

# 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

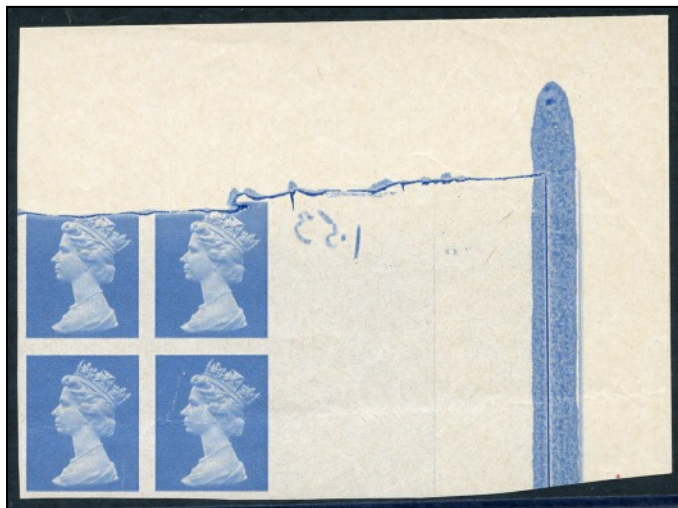
Created as the 'State of North Africa' for use as a pattern stamp to develop colour schemes for BCA and Zanzibar. Issued c1890s, they depict a horseman on camel design and are printed by letterpress.



## Harrison: Jumelle Press Trials

Unusual version found for sale

Auctioneers Corbitts ([www.corbitts.com](http://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.'*”

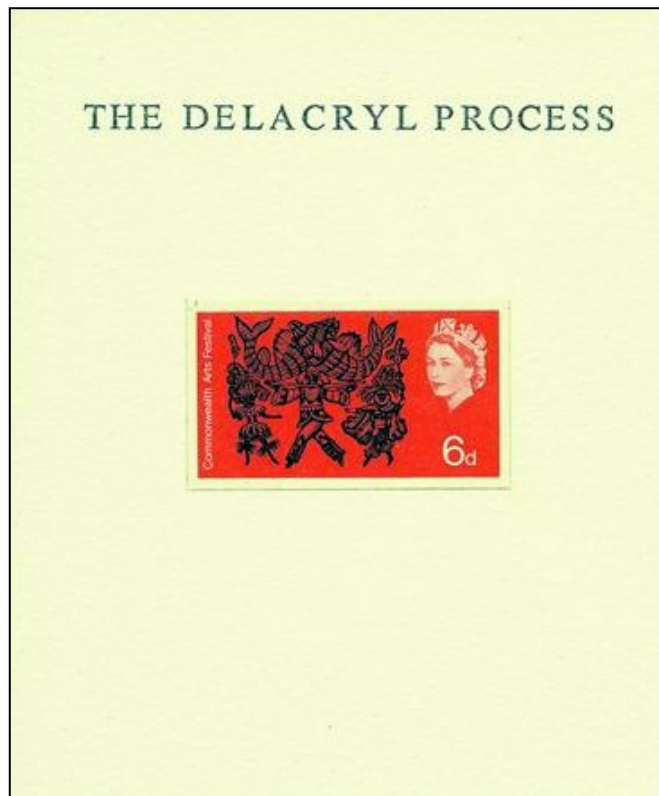
The sale is to be held on 4 February 2016. ☒

## 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

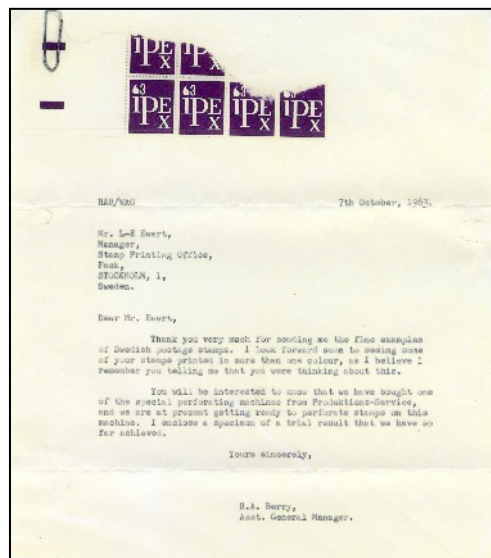
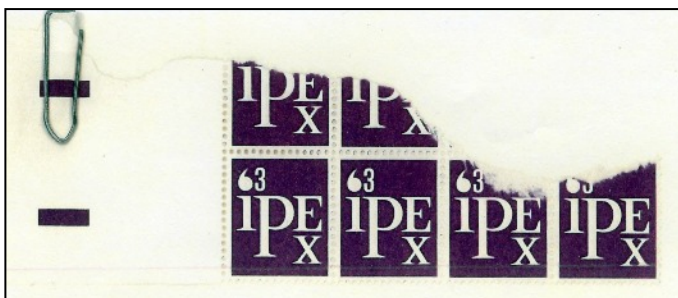
**9866** 1965 Commonwealth Arts Festival 6d black and orange, a very rare ESSAY IMPERFORATE PROOF on gummed unwatermarked paper, printed in DELACRYL by De La Rue (issued stamp by Harrison), with larger format Queen’s head, most unusual and believed to be previously unrecorded. Previously hinged, no remainder. £1000

These lots are able to be bid on by going to: [www.upastampauctions.co.uk](http://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](http://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](http://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. ☒

