

# Dummy Stamps

Issue 14 "A look at British Dummy Stamp Material, with an Occasional Excursion Abroad" Quarter 3, 2009

## Mystery demonstration label

Could this be a new British dummy discovery?

The label depicted here was purchased from an on-line auction site recently and has never been seen by me previously, not in over 40 years of researching this type of material on a worldwide basis.

It was simply described as a "British testing label" and it probably is due to its perforations (15 x 14.5) and general "feel" and appearance.



The label and extra enlarged portion to highlight the mystery "C" logo design in bottom left quartile.



The largest recorded multiple is this block of nine labels. Marginal copies remain unknown.

American contacts tell me that due to the perforations it is not likely to be of US origin.

The wording is all in UK- / US-English, i.e. there are no words that are spelt differently in these two countries that could have possibly provided help as to its origin.

The only potential clue as to the producer of the label lies in the bottom left quartile, where an ornate letter "C" appears. Could this be the logo of a long-forgotten company in the printing sector? I am unaware of a company name beginning with a letter C that might be a contender, despite extensive searching.

That said, there is a small possibility that it might have something to do with the Chambon Machine Company of France, as they did have involvement with Harrison and De La Rue for many years, but

use of this type of logo has not been confirmed by the company, which still exists as part of Komori.

The labels are printed approximately in the colour of old British 1/2d stamps and they appear to be printed by the photogravure printing process. They are on unwatermarked paper with crazed cream gum.

Copies were selling for US\$7 each as singles, but I struck a deal on a block of nine, the only block on offer. The only two singles being sold were also purchased. Eleven copies would therefore *appear* to be all that are known at this point.

It is highly appropriate that they are very well centred copies in view of the printing and perforating operation that the labels were promoting.

As ever, any help that readers can give that will add to the story of these interesting labels would be much appreciated. ☒

## Questa Proof in Gutter Pair

A previously unrecorded format surfaces on eBay



In a previous issue of *DS*, I illustrated a Questa proof impression of the 1991 24p Christmas stamp.

I am now able to illustrate a gutter pair format that is previously unrecorded from the trial printing that was produced to prove to Royal Mail the quality of output that was achievable by Questa. ☒

## Jagger Mystery Label

Any ideas?

A reader submitted this image of a label depicting Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones. The question is whether it was produced as an essay for a genuine stamp, a dummy printing label by a stamp printer or perhaps it was simply a "fun" item created by a Jagger enthusiast or as a record label publicity item?



It comes in sheets of 50 labels, is ungummed and its perforations do not correctly butt-up vertically in a couple of rows. Can anyone help, please? ☒

## Waterlow Receipt label

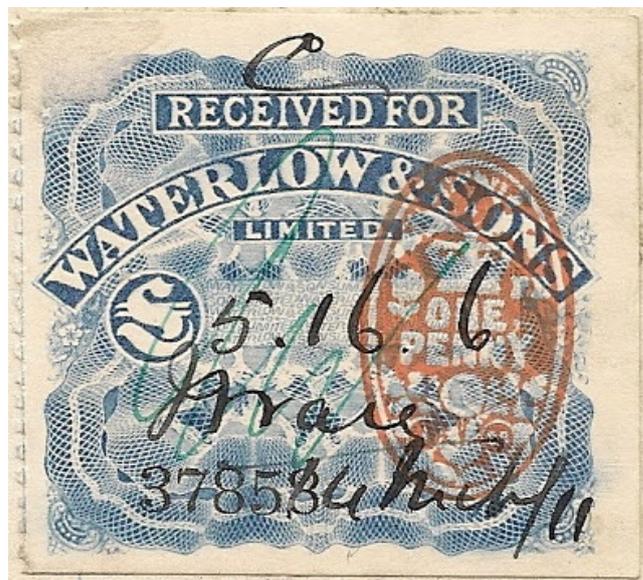
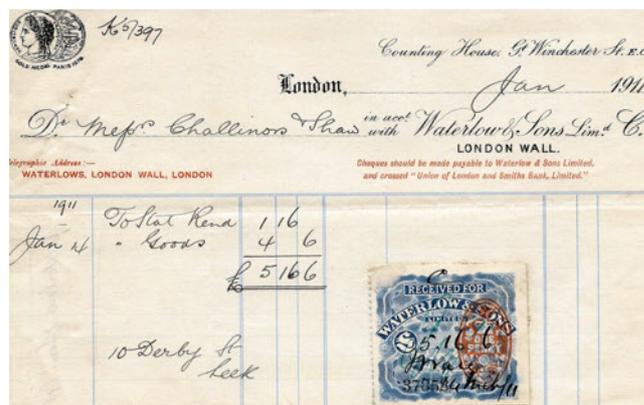
An unusual find

The scans depicted below are of a Waterlow & Sons invoice from their Counting House in Great Winchester Street, London and dating from 1911.

Addressed to Messrs Challinor and Shaw, Solicitors of Leek, it bears an interesting and previously unknown (to me, at least) label reading "RECEIVED FOR / WATERLOW & SONS / LIMITED / £\_\_\_\_\_" and bears a unique number, in this case 37858. '£5:16:6' has been hand inserted and it is signed and dated.

Looking at the enlarged scan of the label, you could be excused for thinking that the printing process must be intaglio. It is not, as the surface is totally flat without any of the tell-tale signs of a tactile feel to the printing.

The label bears an overprint of an orange ONE / PENNY tax stamp, so there is something for the revenue, ephemera, stamp and Cinderella collector making this an interesting item for several different types of collector! ☒



# Major New Series About Coil Testing Labels of Great Britain

*A start has finally been made!*

For a long time now, I have been wanting to produce a series of papers on the various types of coil testing label used within Great Britain, one per type.

The following list is what I am intending to write about and if others have been missed, then they will also be produced in due course. This is a major project that is intended to put to bed some of the errors that have been perpetuated down the years and which have eventually been accepted as "fact", despite the erroneous nature of some of the information.

I have utilised the official records held by the British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) when available (the 'thirty year' rule applies to some of the official files) and there are already some revelations contained within the papers produced so far.

I will not be producing these documents in strict chronological order. Those listed below with an asterisk before the title have been completed already and can be downloaded now from my website at [www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm](http://www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm)

Introduction and any Pre-KEVII era labels

1910+ KEVII to KGV De La Rue blank labels

1910+ KEVII to KGV Harrison blank labels

1910+ KEVII to KGV Waterlow blank labels

1911 KEVII 'CANCELLED' vertical delivery green and red labels

1924-9 GVR British Empire Exhibition and the PUC vertical delivery labels

Dummies are not thought to exist, so a paper may not be produced

\*1935 GVR St Andrew's Cross vertical delivery green labels (three pages)

\*1936 GVR green 'poached egg' vertical delivery green labels (seven pages)

1937 KGVII watermark FTPO vertical delivery grey-black labels

1938 KEVIII watermark FTPO vertical delivery grey-black labels

1952 QEII Tudor Crown watermark FTPO vertical delivery grey-black labels

1955 QEII St Edward's Crown watermark FTPO vertical delivery grey-black labels

\*1957 QEII Scouts double-size FTPO vertical delivery red labels (six pages)

1958 QEII Multiple Crown FTPO vertical delivery grey-black labels

\*1962 QEII Multiple Crown FTPO counter sheet-printed red labels (four pages) (Not coils, but so closely allied to the Scout issue, they are included here)

\*1967 QEII no-watermark FTPO horizontal delivery grey labels and blank horizontal delivery labels for Type G coil machines (ten pages)

\*1970 QEII Decimal training labels in counter sheet format (three pages) (Not coils but included here as the issued stamps did appear in that format)

1989 QEII Greetings stamp coil for *Sunday Times* postcard promotion

1990+ QEII blank vertical delivery labels

Affixing machine makers - branded coil publicity labels

Printers - DLR branded coil publicity labels

Printers - Enschedé branded coil publicity labels

Printers - Harrison branded coil publicity labels

Printers - Questa branded coil publicity labels

Printers - Walsall and Cartor branded coil publicity labels

SVM Makers - Such as Associated Automation and Hillday Leasing

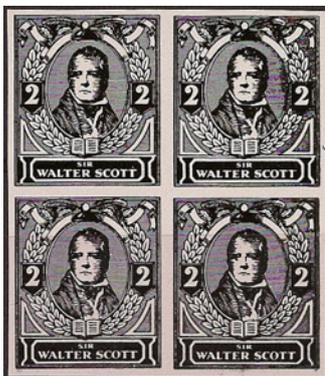
Use of Post Office Coil Testing Label Design by Other Users

As will be seen, six papers have already been completed (comprising 33 pages). Some others have been started and I hope to issue at least one or two with each new issue of *DS*. ☒

## Sir Walter Scott Update

Harrison does not appear to have had any involvement

In *DS13*, I depicted a block of four Scott labels and, based on three different dealer's listings, attributed them to Harrison, commenting that the quality of the head design was not up to their normal standard. That should have been enough to set the alarm bells ringing.



A reader kindly drew my attention to an article within the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* that explains who would appear to have actually produced the label. From *PJGB*, Volume 89 (4), December 1979, page 88, we learn the following:

### THE WALTER SCOTT DUMMY STAMP

The letter from Mr. F.E. Dixon which appeared on page 62 was accompanied by an illustration of this stamp. Therefore we referred our enquiry to Drew Watt the Production Manager at Woods asking him to enquire of various ink suppliers. His first enquiry was a lucky one for Drew received a letter from Mr. J. Moore, Head of the Printing Department of Croda Inks Ltd.

"The block was found in our old Granton factory about 1952 among some old blocks. It was probably engraved between 1930 and 1939 possibly by Hislop & Day, Edinburgh, who made blocks for Flemings. The block is mainly used for testing ink tint colours for cheque printing and fugitive inks. It is the only stamp block we have."

A full sheet has been seen and so we now know that the format is eight stamps across by four stamps high, with no marginal markings. ☒

## How 'Dummy Stamps' is produced

A response to questions posed by readers

Within a day of each other, I received two questions as to what software I use to produce *DS*.

Until issue 12, the answer would have been *Word for Windows 2007*. However, from issue 13 onwards I have been using Serif Europe's *PagePlus X3 Publisher Professional 2008*.

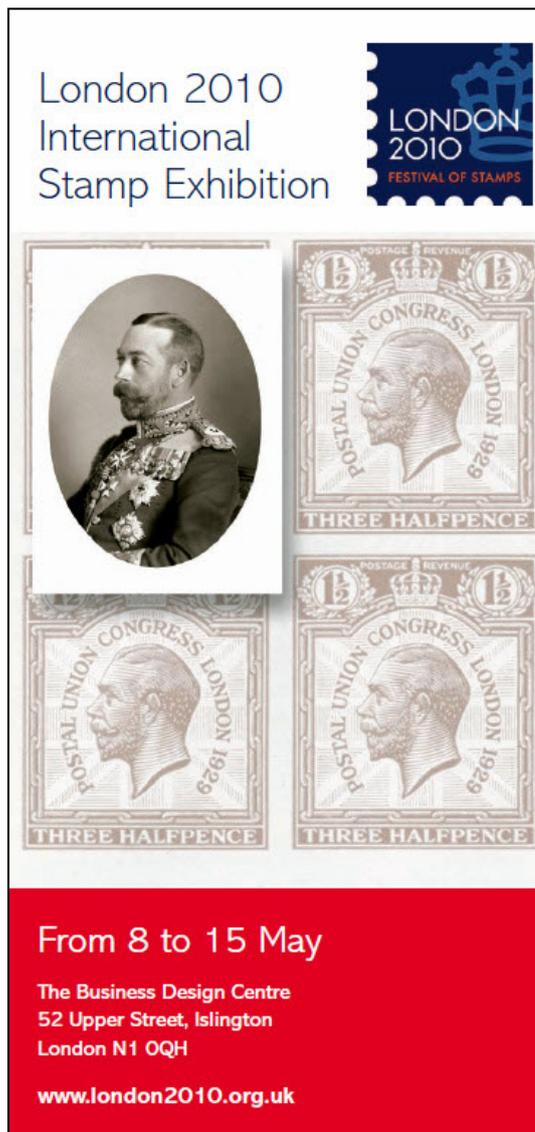
It seems to me to be quite a powerful package and has coped with all that I have asked of it so far, but does not require that you take a degree course in computing before it can be used!

It costs about £57 on Amazon UK's website. ☒

## London 2010 Stamp Exhibition

It's now just a few short months away....

Be sure to put this major stamp exhibition into your diary now, as it is only held once a decade. ☒



London 2010  
International  
Stamp Exhibition

LONDON  
2010  
FESTIVAL OF STAMPS

POSTAGE & REVENUE  
POSTAL UNION CONGRESS LONDON 1929  
THREE HALFPENCE

From 8 to 15 May

The Business Design Centre  
52 Upper Street, Islington  
London N1 0QH

[www.london2010.org.uk](http://www.london2010.org.uk)

## ...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 at:

[www.stampprinters.info/guestbook.htm](http://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](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.