

**Trial & Dummy Material - Part 1**

by Glenn Morgan

Glenn Morgan has provided information on a number of hitherto unrecorded Trial sheets and Dummy booklets.

The first two of these items are illustrated and described on the next couple of pages, other items will appear in future Journals.



DB11(17) - outside cover show the National Gallery, greetings card offer



DP85 - showing the defacing felt tip marks

**DB11(17) - National Gallery**

These booklets are the £1.50 booklets issued on 28th April 1986.

The outside cover is the design of Ronald Maddox.

The inside cover is IC29a and shows the postal rates for group 13.

The panes are both DP85, as can be seen on the illustration, the stamps have both been defaced by using a felt tip pen.

These can obviously be easily forged, however hardly worth the effort when the mint booklet is probably worth more.

The above pair of booklets were used as part of a trial between Royal Mail and a British (primarily private) vending machine company, using a converted ticket-issuing machine. The trial gave the vending machine company the opportunity to tender for a Royal Mail contract.

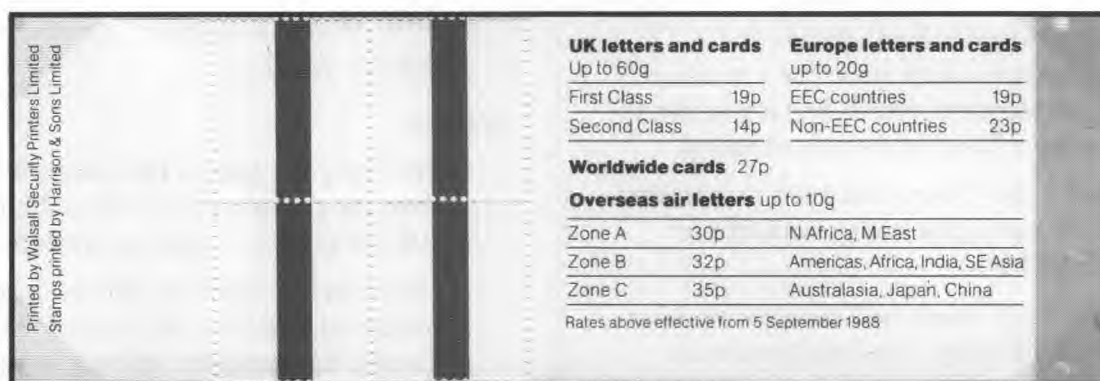
Following these trials no contract with Royal Mail was forthcoming.

**Trial & Dummy Material - Part 1**

(continued)



Dummy cover showing the type 3 design



Dummy pane showing layout, IC39 and rates group 15

**DB16(9)A - DP109B**

The booklet is in the style of the Type 3 window booklet DB16(9)A, showing the St Edward's Crown by the Royal Mail logo.

The cover is in the standard red colour for this type of booklet. No value is shown on the facsimile of the stamp on the cover, however the colour is the same as the 14p 2nd-class rate that was being used at that time.

The barcode is 5 014721 100095 and printed in black within in a white area.

The locking tab however shows the Harrison style cuts, where as the Walsall booklets from this period normally show side cuts.

The inside cover is that of IC39, stating that the stamps were produced by Harrison & Sons Limited and the cover was produced by Walsall Security Printers Limited.

The inside cover shows the group 15 postal rates.

The overall size of the cover is 144mm x 48mm,

the inside cover also exhibits two glue spots, one at the top and bottom right hand edge, where as the issued booklets only had one central glue spot.

The pane contains 4 blank stamp labels, these are perforated at the standard 14¾ x 14 showing perforation type E1. The pane was affixed to the cover in a different position to the issued books.

The pane exhibits pseudo phosphor bands which are 4mm in width. The colour of these bands are flame red.

This particular booklet is belived to have originated as part of the trials undertaken by Walsall of the then Type 3 issues of 4 x 1st-class, 4 x 2nd-class and 4 x 27p worldwide.

However, this booklet was used as part of a trial to provide a British vending machine company with the opportunity to tender for a Royal Mail contract for the manufacturing of vending machines, which in the final analysis failed to materialise.

