

# Dummy Stamps

## What's in a Name?

*Corporate Identity at Harrison and Sons*

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

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

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

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

## Charles, Skipper and East

*Tender labels mimic Penny Black design*

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



## Walsall at Stamp Shows

*Dummy souvenirs given away or sold for charities*

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

Three typical examples are shown here. 📄



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

(Right) 1997 Block of four horror themed gummed labels



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



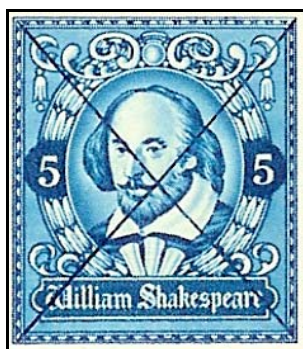
# Harrison and Shakespeare

*Ink Trials used The Bard's image for dummy labels*

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

## Blacks:

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



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

## Blues:

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

## Browns:

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

## Colour?:

L&B Vivex 7686G

## Greens:

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

## Reds and Oranges:

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

## Maroons and Violets:

Fishburns Viyella Maroon 198  
Coates Violet G776



## Dummy Air Mail Letter Card

*Ancient Briton appears on postal stationery item*

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

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



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

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

## Waddington Tender Update

*An explanation for one of the design choices?*

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

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



## More Harrison Labels...

*An attractive strip of unrecorded dummy stamps*



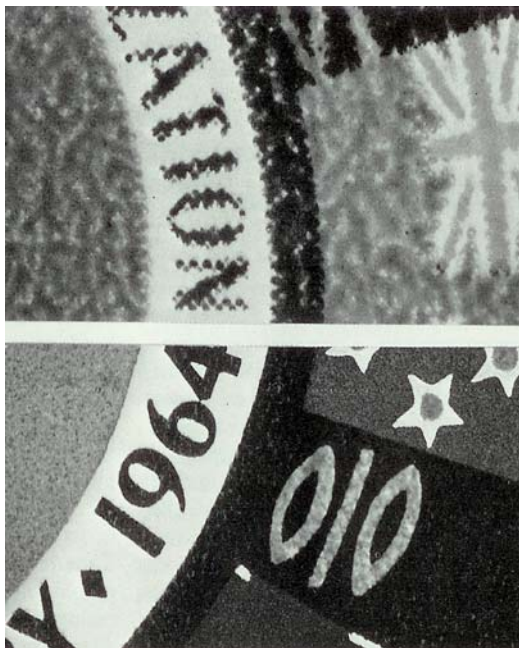
This enlarged strip of four designs incorporates different styles of artwork. Could they perhaps have been printed sometime around the 1930s? 📄

## 'Delacryl' and the Previously Unknown 'Harricryl'

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

## Any Ideas?

*Mystery sheet submitted by reader*

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

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



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



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

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

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

## Harrison Printing Plate

*An un-chromed photogravure dummy plate*

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

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



## ...and finally

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

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

Glenn H Morgan FRPSL