

## QUESTA, SUPERLITHO AND MICRO-PRINTING

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

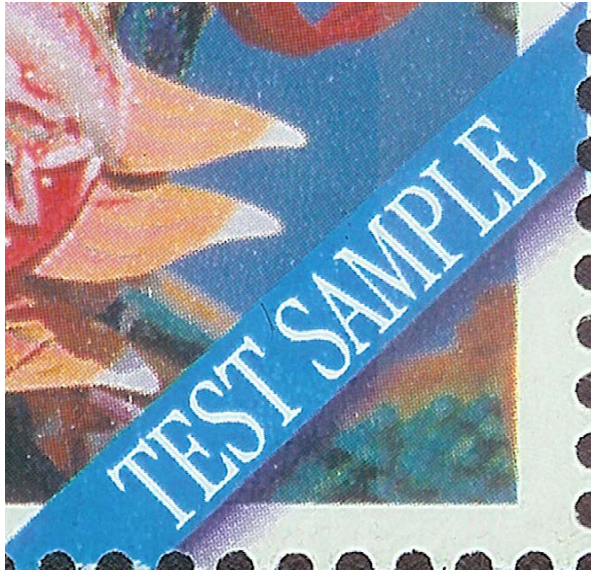
The labels each illustrate a Chinese dragon, are worded 'HONG KONG, CHINA' implying a post-1997 production date, and the words TEST SAMPLE on a belt at bottom right. There is Chinese text (can any reader translate the words used?) and the use of yellow gradated colour at far left and a solid blue background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



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

- a) 'Normal litho 250-300 dots psi',
- b) 'Super Litho 800-900 dots psi' (not illustrated below as it is the same as c) but without micro-printing), and
- c) 'Super Litho Hong Kong in belt on either side of TEST SAMPLE'.

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



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



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