

Dummy Stamps

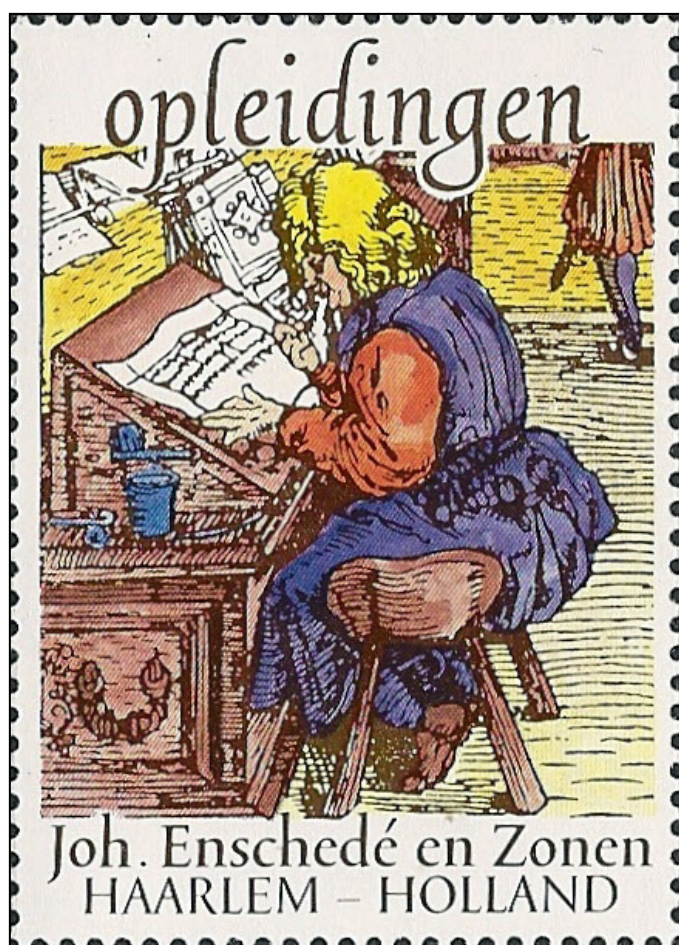
Issue 23

A Newsletter Covering Dummy Stamp Material from British Stamp Printers

Quarter 4, 2011

Further Enschedé Dummy Stamp

Any idea when this might have been issued?



The dummy stamp above has not been seen before and cannot currently be dated. It bears the word "opleidingen" (which translates as 'training').



Who exactly was being trained and in what capacity remains a mystery at this stage of investigations.

The same word appeared on the 'chicks and egg' dummy stamp depicted in a recent issue of *Dummy Stamps*.

While dating has not been possible, the Enschedé Museum advises the following periods of name use for the company:

Izaak Enschedé	1703 - 1743
Izaak & Johannes Enschedé	1743 - 1761
Johannes Enschedé	1761 - 1777
Joh. Enschedé en Zonen	1777 - 1932
Joh. Enschedé en Zonen NV	1932 - 1972
Joh. Enschedé en Zonen BV	1972 - 1992
Joh. Enschedé [Holding]	1992 - 2003
Koninklijke Joh. Enschedé	2003 - date

Based on this, the label may date from the 1970s / 1992, and possibly later rather than earlier. ☒

Testing Labels Slogan Covers

Probable explanation of usage found on StampBoards

Your compiler has recently joined StampBoards and is finding it to be a useful source of information. In the last issue of *DS*, a query was raised re testing labels used on slogan covers.

www.stampboards.com/viewtopic.php?f=13&t=15002 states: "You see these items from time to time. As I understand it they come from the PO cancelling machine repair shop - i.e. once the machines had been overhauled they ran some tests to make sure they worked properly, using PO brown envelopes, these testing labels and whatever old slogan dies were to hand.

"(You'll note that in this case the 'dater die' part is a semi-dumb format, reminiscent of those used in some lines of one of the experimental packet cancelling machines tested 'live' about 1960. It's dated 1971 with a slogan dated 1975! Not all are like that - some have the normal style circular dater dies.)"

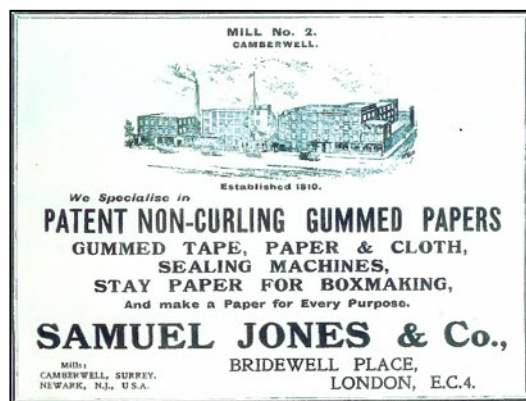
This explanation sounds reasonable enough. ☒

More Samuel Jones Labels

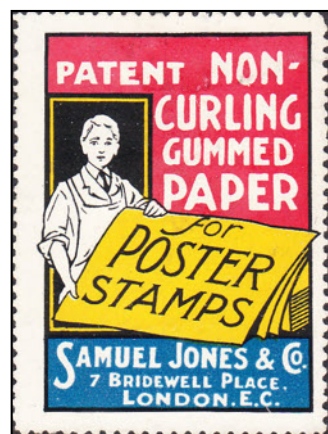
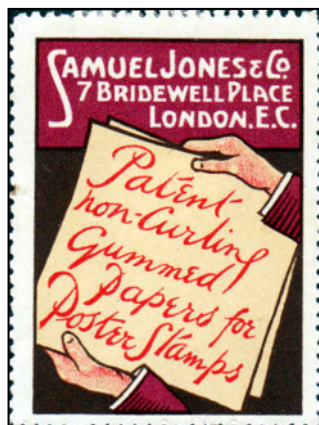
Further UK and USA versions come to light

If you go to www.posterstamps.org.uk and look under Catalogues, you will see Charles Kiddle's excellent *Story of US Poster Stamps*, together with several other poster-stamp books.

Some of the labels depicted below are from that publication and are used with permission. ☒



A Samuel Jones advert for its non-curling papers.



Royal Joh. Enschedé's New Printing Press Installation of 2008

Souvenir of the launch day comes to light

On 13 November 2008, Royal Joh. Enschedé launched its new Muller Martini Alprinta 52V offset press and gave a dummy sheet to guests.

- Q74 sheeter with stacker for the signature placement of self-adhesive materials; with escape gate for quality control.

The press offers infinitely variable sizes and features ten offset press units, being one of the longest Muller Martini printing presses in Europe coming in at an impressive 43 metres in length.

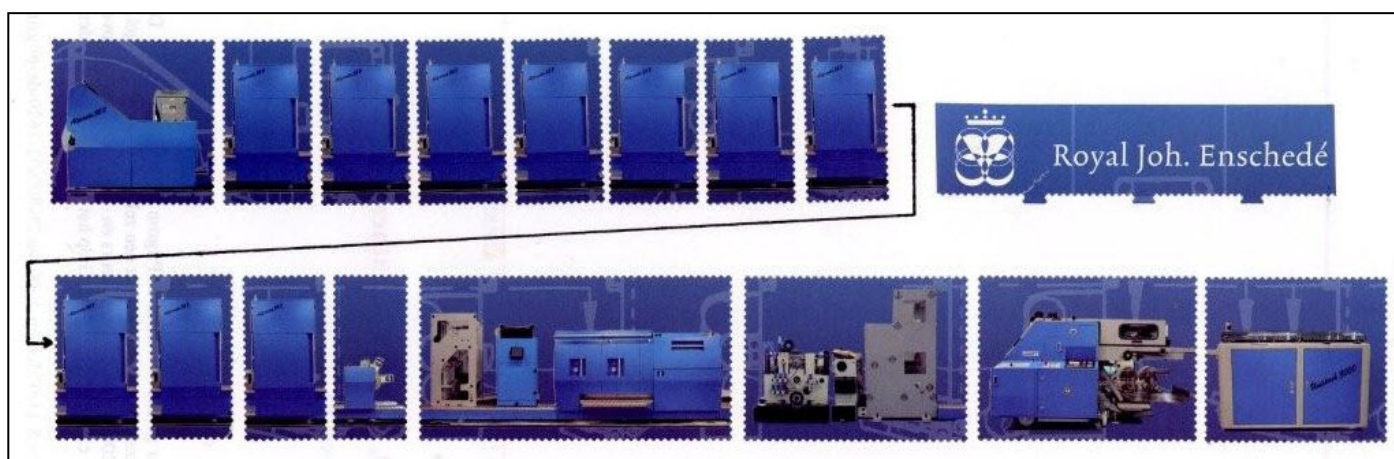
For the technically minded, the manufacturer advises (in its own words) that there are "four bump turns for front and back printing in a single run, as well as numerous inline specialties including:

- hot foil stamping unit for finishing (e.g. gold leaf and holograms),
- postage-stamp perforator for the manufacture of perforated postage stamps,
- label stamping for the manufacture of self-adhesive postage stamps, and a

Complete Automation Package

The Alprinta 52V features a 'lexo-cassette', which can be used to convert one of the offset press units into a flexo printing unit. It also has a complete automation package including IDM 4000 in-line ink control, automatic AR 4000 register control with several measuring cameras offering short response times, video web monitoring, printing image inspection and rubber blanket wash-up system. Finally, an eight lamp system from IST Metz supplies UV drying."

The press is "predominantly used for postage stamp printing", according to Arie Piet, Enschedé's CEO, speaking at the time of the installation. ☒



These images have been lifted from the website <http://www.postzegelblog.nl/2008/11/23/joh-enschede-heeft-nieuwste-druktechniek-de-rotatie-offsetpers/> with permission of the webmaster.



The **dummy stamp sheetlet** (top row), **schematic line drawing** (middle row) and **side view of the press** (bottom row).

De La Rue 'Oversea Dominions' £20 High value Dummy Stamps

Why 'Postage ~ Postage?', asks reader

The Oversea Dominions dummy stamp is a good example of what De La Rue could produce, especially design-wise.

A reader rightly queried the date that your compiler gave in *DS22* (1925) and wrote: "I read somewhere that they were another Printex (Miller & Motley) process stamp, very similar to the Paris Exhibition stamp which should put it earlier, just before WWI.

"Presumably it was an attempt to replace the various Grover embossing machines that the colonies used? Mr Fenn of Grover always said that the colonies liked their embossing machines and that they brought in more money than postage stamps. They were also cheaper, with taxes and stamp duties being so much higher, not like all those one penny stamps (or local equivalent).

"That said, why do they say "Postage ~ Postage" and not 'Postage ~ Revenue'? "

A good question and one that remains unanswered. Also, were they printed by the Printex method? ☐



A King George V £20 bi-coloured version with a date of October 23rd 1911, massively pre-dating 1925 stated as the possible date of introduction in *DS22*.



Black printing of the £20 design.



King Edward VII £10 "THOS. DE LA RUE & Co." high values worded 'POSTAGE ~ REVENUE' and the £20 worded 'POSTAGE ~ POSTAGE'.

Intelligence Forgeries Revisited

A reader adds his perforating knowledge to the story

A regular correspondent has written in with some more information about the wartime intelligence stamps recorded in the previous issue of *DS*.

He wrote: "As regards the WWI forgeries, Grover records definitely say that they produced the perforating head for Waterlow Bros & Layton on 22nd May 1918, rather late in the war but it was by no means obvious that Britain was going to win at that time. In fact Germany was throwing everything that they had into the war.

"It was very urgent [*Ed: to produce the stamps*] because the record says that they couldn't wait for a new master perforating plate, so they used another and put an extra hole in each side of each stamp(?).

"As well as the Germania design, they also forged the Austrian Crown and Bavarian King Ludwig stamps, but what are the chances of finding these on cover proving usage? Slim I should think!"

It is correct about what Grover state, I am sure. The timing makes sense based on CIA records seen and I can understand why Britain's chances of winning the war only became obvious after hostilities ceased.

I am told that the postal communications that had used the forged stamps were destroyed upon receipt, so used examples would be as rare as hens teeth and probably retaining them at the time would have contravened the instructions in place. ☒

Waterlow's Centennial Publication

Prices are rising

The excellent company publication *Waterlow & Sons Ltd: A Century of Stamp Production* has recently been seen for sale at £250.

This unsurprisingly is the version with the 27 issued stamps over-printed SPECIMEN within, plus the two plates of colour reproductions of stamps. The version without the stamps/plates is much cheaper. ☒

Micro-Embossing at Cartor

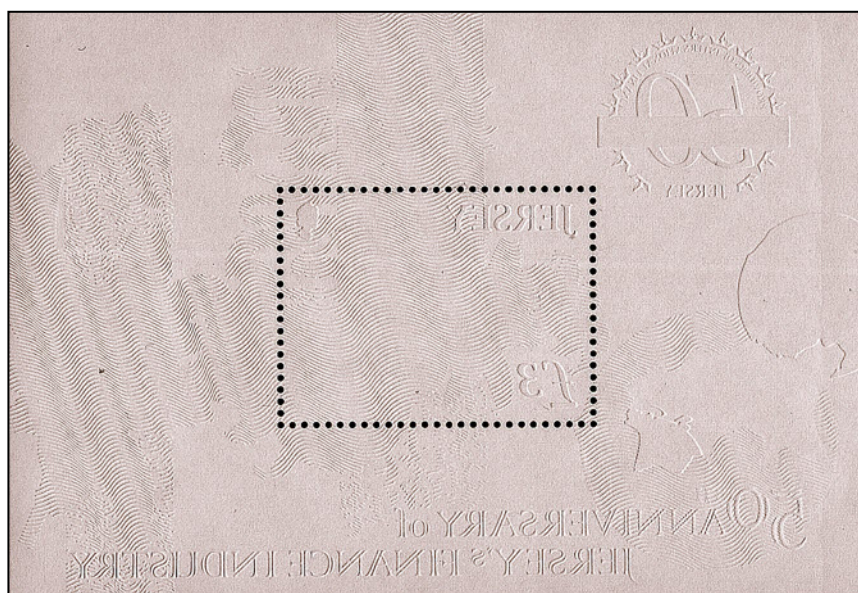
New technique simulates the intaglio process

A new issue catalogue listing for Jersey in a recent issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* [GB] recorded that the Financial Industry MS had been printed in recess (intaglio) and lithography by Cartor.

Intaglio has not been used, but instead this is the first issue printed by litho at Cartor that utilises micro-embossing, which is intended to mimic the intaglio process used so extensively on banknotes. Clearly it did its job admirably and it is totally understandable why the cataloguers were fooled.

The MS is depicted below together with a scan that has intentionally had its colour values and highlights / shadows adjusted to best show the effect of the extensive debossing on the reverse.

For micro-embossing to be truly effective it requires totally accurate registration with the fine lines of printing being raised on the design side. ☒



Machin 00p in Strips of Four with tantalising hand annotations in left-hand margins

The Machin 00p strips depicted below disproves your compiler's theory that they came from sheetlets of 9 (3x3). See *The 'Bookmark' Journal* [GB], volume 41, issue 2, October 2011 for the full story, as recorded by Robert Bostock . The poor cropping of the image was supplied this way to Robert by the owner. ☒



The Prince Regent Has Now Been Correctly Identified

As suspected, it was not King William IV on the dummy stamp but King George IV

There is a phrase 'Life is for sharing' and that certainly applies to philately, for the readers of *DS* can invariably be relied on to come up with the (not inconsiderable) gaps in your compiler's knowledge.

So it is with the Prince Regent essay included in *DS22*, where I had expressed doubts as to it being King William IV, despite what is recorded by the philatelic literature. I can now confirm that it is King George IV who is depicted.

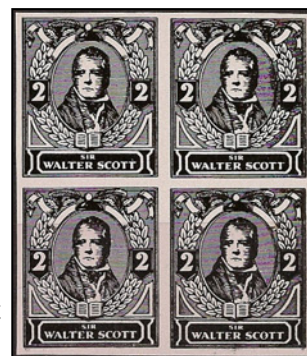
Proof comes in the form of a one guinea banknote, issued by Leith Banking Company. Equivalent to one pound and one shilling, the note was issued on 1 September 1825 and depicts the arrival of King George IV to Leith, where he began his state visit to Scotland in 1822. In the background is the Leith Custom House. The note was printed by Perkins, Bacon and the date has been written by hand.



The world's first commemorative banknote, with the Prince Regent's image in top left corner. (Low-res image)

The Leith Banking Company was founded in 1793 and ceased operating in 1842, with debts of £123,582.

One of the account holders at the bank was no less a person than Sir Walter Scott of dummy stamp fame.



William Holl the elder (1771-1838)

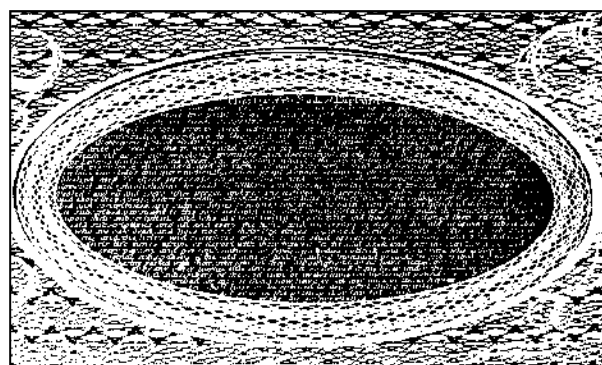
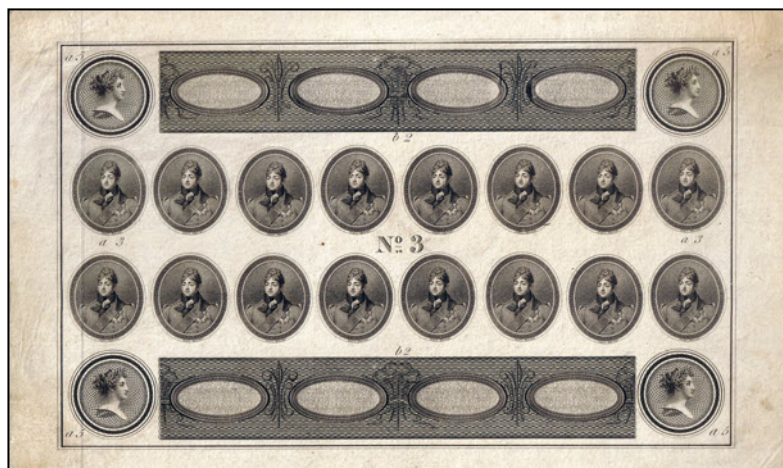
I have been provided with extra information regarding William Holl who made the engraving of George IV. You can just make out the words 'Holl Sculp.' in the border.

The Holl family of printmakers (c.1800-1884) first gained notability (*Ed: no pun intended!*) with the engraver William Holl the elder (1771-1838). His prints were mainly carried out using the stipple technique and included a number of plates of portraits and statues from the works of contemporary artists.

He was one of the first engravers to try out the new mould of the steel plate for engraving banknotes in 1819. All four of his sons were apprenticed to him as engravers namely William Holl the younger (1807-1871), Charles Holl (c.1810-1882), Henry Benjamin Holl (1808-1884) and Francis Holl (1815-1884). ☒




Contemporary cartoon of The Prince Regent (left) and a more flattering engraving of unknown origin (right).

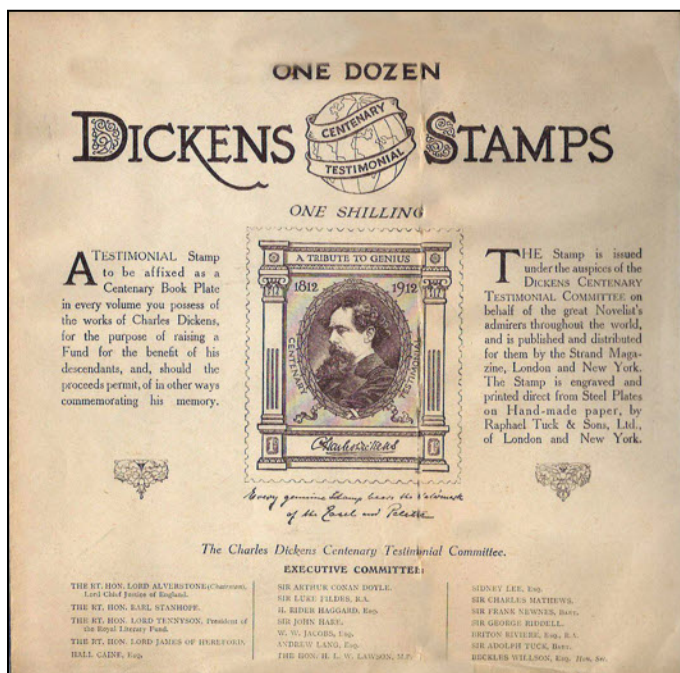
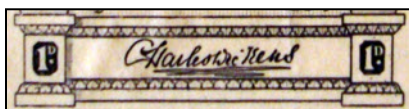


The eight oval text panels (left) depict in micro-printing the Bank of England Charter, with every word able to be read (above). Note the 16 images of the Prince Regent (also left).

Dickens Tuck Sheets Revisited

The American version can now be illustrated

The Dickens two-cent is quite rare but, thanks to a reader, the complete sheet (and blow-up of both values) can now be shown. The original purpose-printed envelope with the dummy stamp value expressed in British Currency is also shown. 




Harrison's Specimen Overprint

Could these be coil stamps?

The low-resolution scans depicted below are from a recent eBay lot.

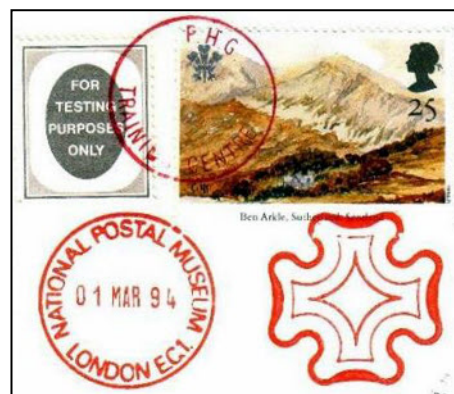



They depict two vertical pairs of Gold Coast stamps that each bear a 'HARRISON'S / SPECIMEN' overprint in black on the 2 1/2d and 3d values.

As is obvious from the scan, the stamps are in extremely poor condition and whether they found a buyer is unknown. 

Further eBay Testing Rubbish

Genuinely cancelled item has been 'doctored' pre-sale




A Post Office Archives postcard with the later addition of a testing label and use of an undated 'PHG Training Centre' hand-stamp. 

Labels Resembling Postage Stamps

The Postmaster General clamps down in 1908

The lovely poster image on the next page was sent to me by British stamp dealer and philatelist Andrew G Lajer. His latest specialist GB stamp offerings can be found at www.andrewglajer.co.uk

Harrison& Sons fell-foul of the ruling imposed by the Postmaster General with its so-called 'Harrison Head' dummy stamps and had to change the design at the insistence of the GPO. 



USE OF LABELS RESEMBLING POSTAGE STAMPS.

THE practice has recently been adopted by some persons of affixing to the covers of letters adhesive labels, somewhat resembling postage stamps, which are used for advertising or other purposes. Although these labels are obviously not issued with any intention of defrauding the revenue, their use on postal packets, especially when they are placed on the address side, causes embarrassment to the officers of the Post Office, and gives rise to delay in the treatment of other correspondence. In these circumstances, the Postmaster General has deemed it necessary to issue instructions that, after the 31st of July, any letter or other packet observed in the post bearing on the front a private label in any way resembling a postage stamp shall be returned to the sender.

By Command of the Postmaster General.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
21st July, 1908.

Waterlow Wembley BEE Label

A souvenir of the British Empire Exhibition

A recent display at Chelmsford Philatelic Society related to the 1924/5 British Empire Exhibitions.



One item on display was the sheetlet of six dummy stamps that were offered (free?) to visitors to the Waterlow & Sons stand.

Thanks to the owner it was possible to photograph the sheet, which is imperforate and includes punch holes through each label at bottom left. ☒

Penny Red Reproduction

While not a true dummy stamp, it is most collectable

Royal Mail has issued its latest money-maker in the form of a block of four reproductions in intaglio of the penny red stamp.

It is produced by Enschedé and is quite superbly printed as would be expected. ☒



Children in Need 1986 Update

Inspiration from the late Jimmy Saville's BBC programme

Cotswold Covers state that the idea for its Children in Need sheet of 1986 came about because of the



Jim'll Fix It dummy stamps that had been issued back in 1982 for the girl who had wanted to see postage stamps being printed at Harrison & Sons factory in High Wycombe. ☒

General von Witzleben German Intelligence Forgeries of 1944

Who was the British stamp printer of this forgery?

Sandafayre.com offered in its 8 November 2011 auction (lot 6289, sale 5193) an interesting item.

The British Intelligence produced a skilful propaganda forgery of the German 1943 24pf+26pf brown-red Putsch stamp. The forgery shows a portrait of General von Witzleben, instead of that of a storm trooper. An inscription at the top reads 'Gehängt am 8. Aug. 1944', meaning 'Hanged on 8th August 1944'.

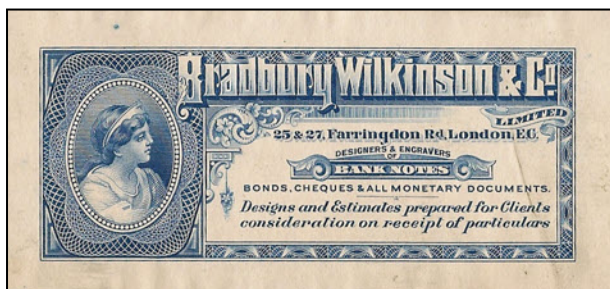


The forgery is in sheets of 20 (4x5) by photogravure and was probably printed by Waterlow or Harrison, but does any reader know for sure? ☒

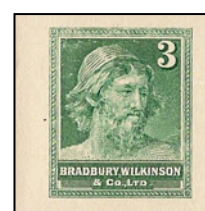
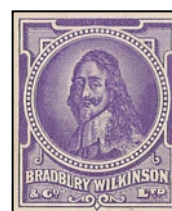
Bradbury Wilkinson Dummy Stamps Recently on Offer

No new designs, but some rarely encountered material

Several Bradbury Wilkinson dummy stamps have recently been offered by dealers. Many of these, while known previously, have rarely been seen on the open market. Unfortunately a couple have been cut very close to the design (as is often encountered with postal stationery cut-outs), but as your compiler had only seen poor quality black and white images previously it was good to finally show readers quality scans in colour. Some of the colours below are believed to be previously unrecorded.



A personal favourite showing the Farringdon Road works, people, a horse and cart, dog and motor car. It is recorded by James Negus as dating from the 1910's.



Exist.

The labels to left and right of this text are shown two ways - as a mirror image (i.e. in reverse) and correct way reading.

These only exist as mirror images - the correct way reading scans are shown simply to enable the designs to be seen had they been printed normally. Being in reverse implies that they were probably pulled from a transfer roller. ☒

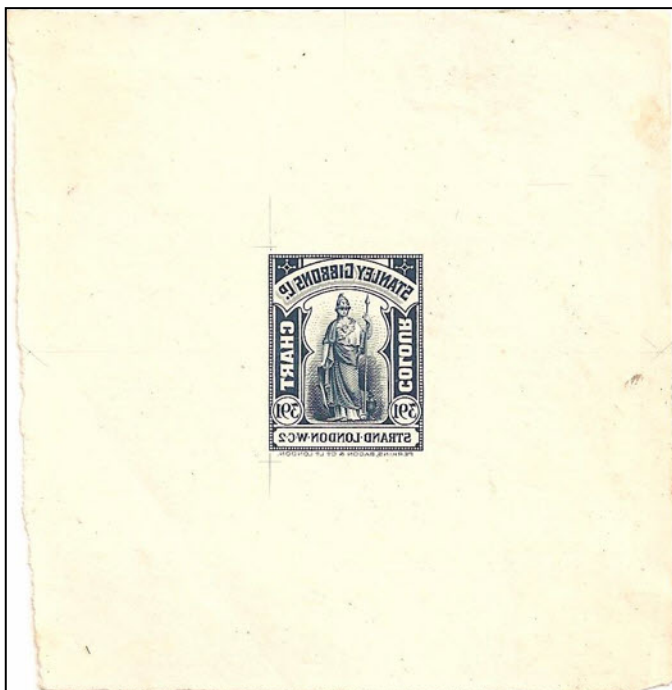


Do not exist. 'Flipped' scans only.

Stanley Gibbons Colour Guide

Dummy stamps produced as colour guide for collectors

A reader queried whether the image below is really a dummy stamp as per your compiler's definition. I think it does warrant a place here as it was produced to show stamp ink colours using a simulated design.

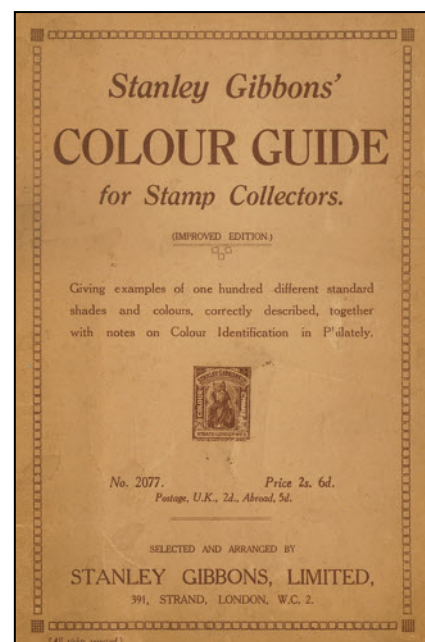


The top items depict the Stanley Gibbons colour chart stamp printed by Perkins, Bacon. It is unusual to see mint multiples of these dummy stamps as they are normally only seen as one hundred singles in different colours and pre-affixed to the chart.

The bottom item is a lovely black die proof of the design in reverse implying that it would have been pulled from a transfer roller.



A selection of the Perkins labels appear above, while below is the front cover of the colour chart which, incidentally was printed by Harrison & Sons. ☒



...and finally

I always welcome details of new dummy finds from printers past and present, and so invite you to write via my Guest Book at stampprinters.info/guestbook.htm, where requests to subscribe to *DS* can also be made.

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 visit 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. ☒