

Stages of Stamp Production

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This feature records the various stages *potentially* used in the design, production and promotion stages of issuing a stamp. Many will *not* have been used on British stamps.

It concludes with a listing of some modern philatelic confections. It is initial thoughts only and can no doubt be dramatically expanded.

Design

Specification

- Brief
- Procurement
- Printer allocation

Concepts

- Pencil
- Ink
- Laser
- Painted

Artworks

- Artwork boards (dying out)
 - Hand painted
 - Drawn
 - 3D (real shells incorporated, etc)
- Computer designed

Advisory Committee

- Consideration
- Approval

Format

- Coil
- Counter sheet
 - Large sheets (say 50+ stamps)
 - Small sheetlets (say 10 stamps)
- Miniature sheet
- Personalised sheet
- Souvenir sheet
- Stamp booklet

Pre-Press

Engraving (intaglio only)

- Hand engraved
- Machine engraved (EME, etc)

Film

Cylinder / plate creation

Proofing

- Die proof
- Cromolin
- Plate proof

Colour Trials

- Single colour
- Multi-colour

Approval Stage

- Further proofs
- Sign-off
- Production sheets

Materials

Substrates

- Bank Notes (printed on back of)
- Cork
- Embroidered
- Leather
- Maps (printed on back of)
- Metal
 - Aluminium
 - Steel
- Paper
 - Water activated
 - Self-adhesive
- Plastic
 - Translucent
 - Solid
- Silk
- Wood

Inks / Coatings

- Phosphor
 - Machine readable bars
 - All over coating
 - Bar codes
- Fluors
 - Machine readable
- Aromatic Micro-capsules

- Scratch-off latex surface
- Thermochromic (heat-sensitive)
- Thermographic (rock dust, etc)
- Machine readable
- Optically variable (colour changing)
- Iridium (GB £1 ink, and later use)
- Ultra violet

Separation

- Perforations
- Elongated perms
- Kiss cut
- Odd shapes
- Die cutting
- Rouletting
- Straight edges
- Serpentine
- Imperforate

Marginal Markings

- Sheet number
- Traffic lights
- Plate numbers
- Cylinder numbers
- Bar codes
- Advertising
- Registration markings
- perforation alignment holes
- Issue date
- FSC paper marking
- Total sheet value
- Electric eye
- Row value
- Text describing the stamps
- Guillotining cut lines

Features

Errors

- Planned
- Unplanned

Back of stamp

- Numbers (especially on coils)
- Words about the stamp
- Advertising

- UV inks
- Silk threads
- Map design (when old maps used-up)
- Banknote design (when old banknotes used-up)

Promotion

Bromides

Flyers

Bulletins

Press Releases

Photographs

Modern Philately

Barcodes

Ads on back

Ads on margins

Micro-lettering

Frama type

ATM dispensing

Postal automation

Holography

Odd shapes

Self-adhesive

Uncut printers sheets

Stamp cards

Sponsorship of issues

Counter printed stamps

Coded images – USA/Spain

Stochastic screening

Linerless coils

Super litho

Competitions in booklets and sheets

Silk screen printing

Year books

Models/clothing

Sheetlets of 10

Boots labels

Miniature pictures to form design

(Previously unpublished)