

Dummy Stamps

Issue 28

A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material

Quarter 1, 2013

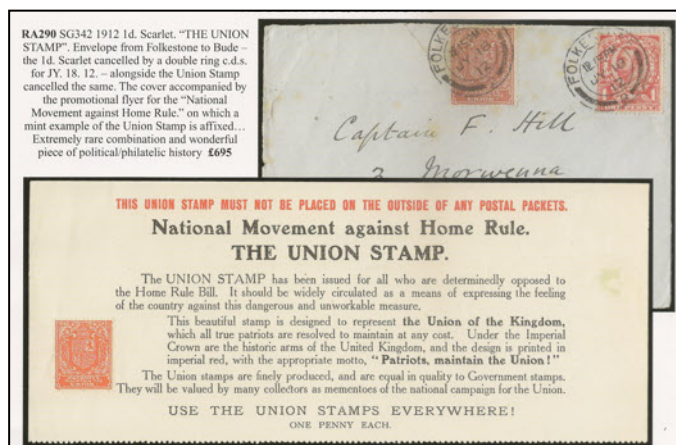
Patriots Maintain the Union

The dummy stamp offered on original sheet and on cover

This Irish-related dummy stamp was printed by Harrison and Sons and has always been of interest to those who collect Irish material, plus the many Cinderella collectors, so it sells readily when offered.

It is unusual these days to see a copy affixed to its original sheet, much less used on cover, so the recent offer by Andrew Lajer (www.andrewlajer.co.uk) was of special interest to many. It sold for £695.

The label was used on 18 July 1912 in Folkestone, so we know that labels were available from at least then. ☒



Update on Coil Reeling

Do poached eggs exist in two winding formats?

A regular reader wrote-in about the testing labels reeled gum side out, as mentioned in the previous issue of *Dummy Stamps*.

He writes that: "All the Kermode coils produced for the Post Office had to be reeled gum side out, something to do with the tension in the machines. Although the name Kermode was removed from coil leaders in 1928 and replaced by the code letters W, X, Y and Z they still had to be reeled gum side out."

It is thought that this may mean that early poached egg labels were produced BOTH ways to meet the demands of testing, i.e. reeled gum side out and gum side in.

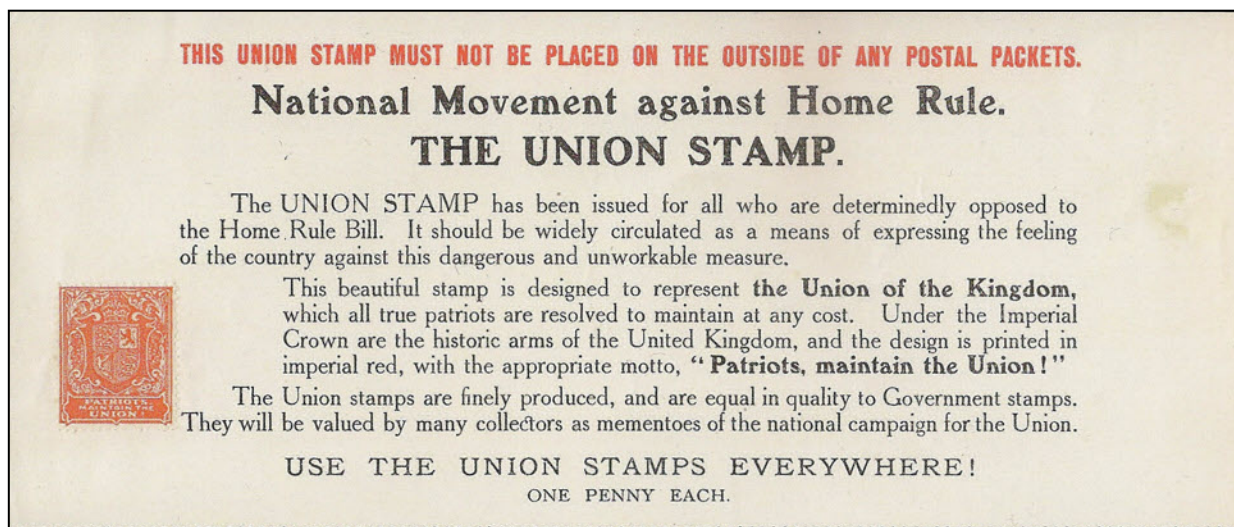


Leaders of these early days of coils would reveal if this is the case, for when reading the text on the leader one would either see the face or the reverse of the attached stamp(s) alongside the buff wrapper.

Do any readers have coils wound the other way to that shown above, i.e. showing the unprinted side of stamps when reading the leader? ☒

Has any reader ever seen what was below the set of perforations on sheet header?

It would be of interest to finally find out!



The Ford Galaxy Zetec Promo Stamps

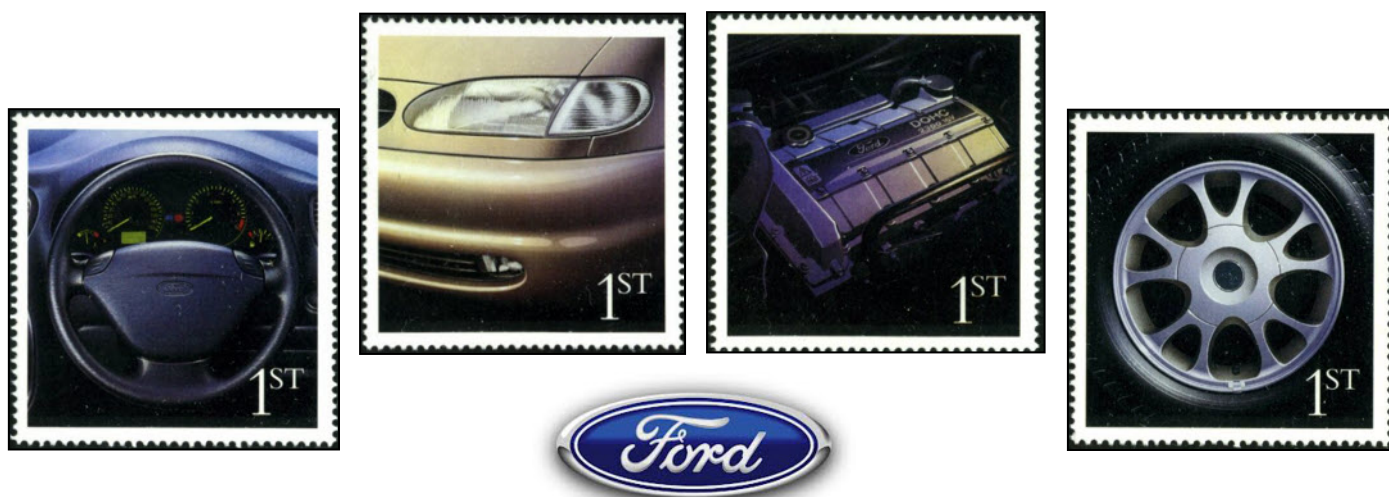
Mystery of stamp-like labels solved

Back in issue six an appeal went out for details of the dummy stamps depicted below. Seven years later, a response has been received from a reader.

The presentation pack shown advertises the Ford Galaxy Zetec (not the Mondeo as previously reported) and is in the same format as the 1996 Classic Cars set (*alongside*). The pack filler card folds out normally.



The stamps are mounted within a Hagner-type stock card, but the dummy stamps are stuck down to it so that they don't move. This is possibly due to dampness, for surely there would have been difficulty in inserting 'licked' stamps into Hagner's? The surrounding card unfolds like a normal pack and it solely advertises the new car. As mentioned in the initial report, it is thought that Tallents House was involved in the creation of this interesting item, which would make sense if they used their stamp printers to produce the stamps and their internal presentation pack assembly equipment for insertion and pack make-up. ☒

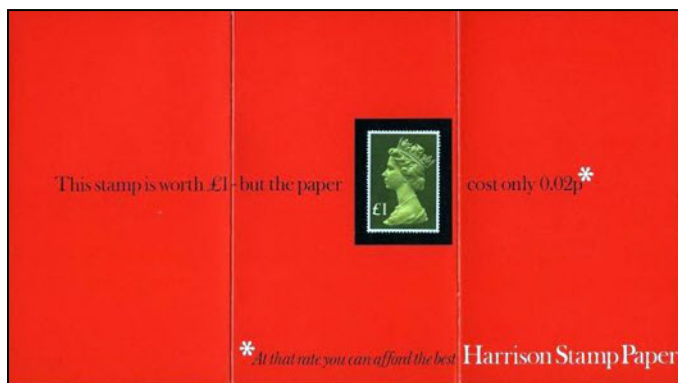


a celebration of our new
firstclass
delivery service



Harrison Stamp Paper

Presentation card with £1 Machin surfaces



It is not often that presentation items appear relating to stamp paper, so the three-fold card shown above is of particular interest.

Either side of the mint £1 Machin stamp is the phrase "This stamp is worth £1 - but the paper only cost 0.02p*".

At the foot of the inside of the card is the phrase "*At that rate you can afford the best. **Harrison Stamp Paper**". ☒

Advertising in Dummy Stamps

Have you something to sell or maybe require?

A reminder that readers may place short free advertisements or announcements in *Dummy Stamps* if they relate to this topic.

See recent issues for information on how to comply with the simple terms. ☒

WIFAG Listing

Foreign element in DS to cease

Attempts at widening the scope of *Dummy Stamps* last time by producing a foreign element met with an almost stony silence from readers, with just one person commenting about it.

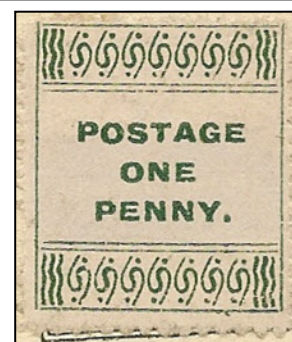
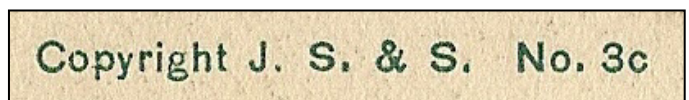
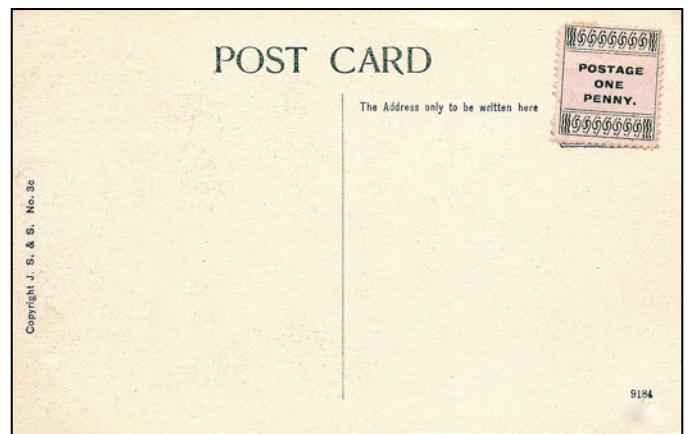
In future content will be restricted to solely British material and only when there is a British connection will overseas be covered, as had originally been the intention. ☒

Postcard Upgrade Dummy Stamp

Never seen before, then two come along separately!

The label below is believed to have been produced at the time of a postage rate increase and was a means of upgrading unsold stocks of postcards. As the rate had become one penny, it is odd that it was not printed in red when green was the colour of the halfpenny stamp.

Postage rates for postcards increased from 1/2d to 1d on 3 June 1918, so the upgrade stamp must have been produced between then and the next increase to 11/2d on 13 June 1921 - a small window.



It has to be a private production as these have not been mentioned in official records, so far as is known. The quality of print and perforation would indicate that the label came from one of the UK security stamp printers, as distinct from any commercial or jobbing printer.

The producer of the postcard, JS&S, tended to order their cards from Saxony (Germany). This is put forward as another reason for covering-up the stamp area, as this is where the printer imprint would have been and with war still raging at the time of the postage increase to 1d, British folk would not have wanted to knowingly purchase German cards. ☒

Blank Coloured Dummy Stamps by Harrison

Printer helps advertising agents and the Post Office to produce essays and dummies

Every so often coloured blank labels matching the format of British definitive stamps appear for sale. These were used late-1960's to mid-1970's internally by the PO advertising contractor, Weiner, then Canonsreach, together with other PO contractors to make essays and dummies for proposals to PO departments.

The dummy stamps exist in three colours, namely yellow, orange and blue. The colours were chosen to roughly (very roughly, it has to be said!) match the 1d olive, 4d red and 5d blue definitive Machin stamps that had recently been introduced. (See SPECIMEN versions of issued stamps below, ex-publicity Cooks book.) The yellow and blue are on dyed paper understandably meaning that the reverses are also yellow or blue, while the remaining item was printed in orange ink on a white paper resulting in a normal white reverse.

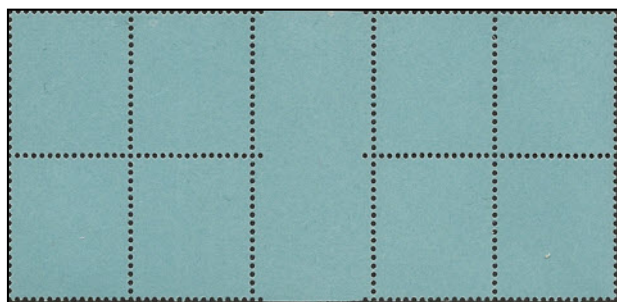


Reconstructed below are two notes produced at the time, the first of which accompanied the supply of blanks to Mr Hills in 1968. There is no indication as to who sent the first note, as it bears no sign-off. The second note is from a Mr. P M Bulley to Mr. Hills a year later, indicating that a second batch was supplied.

March 3rd 1968.

Dear Mr Hills,

Herewith sets of dummy stamps in assorted colours, perforated by Harrisons, for making-up stamp books for presentation to prospective Clients.



A double cylinder gutter block of the 5d value dummy stamp.

MEMORANDUM

Date 29th April, 1969

Subject: From: MR. P.M. BULLEY To: Mr. S. Hills

Miss Mantz has just phoned me re the dummy books you are making-up for Agencies.

She said there was some problem with letting you have actual stamps but she asked me to tell you that she has made an arrangement that Mr Yorke should put some coloured sheets on to his machine and perforate in the appropriate places. He will then send these coloured blank sheets to Miss Mantz who will get in touch with me again so you can go and collect some to put in your dummies.

I hope this will be of assistance.

[signed] Christine

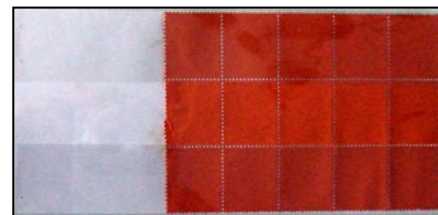
In 1969, work was underway for what became the fore-runner to the Prestige stamp booklet format, namely the *Stamps for Cooks* book from 1969. As a part of the process of mocking-up the booklet, Stuart Rose (Design Director at the PO during this time) prepared at least seven mock-booklets for the PO Users Council for their observations. Two panes from those booklets are shown below. The blue labels were not used.



Panes of 15 dummy stamps stuck to unprinted white card with space at left for the informative text that appeared on the issued panes.

< >

(Reproduced with kind permission of owner.)



If any reader has access to examples of these three dummy stamps used in other stamp booklets (they do exist), then scans would be appreciated. Such examples will be illustrated in a future issue of DS. ☒

Moore & Matthes Tender

A new British stamp printer could have emerged in 1972

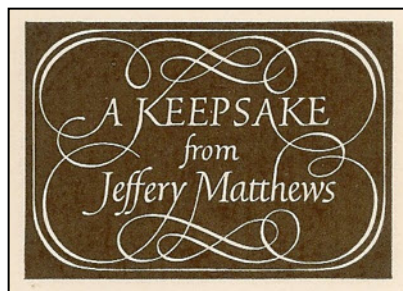
Incorporated in 1933, Moore & Matthes (Printers) Ltd. had an association with Royal Mail for many years as producers of presentation packs and (if memory serves your compiler correctly) the *Philatelic Bulletin*, plus grille cards and the like. For a couple of years (1971 and 1986), they helped Father Christmas by printing his Santa Mail Cards that Royal Mail delivered on his behalf. It is now sadly recorded as a dissolved printing company.

However, back in 1972, things were good for M&M and the company produced a pair of previously unrecorded trial proofs for the Royal Silver Wedding stamp issue using Jeffery Matthews MBE stamp design proposals, as they "...were making an approach to print British stamps" at that time.

The text below the left design reads in pencil: "2 Silvers + 4 Col[our]. Process", while the right-hand stamp states: "Silver, Black and Grey". The perforations appear to be printed, not punched out.



This revelation is taken from an excellent series of articles by Paul Brittain about the stamp output of the aforementioned Jeffery Matthews. The series is currently appearing in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* [GB] and gives a fascinating insight into the work of one of Britain's best loved stamp designers.



An imperforate stamp-sized "keepsake" label produced by JM for use on Christmas cards sent by him and wife Chris in the 1980s.

This example was on a PHQ card sent to Derrick Howlett of Harrison and Sons, Christmas 1987.

Special thanks to Jeffery Matthews and to Stanley Gibbons and Paul Brittain for permitting this information to be included here. ☒

Bradbury Wilkinson POKO Label?

Could this dummy stamp have a British link?

The scan below of a German POKO stamp affixing machine label bears a perforation of BW.



Could this possibly mean that it has a Bradbury Wilkinson connection of some kind? If so, then why? ☒

Enschedé Open Day, 2001

'Open Dag' held at Haarlem print works

It is unusual for a security printer to throw open its doors to the public to let them see what they produce for world governments, banks and postal authorities.

Enschedé did just that in 2001 and more to the point issued an attractive souvenir sheet for the event. Your compiler was privileged to be a part of a similar day at the Belgian stamp printing works a few years ago, but no souvenir was produced that day, sadly!

Although it does not mention it on the sheet, it is just possible that this event was restricted to friends and families of employees, as it is known to have been done in that way elsewhere. ☒

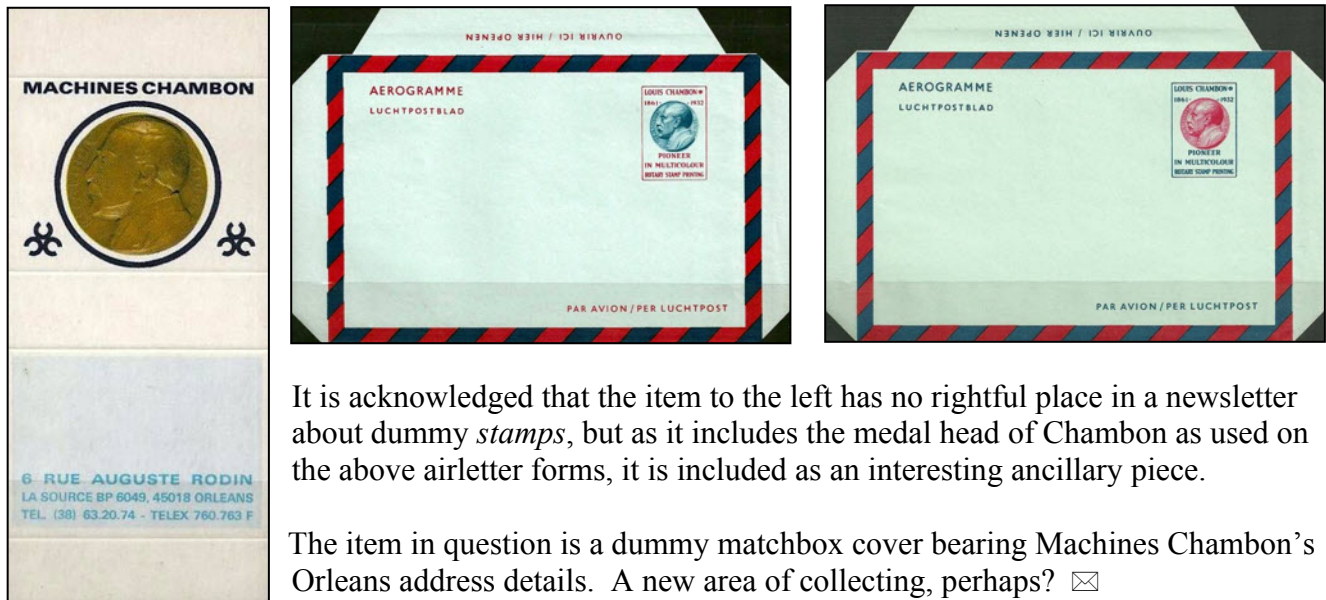


Chambon Dummy Airletters (and Matchbox!)

It is unusual to come across dummy postal stationery, especially with Chambon's English language dummy stamp

The dummy airletter forms depicted below were recently offered on Delcampe by a regular vendor.

They are rarely encountered and went for around €100 each, being particularly interesting as they have the English language dummy stamps imprinted in one of two colour-ways. According to *Catalogue des Vignettes Experimentales* (G Gomez, 4th edition, 2008), they were printed in 1966 for Surinam. French and Dutch languages appear on the rest of the forms and they normally sell for up to €200 each.



It is acknowledged that the item to the left has no rightful place in a newsletter about dummy *stamps*, but as it includes the medal head of Chambon as used on the above airletter forms, it is included as an interesting ancillary piece.

The item in question is a dummy matchbox cover bearing Machines Chambon's Orleans address details. A new area of collecting, perhaps? ☒

Harrison Booklet Pane

Further information comes to light

A regular reader writes the following: "Glenn, per your page 12 of *DS27*, Harrison booklet pane of six, the attached may be of interest. This was recorded by Stanton in *The British Philatelist* as sold by him when with Nissen, then recorded by Alexander & Newbery in *British Stamp Booklets*, July 1987, page 16 (as part of the GB Journal) and now resides in a prominent collection. You will note the pencil to the right of the pane which says that Ross Candlish had another pane recently and that pane came from the same book as my pane. My book is complete with four panes. I do not think that "your" pane is from the same book as the other two, although the staple gauge appears to be the same – so a number of books were produced but I do not know of another complete. Also, note that this was not perforated on a booklet sheet perforator bottom to top but a counter sheet perforator from right to left (as it goes through the selvedge). Your eBay bidder did very well at £92.50 – the copy with Ross was priced £495 and I would certainly have bid up to £250 if I did not have it."

An album page was kindly supplied revealing the pane and the booklet that it came from. The page write-up reads:

1912 Harrison Trial Booklet. The purpose of this trial is not known. Inscribed "I" on issued red glazed card covers. Signed "H&S". Dated "13/7-12". The booklet has five thick blank paper interleaves at the front and behind each of four Harrison head label panes, was this a suggestion to revert to four 1d panes only?

Note that special dummy booklet panes were produced, not cut from normal counter sheet stock. Also the selvedges are perforated and it can be seen that they were perforated with a vertical perforator, probably on half sheets as for part of booklet editions (8), (9) and (10).

It is most interesting to learn about such an early dummy stamp booklet. ☒

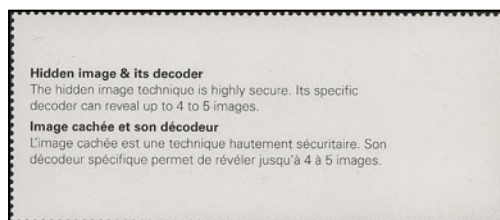
Cartor and Scrambled Indicia® on Dummy Stamp

Hidden images and text magically appears on some postage and dummy stamps

www.graphicsecurity.com states that “Hidden Indicia™ is the base technology from which all SI® products are derived. Hidden Indicia™ is a patented pre-press process that manipulates graphics, rendering the encoded information within them invisible to the naked eye. Encoded information is revealed with an optical or digital decoder.” (The decoder comprises a piece of clear plastic with engraved parallel lines on it.)



When the decoder is placed on the Cartor flower dummy stamp (left) and it is rotated correctly a butterfly suddenly lands on the flower (right). Scanning* proved impossible, so a macro-photo was taken.



In 2012 Cartor printed a scrambled indicia dummy stamp with explanatory label in English and French.

**It must be remembered that despite the novelty effect, SI® was created as a covert security feature initially, so almost certainly incorporates ‘anti-scanning’ and ‘anti-copy’ devices within its software.*

The effect is created as part of the pre-press stage and not the stamp printing stage of production.

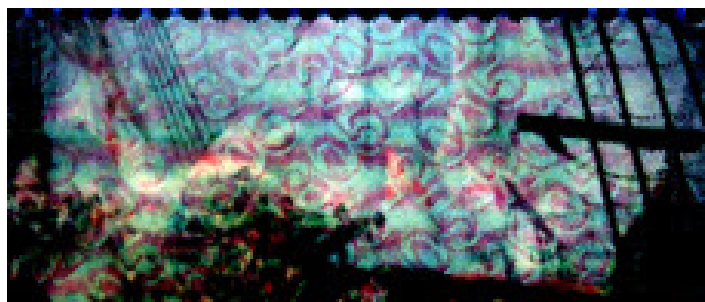
As far as your compiler is aware, it has not been recorded before that the 2005 Royal Mail Trafalgar mini-sheet incorporated scrambled indicia in the top margin and on stamp two of row one (only). Reading the text is not easy and it proved to be even harder to scan for use on these pages. However, it is hoped that you can more-or-less see what is revealed when the lens is rotated and used at the correct angle.

It is assumed that the difficulty in getting the wording and dates 1805-2005 to ‘snap’ into view clearly is why Royal Mail did not announce the availability of this novelty feature. Simplicity is key to easy reading.

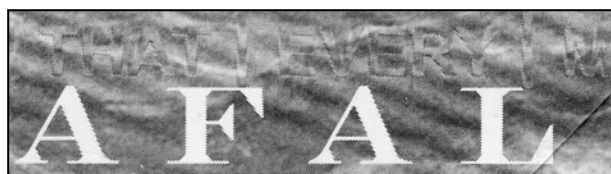


ENGLAND / EXPECTS reading normally left to right across the clouds at top centre of stamp in two lines of outline type.

Unlike with the Cartor dummy stamp, macro-photography gave indifferent results compared with scanning (1200dpi). Note that colours have been altered to black and white (using infrared) to assist with the reading of text. The engraved lines of the decoder are especially prominent in this scan.



1805-2005 in repeat pattern diagonally across the whole stamp and reading from bottom left to top right. (Poor) macro-photo.



The whole top margin of the MS also bears the iconic phrase ENGLAND EXPECTS THAT EVERY MAN WILL DO HIS DUTY. The words above ...AFAL... read ...THAT EVERY...



The issued miniature sheet from Royal Mail. ☒

Teetgen and Coppen Bros

These are not dummy stamps

Every so often your compiler is asked about two designs frequently sold by Rushstamps. The query is generally "who are these people?" and "are the items dummy stamps?".

Augustus Teetgen was, in fact, a tea merchant originally trading out of Bishopsgate in London, then elsewhere. He was the founder of the company which had begun in 1834.



Excuse the image quality, but items were not available to scan.



While nothing has been found about Coppen Bros, it is apparent that the labels are the same basic design as the Teetgen examples, as are the colours, and it is therefore reasonable to assume that they are from the same printing house. There probably was also a connection between the two businesses.



A Teetgen tea caddy.

They have been seen described as "dummy stamps from Harrison & Sons", and while the printer name could be accurate, they are NOT dummy stamps but promotional labels produced for these companies.

Hopefully this will also dispel the misinformation that the company names are simply fictitious. ☐

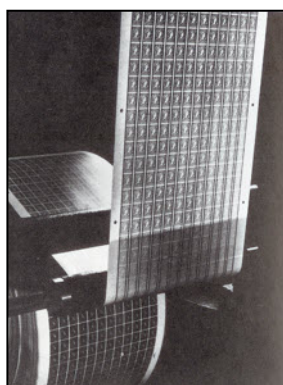
Forged Dummy "Graphite Lines"

More eBay rubbish surfaces online

No longer content with adding 'training' bars to the face of FTPO dummy stamps, we now have pseudo-graphite lines appearing on the back for sale!

The only problem is that they will not be made of graphite and they do not comply with the method of production in that the printed lines fall short of the perforations instead of being continuous.

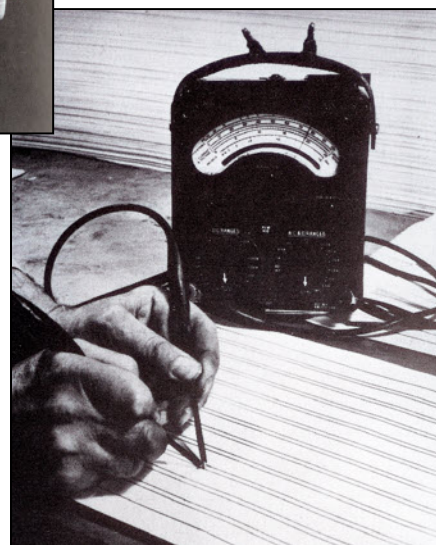
The photos below were taken at Harrison and show a meter reading being made and the graphite lines applied to stamps on the web. The images both show continuous lines. As ever, exercise 'buyer beware' when buying dummy stamps on eBay. ☐



eBay rubbish currently on offer.

Genuine graphite lines were used on five Wilding stamps from 1957 and were printed UNDER the coating of gum.

The forged dummy FTPO labels has to have the laser(?) printing on top of the gum coating.



...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. ☐