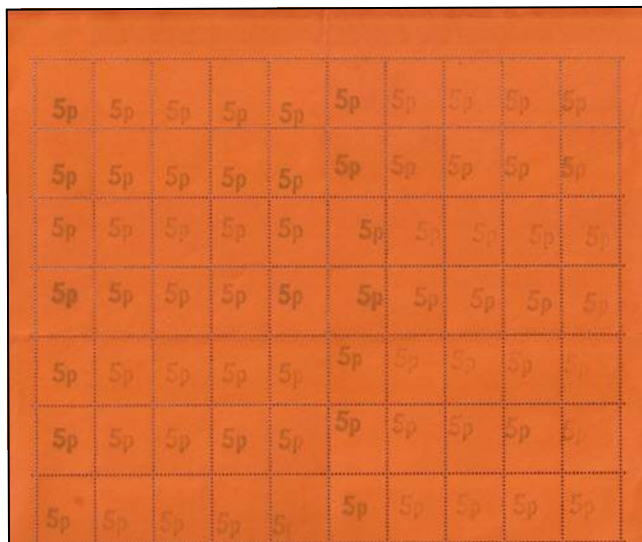


Decimal Currency PO Training Stamps

Do other values* exist apart from the two shown here?

A full sheet of 200 of the previously known Harrison printed orange sample stamp usually used for booklet dummy creation has recently come to light, but....

Copies are individually handstamped 5p and were used as a part of the decimal training of postal counter staff. It is similar to 3 1/2p copies on the light green paper only found at BPMA. ☒



(right) The BPMA-held 3 1/2p training label.

(middle) The 'new' 5p version.

(far right) The first 7 rows of the sheet of 200 orange labels.



* There are, of course, the well known 2p, 2 1/2p, 3p, 3 1/2p and 4p values printed in photogravure, as generally used nationwide.

Thomas De La Rue Effigy on Dummy Stamp in Orange and Green

On sale in France as singles at €25 per copy, a full sheet from England cost far less than that for 50 copies!

Having commented on a lack of this orange/green DLR dummy stamp, a full sheet has now turned-up, two or three copies of which are affected by foxing. ☒



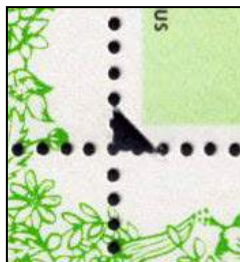
DLR Delacryl Sample Album of Issued Stamps

Unusual invalidation used

When De La Rue launched Delacryl (its offset process) they undertook promotions, including an album containing several of their issued stamps and MS.

Unusually, stamp corners were clipped, presumably by the use of scissors. However, the miniature sheets had corners removed with a knife between perforations.

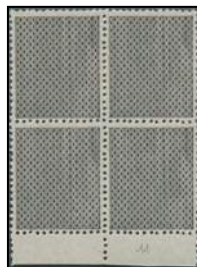
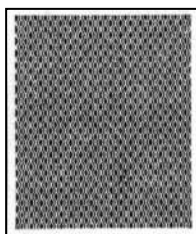
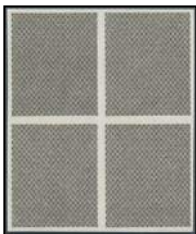
A typical page and knife cut are shown alongside. ☒



DLR Italian Dummy Stamp

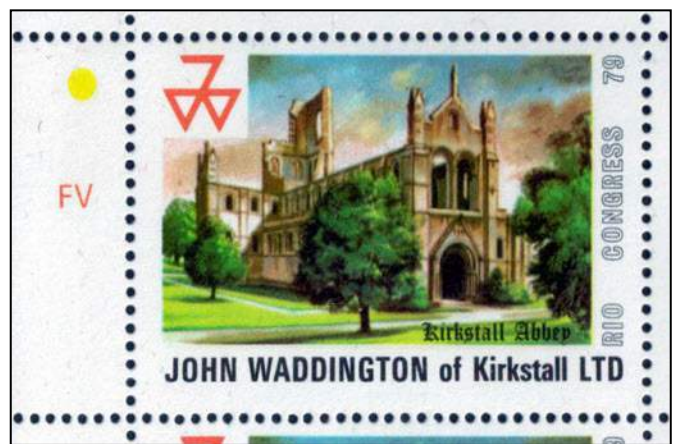
Background trials undertaken

In 1863 DLR tested the security background for stamps of Italy. Only one sheet of 400 was produced, signed and certificated by Raybaudi. CEI catalogue value €24,000. ☒



Waddington Rio Congress

Mystery lettering in left hand margin



DLR £10 KEVII Dummy Stamp

High value keyplate design

1906-12. The original universal colour trial, denominated £10 and inscribed THOS. DE LA RUE & Co. for Straits Settlements.

Imperforate on Multiple Crown CA watermarked paper with large part original gum.



Sale estimate was \$500. ☒



Any idea what the FV lettering means, please? ☒

Harrison and Sons Factory Tour Marked its 1950 Bicentenary Year

A set of Guide Notes appeared at auction recently and was snapped-up by a reader

In December 1950, Harrison held factory tours for family and friends of its staff. Although no dummy stamps unique to the events are known to have circulated there was an attractive souvenir brochure, plus the guides on the tours were issued with notes to help them explain what visitors were seeing.

It is unlikely that more than a single copy of these notes exists today and the publication was recently shown to your compiler by a regular reader and expert in all things Harrison. These guide notes are reproduced below as they contain interesting operational facts that are potentially not available anywhere else. ☒

Time 11 minutes
When leaving the canteen point out that new chimney is 110 ft. high.

POWER HOUSE

Vertical Oil Tanks
Large one 12,000 gallons
Small one 5,500 gallons

Davey Paxman Boilers
Working Pressure 180 lbs.
We use 75 tons of coal and breeze per week

Engines
Two steam engines.
Four diesel oil engines.
We use 1,100 gallons diesel oil per week and 1,000 gallons of water for cooling
Power generated per week is 54,000 kilowatts.

WHITE PAPER WAREHOUSE
Between 500 and 600 tons white paper stored. (Reels and flat sheets).

STAMP DEPARTMENTS

Gumming (8 minutes)
We use Pure Gum Arabic from the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan An exudant from the acacia tree.
Three gum mixers One at 200 gallons, two at 100 gallons.
Four settling tanks and one feed tank to gumming machines Gum is fed by gravity through filtering press.
Point out cleanliness of gum.
Gum is dried on machine by hot air and heated drum.
Cold water roller cools paper before re-reeling.
(Show visitors water mark on paper)

Fracturing Machine
Knives break up gum on back of sheet.

Calendering Machine
Smooths surface of paper ready for printing.

Page 1

PROCESS DEPARTMENTS

Cameras (Time 2 minutes)
Four Process cameras.
One step and repeat camera.
Two enlargers.
All kinds of negatives and positives made on glass and film also some paper negatives.

Retouching (Time 3 minutes)
Work done to bring out highlights which may be the camera cannot do.
Special lighting equipment. The large inspection table is for balancing up sets of positives.

Planning (Time 4 minutes)
8 tables where each job is collated into position.
Job is planned and set out here as you see the finished article, except that it is in reverse.

Carbon Printing (Time 5 minutes)
Wok is applied on to copper plates by means of carbon tissue.
Show tissue sensitized and unsensitized. The screen is added here which may be 200, 175 or 150 cells per inch.
The moving lamps eliminate any defect showing in a particular spot.
One laying machine is used for plates and one for cylinders.

Etching (Time 5 minutes)
Each cylinder is painted out with bitumen paint to protect the copper not required to be etched. The etching order is from shadows up to highlights.

Engraving and Fine Etching (Time 5 minutes)
Department for finishing stage of the work prior to machine proofs. Any faults in the previous etch are rectified here by localized etching and engraving.

Page 4

Printing Machines (Time 6 minutes)
Four 22-inch wide machines and one two colour 11-inch wide machine.
Ink is fed from below from ink mixers.
Doctor blades scrape surplus ink off cylinder.
Numbering unit numbers both sides of sheet.
Physical count taken afterwards to check machine count.
Two machines produce work for sheets.
Two machines produce work for Rolls and Books.
Two small wharfedale machines for cancelling waste sheets —note black lines across sheets.

Rereeling (Time 2 minutes)
Machines condition and trim paper ready for printing machines.
Rereeling, Perforating, Books and Rolls Rooms are air conditioned.
Waste paper sent back to paper mill for destruction.

Rotary Perforators (Time 5 minutes)
Show visitors the confetti trays underneath machines.
2 cwt. confetti per day from all perforating machines.
Three comb blocks contain nearly 3,000 pins.
Two machines perforate sheets for books, trimming all edges ready for collating.
One machine perforates sheets and one machine perforates rolls.

Sheet Perforators (Time 3 minutes)
7 sheets pinned at a time. Point out accuracy of frame—the bottom sheet perforating exactly the same as top. (Show them this.)
Four machines are two comb and two machines single comb.
Point out here that sheets are delivered from printing machines in 960 stamps on a sheet, perforated in 480 stamps and examined in 240 stamps.

Page 2

Depositing and Grinding (Time 3 minutes)
The plates are manufactured elsewhere but all cylinders are deposited with copper in our own factory.
A 5/1000 "Skin" is largely used which can be stripped off and cylinder redeposited with another "skin."
Chrome being much harder than copper, any cylinder used for a long run is chromium plated before running.
Some cylinders are "ballard" copper which is done by use of an agate stone. The stone rolls copper during deposition.

MACHINE ROOM (Time 15 minutes)
Point out size of various machines.
The battery of L. & M. 4s used for colour work. Printing from plates. Sheets automatically fed into machines.
The smaller machines (L. & M. 7s) are used for training apprentices in their early years. Sheets hand fed in machines.
Machine in cage is used for Colonial postage stamps.
Palatias are larger machines printing from cylinders.
Point out Litho machines on which we do specialized work not suitable for Gravure.
Albert Rotary. 72-inch wide with folding unit on machine.
Five colour Halley machine. Mainly used for household cleansing labels, such as Vim and Mirro.
Timson machine is used for printing wrappers and Post Office Magazine, etc.

BINDERY (Time 10 minutes)
Point out guillotines and sequence of any work running at the time.
Miss Avery will be available to explain if necessary.
Point out folding machines. Some folding by rollers and some by knife action.

Page 5

It should not come as a surprise that Harrison went to the trouble of printing these Guide Notes in what was probably a print run of no more than, say, 20 copies, as there would have been no PC printers or photostat machines back then!

Book Room (Time 10 minutes)
Room laid out in order of work as follows :
Collating into frames.
Checking by Harrison girls.
Middle Stitching.
Check by Post Office girls.
Side Stitching.
Cutting frames into single books on machine.
Examine, Count and Banding in one operation.
Check by Harrison girls for correct number in bundles.
Checked by Post Office girls.
Packed by Harrison girls.
1,250,000 books produced per week.
For purpose of checking the books are kept in units of 4,000. Spare tray is kept on one side in order to make up good trays should any of them be waste.
Small machine on left of room punches holes through waste books for destruction.

Rolls Room (Time 5 minutes)
Girls examine the rolls and insert wrappers at correct place.
Post Office girls check them for right number of panels according to make up of Roll.
Rolls are tightened up, bands secured, tied and sealed before delivery.
(Specimens of different sized rolls will be available if required)
There are 27 different kinds of rolls, the bulk of which are used in stamp vending machines.

Examining Department (Time 4 minutes)
Girls examine sheet in 4 sections. Twice on the front and twice on the back.
Girls will point out why sheets are turned out as waste.
The sequence of work :
i Sheets counted into room.
i Examined.
i Counted and work changed.
Re-counted and packed for delivery to G.P.O.

Page 3

LETTERPRESS DEPARTMENT (Time 14 minutes)

Composing
Hand composing which has been done this way since the 15th century.
Various sizes of type face can be pointed out.
Work carried out here is mostly periodical and book work. Some of the periodicals are Iron and Steel, Chemical Transactions, G.P.O. Magazine, Home Words, etc. A directory is done every two years which runs into 2,000 pages. At the present time the Voting List is in hand, this amounts to about 250 pages and has to be set, proofed and printed within a period of five weeks.

Keyboard
The keyboard of this machine is the same layout as that of the typewriter except that it contains five and sometimes seven alphabets. An operator will touch as many as 10,000 keys per hour.

Caster
Here the type is cast. You will notice the metal pot, this is heated and kept at a temperature of 725 degrees. The metal is driven through the mould by the action of a pump.
The die-case contains 225 matrices. These machines cast an average of 8,000 separate characters per hour.

Readers
When the type comes off the casters a proof is taken and this is sent to the readers to be read for any errors.

Machine Room
Machine labelled up showing operation of machine will be prepared
Perforators print both sides of sheet in one operation.
Point out two lots of formes, rollers, etc.

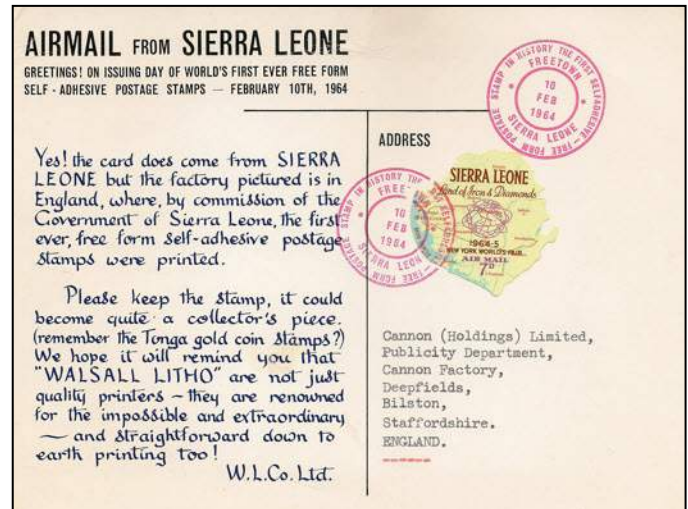
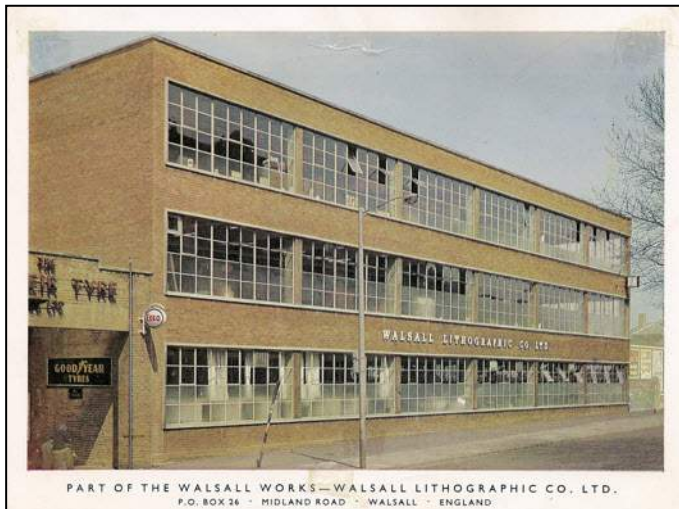
Page 6

Walsall Litho and Samuel Jones's First Day Self-adhesive Stamp Cards

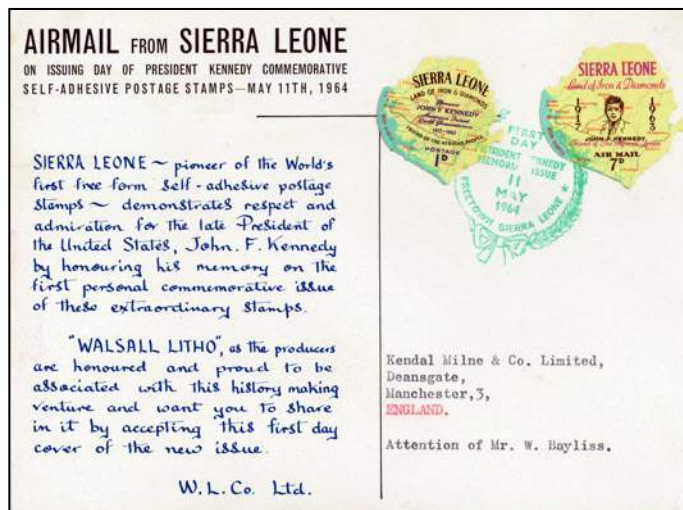
Attractive postcards and a folder were produced to help promote the early days of peel-and-stick stamps

Not dummy related, but an interesting group of promotional items that can be difficult to get hold of. ☒

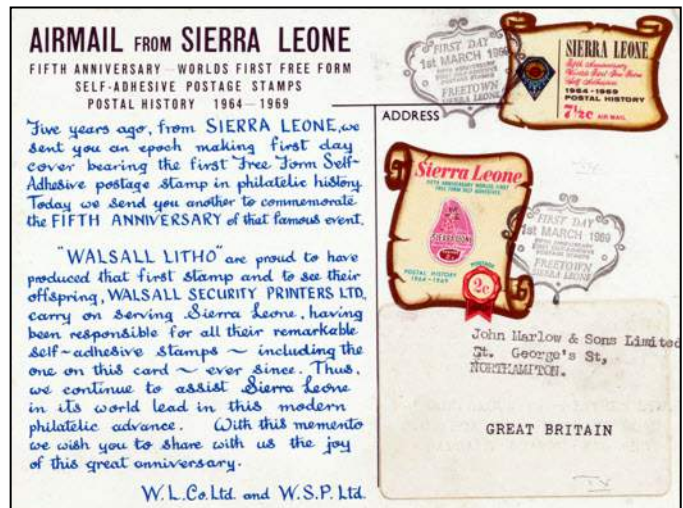
WALSALL LITHO



Sierra Leone, The First Self-adhesive Stamp, 10 February 1964.



Sierra Leone, John F Kennedy Memorial Issue, 11 May 1964.



Sierra Leone, Five Years of Self-adhesive Stamps, 1 March 1969.

SAMUEL JONES PAPER



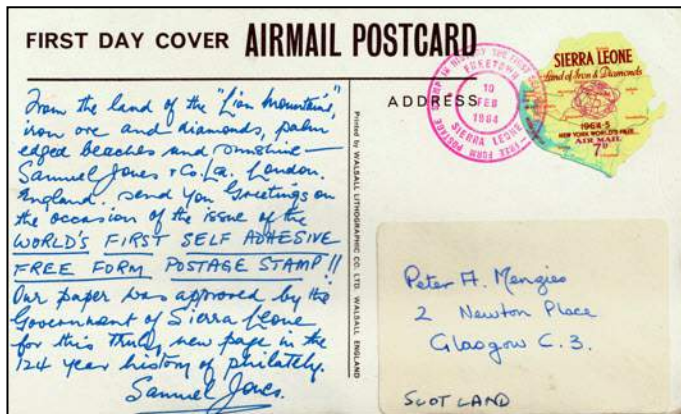
MAY 1960
First postage stamp
FEB 1964
First Self-Adhesive
postage stamp.



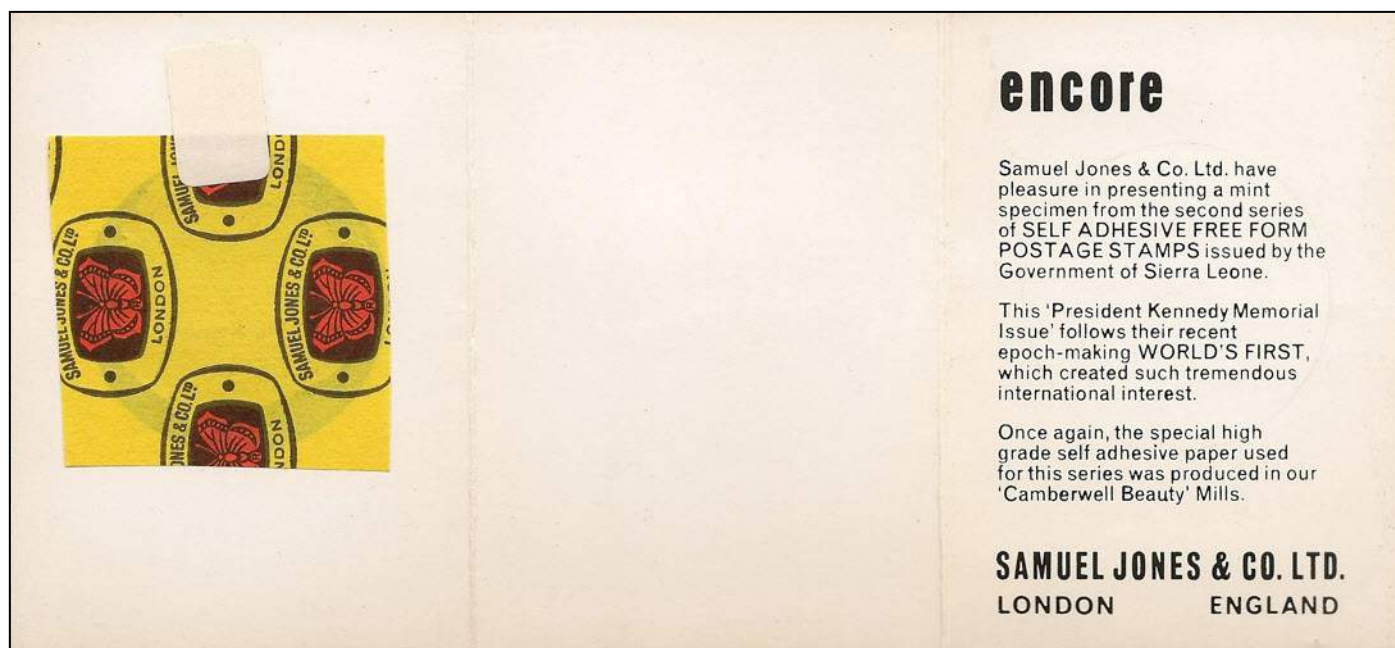
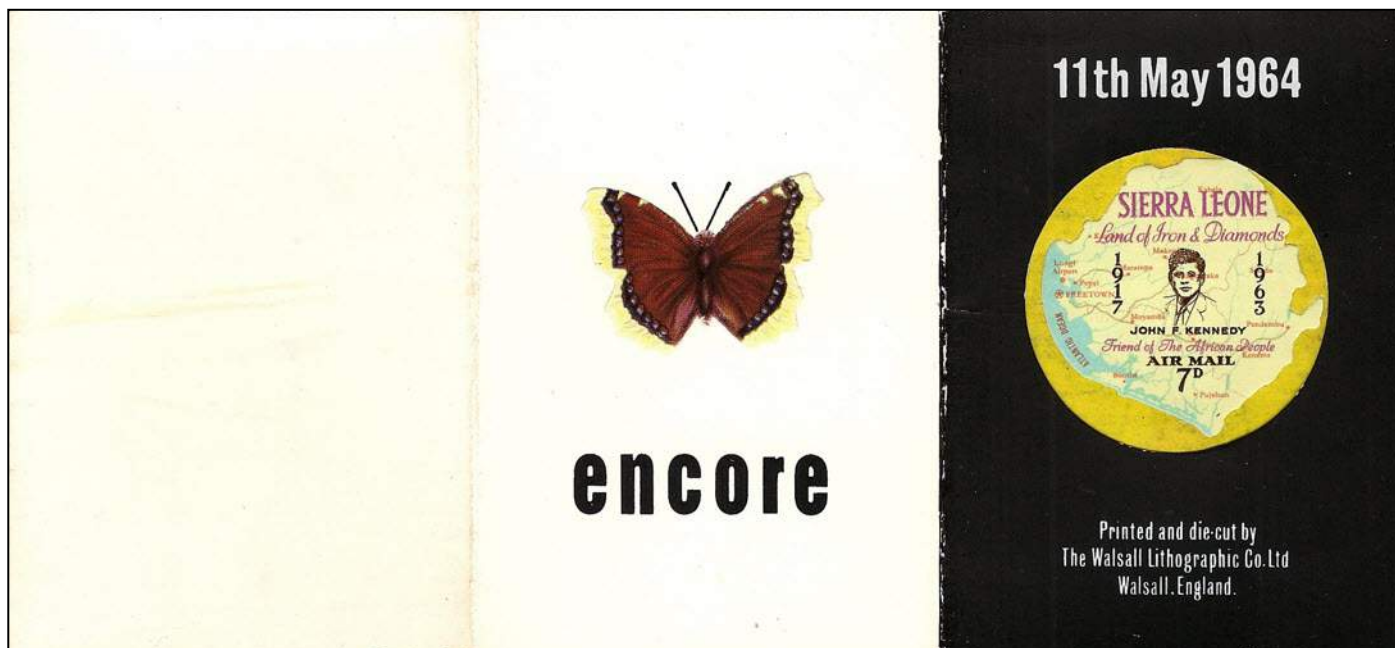
Nymphalis Antiopa

Our trademark is your international guarantee of quality. We make papers coated with an infinite variety of recipes—for printing and labelling, and for the packaging industries.

SAMUEL JONES & CO LTD LONDON ENGLAND



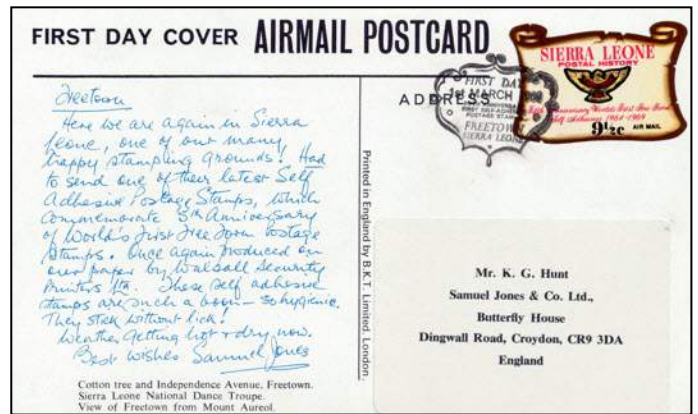
Sierra Leone, *The First Self-adhesive Stamp*, 10 February 1964.



Sierra Leone, *John F Kennedy Memorial Issue*, 11 May 1964.

There does not appear to have been a Samuel Jones postcard for the Kennedy issue. Instead, a very small folder was produced with a mint sample of the issued stamp and a self-adhesive Camberwell Beauty butterfly sticker affixed.

SAMUEL JONES PAPER (continued)

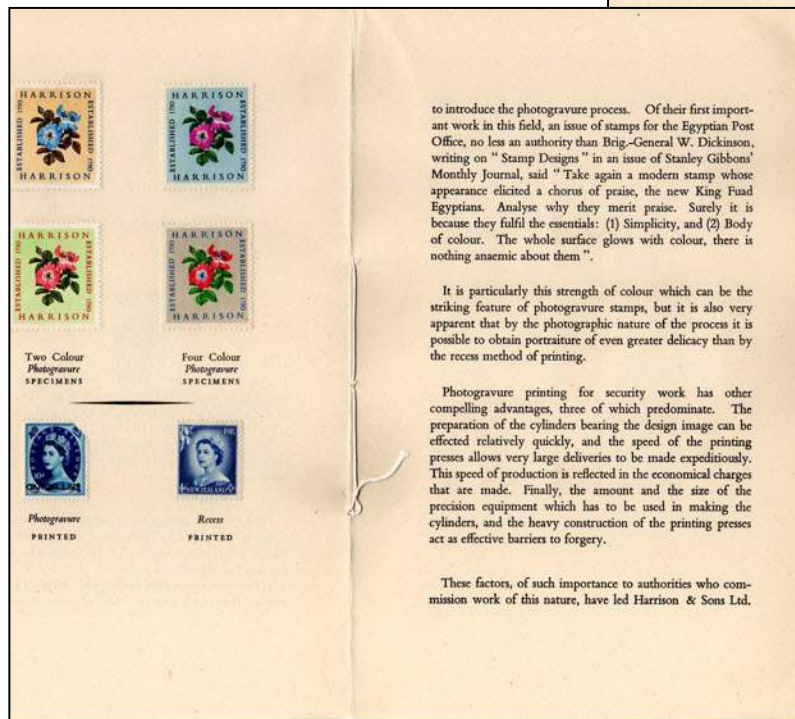
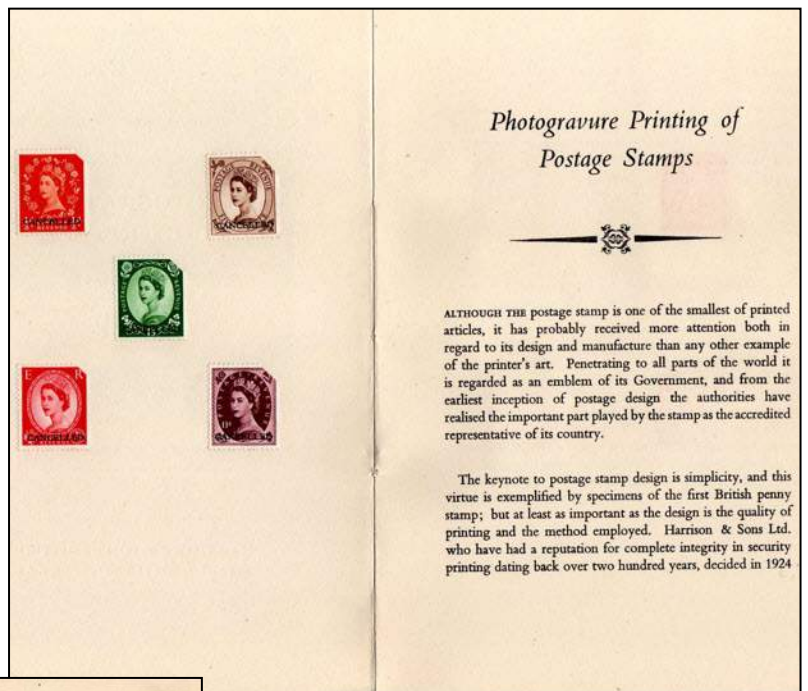


Sierra Leone, Five Years of Self-adhesive Stamps, 1 March 1969

Harrison 'Photogravure Printing of Postage Stamps'
Publicity booklet contained dummy stamps

A small booklet entitled "Photogravure Printing of Postage Stamps" with a red flock cover was produced around 1954 as a promotional item for clients.

If lucky enough to obtain a complete one, it contains six Wilding stamps clipped on one corner each bearing a CANCELLED overprint. Your compiler has a copy, but sadly his was from a former Harrison director and was without any stamps within, reducing...



...not just any potential financial value, but also dramatically reducing its philatelic interest as well.



Fortunately, a reader was able to supply scans from his copy revealing the dummy stamps enclosed within the publication, which is rarely found on offer through dealers or online auction sites. ☒

1911 DLR Britannia Head and King George V Head in pair

A rare opportunity....



British Stamp dealer Andrew G Lajer was recently offering an interesting vertical pair with the top stamp being a King George V Downey Head (from the sheet of 48 where only twelve had the GvR head), se-tenant with one of the well-known De La Rue Britannia head dummy stamps.

Go to the link below if interested in purchasing, always assuming that it is still unsold of course.
www.andrewglajer.co.uk/1911-de-la-rue-britannia-head-interpau-neau-imperf-pair.html

This attractive pair bore a price tag of £2,500 for what is a rarely seen item, particularly with the pillars attached. ☒

1885 De La Rue Stamp Booklet Dummy Stamps

On offer by a British stamp dealer at £300

Imperforate in green, blue & dark grey with four fine margins each mounted on ledger page, these were used for booklet trials. ☒



'Hughenden Quarter' Starts to be Built on the Old Harrison Site

All remnants of Harrison are to be finally removed

A development of 97 properties have started to be built on the site of the old Harrison stamp printing works in Coates Lane, High Wycombe.



www.careysnewhomes.co.uk/development/hughenden-quarter/

Sited adjacent to Hughenden Park on the north side of High Wycombe, the development will offer one to four bedroom properties and include "a feature crescent of Regency style townhouses overlooking the picturesque Hughenden Park and a contrasting range of contemporary family homes and apartments"

At least these new homes look as if they will be constructed to a high standard by Careys and sadly 'progress' cannot be halted.

While this news is not related to dummy stamps per-se, Horsenden Manor is close-by and has been featured within these pages previously (DS27) owing to the Christmas stamp produced by one of the Harrison family. A sheetlet of four labels can be depicted below thanks to reader Derek Weston. ☒



Harrison Telegraph Forms from the 1880's

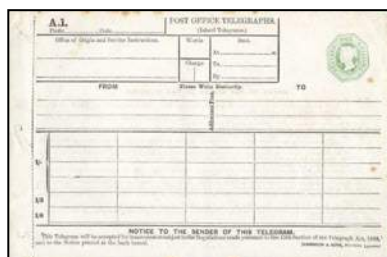
Interesting three-some surface on the web

Mark Bloxham Stamps (www.philatellic.co.uk) had for sale at the time of compiling this issue, three telegraph forms printed by Harrison. These were part of the first two contracts that the company received from the Post Office and, while not dummies, are of interest to anyone researching this period of the history of Harrison and its output.

Not being a specialist in the production of these items, it is unclear to your compiler if the embossed stamp element would have been printed by Harrison or perhaps overprinted elsewhere at a later date.

1882. One Shilling Green Octagonal:

Die inscribed 'POSTAGE / ONE SHILLING'. Sold singly. This printing must have been from the initial 1881 contract that the company won.



Die dated 5 1 82.

Imprint at bottom right:
(HARRISON & SONS,
PRINTERS, LONDON)

Space for 30 words.

1885. Six Penny Purple Octagonal:

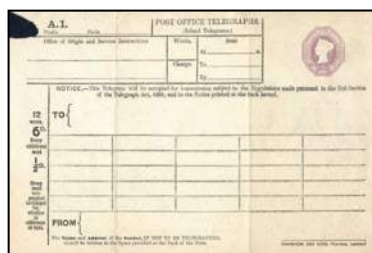
Die inscribed 'POSTAGE / SIX PENCE'. Sold singly and in books. This printing is from the 1885 second contract that the company won.



Die dated 5 10 85.

Imprint at bottom right:
(HARRISON AND SONS,
PRINTERS, LONDON)

Space for 30 words.



Die dated 5 10 85(?)

Imprint at bottom right:
(HARRISON AND SONS,
PRINTERS, LONDON)

Space for 25 words.

The House of Harrison states that 250 million a year were required (a big order for its time) which, if stacked in a pile, would be six miles high! ☒

Major Hurdle Regarding Ownership of Jessica Ennis Trial Stamp

Stolen property makes purchase unwise

Thanks to Ian Billings, the official version of the story behind this trial dummy stamp is repeated here, having first appeared on his interesting blog at <http://blog.norphil.co.uk/2014/02/london-2012-olympic-ennis-variety.html> earlier this year.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM ROYAL MAIL

"This is not an official Royal Mail stamp but was part of the testing done with printers some months before the London Olympics. All printers were under instruction to destroy such printed items and we do not have any knowledge as to how the example came to be on the auction site. However, as this example is Royal Mail property and never intended for sale it has been removed from the auction site."

There is no mention as to whether copies sold by the vendor were being demanded back by Royal Mail, or which of the printers had a member of staff who was responsible for the theft of these items.



The source image is currently available to view at <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/olympics/article-2161113/London-2012-Olympics-Peter-Keen-says-Beijing-gold-medal-haul-burden-Team-GB.html> but as it is copyright to AFP/Getty Images it cannot be depicted here. It is always interesting to see what gets left off a photograph when a stamp is cropped in such an unusual way as the 2012 Olympic Games series.

The vendor had stated at the time of the 'discovery' of a pane of 24 that the stamp is "a major error which is sure to become a future all-time classic". With, or even without, hindsight, to call it a major error is rather naive. ☒

A New NCR Post and Go Vending Test Strip

2nd class version now found

A vendor on eBay recently sold a strip of three of the 2nd class Post and Go Machin design with the test printing for the Custom VK80-300 printer housed within the new NCR brand of machine.



This item matches the 1st class version that was depicted in *DS33*.

At the time of writing, pictorial designs (such as the spring flowers series of six designs and the Union Flag issue) had not been seen utilised in the new machines. NCR models are rapidly rolling-out, generally as replacements for the relatively short-lived Wincor Nixdorf equipment, but also at new sites that never had the earlier incarnation. ☒

De La Rue's 'Postscript' Stamps Newsletter Surfaces

Have you seen any further copies?

A reader of *Dummy Stamps* kindly sent to your compiler a copy of issue one of a De La Rue newsletter called *Postscript*, the A4 masthead for which is depicted below, albeit much reduced.



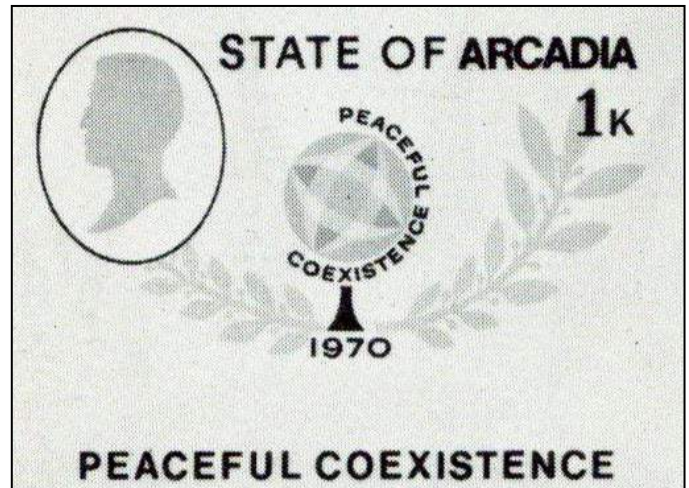
Its coverage was exclusively about stamp printing and design related matters and it contains much of interest within its four black and white sides. An example of the type of feature contained within is detailed in the next column.

It is assumed that this was a fairly short-lived publication, as it was previously unknown to those collectors who have an interest in such matters. So, can anyone possibly help by supplying scans or photocopies of any other issues, please? ☒

Good and Bad Design According to De La Rue in 1970

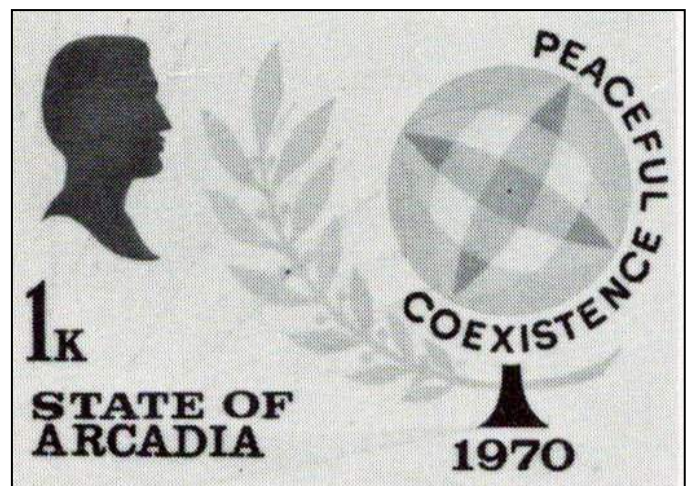
DLR promotes its postage stamp design services

What constitutes good or, for that matter, bad design? It is assumed that you will have your own views on the matter; certainly your compiler has. Well, so did De La Rue back in 1970. Indeed, it went to the trouble of creating both types for readers of its newsletter *Postscript* to ponder over.



Bad design.

First, they tackled bad design in their imaginary dummy stamp design above. The problems here are that elements are, to quote: "*confused, disjointed, difficult to read and ignore the demands of the minuscule medium*".



Good design.

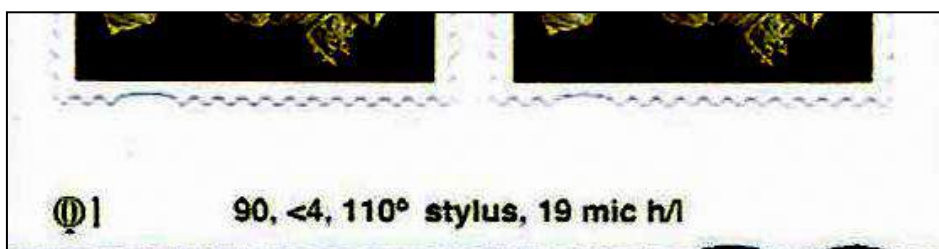
They then reassembled elements for a more pleasing design where: "*small individual changes produce a stamp which is consistent in its proportions and which 'reads' easily*".

Don't look for these as they did not progress to the printing press stage, but an interesting exercise. ☒

House of Questa 2nd Class Gold Machin Stamp Booklet Trial Found

Unrecorded colour seen for this unissued Machin NVI stamp

A reader advised that this booklet was recently sold as singles at the price of £250 per stamp, making it a £3,000 booklet prior to it being split-up. The outside front and outside back covers are devoid of any printing, so are not shown here. ☒



(top) The pane of 12 gold Machin stamps in the colour of the issued first class value.

(left) The unusual marginal text. The scan has been rotated and darkened to more easily show off the text.

Questa's Badges for (Big) Kids

Seen more in the collections of grown-ups than children!



(above)
The generic badge, as handed out at several stamp exhibitions where House of Questa was in attendance.

(right)
The special version that commemorated 30 years of the company in 1996. This one is far harder to find.



2012 Dummy Stamp Found Used

Kiloware Olympics stamp trial offered by stamp dealer

It would be easy to create a used copy if you had a mint example to spare, but why would you, as mint copies are quite expensive? Maybe some copies were used by non-collectors 'genuinely', perhaps in total ignorance. It sold for a low price of £4.99. ☒
(Stop press: Further copies later went for between 99p -£10.)

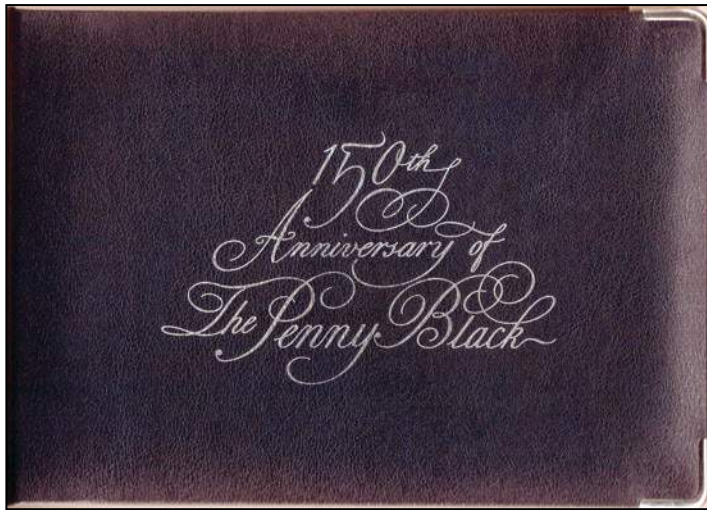


The so-called 'Nelson' printing.

Harrison Supplied Royal Mail with Oversized 1990 MS for Palmares

Press sheets were cut differently to normally issued sheets

In 1990, Royal Mail actively commemorated the 150th anniversary of the first postage stamp, which was the Penny Black of course, with various products.



One popular item was the miniature sheet bearing the 20p double-headed Victoria/QEII design together with an intaglio reproduction of the Penny Black, plus seahorses and Britannia background.

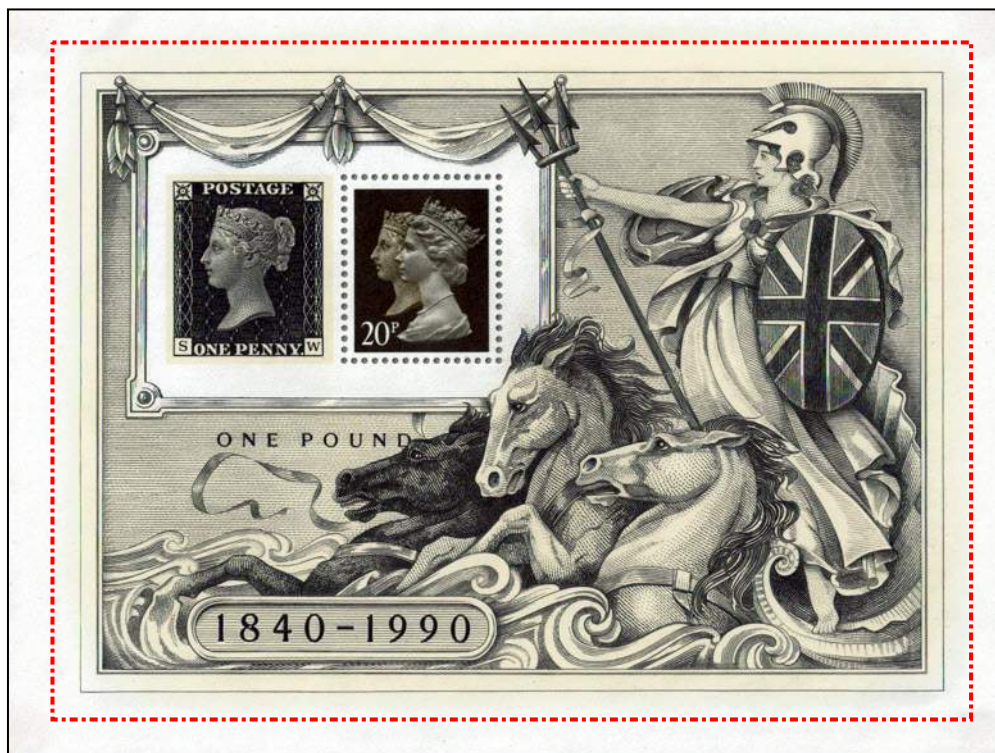
This sheet, plus a medallion, were incorporated into a lavish presentation folder mimicking navy leather, plus silver coloured protective corners and grey flock interior, as shown in the previous column. It was a gift to the guests who attended a Post Office reception put on for the anniversary.

That was 24 years ago now and every so often your compiler would wonder about the size of the miniature sheet in the folder in relation to the normal unmounted versions available from the exhibition, Post Office counters and the philatelic bureau. He had a hunch that this could be an oversized version exclusively cut for the folder.

Well, the self-adhesive sealing tape used to stick the grey mount around the MS has now perished sufficiently to enable it to be removed without physically damaging the sheet or the folder. (The MS is stuck to its backing paper, so is not u/m.)

Lo and behold it IS oversized! The normal MS measures 122mm wide x 90mm tall, while this presentation version comes in at 132mm wide x 100mm tall. Few copies of this variant will exist.

This may not be earth-shattering, but it is another instance of why it is important to examine what you own and not to assume anything. ☒



Life-sized version of the larger miniature sheet.

The red dotted rule represents the outer dimensions of the normally issued version.

Royal Mint Trial Plate and Victory Kidder Printing Machine Company Dummy Stamps Discovered

Exciting new material comes to light after many decades of being hidden away in a private family archive

Stanley Gibbons Ltd and Andrew G Lajer appear to be the only two stamp dealers who originally handled the personal archive of H A Richardson, a Royal Mint engraver. Mr Richardson was given a presentation album by the Royal Mint upon his retirement and it is this unique proof material that has recently been offered for sale.



Example not seen in a "cleared" condition.



Royal Mint

Victory Kidder

The left-hand examples of each pair above are termed "uncleared", that is to say the margins are ink receptive (black in this case).

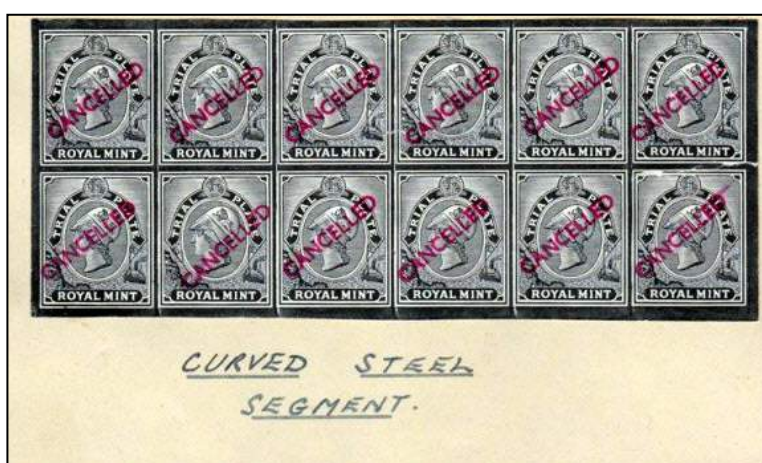
The right-hand example is "cleared" of ink, as would be the case with most issued stamps.

Stanley Gibbons appear to have acquired for sale the British 1929 Postal Union Congress low-value commemoratives, postage dues and definitives and New Zealand Arms issued stamp material, while Andrew Lajer had the material that is more relevant to these pages such as that depicted below and overleaf, plus revenues, coat of arms proofs and the like. Incidentally, the red CANCELLED handstamp is understood to have been applied to all items at the time of the compilation of the album.

The most recent item appears to be 1950, so it is assumed that Mr Richardson must have retired after this time, but perhaps surprisingly nothing further has been found regarding this skilled letterpress engraver.

It would be great to have more information on the man and his work, especially these dummy stamps of course. The Royal Mint has been approached in order to get more information and a reply is awaited from them. In the meantime, can any reader add to our story, please? ☒

Royal Mint Trial Plate ~ 1931



(left) Vertical pair worded "Matrix for Roller 2 Set". UNCLEARED MARGINS. Sold for £150.

(above) Block of 12 (two rows of six) worded "Curved Steel Segment". UNCLEARED MARGINS. On sale for £900.

Royal Mint Trial Plate and Victory Kidder Printing Machine Company Dummy Stamps Discovered (continued)

Victory Kidder Printing Machine Company ~ 1933



(above)
Cut down die proof of the dummy stamp over-printed "CANCELLED" in red.

UNCLEARED MARGINS.
Sold for £75.



(left) Vertical pair worded "Matrix for Roller 2 Set".
UNCLEARED MARGINS. Sold for £150.

(above) Block of 12 (two rows of six) worded "Curved Steel Segment".
CLEARED MARGINS. On sale for £900.

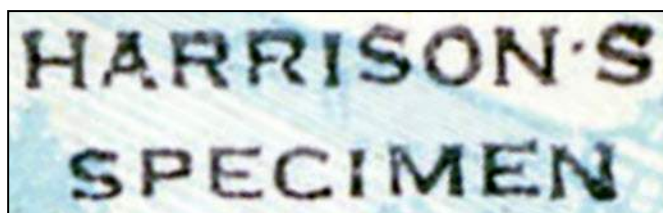
Harrison's Specimen Handstamp

Sales of early Palestine specimens

An overseas auction house recently offered for sale Palestinian stamps with a Harrison Specimen handstamp. The description read:

"#65TC, 67TC, 73TC, 79TC, 1927 4m, 5m, 10m and 90M Pictorial trial colours with "Harrison's / Specimen" overprint, the four different designs complete in grey, olive, grey-blue and pale ultramarine respectively, all are well centred and attractive, regummed, very fine and a very rare set; illustrated in Bale catalogue page 120 (SG 92TC, 93TC, 97TC, 101TC). Estimate \$400-500."

The progress of the sale was not monitored, so it is not known what the sale price was, or indeed if the items remained unsold. Similar items on offer elsewhere recently had a starting price of £180 for each stamp.



Enlargement of the specimen handstamp.

Intaglio Colour Standards from Brads, DLR, Harrison and Waterlow

Pick a colour....

The colour standard books shown on the following pages are indicative of what the printers made available to its customers on loan to help them choose appropriate colours for their recess stamps, banknotes and bearer securities.

All copies of the books should have been returned to the printer after use but it is clear that this was not always the case.

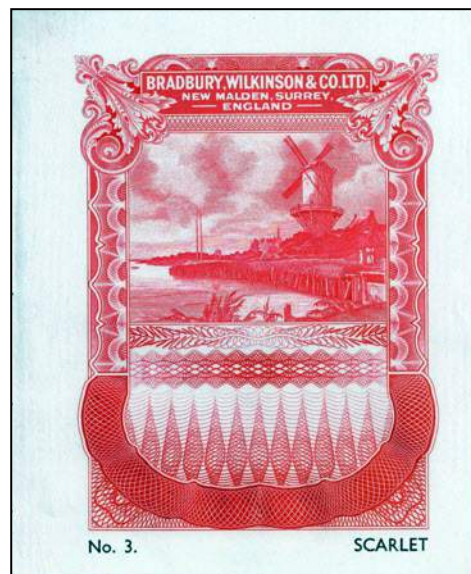
As expected, the dummy sheets are fine examples of what the engraver and printer could achieve from the one-colour intaglio printing process. ✉

Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co Ltd



Unprinted bound blue buckram cover.

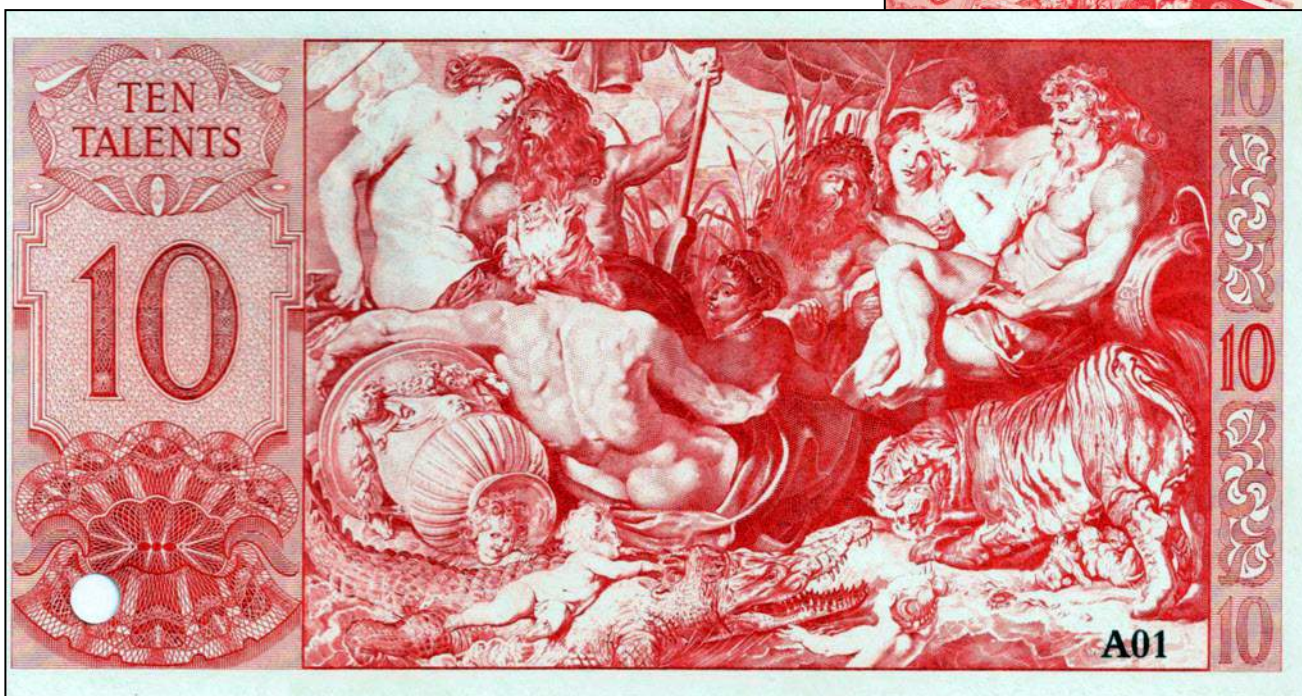
(right) Typical intaglio sample from within.



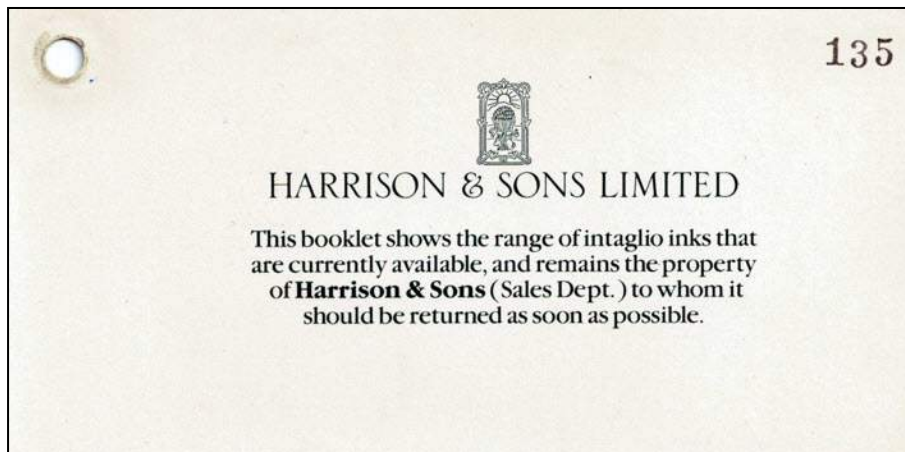
De La Rue & Co Ltd



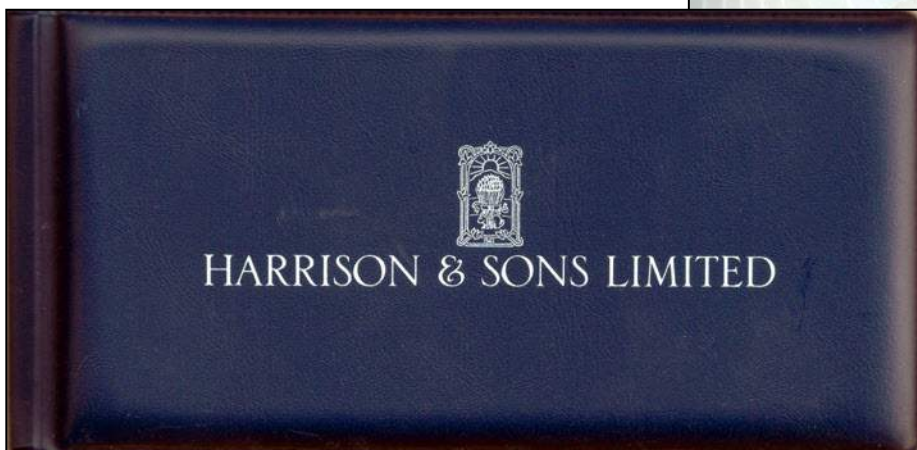
(above left) Introductory page.
(middle) Green and gold plastic cover.
(far right) A range of the booklet colours.
(below) Typical intaglio colour sample.



Harrison and Sons Ltd



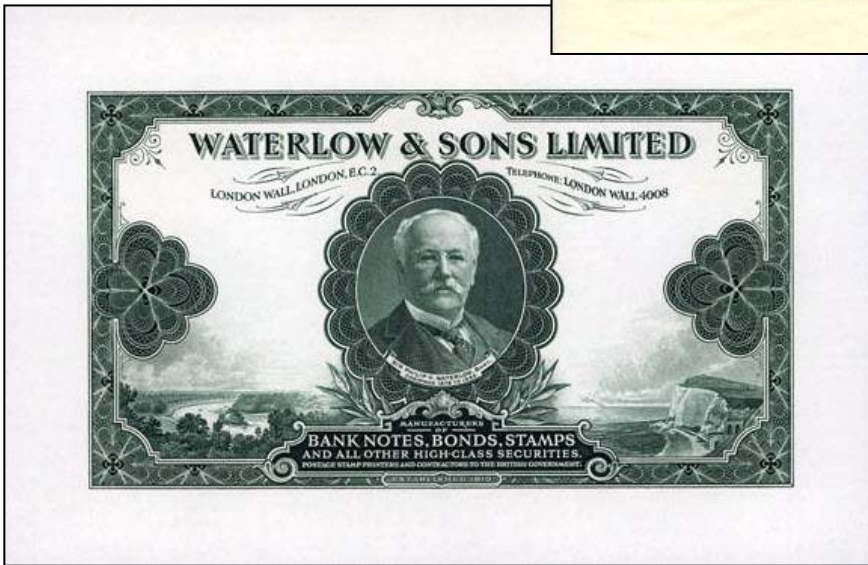
(top) Typical intaglio colour sample.
(above) Introductory page.
(far right) A range of the booklet colours.
(below) Blue and silver plastic cover.



Waterlow and Sons Ltd

Waterlow, with its many decades of security printing behind it, perhaps not surprisingly had also used colour standard sheets.

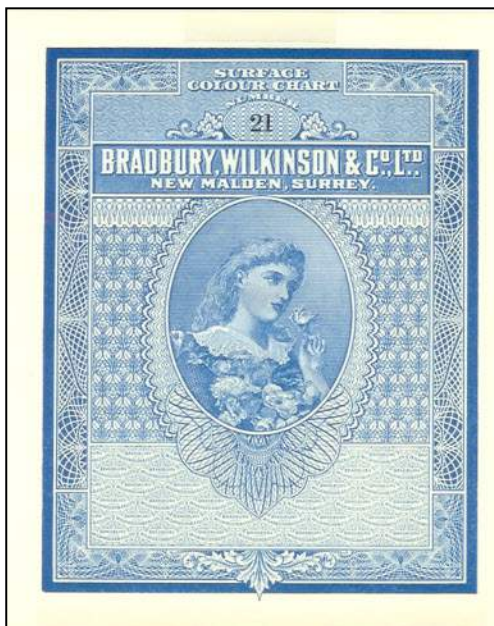
However, it also produced advertising notes in two or more colours of these (and many other) designs...



...Those sample sheets with more than one ink colour were not used for the purpose of matching colours or for offering inks to its extensive number of customers around the world. ☒

Surface and Litho Colour Standards from Bradbury, Wilkinson

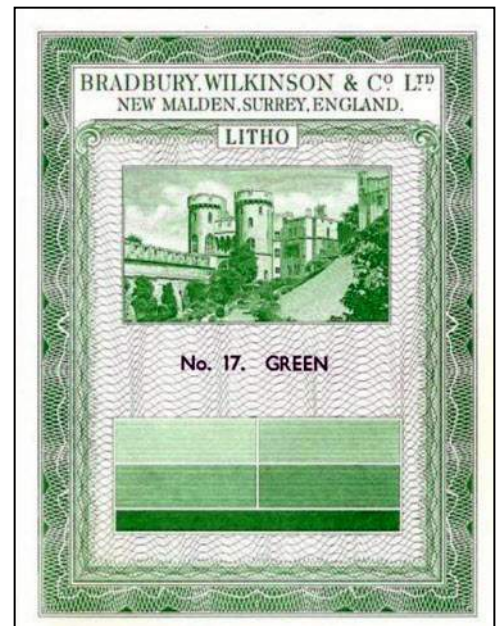
As used by staff to help their customers choose ink colours and to match them accurately on press



The previous feature showed intaglio printing ink samples.

Bradbury, Wilkinson also produced similar books of colour standards for its relief (surface) and lithographic printing ink range. These charts are encountered far less than the intaglio ones.

Relief and litho items from other well-known British security printers have not been seen by your compiler, but may, of course, exist. ☒



1996 IMP (Integrated Mail Processor) Test Cancellations

Samples of technology from Royal Mail and AEG surface

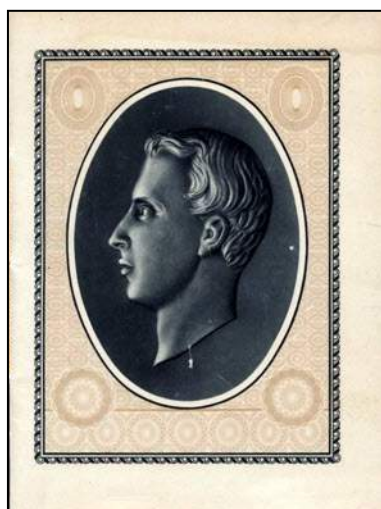
Excuse the poor auction photographs, but the two cancellations shown here bear the phrases: office_line_1 and ...



... office_line_2 in place of the name of a real Mail Centre. A mere handful exist according to vendor. ☒

Harrison Feedback

More items come to light



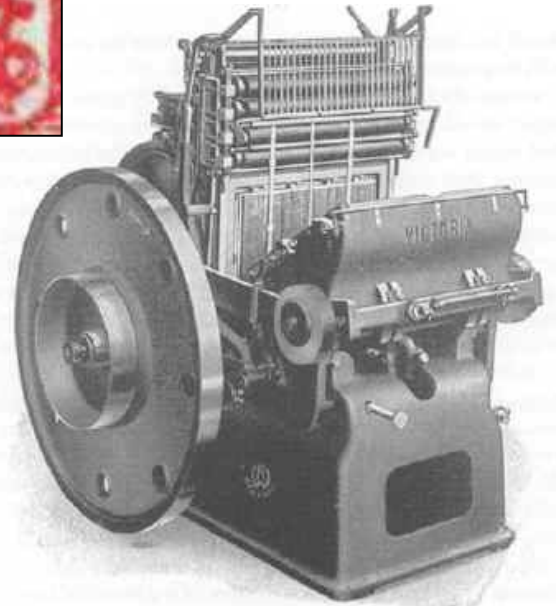
A reader has kindly sent in scans of items mentioned in DS33. These include the large block of 16 of the Thomas Richard Harrison design in red. Not all copies had this block.

A copy of a left hand margin single of the same design was also supplied. Note the extra large margin, but no sign of any perforations at left hand vertical edge.

Also submitted was a block of 15 of the Springbok design in red. A similar sized block was shown last time in blue, but the red is of the smaller format. ☒

The Victoria Platen Printing Press Revisited

New colours surface following mention in DS33



A reader generously gave your compiler the above two previously unrecorded colours of the dummy stamp that depicts the Victoria platen printing press.

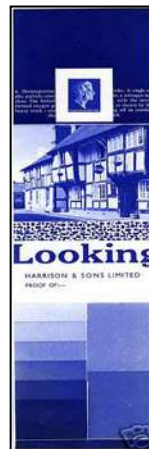
The labels have the letters **R** and **S** intertwined at top left and top right. It is assumed that these stand for RockStroh-Werke of Germany. ☒

Harrison & Sons Paper Testing at Wycombe

Proof as to why Ye Olde Worlde Tea Shoppe sheets headed-up "Looking" exist

The sheets alongside are occasionally offered for sale, largely, it seems, in blue, plum or magenta colours. Going through a *Harrison Papers* brochure recently, the magenta sheet was seen in use on a mini-web (reel) undergoing laboratory tests.

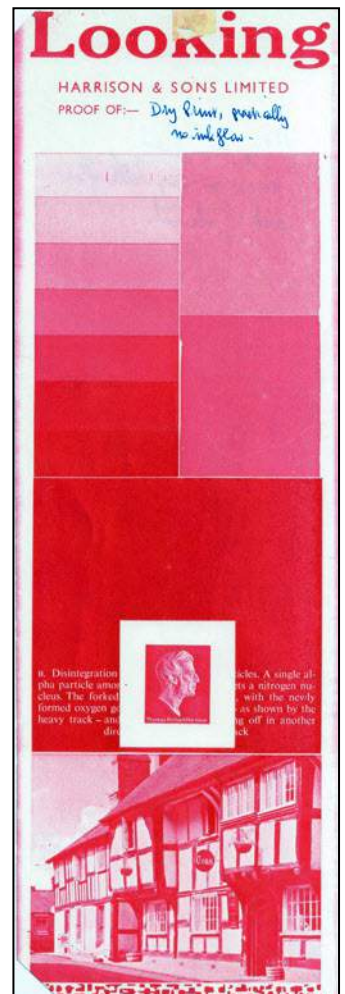
The brochure stated: "During production every reel of paper is subjected to detailed quality control checks and UV examination, including tests on substance, adhesion, moisture content, printability and where applicable, luminescence. Supplied either in reels or guillotine trimmed sheets, the finished product is hand sorted and thoroughly checked before leaving the factory." ☒



(left) Blue sheet.

(below) Uncut double sheet in magenta with two layouts.

(right) Enlarged copy of a single magenta sheet.



EBay Rubbish Continues to be Offered

Your compiler cannot tell you how to spend your money, but at least spend it armed with the facts

eBay sites around the world continue to offer dubious British Post Office training material for sale, especially commemoratives of late.

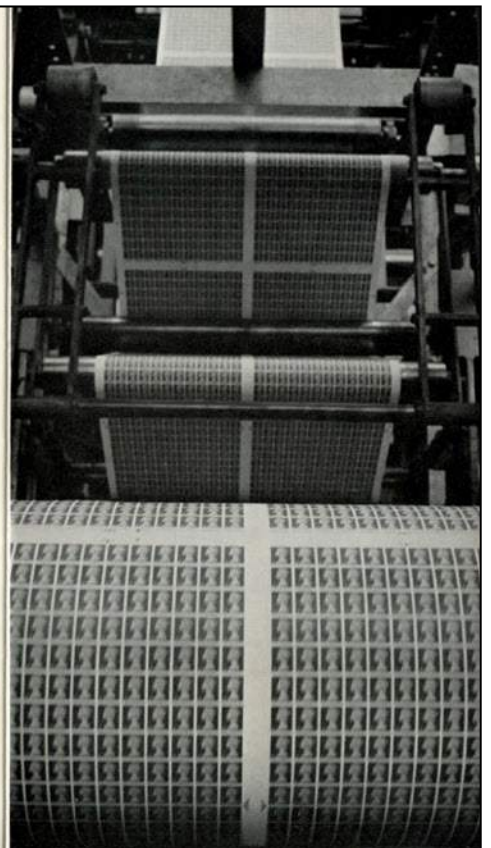
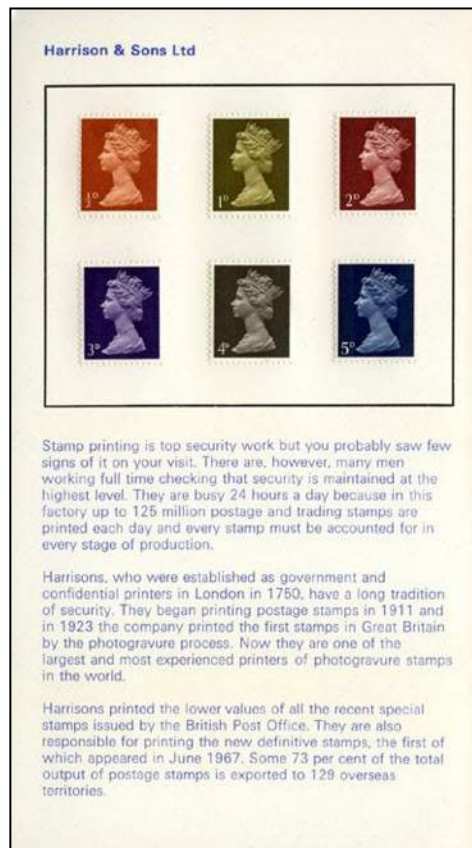
The prices are generally extortionate (£16+) for stamps of little basic value and there is an increasing trend to use even less valuable used stamps, such as the *National Nature Week* stamp shown below. ✉



Harrison Presentation Folder for visitors to the Wycombe Site

Previously unseen folder surfaces on eBay. It sold for £52

The stamps are stuck down with-
in this late 1960s item . ✉



Harrison's Old Masters Sheet

Time to revise its issue date!

In the Winter 1968 issue of *Harrison Forme*, the house journal of Harrison, mention was made of what has to be the well known sheet of dummy stamps issued with and without the London 1980 logo in its margin.

As the show sheet appeared in 1980, it had always been assumed that the version without the logo had appeared at around the same time. Clearly it had not and a previously recorded issue date of 'late 1970's' needs to now read 1968 instead.



Charity stamps for the Netherlands

For the first time ever, 25 different paintings have been reproduced in postage stamp size on a single sheet. The order was initiated by Mr S Olman and placed by Mr Van Nordwijk. The three million stamps will be issued for a charity promotion in the Netherlands.

The original paintings are all in the National Gallery and include works by well-known Dutch artists. They were carefully chosen by Wycombe's works director Mr R F York and process manager Mr Stan Gray so that they could be printed together on one sheet using the same five colours.

The 'Mr Olman' referred to above has not yet been identified, but 'Mr Van Nordwijk' is known to have been Harrison's "man on the ground" in the Netherlands. 120,000 sheets were printed; a nice order for the litho section at Hayes and a beautiful sheet. ☒

Philymphia Cancelling Ink Trials

Trials for three-colour handstamps undertaken

Philymphia 1970 utilised a different special handstamp for each day of the show. Unusually, they were struck in three different colours per handstamp and this had only been done once before at, if memory serves your compiler, Chippenham some years previously at a stamp show. Trials of the ink were undertaken using a SPECIMEN IMPRESSION handstamp. ☒



(above)

The finished result, as used on 23 September 1970.

(left)

One of a pair of similar covers with production samples of the special handstamp ink used on Philymphia covers.

Stephen Mayer International ~ Update to CPE Information

Sheet size of this printing now known

The Australian block of four labels produced by CPE were printed in sheets of 120 (10 rows of 12 labels), i.e. 30 blocks of 4, and had no marginal markings at all. ☒

Wharfedale Machines Once Cancelled Stamp Printing Waste at Harrison & Sons

Evidence that horizontal lines were not for training use

The Harrison factory tour page information recorded earlier in this issue of *Dummy Stamps* makes mention on page 2 under 'Printing Machines' of "Two small Wharfedale machines for cancelling waste sheets - note black lines across sheets".

Note how the notes state *across* sheets, therefore differentiating them from the vertical Post Office training stamp tram lines.

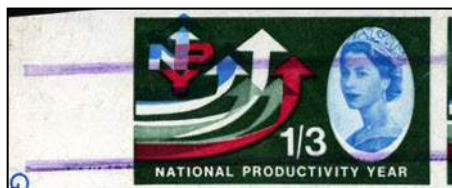
While it will now probably be hard to prove, it is reasonable to assume that the well-known 1960's waste sheets will have been obliterated by these Wharfedale presses, in violet as well as the black ink mentioned.

The scans shown here are typical examples



of the kind of defacement that is known from this time period.

The POSB issue was printed side-ways onto the sheet and so gives the appearance of having vertical training bar lines, but these were horizontally applied. ☒



Bruckman King Edward VII One-Penny Varieties

Unusual combinations recently found

Readers will be familiar with the trial printings of the KEVII 1d by the German firm of Bruckman.

Shown below are unusual imperforate items with correct-way reading and mirror reading and it is not thought that this particular combination has been recorded previously.



The above pair was offered for £95, while at the same time another dealer was selling the strip of three depicted here at £300. ☒

...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 35

A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material

Quarter 3, 2014

Harrison and Trading Stamps

Dummies exist in at least three versions

The contract to print Green Shield stamps must have been a lucrative one for Harrison, for the volumes produced were enormous. That is until the owner of Green Shield decided that this method of attracting customer loyalty was no longer of relevance. ☒



The cartoon above was by Harry Baxter of Harrison and was drawn in 1972 to mark the visit of Her Majesty the Queen to High Wycombe.

Postmaster General (PMG)

Presentation Cards

Far harder to obtain than the Harrison equivalents

A card previously unseen by your compiler was offered online at (an over-ambitious?) £149. It is still unsold many weeks later.



According to the description that accompanied the eBay lot they are "Not to be confused with the similar Harrison printer packs, these Postmaster General (PMG) cards and folders are very scarce and were only presented to The Queen, Princess Margaret, the Prime Minister, the Postmaster General, Stamp Advisory Panel members, Commonwealth Postmaster Generals and ex-Postmaster Generals. ☒

Latest Generation of Post and Go

Testing impression found online

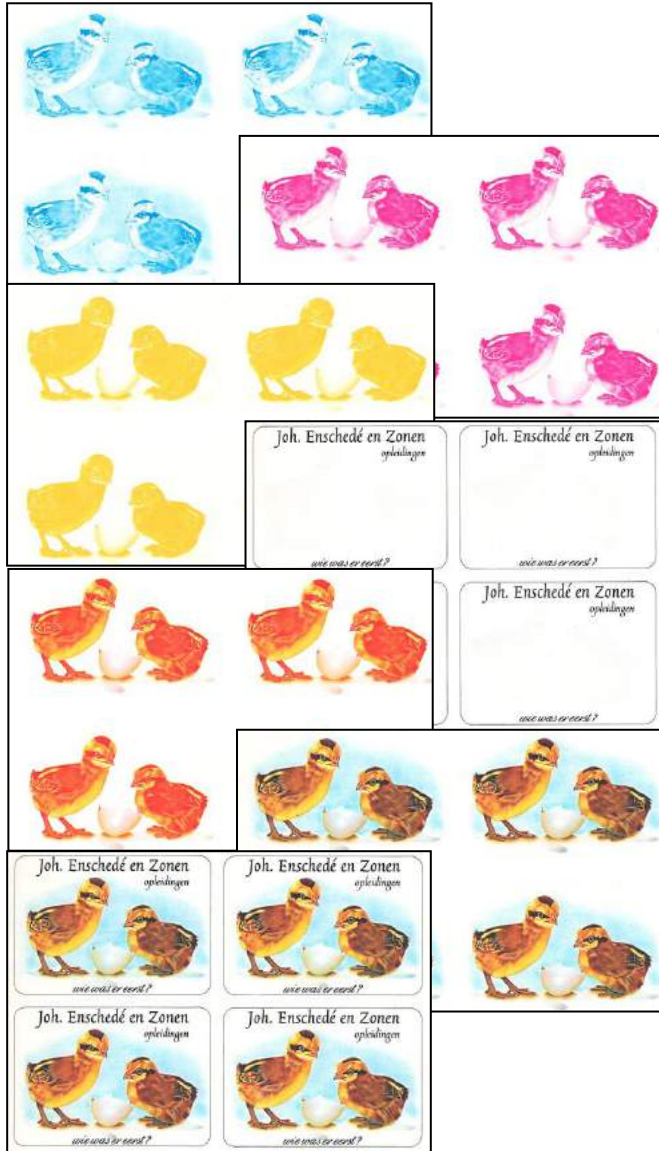
The VOID impression alongside is understood (i.e. not verified) to have been dispensed from the new machine at The British Postal Museum & Archive foyer in London. ☒



Enschedé Bird and Egg Dummy

Progressive designs found, but not as "stamps"

Can any reader state whether these progressive impressions are available on the open market? These scans are from an unknown publication that was mentioned online but cannot now be traced. ☒

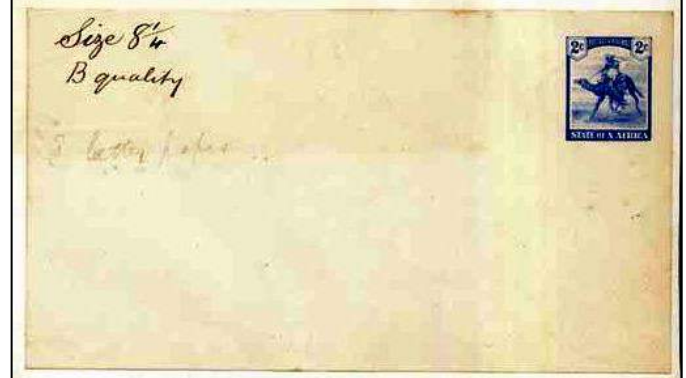


De La Rue's 'State of N. Africa'

Pattern stamps on offer

The items below are by De La Rue and date from the 1890s. They are pattern stamps used to develop colour schemes for BCA and Zanzibar stamps.

The imperforate example below is on ungummed paper, while the perforated version at right is gummed. They were offered at AUS\$250 each. The cover scans below are from an unrecorded source. ☒



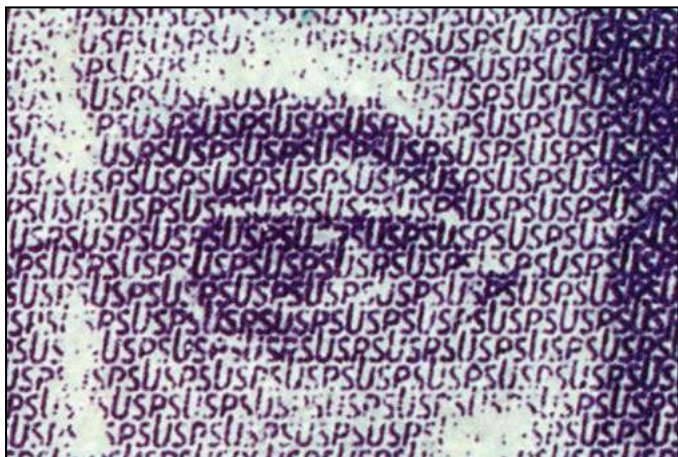
The size 13 and size 8 1/4 are the same sizes and of the same quality as selected by the Foreign Office for the British East Africa Protectorate.

At the left of the above two covers reading vertically is the text reduced above. It reads: "The size 13 and size 8 1/4 are the same sizes and of the same quality as selected by the Foreign Office for the British East Africa Protectorate."

User-definable Screens

A form of micro-printing used on a non-dummy stamp

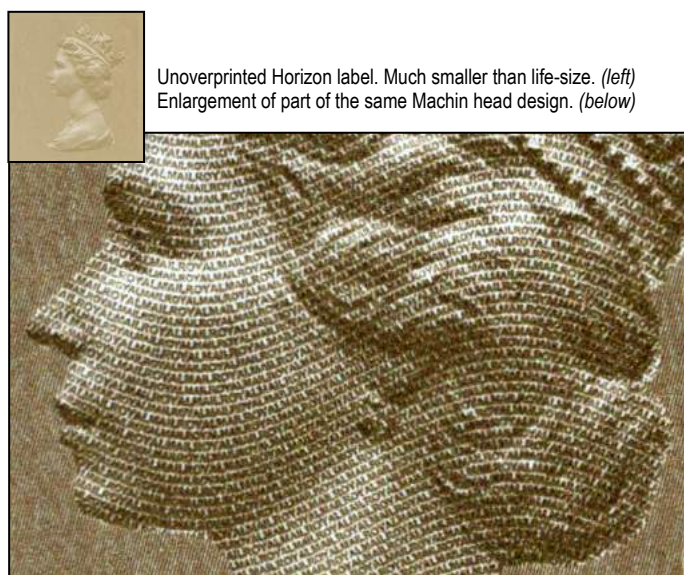
This printing method replaces the conventional dot formation screens generally used with a pattern chosen by software; a form of micro-printing.



Look at the enlargement above - the closer you get to the printed page (or to your computer monitor or tablet), the more 'messy' the image gets, but if you steadily move away from the image you find that the bespectacled left eye becomes more clear as the thick and thin lettering appears less obvious.



Source image of Padre Varela. The 1997 USPS stamp.



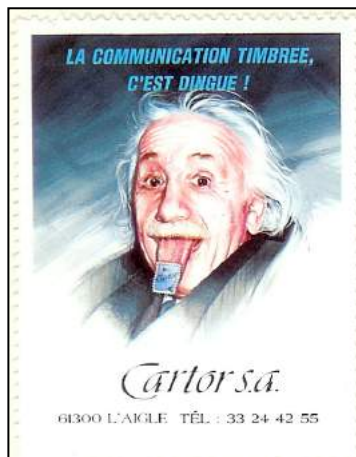
Unoverprinted Horizon label. Much smaller than life-size. (left)
Enlargement of part of the same Machin head design. (below)

This screening technique is used by Royal Mail on its Machin head Horizon labels. These are due to be redesigned in the not too distant future. ☒

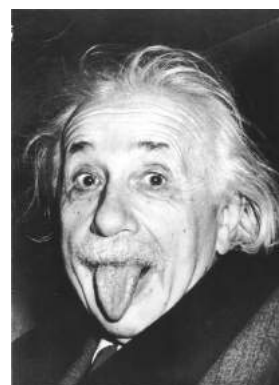
Cartor's Light Bulb Moment

"Let's stick a stamp on Einstein's tongue!"

Your compiler had not realised that the Cartor stamp depicting Einstein was from an iconic photo that had been 'reimagined' to include a dummy stamp.



The details are: **Description:** Albert Einstein famously sticks his tongue out for a photographer. **Source:** The image was made by UPI photographer Arthur Sasse. **Date:** The photograph below was taken on the 14th March 1951.



Albert Einstein.

The French wording at the top of the dummy stamp reading "LA COMMUNICATION TIMBREE, C'EST DINGUE!" translates as "STAMP COMMUNICATION IS CRAZY!". It's hard to disagree with that in today's online world.

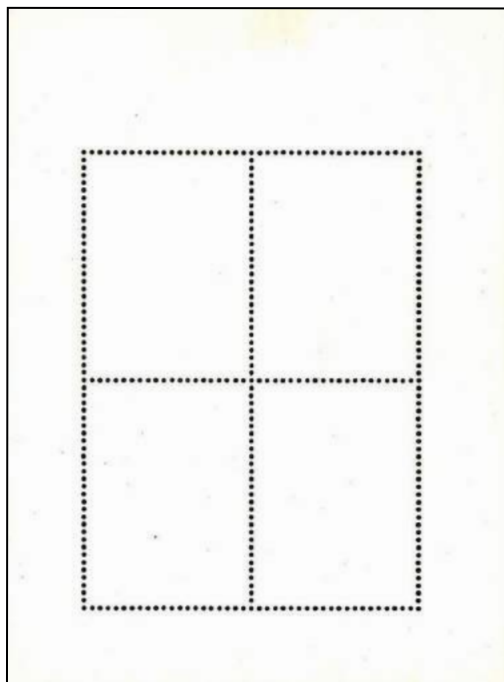
Whoever the artist was that was used by Cartor to paint Einstein for the dummy stamp has captured his expression perfectly when it is compared with the source photograph.

Unfortunately, the name of the designer appears to be unrecorded and it is not thought that Cartor employed any artists at L'Aigle (where the print works was located at that time), so this design was probably a freelance commission. ☒

Harrison Blank Miniature Sheet

Probably a perforation test sheet

The item below is either the ultimate missing colour, or, more likely, a testing of the perforator for the 1979 Rowland Hill miniature sheet.



The price was "Buy it Now" at £50 on the Friday or £95 the very next day! It remains unsold.



The sheet shown above is as-issued, but is an error that lacks the set of perforations that the dummy sheet received and comes with a colour shift. ☒

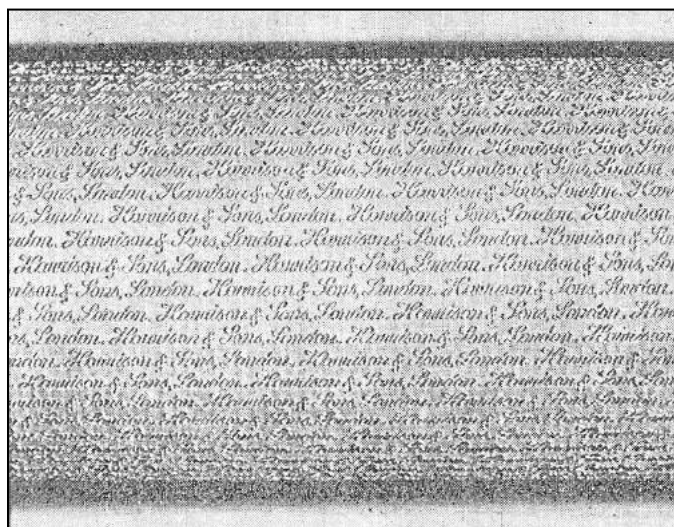
Early Harrison Dummy Booklet

1913 example surfaces

The stamp booklet below is SGB B6 1913 2/- red edition 12, but in dummy booklet format with plain and unprinted gummed stamp panes.



Each pane is apparently watermarked "Harrison & Sons", presumably in its traditional script typeface, although the booklet had not been seen at the time of publication of this issue of *Dummy Stamps*.



Part of the dandy roll is shown above, with a close-up of the wording that was used on the watermark bits shown below the roll.

Examples as early as this dummy booklet rarely come to light and it would make a fine addition to a dummy booklet collection. Estimate £500-600. ☒

Post Office Training Forms

KGVI SPECIMEN example seen for sale recently

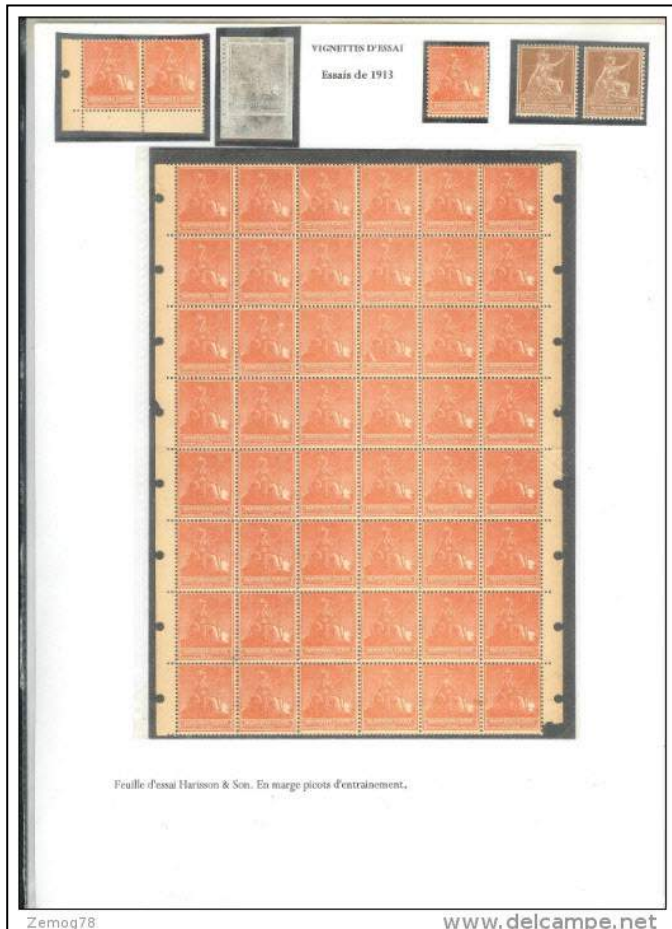
It is unusual to get King George VI high values used genuinely with their training school overprints on an official form. It sold recently for £135. ☒



Harrison Britannia Design Block

Possibly last chance to obtain this unique part sheet

On offer by [ZEMOG78](#) on the Delcampe website is the following Harrison lot. If you have a spare £1364.50, then it is probably still yours for the taking. A lovely set of items. ☒



De La Rue Specimen Perfin

Large invalidation method used on Kenyan stamps

The 1990 Centenary of Postage Stamps in Kenya set (SG547/51) exist in never hinged mint gutter pairs perforated "T.D.L.R. / SPECIMEN", allegedly from the De La Rue archives*. Dealer Stampdile retailed them at £400 for the gutter pairs, but a recent auction saw an estimate of £120-150. ☒

* Tip: Want to get a higher price for an item? Then claim that they are from an archival collection!



Quoin Collecting

With apologies for the pun

Collectors will see quoin markings on some letterpress sheet margins. It was a print term from 1570. Quoins are a locking tool used to hold type or bases snug on the press bed. A minimum of two are needed to lock-up a forme, one for vertical hold, one for horizontal. ☒



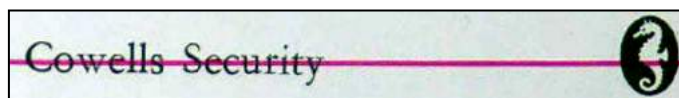
Cowells Security Ltd

An East Anglian printer of stamps

W S Cowells Ltd were a security printer whose name may be unknown to some readers of *DS*.



Imperforate proof sheet with red horizontal cancelling lines.



Enlargement of Cowells Security printer imprint and its seahorse logo.

Output from Cowells was not prolific with the 1982 *Birds* definitive series for the Falkland Islands probably being their most well known production.

Cowells had been renowned for their printing of the book *The Natural History of Selborne* by Gilbert White in 1972 that incorporated 16 full-page litho plates and many vignettes in the text by John Nash.

According to the Crown Agents, their first stamps for them appeared in 1982 for Swaziland when they printed a commemorative *21st Birthday of the Princess of Wales* set. However, they actually started stamp production back in 1968 with an issue for Yemen People's Democratic Republic.

An article from 1998 stated: "*Security & General Media is to be closed down as the receivers have failed to find a buyer. Hundreds of jobs will be lost at its two divisions - Cowells in Ipswich and Spottiswoode Ballantyne in Colchester.*" ☒

NPM Penny Black Reprint

Not a dummy, but previously unknown to *DS* compiler

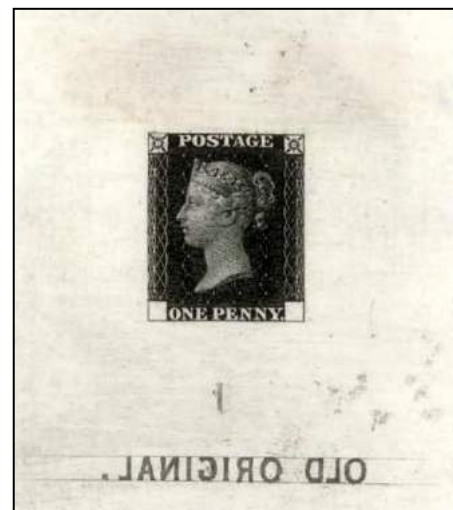
A Penny Black "Old Original" die proof with blank lower corner squares exists as a reprint on white gummed paper. It was apparently printed from the original plate in 1966 upon the opening of the National Postal Museum (BPMA) that year.

It is stated that only a small number were printed, for presentation to dignitaries at the opening ceremony of the museum.



Source: <http://postalheritage.org.uk/page/3343/Queen-Victoria-stamps>

A copy was sold for £200 by Argyll Etkin in 2013 and it is assumed that the item in question was taken from the die proof above.



Source: http://bpma.orangeleaf.org/collections/getrecord/GB813_P_141_21_29

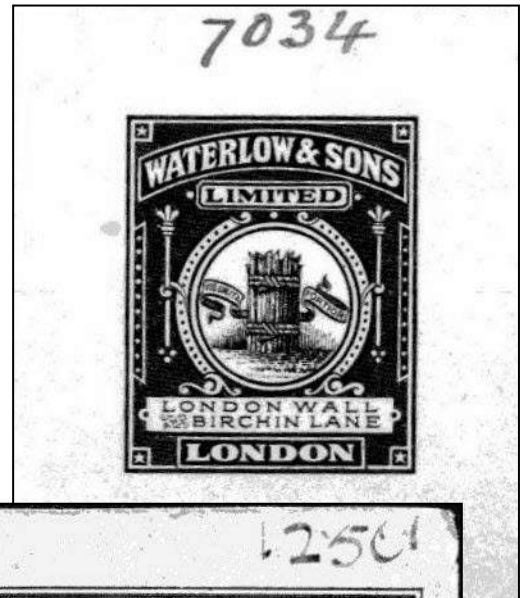
The reprinted sheet has not been seen, so a scan would be appreciated if any reader is fortunate enough to possess the item, please.

The original 1840 printing of this die is likely to sell for at least £350,000 and a copy held in the Phillips collection at BPMA is shown above. ☒

Waterlow & Sons and Waterlow, Brothers and Layton Dummy Die Proofs

Seek and ye shall find....

A few issues back, some extremely poor quality photostats of W&S and WBL die proofs were shown with an appeal for better scans. A reader has now kindly supplied these for inclusion within these pages. ☒



^ Purple.

Black. >



"A Stamp is Made"

Autumn Stampex display heavily features dummies

Your compiler would like to bring to the attention of the *DS* readership within travelling distance of London details of his exhibit that will be at the forthcoming Autumn Stampex (17-20 September), as it may be of interest owing to the subject matter.

The 80 pages anticipate celebrations planned for next year to mark 175 years since the introduction of the postage stamp. From design to withdrawal, it tells the story of stamp production via unissued worldwide dummy material, or with supporting issued items*.

Processes and presses aside, little had really altered until the introduction of the micro-chip, which heralded major new developments in almost every area of production. These changes, which are rarely documented in detail, are reflected in the album pages.

Items shown are often of *great importance* to the production stages of issued stamps and may be *extremely rare* due to a dearth of material. They mostly remain *unknown*, with many from the modern era being *unrecorded* in philatelic literature.

The result of much original research, as published or shown for the first time, it is hoped that some *DS* readers will be able to enjoy seeing this rarely displayed material. ☒

*Some elements cannot be represented with dummy material as it does not exist, but >430 items shown are unissued items.

These pages can be enlarged by 800% on screen for reading:



Harrison Botanical Card

Check details before purchasing these generic cards

The presentation card below is of the 1964 *Botanical* stamp issue and bears the Harrison address for Cavendish Square, which had become its Group Head Office in 1963.

Checks on an address need to be made, as cards can be, and are, falsely created/changed at a later date, resulting in cards bearing stamps that had not been issued at time of address residency. ☒



...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 36

A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material

Quarter 4, 2014

'Certified British Made' by Harrison

It should be a familiar design for Harrison collectors

A reader kindly sent a scan of the image below, one that your compiler has never seen previously. Nothing has been found about it, so can anyone out there make any observations, please?



It is clearly a Harrison production, but how strange that it appears not to have been seen before. There are precedents, with the Home Rule and the Broadway Cinema labels created from the Harrison Arms dummy stamps, as shown below, but this is a first for the Britannia design. ☒



Bradbury, Wilkinson Dummy Lady

Similarities in design revealed



In 1861, Brads produced a dummy design with a head and shoulder female portrait on reticulated circular background. The panels above and below read: POSTAGE. / THREE PENCE. in arc-like dummy stamps.

They are known to have been attributed to the work of William Wyon but, it appears, without any apparent foundation. Nine examples in various colours are held in the Phillips Collection at BPMA, London. (See Vol_XXXII_pg_012).

They are described by *Philbrick and Westoby* as being for exhibition only and not submitted to the Post Office authorities. It has also been noted that "...several of these essays were apparently engraved in line on a patent surfaced plate..."

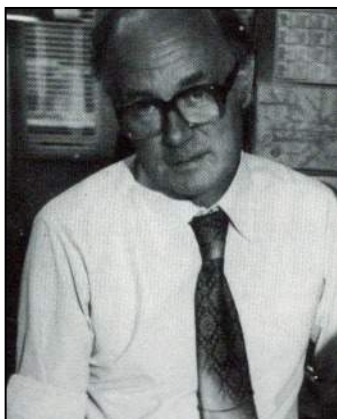
Not seen by your compiler until recently, when a copy was offered for purchase. In the same sale was a very similarly designed essay obviously intended for use in America.

The British version had a fixed-price sale cost of US\$2,500, while the American version could be bought for US\$750 (stated to be catalogued at US\$1,250). ☒

The Day that Harrison Went Supersonic

Faster than a speeding bullet.....

The set of stamps for Bahrain marking Concorde's supersonic service debut from Bahrain to London were not just printed by Harrison, but designed in-house by Stan Scott, its senior designer.



Stan Scott.

A mailshot which pictured Concorde on its cover was in the format of a presentation folder and had a full-colour cut-out of the plane against a glossy blue sky. Inside, a blue and white representation of the aircraft sits alongside details of the issue, with a set of the four stamps at far right on a dark blue ground.



A second version was commissioned by British Airways in a print run of 5,000 copies because they liked the original so much. These have 'Harrison & Sons' and 'British Airways' wording in a dull gold ink on the cover. Copies of this second pack have been seen selling recently for between £12 and £50, so be sure to choose your vendor carefully!

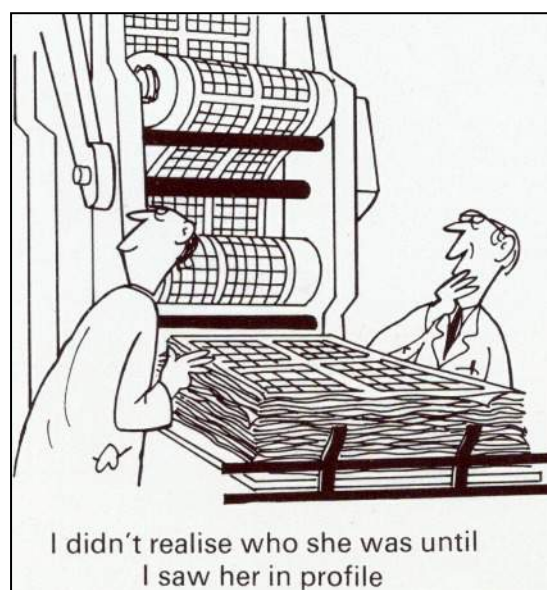
A third version was produced for the use of Allied Graphic Arts (AGA). ☒

International Security Printers New Factory Opened by The Queen

Wolverhampton now home to ISP instead of Walsall town

Two cartoons by Harry Baxter of Harrison are shown below. They are of interest here as your compiler was privileged to be the only philatelic writer to attend the opening of the new ISP premises by The Queen and Prince Phillip back in October.

No dummy stamps were seen, sadly, but for a full report and pictures of his day, see the January 2015 issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, or the December 2014 issue of *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*. ☒



Cartoons from when The Queen visited Harrison and Sons at High Wycombe in 1972.

The Rembrandt Intaglio Printing Company of Lancaster

The story of an interesting person and company

The story of Rembrandt Intaglio is the story of rotary gravure, a development that may not have happened without the involvement of Karel Václav Klíč (also, Klitsch or Klietsch), 1841-1926.



(left) Karel Klíč as an old man.
(right) Samuel Fawcett.

Klíč was a Czech painter, draughtsman, cartoonist, photographer and illustrator and one of the main inventors of photogravure. He had such artistic talent that he was admitted into the Art Academy in Prague at the tender age of 14, although was later expelled for "non-conformance"!

Photogravure process sold ...and sold again

Early attempts at utilising photogravure by Klíč were displayed in 1879/80 to much acclaim. During this time, he did not reveal anything publicly about his methods for he recognised the monetary value of the process that he had developed.

Later in 1880, Klíč sold the process of photogravure for around US\$800 to more than one company, including printers F Bruckmann* of Munich, who were to eventually give-up on the rotary process, despite Hugo Bruckmann having trained under Klíč and, one would have thought, had the insider knowledge to properly capitalise on the idea.

* Bruckmann are singled-out here solely because of their involvement in producing dummies of British [King Edward VII] and American [Washington] stamps for tendering purposes, as covered elsewhere in the philatelic literature.

In 1886 a colleague published Klíč's discovery, much to his annoyance. This resulted in him moving to Britain and it was later during this trip that Klíč came into contact with Samuel Fawcett, a process worker at Storey Brothers, a calico printing firm located in Lancaster.

Storey committed to development

In 1890, Klíč arrived in Lancaster and visited Storey's to offer his expertise, showing a trial etching as proof of the practicality of the photogravure process.

It was to take three years before a commercial application could be found and readers need to realise the state of the printing industry at that period to understand this time lapse.

Klíč's official biographer stated that at the time of the rotogravure invention there were:

- NO gravure screens,
- NO ways of depositing copper onto printing cylinders,
- NO machines for polishing cylinders,
- NO lay-down machines,
- NO proper gravure inks, and
- NO papers suitable for rotogravure.

With six major NOs, it is perhaps amazing that so little time elapsed before resolution of these issues by Klíč and Fawcett, with whom he now worked.

The men had experimented with screens of 150 and 175 lines per inch (lpi), printing on paper with machines owned by Storey Brothers and designed for printing on textiles.

Rembrandt formed

Once the difficulties had been overcome, Storey Brothers decided to set-up a new company to exploit the process of rotogravure and on 7 August 1895 the company was formed.

The name Rembrandt was chosen simply because of Klíč's love of the artist and his work. Output was initially in black and white, but in due course colour experimentation was perfected.

Be under no illusion, the British firm of Rembrandt was the world's first rotary gravure printing works.

Shrouded in secrecy

Photogravure was a photomechanical process whereby printing *plates* were etched from photographic images. This process could produce high quality prints in large quantities and was derived from Talbot's photoglyphic engraving method.

Klíč modified the process by using copper *cylinders*

instead of plates and this was critical for increased output and speed; its Unique Selling Point (USP), if you will.

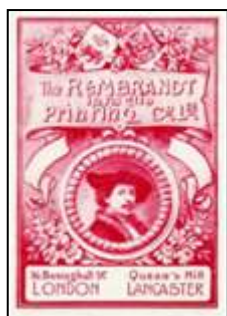
As the rotary process differed from basic photo-gravure it was therefore a closely guarded secret, with few knowing the whole process. In fact, employees were experts in their own part of the production, but did not know what their colleagues in the next room were up to!

It was not until 1910 that rotogravure started to be used in newspaper printing with magazine printing set to follow.

The use of cylinders instead of plates remained a company secret, resulting in a successful and lucrative monopoly for ten years before any real competition entered the market-place.

Some of the generic dummy material

Items that are branded Rembrandt and were not for stamp tendering purposes, per-se.



Stamp Tendering

Some of the sample dummy stamps demonstrating their capabilities and comprising various designs that were produced in the 1910s.



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 photo-gravure 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) 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.”*

Monopoly Crumbles

The end of World War 1 saw much competition in photogravure printing and, in an attempt at reinventing itself, moved to London in 1926 without much success. Klič died the same year as the move.

A Further Stamp Tender ...not

In 1929, the General PO had issued a tender for a replacement printer for small size KGV stamps and Rembrandt produced photogravure essays depicting St George and the Dragon. They failed to submit them, though!

Why will remain a mystery and the GPO was so surprised at the lack of response that they wrote

enquiring, but any reply does not appear to have survived.

RIP

This heading has a dual meaning (Rembrandt Intaglio Printing and Rest in Peace!) as the company was sold to the once-mighty Sun Engraving Co of Watford in 1932 who acquired the Storey Brothers' interest and continued in business unspectacularly.

Sun moved the business premises from London to Watford and, perhaps ironically, turned it into a sheet-fed gravure operation, taking the opportunity to rename the company Rembrandt Photogravure Ltd (RPL) at the same time. This title more accurately reflected the printing process that they used.



The old Rembrandt Photogravure premises, Watford.

RPL continued in business producing fine art reproductions until 1961 when it ceased trading in its own right, being merged into Sun Printers Ltd, also trading from Watford.

The premises still stand today, as shown in the above photograph, and is all that remains of this once truly innovative company.

Main Sources Used

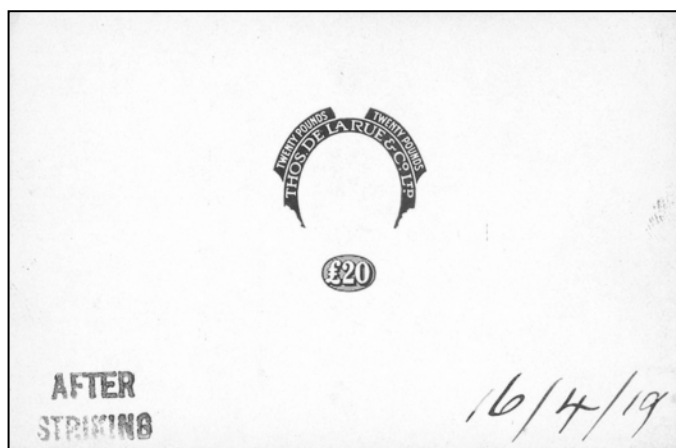
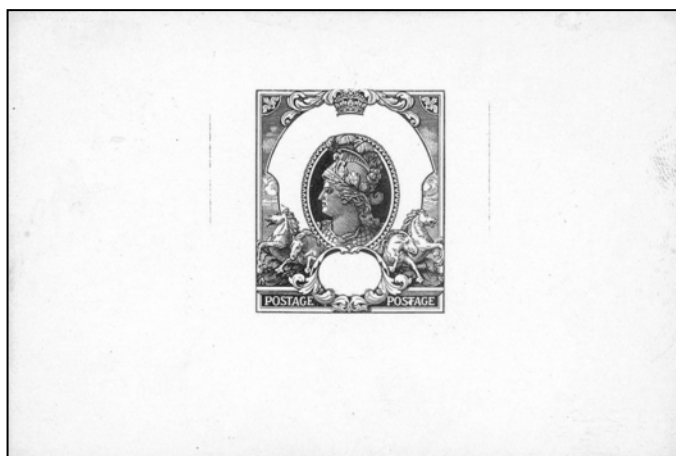
Storeys of Lancaster 1848-1964 by Guy Christie, Collins, 1964.

Rembrandt - Hard(l)y Acknowledged by Andrew Hall. An article within Stamps [GB]. November (year unknown to your compiler).

DLR £20 Dummy Stamp

Grosvenor sale offers attractive die proofs

Page six shows the Oversea Dominion £20 dummy. A De La Rue version also exists, as shown here. ☒



More eBay Rubbish Surfaces!

Buyer beware.....

The handstamp used on the examples of the 1953 Coronation issue below never saw the inside of a Post Office Training School.

Do not waste your money on such items, especially when they come with a £35 price-tag. ☒



De La Rue Dummies

New discoveries continue to be reported

A reader kindly sent scans of some De La Rue items not previously shown within these pages.

At right is a bi-coloured DLR design that is the same size as the '£20 Oversea Dominion' dummy stamp. This was also in a recent Grosvenor sale and a (poor) scan at far right proves that its size matches that of the Oversea design and NOT that of a low value definitive.



^ Note different head backgrounds. ^

Meanwhile, the well known Thomas De La Rue head issue is now able to be recorded in two further printing processes. The 'die printing' version is the normal intaglio printing, which can now also be shown to exist in a 'Litho Printing' and an 'Etch Plate' type. As each card only differs by its printing process and its wording at bottom left they have been overlapped to save space.

The dummy stamps on each card utilise the same papers, namely 'TR4', 'Art Paper', 'Banknote Paper' and '½ Check'. You may care to see whether your versions are intaglio, for they may not be! ☒



The 1912 Ideal Stamps

Were the Ideal Stamps issued, or maybe trialled, in a coil format?

A reader recently wrote to *DS*, as follows: "I've just acquired a couple of vertical strips of the Ideal Stamp (in what is either your 'new blue' or 'light blue' - taken from your *British Stamp Exhibitions* book) which are clearly from coils - one even has what is clearly a join at the top (unfortunately not connecting two stamps). I'm attaching scans which hopefully shows the trimmed perforations clearly."

Several collectors were approached for their help, but without any success. Everything about the scans looks 'right', including the vertical trimming, but they appear to be unrecorded. When your compiler visited the works of Grover & Co (the perforator makers) back in the 1990s, they had many, many 'counter' sheets of this exhibition stamp in stock, albeit mainly in the dark violet colour, so it is possible that they, or A.N.Other, did some trials at some point, before or after the stamp show. This is pure conjecture, however, at this time.

Can you perhaps help to explain these interesting variants? Feedback will be posted here next issue. ☒



The Bradbury, Wilkinson Battleship Design

Overpriced?

The Bradbury, Wilkinson essay for a 2d value in bright violet, showing the 'Canada head' of King Edward VII and a battleship is well known. The auction house stated that this example is on thick gummed paper and is in an unmounted mint condition.

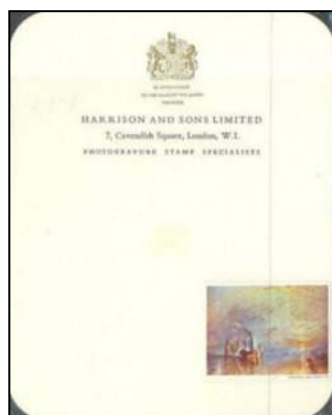
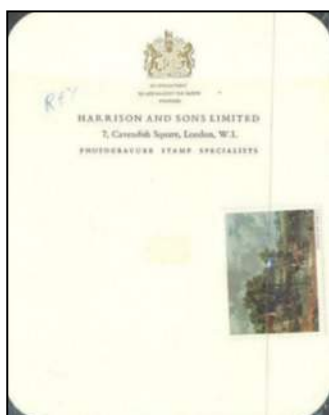
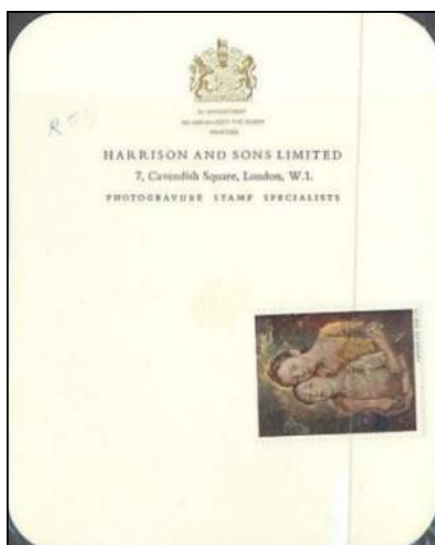


What makes this copy interesting is its price, for it bore a reserve of £240. Somewhat excessive! That said, the price does seem to be rapidly increasing (retail examples are now regularly seen at £95). It was only a couple of years back that you could pick-up one for just £15 or thereabouts. ☒

Harrison and PO Arts Council

Attractive presentation cards reported

Scans of these presentation cards were provided by a reader with a covering note stating "Got these at Stampex. Apparently only 10 of each were printed for the Post Office Arts Council". An auction description states: "Harrison perforated undenominated trials for the 1968 commemoratives issue with two unadopted showing paintings by Turner and Gainsborough, together with 'The Hay Wain' by Constable the latter is the design accepted for the 1s9d value. This looks very similar to the issued stamp, but in slightly different colours, the marginal inscription is also different and at the lower right. All three trials are also without phosphor and have Gum Arabic instead of PVA and each is mounted on a separate Harrison printed card. Est £200-£250. *Note:- A very interesting group, and the only materiel of this type on a QE commemorative issue that we have seen.*" Excuse poor scans of the enlarged essays. ☒



Perkins Bacon and Harrison 'Merge'

A surprising 1922 link found between the two printers

While undertaking research, your compiler found an interesting and revealing story that had been syndicated to newspapers. Such liaison between printers was not uncommon, but is believed to be previously unrecorded in the case of Perkins, Bacon and its rivals Harrison.

Stanley Gibbons' Colour Guide is one liaison, whereby the dummy stamps were printed by Perkins Bacon and the folder by Harrison. ☒

AMALGAMATION OF BRITISH STAMP PRINTERS.

Messrs. Harrison and Sons (Limited), printers-in-ordinary to His Majesty, of 44-47, St. Martin's Lane, W.C., and Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co. (Limited), of Southwark Bridge Buildings, have made arrangements whereby their respective businesses will be carried on under the same management as hitherto. Their resources will be combined, so that all classes of engraving, bank note, and commercial printing, bookbinding, etc., will be executed by the associated firms in whichever department is most suitable and economical.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co., in 1840 produced Rowland Hill's historic original penny postage stamp, and for 40 years supplied the British public with the familiar Queen's head stamps. Messrs. Harrison and Sons have been confidential printers to the British Government for close upon 200 years.

The Yorkshire Post 01-02-1922.

**7,000,000,000 POSTAGE STAMPS
A YEAR.**

PRINTING FIRMS TO COMBINE.

Some romance attaches to the arrangement made by Harrison and Sons, Ltd., printers to the King, and Perkins, Bacon, and Co., Ltd., to combine their printing resources. The respective businesses will be continued under the same management.

In 1840 Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co. produced Rowland Hill's historic original penny postage stamp, and for 40 years supplied the public with the Queen's head stamps.

Messrs. Harrison, who have been confidential printers to the Government for close on 200 years, now manufacture for the British Post Office no fewer than 7,000,000,000 postage stamps annually. They have produced postage stamps since 1911.

The Nottingham Evening Post 01-02-1922.

NPM Penny Black Reprint: An Update

Information in DS35 appears to be incorrect....

Within minutes of publishing DS35, Douglas Muir, Senior Curator Philately at The British Postal Museum & Archive, wrote. The email is reproduced below with Douglas's kind permission.

"I do not think your report on the NPM reprint of the Old Original die is correct.

"In the late 1960s pulls were taken of some of the Victorian and other dies, but these pulls were on card and not on gummed paper. I think these were done by Bradbury Wilkinson.

"However, pulls on gummed, unwatermarked paper were taken in 1989 at Harrison (under my supervision) in connection with preparations for the Penny Black definitives. Dies used were the Old Original and the New Die for the 1d from 1855. Both of course had no corner letters.

"I am fairly certain that this pull emanates from one of these, which very occasionally have indeed been used as presentation items."

Your compiler is happy to set the record straight within these pages. ☒

Bradbury, Wilkinson and the Mercury Head Design

Two new colours found online

Issued in 1919, the design comprises a three-quarter right Mercury head in shield vignette surmounted by crown, with denomination 2 either side. SPECIMEN / STAMP flanks crown with curved inscribed BRADBURY WILKINSON / & Co LTD below the shield. Printed letterpress, it is an attractive design. ☒



Bradbury, Wilkinson Load-up

Security? What security!

The sepia photograph below shows the loading of unidentified stock in 1927. Surprisingly, the van is heavily branded; this would not happen today for security reasons, of course. ☒



Loading a lorry at Brads New Malden factory with printed (stamp?) stock, 1927.

Royal Mail's Olympic Birds Trial

Full sheet able to be shown, probably for the first time anywhere



Your compiler has seen a scan of the sheet of birds trial stamp designs that were used to simulate the final Olympics 2012 template.

Birds were chosen to avoid giving away Royal Mail's true intentions at a time before the overnight Olympic stamps plans had been made public.

Above this text is a good set-off (not offset as some insist on calling these varieties) of the Royal Mail logo on the reverse side of the product.

Below is an enlargement of marginal text with coding but it was not printed at Aquatint in London.



Royal Mail's Olympic Birds Trial (continued)

Enlarged images to record the text (unique to each Miniature Sheet) at left of the stamp blocks.



Above: MS1
100/50%, with a 23mm phosphor area.



Right: MS2

90/40%, with a 23mm phosphor area.



Above: MS3
80/30%, with a 29mm phosphor area.



Right: MS4

70/20%, with a 29mm phosphor area.

Micro-printing Sets World Record

Cartor's printing excellence shines through

Gibraltar's '75th Anniversary of Evacuation' stamp issue from earlier this year has set a new world record. The £2 stamp has the 'Most words on a postage stamp' with a total of **2,183** legible words!

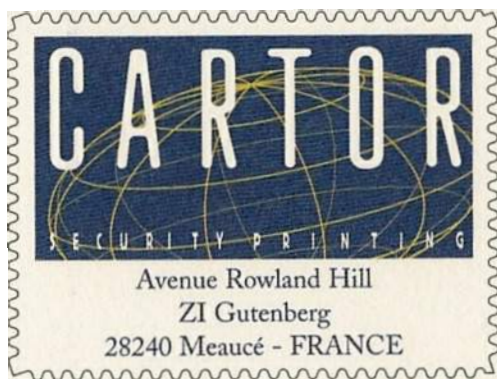


To mark the 75th Anniversary of the explicit instruction to evacuate much of stamp issue to honour the valour of these women, elderly, infirm and child accommodate a mass deployment of military to defend the strategic gateway to French Morocco before being shipped to Blitz-ridden London in conditions survive the almost nightly bombings by the Luftwaffe were then shipped further 'wolf packs' Few of the local inhabitants had any idea where Gibraltar was - who were more than willing to assimilate themselves into society. Many end Generation, as they became known, is still fondly remembered to this day. To dampen the spirit of the Gibraltarians. For some though, their ultimate ref Evacuation is one of the few untold sagas of the Second World War. But for peacetime, it's easy to overlook the fact that the Rock of Gibraltar's primary However, in times of conflict this true identity has become inescapable, as it War gathered above Europe, the implications for the people of Gibraltar bec 'proceed immediately' with the evacuation of all the Rock's non-combatant sheltered in refugee camps scattered around French Morocco. The standard they arrived. Less than two months later, before the Gibraltarians would have latest country to surrender to the overwhelming force of the German Blitzkrieg French arsenal, not least of which was France's mighty naval fleet. Left with the French ships docked at Mers El Kebir. The French fleet was decimated as

Enlargement of top left of text block.

OK, this is not a dummy stamp, but it is of interest to those collectors who are fascinated by stamp printing technology and the capabilities of modern-day stamp printers.

Cartor is renowned for its excellence in printing innovative stamps, no less so than with this issue. ☒



DLR 'Imperium' Copies Surface

Beware of these 1/2d to £1 modern copies

eBay is currently offering a 'set' of 11 'Imperium' essays originally produced by De La Rue as modern reproductions for under six pounds the lot.

The reverse of the scanned images shows that each example is handstamped COPY, but it has to be said that experience shows that often this wording is not on the lots when received.

Any half-decent stamp collector, let alone philatelist, should be able to spot these copies a mile off if they are seen in person, but may be fooled if looking at online scans, so as ever *Caveat Emptor* applies here.

Incidentally, 'Imperium' is a Latin word which roughly translates as 'power to command', possibly an odd choice of country name substitute? ☒



...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 37

A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material

Quarter 1, 2015

Perkins Bacon Reprints

Country name replaced by multiple Xs for use as printing samples



Stanley Gibbons recently offered a nice pair of die proofs, described as follows:

'1852 Britannia 'general' undenominated design (with country name replaced by diamond pattern - Bayley type 'D'), reprints in the form of a die proof from Perkins Bacon sample plate 6, two examples, respectively in vermilion and brown on thick yellowish card, with 4-8mm margins. Printed circa 1929.' They sold for £125 the pair. ☒

Post and Go Testing Label

A recent find

The latest VOID testing label from a British vending machine.

Note also the dummy data string of zeroes. ☒



Bruckmann 1910s date wrong?

Pencil annotation brings issue date into question



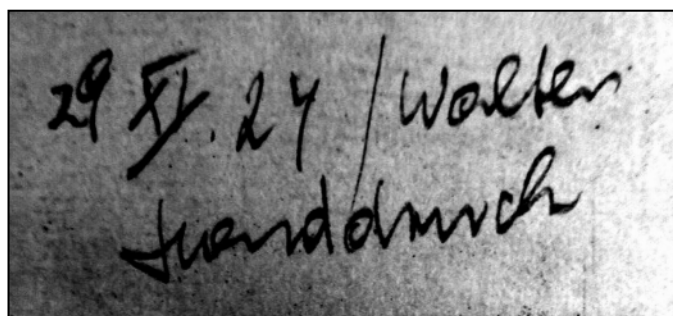
This printing has been attributed to F Bruckmann of Munich, Germany and exists correct-way reading and mirror-reading, as indicated by the se-tenant pair.

The date of its production has been shown in stamp dealer and auction listings as either 1912 or 1911 - 1913 and this has generally not been questioned before. However, a recent auction sale included an item that indicates a later date.

The single marginal copy alongside has a pencil annotation to left of stamp reading '29 XI 27 / walten handdruck'. (See the rotated text image below.)



'Walten handdruck' seems to translate as 'manual (or hand) printing exercise'. Maybe this example is either a later printing, or the original copies are simply not from the 1910s as initially thought. ☒



Charles Skipper & East

A third complete sheet surfaces



A reader of *DS* shared with me the above scans recently. She had been asked to dispose of some stamps and this was among the items.

This specific dummy stamp design had been the subject of confusion down the years, being attributed to De La Rue for much of its early life.

My notes for this read as follows: 'Indigo blue is known in two full sheets only in the collections of The Postal Museum and The Royal Philatelic Collection. One plate is known with different colours on the same plate.'

'Blocks of 4 x 3 of the pink colour on thick soft card quoted, implying that a smaller plate had also been created. Thin soft yellowish card also recorded, but with insufficient details to add to listing. Fugitive inks were used.'

'These stamps had been for many years attributed to De La Rue, but Mr. Harold W Fisher FRPSL

gave a display at Stampex (what year?) where he showed an original letter proving that CS&E were the printers.

'It was probably the note recorded on an envelope that was part of an auction sale description that stated: 'Obtained by Mr. Bovenham and bought from him by me 18 June 1891. – Similar stamps on a previous occasion were declared by Mr. T De La Rue not to be the work of his firm / JAC / 18/6/91'. 'JAC' were probably the initials of a famous collector, but the name eludes your compiler.'

The 'SPECIMEN / C. SKIPPER & EAST' perfin now puts to rest any nagging doubts that might have remained about the true printer of this item.

The sheet was auctioned by Grosvenor Auctions of London in its *Auction of Great Britain Postage Stamps and Postal History*, sale number 96, on Wednesday 22 April 2015.

The sheet formed lot **1311** and was described as: 'Charles Skipper and East: 1879 Tender 1d. essay based on the Inland Revenue type but inscribed "POSTAGE" a complete proof sheet of 48 (8 x 6) in blue imperforate on thick paper, with perforated "SPECIMEN / C. SKIPPER & EAST" at top right and lower right, some staining but rare, very few known. Photo. £600-£800.' ☒

Harrison Stamp Papers Article

Interview with Bill Dorricott appears in GSM

Recently, your compiler had the opportunity of interviewing Bill Dorricott, accompanied by Brian Janes, about the world of stamp papers, with a particular emphasis on Bill's major impact on stamp papers, especially those of Harrison, for he is probably *the* world expert on the subject.

The interview resulted in a two-part article within *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* in the March and April issues this year and it includes lots of new information. A few paper-related dummy stamp images are also thrown in for good measure.

Copyright restrictions mean that the article cannot be reproduced here, but do try and get hold of copies of the magazines if this is a subject that interests you. ☒

Publicity for this Newsletter

A few kind words

The paragraph below has only just been seen by your compiler. As the *Dummy Stamps* newsletter and the stampprinters.info website are both a 'labour of love', as they say, such publicity is always appreciated. ☒

Dummy stamps?

Do you know what "dummy stamps" are? They can be pretend stamps produced by printers to show how good their products are, or blank stamps used for testing coil machines or booklets, or for training new counter clerks. If you go to website www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm you can see a periodic newsletter dedicated entirely to all sorts of such items. A wonderful website to browse through in those idle evenings!



ABPS news, Spring 2013

page 21

Ideal Stamp Coil Joins

A reader responds

Following the small piece about possible coil joins of the Ideal Stamps in the last issue of *DS*, a reader writes:

"I note with interest the 'Ideal Stamp Coil Joins' article. Grover of course also made slitting and reeling machines for coils made from sheets, as most early coils were. I can't find any illustrations of them, I think they may have been pretty basic hand machines not motorised.

"From 1912 the Ideal Stamps would have been available to Grover, I also noticed many sheets in various colours in their offices (I reiterate the various colours were probably produced when changing from one colour ink to another and as such are strictly speaking printers waste and not rare collectable varieties! Presumably they are now with the RPSL? Naturally Grover would use some to test / demonstrate the machines to Harrison (perhaps not to the Post Office, as it would not be politic to use a stamp that was superior to the PO stamp!).

"For the Post Office, Harrison used perforated blank labels overprinted 'Cancelled' for trial coils (see Leslie Wilkinson *King George V stamps Issued in Rolls and Stamps of GB issued in Rolls and the Machines that used them* by Langston & Corliss), plus many other types.

"I think this shows slitting and reeling albeit of later web printed stamps but perhaps the operation was not that much different from sheet stamps, after all, there were many different length coils and types of delivery, such as sideways and endways. Even with stamps on the web it was not just a simple matter of slicing the web of stamps into individual rolls, in fact coil joins may still have been necessary unless you had a use for all those odd, left-over stamps! My supposition is reinforced by the cut side perforations of the stamps you show, I remember reading somewhere that Sidney Allchin's were the largest producers of coils from sheets (they also did a little perfin business and in the 1930s were bought out by Slopers. I do not know if they continued making coils)."

Following on from the above email extract, correspondence was received from the Royal Philatelic Society, which is the subject of the article that follows..... ☒

New Grover Discoveries

Important scan of item held in RPSL Museum provided

Your compiler has always had an interest in the output of Grover and its perforating equipment, visiting the factory shortly before its closure, as shown below.



Fortunately, the Royal Philatelic Society acquired many useful pieces from them, ensuring that they were not lost forever. It is probably fair to say that this collection had to 'wait its place in the queue' before it could be properly processed, but that time eventually came this year.

Mark Copley, Curator, RPSL Museum, writes: *"The University of the Third Age project volunteers are delving into the Grover company's records held at the RPSL (1908-1997) including their order books, pattern books, instruction leaflets, technical drawings, photographs and promotional literature to better understand the collection. We've been linking them to the Master Plates held in the museum and looking into some interesting philatelic stories.*

"The University of the Third Age offers courses and volunteer projects for people of retirement age. Since 2013, the RPSL has been running Shared Learning Projects where projects take place at a host organisation, with the aim that both the volunteers and organisation learn something from the work.

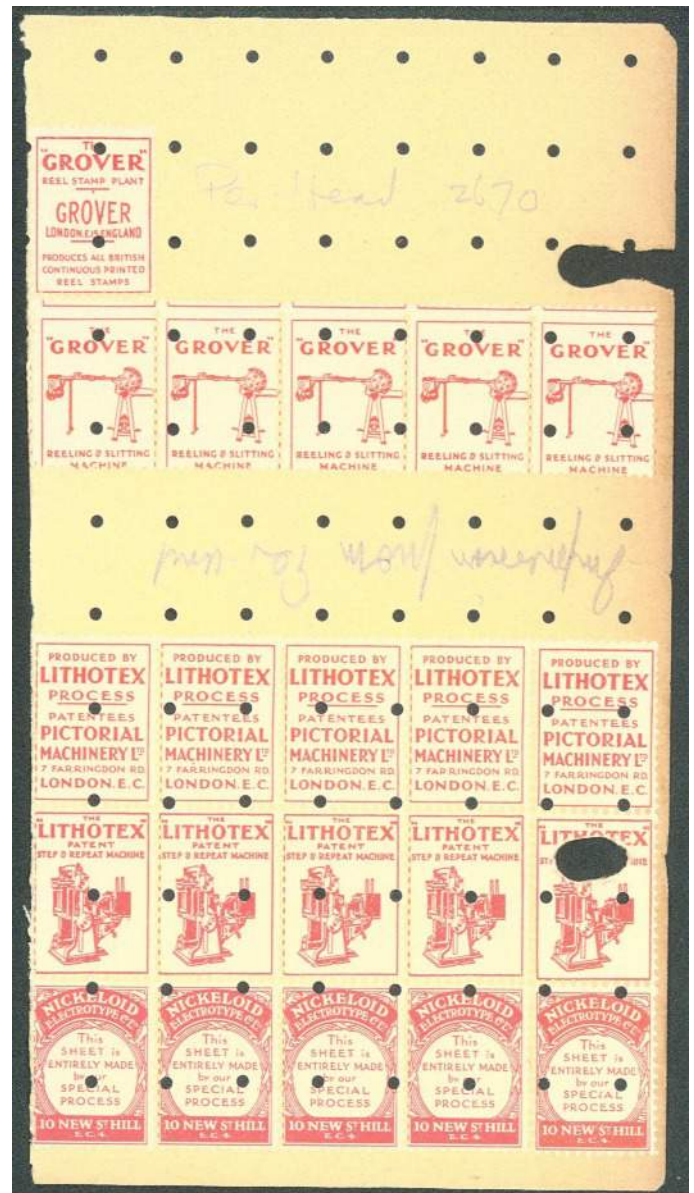
"The Grover project runs from February to April 2015."

The opportunity to assist with the supply of imagery and articles was taken following an approach by Mark and a most welcome email subsequently came from Robert Mott, one of the U3A team, with a scan of an unknown set of dummy stamps.

Robert wrote: *"With your 'Dummy Stamp' interest we thought you might like to see the attached photo which comes from the Grover files as a test piece from a machine they made for the 'Building Holiday Management' scheme in 1943. The machine was to cancel stamps affixed to a card by perforating them with 0.07 inch holes. For the test piece Grover used a piece of card with some advertising stamps for Grover splitting machines and also some from the Pictorial Machinery Company advertising a litho printing machine.*

"My understanding is that the Building Holiday Management scheme was an initiative in the construction industry where employees were allocated a holiday stamp that went towards a small annual holiday gratuity."

The image below comes by courtesy of The Royal Philatelic Society London.



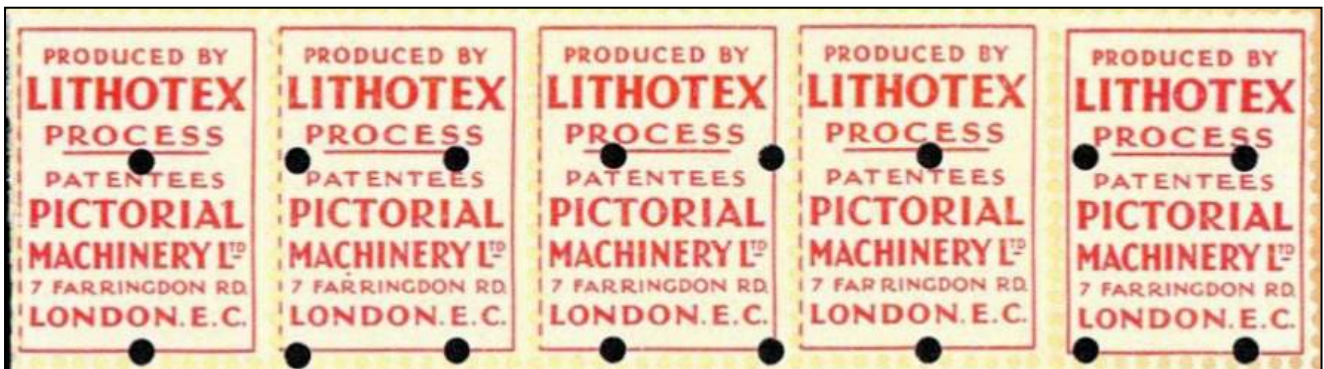
All imagery on this page comes by courtesy of The Royal Philatelic Society London and is depicted at 200% of life-size.

The 'Grover' Reel Stamp Plant.

The 'Grover' Reeling and Slitting Machine.



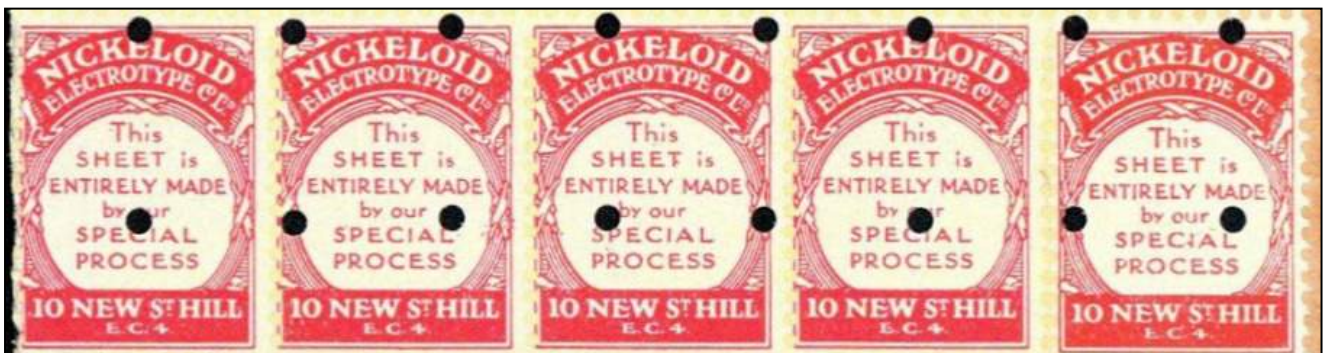
The Lithotex Process, Patentees the Pictorial Machinery Ltd.



The 'Lithotex' Patent Step and Repeat Machine.



The Nickeloid Electrotype Co Ltd.



**The NICKELOID ELECTROTYPE COMPANY
Limited.**

The Companies Act, 1929.

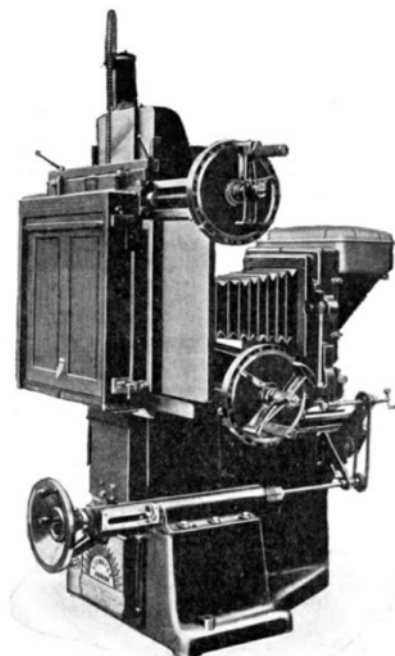
AT an Extraordinary General Meeting of the above named Company, duly convened and held at 6, Breams Buildings, London, E.C.4, on the 16th day of July, 1941, the subjoined Special Resolution was duly passed:—

“That the Company be wound up voluntarily and that Mr. James Jermyn Crawshaw Mack, Chartered Accountant, of Cliffords Inn, London, E.C.4, be and is hereby appointed Liquidator for the purpose of such winding-up.”

H. OUTHWAITE EYRE, Chairman.

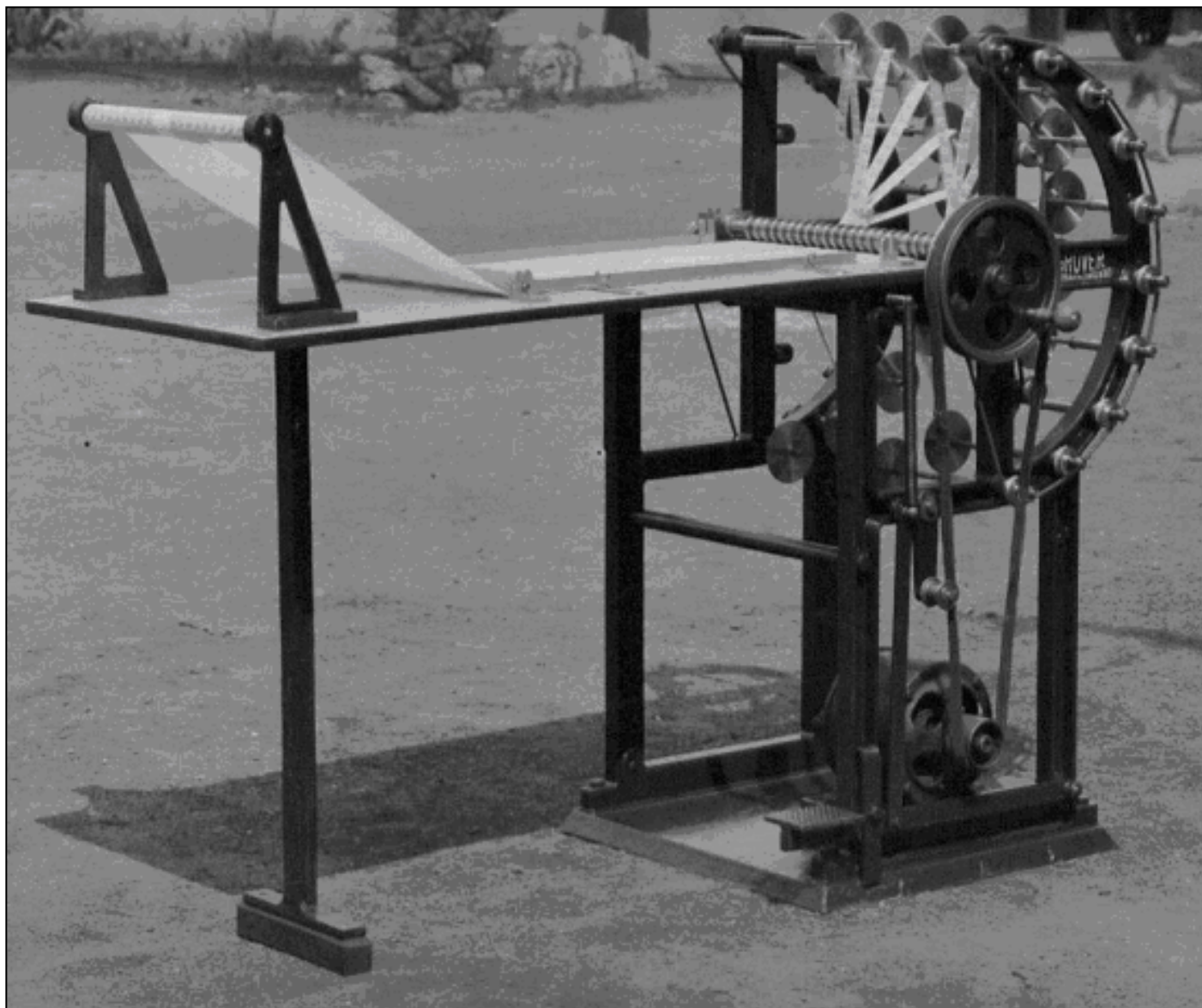
N.B.—A declaration of solvency has been filed and all outstanding creditors will be paid in full.

(053)



The Lithotex Step and Repeat machine.

The winding-up of Nickeloid, *London Gazette* 22 July 1941.
The firm ceased trading that October.



The Grover Reeling and Slitting Machine. Image courtesy of Les Wilkinson. Be sure to visit www.les-wilkinson.co.uk/article12c.shtml

Europhilex London 2015: it's nearly time...

Go to www.london2015.net/ for detailed information

The following text is extracted from the website of the organisers....

2015 is the first year since 1934 when a major international philatelic exhibition has been held in London outside the ten-year cycle established in 1940. This is also the first exhibition in London that will take place with the patronage of FEPA, the Federation of European Philatelic Federations.



Why is this exhibition being held? In the first place 2015 is the 175th anniversary of the first issue of adhesive postage stamps. This was a great British invention that revolutionised communications and changed the lives of people around the world. It is hard to imagine the world before 1840 when communication was so expensive as to be limited to a small section of society. In an age when communication is more important than ever, this invention deserves to be celebrated.

2015 is also the 125th anniversary of the first international philatelic exhibition held in London. In May 1890, an exhibition was organised to mark the 50th anniversary of the Penny Black and they have become a regular feature of the philatelic landscape ever since then.

LONDON 2015 EUROPHILEX will also be the fifteenth international to be held in London.

So, if you have not yet decided whether to go, do click on the link to the website at the head of the column and book a day out at what promises to be a great event. ☒

Waterlow: King George VI Dummy Stamps

Common dummy stamp unusually offered in a full sheet

It is not that often that full sheets of dummy stamps appear for sale prior to the Elizabeth II era, but an eBay vendor has been trying to sell the item shown here for quite some time. The price being requested is £720.



Seeing a full sheet confirms that there are no marginal inscriptions anywhere on the item. ☒



De La Rue Giori Dummy Stamp

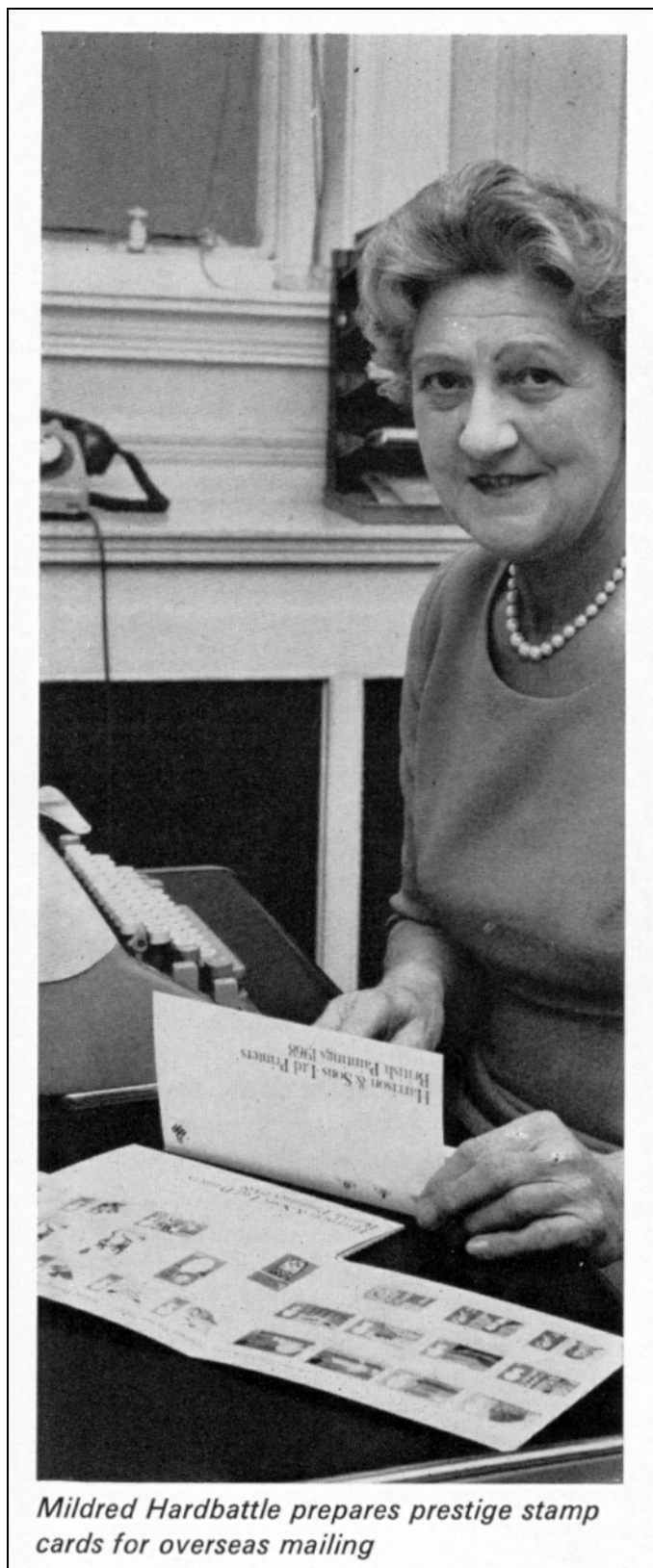
Included here, although strictly speaking it is Swiss

The first ever recorded dummy stamp design from DLR Giori SA of Lausanne is shown here in a gutter pair, albeit as *very* poor scans. ☒



Harrison Prestige Stamp Cards

The official name for these cards is now revealed



Mildred Hardbottle prepares prestige stamp cards for overseas mailing

Collectors often refer to these interesting cards as 'presentation folders', which is reasonable enough. However, the official name given by Harrison was 'prestige stamp cards'. Now we know! ☒

Harrison Soot Proof

Help required



The above item is deemed rather odd, at least to your compiler. The lot description translates from French as 'Britannia - soot proof signed'.

It was on sale for €100 and if any reader is able to shed any light on what this item *really* is, then it would be much appreciated. ☒

...and finally

I always welcome details of new dummy finds from printers past and present, and so invite you to write in 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 38

A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material

Quarter 2, 2015

Google Doodle for Penny Black's 175th Anniversary

Google Doodle? An artistic version of the Google logo.



Britain's *Daily Mirror* newspaper recorded the anniversary of the Penny Black stamp on 1 May in its web space, reporting:

“Google has created a doodle to commemorate the birthday of the Penny Black. The internet giant has devised an illustration to mark the anniversary of the creation of the world's first adhesive stamp used in a public postal system.

“The illustration features the iconic stamp, which displays the brooding countenance of Queen Victoria. The stamp was first issued in Britain on May 1, 1840. It went into official use five days later.

“The stamp features the image of Britain's longest-serving monarch, Queen Victoria.”

Google chose to use an unissued VR Penny Black, rather than the issued design, but with Doodles being of such iconic status, it is still good to see stamps commemorated in this way.

Unfortunately the report was headed: “What is a Penny Black Stamp?” - a question that would not have been asked just a few years ago but, ironically due to the internet of course, millions are not growing-up with this basic knowledge! Sad. ☒

Feedback from DS37

Grover, Sloper, Printex and Lithotex

A regular correspondent writes: “I found the latest issue of *DS* interesting, especially the bit on Grover.

“Somewhere I heard or read about a machine to cancel by perforating cards of Holiday Insurance stamps (when the stamps had been stuck on the cards). It must have been a temptation for crooks to steal them from wherever they were stored or disposed of, perhaps the same was done to cards of the various Unemployment Insurance, National Insurance and Health and Pensions stamps, but I'm not sure how these were used. Some were given a manuscript or rubber date stamp by the employer when he affixed the stamp to the card to cancel them. Some employers had their Insurance stamps perfined to protect them before they were used (i.e. stuck to the cards). I think these were very crude patterns of holes (mostly) from Sloper's records, but few examples are known; we don't collect them. I have had a page of such a card, cancelled by an overall pattern of holes, but cannot find it.

“John Easton in *Stamps in the Making* mentions nickel plating and illustrates a Hunter-Penrose step and repeat photographic apparatus (facing Pg 136), not sure I haven't come across the Lithotex name when researching Miller & Motley. I would like to know what else (apart from stamps) a step and repeat machine could be used for, as stamps are a fairly limited market, but I can't think of anything apart from Christmas wrapping paper and that doesn't seem worthy of such a complex machine.” ☒

London 2015 Europhilex

A good time was had by all

Congratulations to the organisers, stamp dealers, exhibitors, volunteers and others for putting on such an enjoyable stamp exhibition in May.

There was plenty to see and do and witnessing the Sperati printing press in action, attending the many seminars, seeing the exhibits and having the chance to have a discussion with master engraver Martin Morck were just four of the many highlights of the show for your compiler. Here's to *London 2020!* ☒

Engraving Stamps is Easy!

OK maybe not, but read on for a common misperception

Reader George Muralee of Canada recently kindly supplied PDFs of *BradBank*, the staff magazine of Bradbury Wilkinson from 1922 through to 1934.

Keen on all aspects of engraving, your compiler could not resist reproducing this cartoon about the perceived ease of the craft of security engraving.



This 1924 drawing by 'WG' is captioned:

Would be Engraver - "Look here, Professor, I'm a bit fed-up with my own line of work. Do you think I could soon pick-up the engraving business: it is only a question of scratching on copper, isn't it?"

Professor - "Well, I've been at it for the last 60 years and I am only just getting into it. Considering your age, you might, if you are lucky, acquire enough ability to engrave your own coffin plate."

Having recently interviewed De La Rue engraver Christopher Matthews for a forthcoming article, it is hard not to reflect on the complexities of the process that he had explained. Chris had worked at Bradbury, Wilkinson between the years 1980-6. ☒

BW Samples Briefcase

As Cher sings: "If I could turn back time"!

While in a humorous frame of mind, a second drawing from the same publication depicts a Bradbury, Wilkinson travelling salesman called Cecil S W Jenkins taking a well-earned rest in their city office in Cophall* Avenue in-between visiting clients at some point during 1923. (*despite what cartoonist 'EAA' states on the window!)



It is accompanied by a vaguely humorous article about the man, but do not wait for a punch line! Oh to have had sight of the contents of his briefcase marked SPECIMENS. It could well have included sheets of the dummy stamps shown below. ☒



Typical dummy stamps possibly available to Jenkins at that time.

More eBay Fantasy Rubbish

New De La Rue Key Plate 'Large Nyasaland's surface

The following fantasy items have recently been offered on eBay at a cost of between £3 and £6 each.

The vendor writes: "MNH Full Gum. High Quality Copy. Modern Reproduction. This Stamp is a Modern Design. Fantasy Stamp. Why are we selling replica/fantasy stamps for the collector? Because some stamps are too expensive. Not every collector can buy the original stamps, so they need replica to complete their collection. All Reproduction Stamps items are marked "Replica" on the back as required by eBay."

In fairness, they are quite nicely executed, but do not be fooled into thinking that they are anything other than what they are - an attempt at extracting your hard earned money. Other types possibly also exist, certainly they do with country names instead of THOS. DE LA RUE & Co. and in other designs, too. Examples are not known perforated and only the £10 KEVII value is genuinely recorded (see bottom right), so the vendor clearly has not issued that version lest he be accused of copying a non-fantasy design. ☒



Queen Victoria

King Edward VII

King George V



King Edward VIII

King George VI



Queen Elizabeth II

GENUINE EXAMPLES OF THE 'LARGE NYASALAND'.

De La Rue Giori Dummy Stamp

More information found

In DS37, a couple of poor scans showed a 'new' dummy stamp. It had only been purchased that month and had not been received from the vendor and so a proper analysis of it could not be made at that time. It has now been received and better scans and further information can be shared here.

Mention is often made of 'Giori presses', but the actual printing presses used were manufactured by Koenig & Bauer, based on the Giori *process*.



The Dummy Stamp

Designer: Prof. Karl Gessner, Staatsdruckerei, AUT.

Engraver: Alfred Fischer. (An Austrian engraver between 1965 and 1980.)

Printer: Unknown.

Issued: Circa 1968.

Process: Direct and indirect* intaglio.

Press: A DLRG intaglio press.

* Also known as offset intaglio due to the use of a blanket to temporarily hold inks before transferring them to the substrate.

Gessner and Fischer had also worked together in 1967 on a *Day of the Stamp* issue for Austria, as shown alongside. >>>

The subject is again classical in its style, utilising both the intaglio and gravure printing processes.



Horizontal gutter pair seen for sale in Germany for €25.



The Original Artwork

(With special thanks to www.WikiArt.org, the Visual Art Encyclopaedia, for the woodcut and image details that appear alongside and below.)

Title: St. Christopher carrying the Infant Christ.

Artist: Albrecht Durer.

Date: 1511.

Style: Northern Renaissance.

Genre: Religious painting.

Technique: Woodcut.

Gallery: British Museum, London, ☒

Letterpress Printing at London 2015 Europhilex using Perkins Bacon

Tender Dies

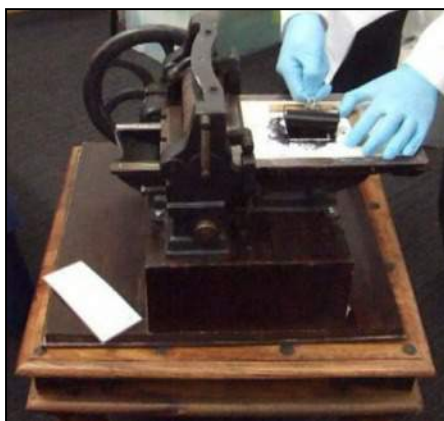
A rare chance to see an 1879/1880 die being used to print modern reproductions

Mark Copley of The Royal Philatelic Society London undertook frequent letterpress printing demonstrations at the recent London 2015 Europhilex show employing a press once belonging to the forger Sperati. Of special interest to *DS* readers was the fact that Mark used one of the 1879/1880 Perkins Bacon tender dies that is in the possession of the Royal. Four dies with other face values were also on display in a cabinet.

Each print made was immediately destroyed with scissors and disposed of, but 120 sets of four pre-prepared reproduction die impressions were sold at £50 per set. (See *Stop Press* overleaf.) An auction was held for a unique set of five that included the additional value used for the show demonstrations. ☒



The die is in place on press bed.



The die is inked.



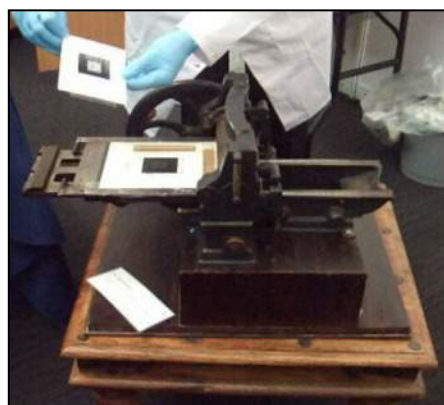
White card is placed on top of die.



Protective padding is put in place.



Impression made by turning handle.



The end result.



The set of four impressions sold to visitors at London 2015 Europhilex.

Waterlow Dummy Stamp Engraver has now been Identified...

...as engraver Harold James Bard

Reader George Muralee advises that the Waterlow full-face King George VI design was engraved by Harold James Bard.

George kindly shared a scan of four imperforate dummy stamps for this design, as depicted below.

Mr. Bard had also been responsible for the fine engraving of the vignettes on the British Castles high value definitive designs of the 1950s.



Three-quarter face versions of this design exist, presumably also engraved by Mr. Bard. ☒

Bruckmann Update

Translation was probably wrong

Douglas Muir, Senior Curator Philately at The British Postal Museum & Archive kindly got in touch regarding the item detailed on page one within DS37.

“Re Bruckmann. I think the manuscript inscription might read Wolter, or Walter, probably being a man’s name. Handdruck is definitely printing by hand.”

Thanks Douglas. ☒

Pink FTPO Dummy Stamp

Dodgy? Probably!



Your compiler is pretty sure that this item is not all that it seems. Everything points to this being a cut-out from the free gift contained within an early issue of the *Philatelic Bulletin*, but with the two handstamps acting as embellishments either side.

There is no logical reason why such an item would exist with these handstamps on them, unless you know differently. Does any reader know the true purposes of the GPO handstamps? The item was for sale on eBay at £8.99. ☒

Stop Press

A late opportunity to buy the Sperati prints created for London 2015 Europhilex

Mark Copley of the Royal Philatelic Society London advises that there are still some sets of the four modern prints featured on page five available to readers. The prints come within a presentation pack and are stamped on the reverse stating that they are one of 120 printed.

They are offered at the original cost of £50, plus £1 postage. If interested, please send an email to secretary@rpsl.org.uk (mentioning *Dummy Stamps*) to obtain details of how to order your set. Get in quickly, though, as remaining stocks will not last long. ☒

...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 39 A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material Quarter 3 2015

Waterlow Bi-coloured Boudica and Parliament Dummy Stamp Found

No longer are only mono-coloured copies recorded



Readers are possibly familiar with the blue dummy stamp shown alongside, bearing its *Pageant of Postage Stamps* overprint in red.



Well, it was always assumed that a bi-coloured issued version had been produced, as two colour separated die proofs are known in a major private collection of Cinderella stamps (as shown above).

A partial sheet of 40 copies of the find has surfaced in France, probably missing two bottom rows. ☒

Rembrandt's 'St George and the Dragon' Dummy Stamp

An image, albeit from within a book, now finally seen



Issue Date Said by some collectors to be 1929.
 Printer Rembrandt Intaglio Company, Lancaster.
 Design St George and dragon, with POSTAGE & REVENUE in plain lettering above, and ONE PENNY below.
 Face Value One Penny.
 Process Photogravure.
 Sheet Size ___ (___ rows x ___ dummy stamps).
 Marginal Marks None seen.

The image of the dummy stamp above is reproduced from the book *History of Industrial Gravure Printing up to 1920* by Otto M Lilien, published by Lund Humphries, 1972. As this is a monochrome book with unknown imagery scale, the colour and size of the dummy stamp is therefore unknown. Can anyone help, please, especially regarding colour(s)?

With the book title stating "...up to 1920" the date of issue of the dummy stamp seems unlikely to be from 1929, despite what some collectors say.

Full credit to St George for his brave actions, but this depiction shows him slaying a dragon that is not much bigger than a large dog! ☒

Help with Scans Requested, please

Do you recognise these items from their description?

As much information as is known about these items is recorded below and your help would be much appreciated in tracking down these three unseen images, please, as your compiler has had no luck.

Bradbury Wilkinson:

Issue Date 1879.
Design Falklands Islands head and small central ornaments at each side which would have contained the plate numbers. Design understood to have also been submitted for a pantographic process stamp.
Face Value One Penny.
Process Letterpress.
Sheet Size ____ (__ rows x __ dummy stamps).
Marginal Marks _____.

De La Rue:

Issue Date 1920s / 1930s?
Design Steamer on the High Seas.
Face Value _____.
Process _____.
Sheet Size 50 (__ rows x __ dummy stamps).
Marginal Marks _____.

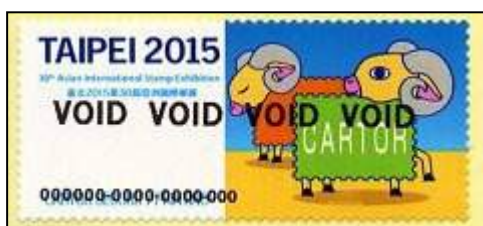
Harrison and Sons:

Issue Date 19____.
Design Britannia head, London roof-scape and tree. Experts in the production of postage stamps, poster stamps and commercial stamps.
Face Value _____.
Process _____.
Sheet Size ____ (__ rows x __ dummy stamps).
Marginal Marks _____.

Chris Chatfield's *Great Britain Commemorative Labels pre-1950* [GB, 1991] records the existence of the Harrison dummy stamp described above. It is not illustrated in *Chatfield* and the issue date is unclear. ☒

Cartor: Taipei 2015 Void Label

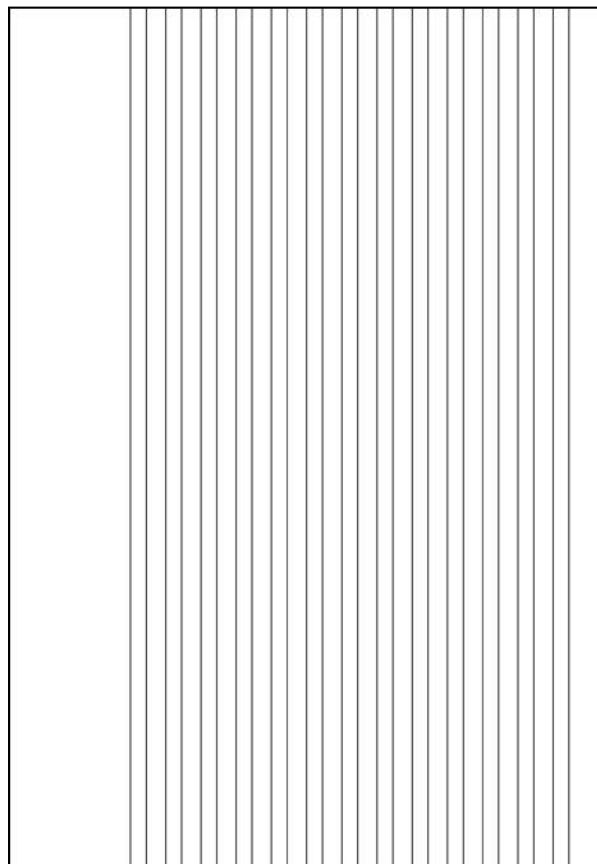
Example spotted by reader with VOID overprinting



De La Rue Phosphor Trials

Phosphor only sheet recently offered for sale

Previously recorded in *Dummy Stamps*, Captain James Cook appeared on a set of trials produced by De La Rue in 1968 when undertaking its first experiments with phosphor banding.



The sheet states in manuscript at foot: "Ultra Fine Grade T.P.A. Printed 9./1-./68. Wet o/s." TPA = terephthalic acid. See *DS4* for full story of labels.



Example dummy stamp with the colours intentionally saturated to better reveal positioning of the phosphor.

It is not known whether full sheets of the *Cook* design still exist (reports appreciated), but recently an unprinted sheet with just the phosphorescent vertical bands was offered for sale.

The line drawing (kindly done by Graham Eyre) is depicted to scale, with the bands shown here in black. Note the exceptionally large left margin. ☒

Harrison Springbok Block Offered for Sale

Your compiler had not seen this version with its red defacing line before

This attractive imperforate block comprising ten copies of the Springbok design, a red vertical line and the word MUSTER (specimen) in black. It was recently sold on eBay for £112 and attracted 12 bids. At the price, it was a good purchase at just £11.20 per dummy stamp. ☒



DLR rarely seen Dummy Stamp

A print-related design promoting the company

There is an interesting stamp production related dummy stamp that rarely comes-up for sale, but did so recently.



This is the 1960s (can anyone confirm a more precise date?) item from De La Rue.

Spirited bidding saw the item sell for £31.01. ☒

Bradbury, Wilkinson engraver

Name of craftsman has now been revealed...

Thanks to the kindness of a reader of the printer forum at stampcommunity.org who pursued a query for your compiler, we now know that it was **Bob Godbehear** of Bradbury, Wilkinson who engraved the Queen Charlotte of Luxembourg dummy stamp.

The 1926-35 definitive series from Luxembourg, attributed to American Bank Note Co. [USA], very closely resembles the dummy stamp. The issued stamps were engraved by Robert Savage (1868 -1943) at ABNC.



I am told that Bob was apprenticed in 1921 and that he would have been at the end of his apprenticeship in 1928 when the dummy stamp work was allegedly done, "and a copy job of a nice stamp would be just the thing to give to a young engraver aspiring to do portraits". Another query resolved! ☒

Sir Walter Scott Dummy Stamp

Sheet format now known

This dummy stamp design has been featured here before and is repeated solely because a full sheet of 32 (four rows of 8 dummy stamps) of the black printing has recently been sold by Gibbons, thus revealing the format. A green single copy is also known and many more colours are probably yet to be recorded. ☒



These Sir Walter Scott dummy stamps are rarely seen. The block was found in an ink companies factory circa 1952, they believe it to have been engraved between 1930-39 possibly by Hislop & Day, Edinburgh. It is now used for testing ink print colours for cheque printing and fugitive inks.

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 the 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 Granton factory about 1952 among some old blocks. It was probably engraved between 1930-39 and 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.”

(left) Notes from the album page. (right) Philatelic Journal of Great Britain, Vol 89, Dec 1979.

Waterlow: Bogus Items *What a waste*

The following three items were recently offered on eBay. The fact that they are collector-inspired rubbish (albeit probably from many decades ago) is not in doubt. What a waste of nine otherwise fine dummy stamps. The dealer stated “(Bogus?)” and offered the single for £2.99 and each block for £4.99. ☒



2d handstamp used in a variety of ways. Why?



Harrison Double Panes

Better scan provided of perforations at right

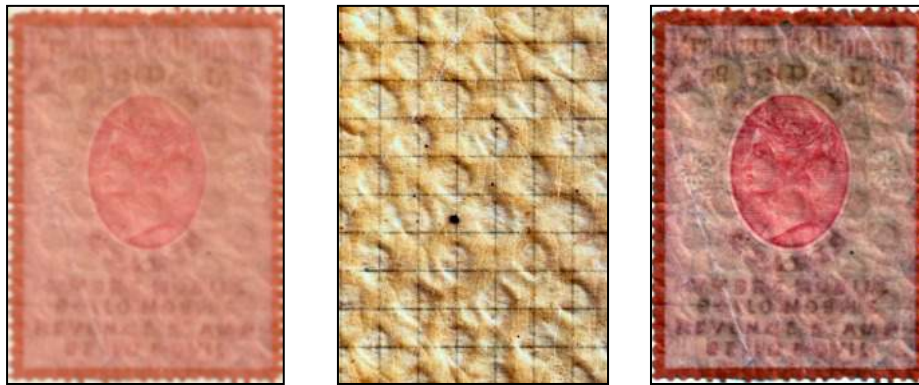
A few issues back, it was suggested that the Harrison dummy stamp shown alongside could have been printed in double panes with a gutter margin. A reader has kindly submitted a better scan revealing that there are indeed perforations to the right of the dummy from an adjacent pane. Gutter pairs have yet to be discovered. ☒



Bradbury, Wilkinson Revenue Stamp Dummies: Queen Victoria's Head

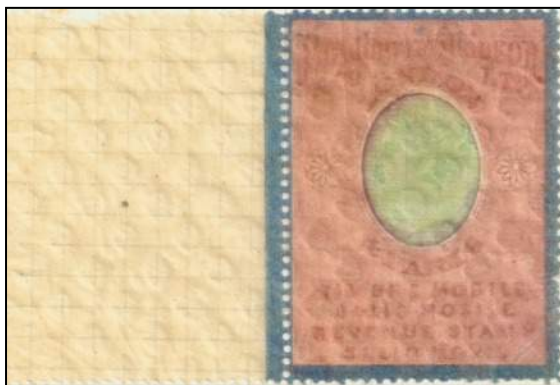
New discovery made of BW Victorian dummy stamps

Mono-coloured version

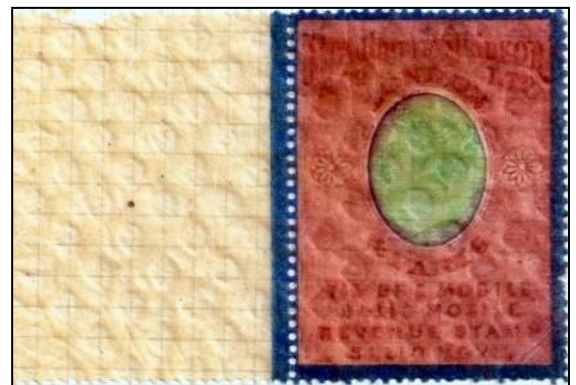


Normal scan. (Left) Saturated colour to better reveal detail. (right) Colour saturation of the paper's appearance [ignore quadrille]. (Centre)

Tri-coloured version



Normal scan.



Saturated colours.

The items are so delicate they were scanned directly from the album page, hence quadrille!

Issue Date	Presumably prior to the death of Queen Victoria in 1901, but not confirmed.
Design	Head of Queen Victoria in oval, central to design.
Text	BRADBURY, WILKINSON & CO. / LONDON / & PARIS. / TIMBRE MOBILE / BOLLO MOBILE / REVENUE STAMP / SELLO MOVIL". There is an overall background of diagonal lines and two flower heads by Victoria's portrait.
Face Value	None.
Process	Thought to be letterpress.
Sheet Size	___ (___ rows x ___ dummy stamps).
Marginal Marks	Unknown

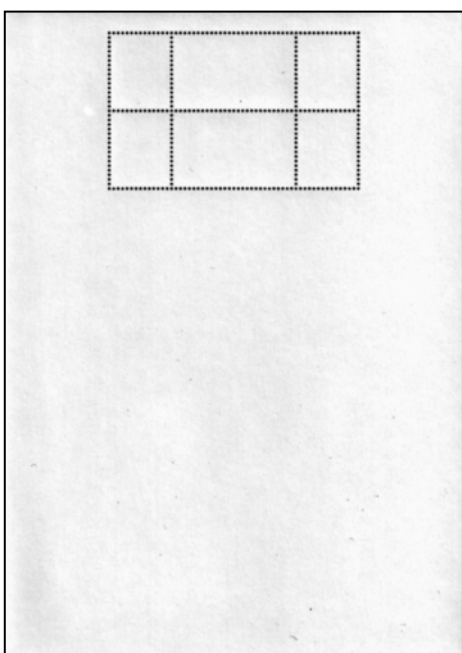
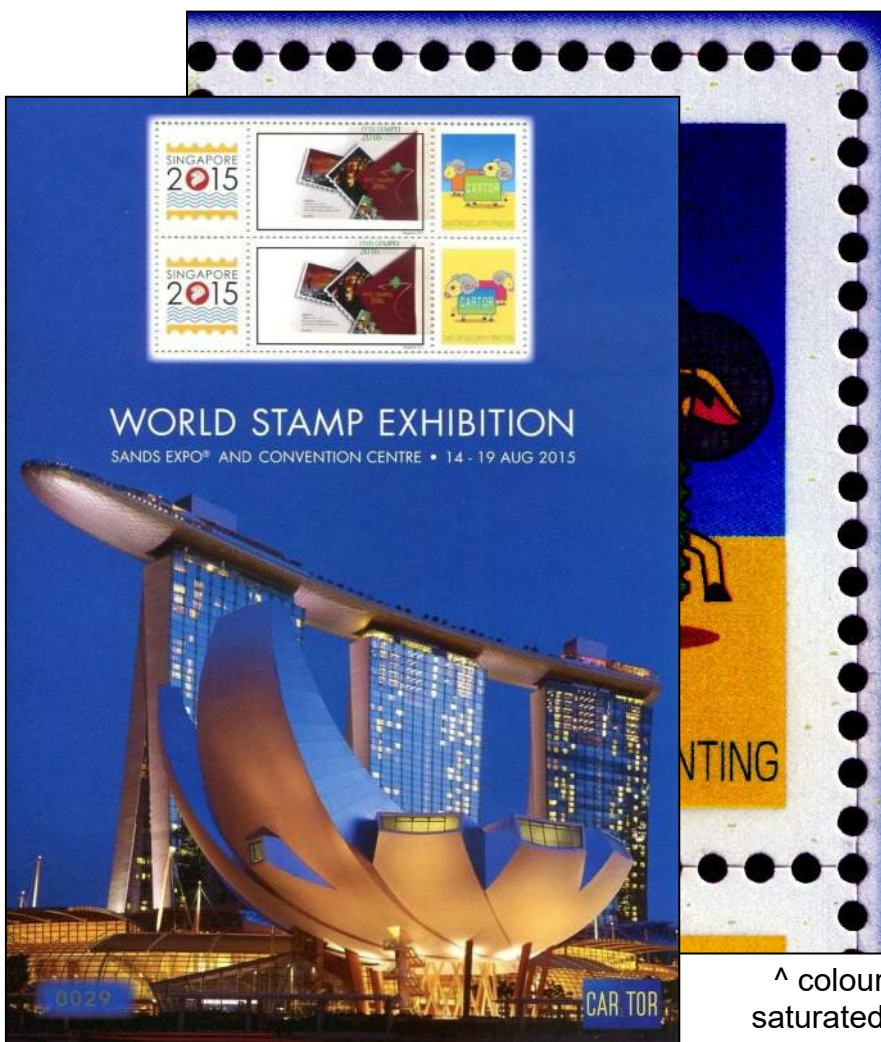
These are strange items, printed on a transparent substrate on the gummed side of the paper NOT on the face. This approach of printing on reverse was also utilised in Austria for some of its revenue stamps. The ink had become slightly damp over time on the sample owned, and had transferred the text onto the album page, correct way reading helping to prove that it was indeed printed on the reverse side.

The scans are poor, despite being taken directly from the dummy stamp owing to the printing method. In fact, the clearest way of viewing the text and design is held to the light like stained glass. The paper (see scan), aside from being wafer-thin, is most odd and it is thought that the overall raised pattern (visible on both sides) may have been applied after printing as a further security feature. ☒

Cartor Souvenir Sheets Given Away at Singapore 2015

Attractive perforated and die-cut personalised self-adhesive sheet produced for above show

This sheet was given to visitors at Singapore 2015. It was largely printed offset, with the middle vertical pair of publicity labels printed as a (misplaced) personalised (digital?) 'overprint'. Numbering is letterpress. Note how the six labels have a die-cut frame line around the outer edge so that they may be peeled off. ☒



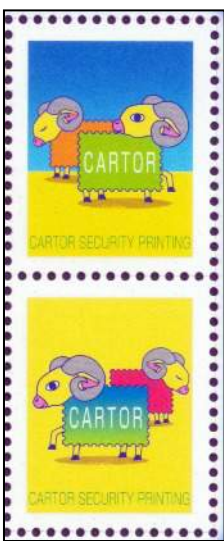
Sheet from reverse showing the block of perforations and their position.



Enlargement of letterpress printed gold sheet number.

^ colour saturated

Numbered sheet. The die-cut frame lines are visible on the scan behind.



Personalised label (l), offset pair (r). All imagery on this page is to differing scales.

Cartor Coils at Singapore 2015

Two paper types make for an interesting issue

This world stamp exhibition ran from 14-19 August 2015. The Cartor stand had a Post and Go machine on it that was dispensing the two Year of the Goat dummy stamps shown here.

There are two points to note. Firstly, the labels do NOT exist dated 14, 15 or 16 August. The machines were only operational on the 17, 18 and 19 August. Secondly, the machine was pre-programmed to NOT issue any form of a receipt.



Of possible interest to specialists is the fact that there are two paper types and this is presumed to be an intentional thing, possibly (i.e. not proven) to test in a fully controlled environment potential changes to the way that British Post and Go labels might be produced. It is stressed that this is speculation at this time.

The paper types are:

1. Glossy coating on picture **only** - not on the white part to the left of the dummy stamp.
2. Glossy coating **all over** the dummy stamp surface.

On all examples seen with coating on the picture area only, the design with a blue upper half always has various degrees of 'chipping' to the top edge.



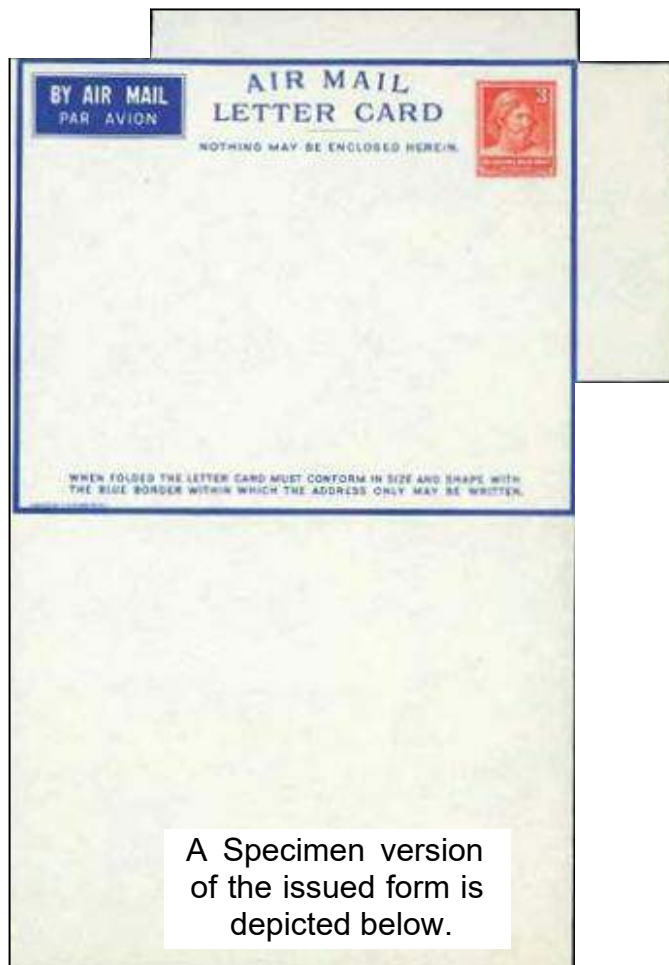
The all-yellow dummies on the same strip are never affected by chipping. ☒

Bradbury, Wilkinson Air Letter

Rarely seen dummy stationery item on offer

The 9 October 2015 sale from British stamp dealers and auctioneers Argyll Etkin will include an attractive dummy Air Mail Letter Card postal stationery item, as described and shown below.

"1933 Air mail letter card, unfolded proof in the issued design but with a red "Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. Ltd" dummy stamp instead of the Iraq 15f stamp that appeared on the issued air letter, fine and scarce." Estimate £250. Still time to bid! ☒



Graphics Philately Association

An unpaid promotion in support of the USA-based GPA

Without printing, there would be little need for, nor the ability to produce, postage stamps. These fascinating little posters, often works of art in their own right, reflect nearly every subject you can think of, and thousands are related to the history of graphic communications.

This is the collecting area that members of the GPA specialise in. Why not join them? Your compiler has been a member for many years and is pleased to promote the group here. Please mention *DS* to Larry. ☒



GRAPHICS PHILATELY ASSOCIATION

STUDYING BOOKS, PRINTING, & THE GRAPHIC ARTS

We study the manner in which mankind communicates graphically - creating meaningful symbols on various surfaces from cave walls to computer screens. The GPA's primary means of communication is the quarterly, *Philately-Graphics*. The GPA is an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society and a study unit of the American Topical Association. Membership is open to all. Annual dues are \$15 or \$25 outside the U.S.

MEMBERSHIP & QUERIES TO:
Larry Rosenblum
1030 East El Camino Real, Suite 107
Sunnyvale, CA 94087-3759 USA
lr@gbstamps.com

graphics-stamps.org

DLRG Dummy Stamp Update

The printing process was not as described in DS38

A knowledgeable reader has advised that the DLRG dummy stamp featured last time is Austrian in origin and was printed by the OeSD (Austrian State Printers) in direct intaglio and photogravure not, it would seem, direct intaglio and indirect intaglio as believed by your compiler.

The print location would certainly make sense based on the fact that the designer and the engraver were both based in Austria.

If DLRG operated in the same way as the likes of WIFAG, then it is just possible that the design was first printed in Germany, where the presses were manufactured, before shipping to OeSD. This would have enabled the manufacturer to check the operation of the machine before it was re-assembled at the print works of the purchaser. ☒

Yet More eBay Rubbish

Three more Queen Victoria examples found for sale

A reader rightly queried the inclusion of these items within these pages. However, as they bear the name Thomas De La Rue on them, new reports of 'finds' will continue to be listed, lest they cause confusion to would-be purchasers in the future.

Similar items with the names of real countries will never be listed here, as they mimic actual stamps and not dummies from a stamp printer. ☒



...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 40

A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material

Quarter 4 2015

Ten Years of Dummy Stamps...

Well, almost!

Logic says 40 issues at four per annum means ten years of publication. Well, it almost does, but the inclusion of a couple of bonus issues along the way means that the anniversary is actually in 2016.

Anyway, 40 issues of *DS* gives me the opportunity to renew my thanks to the many contributors. Some have added just a few words of information, while others have gone all out to supply lots of fascinating details and imagery on a continuing basis...you know who you are. This substantial help is very much appreciated.

The market prices for dummy material has altered rather a lot since I began publishing. What used to be cheap is now expensive and what deserves to still be cheap is now expensive. I hope this is not seen as being my fault by fellow collectors owing to the publicity that this material has received!

There are still many new discoveries being made and the internet has certainly come into its own by enabling material to be found more readily, subsequently enabling it to be recorded within these pages and elsewhere, as with next item.

Thank you again for your support. GLENN ☒

De La Rue Dummy Die Found

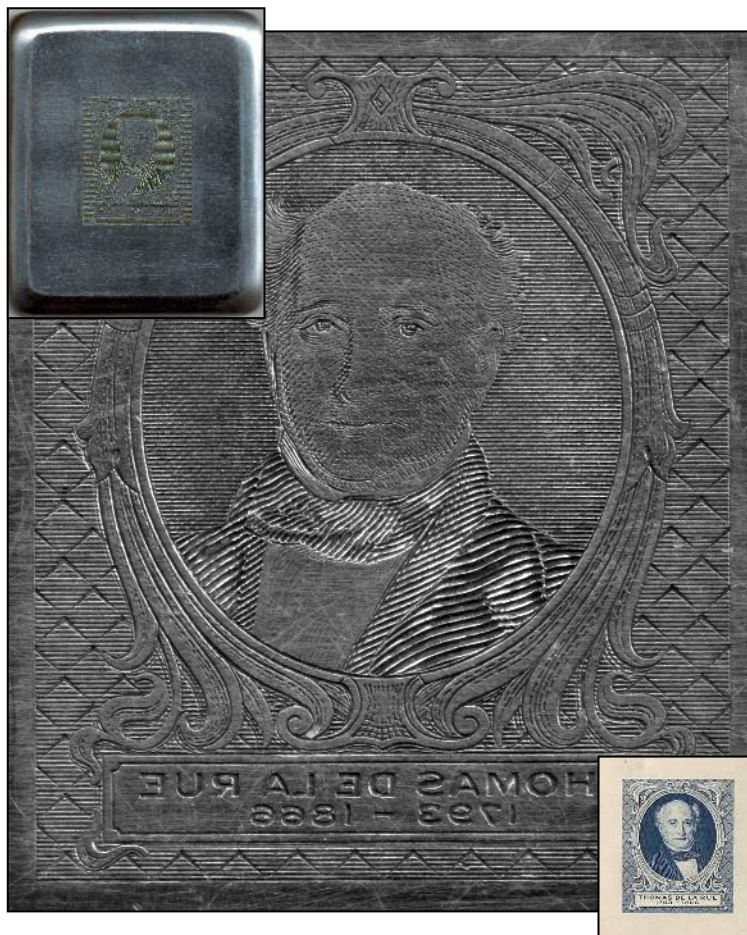
Sold by a house clearance company

It is unusual to discover an intaglio die of any sort, so to find one that is of an interesting British dummy stamp design was a real surprise.

While going through eBay lots your compiler came across an entry that instantly resonated with him as it related to the 1955 centenary of De La Rue producing postage stamps. The dummy stamps details are:

Issue date	June 1955 (27 May print date).
Issue reason	DLR Stamp Centenary exhibition.
Design	Head and shoulders portrait of Thomas De La Rue contained in a decorative oval frame with text reading "THOMAS DE LA RUE / 1793-1866".
Face value	None.
Process	Intaglio.
Sheet size	32 (8 rows x 4 dummy stamps).
Margins	Printer imprint and plate number 1 in lower margin.

The die is 77mm H x 63mm W x 5mm D and it has a plain reverse that appears to be copper. The vertical and horizontal edges all have a bullnose profile, while the four corners are rounded. It sold for £63 with little bidder interest. ☒



De La Rue Imperium Essays...NOT

A recommendation: Spend your money on proper dummy stamps!



Note that 1/2d, 1d, 10s and £1 'fantasy' values are also known to exist.

There is no apparent attempt at intentional deceit, but some collectors may be fooled if buying online into thinking that they are purchasing the real thing. However, they should already be suspicious of the cheap initial selling price. The real danger comes when items are sold at a later date.

Harrison Double Panes

Better scan provided of perforations at right

A few issues back, it was suggested that the Harrison dummy stamp shown alongside could have been printed in double panes with a gutter margin. A reader has kindly submitted a better scan revealing that there are indeed perforations to the right of the dummy from an adjacent pane. Gutter pairs have yet to be discovered. ☒



De La Rue Pattern Stamp for the State of North Africa

Several new colours found

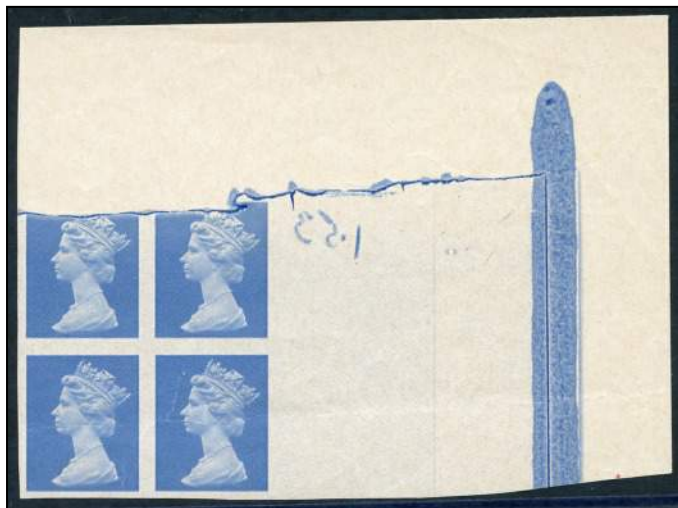
Created as the 'State of North Africa' for use as a pattern stamp to develop colour schemes for BCA and Zanzibar. Issued c1890s, they depict a horseman on camel design and are printed by letterpress.



Harrison: Jumelle Press Trials

Unusual version found for sale

Auctioneers Corbitts (www.corbitts.com) are currently offering the block shown below. Described as waste, it has an estimate of £20-£50.



The description reads: “*Lot 2137 - MACHIN HEAD printers waste corner marginal block of four in blue on glossy paper offered 'as is.'*”

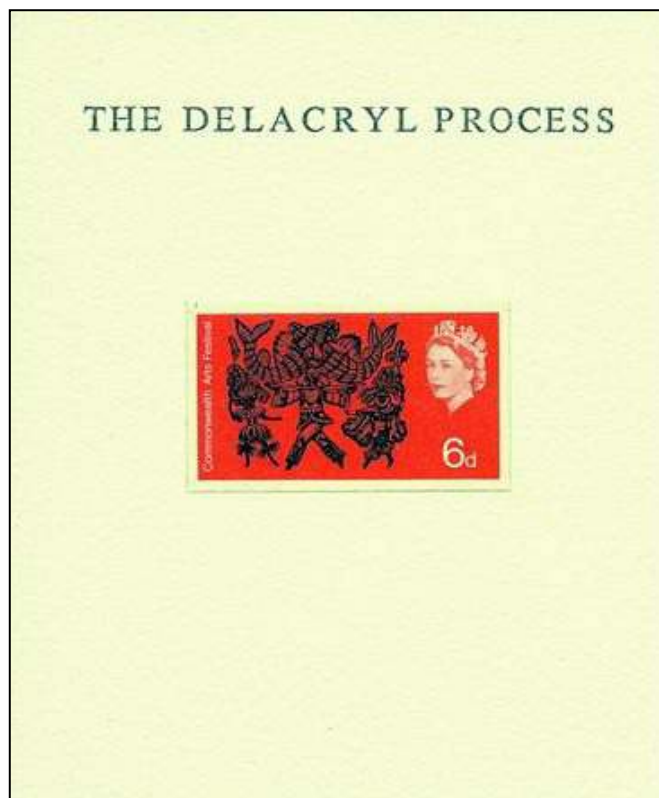
The sale is to be held on 4 February 2016. ✉

DLR Delacryl GB Essays

Nice items on offer....

It is not often that essays for British stamps surface on the open market, so these items, in Universal Philatelic Auctions sale PA60 catalogue, 12 January 2016, are particularly interesting. This is the first sighting of these items by your compiler.

So, was the GPO working with DLR in 1965 to get them to print British stamps? If so, it took them from 1965 to 1969 before this happened.



I referred them to a leading collector and researcher of British philatelic material, who commented:

“My first reaction is that they are similar to the Chichester essays from Questa. I know DLR was keen to promote Delacryl, so they might have been given two pieces of 'old' artwork to show what they could achieve. These two designs do lend themselves to litho, which might explain why they were passed to DLR to show what they could achieve.”

The lots are:

9862 1965 Commonwealth Arts Festival 6d black and orange, a very rare ESSAY IMPERFORATE PROOF on gummed unwatermarked paper, printed in DELACRYL by De La Rue (issued stamp by Harrison) affixed to presented to printers card (90 x 105 mm) titled “The Delacryl Process”, with larger format Queen’s head, most unusual and believed to be previously unrecorded. £1250

9865 1965 700th Anniversary of Parliament 6d olive green, a very rare ESSAY IMPERFORATE PROOF on gummed unwatermarked paper in a much brighter olive shade than issued colour, printed in DELACRYL by De La Rue (issued stamp by Harrison), most unusual and believed to be previously unrecorded. Previously hinged, no remainder. £1000

9866 1965 Commonwealth Arts Festival 6d black and orange, a very rare ESSAY IMPERFORATE PROOF on gummed unwatermarked paper, printed in DELACRYL by De La Rue (issued stamp by Harrison), with larger format Queen’s head, most unusual and believed to be previously unrecorded. Previously hinged, no remainder. £1000

These lots are able to be bid on by going to: www.upastampauctions.co.uk ✉

Harrison: Perforator Trials

Label surfaces worded for IPEX '63 print trade show

The late Leslie Wilkinson kindly sent me a Harrison produced dummy stamp scan relating to IPEX '63 and APS Perforators some months before his passing.



The accompanying letter (scanned at top of next column) with the samples reads:

HAB/WAC

7th October 1963

Mr L-E Ewart,
Manager,
Stamp Printing Office,
Fack,
STOCKHOLM, 1,
Sweden.

Dear Mr. Ewart,

Thank you very much for sending me the very fine examples of Swedish postage stamps. I look forward soon to seeing some of your stamps printed in more than one colour, as I believe I remember you telling me that you were thinking about this.

You will be interested to know that we have bought one of the special perforating machines from Produktions-Service and we are at present getting ready to perforate stamps on this machine. I enclose a specimen of a trial result that we have achieved.

Yours sincerely,

[unsigned]

H.A. Berry,
Asst. General Manager

IPEX stood for "The International Printing Machinery and Allied Trades Exhibition" and was held in London that year.

It is assumed that the perforating machine was intended for use with trading, not postage, stamps. ☒

Olympic Cyclist on the Tube

Rare sighting of dummy stamp.....

A scan of the cyclist dummy stamp on the London tube (underground) network taken during the 2012 Olympic Games has just been obtained. Note how the caption is telling us to collect dummy stamps. OK, perhaps not. With best wishes for 2016. ☒



...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



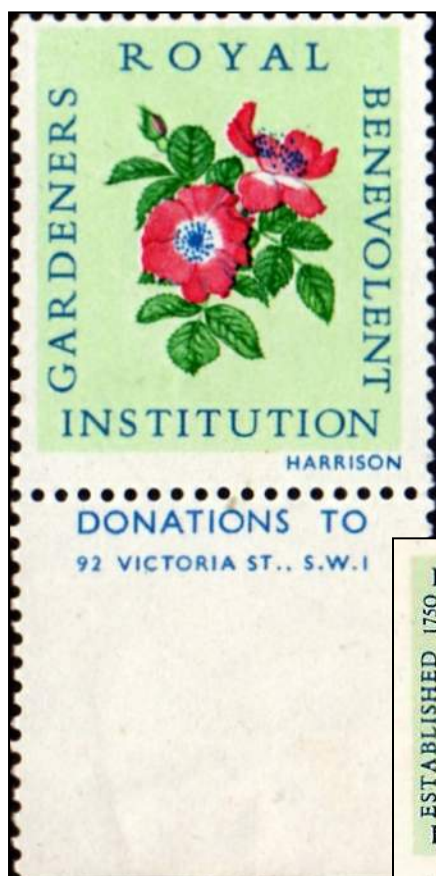
Issue 41

A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material

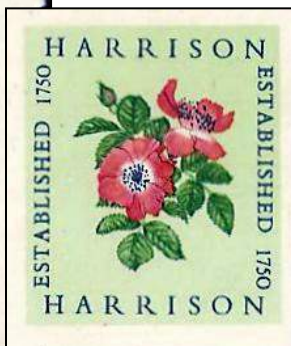
Quarter 1, 2016

Harrison-based GRBI design

Alternative flower version finally tracked down



A reader of *Dummy Stamps* and a Harrison expert has just found a fine example of the little known alternative Alexander Rose design for his collection.



Thanks to the timeline for the organisation (shown at foot of previous column), it is clear that the *GRBI* publicity label, as printed by Harrison & Sons, had to have been produced between 1851 and 1960, the period during which the company was known as *The Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution*.

We know for a fact that the Harrison-branded Alexandra Rose dummy stamp design (which was printed to extol the beauty of the photogravure process and to act as a sales tool) was first used in 1954, so there is actually a much smaller potential release date of between 1954 and 1960.

For many years your compiler has been searching for this item, which he became aware of thanks to a small snippet by well known philatelic journalist Kenneth Chapman in *Stamp* [GB] (year not noted on tear-sheet), who records that:

"The first commercial use of the Alexandra Rose design was when the Royal Horticultural Society used it for advertising stickers, such as Stampex and other philatelic exhibitions produce labels for publicity purposes."

Examples had not seen until now as unfortunately the item being described by Ken had not been illustrated in his *Stamp* article.

You will note that the description states that it was the Royal Horticultural Society that first **used** the design, it does not state that the label is **branded** RHS, so it is almost certainly the *GRBI* labels that the RHS was using on its mail. Oh to find one that has been used on cover to indicate its date of use.

If any reader possesses this *GRBI** design, in singles, blocks or sheets, or in other colours then details and scans would be much appreciated...not to mention the chance of acquiring examples! ☒

* i.e. **NOT** the Harrison branded version, which is well documented and on sale for around £4-£6 per label.

TIMELINE OF ORGANISATION

1839. *The Gardeners' Benevolent Institution* (GBI) is founded on the 17th January at an inaugural dinner for gardeners, nurserymen and amateurs.

1851. Renamed *The Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution* (GRBI), an honour granted personally by Queen Victoria.

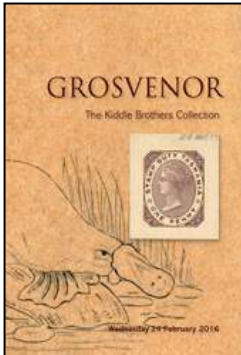
1960. Renamed *The Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society* (GRBS).

2003. GRBS adopts the name *Perennial*.

The Kiddle Brothers Collection

Grosvenor Auctions, Sale number 104,
Wednesday 24th February 2016 at 2pm

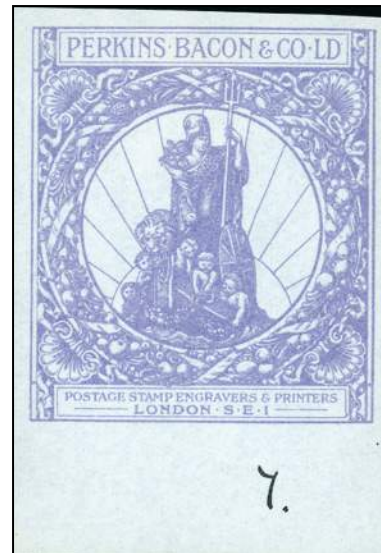
"A specialised auction of nearly 500 lots from the collections and studies formed by two of Britain's leading philatelists, including rare and important



Cinderella's, Revenues, Locals and lots of other specialised items."

The above is the description by Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions regarding its forthcoming sale.

For readers of *Dummy Stamps*, the most interesting items are probably the Waterlow, Perkins Bacon and mixed lots. ☒



De La Rue Head used for Dummies

1883 'Before Hardening' and 'After Hardening' die proofs

Stamp dealer Argyll Etkin has recently offered the following two matching items.

The first is on offer by auction, with a £250 to £300 estimate in its 4th March 2016 sale. It comprises a Queen Victoria 1883 head die proof - large head in an oval surround engraved on a solid black circular background, on white glazed card, stamped **'BEFORE HARDENING'** and dated '2 MAY 83'. This head was used for the DLR dummy stamps*.

A further proof that should ideally accompany the other item is worded **'AFTER HARDENING'** / '3 MAY 83'. They are retailing this at £350. ☒



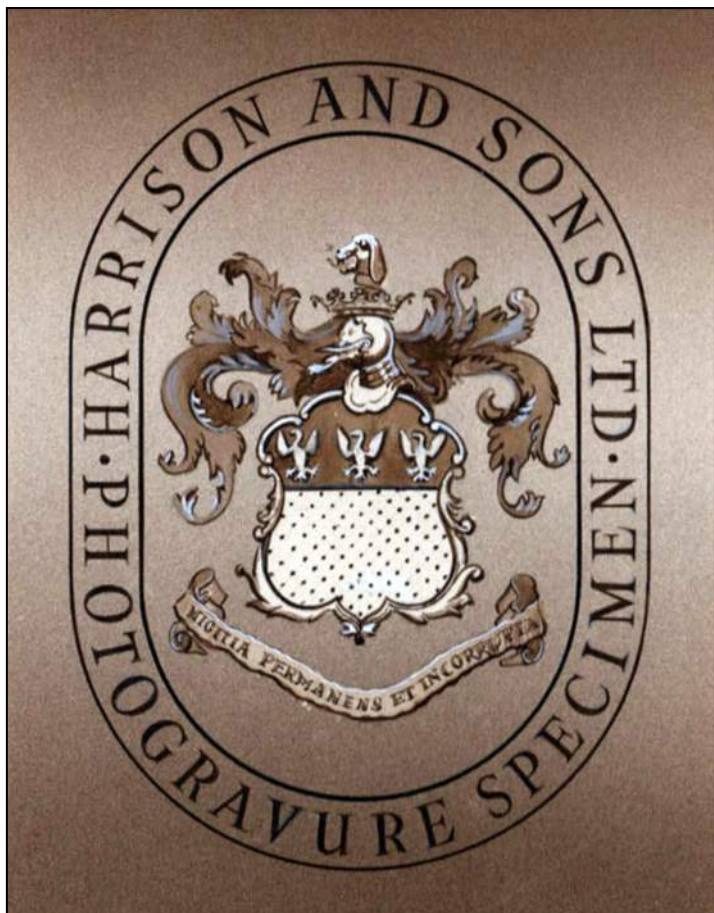
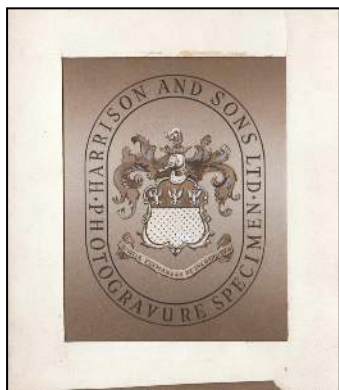
Harrison Photogravure Specimen

Newly discovered item for sale by Andrew Lajer

This part-painted, part-printed crest depicting the Harrison family has recently been offered by British stamp dealer Andrew Lajer at £295 on his eBay site. It is said to date from the 1930s.

Some searching undertaken by your compiler in his archive of literature found the crest illustrated in *Harrison & Sons Limited: A Family Imprint 1750-1950* (published by Harrison in 1950), thus confirming that it was indeed the Harrison crest.

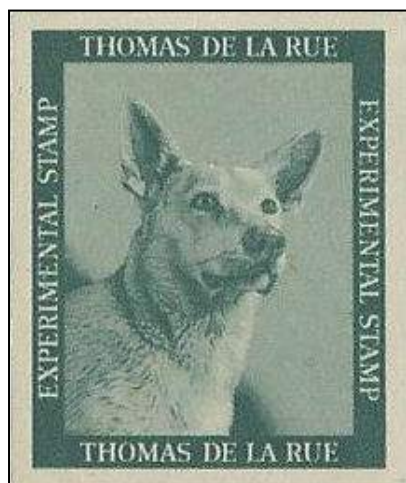
The image size is 9.50cm across by 12.00cm high, then there is the border (shown in small scan alongside) and it is therefore able to be mounted on to an album page. An attractive item. ☒



DLR Dog Dummy Discovered

German shepherd in new colour...

A new reader of *Dummy Stamps* from France has discovered a green version of the previously recorded De La Rue dog experimental stamp design. A block of six were found in France. ☒



New version in green.



It is well known in orange-brown.

Bruckmann Dummy Stamp

A strange looking version of 1d KEVII on offer

Rushstamps are selling as these words are typed a copy of this 'odd' looking mirror-image stamp with a £49.95 start price on eBay. The item has a horizontal crease and is generally poor. More info welcomed. ☒

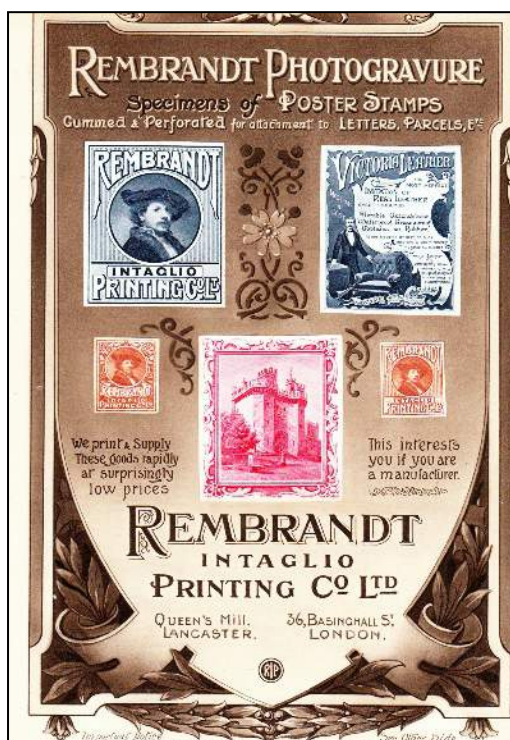


Rembrandt Intaglio

New stamp sheet colours reported

The publicity sheet shown alongside was reported by a regular reader and correspondent of *DS*.

It differs to the previously recorded type, in that the dummy stamps are in different colours to those first reported (see reduced scan of the original discovery, luckily made by the same reader, as depicted below). Nice! ☑



Victory Kidder

Curved steel segment proof

Dealer Andrew Lajer is selling a block of 12 proofs from a 1931 Royal Mint presentation album given to H A Richardson, a Royal Mint engraver, to mark his retirement.

Each dummy stamp has been handstamped in red CANCELLED and was on offer at £900. ☑

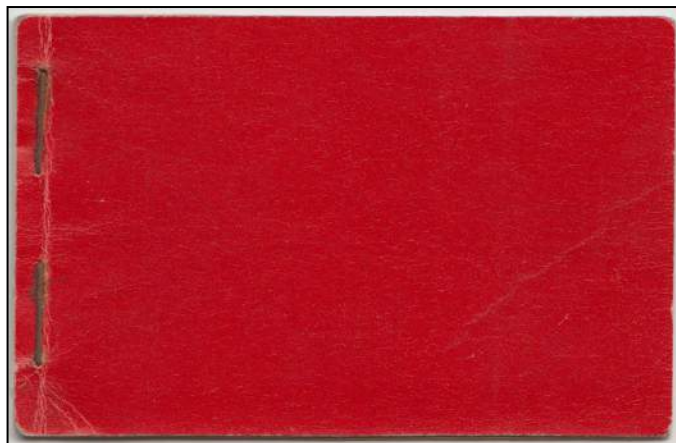


Harrison Early Booklet Trial

Can anyone add to the story below?

A reader kindly sent scans of a lovely Harrison stamp booklet. He wrote:

You've seen this stamp before, but maybe not in booklet form. It has five panes of eight stamps each, no watermark, and six plain paper interleaves. Covers and interleaves are larger than the panes. Possibly a trial for a 3/- booklet around 1911 (four 1d panes and one 1/2d pane). ☒



De La Rue Ink Trial

Stamps intentionally exposed to light

Lot 1230 in the Spink sale of 27 February 2016:

1911 De La Rue ink trial. Minerva Head dummy stamp in orange-red imperforate top marginal pair affixed to small part album page annotated 'Exposed to light in Egypt for about two months' together with a marginal single annotated 'Not Exposed', dated '4th April 1911' and headed 'B6'.

Fine and rare, almost certainly unique £120-£150."



Harrison Jumelle Dummies Sold

High price achieved at auction

The lot described and shown in *DS40* sold at the auctioneer Corbitts for a surprisingly high £115. Quite a lot for what is printer's waste after all. The auctioneers estimate of £20 to £50 was a more realistic price in the opinion of your compiler. ☒

Enter the Spanish

ISP sub-contracts printing to FNMT, Madrid



The *Long to Reign Over Us* MS was printed in Spain by FNMT, new to printing British stamps. ☒

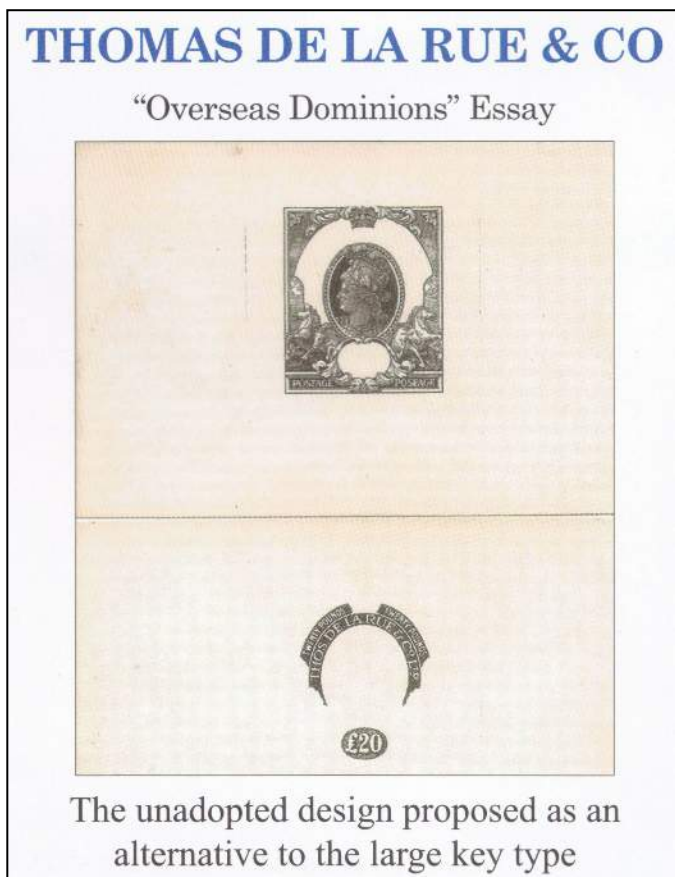


De La Rue 'Oversea Dominion'

'Two-piece' die proofs offered

Last summer, dealer Gerald Bodily offered (at an undisclosed price) the item depicted here.

Details from his advertisement published in the *London Philatelist* are reproduced below. ☒



stampprinters.info

Site update underway....finally!

It has been some considerable time since this website has been updated, for various reasons. There are finally new articles, fresh links and other features, too, such as an overall improved appearance and better functionality. Feel free to visit.



It remains a work in progress, but should be fully updated to the same standard shortly. Expect more information in the next issue of *Dummy Stamps*. ☒

Rip-off Britain...

...clearly extends to stamp material, too

Your compiler gets annoyed when dealers on eBay decide to sell a cheap item for an exorbitant price.

So, as the normal version of the *Questa Gravure Print Trial* sheet was on offer for £200, there was an instant “great, a new discovery” feeling, followed almost immediately by “hang about!”.

The vendor stated that it was a rare sheet missing the Queen’s head and face value. She was written to and asked if she realised that every single copy lacked that detail and she replied in CAPITAL LETTERS (implying shouting when online) that she WAS aware.

Everyone has the right to sell at whatever price they wish to, but when there appears to be an attempt at tricking a collector it is unacceptable. Several other sheets were on sale by other vendors at prices from £1-11, with the mid-point probably about right. ☒



Even this error, with its perforation shift, only sold for £15 a year or two back.

...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

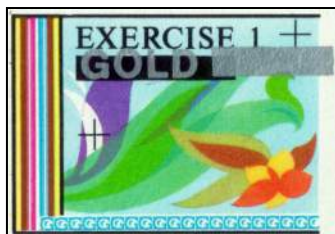
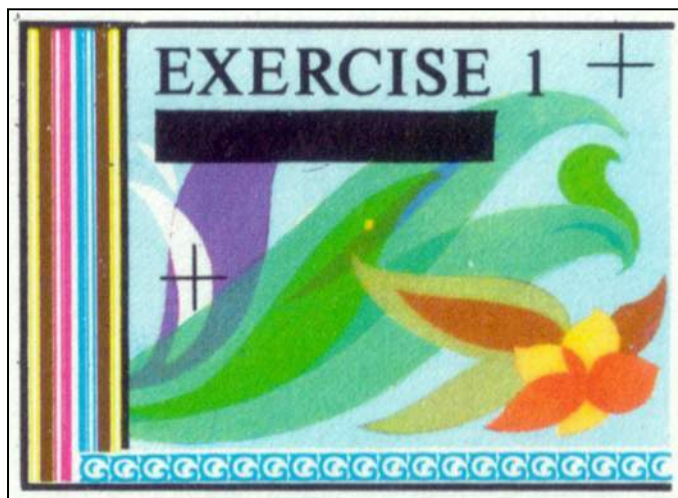


Issue 42 A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material Quarter 2, 2016

New De La Rue Discovery 1

Trials undertaken at Gateshead back in 1970

Paper, ink and plates were tested on DLRs four colour press to establish requirements for economical and good quality stamp printing. The trial included an evaluation of paper from three suppliers, enabling three buying sources for its '530 C' paper.

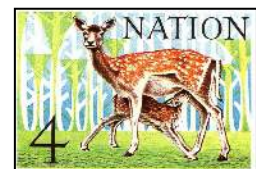


Printed specimens showing a comparison between papers, inks and plates were produced using the four colour process (CMYK), along with gold and silver printing versions. The three basic dummy stamps are shown above. In reality, all are the same size. ☒

New De La Rue Discovery 2

Incomplete designs found

Three of the 'NATION' dummy stamps have been found with missing colours. The scans show the new block, plus enlargements and smaller scans of the three affected stamps. Stamps 3, 4 and 5 are not missing colours when compared with issued. ☒



New Cartor Discoveries

Reader finds three attractive sheets for sale from the days before Cartor moved to its current location

The *Einstein* dummy was already known, as sent on cover to your compiler in 1994, but a sheet was unheard of. The other two are new finds. With Cartor having gone into administration three times before they were acquired by International Security Printers, it is perhaps surprising that new material is still being found. ☒



Enlargement of the 'stamp' from the sheet at top right.

Harrison-NRM Joint Issue

Quality photographic rendition of sheet surfaces

A regular reader kindly supplied the image shown alongside.

It is a photographic rendition of an imperfect sheet of ten dummy stamps produced jointly by Harrison and NRM in the Netherlands as part of the well known photogravure training trials from the 1920s.

It is assumed that the sheet is from the same era and not a more modern photo repro produced for, say, an auction sale. ☒



Waterlow in Auction

High prices achieved

The recent Grosvenor auction sale saw items from the Kiddle Brothers collections do well.



The group of ten die proofs of dummy stamps attracted 'many enthusiastic bids', according to *Stamp and Coin Mart* and eventually sold for an impressive £2,439. ☒

HMSO Press Presentation Card

1953 Coronation commemorative savings stamps

Despite the 'stamps' on this card being issued savings stamps and not dummies, it is an interesting item as



it possibly represents the first-known such card from HMSO at Alperon, London, using its multi-colour photogravure capabilities. Thanks go to a regular reader for supplying the scan. ☒

Perkins Die Proof 1

Nice frame plate on offer

Dealer Andrew Lajer has/had for sale the item illustrated below.

It was described as “A superb die proof in black on glazed card of the frame plate of the so-called William IV* Specimen Stamp. Scarce. £350.” ☒

* Actually, it's George IV and definitely not William.



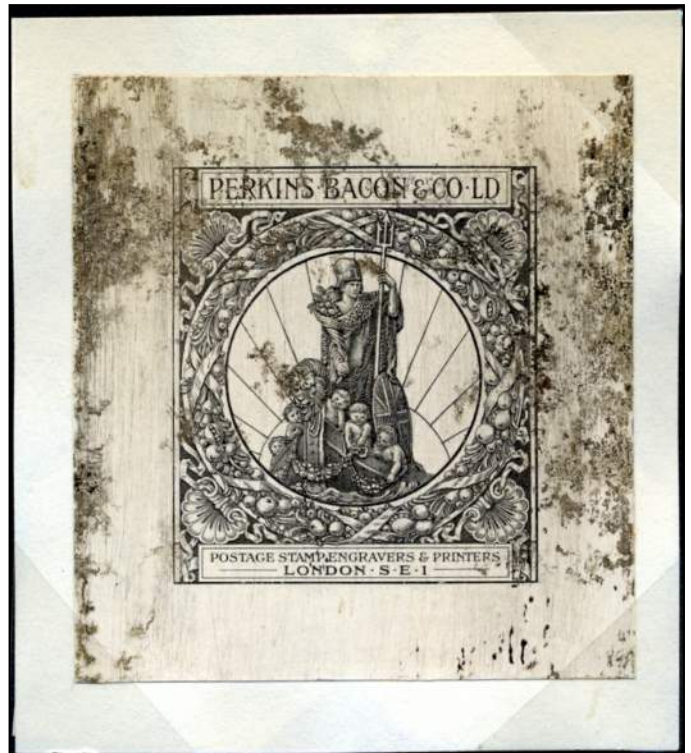
Perkins Die Proof 2

Corroded, but probably unique

Stamp dealer Andrew Lajer also was recently selling the item illustrated below.

It was described as “Black on glazed card. Some corrosion not detracting. £250.”

It also states that the image of Britannia is depicted as it was the company symbol. Not so sure this is the case, but still the first time that your compiler has seen this item for sale. ☒



De La Rue Print for Luxembourg

Philatelic black print produced in 2003 with DLR logo

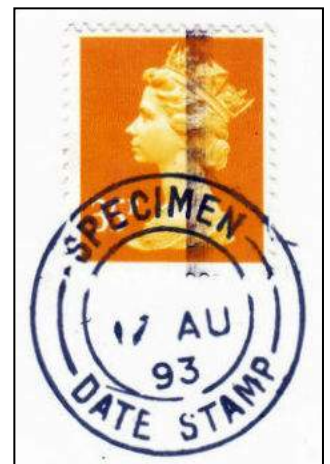


Post Office Training

Attractive item on piece recently sold

The PO Training item shown alongside is said to be cancelled on the First Day of Issue (so, it's probably purely philatelic in its nature!).

It is unusual to see an item such as this with The 'SPECIMEN / DATE STAMP' cancellation. It was on offer at £1.24 on piece. ☒



BDT Royal Wedding Proof Set

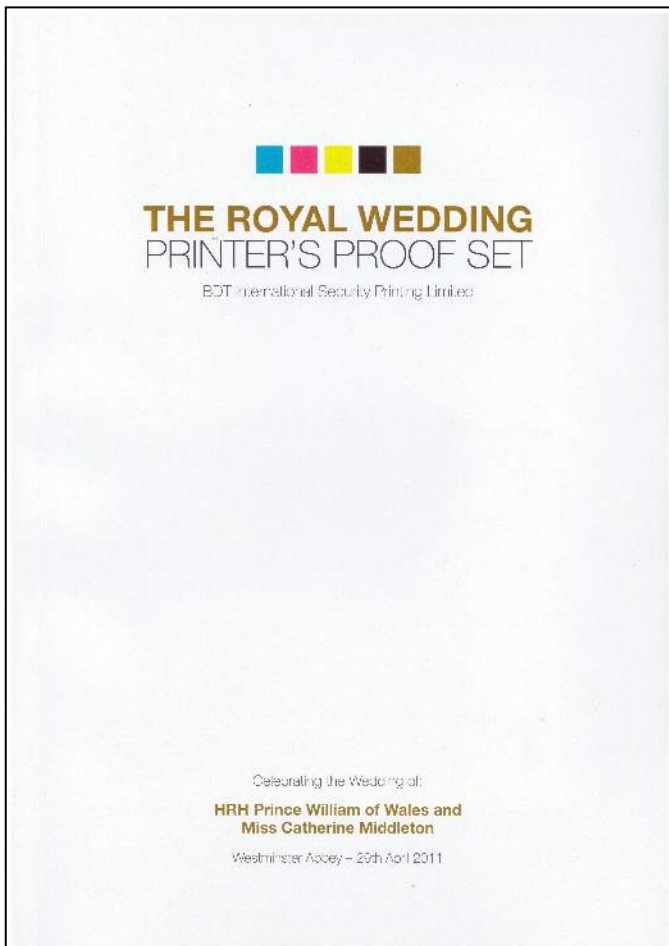
Attractive, but purely philatelic!

It is unusual for the philately of Irish printers to be represented in these pages, as they take the security aspect of printing seriously (your compiler has never had a response to any letters written to them). Additionally, they do not appear to have the need for dummy stamps to advertise/test products.

It is therefore with a certain apprehension that a “sort of” dummy stamp production run from BDT is included here. It will be left to the readers of *DS* to decide on the status/merit of these items.

On 29 April 2011, Kate Middleton and Prince William married and the almost obligatory ‘omnibus’ issue of stamps appeared. The next page shows the explanatory letter that appeared within a BDT presentation booklet. It is the ‘**Proof / 00p**’ stamp and its colour progressives that merited mention here (see opposite and on page 7 for complete MS).

This was an expensive item that was offered in 2013 for £150 but, as is common, a copy was recently found on eBay at a more respectable £30. ☒



THE ROYAL WEDDING PRINTER'S PROOF SET

I have great pleasure in presenting the Royal Wedding 'Printer's Proof Set', celebrating the wedding of HRH Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton. We have taken great pride in ensuring every stage of the printing process has been completed to perfection in order to create a set of stamps befitting such an occasion.

I have taken the liberty of explaining the actual printing process below, from the individual colour plate proofs to the prestigious finished omnibus collection of official souvenir stamps sheets from nine Commonwealth countries. All 6 printer's proofs and 9 souvenir sheets are included in your limited edition collection.

Once the stamps have been designed and have received Royal approval, we prepare the stamp proofs. The approved stamp proof images are held on computer as digital files that are output to Offset Lithography printing plates via a modern computer-to-plate system. In this case, five plates were produced, one for each of the four process colours – black, cyan, magenta and yellow, plus an additional plate for the metallic gold ink.

The printing plates are mounted on the press and the gummed stamp paper loaded on to the feed end. The first requirement is to ensure that each colour is applied to the stamp paper in precise register with the other colours. Ink levels are then adjusted, with reference to a densitometer, to establish an exact match to the approved colour proofs. Once a colour match is established the required quantity of full colour sheets is run off. Impression is then switched off on all units with the exception of the black unit and the required quantity of stamp paper is run with black ink only applied. This process is then repeated for each of the remaining colours – cyan, magenta, yellow and gold.

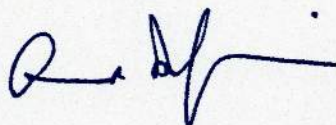
The perforation tool is prepared with only those pins required for block perforating the single stamp within the souvenir sheet. Set-up waste is used to prepare the perforating machine and to ensure precise registration between printed stamp and perforation. Once achieved, those sheets printed in full colour only are perforated. All sheets are checked by experienced stamp examiners, scrutinised through the magnifying glass for any little flaw that would make a stamp less than perfect. Finished sheets are then serially numbered in black ink on a single colour printing press. Numbers are checked, printer's proofs collated into sets and final trimmed on an automatic guillotine. Finished sets are shrink-wrapped and packed ready for despatch.

I hope you enjoy and cherish your Limited Edition Printer's Proof Set as a reminder of such an historic and joyful day.

This Printer's Proof Set is number:

165

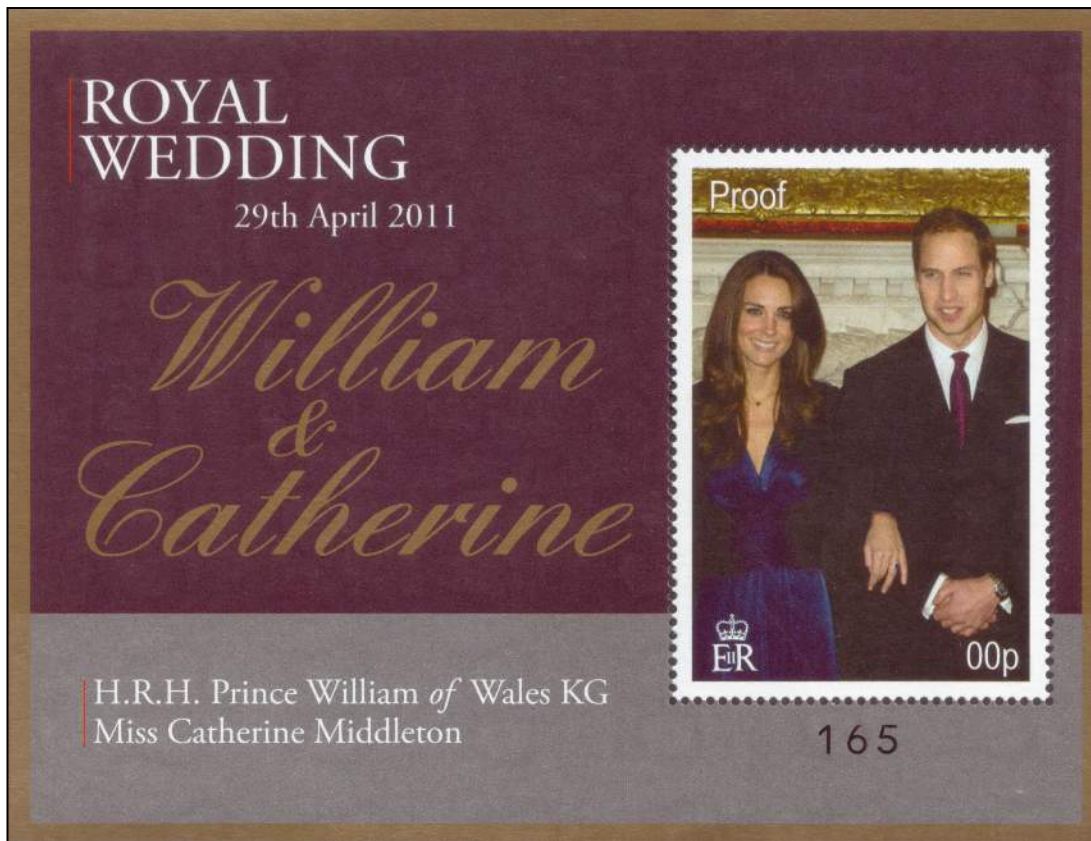
of an edition limit of 950



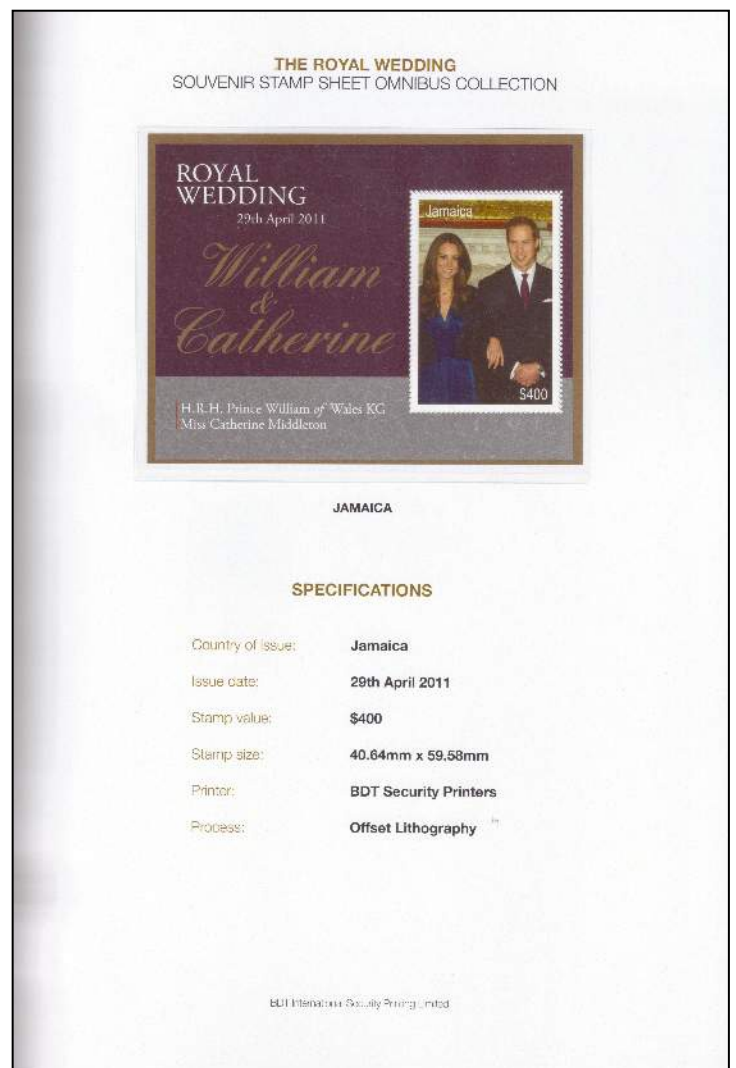
Conor Dalglish

Joint Managing Director

BDT International Security Printing Limited



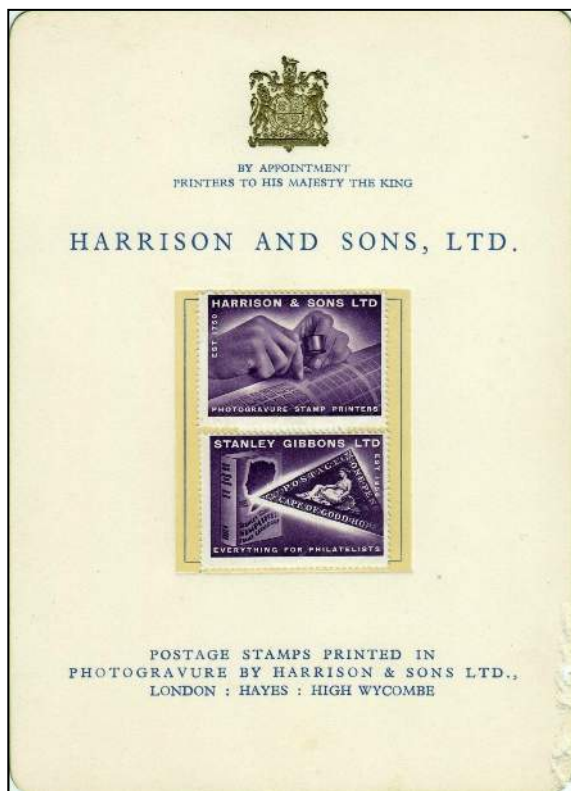
(Below left) Page from booklet showing above sheet. (Below right) Sample page of issued stamp sheets.



Harrison '1956' card...not!

Swift and positive reaction from vendor....

Your compiler wrote to the seller about this item that was recently seen on eBay, as it was simply not 'right': "The card and the dummy stamps on the item that you are selling do not belong with each other and have been created artificially."



The biggest give-away is the fact that the card talks about appointment to the King (not even the LATE King). The card was created for use with the Olympic Games 2.5d and 3d values back in 1948 and those stamps have been removed.

As you will now realise, there is no way that several years following the death of King George VI that Harrison would still be using this long obsolete card version designed for another purpose."

Full credit must go to the vendor who immediately replied to the email AND removed the item, without any delay, from sale on eBay.

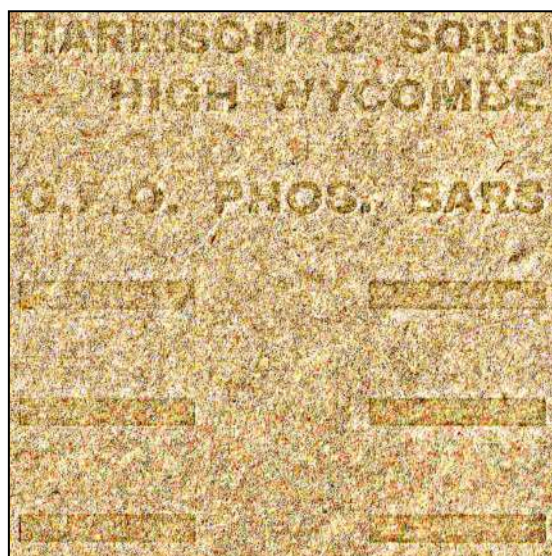
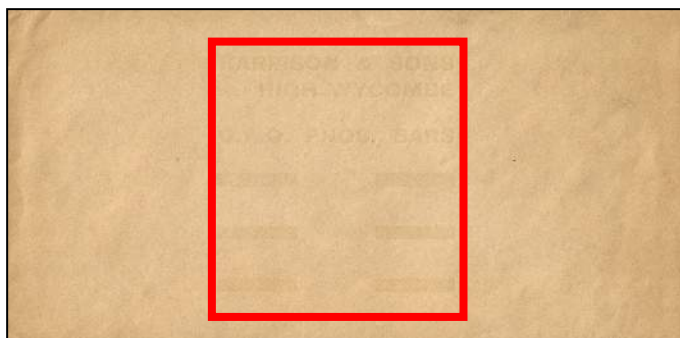
It was said to be from 'an official archive' and that usually also sets alarm bells ringing but, again, it transpires that it came from the archives of Stan Hills of Canonsreach Ltd (Royal Mail stamp booklet advertising agents). It is allegedly said that Mr Hills often 'played around' with his material for presentation purposes....not to deceive. ☒

Harrison Phosphor Envelope Trial

Buff phosphor printed envelope remained unsold at £20

eBay recently had for sale the plain envelope shown here. The text reads: HARRISON & SONS, HIGH WYCOMBE / G.P.O. PHOS. BARS and has six horizontal(!) bars below it. It is assumed that it was prepared for use to trial phosphor reading on the official Post Office stationery once used by that organisation on its business mail.

The 'invisible' text is within the red box superimposed on the envelope by your compiler. An attempt at revealing the words is below that. ☒



...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 43 A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material Quarter 3, 2016

The Mezzogravure Company and Carlton Studio New colours reported

Thanks to a regular supporter of *Dummy Stamps*, it is possible to show here a variant which "has not seen the light of day since the mid-1980s".



The previously reported colour scheme.

Unfortunately, some vandal has poorly cut about 5mm from both vertical sides at some point in the history of this attractive item. ☒

Poster Stamps of Distinction.

REPRODUCED AND PRINTED IN
ROTARY PHOTOGRAVURE BY
The
Mezzogravure Co.,

FROM DESIGNS BY
Carlton Studio

Such Poster Stamps as these appeal instantly to people of culture and refinement.

These two copy-right designs are
.. for disposal ..

Estimates for Photogravure Poster Stamps reproduced from existing designs, or inclusive of preparing new and appropriate designs may be obtained from

The Mezzogravure Co., Ltd.,
190 Strand, London, W.C.

Telephone—
GERRARD 595.

Telegrams—
MEZZOGRAPH, ESTRAND, LONDON.

Harrison - GRBI Dummy

One further copy surfaces, but is the same as previous

A reader kindly sent in a scan of his GRBI dummy stamp. Note the lack of tab, so presumably it is from the middle of a sheet (or tab was torn off by a



previous owner, of course). There is also a small slip of the red colour downwards due to poor registration. ☒

McCorquodale Tender Issue

This item soon sold...

Stamp dealer Embassy Philatelists recently sold an attractive 1879 Tender issue in a bottom marginal strip of four in black on blued paper for £225. ☒



Harrison out on the Road

London photograph found

The image is not dummy stamp related, but your compiler was pleased, none-the-less, to be sent the scan of a Harrison van in Westminster.



^



It is understood that the photographer was Hans Richard Griebel and that the date of the image is sometime in the 1930s, but this is not confirmed. ☒

Stanley Gibbons / Harrison

Presumably a double pane was created, then severed

Note the unusual right margin to this pair. ☒



Cinderella Congress this September

Don't forget to diarise this major event....

Plans for the world's first congress covering Cinderella stamp material are now at an advanced stage. Visit www.stampprinters.info/wfcc.pdf to read a flyer with details about this event. ☒

stampprinters.info

Site updates continue

Work continues to be made to the updating of your compiler's website. The outstanding web pages are



slowly matching the intended style of the rest of the site. Many links to relevant info also now added. ☒

Training Material

Watch out for recently produced items

Someone has acquired a 'SPECIMEN / DATE STAMP' and is applying it, with varying dates, to various contrived items.

These are being sold on eBay...where else! Buyer beware, as usual. ☒



Chambon Airletter

Rarely offered, this item of postal stationery was spotted too late for your compiler to purchase!



Bradbury, Wilkinson: An Early DS

Regency Superior offered rare item for high retail price....

Useful Website Reminder

Dummy News and Views newsletter from the USA



“GREAT BRITAIN 1861
BRADBURY,
WILKINSON 3d ESSAY
Engraved essay showing
female bust, in black,
without gum, on stamp
paper, produced by
Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co.
Robson-Lowe #19c.

Attractive, extremely fine.
Scarce. Makes for a great
showpiece. \$1,600.”

<http://www.usstamps.org/committees/dummy-stamps-study-group/dummy-news-and-views/>



ISP's Bureau

Real item...or not

Has anyone seen
this as a dummy
stamp and not
just as a scan?

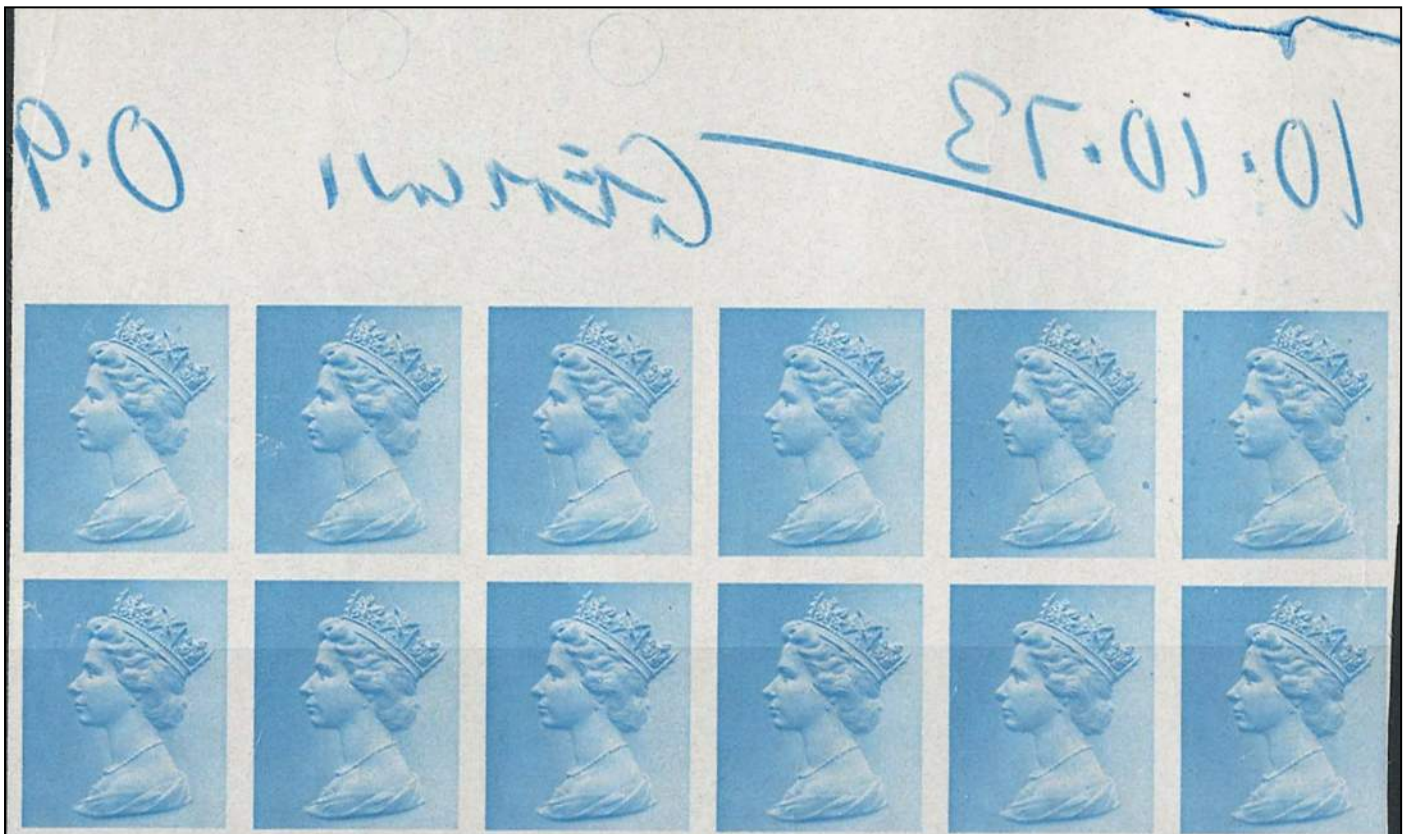


Harrison Gemini Trials

Attractive top of sheet block offered by County Philatelic Auctions

The item below is offered in
the 22 July 2016 auction sale
by County with a £220
estimate.

The marginal text is in reverse,
so a black and white 'flipped'
scan is shown alongside.



Stamp Security Features: User-definable Screens (aka DataScreen)

How stamps are protected these days against counterfeiting

Dummy Stamps issue 35 described the use of user-definable screens on an issued stamp from America. That stamp had been printed by the offset printing process and commemorated Padre Felix Varela. The use of the same technique by Royal Mail on its Machin head Horizon labels utilised the gravure process. (See below)

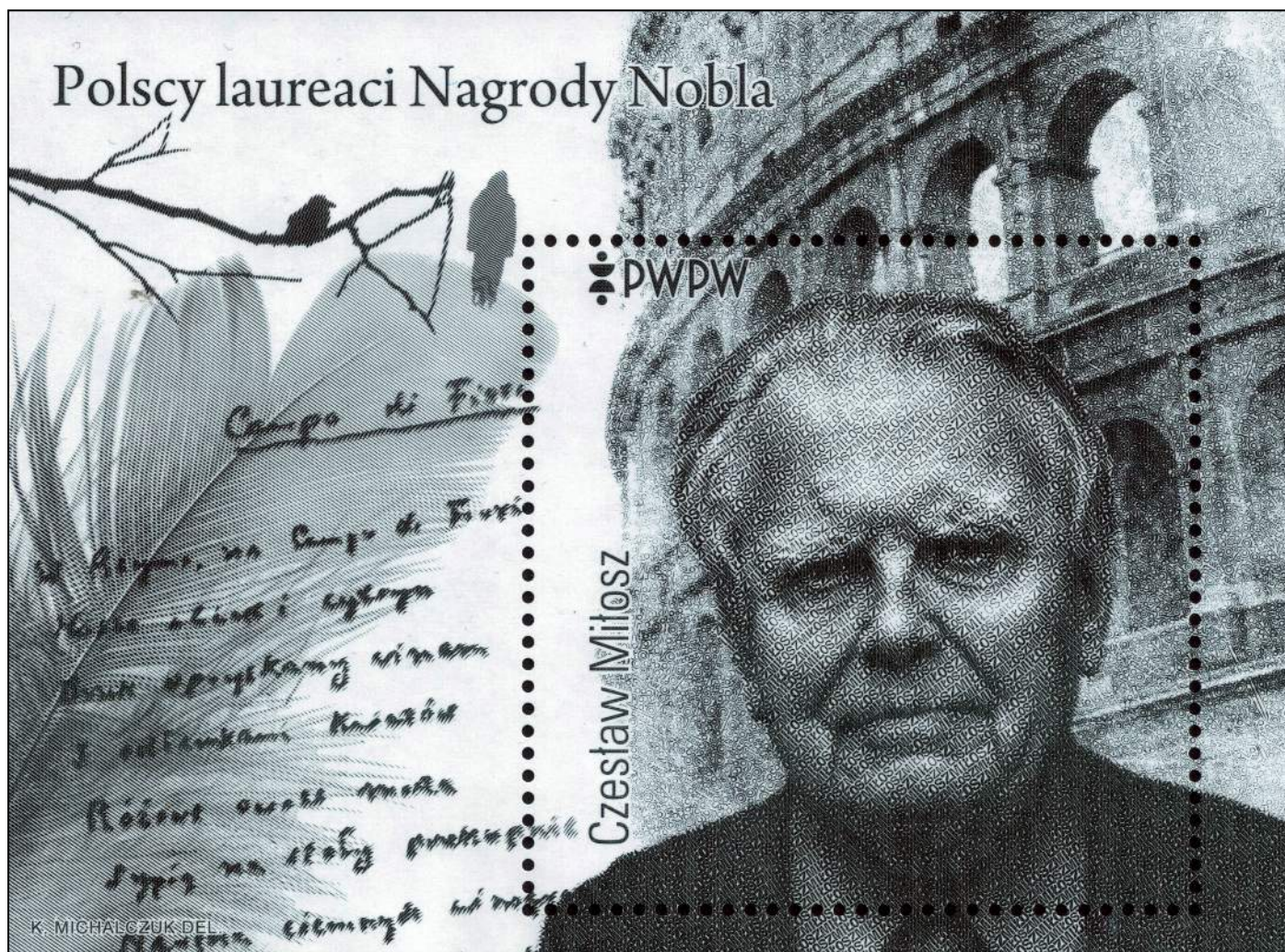
PWPW of Warsaw has now trialled the use of the process using computer-engraved intaglio. ☒



Varela by offset process.

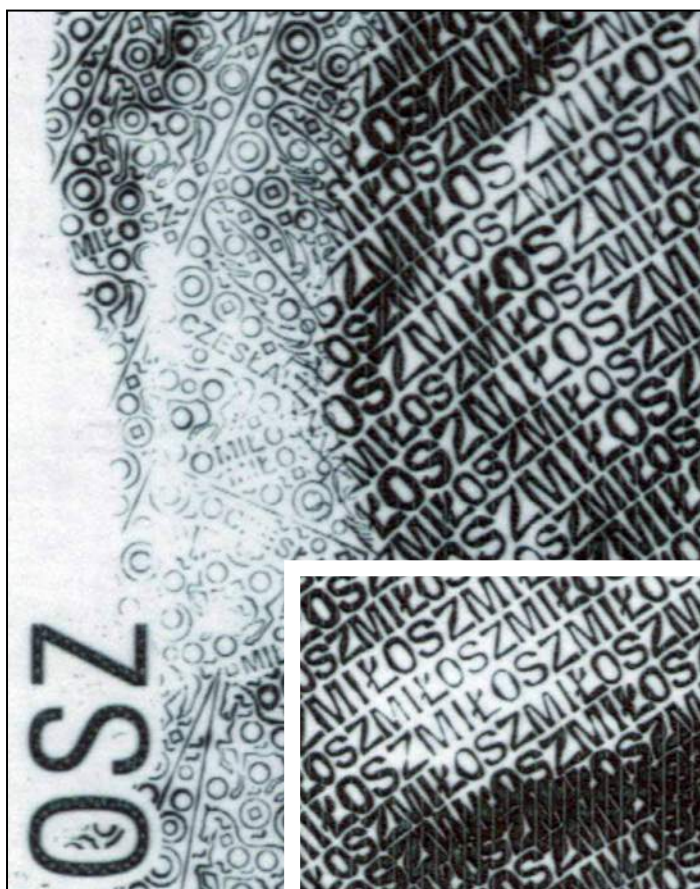


Machin head by gravure process.



PWPW security printers of Poland has utilised intaglio with user-definable screens on a dummy miniature sheet.

Stamp Security Features: User-definable Screens (continued)

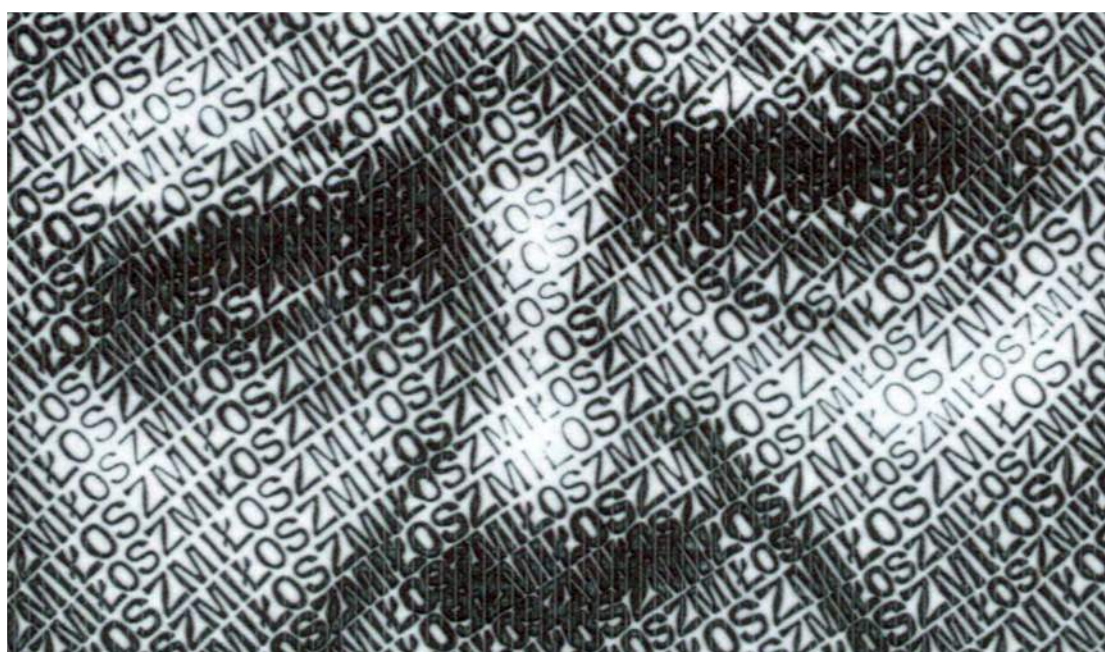


The designer of this unissued miniature sheet (that was, incidentally, produced for internal use only), was Krystian Michalczuk.

He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts and lives in Warsaw, according to his Facebook profile.



Krystian currently is employed by PWPW S.A.



Czesław Miłosz, the subject of the MS -

Born: 30 June 1911, Szetejnie, Kovno Governorate, Russian Empire.

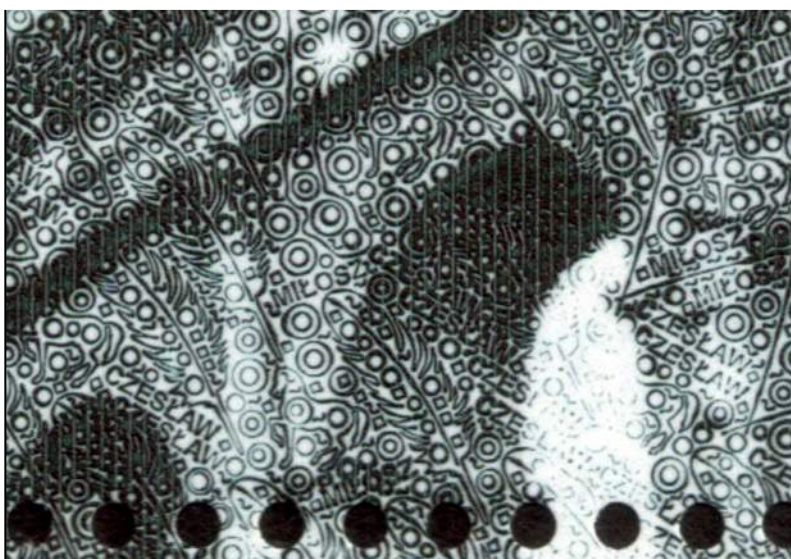
Died: 14 August 2004, Kraków, Poland.

Occupation: Poet, prose writer, essayist.

Nationality: Polish.

Citizenship: Polish, American.

Notable awards: The Nobel Prize in Literature (1980).



Cartor at Taipei 2015 Stamp Show: A Video of 'Post and Go' Dispenses

See the machine in action

The dummy stamp coil produced by Cartor Security Printing for demo purposes at the above stamp exhibition has a video on You Tube showing the machine in use.

This is from a TV news report and Cartor's labels are featured prominently. It is unclear what made this especially news-worthy. A quiet news day?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kf6xrVtwas&feature=youtu.be> ☒

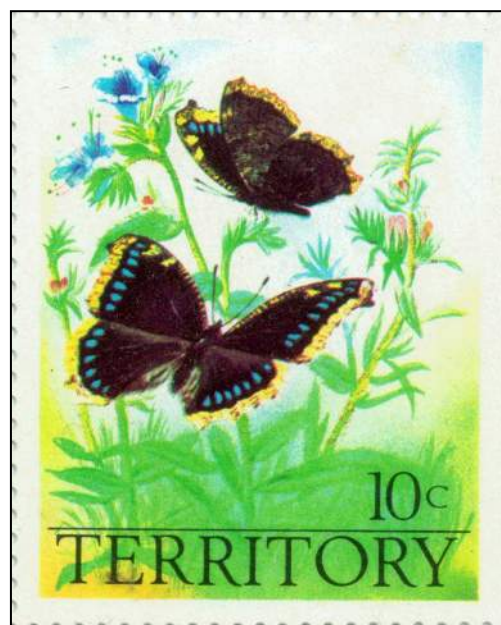


Samuel Jones Stamp Papers

New dummy stamps discovered

In Argentina, of all places, your compiler recently found a newly discovered sheet of dummy stamps originating from Samuel Jones, the paper manufacturer. It states 'A Wiggins Teape Company' and with Shakespeare having died in 1616, it could be 1966 that this sheet appeared - the year that *WT* took-over *SJ*.

The top two rows are postage-stamp-like, while the rest are not, so are not enlarged below. The sheet is slightly larger than A4, so the edges of the full sheet on the next page are slightly cropped in the scan. Note also that the outer edges on all four sides are imperforate. ☒



Devonvale Litho Stamp Chromo 56 B Gummed



































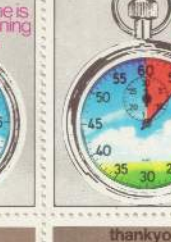
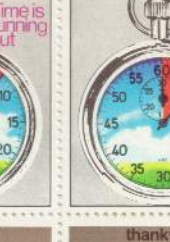

















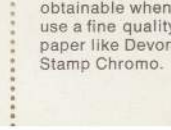
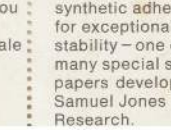
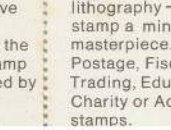
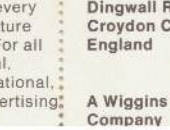


An example to show the fine quality work obtainable when you use a fine quality paper like Devonvale Stamp Chromo.

Made with a specially formulated synthetic adhesive for exceptional stability – one of the many special stamp papers developed by Samuel Jones Research.

Designed to take the finest screen lithography – every stamp a miniature masterpiece. For all Postage, Fiscal, Trading, Educational, Charity or Advertising stamps.

**Samuel Jones & Co Ltd Butterfly House
Dingwall Road
Croydon CR9 3DA
England**

A Wiggins Teape Company

 William Shakespeare 1564-1616	 William Shakespeare 1564-1616	 William Shakespeare 1564-1616	 William Shakespeare 1564-1616	 William Shakespeare 1564-1616	 William Shakespeare 1564-1616	 William Shakespeare 1564-1616
 10c TERRITORY	 10c TERRITORY	 10c TERRITORY	 10c TERRITORY	 10c TERRITORY	 10c TERRITORY	 10c TERRITORY
						
 Big T Trading Stamp	 Big T Trading Stamp	 Big T Trading Stamp	 Big T Trading Stamp	 Big T Trading Stamp	 Big T Trading Stamp	 Big T Trading Stamp
 Time is running out	 Time is running out	 Time is running out	 Time is running out	 Time is running out	 Time is running out	 Time is running out
 thank you	 thank you	 thank you	 thank you	 thank you	 thank you	 thank you
 Yes Please	 Yes Please	 Yes Please	 Yes Please	 Yes Please	 Yes Please	 Yes Please
 Mail me free cosmetic sample	 Mail me free cosmetic sample	 Mail me free cosmetic sample	 Mail me free cosmetic sample	 Mail me free cosmetic sample	 Mail me free cosmetic sample	 Mail me free cosmetic sample
 Devonvale Litho Stamp Chromo 56 B Gummed	An example to show the fine quality work obtainable when you use a fine quality paper like Devonvale Stamp Chromo.		Made with a specially formulated synthetic adhesive for exceptional stability - one of the many special stamp papers developed by Samuel Jones Research.		Designed to take the finest screen lithography - every stamp a miniature masterpiece. For all Postage, Fiscal, Trading, Educational, Charity or Advertising stamps.	
					Samuel Jones & Co Ltd Butterfly House Dingwall Road Croydon CR9 3DA England	
					A Wiggins Teape Company	

Harrison Test Stamp Films: Type 1 - 'Radiating Lines' Design

Found in the De La Rue factory building following its closure

The imagery below is the result of a visit to the derelict Harrison factory by an enthusiast of Britain's vanishing heritage, not by a collector. Among the items left behind after Harrison (De La Rue) vacated the High Wycombe factory were these films of the 'radiating lines' test stamp design. They are reproduced here with the kind permission of the finder of the items, known online as 'Mookster' at derelictplaces.co.uk ✉



Text element only.

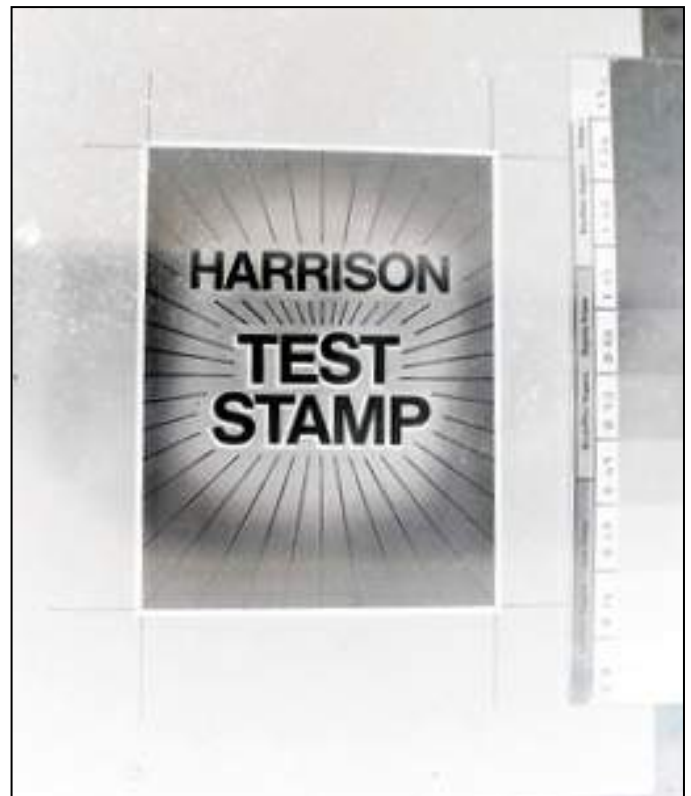


Issued dummy stamp.



The completed artwork film.

The films above are as viewed normally without manipulation.



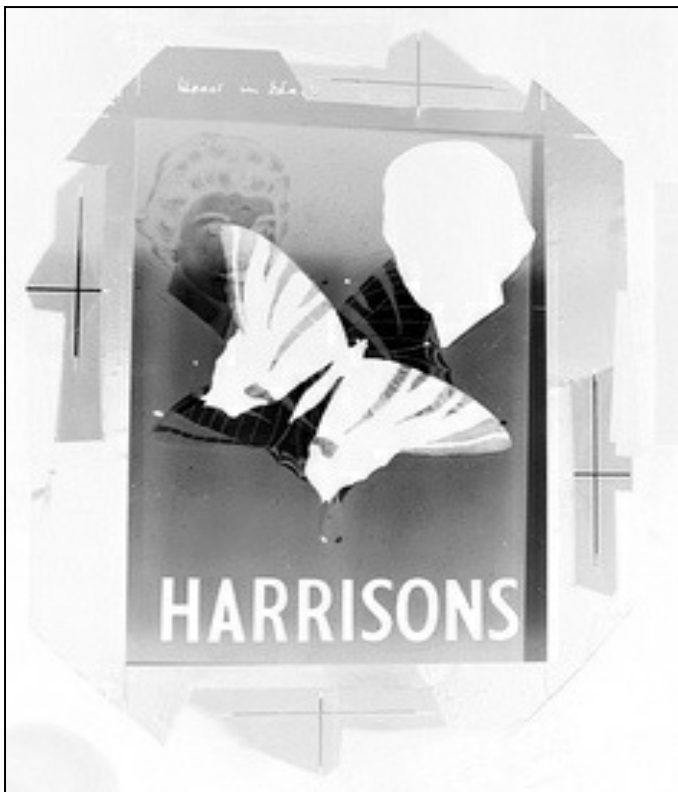
The above films with their 'colours' reversed electronically by your compiler.

Harrison Test Stamp Films: Type 2 - 'Butterfly' Design

The imagery below and opposite is also the result of the visit to the derelict Harrison factory. ☒



The films above are as viewed normally without manipulation.

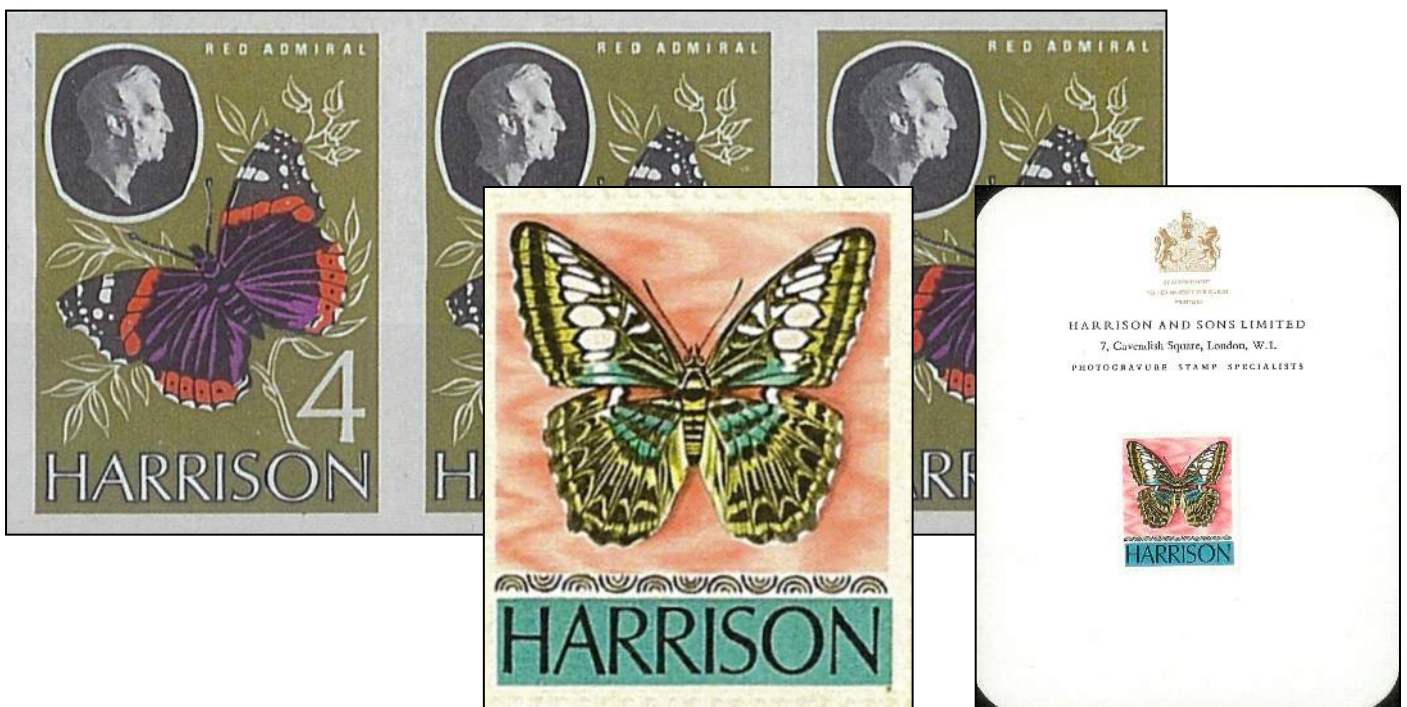


The above films with 'colours' reversed electronically by your compiler.

Harrison Test Stamp Films: Type 2 - 'Butterfly' Design (continued)



(left) The film as viewed normally without manipulation.
(right) The film with 'colours' reversed electronically by your compiler.



Harrison had used butterflies previously for two of its dummy stamps, but the factory artwork films found have never been recorded as a printed dummy stamp design. Or does a reader perhaps possess an example?

Note also that the name of the company on the film is shown as HARRISONS, a term that was never favoured by the owners of the company. Maybe it never progressed to the printing stage?

Harrison Test Stamp Films: Piles and Piles of Films

The two images depicted below reveal the piles of films left behind at the Harrison factory from where the 'Radiating Lines' and 'Butterfly' dummy stamp designs were discovered.



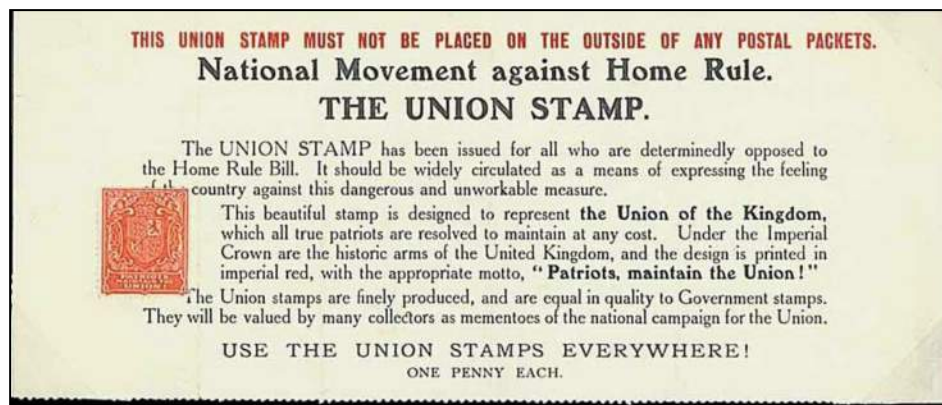
The finder never removed items from the factory, so this material is lost forever, but at least we now have some imagery to show in these pages. ☒



'Patriots, Maintain the Union!'

Complete leaflet image found

The well-known stamp-like label 'Patriots, Maintain the Union!', as printed by Harrison and based on its 'Arms' dummy stamp, is well known. Less well known are single copies mounted on a small strip of paper, as below, although this has been shown in *Dummy Stamps* previously.



This usage has always intrigued your compiler, as the row of perforations on the information sheet at its foot implied that there was something attached below it.

After many years of searching, the American stamp magazine about Irish philately entitled *The Revealer* (April 1975, page 1006) was recently 'discovered' and finally the full leaflet has been seen. Unfortunately, it is a poor, small sized black and white photocopy that was reproduced, but better than nothing. (The orange label has been superimposed for use here.)

The item (reproduced on next page) gives a better understanding of their intended use. Note how the full text sheet lacks the red wording that appears on the example above. It is reasonable to assume that difficulties with mis-use of the label, especially on the face of envelopes, will have necessitated the inclusion of the additional text. It is likely that the proposed uses for the labels will also have been amended. ☒

National Movement against Home Rule. THE UNION STAMP.

The UNION STAMP has been issued for all who are determinedly opposed to the Home Rule Bill. It should be widely circulated as a means of expressing the feeling of the country against this dangerous and unworkable measure.



This beautiful stamp is designed to represent the Union of the Kingdom, which all true patriots are resolved to maintain at any cost. Under the Imperial Crown are the historic arms of the United Kingdom, and the design is printed in imperial red, with the appropriate motto, "Patriots, maintain the Union!"

The Union stamps are finely produced, and are equal in quality to Government stamps. They will be valued by many collectors as mementoes of the national campaign for the Union.

USE THE UNION STAMPS EVERYWHERE!
ONE PENNY EACH.

HOW TO USE THE UNION STAMPS.

Fill up the spaces in the following form with Union stamps, and enter the name and address of an opponent of Home Rule in the space below. Send the form at once to : --
STAFFORD NORTHCOTE, Esq.,
St. Stephen's House, Westminster.

Further copies of this form will be supplied gratis. Ask for Form 50A.

Any number of Union Stamps from 1 to 12, can be stuck in these blank spaces.

The undersigned is an opponent of the Home Rule Bill :—

Name _____

Address _____

ORDER FOR UNION STAMPS.

To STAFFORD NORTHCOTE, ESQ.,
SECRETARY, CONSTITUTION DEFENCE MOVEMENT,
ST. STEPHEN'S HOUSE, WESTMINSTER.

Please send me by return of post.....Union Stamps at 1d. each. I enclose
Cheque for £ : : : : :
Postal Order

Name _____

Address _____

USES FOR THE UNION STAMPS.

There are many ways in which patriots can use the Union Stamps, in addition to filling up the stamp form above.

1. Distribute the stamps as widely as possible. Send 6 or 12, or more, to each of your friends to distribute. Ask them to order more stamps.
2. Stick a Union Stamp on every letter or card you write.
3. Stick a Union Stamp wherever it will be seen by the public.
4. Buy the Stamps and sell them to friends of the movement at 1d. each. This is an excellent and simple way of getting people to contribute to the campaign against Home Rule.
5. Send for further copies of the stamp form 50A, as above. Circulate the forms among patriotic men and women, and ask them to fill in the blank spaces.

Note: The Union Stamps will be supplied at special rates for bazaars, political meetings and organisations.

All communications should be addressed to Stafford Northcote, Esq., St. Stephen's House, Westminster.

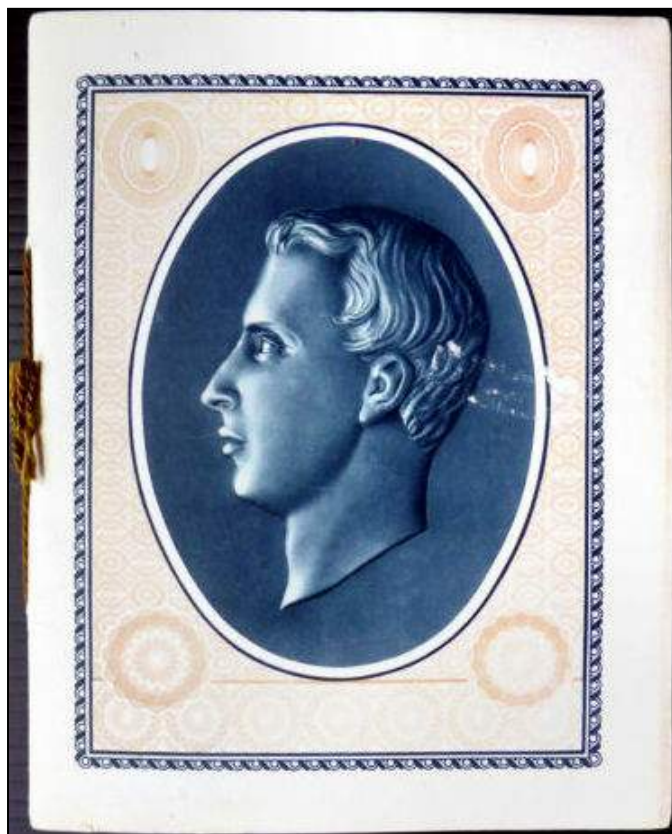
C.D. 50. Printed and published by ST. STEPHEN'S PRESS, ST. STEPHEN'S HOUSE, WESTMINSTER.

Harrison / NRM Trials

Rare booklet on offer....at a price!

Stamp dealer Rushstamps has recently been offering a booklet containing all of the Dutch NRM samples, and more.

On offer for £2,500, or near offer, it is down from the £2,750 quoted in their printed price-list.



Coincidentally, a regular reader wrote recently about these NRM dummy stamps...

"In 1950 to celebrate Harrison & Sons 300th birthday they reprinted these stamps and they were put into books given away in very limited numbers to various customers. See 'Specimen Stamps of The Crown Colonies, 1847 - 1948' by Marcus Samuel."

Does any reader happen to know if the above booklet is the reprinted one from 1950, or is there a way of telling if it is the original version from much earlier times? If 1950, it might better explain why there are non-NRM items contained within.

Incidentally, your compiler wonders whether the dummy stamps were actually reprinted, or whether original stock was found in the Harrison premises.

COLLOGRAVURE

RECESS

and

SURFACE

PRINTING

applied to the
Production of

Postage and Revenue Stamps,
Bank Notes and Security Work

by

HARRISON & SONS, LTD.

Printers in Ordinary to His Majesty,

44-47, ST. MARTIN'S LANE,
LONDON, W.C. 2.

In case anyone can help, the first page from within this booklet has been cropped to focus on the words and is reproduced above. ☒

...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



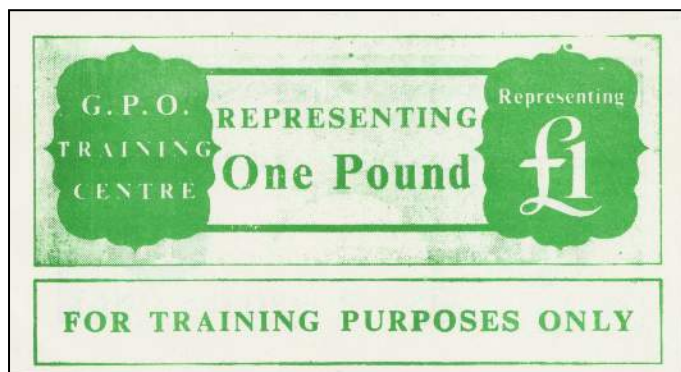
Issue 44

A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material

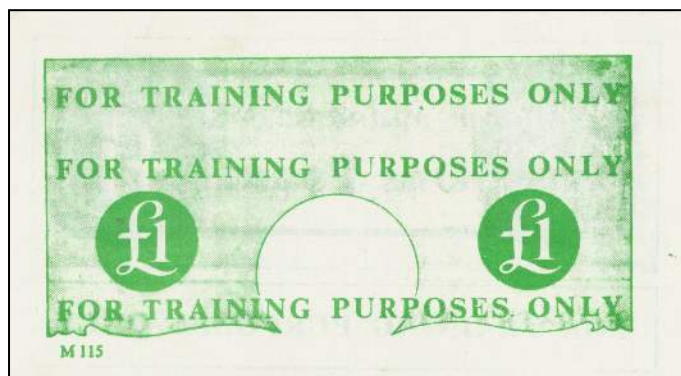
Quarter 4, 2016

Dummy GPO / PO Banknotes

Previously unseen training items from 45+ years ago



Obverse of crudely produced banknote.



Reverse of same banknote.



Cashier with dummy banknote, 1971.

With an interest in such items going back decades, it came as a surprise to your compiler when the above item was found for sale. OK, so it's not a dummy stamp, but it was used alongside the overprinted and decimal preparation training school stamps of the United Kingdom, as proven in the next column.

The banknote printing is traditional letterpress and is not a modern laser printed copied item. It bears a stock number of **M115** on the reverse of the note. A pair sold for just £2.70, attracting four bidders. £5 and £10 versions similar to the £1 are said to exist.



It will be seen that the cashier posing with counter sheets of dummy decimal currency stamps, postal orders and banknotes in the image above has an updated version of the green £1 banknote at bottom left (as enlarged at top left). Has anyone seen this decimal equivalent of the training banknote? ☒

Victory Kidder's Hungary Essay

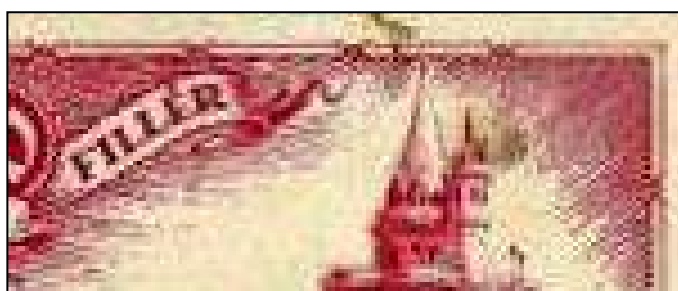
Nice item for sale, but sadly damaged

The dummy stamp block below was produced in Britain by The Victory Kidder Printing Machine Company (not Kidden, as frequently wrongly written, including on the following sale item).

The vendor (Argyll Etkin Ltd) states: "Block of 4 c1920 imperforate essay in carmine on thick glazed paper, being a printer's trial on the Victory Kidder (sic) machine. A fine marginal block of 4 - see the scan".



Marginal block of four.



Fine?

Your compiler would certainly question the term 'fine'. Well, it is if the damage to the dummy stamp in position two and to the margin is ignored!

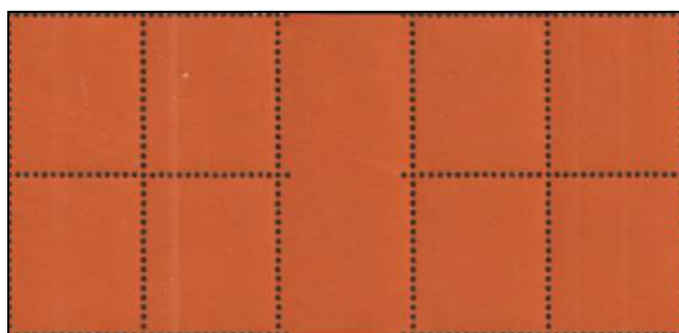
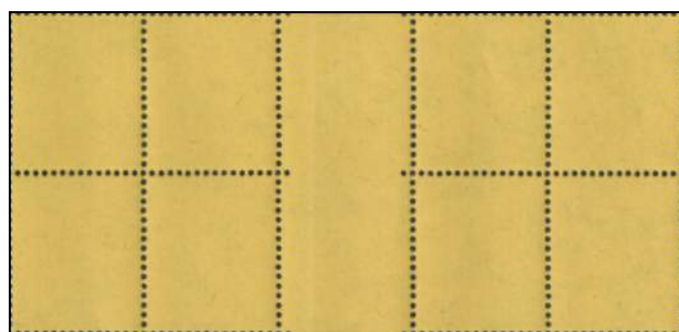
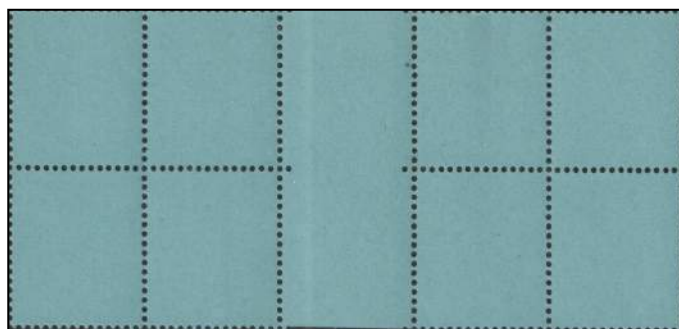
It was for sale at \$54 including postage and is rarely encountered.

As previously stated in *DS*, V-K was founded in Birkenhead in the 1800s and for many decades was an honoured name in the world of the graphic arts, with its machinery at one time found all over the world in great newspaper and general printing establishments. In 1947 it was a listed exhibitor at the British Industries Fair, specifically mentioning 'Stamp Printing Machines' as part of its product range. It was eventually absorbed into the Lamson-Paragon Company. ☒

Harrison: Booklet dummies

No longer just blue known in double panes

All three colours now found as gutter blocks. ☒



Stamping Department Experimental

Black is the new orange....

Two new colours, black and orange, have been seen for sale on eBay recently. They were initially offered at £90 and £80 respectively and neither colour had been seen before by your compiler. ☒



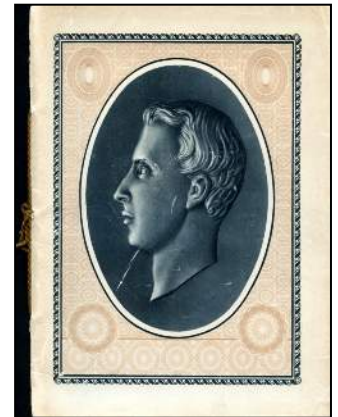
If you Thought that this Item was Rather Expensive Previously...

Another example is now on offer

The Harrison booklet of dummy stamps mentioned last time was originally £2,750, then £2,500, £1,750 and is currently £1,250 through Rushstamps. There appears to be no interest, even with a mighty £1,500 taken off the original price.

A second copy (cover alongside) is now for sale through eBay retailer 'Bill's Bargains', USA. The asking price is US\$4,500, or £3,450 at the date of writing.

It seems that the market is really 'testing' the limits regarding the price for this type of material and it is suspected that the latest offering will be available for some time to come. Both dealers have the items available as 'Best Offer' deals and it is wondered how low the price will go, assuming they ever sell. ☒



Victoria Press Advertisement

This 1906 UK advert relates to the items in previous issues of DS

"Victoria" Platen Presses

For PRINTING, EMBOSsing and CUTTING.

Sizes IV and VI, with improved inking mechanism.
Size V, with Patent Double Inking Apparatus. Perfect covering with ONE Inking.
" VI, Heavy Embossing Press with 2 Fly-wheels and Double Gear, improved inking mechanism or double Inking Apparatus.

Latest Improvements.

Sizes IV, V, VI: No Cam on Main Gear. Movement of Inkers by tooth-wheel gearing (Patent). Throw-off of all Inking Rollers with one movement of a Lever (Patented). Frisket Fingers when laid on the Platen, stop in this position. No accident can occur if the Press be started with the Frisket Fingers laying on the Platen.

Every description of CAMEO DIES, also all MATERIAL FOR MAKING FOLDING BOXES supplied.



"Victoria" Special Model

with Friction-Clutch and continuously running Fly-wheel. Automatic Stop Motion after each impression. Hand Guard for immediately stopping Platen effectively protects the Minder's hands.

"VICTORIA" HOT EMBOSsing PRESSES without Inking Apparatus (for Gold Blocking, Foil, etc.), with slanting foundation and horizontal Platen.

Every description of CAMEO DIES, also all MATERIAL FOR MAKING FOLDING BOXES supplied.

"Victoria" Platen Press Manufacturing Co.

(ROCKSTROH & SCHNEIDER NACHF. A.G.),
DRESDEN-HEIDENAU (Germany).



*Bruckmann:
Right, Left, Right*
Alternating strip found

For £210, users of eBay could recently secure a strip of three KEVII Bruckmann dummy stamps.

Note how the middle stamp is not a mirror image and how it lacks the guide dots that appear to the left and right of the top and bottom dummy stamps.

What else might exist? ☒



*Bruckmann:
A further Price Reduction*
Another example of a serious price cut

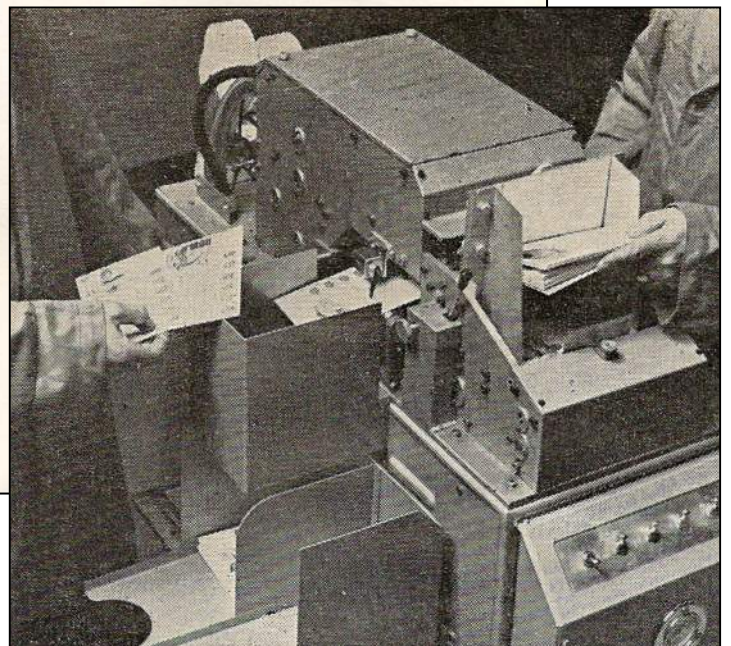
Further to the reduction in price on page 3, the piece alongside is down from £50 to £25 at Rushstamps.

It makes one dubious to ever pay the asking price for anything! ☒



Scout Jubilee, 1957 Attractive dummy cover on offer

It is not often that this dummy First Day Cover is made available for sale, but one recently was offered for £199 on eBay and achieved the asking price. This cost is way above anything seen charged previously for similar covers and the Scout connection may be the reason for it achieving so much money. Incidentally, the same vendor offered the issued set of three coil leaders with 21 stamps attached for £450. ☒

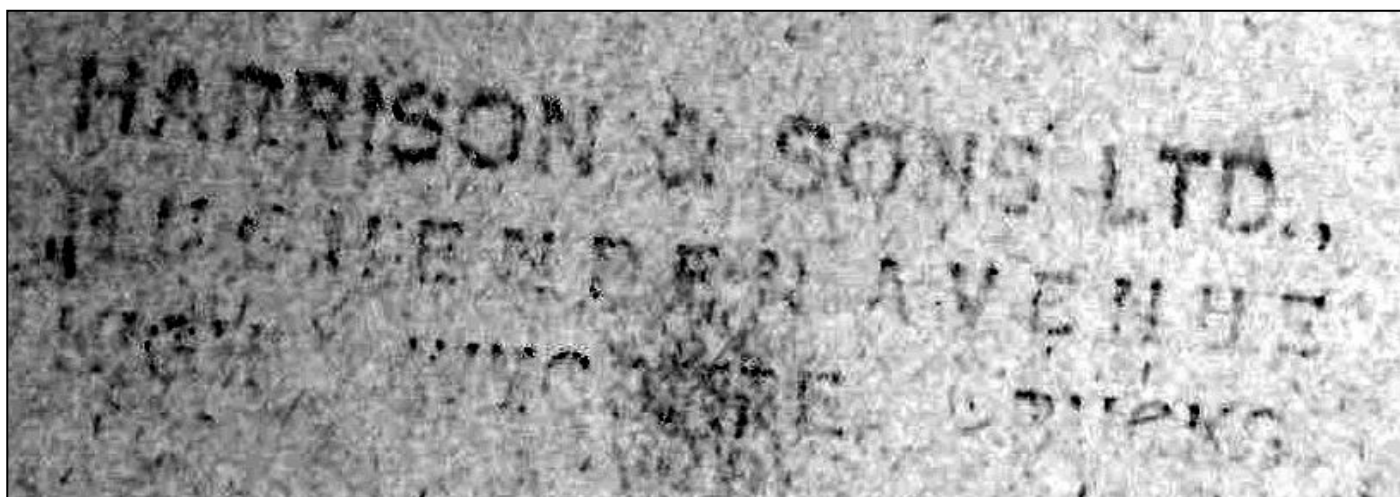


FDC preparation underway>>

Harrison: Colour Standards

Nice colour 'chart' recently offered

While not a dummy item, this is an interesting piece for anyone interested in stamp production. Stamp dealer Andrew Lajer was recently selling the item shown below for £1,500. It represents the colours used on the 1937-47 British definitives and bore the (greatly enhanced) handstamp on its reverse that reads: "HARRISON & SONS LTD., / HUGHENDEN AVENUE / HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS" that validates the source of the 'chart'.. ☒

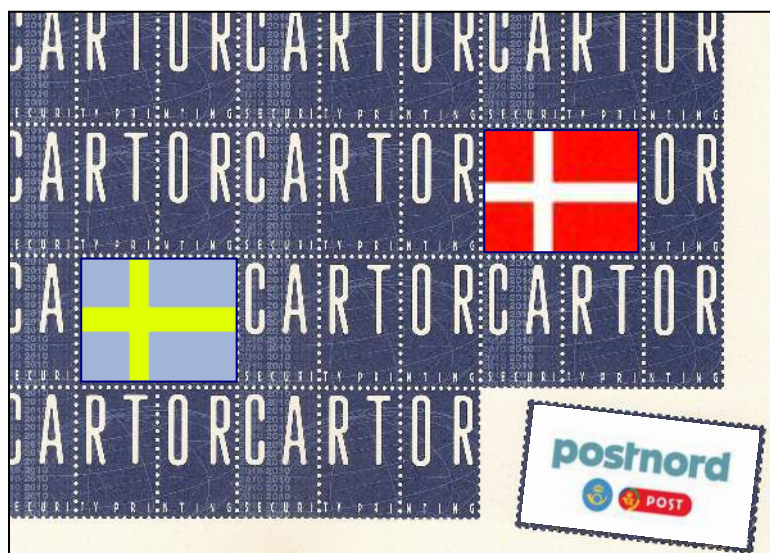


Congratulations to Cartor

Major contract won

Cartor has recently won the contract to print every postage stamp for Denmark and Sweden for PostNord, the company that now runs the postal services in both countries, effective 2017.

The rumour factory had stated that Sweden was to stop producing intaglio printed stamps at the end of 2016, and with Cartor not printing by intaglio unless sub-contracting elsewhere, this would appear to tie-up. ☒



Post and Go Wrappers

Modern version of the old 'coil wrappers'

Post and Go stamp rolls are wrapped in a buff coloured paper and a blank stamp from within the roll is affixed to the outside to identify the contents. There is no identifying text and, sadly, the labels are not voided in any way by ISP Walsall, the printers. ☒



Post and Go Engineering Testing

NCR machines dispense engineer's testing material

The items shown comprise blank issued stamp stock with dummy overprinting, using an office code from the Bristol postal district and a 'data string' (in red ellipse below) that is identical on every impression made.



Note how 2nd class label (blue Machin) has 1st class overprint!



The office code '402511' is apparently the ID of the sub-PO in Rooksbridge, Axbridge BS26 2TE, but that office does not possess P&G equipment.

A similar vendor had, about a year ago, stated: "I was lucky enough to be at a Post Office after the engineer left - with instructions for the staff to sell the [dummy testing] stamps to customers." Clearly this is a questionable practice but, in any event, the story is unable to be substantiated. ☒

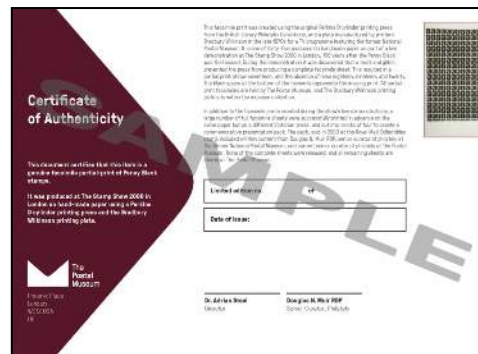
Penny Black Sheets on Offer

Not dummies, as such, but worthy of purchasing

There is an opportunity to obtain an interesting sheet of Penny Black stamps, while helping to support The Postal Museum at the same time.



Perkins D printing press stamp from the Central African Republic (2015).



The certificate of authenticity. Sheets cost £450

“Limited edition of 45. 280mm wide, 510mm high.

This is one of a limited run of forty-five incomplete facsimile sheets of 1d black stamps printed using a replica printing plate on modern hand-made paper using the original Perkins Bacon press. These sheets are a true rarity and the only modern sheets to have been printed using the original press. The print will come with a certificate of authenticity signed by Douglas N. Muir RDP, Senior Curator of philately and Dr. Adrian Steel, Director of The Postal Museum.

In 1979 printers Bradbury Wilkinson created a new Penny Black printing plate for a television programme featuring the National Postal Museum, as it was then known - the first created since the originals in 1840.

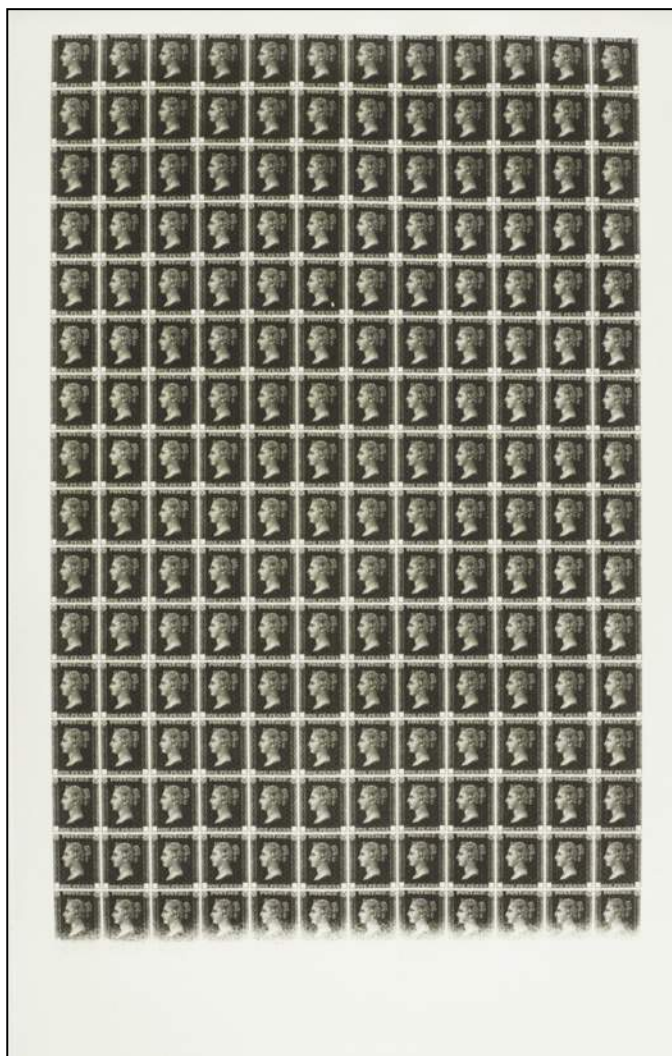
During the 2000 international stamp exhibition in London, the printing of the Penny Black was demonstrated using this plate on the Perkins Bacon printing press, held in the collections of the British Library. However it was found that for technical reasons the complete sheet could not be printed, leaving an unprinted blank at the bottom.

After the show, these sheets were given to the museum. Your purchase will support our fundraising efforts to help make The Postal Museum a reality.

Each print is carefully wrapped in plastic film and packed in a sturdy tube to ensure safe and secure delivery. These prints are very delicate and extra care should be taken when you receive your delivery.

Please be aware we cannot accept returns.”

<http://shop.postalmuseum.org/collections/latest-releases/products/penny-black-facsimile-print> ☒



Harrison and Goebel, Darmstadt

Brand of press used has now been identified

The Harrison trials conducted in 1923 with NRM in The Netherlands have, to your compiler's knowledge, never had the brand of press recorded. However, a lot on sale in Germany during September 2016 comprised a full sheet with either hand drawn horizontal lines or the use of a defaced plate (unclear), originating from the Goebel archives in Darmstadt. The lot read:

"Print sample sheet (100) in a light blue not issued postage stamp of 1d value. Springbok stamps, each row with horizontal line in colour of stamp."

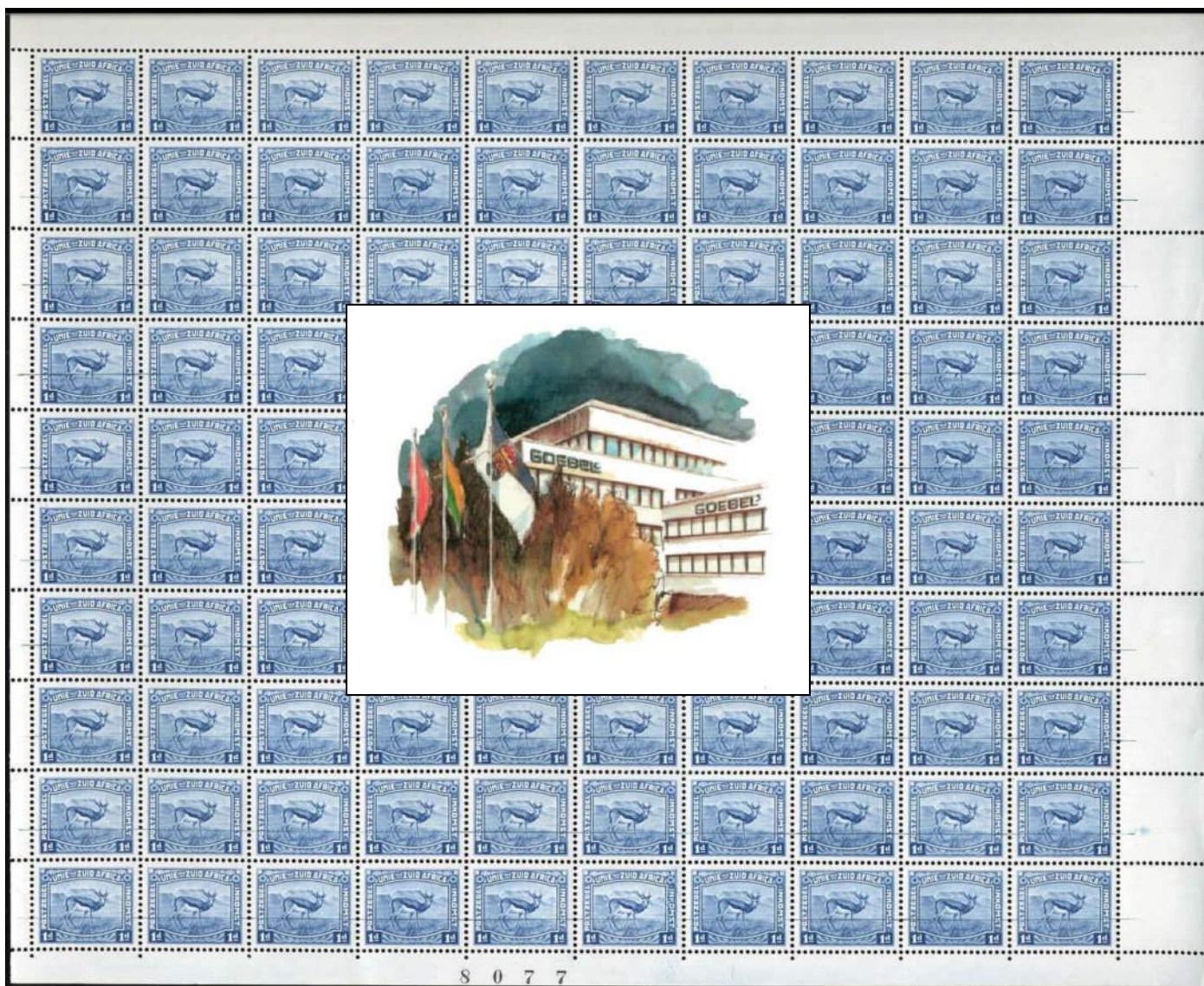
"This rarity was entrusted to us by the company archives of Goebel, Darmstadt"

This item has not been seen before and adds a bit more to the story of these interesting early trials



Sheet for sale through www.kiel-briefmarken.de

Estimated at €100, it sold for €3,600 + €864 (24% buyers premium), or €44.64 per dummy stamp. ☒



Full sheet of 100, with serial number. The modern Goebel premises are superimposed.

Chambon Match Covers

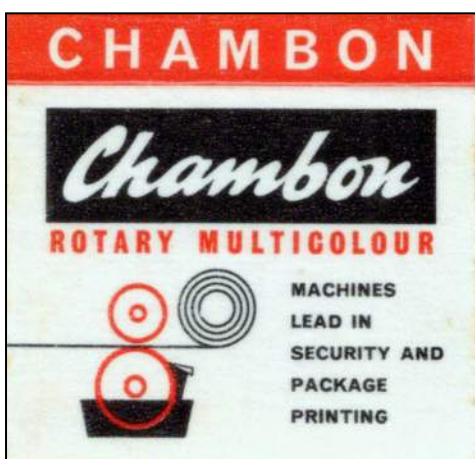
Not just stamp machinery!

Your compiler has always enjoyed dummy material of all kinds, not just stamp-related. Sometimes, stamps and another subject share a common bond and in the case of the dummy matchbook/box shown here, it is Chambon (now Komori Chambon), producers of stamp printing presses and, among many other machines, matchbook/box cover production equipment.



<< The complete matchbook unfolded and on its side.

This item was produced in Britain and depicts Louis Chambon, founder, plus a line drawing of The Riverside Works, London W6, home to Chambon at the time, probably the 1960s.

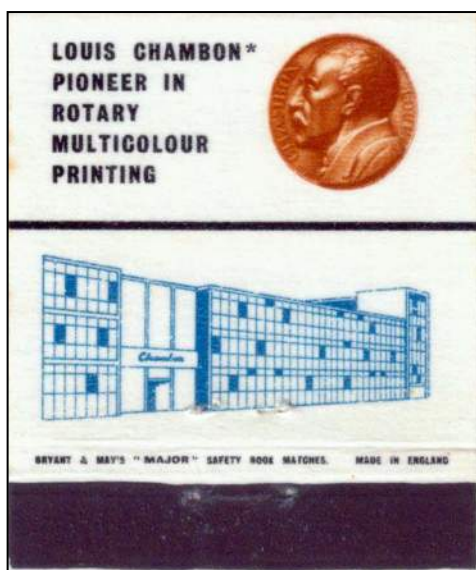


<< Close-up of spine (red area) and face (balance).



A similar item, but a matchBOX dummy instead of a matchBOOK, emanating from the French arm of Chambon is shown above. ☒

>> A close-up of the back cover showing the Chambon medal, the Hammersmith premises and match striking area.



^^ Chambon DS without text.

<< 1961 Louis Chambon medal dummy with same wording as on the matchbook alongside.

Giant Machin Heads

Impressive when seen life-size

A regular reader kindly submitted four colours of the giant Machin head that was used as a part of the preparatory work for this design workhorse of the Elizabethan era. Others colours exist. ☒



VK: Postage Cremona

British connection still unclear

Back in issue *DS31*, mention was made of blue and of red dummy stamps understood (i.e. not confirmed) to have a British connection by allegedly having been produced in Britain by Victory Kidder on one of its stamp printing presses.

Recently, two further colours have been found as singles, namely black and green, as shown below.



Along with the red and blue colours, they were on sale at £150 for the four items.

On separate sale was a rather attractive block of 16 in green with two copies of an allegorical design to the left of the dummy stamps. This was on sale for a whopping great £418. ☒

VK: More on 'Hungary' Design

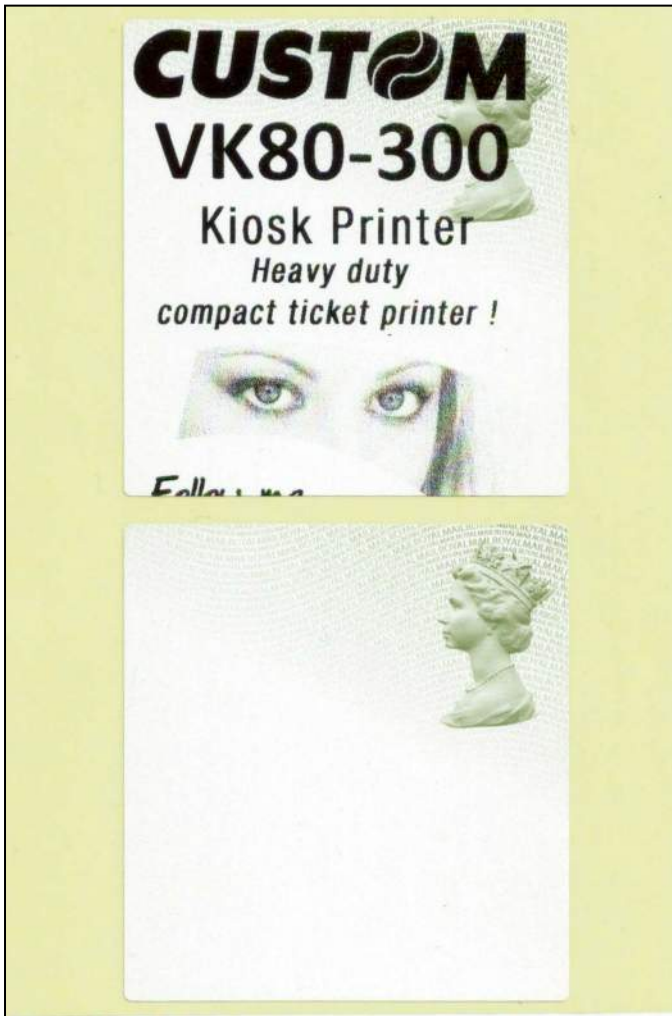
New colour found

Page two of this issue depicts a red dummy design. A blue example sold as a single for £83 with the red one, while blocks of four of both colours were £250. ☒



Post and Go Large Labels

A new service, and label, recently added to range



Unlike the Horizon labels, which are in sheetlets of two inverted designs to enable top or bottom to be inserted into the printer 'right way up' each time, the new oversized P&G labels are on continuous rolls and so every label is always the same way up.

Column one of this page depicts a pair of the engineering printer test labels, while the bottom colour saturated image is of a single blank label that better shows the fading background text and, by means of a red overlaid ellipse, indicates where the year code of MA16 appears. Expect MA17 soon!

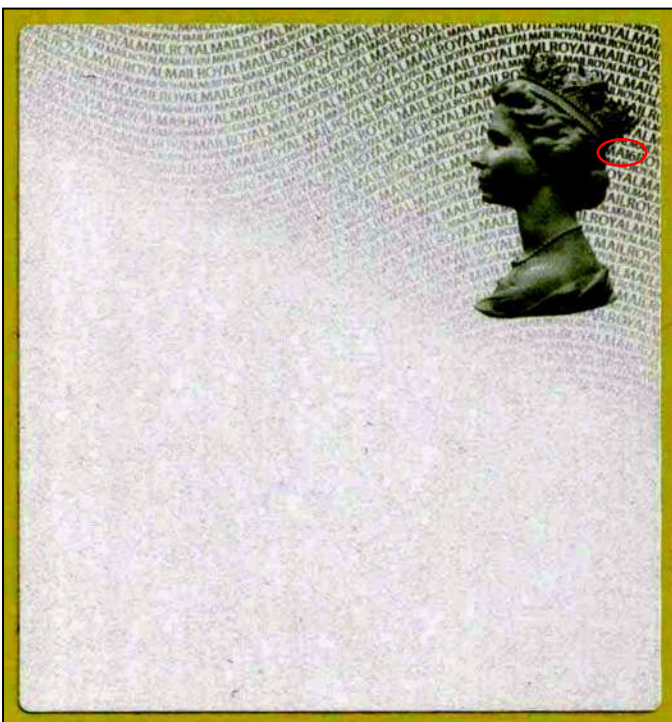
An eBay retailer stated when offering issued items on 23 September: *"Bought 22nd September 2016 from the NCR Post & Go machine. I think it was possible to get them on the 20th if the office was known, otherwise this is super early for these. Everything, label and receipt, are dated."*



Two of the labels on offer on eBay.

Nothing further has been traced at this time as the material is so new. The test material and blanks shown were in your compiler's hands on 19 September.

One final point... already these are being called NCR Horizon labels. This is rubbish, as Horizon is the counters system and nothing to do with NCRs vending equipment. So, you may wish to put 'Horizon' into any of your searches to ensure that you find all that is available. ☒



The Phantasmagoria Security Printing Company

British 'owner' of printing house now identified

Gerald M King is the 'owner' of the almost mythical Phantasmagoria Security Printing Company. This was confirmed to your compiler when Mr King's representative recently made email contact.

On GMKs outgoing mail, he uses one of the colourful labels depicted as a block of ten below.

This 'printing company' was first mentioned in DS24 in connection with a 'Widow's Mite / Mite Not' political issue depicting The Rt. Hon. Dr James Gordon Brown MP. The PSPCo printer imprint has been used on other issues from the talented Mr King.

It's all a bit of fun and helps show that our fine hobby should never to be taken too seriously! ☒



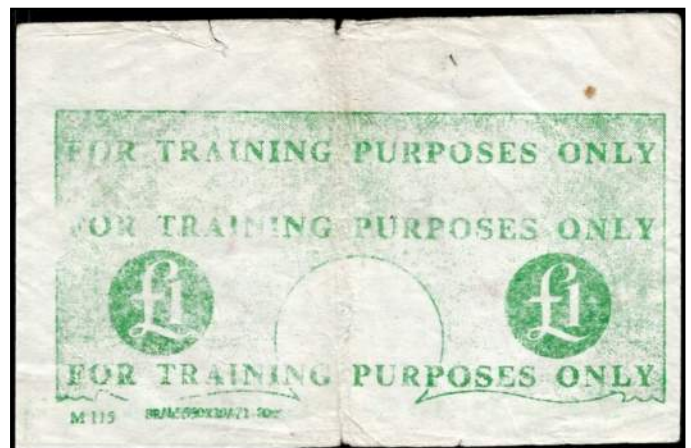
More on the Dummy GPO / PO Banknotes

Chance find reveals further information

While searching for something unrelated to dummy banknotes, the scans below were traced online. A part time dealer was offering an example of the £1 banknote shown on page one of this DS for £65, with this example bearing an imprint at the foot of both sides (enlarged below). It is in poor condition.

The interesting thing about the imprint is that it appears to bear a date of 10/71, some eight months after decimalisation, and it still has G.P.O. on it, a term that went out of use on 1 October 1969 when the organisation became a public corporation. It also bears a print run figure of 20,000 (20m), and it is assumed that this relates to full sheets of the banknotes prior to cutting them up into singles.

This note could be from the bottom row, with only one imprint note per sheet perhaps existing. ☒



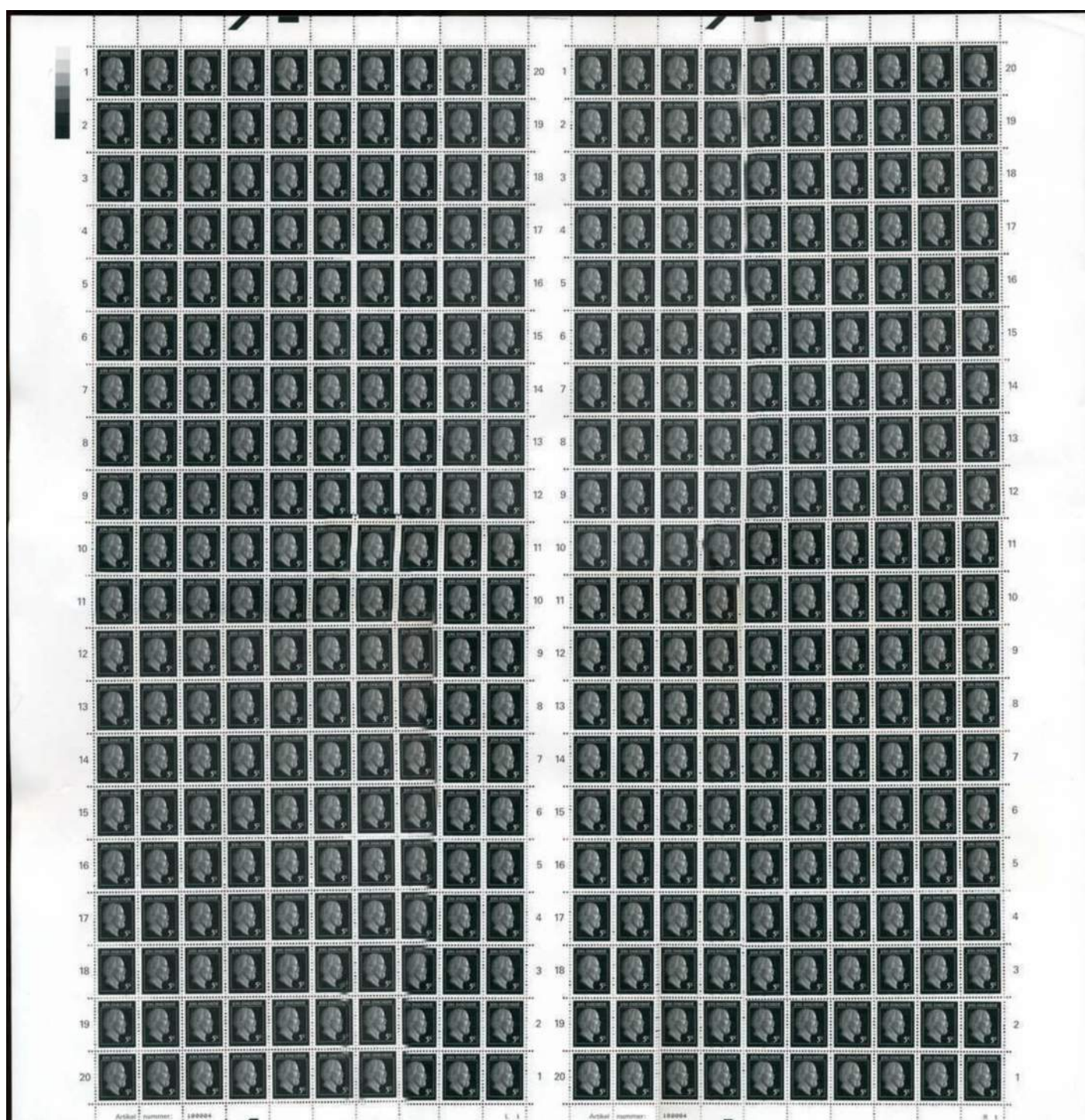
Enschedé and King Willem* III of The Netherlands

*Not "Will.i.am", the hip hop recording artist, as the spell checker wanted to change it to!!

The Goebel Darmstadt Archive continues to yield interesting items for sale, as this Enschedé item proves. Your compiler has not seen a full sheet previously on offer, just singles and blocks of four, so it is interesting to see the marginal markings that appear.

With a pre-sale estimate of €100, the sheet eventually sold for a realistic €170 + €40.80 (24% buyers premium). With 400 dummy stamps to the sheet that's 52.7 cents each.

(The scan that was provided by the auction house of the full sheet is not accurately rendered for either of the panes, but you'll get the general idea of how the sheet should properly look.) ☒



Walsall Lithographic's 'Lithembos'

Forerunner to the Coins of Tonga and elsewhere

It is well known that the Walsall Lithographic company produced the world's first circular stamps resembling metallic coins, initially for the island nation of Tonga.

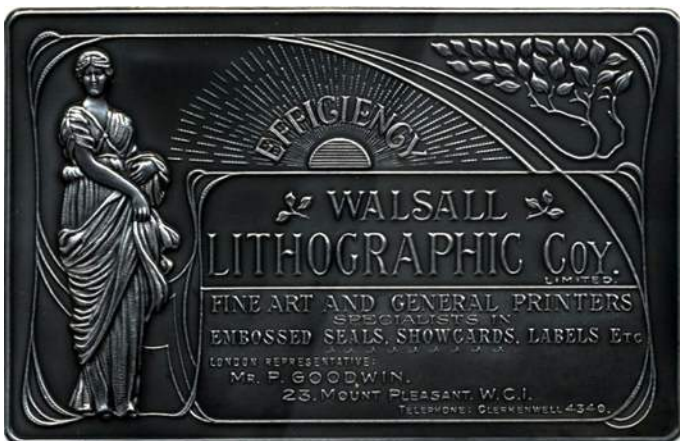


Countries such as Sierra Leone, Jordan, Qatar, Burundi and Bhutan all followed, plus maybe others also. (Incidentally, for some years your compiler had stupidly thought that these were all produced on a self-adhesive substrate. They were not!)

What is less well known, perhaps, is that the stamps were able to be manufactured in this format so readily owing to an existing product range from Walsall. It also explains why they were such a logical choice for this type of production work...

For many decades it used to be common for companies to publicise their businesses by the use of so-called 'poster stamps' (advertising labels resembling miniature posters). These were invariably printed in colour on water-activated paper.

At some point Walsall Lithographic and other companies around the world, no doubt, were able to produce metallic advertising seals, often with embossing of text or other design features.



Item dates from circa 1894-1905.

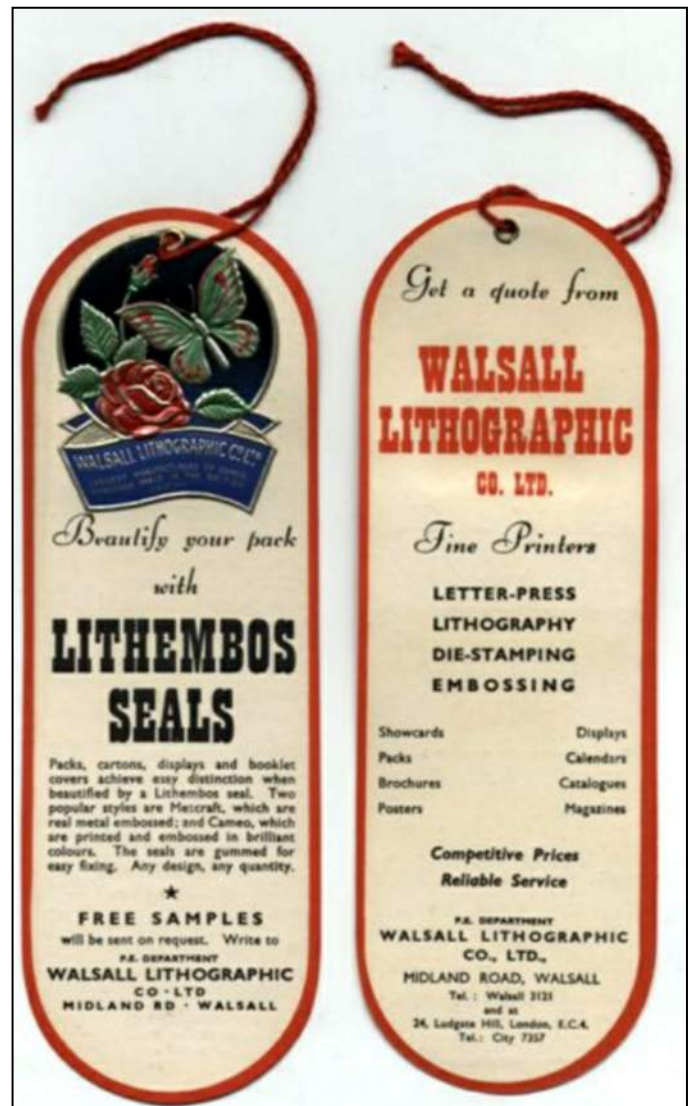
Lithembos

The wonderful seal at the foot of the previous column is a fine example of a late Victorian dummy publicity item from Walsall.

The product became known as 'Lithembos' in 1926 when the trademark (number 466547) was first registered. The trademark was retired in 2006.



Typical non-stamp Lithembos issued labels.



Publicity bookmark dating from circa 1950.

Further details of scans are at [blackcountryhistory1](#) and [blackcountryhistory2](#) web links. ☒

New Discovery Relating to Bradbury, Wilkinson's 'Charlotte of Luxembourg' Design

Bi-coloured example found in German auction sale

It is rare to come across an old dummy stamp in a new format. This well-known design had only been seen printed in one-colour until now (see brown scan in next column), whereas a pair has just been found that is bi-coloured.

The lot description reads, in German: “** Charlotte, Probedruck in Braun/Grün, tadellos postfr., senkr. Paar mit Bogenrand, sign. FSPL. (Michel: Essay).”

Google translates this as: “** Charlotte, sample print in brown / green, faultlessly post-fresh, Vertical Pair with margin of sheet, sign. FSPL. (Michel: Essay).”

The starting price was **€100.00** (± **£86.44**), with 20% buyer's premium to be added to the eventual price realised. (Lot still on offer at time of typing.)

It will be seen on the upper scan that the green bleeds into the brown hair and bottom right area of the dummy stamp portrait. It is suspected, therefore, that this was printed in one pass* probably using the printing press that was at BW, as made by Goebel.

* *Intaglio is often thought of as a one- or, at most, two-colour process by collectors, but actually many colours (up to nine) can be printed in one pass using offsetting** and known as the 'Serge Beaune' method (**nothing to do with 'offset litho', but it does share the blanket principle, as does 'letterset').*

So, how can you print two (or more) colours from just one printing plate? It is simple, well kind of...

1. A plate is made of the ENTIRE design (i.e. there is not a separate plate per colour used).
2. A rubber blanket is precisely cut for each colour, onto which the respective ink is placed.
3. The inks are then transferred to the precise area of the plate intended to receive those colours.
4. The inked plate then transfers its colours to the paper.

Usually, each print unit has three colours on it, with up to three units, or nine colours, feasible.

This method can result in a melding of the colours owing to the bleeding of the inks, as here. ☒

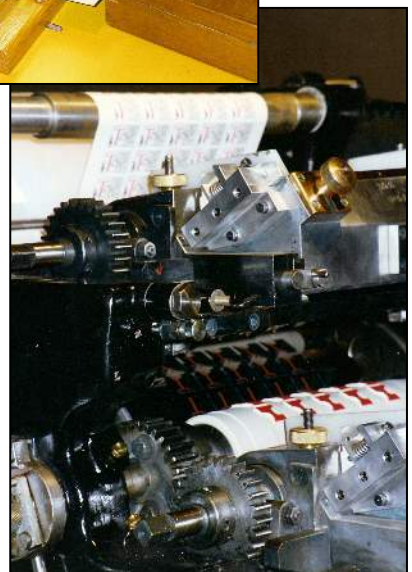


<< cutting out the rubber blanket.

>> Printing the dummy exhibition stamp in Paris.

The red inked rubber blanket is intended to print just the 'T' used in the stamp design.

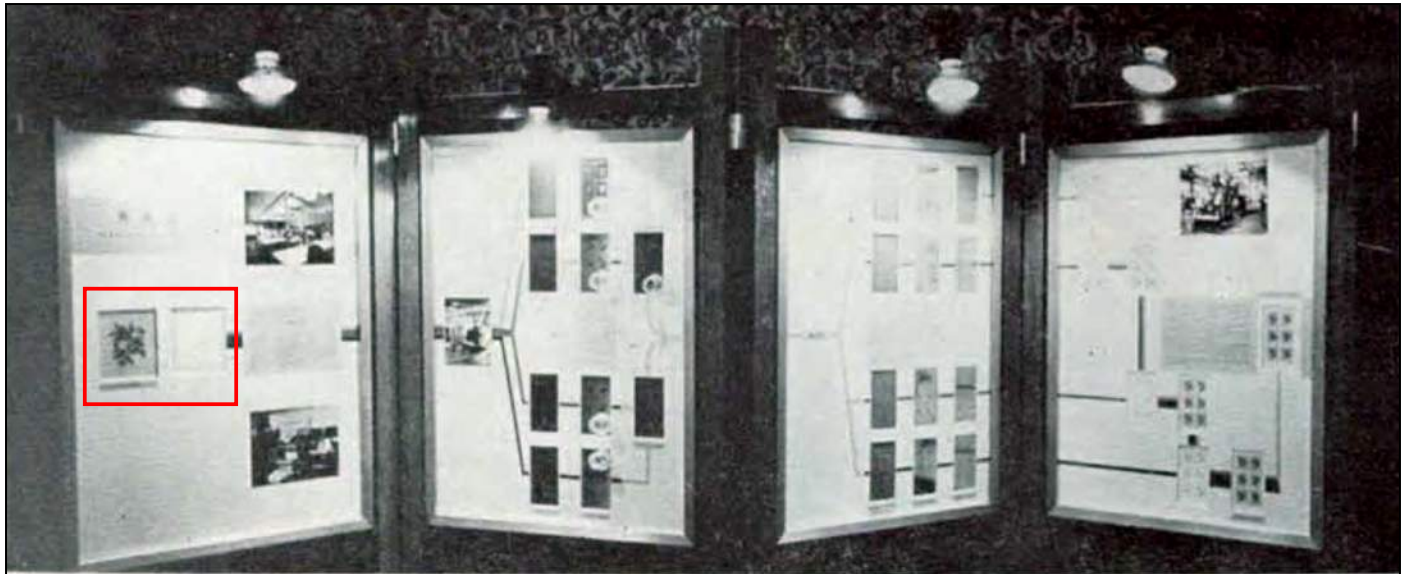
Images taken by your compiler in France at the ITVF stand of a stamp exhibition.



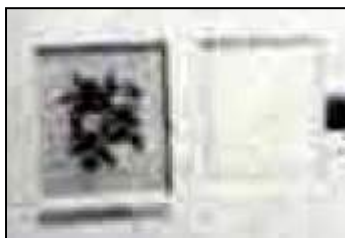
Harrison at the Waldorf Dummy stamp artwork was on display

In 1961 stamp dealer Muscott's of Godalming held a stamp exhibition at the Waldorf Hotel in London.

One of the exhibitors was Harrison, who were showing their latest film on stamp production and had on display four panels depicting the photogravure process. Panel one used the Alexandra Rose dummy stamp artwork (as highlighted in the red box and on the [appalling] enlargement below it).



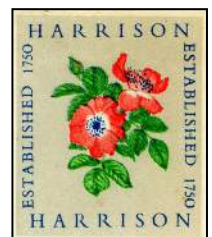
Four frames showing in simple form the stages of stamp production



(left) **Enlargement of the red box area.**

The item to the left is solely the flower, while the almost white square to its right is the text element.

(right) **The issued dummy stamp.**



The imagery above is taken from a report on the show contained within a copy of the Harrison in-house magazine from the period. Apparently *"In the frames were shown the original artwork, separated negatives, multi-positives, piece of screen and carbon tissue, printing plates for each colour, progressives and final block of perforated stamps, together with a step-by-step description of the process of stamp production.*

"It is surprising how little philatelists know of the actual productive (sic) process in photogravure stamp printing and this exhibit helped considerably to clarify their minds." Somewhat condescending!

Waterlow Drivers No details about image held

The rest of the Muscott exhibition was devoted to King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II stamps, *"most of which had various imperfections"*. Let's hope that few of the errors and varieties on show had been on stamps printed by Harrison. Awkward!



Oh to have been able to see the panels, but your compiler was only five at the time, so can probably be excused from missing the event. Does anyone have access to the show catalogue, please? ☒

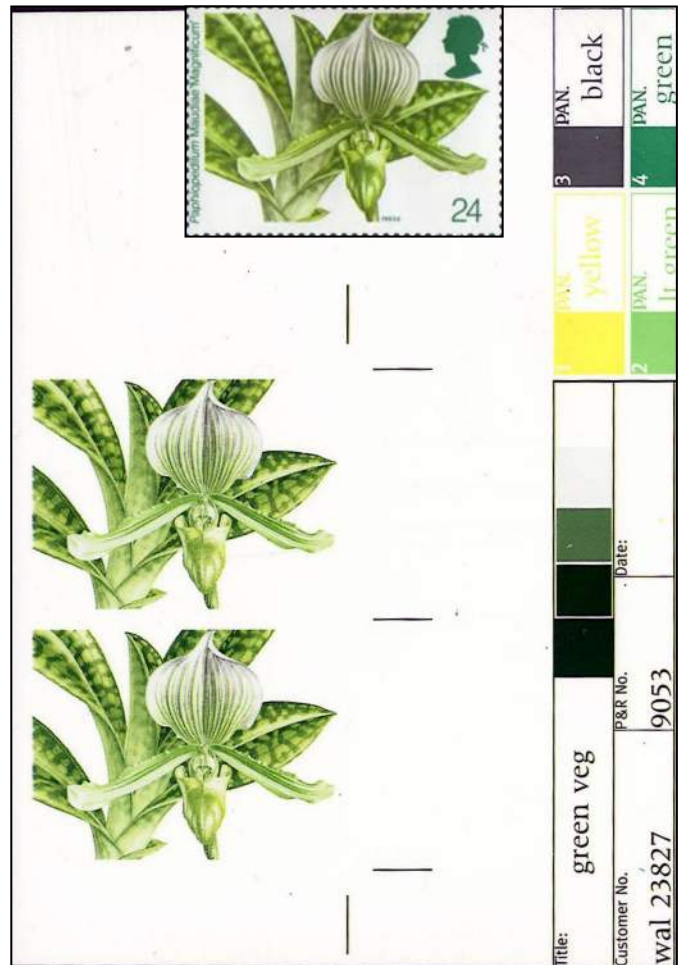
'Stamp Active' Kids Scheme

Cartor helps the hobby...



Orchids from Walsall

A change of printer considered along the way?



Title:	green veg		
Customer No.	wal 23827	P&R No.	9053
		Date:	

This sheet was produced by Cartor in 2015 to support 25 years since the launch of Stamp Active at *Stamp World London '90*. The sheets are given out to school stamp clubs as part of the Stamp Active 'welcome' pack when new members join the scheme.

First sold at *Europhilex 2015* for £1 to raise funds, they were still available on the Stamp Active stand at Autumn Stampex 2016.

Cartor donated the entire print run to help support the hobby, hence their inclusion here, otherwise they would have been excluded from *DS* as merely being a commercial printing. 3000 of these attractive sheets were produced.

Support the scheme at www.stampactive.co.uk ☒

County Philatelic Auctions in its 7 October 2016 auction had as Lot 2093 an interesting incomplete proof, described thus:

2093 ■ 1993 Orchids 24p imperf proof pair without value / head on glazed card, score lines to glaze, unusual. {photo} £50

What the lot description failed to mention was that the proof appears to have been created for Walsall Security Printers and not for Harrison and Sons who went on to print the issued stamp (which is superimposed above the two incomplete proofs on the above scan of the auction lot in a blank area).

Admittedly an assumption is being made, but surely "Customer No. **Wal** 23827" has to relate to WSP? There is probably an interesting story here! ☒

Greetings from Timsons Ltd

Printing press manufacturer issued stamped cards

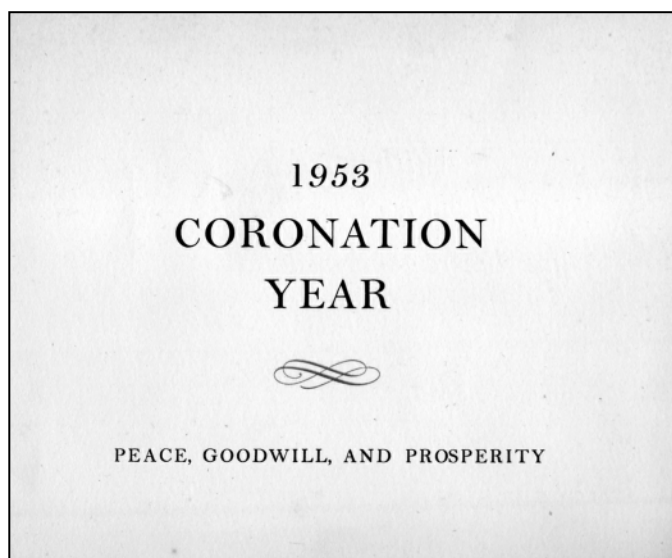
Thanks to a regular reader, mention can obliquely be made of 'that event' which takes place every December. However, these words are being typed three months before it takes place, so it will not be mentioned here.

(It is probably not a good thing to emulate Selfridges, especially as your compiler had written to its Chairman this year about the greed of the store opening its seasonal department some 20 weeks before the big day!)

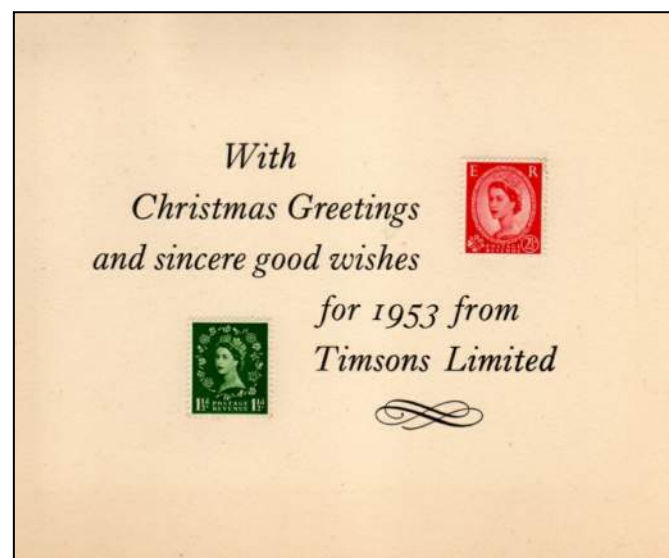
Anyway, the two cards are basically the same, albeit that one was intended to be sent unsigned, and the other signed. Nice ephemeral items. ☒



Signed card (page 2). Black stamp background is pre-printed. The signatory is Ernest Arthur Timson.



Common face (page 1). Page 4 is unprinted.



Unsigned (page 2). Generic version from company.



Common inside image (page 3).

The card size in both cases is 16.5 x 13.5cm.

...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 45

A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material

Christmas, 2016

Christmas Bonus Edition

Lots of new information results in a fifth issue for 2016

The past quarter has seen a lot of activity in the British dummy stamps area of collecting, with new 'discoveries' being made almost daily, it feels.

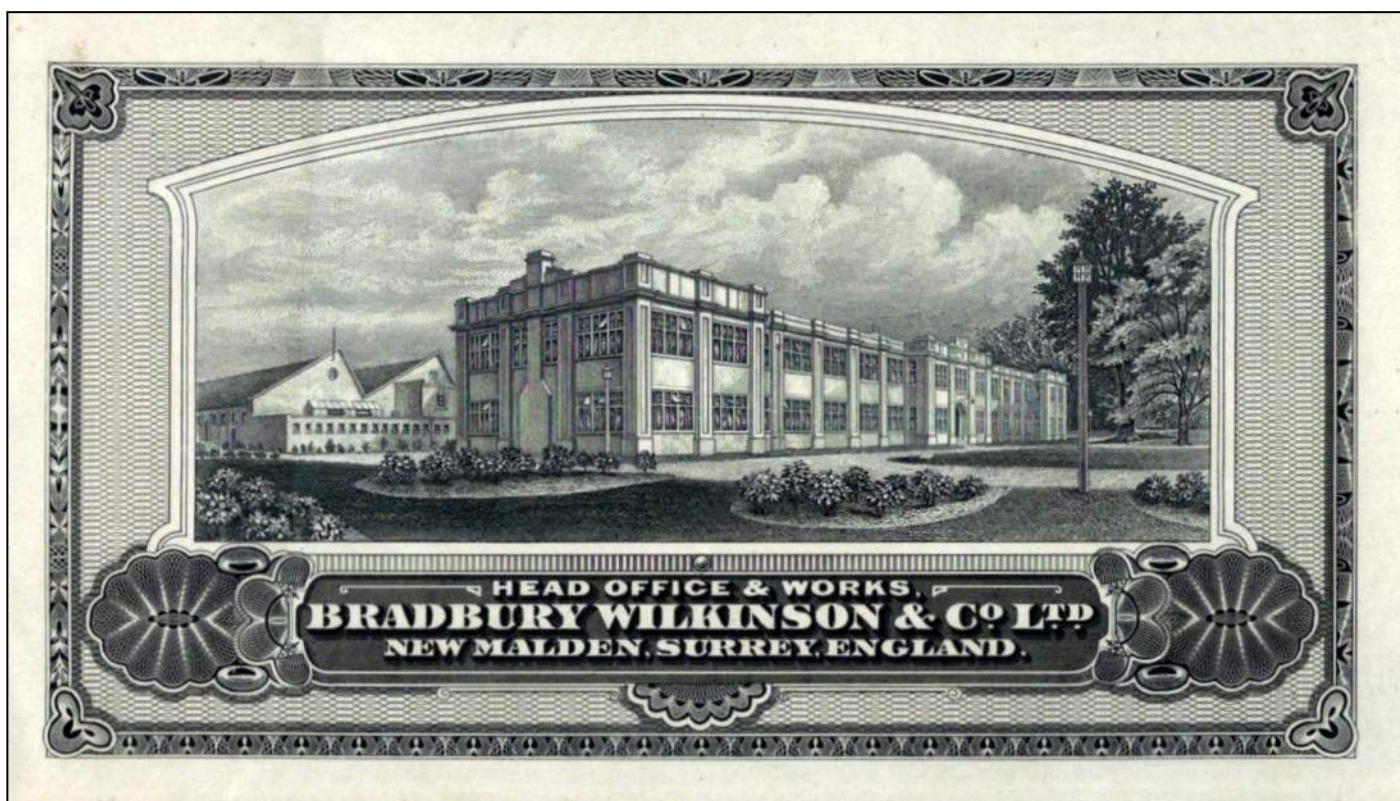
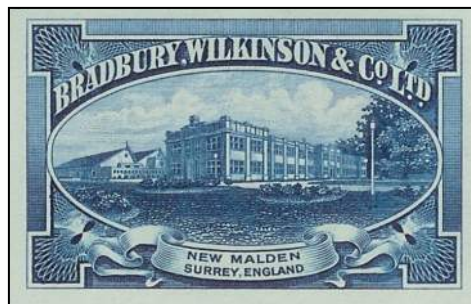
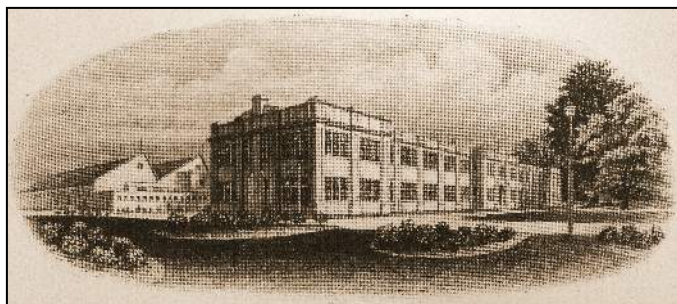
A decision was therefore made to produce an extra 'bonus' issue to clear the decks of material. ☒

Bradbury, Wilkinson Banknote

Dummy note matches dummy stamp vignette

A lovely BW banknote sold for £245 recently. The image used is that of the stamp design, i.e. the factory premises at New Malden.

The 1927 source photograph used for the dummy stamp and banknote is shown at far left, below. ☒



Dummy Playing Cards?

Why not expand collecting interests

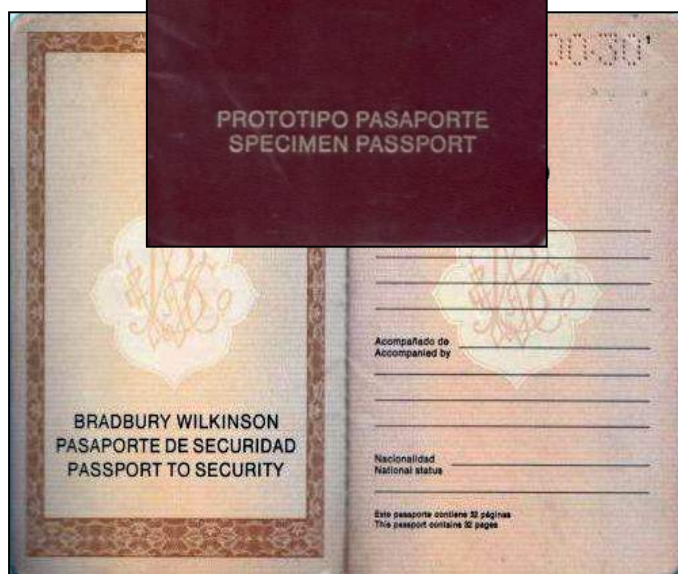
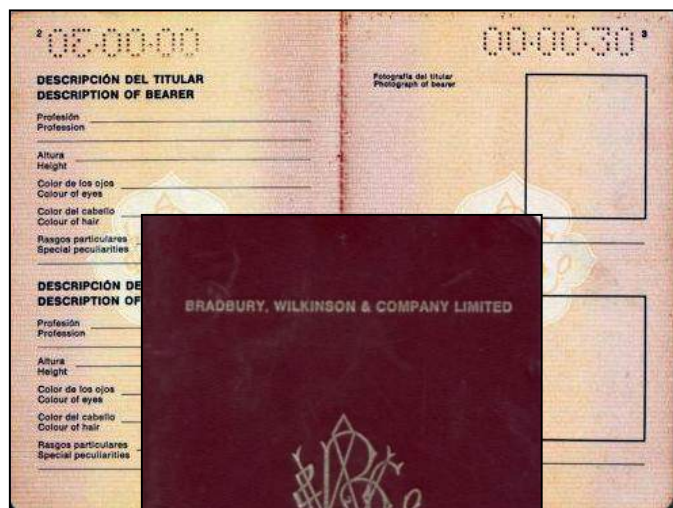
If dummy stamps and banknotes are not enough, why not consider playing cards, as well! Many types of De La Rue cards exist, plus, it is suspected, Waddington and probably one or two other security printers, too, certainly from abroad. ☒



How about Passports, then?

If playing cards don't appeal, then passports might

Bradbury, Wilkinson were producers of passports at one time in their history and produced at least one specimen version in maroon, vaguely reminiscent of a modern passport for those countries in the EU. It sold recently for a healthy £122. ☒



eBay 'creations' still surfacing

Nice item for sale, but sadly it's made-up by a collector

The five Post Office decimal training stamps below are genuine. They are also cancelled by a genuine 'SPECIMEN / DATESTAMP' marking, but it is when the two items are put together that they become questionable. The collector who was allowed(?) to acquire the handstamp (featured previously in *DS*) continues to create new items.

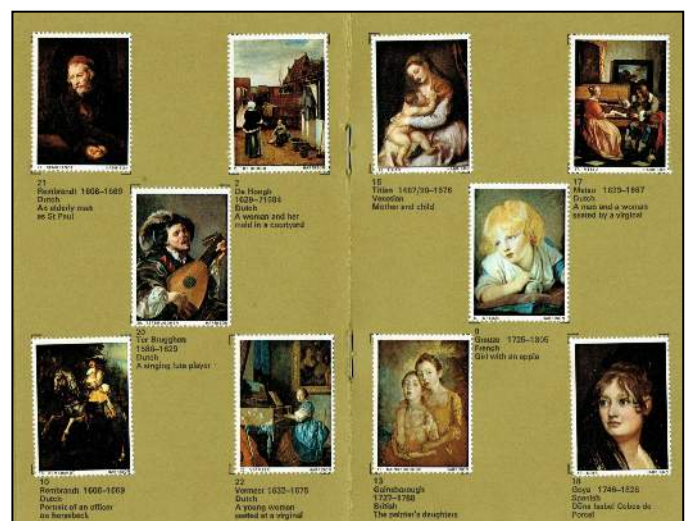
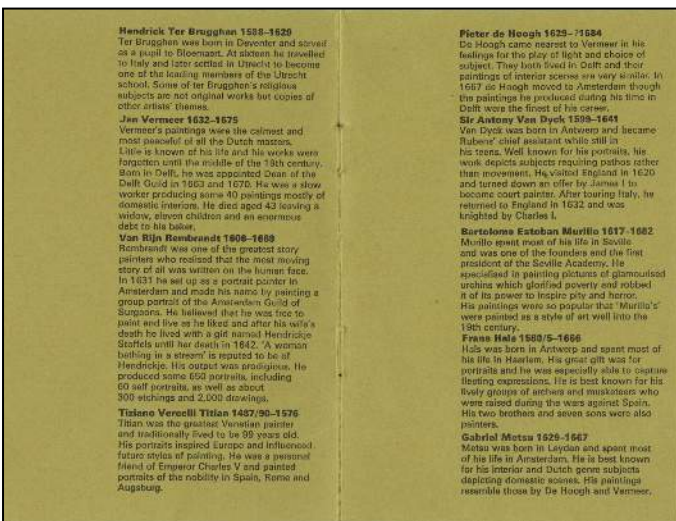
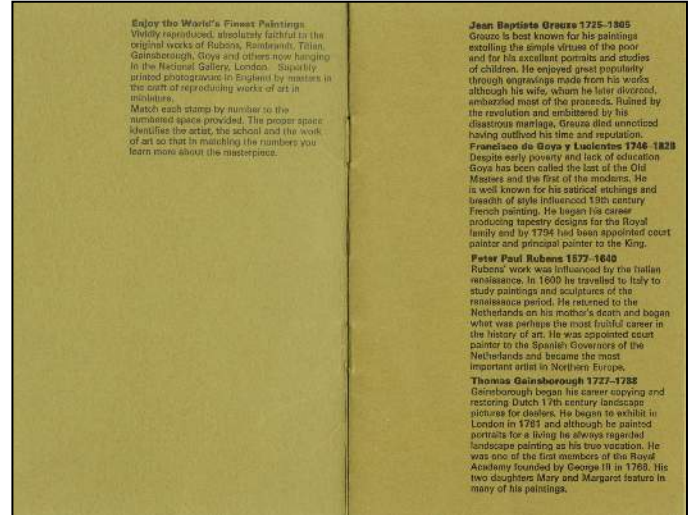
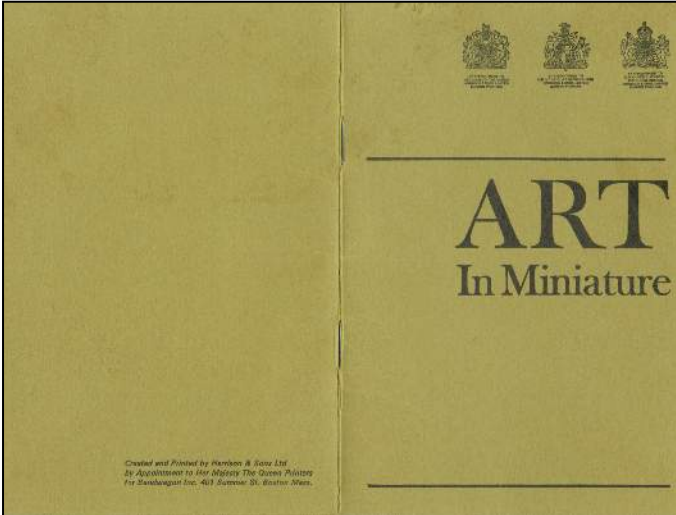
Its purchaser realised its status before buying but, understandably, liked it. He is quoted as wishing that such a cover genuinely existed. Indeed. ☒



ART in Miniature by Harrison

A new use found for the paintings dummy stamps

Created originally for a Dutch promotion, then for London 1980, the sheets of 25 paintings dummy stamps have been much admired down the years. A recent Cinderella Stamp Club auction had a previously unrecorded example of a sheet broken into singles and used within a promotional booklet for the American market. It measures 4" wide by 6" tall and was produced for Bandwagon Inc. ☒

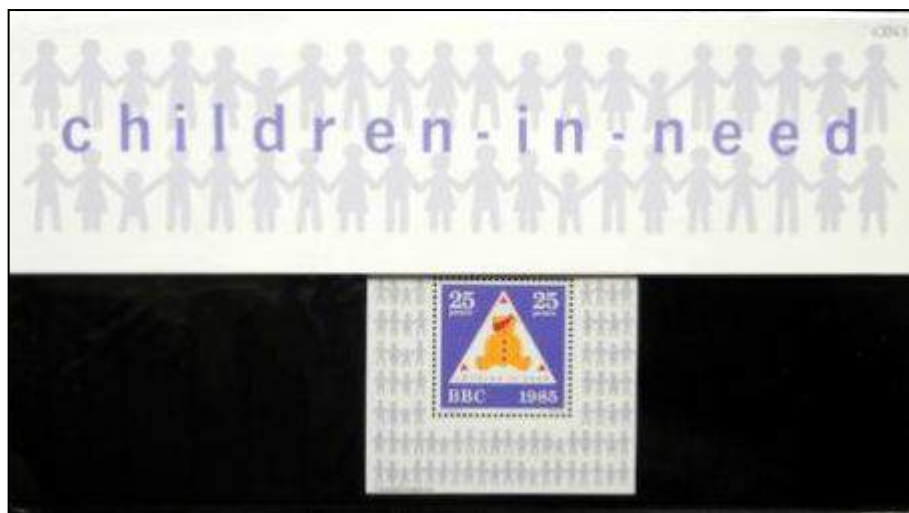


Children in Need Pack

High price recently attained

The attractive presentation pack created for the Children in Need campaign has recently sold for £50.

With the festive period around the corner, you may consider donating to this worthy cause by going to <https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/fundraisinghub>



Photogravure 'Essay' sheet from Cartor discovered, but all is not what it seems....

A potentially confusing sheet appeared in 1991

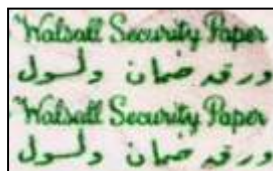
Cartor produced a sheet of labels promoting a rally cross event. The sheet includes the word 'Essay' (which is how your compiler first came across the item), but the word actually relates to a French town in Normandy of that name, and, anyway, the French language uses an 'i' not an 'e' when discussing philatelic essays. Additionally, the foot of the sheet states 'Photogravure', but this word appears to be linked to 'Europimages', presumably the provider of the rally imagery, as the sheet is clearly printed in offset, as Cartor did not have (indeed, still does not have) this printing process. All set to confuse the unwary! The promotional text and imagery in the top margin is all that shows this sheet emanated from the printworks of Cartor. Sold for €5.



Walsall's 'Lithembos' follow-up

Mystery use discovered

A series of French and British medals were once produced by Walsall using its special security paper usually reserved for postage stamps. Why? Perhaps it was for a special promotion, but it was not stamp related for sure despite the paper used. ☒

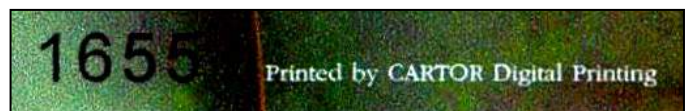


Cartor attends the 32nd Asian Philatelic Exhibition, 2559 (2016)

Sheet for visitors stopping by Cartor's stand in Bangkok

A new name has appeared on a recent Cartor dummy sheet, namely 'CARTOR Digital Printing'. Whether this is a new brand name, or a new company name is unclear. It may, of course, simply be stating the printer and process used.

The design represents a stamp issued for this exhibition, namely the 'Queen Sirikit' lotus flower. Sheets of the issued stamp have a CSP set of traffic lights, BUT these letters do NOT stand for 'Cartor Security Printing', who did NOT print the stamps. Instead they represent the initials of local company 'Chan Wanich Security Printing' of Thailand. ☒



<<< CSP: the initials also used by Chan Wanich Security Printing

∨ Issued stamp

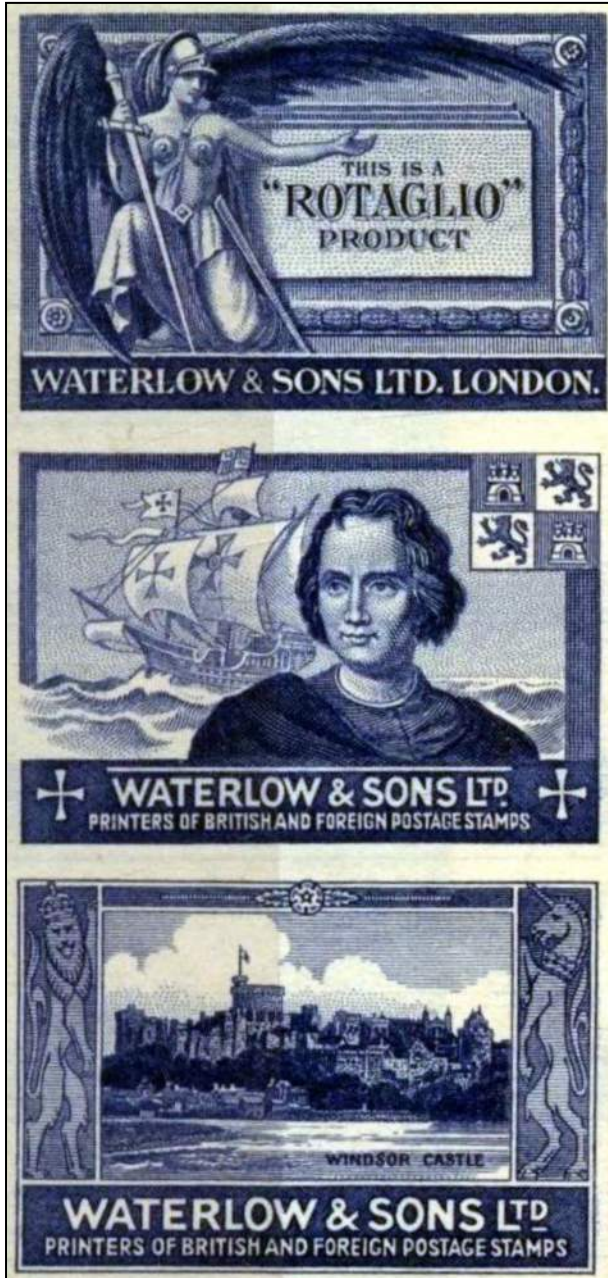


Waterlow and Rotaglio

New colour found

Waterlow had a brand-name for its rotary intaglio system, namely 'Rotaglio'.

A brown-ochre and a red versions of the strip of three designs below have been recorded and now a navy blue strip can be added to the colour range. ☒



Oh dear!

More eBay rubbish....

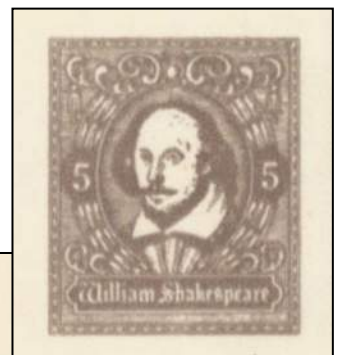


While the SPECIMEN handstamp at the foot of each stamp is genuine, the **SCHOOL / SPECIMEN** handstamp is not understood to be of Post Office origin. ☒

Harrison and Shakespeare

UNDEFACED version found

This label is well known, but not without a defacing cross... until now that is. ☒



'Save the Stubbs' Campaign

Harrison helps save paintings for The Tate

Back in 1977, the nation was in danger of losing two major works by George Stubbs to an overseas buyer. A major campaign was launched and the paintings are to this day on view at Tate Britain, Millbank, London. Harrison played its part by printing, for free, 'Save the Stubbs' promotional stamps. They are still only 50p

each label when seen and are a useful addition when attempting to tell the history of Harrison & Sons.

The traffic light block viewed online is in a format not normally seen for Harrison, but files seen at the Tate prove beyond doubt that Harrison was the printer. ☒



Enschedeé has printed postage stamps for 150 years

A limited edition booklet celebrates this fact

A somewhat strange booklet in a most cumbersome format was recently released to celebrate 150 years of postage stamp printing by Royal Joh. Enschedé of the Netherlands, a Royal Mail supplier of stamps, of course.



The outside spread.



A typical stamp.

'An 'accordion' stamp booklet designed to express the history of 150 years of stamps, based on a comic, shows various life stages (from egg to adult) of a carrier pigeon in strip form.

Here the various print techniques are also processed from old to hyper-modern.'



The designer, at left.



The inside spread.

Cremona

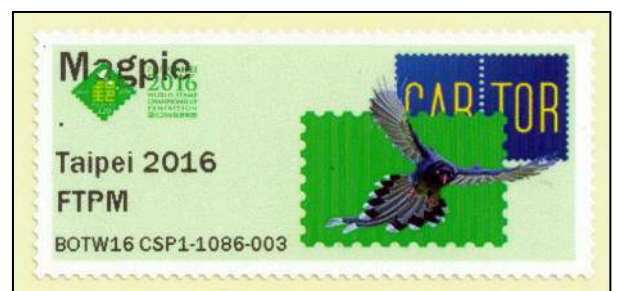
New colour found...

The Victory Kidder printing press dummy featured in DS44 has been found in a 'new' colour, namely yellow-green. The vendor dated the item as from 1928/30. ✉



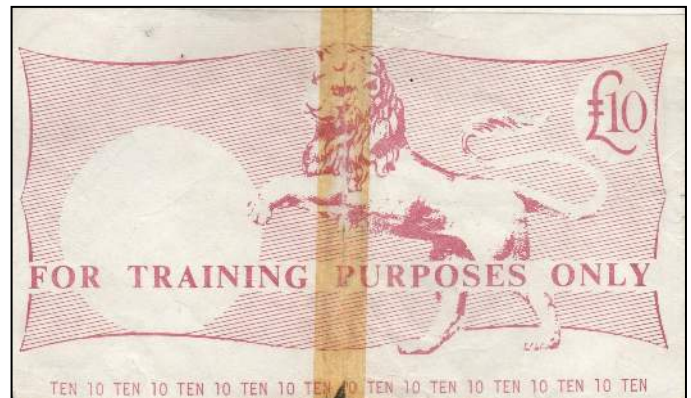
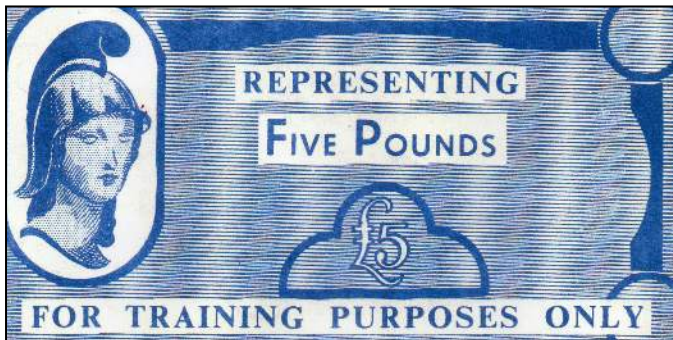
Cartor creates FTPM Overprint

Gift of a pair of labels for 14 Friends of The Postal Museum (FTPM) who recently visited Cartor's factory



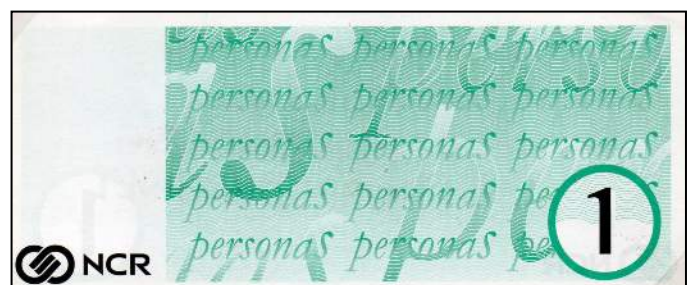
Post Office Dummy Banknotes: An Update

More examples advised by reader



(above) Post Office examples, for sure.

(below) Post Office usage is questionable.

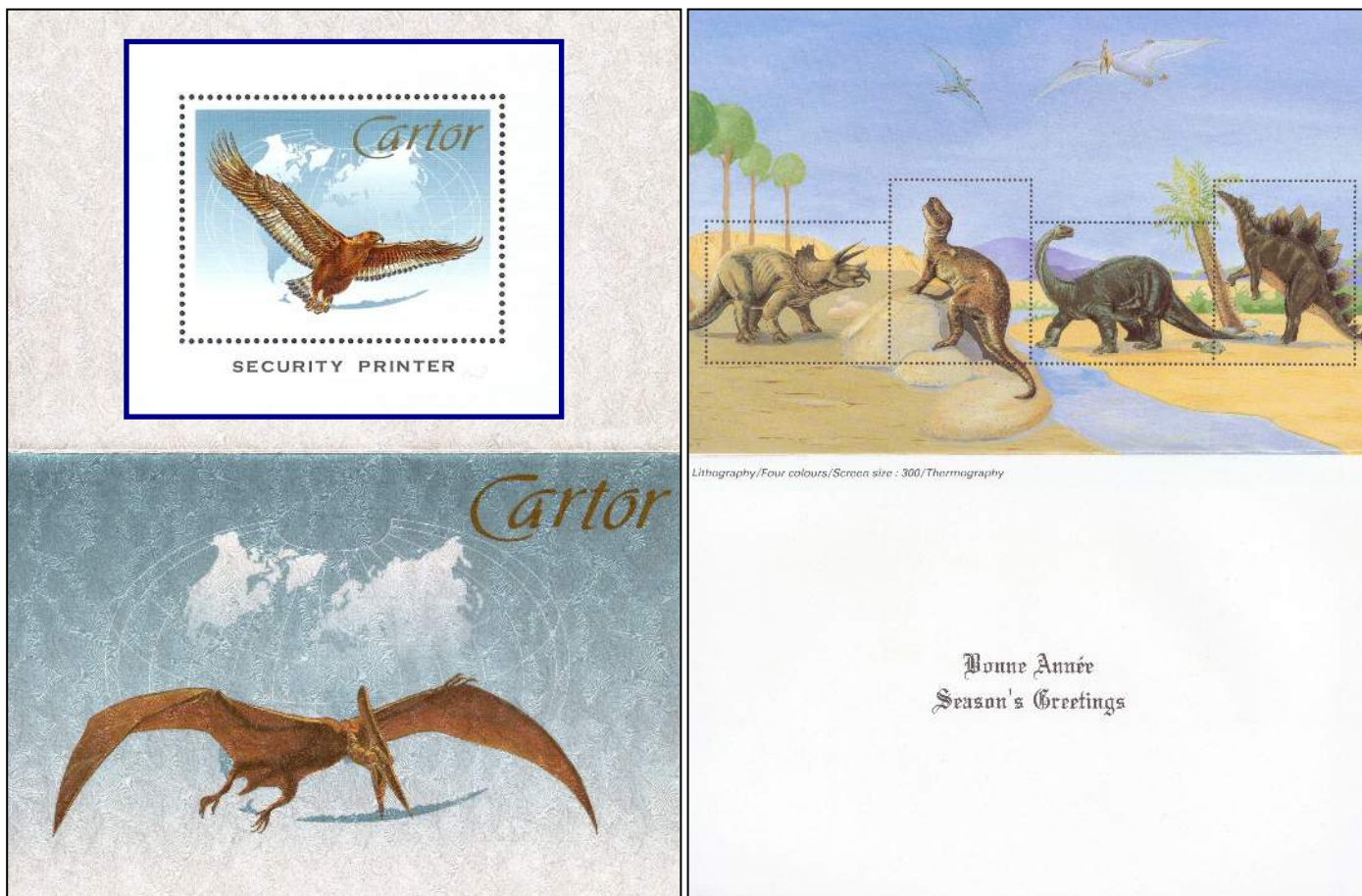


These notes represent further examples to those shown last time for the £1 value. The top two are from the same series, while the bottom two are of a generic nature produced by De La Rue and NCR respectively.

The lower two are in need of confirmation that the Post Office actually used these, as the handstamp struck on them both has been called into question when used on stamp booklets. Can anyone confirm, please?

Cartor went back in time to the age of the dinosaur in 1994

There was an odd celebration of Christmas that year

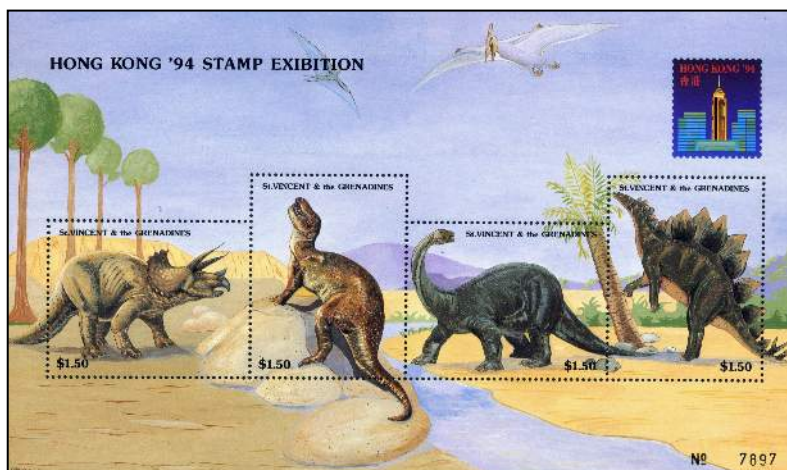


When thinking of the festive season, the first thing that comes to mind is dinosaurs, of course. OK, perhaps not! The only reason for this strange choice can be that the company had produced a sheet for St Vincent and the Grenadines and its 'support' for the Hong Kong 94 stamp *exhibition* (and, yes this is an intentional spelling mistake, while 'support' is a polite way of saying 'money-spinner'! Read on.)

The issued sheet is very large, as is the dummy sheet, and it uses thermography, or 'Cartorelief' as the company had branded this raised feature that is more usually seen on business cards. The proof-reader failed to spot that there was no 'h' included in the word 'exhibition' and this careless spelling mistake was forever immortalised on the sheet. The cover of the card features a Pterosaur, which is actually not a dinosaur at all but a flying reptile around at the same time. Used here, it is a 'take' on the eagle normally used in the early 1990s. The company was then based in the town of L'Aigle, which translates into English as 'the eagle'. (See inset dummy Eagle MS, top left above.) ☒

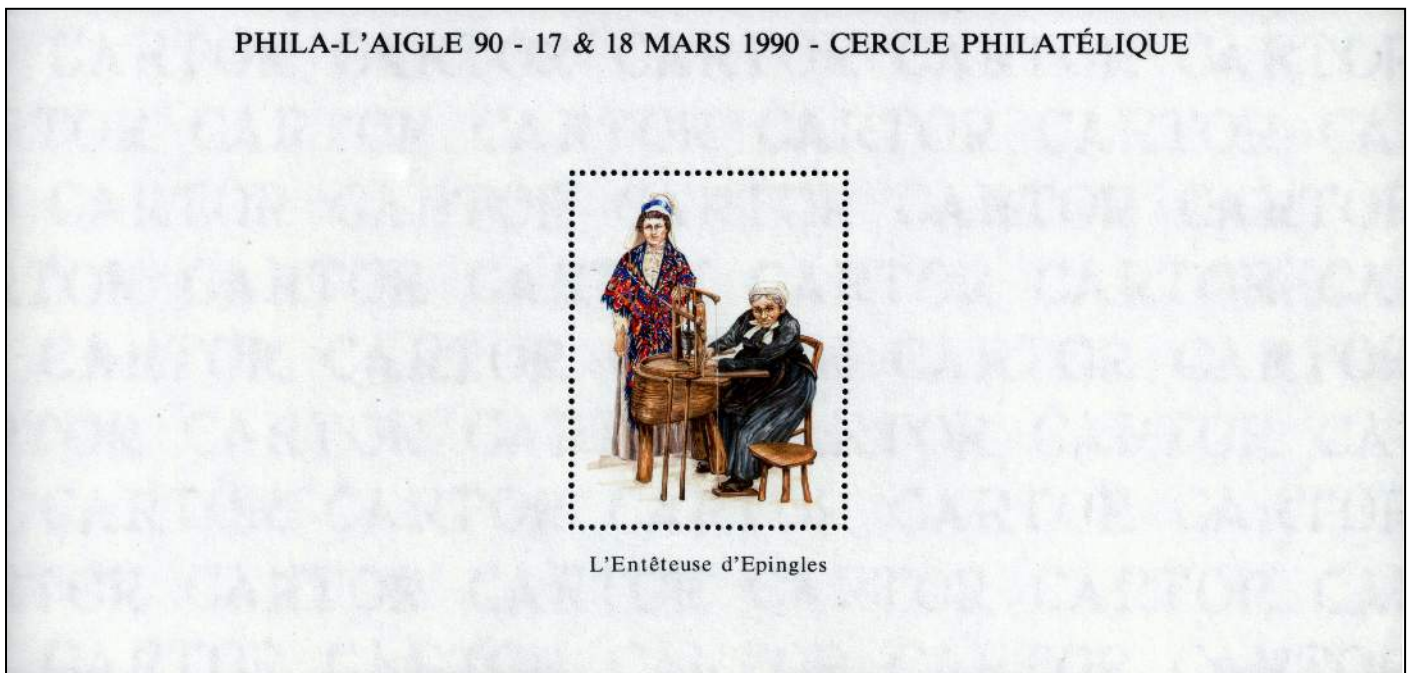
Looking from left to right, the dinosaurs featured on both the dummy and issued miniature sheets are:

- Triceratops,
- Tyrannosaurus,
- Apatosaurus, and
- Stegosaurus.



Cartor supports local stamp club at PHILA-L'AIGLE 90

Previously unrecorded dummy stamp recently discovered on souvenir sheet



SALLE MUNICIPALE (Place de Verdun à L'AIGLE)

LE CERCLE PHILATÉLIQUE DE L'AIGLE
vous prie de lui faire l'honneur de visiter

L'EXPOSITION PHILATÉLIQUE RÉGIONALE
les Samedi 17 et Dimanche 18 Mars 1990

A cette occasion, le TIMBRE-POSTE de la JOURNÉE DU TIMBRE «SERVICES FINANCIERS DE LA POSTE» sera émis en PREMIER JOUR et affranchira les SOUVENIRS émis, oblitérés, du cachet spécial.

INAUGURATION, le Samedi 17 Mars à 11 heures
(On visite de 9 heures à 12 heures et de 14 heures à 18 heures) Entrée Gratuite

INVITATION A L'INAUGURATION DE PHILA-L'AIGLE 90

LE CONSEILLER GÉNÉRAL, MAIRE DE L'AIGLE,
LE CONSEIL MUNICIPAL,
LE CERCLE PHILATÉLIQUE DE L'AIGLE,

à l'occasion de l'Exposition Philatélique Régionale,
de l'Emission, en premier jour, du Timbre de la journée du Timbre,
du Congrès Régional de l'Union des Sociétés Philatéliques de Basse-Normandie,

sont heureux de vous inviter au Vin d'Honneur qui sera offert le
Samedi 17 Mars 1990 à 11 heures, à l'issue de l'inauguration de l'exposition,
salle Municipale, place de VERDUN.

Répondre S.V.P.

On the 17th and 18th March 1990, the local stamp club at L'Aigle, France, held a two-day philatelic show and local stamp printer Cartor assisted with publicity by producing an attractive DL-sized sheet (one-third A4), presumably free of charge.

Aside from the obvious connection with Cartor being indicated on the reverse of the blue carrier invite, if anyone doubted whether they printed and perforated the item they only have to hold it to the light, as the sheet is printed offset on a Cartor watermarked substrate.

Watermark >>>

The wording below the dummy stamp seems to translate as "The Pinsetter". ☒



Stamp Feast in Taipei

A chance to meet with eight production companies....

The stamp exhibition recently held in Taipei had an impressive array of stamp production stands. It is noted that three such companies had a British philatelic connection, namely:

- Cartor Security Printing, France.
- Tullis Russell, Great Britain.
- Royal Joh. Enschedé, The Netherlands.

For the record, also in attendance were:

- Cardon Enterprise Co. Ltd, Taiwan.
- Central Engraving and Printing Plant, Taiwan.
- China Color Printing Co. Ltd., Taiwan.
- Southern Colour Print, New Zealand.
- Stamperija, Lithuania.

Your compiler has always looked out at stamp shows for those businesses involved in stamp production and he does not think that he has ever, in 46 years of visiting exhibitions, known of so many such companies at the one philatelic event. Oh to have been there!

Tullis Russell never had anything of a dummy nature on offer, but Cartor and Enschedé each gave away souvenirs for the duration of the show, as will be recorded below. ☒

Enschedé at Philataipei 2016

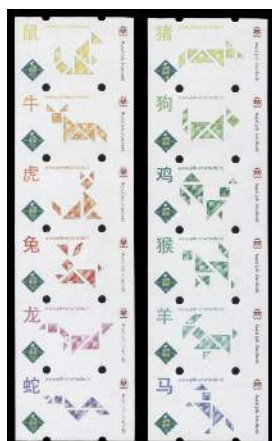
Chinese Zodiac themed labels on offer

Taiwan still uses postage vending machines of the Klüssendorf type, i.e. the sort that bear two half moon cuts at the top and bottom of single labels.

Two strips of six (sight unseen) were made available, along with sets of 12 singles in a plastic zipped bag.

A set was soon on eBay at £85, thankfully without a buyer. A month later? £25.

These strips of six have not been seen "in the flesh", or for sale, but they clearly exist as this imagery was seen online. >>>>



The staff at Enschedé on their stand displaying the *Chinese Zodiac* dummy stamps, as kindly taken by a DS reader.

It is apparent that the company did not have a vending machine on-site and these labels were cut into strips and into singles off-site, presumably pre-exhibition. ☒



Cartor at Philataipei 2016

Blue Magpie themed labels on offer

The latest generation of *Post and Go* machines, numbered **A012** and **A014**, were in Taiwan for the International Stamp Exhibition, Philataipei 2016, which ran between 21-26 October.

There were two distinct rolls of labels in use, i.e. the two designs were not both on the same roll. Additionally, there were two 'location IDs', namely 'CSP1' for demonstrations and 'TAIP' for distribution to customers. The latter imprint has been seen for every day of the show and for both machines, but the 'CSP1' version has not been seen every day and this is probably because your compiler has simply not seen examples.

The charts below record sightings at 1 Dec. 2016.

Machine A012. Magenta + Green + Cartor logo.



	Location ID CSP1	Location ID TAIP
21st	X	X
22nd	X	X
23rd		X
24th		X
25th		X
26th	X	X

Machine A014. Green + Cartor logo.



	Location ID CSP1	Location ID TAIP
21st	X	X
22nd	X	X
23rd		X
24th		X
25th		X
26th	X	X

It is apparent that singles, pairs and strips of six exist, but no attempt has been made to record all potential combinations for every day.

Blank copies in strips of six have also been seen as images online and VOID examples similarly exist, but possibly not in the hands of collectors...unless you can indicate otherwise.

Receipts were issued, with labels having a nominal cost of 1p, although no charge was levied. ☒

Your receipt		
Product	Qty Price	Total
Magenta Magpie Collectors Strip	£0.02	£0.02
Green Magpie Collectors Strip	1 £0.02	£0.02
Total:		£0.04
2 Items		
Unit : CSP1 - Session : 0895		
Post & Go Stamps Printed by Cartor		

Typical receipt.

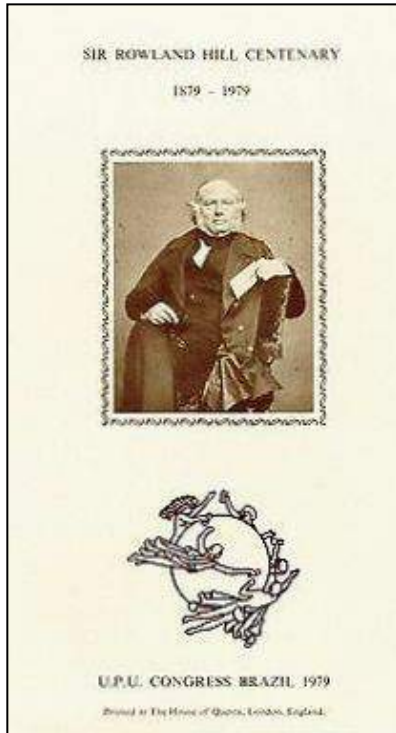


The staff at Cartor by their stand displaying the *Blue Magpie* dummy stamps, as kindly taken by a DS reader.

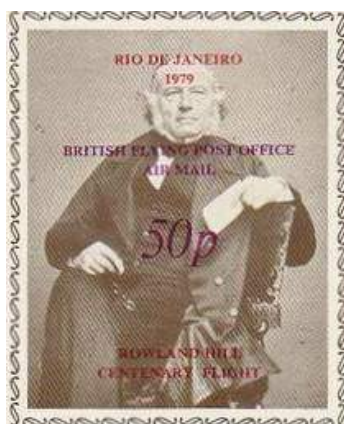
Questa UPU Souvenir

Issued by the printer, or by a customer of theirs?

The sheet below has been seen in the past and given little thought. However, your compiler now wonders whether this was a private production produced by Questa for, perhaps, a stamp dealer, or if it might be an item produced by Questa for use by Questa. It could conceivably have been given away by them at the 18th Universal Postal Union Congress held in Brazil during 1979.



The scan above is not very good, but gives a flavour of what the sheet is all about.



Copies are also known overprinted with a "British Flying Post Office" overprint, of a dubious nature! As it seems unlikely that Questa would have made available large stocks for this overprint, it seems increasingly likely that the entire stock was a private production. Do you know either way? ☒

Cartor at Bangkok 2010

Mint card discovered online

It has previously been stated within these pages that mint copies of the Cartor show postcard do not exist for this souvenir item. Well, an example has recently been seen illustrated online, so it appears that they do exist! ☒



Graphics Philately Association

Why not treat yourself!

With Christmas just around the corner as this issue of *Dummy Stamps* is being circulated, why not consider treating yourself to a subscription to this worthwhile American organisation?

Featured here previously, details can be found online at www.graphics-stamps.org ☒

...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 46

A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material

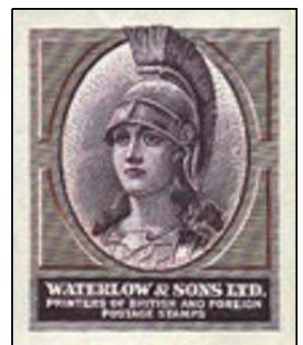
Quarter 1, 2017

Waterlow Dummies Bring Good Prices at Auction

Unexpected geographical location proves valuable source to WandS dummy collectors

An auction house in Argentina, philatino.com, recently sold as a single lot three Waterlow designs in three colour combinations that are previously unrecorded.

They sold for a healthy US\$561 (£450), plus premium, i.e. around £55 each.



The available scans are not of brilliant quality, but it will hopefully be seen that each dummy stamp appears to be bi-coloured. ✉

*Bradbury, Wilkinson
Colour Chart*

Attractive engraver design for sale

Website zeeboose.com was recently offering the colour chart page seen below for £50. Sadly, it is folded vertically, but is most attractive and has not been seen in this format before.



The engraver image had been used by Brads for its promotional material at one time, including use on its 1978 corporate calendar (proof pull of engraved image area below). ☒



*Bradbury, Wilkinson
New Colour Found*

Normally only black seen

The scan below unfortunately has an area of damage to right of centre, but it is an attractive design that has not been seen in this colour previously. ☒



*1929 PUC Facsimile from the
London 2010 Show*

Copy for sale on eBay

The block of four sold by The Postal Museum (or rather BPMA at the time) was recently offered on eBay for a staggering £1,500! It never sold and was seen later at £650 and is still for sale. ☒



DLR Dummy Designs

New sample page found

The dummy stamps on large sheet are previously recorded, although the colours used are new, to your compiler at least. ☒



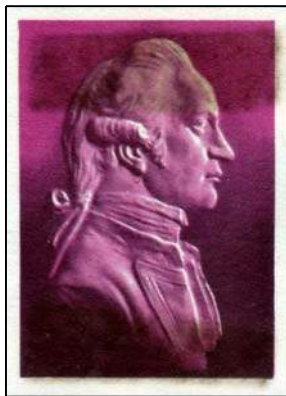
DLR Cook Discovery

Cook found facing the 'wrong' way

The large format Captain Cook design has been found with Cook facing the opposite way to previous examples. Sadly ruined by application of double-sided sticky tape. ☒



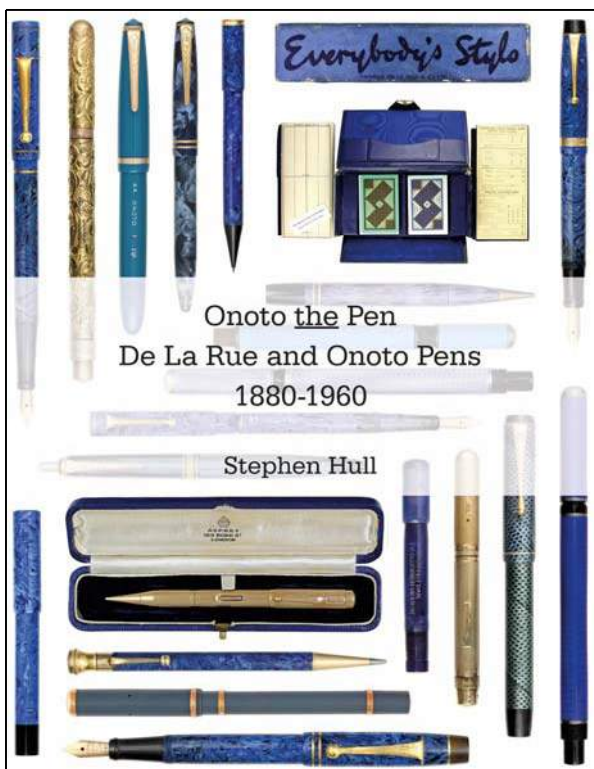
< Previously known version.



DLR Onoto Pens Book

Not dummy related, but may be of interest

At one time, De La Rue produced pens under the Onoto brand name. A new book on the whole subject has recently appeared. It is not philatelic in nature, but deserves promotion. Go to englishpenbooks.co.uk to learn more. ☒



Helio Courvoisier Machin Trials

Too early to properly document, as story is still unfolding

The recent discovery of these three Courvoisier Machin trial stamps has created much interest. ☒



DLR Excello Design

Playing card pack shows intended usage

The dummy stamp affixed to the sealed pack of playing cards from De La Rue shows the intended use for this design, helping explain why so many copies are ungummed and damaged. ☒



...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. ☒

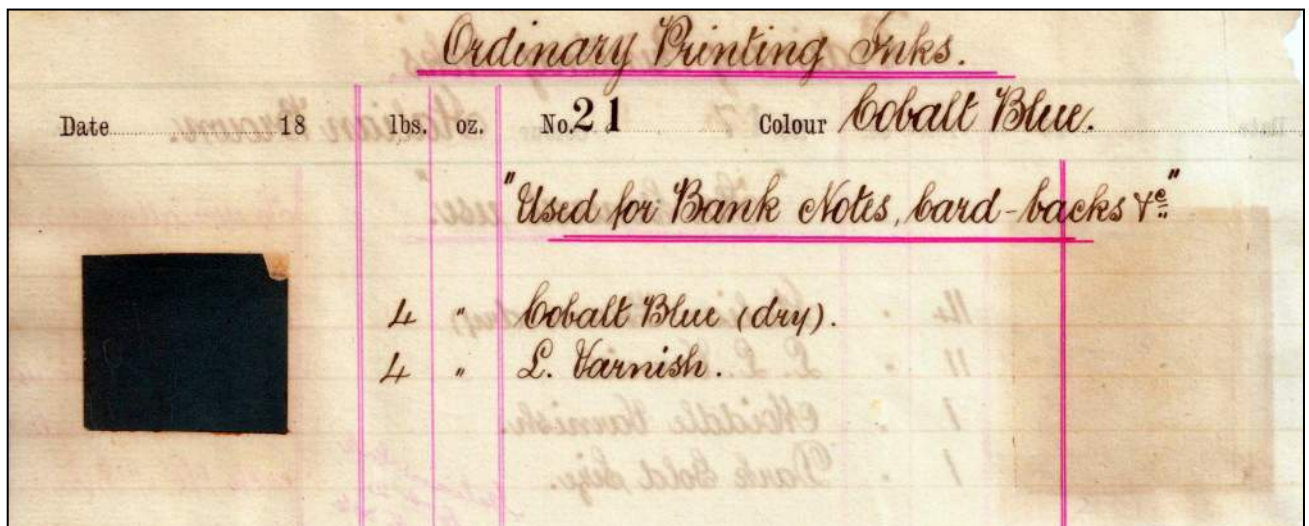
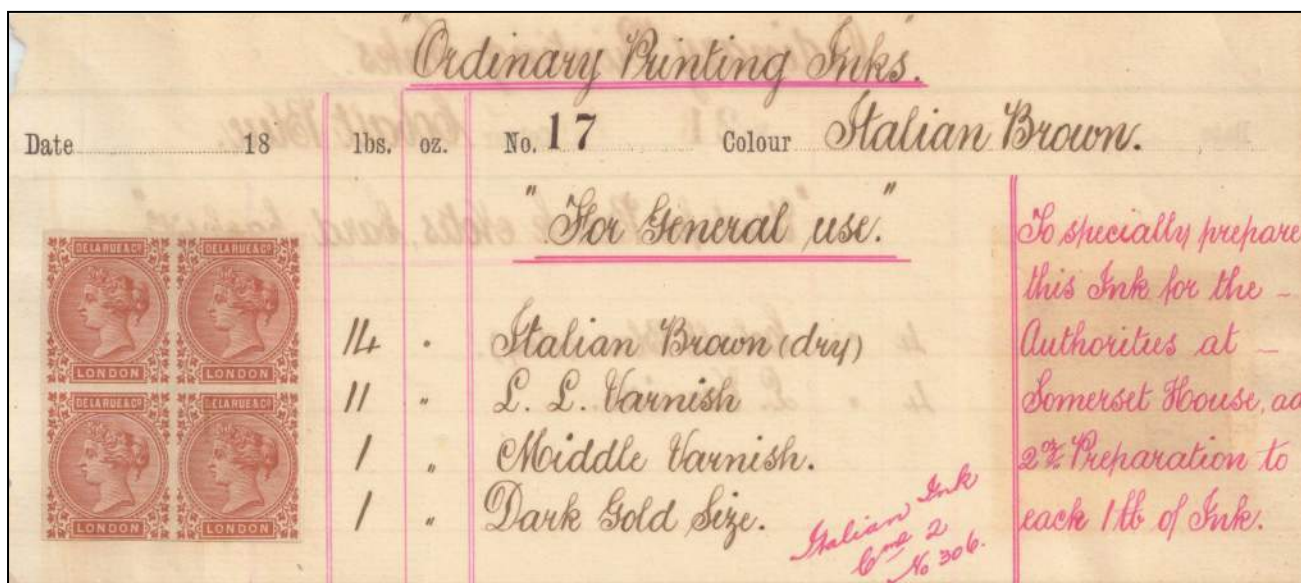


Dummy Stamps

De La Rue Ink Recipes

Dummy stamp design of 1863 helped DLR to record the composition of the colours of its inks

From mid-Victorian times De La Rue generally used a dummy stamp design depicting The Queen for its ink trials. The dummies were attached, usually in blocks of four but sometimes just singles, to double-sided pages within an ink ledger containing the recipes for each individual ink colour. To represent bi-coloured stamps examples are known using pairs of both colours. These were used at their factories so that the company could faithfully replicate at the next requirement any specific colour and could match against reprints. The example below is for the ink colour known as "Italian Brown", which is backed-up with "Cobalt Blue". ☒



Cartor Celebrates 1999

Unusual wide format perforated souvenir sheet, with two vertical folds

Cartor has frequently produced material at Christmas / New Year time and your compiler recently found such an item for 1998/99 that he had not previously seen. Conception was by Michel Hosszu with the participation of Jean-Paul Veret le Marinier and of Michel Lutz. There does not seem to be a common theme running through the sheet, indeed each chosen image appears random, as befits his style of art. The dealer charged a mere £1.50. The middle panel alone is illustrated on the website of Hosszu, but without comment by him. ☒



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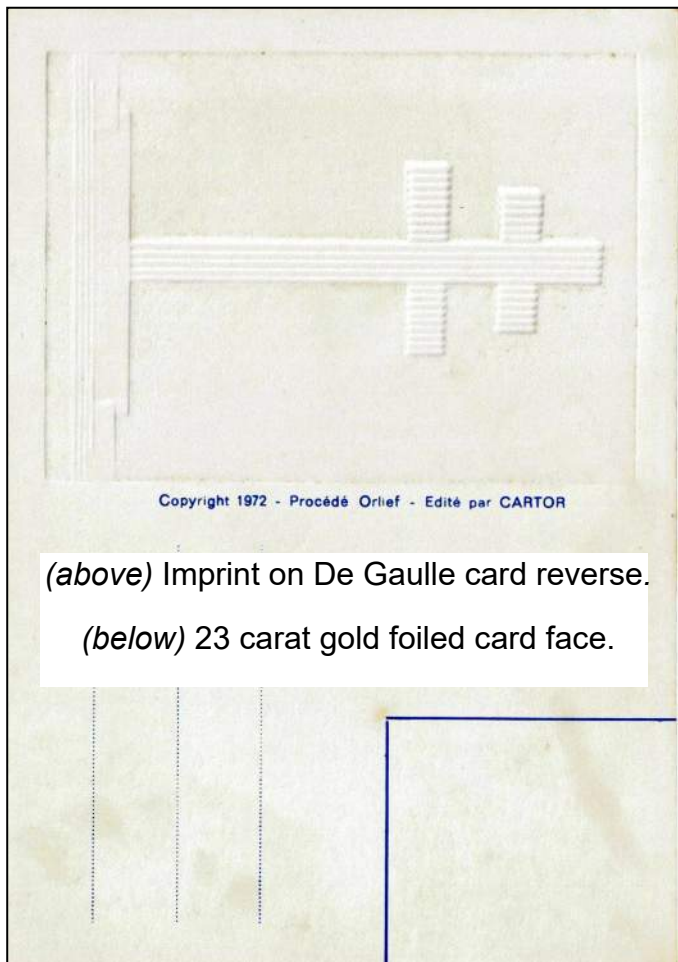
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So, when was Cartor Security Printing Founded?

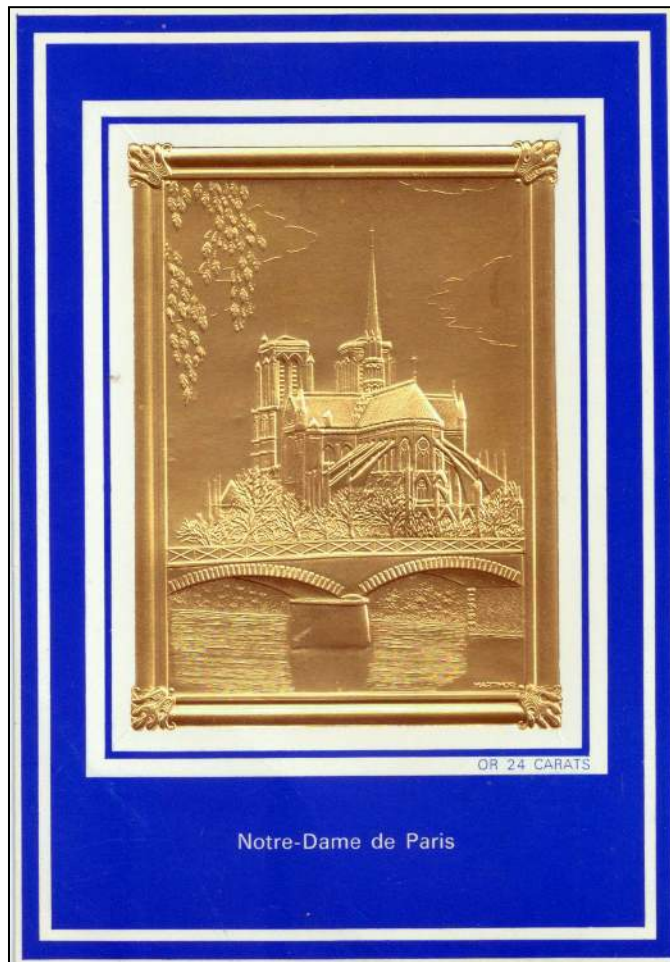
Everything had pointed to 1974....until now

Your compiler enjoys searching online using keywords and recently came across three postcards with very fine gold foil embossing. The interesting thing about these attractive items is that they each bear an imprint of the printer that reads CARTOR and were produced in 1972, two years before the apparent founding of 'our' Cartor. It could be that another company with the same name was also gold-foiling that year in France, but it seems highly unlikely. ☒



(above) Imprint on De Gaulle card reverse.

(below) 23 carat gold foiled card face.



Notre-Dame de Paris

OR 24 CARATS

CARTOR - Marque déposée - Edité par Pierre Mariotte s. a. - Imprimé en France

(above) Imprint on Notre Dame de Paris card reverse.



« Il existe un pacte vingt fois séculaire entre la grandeur de la France et la Liberté du Monde »

« En notre temps, la seule querelle qui vaille est celle de l'Homme. C'est l'Homme qu'il s'agit de sauver, de faire vivre et de développer. »

Charles de Gaulle
CHARLES DE GAULLE

OR 23 CARATS

AU GENERAL DE GAULLE

OR 24 CARATS

^ 24 carat gold foil version of the De Gaulle card.

Cartor Update on Gold Foiling

Latest use of the technique first seen on previous page

A British Machin £1 gold foil embossed stamp has recently been produced by Cartor for Royal Mail.



Cartor has long been associated with the use of this specialised technique, pioneered on stamps for the first time by Harrison back in the mid-1960s. The wording in the Prestige Booklet states: “...printed in lithography and foiled in gold by International Security Printers.”

Walsall does not use offset, so the book panes were printed and foil embossed at Cartor. The mini sheet bearing this same stamp was web printed by gravure at Wolverhampton (complete, less the foiling), and then shipped to Cartor who applied the gold foil and embossed each stamp using the hot foil process.

It seems unlikely that the stamps were printed in genuine gold, as there is no mention of the karat content of the foil in the booklet text. Pure 24kt gold could incur an expenditure of 200 thousand euros for just one stamp issue alone (while writing this, a mere one gram of gold was £31), so it is assumed that Royal Mail went for a “gold look” instead.



Some years back, a reader supplied a non-embossed gold foiled £1 Machin image asking for its origin. While this was not resolved, it seems appropriate to include it here again. ☒

Gold Foiling Method

How the foil is applied

The method of foiling stamps has come in for some philatelic misinformation recently. This column aims to explain how it is undertaken using specialist equipment.

The components

- 1) A ‘male’ embossing die, often made of brass.
- 2) The pre-printed stamp sheets, often web printed.
- 3) Adhesive-backed gold foil. Other foil colours and types, such as holographic or silver, are available.
- 4) A ‘female’ debossing die, often plastic.

The method

A ‘sandwich’ is created comprising

- 1) the male raised die (which has been pre-heated),
- 2) the stamp paper,
- 3) an adhesive-backed foil, and
- 4) the female engraved die.

These four components are ‘squeezed’, or brought together, under heat and great pressure to transfer the foil design to the paper and raise the image on the stamp surface simultaneously. Foiling can also be done without the embossing element. ☒



Brass male dies with MS above. Printed at ITVF France.



Not foiled.



Typical foil roll.



Foiled.

British Essay - Really?

Provenance seems unlikely

British auctioneer Sandafayre recently offered an interesting item for sale. The description stated:

1879 TENDER essay
inscribed "Proposed
New Stamp" in red-
brown, similar to
Charles Skipper
dummy stamp
illustrated in SG
Specialised catalogue.
(Image1)

Est. £75-90

It seems unlikely that this would a) be British and b) relate to the 1879 Tender process, but your compiler is happy to be corrected by a more knowledgeable collector. Incidentally, the price has dropped to a £60 estimate since first writing. ☒



Harrison Trading Stamps

Harrison and Green Shield were both based in Wycombe

Harrison had a massive contract for the production of Green Shield stamps, which were given to shoppers as a loyalty reward in the days before points were written to plastic cards, such is the case with the current British *Nectar* scheme. The 'stamps' would be affixed in a savings book and exchanged for gifts.

A mug has recently been discovered while trawling the net that was presented to those involved within Green Shield at its High Wycombe distribution centre. The back of the mug reveals the huge scale of the scheme, for in seven years (1966-1973) a massive 48.5 million gifts were distributed. Think of how many stamps Harrison would have printed! ☒



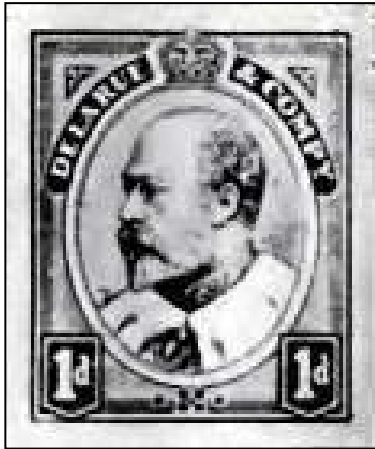
A Green Shield stamp and a Harrison test version.



De La Rue Trial Engraving

Not what people think

This is not an essay for Canada, as some suppose, but an attempt by DLR to secure a printing contract from the Italian Post Office back in July 1903. ☒



Cartor's First Ever Postage Stamp

Not a dummy stamp, but good to see CSPs origins

The first stamp to come out of the Cartor factory was for the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and was released in 1975. How far they have come! ☒



Waterlow Imperf from 1940

Uncommon example of exhibition sheetlet

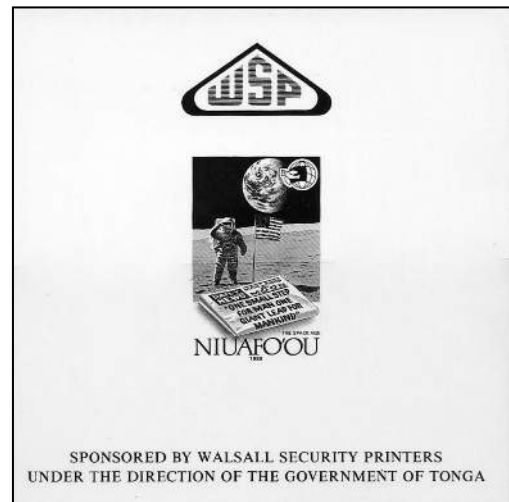
The top and bottom designs are adaptations of earlier Waterlow dummy stamps. ☒



Walsall and Tonga Relationship

Black print "Sponsored by Walsall Security Printers"

The background to this item is unclear. Why would WSP have sponsored such an item? ☒



Tail End of Scouts Dummy

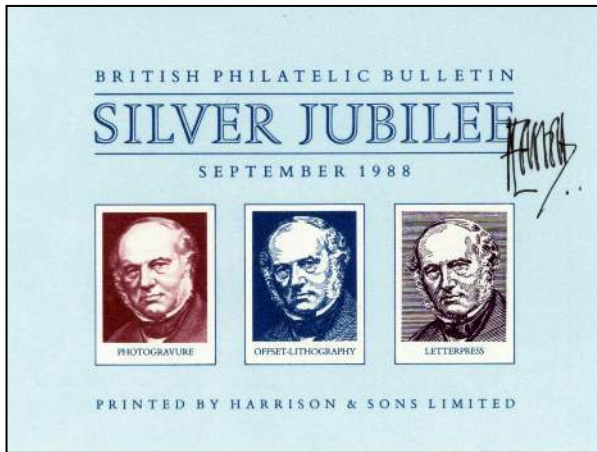
Unusual find, as most examples of the buff paper attachment are of the outer coil wrapper

A reader kindly sent in a scan of the 1957 Scouts dummy showing the buff paper from the centre of coil. ☒



Bulletin Souvenir Designer

A signed card reveals designer name at last



The Rowland Hill card above is printed by photogravure, offset and letterpress and was designed by Clive Abbott as a gift for *Philatelic Bulletin* readers. Signed cards were unheard of... until now. ☒



Questa Red Cachet

Unusual colour found



The card above should be well known to readers, but less so with a red coloured cachet instead of black. Perhaps red ink was reserved for those cards that were postally used, as with this example? ☒



Newly Found Enschedé Booklet

The three beige and three blue labels are previously unrecorded. The two dummy stamp designs are well known

It is rare to find new items from Enschedé, so this booklet from around 1976 came as a nice surprise when first noticed. The booklet cover has not been scanned yet, as the lot is still awaited from the vendor in Holland. Hopefully this can be shown in the next issue. In the meantime, can anyone add to the story? ☒

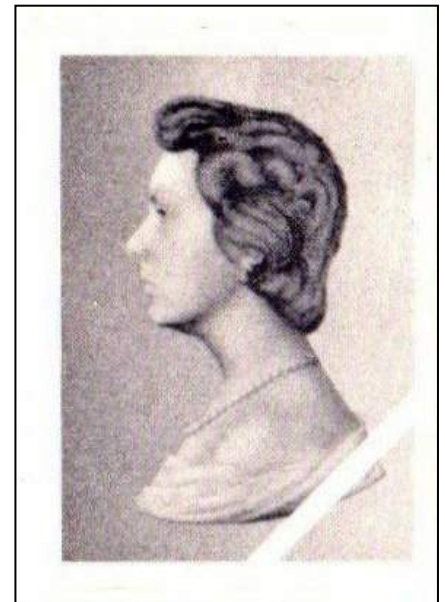


The Unidentified Lady of Walsall

Can anyone out there identify who is shown in this image?

The PSA dummy stamp below comes from Walsall Security Printers and is said to date from around 1980.

The simplicity of the design tends to lead one to believe that the printer was (roughly) mimicking the Machin head design, with Royal Mail no doubt having been the intended recipient. Indeed, meeting notes between the PO and WSP (see next page) accompanied the dummy stamp. The envelope shown also includes a *Ben Jonson* dummy stamp, which has been covered within these pages before. ✉



The Unidentified Lady of Walsall (continued)

The following text is from an undated meeting between The Post Office and Walsall Security Printers and relate to the merits and disadvantages of the use of a self-adhesive substrate. A low-resolution scan of these hand-written notes accompanied the "Unidentified Lady" dummy stamp auction description.

E.R. Self Adhesive Stamps

Mr. (Name unclear on hand-written notes.)
Mr. (Name unclear on hand-written notes.)

Postal Marketing.
Walsall Security Printers.

Postal Marketing:

Advantages

Novelty.
Hygiene.
Convenience.
Promotional advertising.

Disadvantages

More litter.
Waste of paper.
Higher weight at Bulk Rates. (More storage space).
Higher transportation costs.
Costs 3 times as much.
Don't know of quality.
Fraudulent reuse.
Glue after time comes to surface.

Mostly small authorities have used these.
Doubtful if USA will go ahead.

If all stamps produced this way, would cost £2,000,000 more per year.

Walsall Security Printers:

Advantages

Advertising £1,000 for 1,000,000 stamps.
Social improvements - modern.
Hygienic.

70,000,000 stamps. 25,000,000

£16,000 [word?] for £1,000 4 colour.

300 screen line lithographic print.

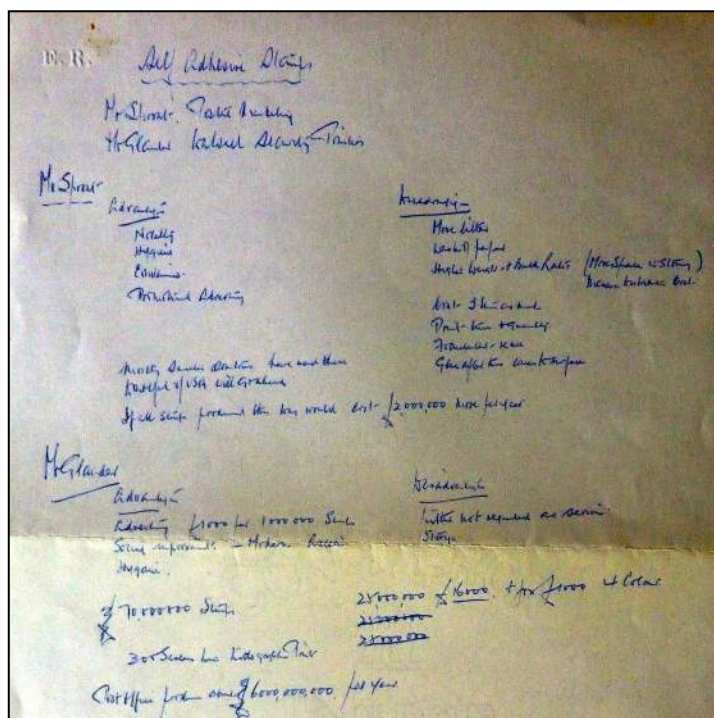
Post Office purchases some 6,000,000,000 per year.

Disadvantages

Litter not reported as serious.
Storage.

The above transcription is laid out as closely as possible to the original scan, alongside.

It is interesting to see how both sides of the argument saw the potential for PSA stamps. Perhaps not surprisingly, WSP saw few disadvantages to self-adhesive substrates.



Harrison Arms on Cover

Affixing machine demonstration usage

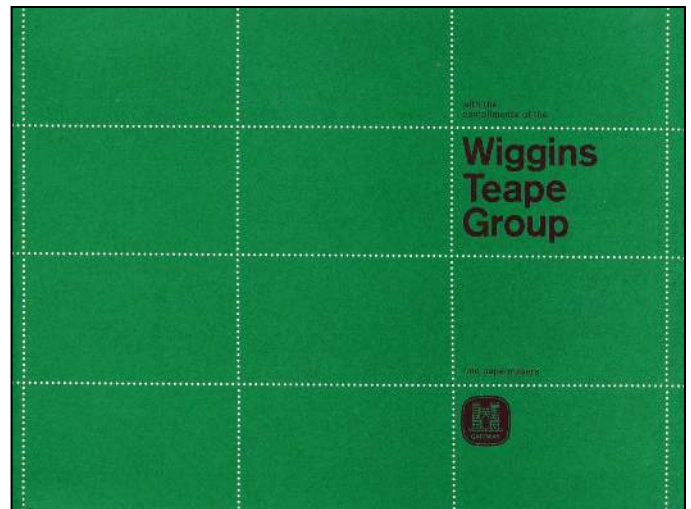
The cover below bears four individual 'Arms' dummy stamps and sold for £25 recently. ☒



Wiggins Teape Presentation Folder

Previously unseen item

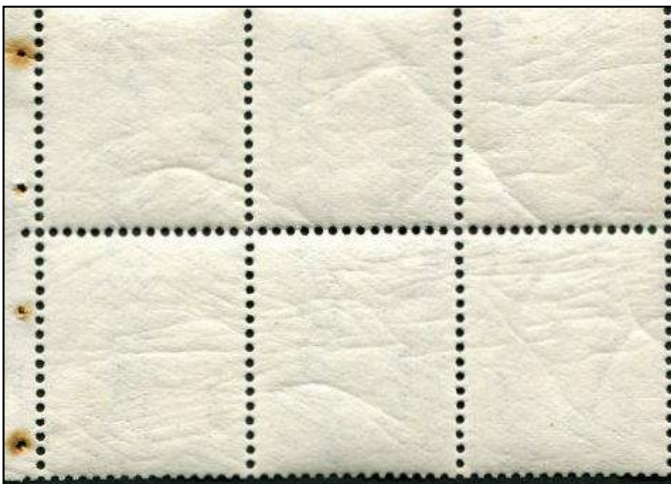
Paper supplier Wiggins Teape produced an attractive example of the use of their papers.



Harrison Dummy Booklet

Unusual find...

eBay recently offered at £275 the booklet shown below. The pane(s) bear the Harrison script watermark. ☒



The text at the bottom right advises that: This series has been printed two colour photogravure by Harrison and Sons Limited on Royal Cipher watermarked paper by the Wiggins Teape Group, London. ☒



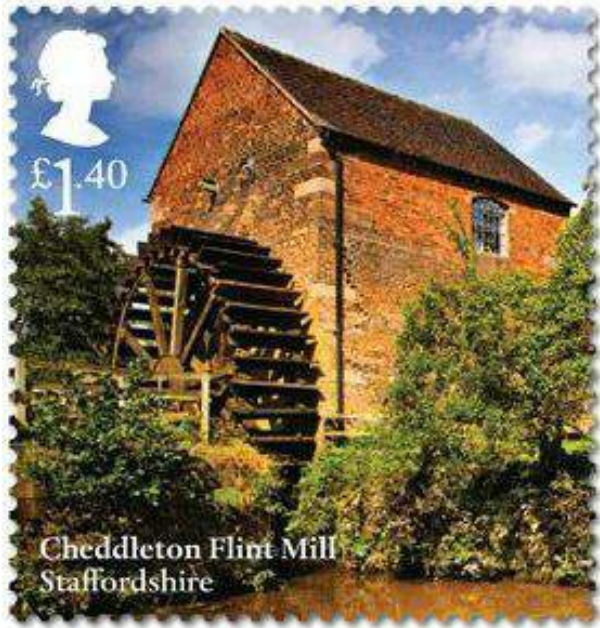
Czech Engraved Stamps

A useful new addition to philatelic literature

For those among you who enjoy intaglio printed stamps and lament their passing in most countries, you should visit <https://www.ptcpraha.cz/en/> and subscribe to the free newsletter on the subject. Choose REGISTRATION at foot of page, plus the NEWSLETTER option to get back issues. ☒

Cheddleton Mill

Royal Mail will be commemorating Cheddleton Flint Mill soon, something that Coated Papers Ltd did many years ago....



The Royal Mail stamp (20 June 2017) with its water-activated (WAG) gum.



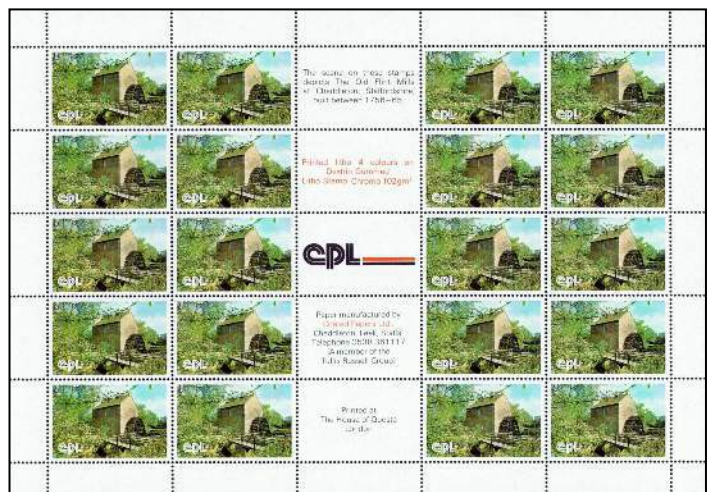
Horizontal format CPL design. WAG gum.



Vertical format CPL design. WAG gum.



Horizontal format >> CPL design in booklet with PSA gum.

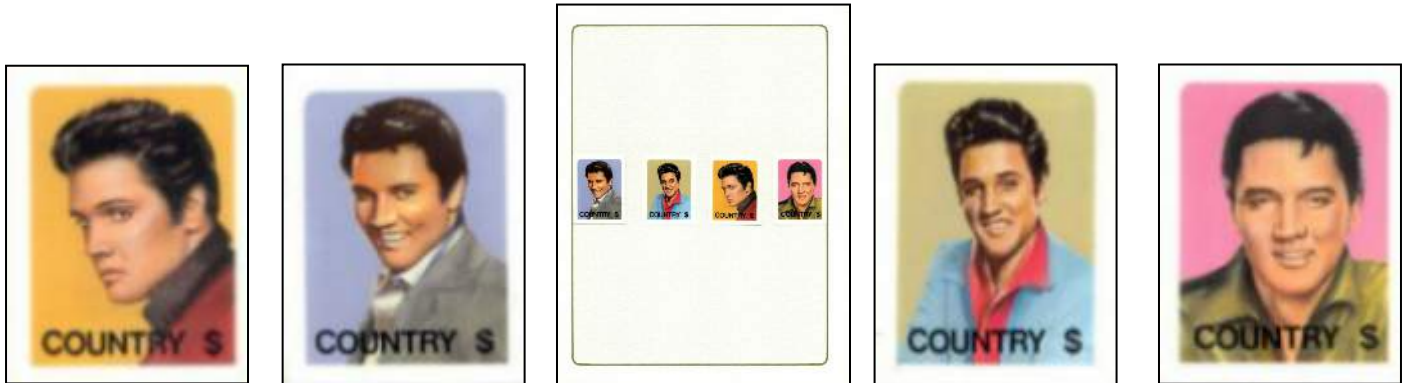


Elvis for Dummies

Four designs that never made it

Elvis Aaron Presley was an American singer-songwriter and actor. Regarded as one of the most significant cultural icons of the 20th century, he is often referred to as the "King of Rock and Roll", or simply "the King".

British stamp printer Format International Security Printers produced a set of dummy designs using paintings of Elvis and the words **COUNTRY** and **\$**, presumably to tempt a nation into issuing stamps with his image. They were offered on eBay in a presentation Cromalin proof folder for around \$75 recently. ☒



From a King to a Queen (Mother)....

A set by Format that did get issued

Format International Security Printers Ltd is remembered for all the wrong reasons and tens of thousands of their (often somewhat dodgy) 'postage' stamps continue to appear on worldwide auction sites. They never issued a dummy stamp with their company name on, or so it appears, the closest is this small card (similar in style to the old BPE exhibition sheets) that was given away in a British stamp magazine at the time that the Barbudian stamps were issued. ☒



Waterlow & Sons Colour Samples Box

First evidence that these well known dummy stamps were used as samples of colour

A box of colour samples by Waterlow & Sons with 79 pages of five stamps each. Said to date from about 1930, which could be true, but it is probably half a decade earlier. Offered at 7,000 Rand (circa £425). ☒



Waterlow and Sons



1925 dummy stamp.



The Robespierre Dummy Stamp Image Appeared on a Harrison & Sons Banknote-type Sample

An early example of the recycling of artwork

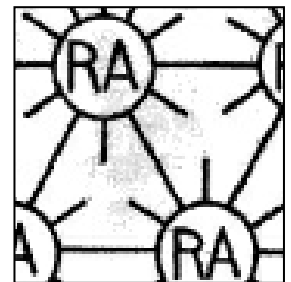
The dummy stamp is well known, but its use on a Harrison dummy banknote probably less so. ☒



Waterlow Dummies with Argentinean Watermark

New discovery in auction sale

The scan from an auction recently held in Argentina is similar to the front page items listed a couple of issues back BUT each dummy stamp bears the watermark shown alongside. These could well be unique as your compiler is unfamiliar with anything similar on the market or in collections. Check yours! ☒

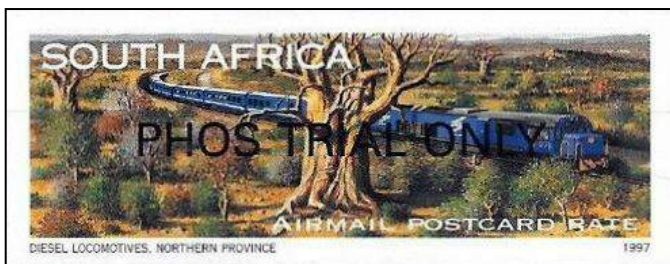
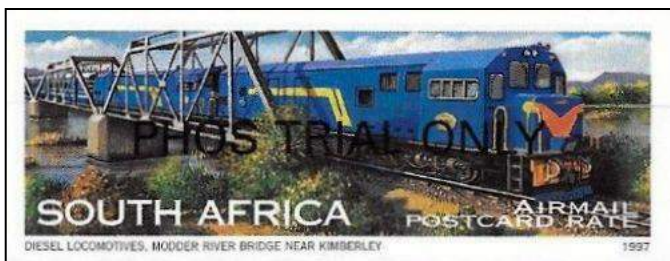
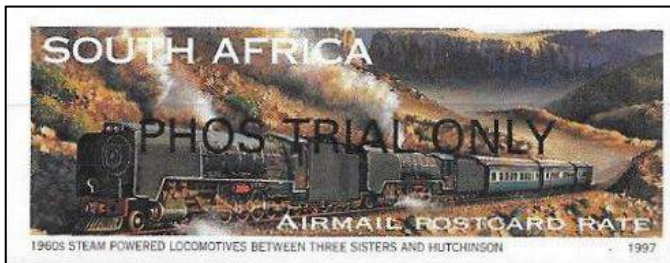
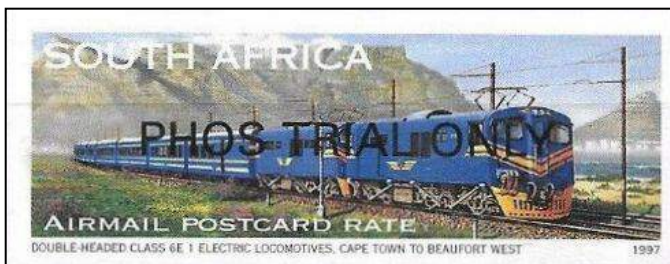
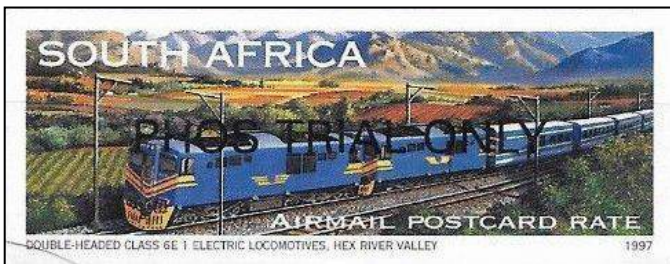


Blue Train Questa Trials

An attractive issue made nicer by the overprint

The five stamps below were issued by the South African Post Office in 1997, but it will be noted that these are imperforate and each copy bears an overprint worded **PHOS TRIAL ONLY**.

These were produced by The House of Questa and sold recently for £350 online. There is clearly a story to be told here, but whether the details survive is unknown. Copies of each stamp are also recorded used on experimental internal covers. ✉



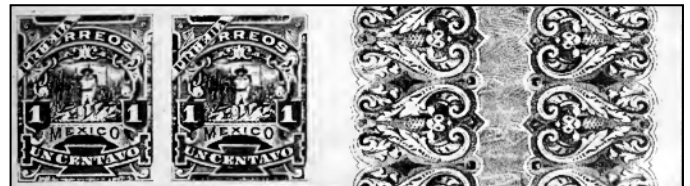
Brads Mexican Dummy Stamp

New colours seen

Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. are not known to have made any of the Mexican Mail Transportation issue for 1895, but they did produce what Robson Lowe referred to as “*a splendid replica*” of the One Cent value with a diagonal banner in the upper left corner worded in Spanish ‘PRUEBA’ (proof).



There is an imperforate version in light blue known, as shown here previously, and two further colours line perforated 12 in chestnut and deep vermilion are reported. The chestnut colour has not been seen by your compiler, but the deep vermilion can now be shown above.



The only multiple seen is a right-hand pair that has a most ornate margin. The scan is either the black version mentioned below or simply taken from a black and white illustration.

The *Essay-Proof Journal* number 94 states that this salesman’s sample exists in black, blue and brown (presumably the chestnut version).



The issued examples were printed in green by the Oficina del Gobierno and depict a letter carrier. ✉

The Crown Agents and the Golden Wedding

A further presentation folder revealed



It was a glorious Summer evening on 9 July 1997, when the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau and the British Library Philatelic Collections held a joint reception in the King's Library Gallery.

The evening celebrated two events, namely the forthcoming move of the Library to new premises, and the issuance of a commemorative 'omnibus' edition of stamps and souvenir sheets from 17 countries. The series was produced to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Wedding of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

As each guest left the reception they were presented with a commemorative folder bearing the Crown Agents logo. Inside was an example of the Golden Wedding miniature sheet with a suitably inscribed perforated label instead of stamp design. These sheets were reserved exclusively for guests that night, or so it was thought...

A reader recently provided a scan of the same sheet recorded here, but with text on the inside front cover of the folder marking a Caribbean postal meeting and conference. Each delegate received a copy. ☒



The late Nigel Fordham of the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau and David Beech of The British Library Philatelic Collections, joint hosts of the special evening in July 1997.

PRESENTED BY THE CROWN AGENTS STAMP BUREAU ON THE OCCASION OF THE MEETING OF POSTMASTERS GENERAL AND CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR POST COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES OF THE CARIBBEAN 1-5 SEPTEMBER 1997

This commemorative sheetlet, specially produced by the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau, is based on our Golden Wedding Omnibus souvenir sheet and has been printed on CA Spiral Watermarked paper.



The Crown Agents Stamp Bureau
and
The British Library Philatelic Collections
request the pleasure of the company of

Mr. G. H. Morgan

at a Reception to launch the Crown Agents Omnibus Series of Postage Stamps to commemorate The Golden Wedding of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Prince Philip and the move of the British Library Philatelic Collections to St Pancras

to be held on Wednesday 9th July, 1997
6.00 - 8.00pm in the King's Library,
The British Library, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG

RSVP
The British Library, Philatelic Collections, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG
Telephone: 0171-412 7635. Fax: 0171-412 7745. E-mail: philatelic@bl.uk

Lounge Suits

Please bring this invitation with you

^^ The Caribbean postal meeting and conference souvenir folder.

<< The invitation card to the July CASB / British Library event.

Cartor Goes Down Under

CSP had a presence at this Australian Stamp and Coin Show that was recently held in Melbourne

Cartor did not give-away unique dummy Post and Go format labels via its machinery at this show. Instead, the two stamp reels were dispensing Guernsey and Jersey issued postage labels from the same machine. This is said to be a world first. However, they did produce eight designs of Post and Go dummy labels, split between two types of roll. The first roll was especially attractive and depicted six different Antipodean animals, while the second roll had just two designs and related to the theme of Australia and her States.



The Jersey issued Post and Go stamps with receipt stating **“Printed by Cartor”**.



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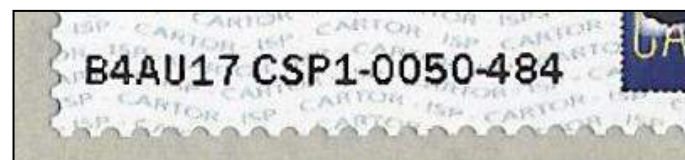
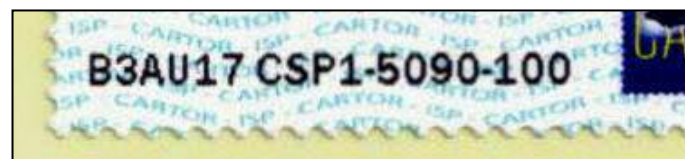


>>



Note the small plate reading **CSP1** with Cartor logo and the larger Cartor logo lower down on the machine. This branding is because Cartor owns this vending machine. Image from Jersey Post.

The dummy rolls had to be printed in advance of the show, or in quiet moments at the event, and were handed-out to visitors, or so it appears, as the machine was in use selling the aforementioned Jersey and Guernsey stamps. This may, in part, explain why no dummy receipts are in existence.



Note how both “sets” of labels exist either with a B3 or a B4 prefix in the data-string. (The apparent different backing paper colour on the scans above is actually the result of scanning being undertaken by two different home printers in two countries.)

Most of the *Map and States* rolls of labels were handed-out in design pairs only, with far fewer ‘collector strips’ of six existing. A lovely issue. ☒

Closed Album

John Holman FRPSL (1950-2017) has passed away

John died peacefully on Saturday 10th June 2017 after a short illness.

He was a good friend, not just to me but to the hobby in general. A prolific writer, he was one of the last worldwide general collectors who liked nothing more than to spend the evening soaking, drying and mounting-up into albums recently acquired used stamps from kiloware purchases.

John was a very keen Cinderella collector and always offered me support and encouragement in anything that I undertook, not least with the publication before you. He was my editor when I wrote for the *Philatelic Bulletin* and was always a pleasure to deal with, willing to share his extensive wide-spread knowledge with everyone.

I will greatly miss our many stamp conversations at the telephone and our excursions to the Olympic Park in London. These few lines hardly do justice to the impact that he made. **GLENN**



Bradbury, Wilkinson Bearded Man

Format of sheets confirmed

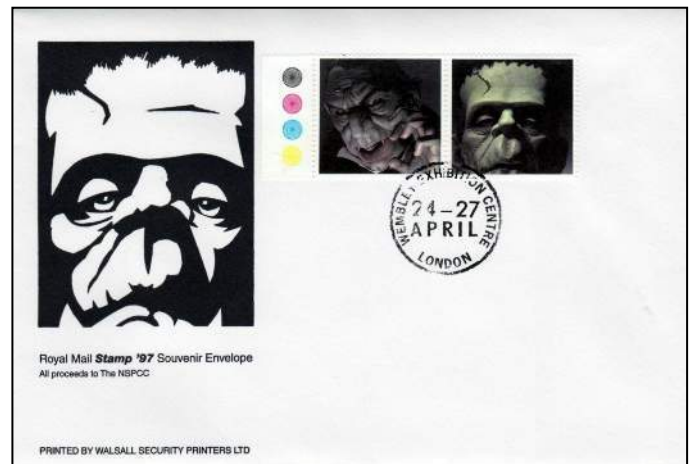
Known to have been printed in panes of 32, this is evidence of that format, and in four colours too.

Panes of 24 are also rumoured to exist... can you confirm this with a scan, please? ☒



Walsall 'Horror' Dummies on Cover

Show cancellation seen for first time

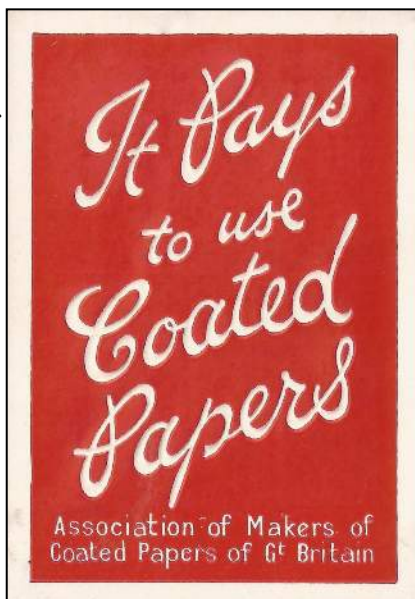


"It Pays to Use Coated Papers..."

No, not Coated Papers Ltd, but a pre-1939 organisation

Readers familiar with British stamp substrates will know of the firm of Coated Papers Ltd, now Tullis Russell.

The label alongside was recently seen and it had been issued by the Association of Makers of Coated Papers of Great Britain. So, not stamp related! ☒



...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 48

A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material

Quarter 3 2017

Playing Cards at De La Rue

Previously unknown dummy stamp found at wopc.co.uk



It is not often that a “new” dummy stamp for De La Rue is found, but the scan alongside shows that it is still possible to make a fresh discovery!

The design is in a tête-bêche format and shows Thomas De La Rue with a hand of cards.

This dummy was used to seal the card pack shown, which was produced in 1958, which helps to date the dummy.

The top scan may not really be imperf, as the person who scanned the item probably removed the perforations by cropping. ☒



Condition is a Growing Issue

Appalling quality on offer online

Your compiler has been a keen user of eBay since 1998, but there is a growing tendency for some dealers to offer dummy stamp material of appalling quality, and not cheaply either.



^

Badly creased, a fact not mentioned in the description. In fact no description at all! £62.



Simply bad all over. Yours for £18.

Surely no-one would wish to spend their hard earned money on material such as this? They are even too expensive to be selling as space fillers. ☒

Essay-Proof Journal: De La Rue Snippets

The recent acquisition of a complete PDF run of this excellent (but sadly now ceased) journal has two interesting Thomas De La Rue dummy snippets within....

Overseas Dominion Essay:

The *Philatelist*, London, for April, 1946, quotes L. N. and M. Williams: "The essay of which you (*Philatelist*, March, 1946) reproduced a block of four was produced to demonstrate a printing process. The plate was made in 1910 or 1911 by Messrs. Miller & Motley for De La Rue & Co. Ltd., with the object of testing the 'Printex' method of platemaking for typography."

"Printex, subsequently known as 'Lithotex,' was used in 1912 for producing the plates of the so-called 'Ideal Stamp' at the Jubilee International Stamp Exhibition held in that year."

"For details of the essay given above we are indebted to an article written ten years ago [1936] by the late Fred J. Melville."

"N. D. Agabeg and Oswald Lewis have these die essays in red."

De La Rue "IMPERIUM" Essays

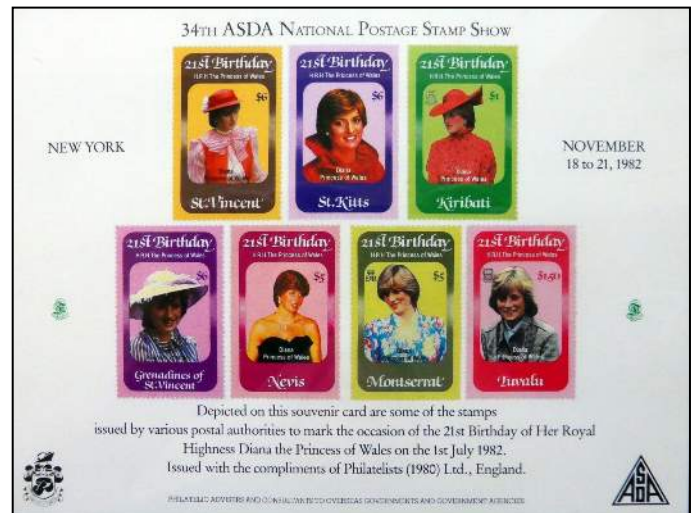
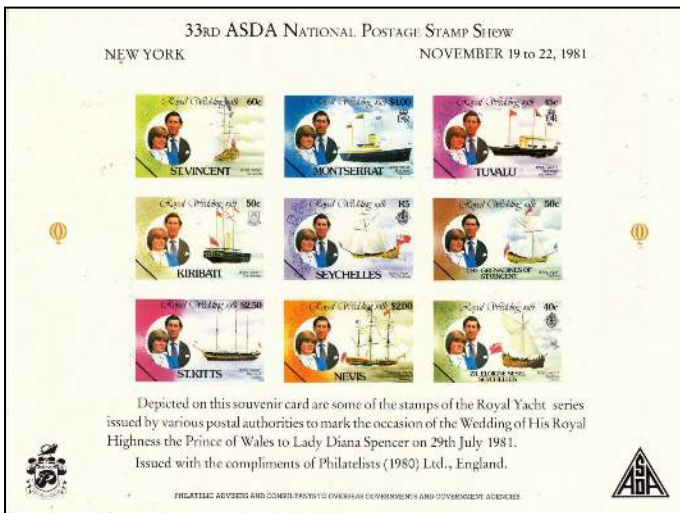
F. M. M., Alverstoke, England.

We understand the small Queen's head key plate proofs with "IMPERIUM" in the name-space were circulated to some colonies, before the introduction of the key-plate, to show how the key-plate would look when the names of the respective colonies were filled in, and that this name was not used in conjunction with any other key-plate. If anyone can confirm or add to this information we would be glad to know—*Stamp Collectors Magazine* (London) *March 24, 1944.*

Philatelists (1980) Ltd., Philatelic Advisers and Consultants

Attractive souvenir cards from British stamp agency and not often seen on offer in the UK

The card below left was issued in 1981 at the ASDA New York stamp show (printed by Questa), while the card below right was for the 1982 show (printed by Format). Both were issued by Philatelists (1980) Ltd. ☒



Perkins, Bacon and Petch

Street elevation of their 69 Fleet Street premises



The illustration shown above, by Tallis*, depicts the premises of Perkins, Bacon and Petch in 1839, just prior to them printing the Penny Black. It is hard to believe that a worldwide phenomenon started in such humble premises as these.

* Tallis's *London Street Views* were published in 88 parts. Each part consisted of a coloured wrapper, four pages of advertising and text, and a central double page engraved elevation of a street "the whole forming a complete stranger's guide through London". An early Google Street View, if you will. ☒

Spring Stampex, February 2018

Try to support your national stamp show by attending....

Details: thephilatelictaderssociety.co.uk/stampex/

Walsall and Tonga Relationship II

Black print "Sponsored by Walsall Security Printers"

Further to the WSP sponsored item shown last time, a further scanned example has been sent to your compiler. Again, its reason for issue is unclear. ☒



Walsall Logo

New version spotted

Readers will no doubt be familiar with the ISP logo:



A WSP equivalent exists and both are known as the "wave" design. Neither have appeared on a dummy stamp at this time, but maybe in due course? ☒

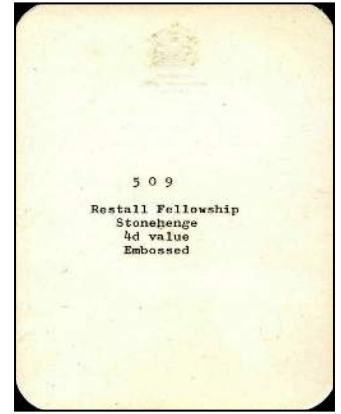
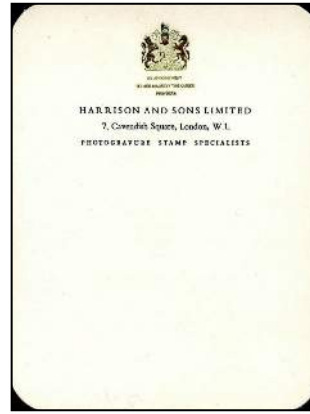


The Restall Fellowship

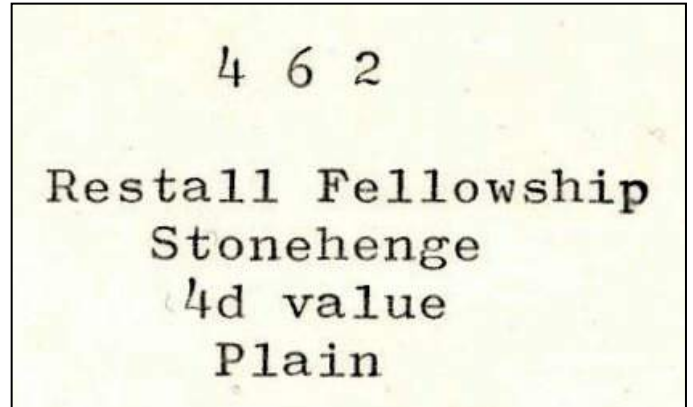
Attractive essays produced by Restall and Harrison

Harrison and Sons worked with Andrew Restall in late 1967 to create an English (Stonehenge) and Welsh (Harlech Castle) pair of designs for the Restall Fellowship.

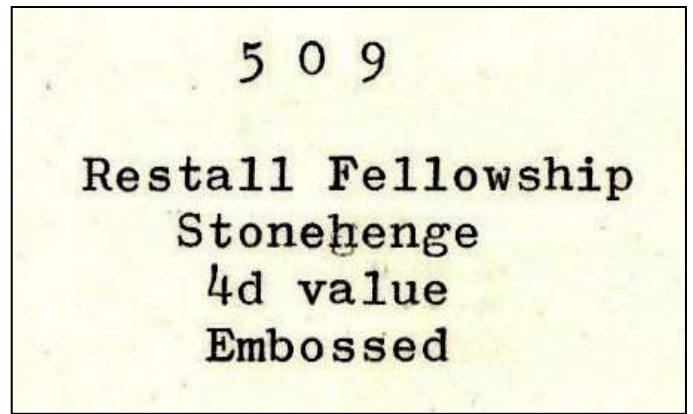
The results for England were issued on Harrison presentation cards with text on the reverse side, as enlarged in the right hand column of this page alongside their respective essay.



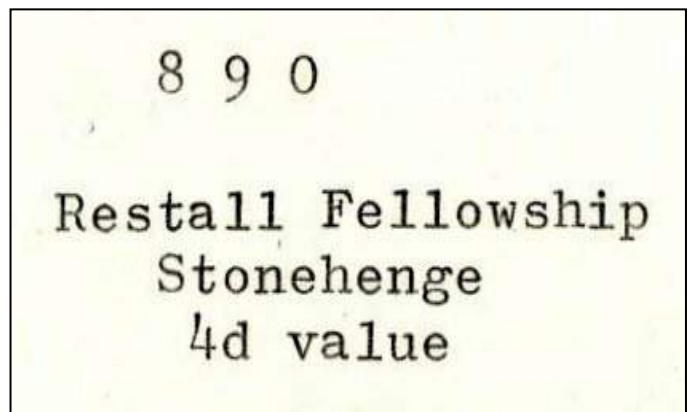
Typical front and back of presentation card.



“Plain” signifies that the head was not embossed.



“Embossed” signifies that the head was raised. Stamp design is as image numbered 462.



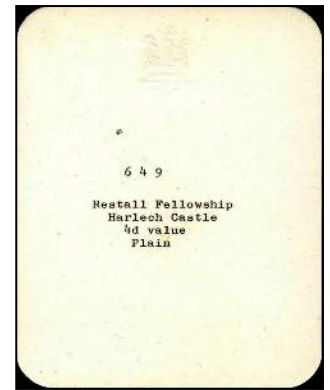
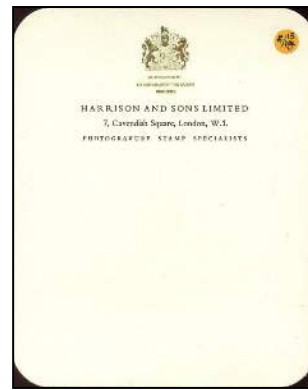
Multi-coloured version of design..

The Restall Fellowship (continued)

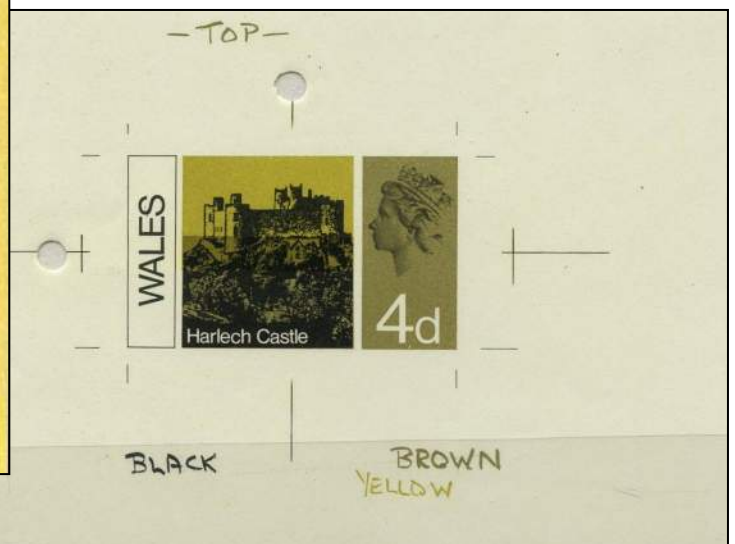
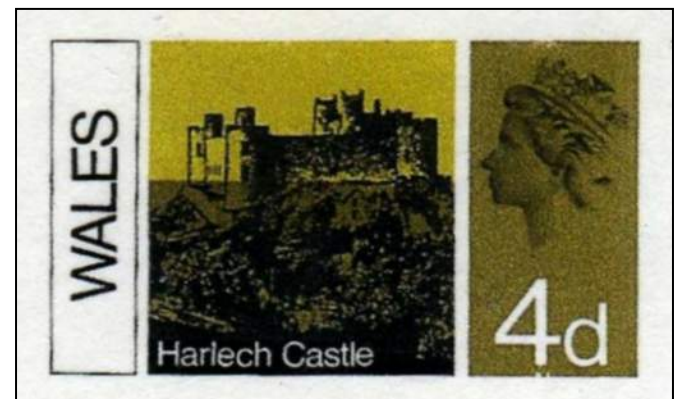
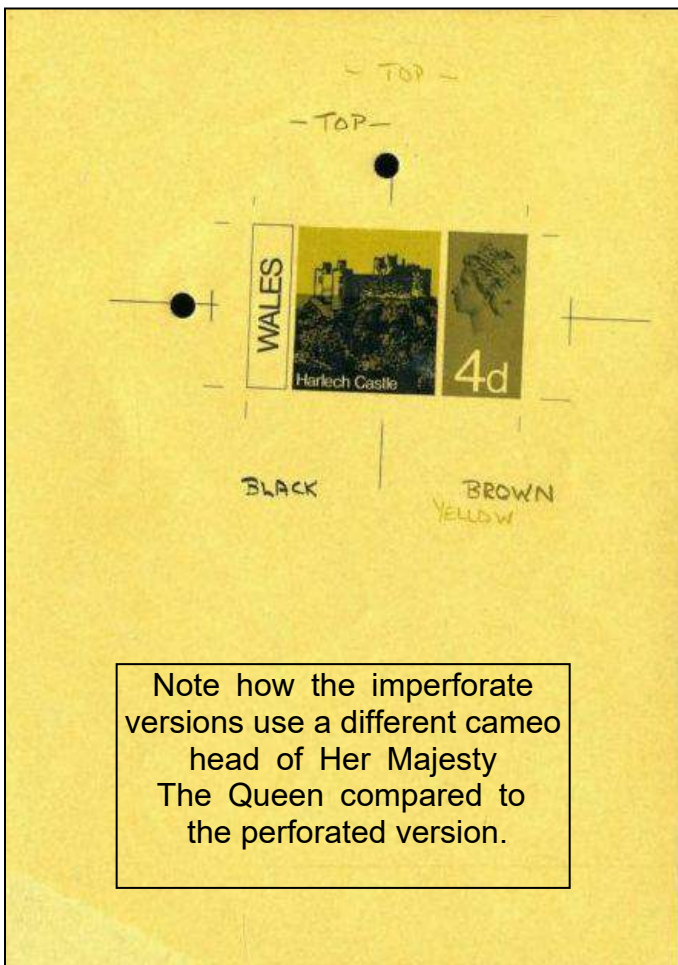
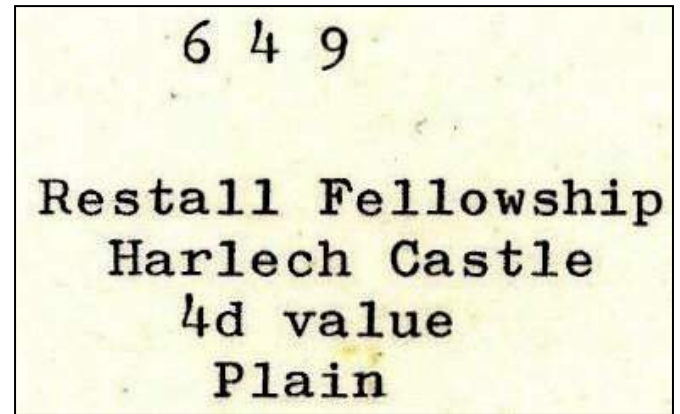
The essays for Wales

Similar to the English version, there are large imperforate sheets of just a single stamp known on lemon and white papers, as depicted below, with only the one type perforated on presentation card seen. It is assumed that no 'counter sheets' exist.

Again, the Harrison term "plain" signifies that it is not embossed, as distinct from lacking phosphor. ☒



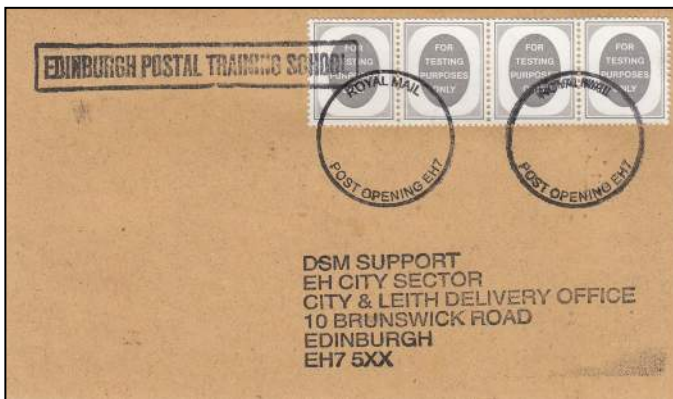
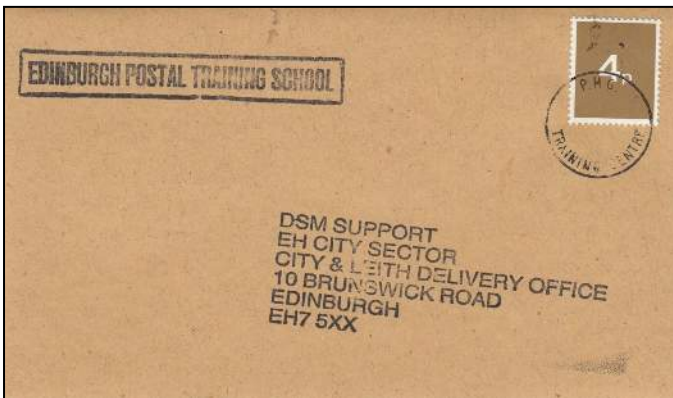
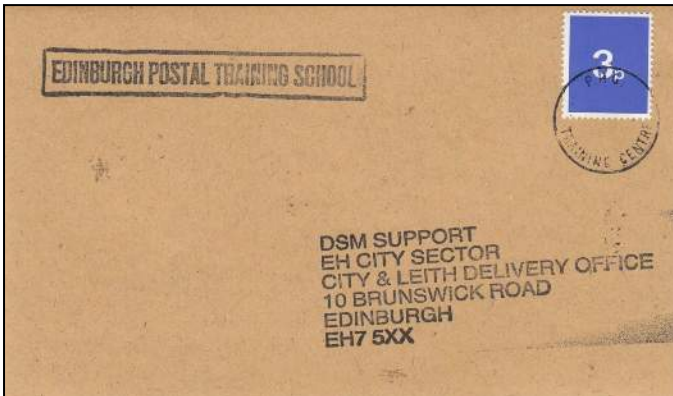
Typical front and back of presentation card.



eBay Rubbish....

More covers sell, allegedly from Edinburgh PTS

The covers below never saw the inside of a Postal Training School. Don't waste your money. ☒



Harrison Paraguay Find

Different extra-large margins compared to normal

The scan below, taken from eBay, is probably of an uncut sheet, or maybe part of a salesman's book. ☒



DLR Reproduction

A lovely item, or it would have been were it not a modern reproduction

The dummy stamp alongside was recently on offer on eBay, fully and properly described as being a reproduction item, but if ever it is resold..... ☒



Harrison and Crown Agents 1966 Cricket Match

Dummy proof material recorded in auction sale

In addition to the well-known complete sheets for this event, Sandafayre Auctions sold back in 1991 a proof (sheet or singles?) of the vignettes in black and of the backgrounds in green. No further information available and not seen previously. ☒

Booklets from Enschedé Revisited

Items now received from vendor...

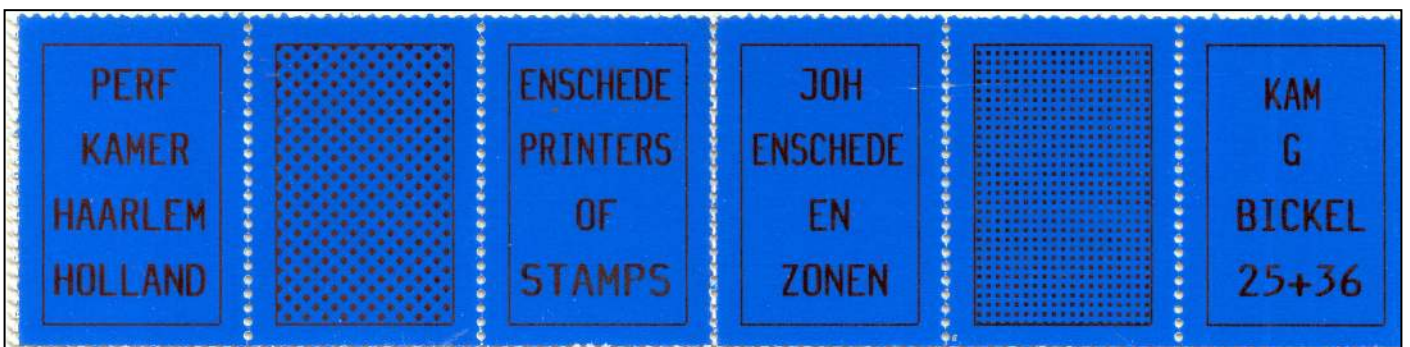
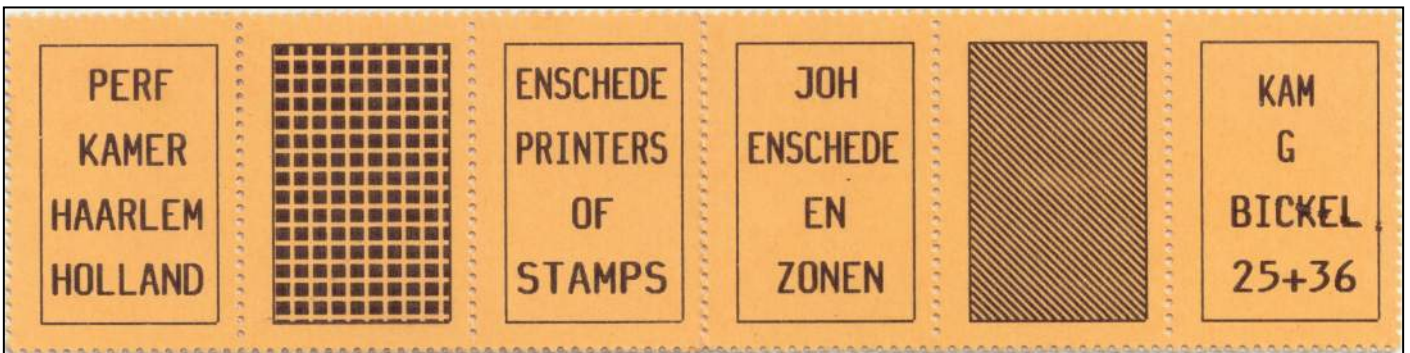
In DS47, an auction scan of a newly discovered booklet was shown to see if any reader could add to the story. No-one responded, but now that the items* can be examined and scanned properly, they are even more interesting than first thought when purchased. (* yes, there are two booklets, not just the one mentioned in the lot description.)

The two separate booklets are of a similar construction and are of a format not previously encountered. The outer cover sections are overall printed with a wash of either dark blue or buff ink with black text superimposed onto very thick card and have plain white (i.e. unprinted) reverses. They are folded centrally (between stamps three and four) to make a wallet-sized item and the whole cover is (for some inexplicable reason) perforated to form six unusable stamp-like ungummed card labels.

Turning the cover section over to reveal the dummy stamps, we find that half of stamp six at far right is affixed by its own gum to the cover section, meaning that it is either unusable, or would be permanently damaged if removed. Presumably this last stamp would actually have comprised a plain unprinted selvedge if this format had been adopted.

The two dummy stamp designs are both said to date from 1976 (or thereabouts) and so it is assumed that the booklets are also of a similar vintage. The text on both booklets is the same, but the imagery used on cover stamps two and five differs. The text “PERF KEMER HAARLEM HOLLAND” translates into English as “Per[oration] room...”, while “KAM G BICKEL 25+36” is “Comb G Bickel...”, but the significance of “25+36” is unknown.

So, there is little more that can be added, aside from asking why these items might have been produced (jointly, it seems, between Enschedé and Bickel perforators). They have never been seen before and appear to be rare, but that does not mean expensive



The actual stamp panes are, of course, the same size as the covers, but available space prevented larger images. . ☒

Genuine Training Items

For once, items not created by collectors are offered

The two mocked-up covers below were recently offered for sale online and are genuine examples of training material from Post Office Schools. ☒



Questa Printing on Austrian Stamp

A strange combination

A collector somewhere on the planet decided to use the Questa / Royal Mail first class trial design on a personalised stamp from Austria. Why? ☒



The Ultimate Dummy Stamp?

Seen on the internet recently. Couldn't resist, sorry!

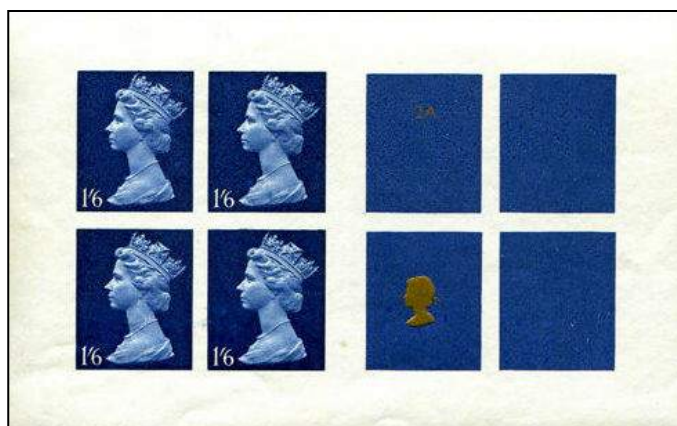
It is understood that Americans call what Brits refer to as a "dummy" a "pacifier", so hopefully all readers will now understand why this is included.



Ex-Tony Walker Machin Collection

Unique item spotted on eBay

The attractive block below may still be on sale if you're quick... and have £7,500 spare. ☒



...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. ☒



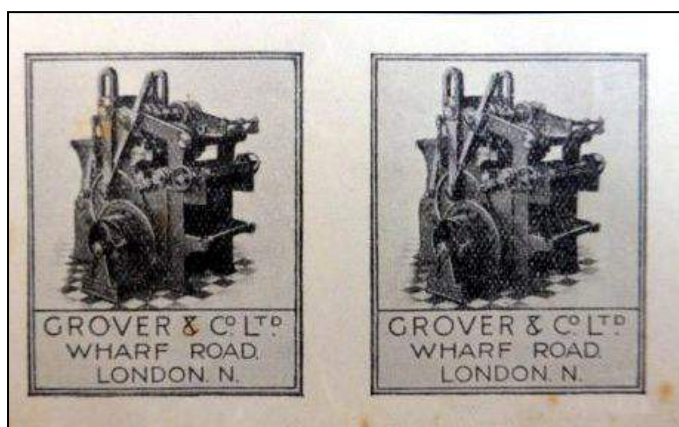
Dummy Stamps

Issue 49

A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material

Quarter 4, 2017

New Grover Publicity Label Found
First instance of this printing equipment on a label



The pair of imperforate publicity labels above are from equipment manufacturer Grover & Co of London. Unfortunately, they have some foxing but it is the first time that your compiler has seen this item, as sold by *Rushstamps* recently.

The late Leslie Wilkinson had covered details of the kit in his website and fortunately details are still online at www.les-wilkinson.co.uk. He wrote:

“The [image is of the] original continuous printing machine designed by John Patient MBE of Somerset House and built by Grover’s in 1913. This was a typographic platen (flat-bed) printing machine. The paper was unwound by grippers and an unwinding drum to ensure exact registration of successive impressions of the plate. It was used for experiments into continuous printing of stamps from a reel of paper previously gummed and calendared, for use in stamp vending and affixing machines.

“Many difficulties were experienced and it was not until the early 1920s that sufficient progress had been made for stamps to be printed by this means. These stamps were for the 1d value only and were used to make up the stamp rolls listed in Gibbon’s Specialised catalogue as SG N17A.”

The article included the image used for the label, which must date from 1913 to the early 1920s. ☒

UPM Raflatac at Singapore 2015*
*The world’s number two self-adhesive paper supplier



UPM Raflatac showcased its comprehensive range of stamp products that are FSC certified, and available in roll and sheet form, gummed or self-adhesive. They distributed sheets of nine labels printed on its Tropimatic Silk FSC WAG PVA gummed paper at a stamp innovations talk by Marc Butaud of the company during the exhibition.



This is a global company with a UK presence and is used by two of Royal Mail’s printers and so this item just about manages to be included here. ☒

The Restall Fellowship

Attractive essays produced by Restall

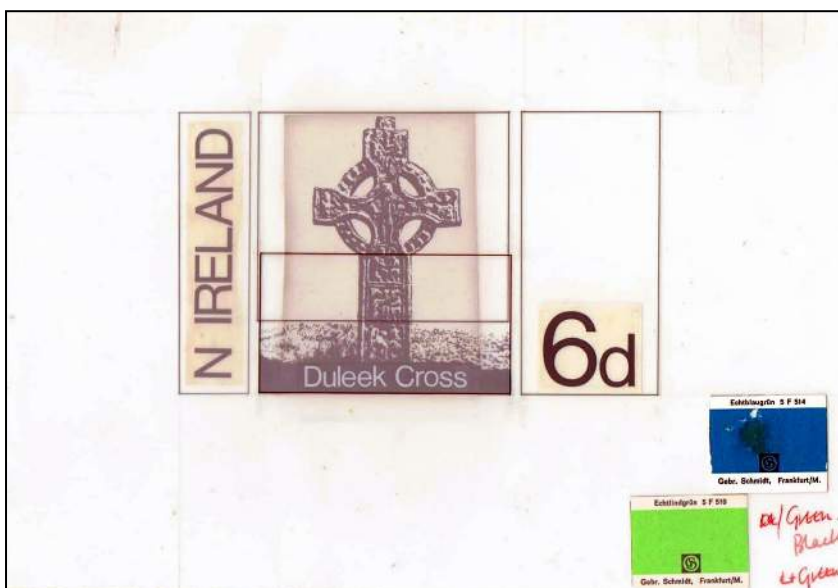
As mentioned in the previous issue of *DS*, Harrison and Sons had worked with Andrew Restall in late 1967 to create an English (*Stonehenge*) and Welsh (*Harlech Castle*) pair of designs for the Restall Fellowship.

Your compiler had always wondered why there was no version for Scotland and Northern Ireland. Well, that's because a reader of this newsletter owns them! It seems that they probably never progressed to 'stamps', but you may know differently.

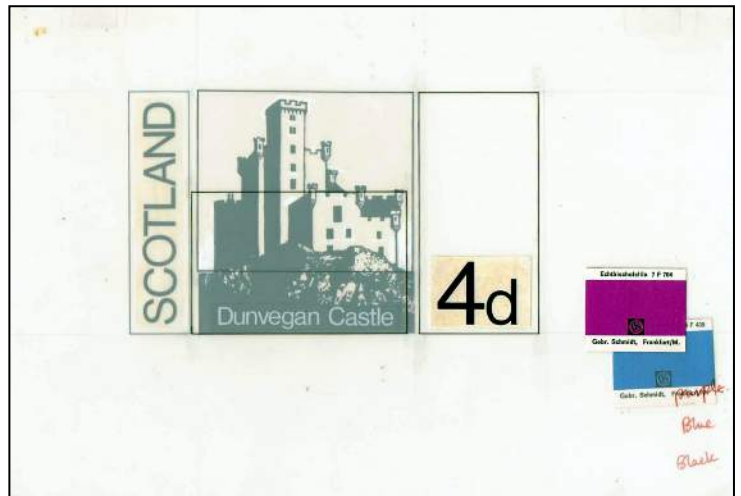
We start with the artwork for the England *Stonehenge* version...



...then Northern Ireland's *Duleek Cross*....



....and finally Scotland's *Dunvegan Castle*....



The location of the Welsh artwork is not known, but if anyone has a scan, then it would be welcomed, please. ☒

*Spring Stampex,
February 2018*

Try to support the British national stamp show by attending. For details go to....

thephilatelictaderssociety.co.uk/stampex/

Rushstamps at 60

Attractive labels produced

The four Courvoisier Machin trial stamps have recently been incorporated into a souvenir that commemorates sixty years of stamp trading by the British firm of Rushstamps.

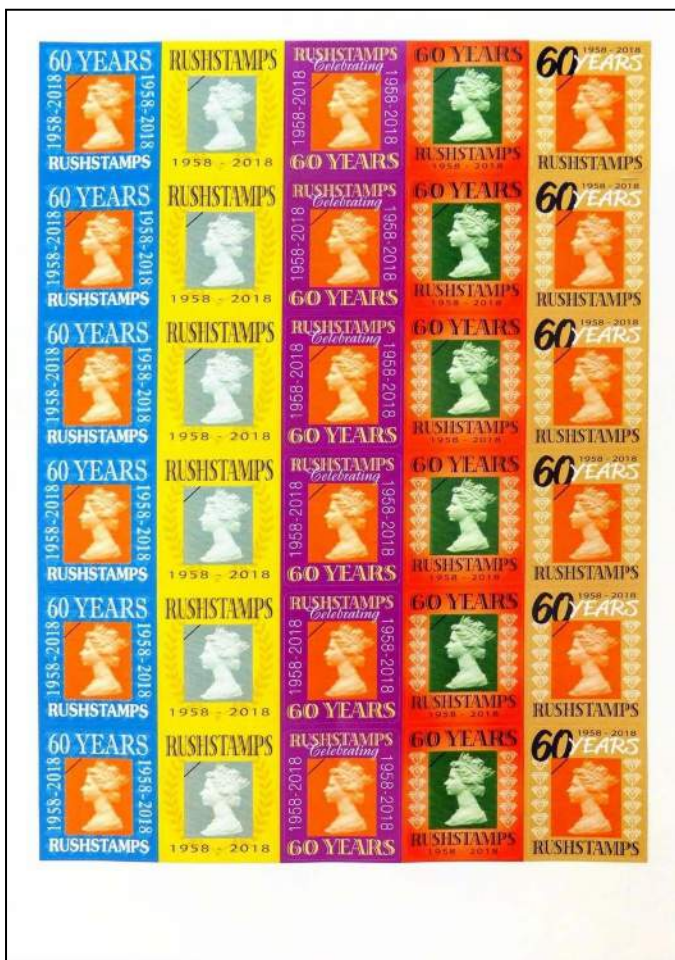
Full mint sheets of 30 cost £15, while a single strip of five is £3.50. Copies are being stuck on mailings and for orders placed. It should be possible to get a 'free' set of singles that way, should you be a regular customer.

Note how each copy has been defaced at top left by a cancelling bar. A colourful addition to your dummy stamps collection. ☒

Enschedé at Bandung

New sheet marked attendance at Indonesian show

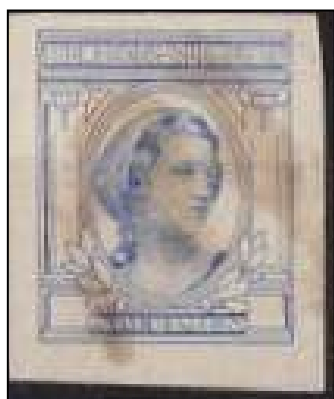
Never seen on offer, but at least be aware of it. ☒



New BW Dummy Stamp Found

An appalling scan, but the best seen so far.....

Can any reader supply a better quality image of the design below, please, plus any further details? ☒



'Enschedé Dummy Discovery

Fresh design noted

The November 2017 issue of Britain's *Stamp Magazine* had a fascinating article by Richard West about Joh. Enschedé and its work for Royal Mail. The imagery of an unknown dummy stamp is copy-right TPM, so try and get a copy of the magazine.

The design is basically a large letter H with 'Joh Enschedé SP' below with an overall solid fading background all in a dark blue horizontal format. ☒

'Printed by Harrison, or De La Rue?

Unusual combination on a stamp

While not a dummy stamp, your compiler was somewhat confused at sight of a printer imprint reading "HARRISON DE LA RUE" on a 1984 pair from St. Vincent. Perhaps they knew of the eventual take-over before anyone else! So who printed it? Maybe one designed it and the other took it to press? ☒

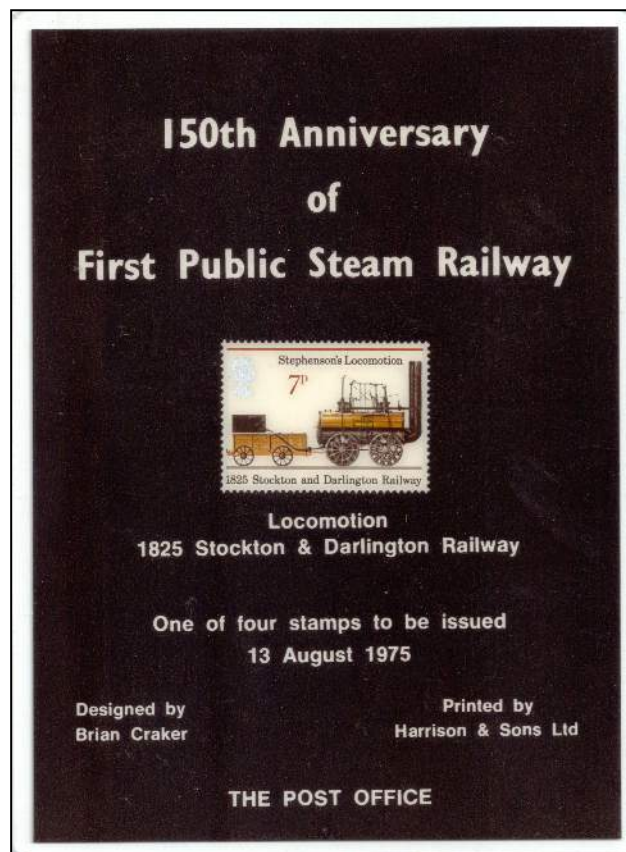


Encapsulated Stamp Cards

A new version just discovered, 42 years after issue date

An early issue of *Dummy Stamps* included a column about these Post Office publicity cards that included a mint set of stamps encapsulated in plastic to prevent misuse by the media recipients.

Well, your compiler has found a new type, broadly similar to the original versions. ☒



...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 50 A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material Quarter 1, 2018

Cartor and 'Stamp Active' Unite at Spring Stampex 2018

With Royal Mail not bringing its P&G kit, this was a great chance to support the hobby and buy something unusual

Cartor was not present at the show, but it did lend its **CSP1** floor-standing vending machine to the Stamp Active organisation, who encourage children to get involved with the great hobby of stamp collecting.

Cartor had supplied free of charge special digital dummy rolls, strips from which were sold at £10 to promote stamp collecting among the young and hundreds of pounds was taken on day one.

Initial test runs of these dummy stamps made at the show revealed teething troubles with the appearance of the data-string, which had the bottom edge of the string missing. This was rectified by IAR staff in attendance, who amended the software so that the data-string was printed one line higher... and complete.

Collectors could obtain a strip of personalised labels for free simply by bringing a child to Stampex on the Saturday. ✉



<< A few of the many dispensing options.



^
Screen grab

Spring Stampex 2018			
The Business Design Centre London N1 0QH Date of issue 14/02/2018 14:05:33			
Your receipt			
Product	Qty	Price	Total
, Stamps	6	£0.01	£0.06
Total:			£0.06
1 Item			
Unit : CSP1 - Session : 5368			
Post & Go Stamps Printed by Cartor			

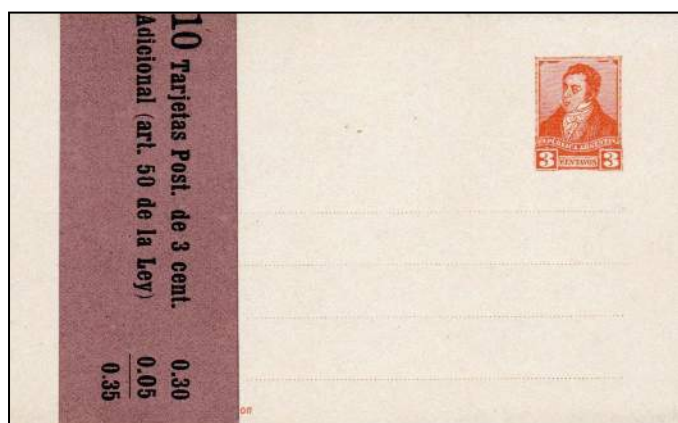
<< Typical receipt

Harrison and Argentina

....but why Argentina?

A regular correspondent sent a scan of an attractive postal stationery item from Argentina, complete with its wrapper band.

While this item is not of direct relevance to the subject matter of this newsletter, it does bring an ongoing question back to mind.



There are many, many items of this stamp design in existence, be it stamps, stationery or proofs, 99.9% of which relate to the philately of Argentina.

It is still something of a mystery (to your compiler at least!) as to why Harrison appear to have been involved with this specific stamp design back in the 1920s, apparently as part of its NRM Dutch experiments. Does any reader know the background? ☒



<< The Harrison Rivadavia three centavos printing.

A block of ten from presentation booklet.

Feedback Regarding DS49

Corrections and additions

THE ANDREW RESTALL FELLOWSHIP



A reader advises that the artwork for the 'Northern Ireland' design showing *Duleek Cross* is wrong.

The sandstone cross is actually located in County Meath, which is in the Republic of Ireland (Southern Ireland) and is not sited in the North as Andrew had wrongly supposed.

HARRISON OR DE LA RUE?

The issued stamp from St Vincent was apparently designed by Harrison and printed by De La Rue.

It transpires that this information is recorded in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue, but for some reason your compiler had thought that this detail had been removed from the catalogue, so did not check. ☒

De La Rue Tax Stamp Dummy

Reflecting a changing world...

Stamp printers around the world are increasingly looking to Tax Stamps to help fill their order books, including De La Rue. The sample below is of recent origin.

Tax stamp definition: A revenue stamp, tax stamp or fiscal stamp is a (usually) adhesive label used to collect taxes or fees on documents, tobacco, alcoholic drinks, drugs and medicines, playing cards, hunting licenses, firearm registration, and many other things. (Courtesy *Wikipedia*) ☒



Cartor at Nanjing, 9-11 Sept 2017

Demonstration Post and Go labels produced

A reader kindly advised your compiler of the existence of dummy Cartor P&G labels from The China International Collection Expo 2017 (CICE), held in Nanjing PRC last September.

As part of this event, on 10 September the third “Philately Cultural Development International Forum”, co-hosted by China National Philatelic Corporation and the UPU, was held.

Li Pizheng, deputy general manager of China Post Group Corporation, attended the forum and made a speech. Also participating were Mugaddem Olfa, Philatelic Project Manager of the UPU, Thanawat Amnajan, Director of the United Nations Postal Administration, Cheryl Roy of the Australian Post Philatelic Department, Chery Roy, Elena Lok, Senior Philatelic Sales & Administration Manager, Macau; Lars Daugaard, Chief Strategy Officer, Novo Fathers Group, Denmark; Bruno Delmer, Marketing Manager, Cartor Security Printing, France; Martin Morck, the famous stamp engraver and artist, Gao Shan, general manager of Stamps Issuance Department of China Post and Wang Dongqiu, director of the Printing Regulatory Office of Stamps Issuance Office of China Post Group.

The theme of this forum was “How Stamp Issuance and Philatelic Businesses Face Today's Philately Market Changes” and Ian Brigham of Cartor can be seen in the scan giving his talk with a backdrop of one of the Post and Go dummy labels.



Ian Brigham giving his talk.....



Type 1 text: worded ‘Nanjing / 2017 Expo’.



Type 2 text: worded ‘CARTOR / B028-B029’.

Perhaps the coding in label Type Two text could relate to Expo stand numbers?



Type 3 : with emoji and a couple of what appear to be meaningless letters.



....and listening to another speaker.

De La Rue Dummy Exists in Two Types

DS reader gets out his UV lamp.....

The dummy below exists on UV reactive (dark green ink) and non-reactive (yellow-green ink) papers. This probably explains the two types of Jubilee line (thin or thick), as previously noted. ☒



Enschedeé Block

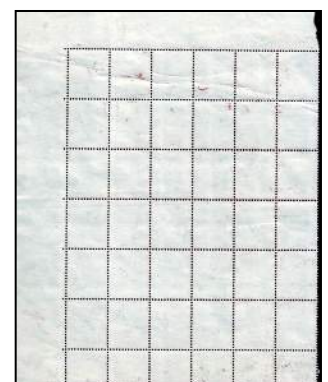
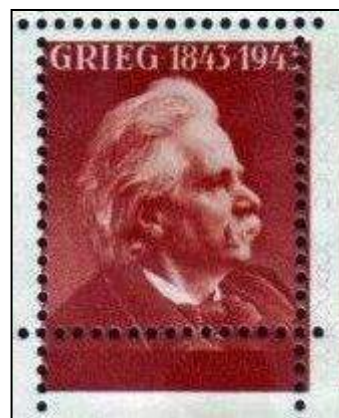
Attractive block of eight found.....



Harrison Used the Wrong Perforator on Timson Dummies

New discovery offered at £260 and slowly reducing!

A Norwegian stamp design was adapted as a dummy stamp during print trials undertaken at Timson, the UK press maker, which were then perforated by Harrison & Sons. Just discovered is a block where



^^ Reverse of block.

perforations are the wrong size for the stamps. The penultimate dummy on row two best illustrates this.

As properly perforated examples by Harrison exist, it is assumed that the smaller perforation die was not used as a part of the trial, but that a wrong perforator was applied to this sheet in error. ☒

*Oh Dear! Harrison
Essay on Offer Again*
Second version found.....

Readers may recall the orange version of the Harrison *Industrial* dummy stamps offered some time back as an “essay card”.

Now the green version is on offer at a mighty £120.

Rubbish and not worth a bean! ☒



“The Wycombe Month”

Nothing to do with dummy stamps

The label shown below was printed by Harrison pre-WWII (probably). Most dealers, ignorant of their true purpose, simply guess and call these photo-gravure printed items tourism labels, dummy stamps, or even testing labels. They are not.



Harrison Waste Offered

There is no doubt as to the source of this NPY disposed material

eBay (where else!) recently had an offer by Rushstamps of a block of National Productivity Year incomplete stamps from 1962 for £35. It was a superb example of what should never have reached the philatelic market and was clearly waste. ☒



Anyone familiar with High Wycombe as a town will be aware of its historical connection with the furniture industry. Well, furniture factories and retailers in Wycombe opened their doors in the first week of September to the public and retailers to help promote sales of their products, until WWII intervened.

In 1958 there were attempts for the scheme to be resurrected by “High 172 Wycombe” (possibly this was a Trades Union?), but it has not been possible to tell whether the attempt was successful.

If it was, then it is just possible that the labels date from that period, but they seem to have an earlier look to them.

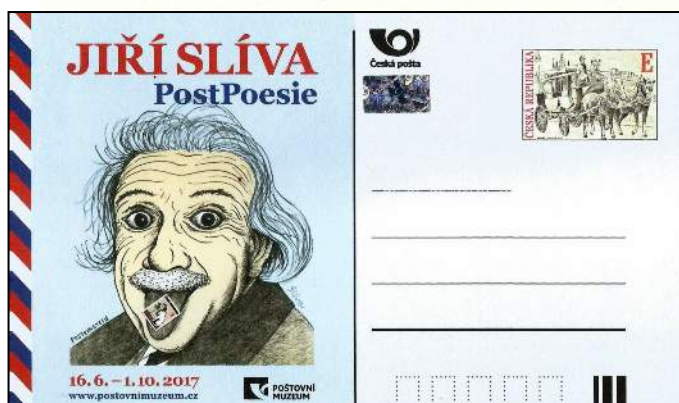
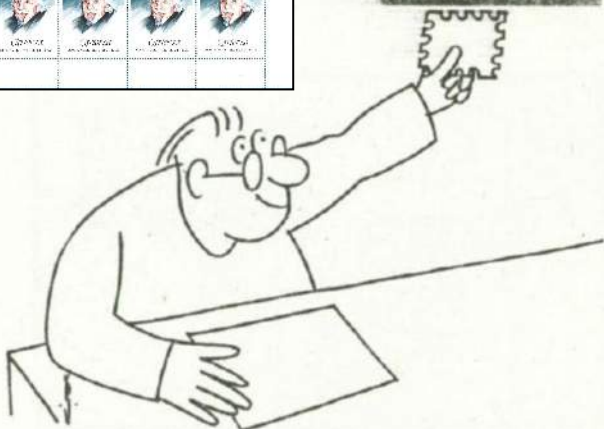
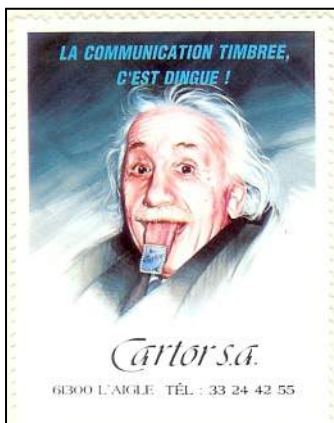


The image at top left of the label is the logo of the old High Wycombe council, while the central image is that of the Guildhall, to be found in the town centre to this day. ☒

Cartor and Einstein

Humour in our hobby

It seems that the adapted iconic image of Einstein used by Cartor on one of its dummy stamps and incorporating a dummy stamp on his tongue could have been the source for a subsequent cartoon and a postcard from the Czech Republic. ☒



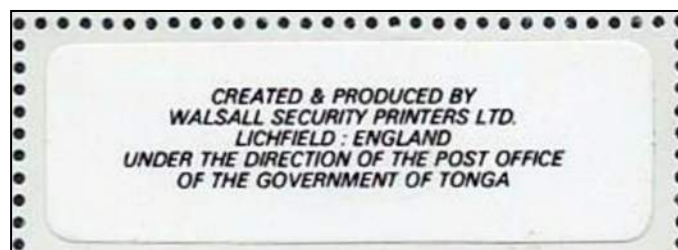
Walsall in Lichfield?

Different location spotted on printer imprint



WSP was always associated with the town of Walsall until moving to Wolverhampton.

The stamps alongside bear a Lichfield location and this is an aspect of production worthy of investigating. ☒



Archer Essay

Too good to be true...

An Archer 'Prince Consort' essay was recently seen for sale in 'used' condition.

With a price tag of just £8 it has to be a modern repro, or the bargain of the century was missed! ☒



...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. ☒

