

Dummy Stamps

Issue 12 "A look at British Dummy Stamp Material, with an Occasional Excursion Abroad" Winter 2008/09

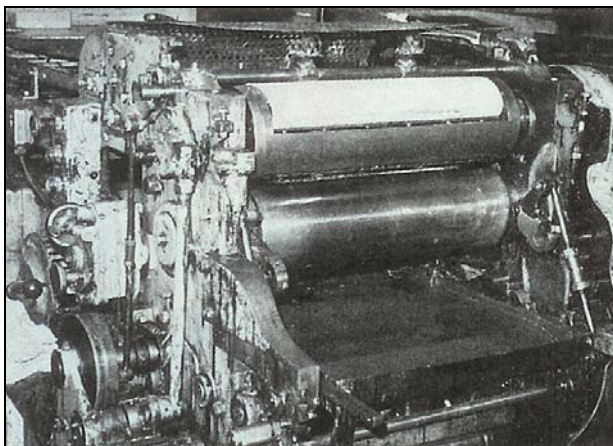
L&M Intaglio Presses

Attractive label design surfaces



A friend recently supplied me with an image of an interesting dummy label from L&M.

"L&M" stands for Line and Type Machinery Ltd and some considered these to be the best machines in the world at the time. Harrison used an L&M7 proofing press for its stamp work. 📄



A L&M7 proofing press at Harrison

The Spread of the Photogravure Process

Updated Document attached

I attach a revised final version of the document distributed with *DS11*. Please destroy the draft. 📄

"Patriots Maintain the Union!" Publicity Labels

Irish propaganda material proves to be popular

Harrison printed in / about 1912 a label by letterpress in orange ink (and other colours? Reports welcomed) that was of the same design as their publicity label of the period, but with the bottom panel having different wording.

These are very popular with Irish collectors of "The Troubles" – and not just stamp collectors - so they tend to sell for around 60 Euros when they can be located, which is not often.

This is similar in principle to what De La Rue did with its Minerva head design for French printing machine manufacturer Chambon, as reported recently in these pages. 📄



1935 Silver Jubilee Cards

Grover & Co publicity cards apparently exist

While reading Alistair Hackett's 1974 book *The 1935 Silver Jubilee Issue of Great Britain* I noticed mention of souvenir cards produced by Grover & Company, each bearing one of the four stamps.

No details were known by the author, so if anyone has an example I would like to be able to illustrate it/them here, please. 📄

The Harrison Jumelle (ex-Gemini) Press

Printing by Intaglio and photogravure in combination was feasible with this mighty printing press...



Undenominated labels produced on the Jumelle press at the time of commissioning trials.

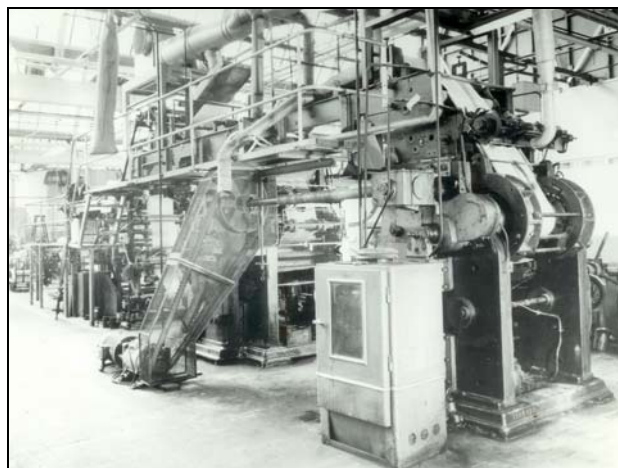
The Jumelle press was originally known as the Gemini, but had to change its title due to another product having this name.

The first stamp issue to be printed on this new press was the 1975 Sailing issue from Royal Mail. It had its teething problems and the black intaglio print was not as good as on later issues.



Sailing issue – PO publicity overprints by Harrison to corners of the stamps to invalidate them. These are actual stamps and are not from the press photograph.

It is understood that the press was eventually sold to an Indian commercial printer after the purchase of Harrison and Sons by De La Rue. 🏠



Three official Harrison photographs of the Jumelle press taken at High Wycombe in June 1974.

Die-Stamping at Harrison in 1966

The Battle of Hastings issue witnessed the start of a new embossing innovation on British stamps...

The 1960s was a period of intense innovation in British stamp issues generally and the Battle of Hastings set continued this trend by using a flat unembossed gold foil for the Queen's head for the first time, following its successful first-ever application by Harrison on a Gambia 'Founding of Bathurst' issue on 24 June 1966.

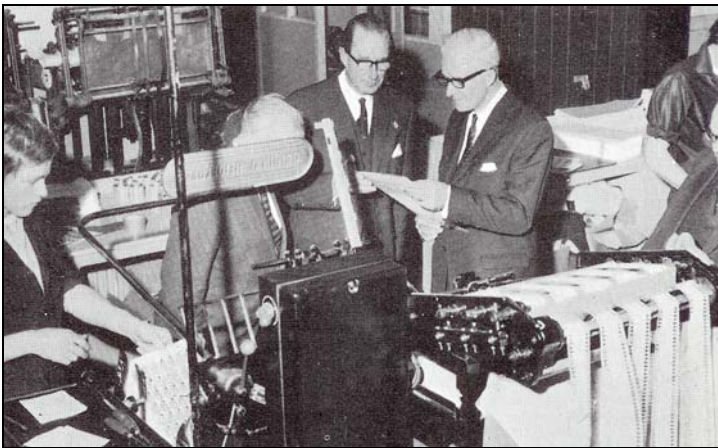
The Christmas issue for 1966 (another first) had a detailed embossed head, as seen on the testing piece shown below. There were some stamps that were missing this feature, but they were mainly created by collectors and dealers by using chemicals and it can be difficult for an untrained eye to identify these from any genuine missing foil stamps, a few of which do exist.



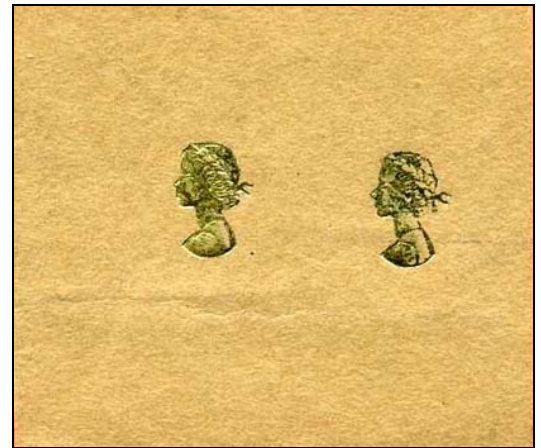
Stanley Gibbons 2005 *GB Concise* reads:

"MISSING GOLD HEADS. The 6d and 1s3d Hastings were issued with the die-stamped gold head omitted but as these can also be removed by chemical means we are not prepared to list them unless a way is found of distinguishing the genuine stamps from the fakes which will satisfy the Expert Committees. The same remark applies to the Christmas 1966 stamps."

Largely due to the cost, print volume, waste rate and difficulty of application of the foil blocking technique, Harrison developed a gold ink that could be applied as part of the printing process, rather than being a finishing function. This further 'first' was often printed in combination with an embossed head. 🏠



The Postmaster General, Edward Short, witnessing the embossing of the British Christmas stamps issue of 1966. Note the rolls of foil at bottom right of image. This gold foil working was applied by a Heidelberg platen press.



A pair of the Christmas 1966 gold foil blocked embossed heads struck on a sheet of plain brown paper during the testing period with George M Whiley Ltd., the foil manufacturers.

Did Harrison Print Stamps Before the GB 1910 Contract?

It continues to seem unlikely...

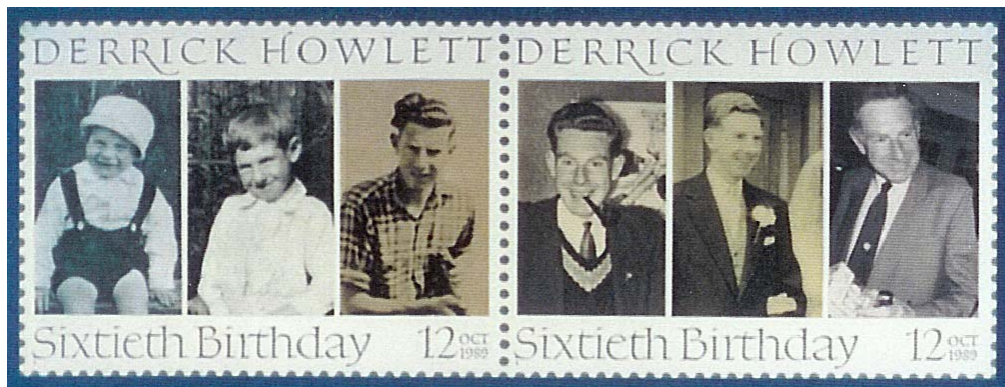
The British Postal Museum & Archive website www.postaheritage.org.uk has an entry in its catalogue (Ref. No. C1007/03/01-07, Finding Number F9718-F9722 & F9908-F9909) that I had not examined at the time of producing the Harrison Timeline attached to the previous issue of *DS*.

The file comprises an Oral History of the Post Office: Interview with Derrick Howlett (1929-), late of Harrison and Sons, that was conducted back in 2001. On the tape Derrick states:

"When someone walked into the St Martins Lane office [of Harrison] inviting tenders to print UK stamps (De La Rue printed them all at this stage), Harrison put in a bid based on the new photogravure technology they'd been experimenting with, *hadn't printed a single stamp yet*, didn't have the plant, but got the contract."

I now consider that there is sufficient written evidence to conclude this subject. ■

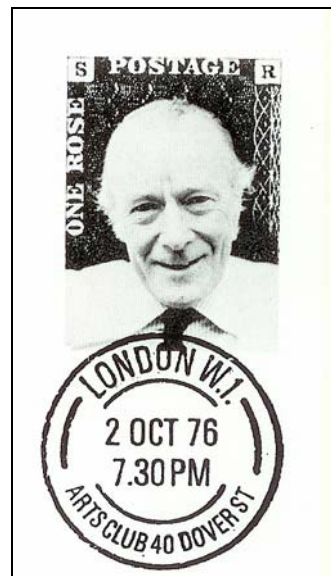
Birthday and Retirement Events Commemorated by Labels



Derrick Howlett (see above entry) had his 60th birthday commemorated by a mock pair of stamps that had been designed by Jeffery Matthews MBE in the style of the stamps issued to commemorate the Queen's 60th birthday.

In similar fashion, a 'One Rose' label, designed by David Gentleman was essayed by Harrison. It graced the menu of a dinner given by designers to Stuart Rose CBE and his family on his retirement from the Post Office.

Mr Rose had held the role of Design Director between 1968 and 1976 when he retired. His book Royal Mail Stamps: a Survey of British Stamp Design, published by Phaidon (ISBN 0 7148 2072 5) is a 'must read' for anyone with an interest in design generally and stamps in particular.

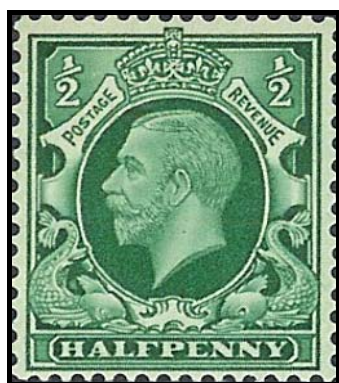
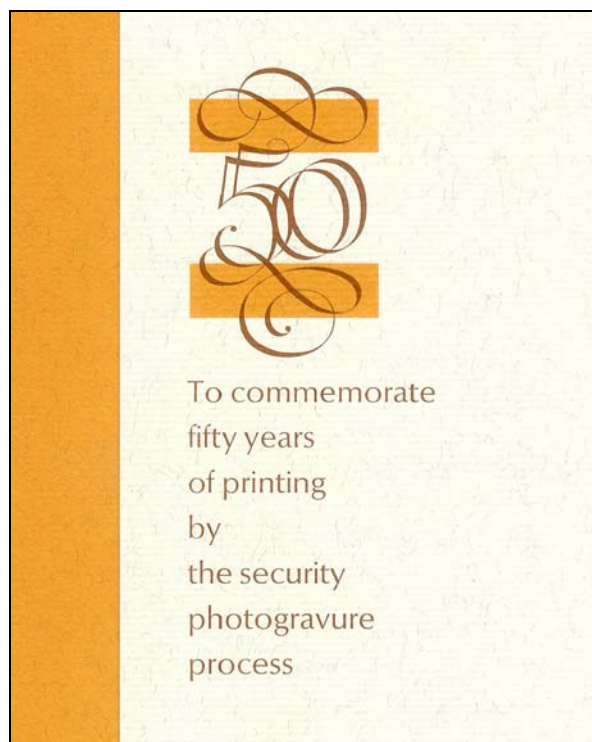
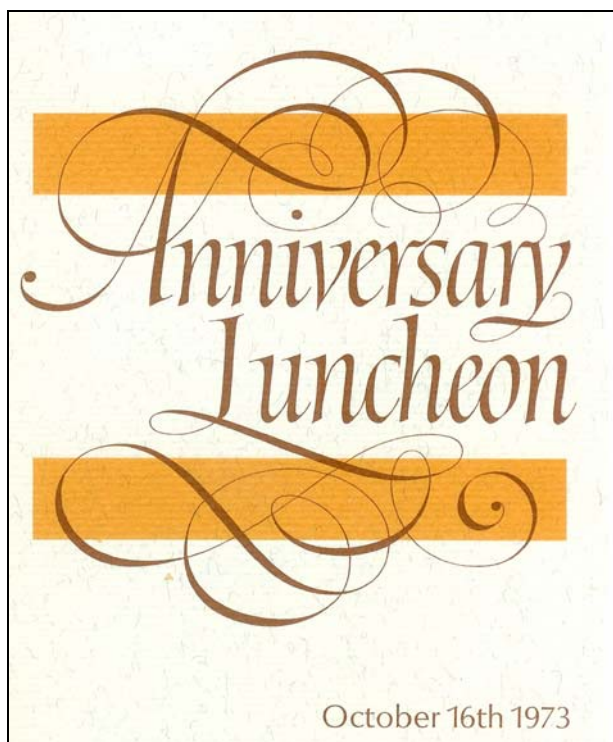


75 Years of Photogravure in Great Britain Falls this Year

An important anniversary that is probably destined to go unmarked...

The 50th anniversary of photogravure stamp printing was marked by an anniversary lunch hosted by Harrison back in October 1973 at Stationer's Hall, London. An attractive menu card designed by Jeffery Matthews MBE was produced that included real stamps, including the first from Egypt by Harrison.

It is not expected that the 75th anniversary that falls this year will be marked in any way – unless Royal Mail has plans afoot for an as yet embargoed form of commemoration... 🇬🇧



(above left) **An issued British halfpenny photogravure stamp.** (middle) **An imperforate 1923 Egypt proof.**
(above right) **An issued 1923 Egypt stamp included on the menu card.**

Updates *Further information on previous reports*

L&B Inks

DS5 listed Harrison Shakespeare labels on page two and frequently mentioned "L&B Inks".



I now have ascertained that the initials stand for Lorilleux and Bolton Limited of London. The company focused on producing inks that could be used for "special purposes" to quote an advert. 📄

Delacryl

The article contained in DS5 regarding Delacryl depicted an incorrect caption in column one of page four.

Unfortunately, Royal Mail got it wrong in the first place and I perpetuated the error!

The caption should read:

"Comparison between photogravure printing (top) and the Delacryl equivalent (bottom) at x17 magnification."

Thanks to Rein for being sharp-eyed enough to bring this error to my attention. 📄

What Might Have Been...

A new approach to
British Definitive
Postage Stamps

Designed by Jock Kinneir FSIA
for Stanley Gibbons Limited
and printed in photogravure
by Harrison & Sons Limited

Spring 1965
NOTE: The above are purely private productions and have not been
officially commissioned by the Post Office for authentic stamps.

Gibbons attempt to get pictorial definitives

At Stampex 1965, held between 19-27 March at the Central Hall, Westminster, London, Stanley Gibbons issued a sheet featuring ideas for a pictorial definitive series. These were later given away in copies of Gibbons Stamp Monthly.

The dummy stamp suggestions were designed by Jock Kinneir FSIA and were printed in blue on gummed paper by Harrison & Sons Ltd using the photogravure process.

Graham Wilson advises that there appears to be two different printings, one finer than the other.



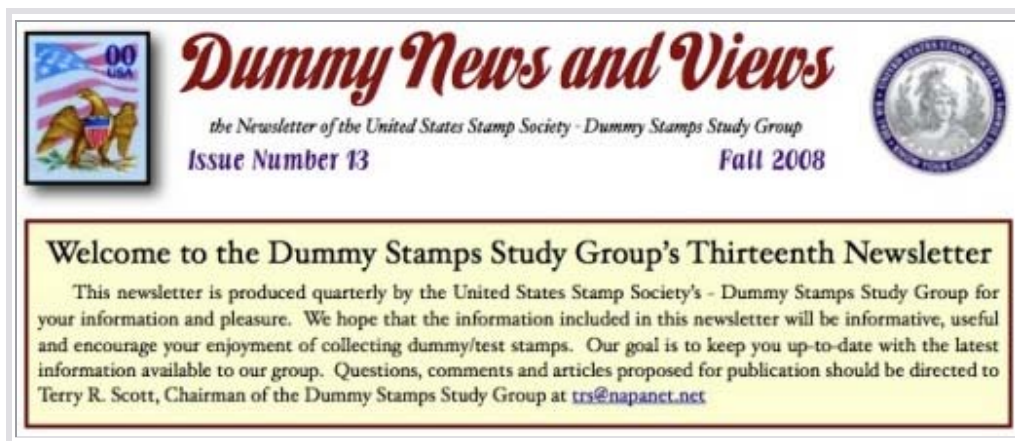
Although nothing came of these ideas, they did help stimulate debate at a time when, unbeknown to most people, work was not far off being started on the ongoing Machin definitive series first introduced in 1967. A pictorial approach was clearly not deemed to be the way forward then. 📄

US Dummy News and Views

Download or view the equivalent American publication directly from this page...

In the past I have mentioned that I was inspired to create *Dummy Stamps* because of the American version that I had been sent by friend and compiler Terry Scott.

By clicking the left button of your mouse on whatever issue you require from the list below it is now possible to jump straight to the item chosen, so long as you are online and viewing this as a PDF, of course. From there you can view, print or save the newsletter. Be patient though, as there may appear to be nothing happening for a few seconds while the document is retrieved from the server. Enjoy! 📧



Fall 2008	www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-13.pdf
Summer 2008	www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-12.pdf
Spring 2008	www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-11.pdf
Winter 2007/8	www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-10.pdf
Fall 2007	www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-09.pdf
Summer 2007	www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-08.pdf
Spring 2007	www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-07.pdf
Winter 2006/7	www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-06.pdf
Fall 2006	www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-05.pdf
Summer 2006	www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-04.pdf
Spring 2006	www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-03.pdf
Winter 2005/6	www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-02.pdf
Fall 2005	www.usstamps.org/dssg-newsletter-01.pdf

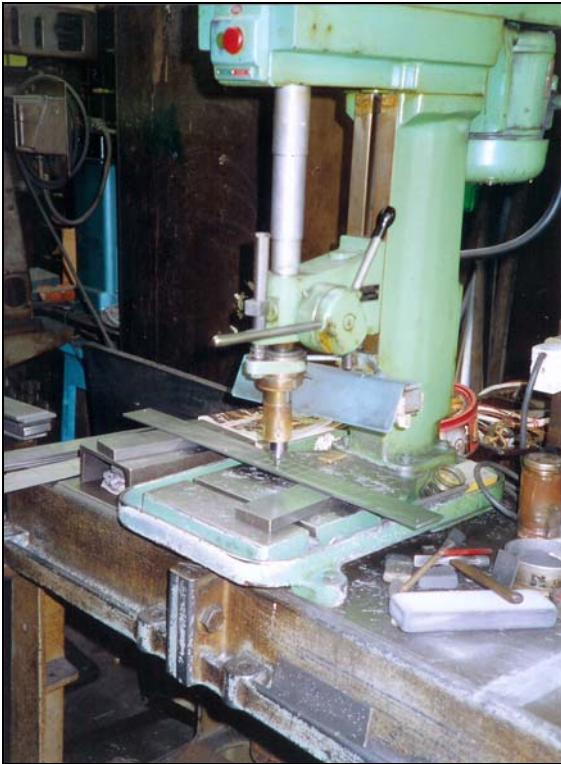
Dummy Stamps on Show at Spring Stampex, 2009

A chance to see some of the unusual material included within these pages...

Readers are invited to view a one-frame exhibit at Spring Stampex between 25-28 February at The Business Design Centre, Islington, London. Entitled *Harrison Dummy Stamps of King George V*, it tells the story of the early trial and development material produced in this era that was not intended to result in an issued stamp. This includes coil and booklet dummies and Harrison promotional and operational labels. 📧

Grover Perforators

Some shots of the engineering works before its closure...



I was lucky enough to visit Grover before it closed its doors forever and took these images depicting (clockwise from top left) drilling of the base plate, a general view of the factory, a single comb perforator with pins in place and a perforating machine minus its perforating plates.

Grover was merged into WISTA, a German manufacturer of perforating machinery. WISTA also took-over Bickel, who were also once famous for their perforating expertise. 🇩🇪



Grover Perforators

Continued...

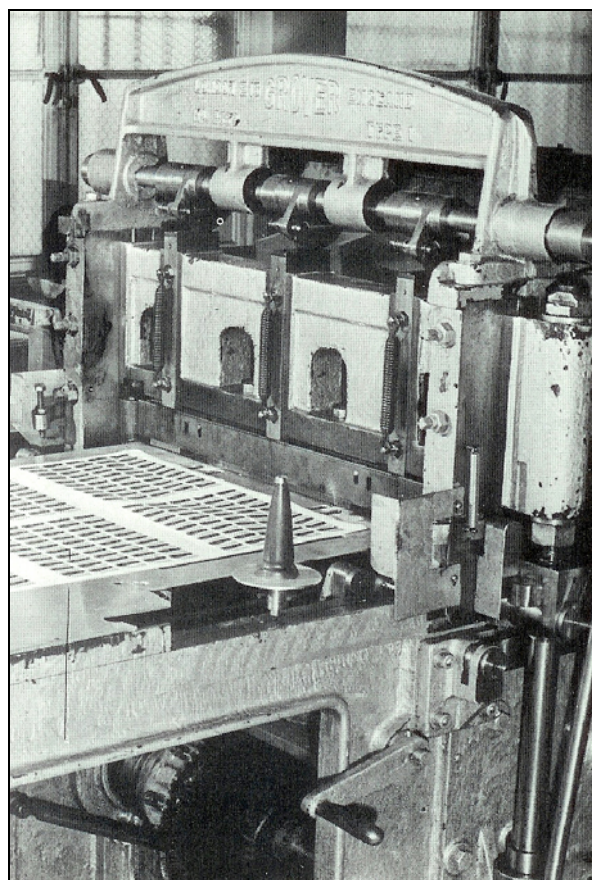


The GROVER
TYPE I. PERFORATOR
FOR BELT OR MOTOR DRIVE

Sole Manufacturers:—
GROVER & COMPANY, LIMITED
BRITANNIA WORKS, CARPENTERS ROAD,
STRATFORD, LONDON, E.15
Telegrams: "Adopted, Phone, London." Cables: "Adopted, London, E.15"
Phone: MARYland 4342-3

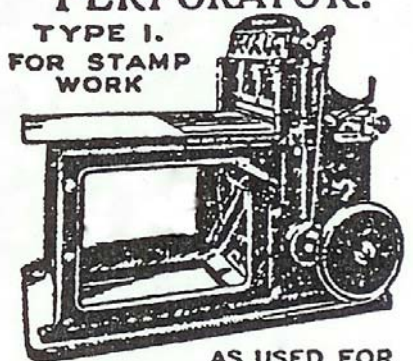
SPECIALISTS IN EMBOSsing AND PERFORATING MACHINERY

Undated flyer that promoted the Type One perforator machine.



The feed end of a Grover perforating machine.

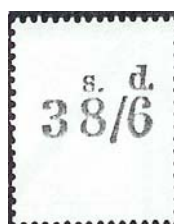
THE GROVER PERFORATOR.
TYPE I.
FOR STAMP WORK



AS USED FOR PERFORATING THE STAMPS IN THIS BOOKLET.

Advert used in a dummy promotional stitched stamp book by Grover.

Note how it is the same image as on the labels below



Labels depicting an early coil perforator for stamps produced on the web exist in blue, red and green. Some of the red printing has a caramel coloured underprint sideways printed on the reverse, as depicted here at right.



Post & Go Comes to Britain

The successors to the 1980s Frama Royal Mail Postage Labels go live following trials...

There has been much publicity surrounding the recent launch of the Post & Go machines, soon appearing at a Post Office near you. For background to this Post Office Ltd project go to <http://postagelabelsuk.com/>

I am able to illustrate below three dummy items that are known during the lead-up to this new development, proving that dummy stamps continue to arise, even in the electronic age that we live in. I can also show here some pre-launch imagery that I took of the machinery with Wincor Nixdorf screen branding, rather than that of the Post Office.

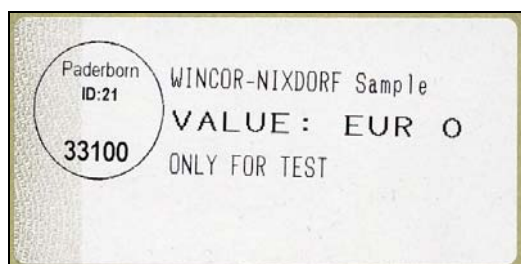
A purely personal opinion is that the Horizon counter labels will also have a design – perhaps of the Machin head? - in due course, as they currently offer little in the way of security other than the slits, being simply white unprinted labels.



National Federation of Sub-Postmasters Conference label, 9 June '08 on RM paper



PostExpo 2008 label, issued just prior to the 'go live' date for UK machines



Printed on Royal Mail security paper, this label is a Wincor Nixdorf test print.
Image courtesy Vince Patel

The labels are best collected with their receipt, as they include the unique details of the transaction - not that a receipt is always given from every machine at all times... 📄



"New" Harrison Material from the Reign of King George V

Discoveries continue to be made...

I have checked all of the documents listed in the Bibliography supplied with a recent edition of *Dummy Stamps* and sources elsewhere but none appear to have been recorded previously.

Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands Design.

A small version of this label is recorded by Robson Lowe, but this much larger design in three colours (at least) is not previously known.



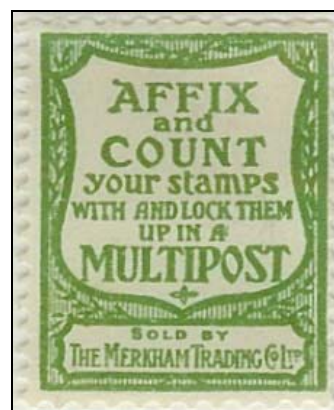
Intaglio (recess) Britannia with Trident Design in Black – Proof Pull on Thin Card

This design has previously only been recorded in red and blue colours by this printing process.



Multipost Label in Yellow-Green

Harrison printed this label for The Merkhams Trading Co. Ltd. Previously only known in red, this is also smaller than a traditional GB definitive.



Letterpress (Typography) Britannia with Trident Design in Blue

Previously only recorded printed by the intaglio process. See next page for full sheet of 25 labels.

"New" Harrison Material from the Reign of King George V

...continued



"New" Harrison Material from the Reign of King George V

...continued

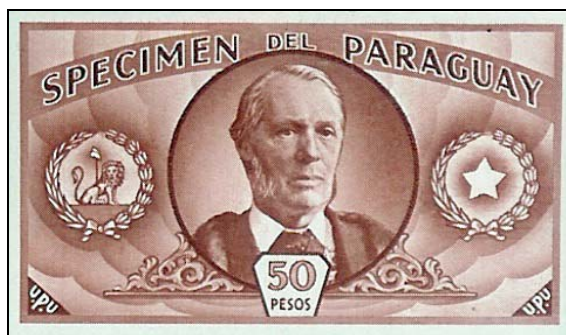
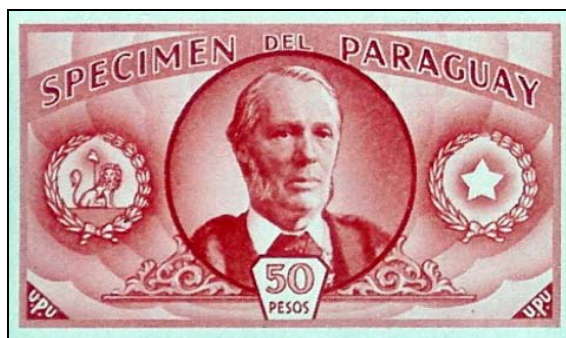
Perforation Trial from 1911

The material that has been perforated would never have been used to print postage stamps, being of a very low quality and extremely fibrous and thick. Ungummed.



James William Harrison Label Design

These four labels have been printed in the colours adopted by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and were, for example, used on the British 1/2d (green), 1d (red), 1 1/2d (brown) and 2 1/2d (blue) stamp values. These are nothing to do with Paraguay, despite the wording implying otherwise. 📧



...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 via the Guest Book facility provided on my website at www.stampprinters.info/guestbook.htm

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 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

The Worldwide Spread of Photogravure Stamp Printing Between the Years 1914 and 1939

Use of this process soon became commonplace in many countries

This document records the introduction of the photogravure printing process on stamps for the period up to the end of the 1930s. A country is listed more than once in cases where they used more than one photogravure printer during the period covered.

The listing does not claim completeness, but it does serve to illustrate how photogravure quite quickly became a further process in the arsenal of techniques available to stamp printers across the globe. Perhaps the biggest surprise was its use in Britain by Waterlow & Sons as early as 1918 (on 6d War Savings stamps) and again in 1924 (for El Salvador).

<u>Year</u>	<u>Issuing Country</u>	<u>Name and Location of the Printing Company [Notes]</u>
1914	Bavaria	F A Bruckmann, Germany. <i>[These were the first photogravure stamps anywhere in the world.]</i>
1917	Mexico	Oficina de Hacienda, Mexico.
1918	Great Britain	Waterlow and Sons, UK. <i>[6d GB War Savings stamps.]</i>
1919	Czechoslovakia	Cartographic Section, Czecho-Slovak Army, Czechoslovakia.
1920	Bulgaria Württemberg	State Printing Works, Bulgaria. <i>[Name and location of printer?]</i>
1921	Great Britain	Harrison & Sons, UK. <i>[6d GB National Savings stamps.]</i>
1922	Morocco Romania	Hélio Vaugirard, France. F A Bruckmann, Germany.
1923	Egypt	Harrison & Sons, UK.
1924	Austria Netherlands, The Salvador, El	State Printers, Austria. Joh. Enschedé en Zonen, The Netherlands. Waterlow and Sons, UK.

1925	Czechoslovakia Egypt Libya Russia Saar Syria	United Czech Printers, Czechoslovakia. The Survey Department, Egypt. Hélio Vaugirard, France. State Printers, Moscow. Hélio Vaugirard, France. Hélio Vaugirard, France.
1926	Luxembourg	Joh. Enschedé en Zonen, The Netherlands.
1927	Germany Romania Switzerland	State Printers, Germany. Hélio Vaugirard, France. NRM, The Netherlands. <i>[Screenless method devised by NRM.]</i>
1928	Belgium Italy Romania	Sips and Catoir, Belgium. Government Printing Works, Italy. Filaret, Romania.
1929	Liechtenstein Russia Switzerland Vatican City	Wiener Kunstdruck, Austria. Goznak, Russia. Joh. Enschedé en Zonen, The Netherlands. IPS, Italy. <i>[Screenless method devised by NRM. The first ever Goebel reel-fed rotary. IPS purchased the first two Goebel reel-fed rotary presses]</i>
1930	Belgium Lebanon Liechtenstein South Africa Spain	Atelier de Timbre, Belgium. Hélio Vaugirard, France. Gebrüder Rosenbaum, Austria. Government Printing Works, South Africa. <i>[Screenless method devised by NRM. The third ever Goebel reel-fed rotary.]</i> MAG, Spain.
1931	France Norway Switzerland	Hélio Vaugirard, France. Emil Moestue, Norway. Hélio Courvoisier SA, Switzerland.
1932	Columbia Hungary Liechtenstein Peru	Government Printing Works, Germany. State Printers, Hungary. Chwala, Austria. Waterlow and Sons, UK.

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1933 Liechtenstein Elbemuhl AG, Austria.

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1934 Great Britain Harrison & Sons, UK. *[GB stamps to one-shilling face value.]*
Liechtenstein Hélio Courvoisier SA, Switzerland.

.....
1935 Uruguay Barreiro y Ramos, Uruguay.

.....
1936 Japan State Printers, Japan.
Mexico TIEV, Mexico
Spain Olivia de Vilanova, Spain.
Spain Waterlow and Sons, UK.

.....
1937 Colombia Waterlow and Sons, UK.

.....
1938 Lithuania Spindulys, Lithuania.
Spain Orell Füssli, Switzerland.

.....
1939 Brazil Guanabara, Argentina.
Latvia State Printers, Latvia.
Slovakia Slovenska Grafia, Slovakia.

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DEFINITION OF GRAVURE (Photogravure/Computer-Engraved):

Until recently, collectors would have only encountered stamps that employed a photographic process in manufacturing the cylinders, but following the introduction of computer-engraved cylinders there was a need to differentiate, as photography is no longer a part of the cylinder manufacturing process.

Gravure printing uses fluid inks applied to the cylinder and held there in microscopic cells recessed into the plate/cylinder. Excess ink is removed with a doctor blade and the ink is transferred from the cells onto the paper. It is generally used for print runs of over ten million stamps and offers increased security due to its high set-up costs when compared to lithography. Although sheet-fed gravure is achievable, it is more normally web-fed printing that is utilised. [Photo]Gravure has been the mainstream process for British stamp production since 1934. 📄

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

This document could not have been revised and expanded from its draft copy to such a large degree had it not been for the kindness of Rein C Bakhuizen van den Brink, who supplied me with his researches made back in the mid-1970s. Thank you Rein. *Glenn*

FURTHER HELP:

Additions and corrections to this document are always welcomed.