

# Dummy Stamps

Issue 7

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

Winter 2007/08

## Encapsulated Philympia Invite Card *Swiftly discovered!*

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



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

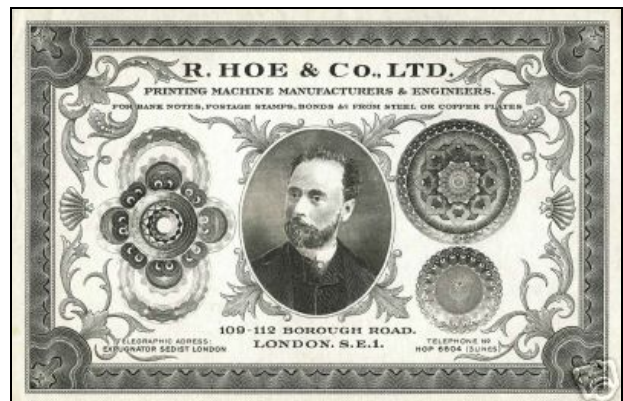
This particular example was in an auction sale of material from the collection of the philatelic journalist Ken Chapman.

Thanks Jean. 📧

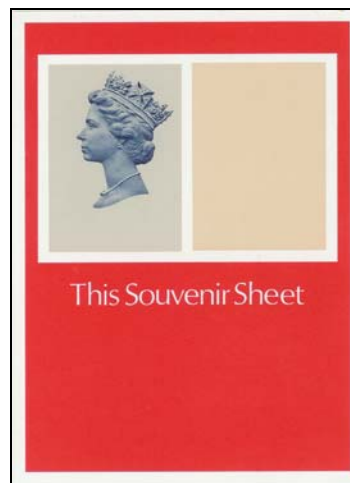
## R Hoe & Company, New York and London *Press makers*

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

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



## H&S at London 1980 *Error Sheet*



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

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

This example lacks all of its black printing. 📧

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

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

### Label Details

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



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

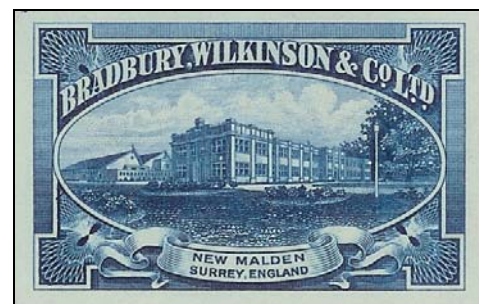
This is reproduced from a sales catalogue of an unknown stamp dealer and unfortunately no other details are known, as the piece has yet to be seen.

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

## BW Update to *DS2*

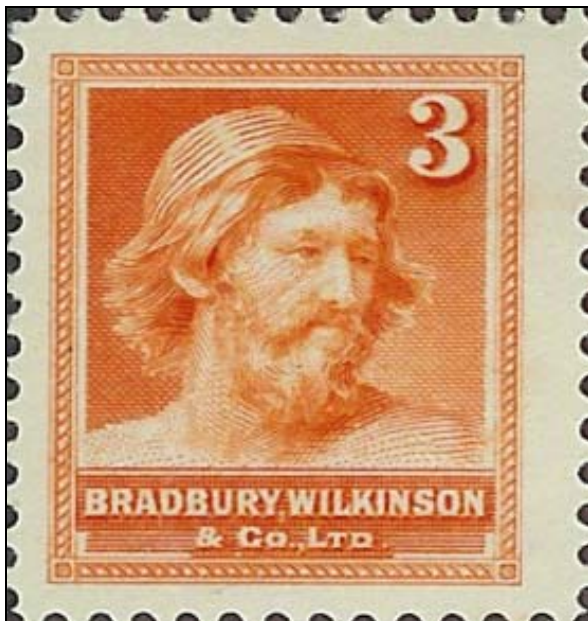
### *Green factory labels?*

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



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

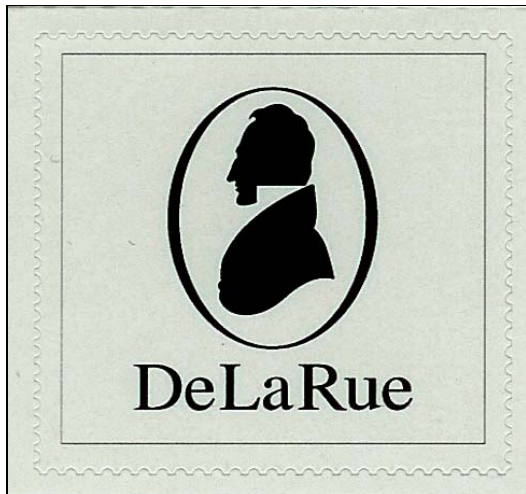
I can also state that the late Robson Lowe once recorded that the design also exists in green, but I have yet to see this colour. Also, would it be the perforated and/or imperforate version in that colour, I wonder? 📄



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

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

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



### Label Details

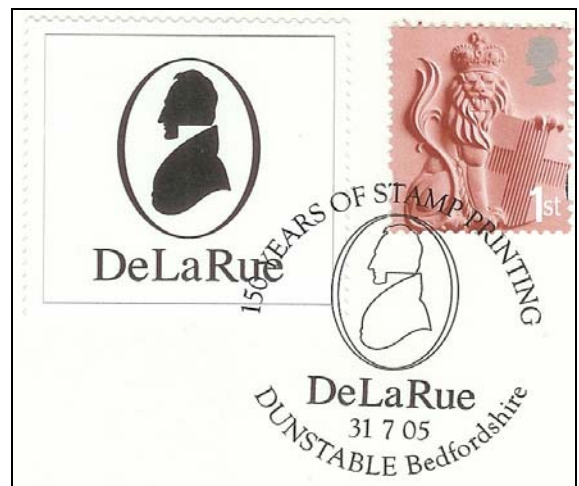
Issue Date	2001.
Design	De La Rue logo.
Face Value	None.
Process	Gravure.
Paper	Self-adhesive stock.
Sheet Size	2 panes of 25 (5x5). with horizontal gutter.
Perforation	Simulated die-cut.
Rouletting	Between labels.
Label Colour	Black.
Matrix	Retained.
Marginal markings	None pre-printed, but there is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



*Dot matrix imprint on issued stamps. Note how the print date is the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001.*



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



*Label used on commemorative postcard in 2005*



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

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

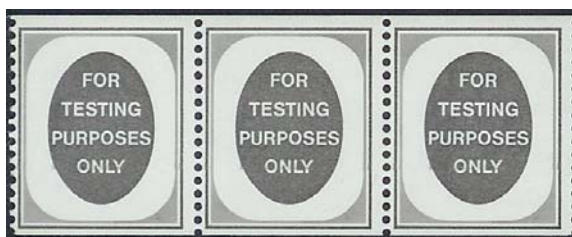
## FTPO Discovery

*An unknown perforation type surfaces*

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

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

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



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

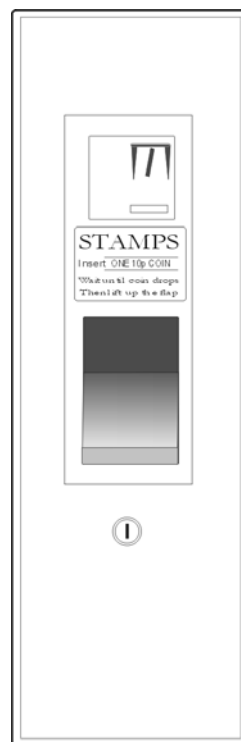
The Post Office had been experiencing disappointment at the quality of the perforations on coil stamps (and, indeed, booklets, of the period) and Harrison and Sons was asked to look into the feasibility of removing the horizontal perforation pins. These labels are the evidence of that trial.

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

### ...and finally

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