

Dummy Stamps

Issue 32

A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material

Quarter 4, 2013

Mother and Child, plus Virgin on Clouds from De La Rue

Source imagery found

Through a chance conversation at a recent society meeting, your compiler was shown a scan of the source image for one of the earliest and loveliest De La Rue dummy stamp designs. As Christmas is about family, it makes for a nice lead article.



This design has been known as *Mother and Child*, a fair reflection of the subject, but it is officially known as *Madame le Brun and her Daughter* and is taken from a 1789 self-portrait by Louise Elizabeth le Brun with her daughter Jeanne Lucie Louise.

This, and next, dummy stamp may originally have been an essay for 1897 PoW Hospital Fund labels.



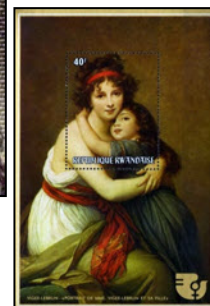
(left) The painting on a Mother's Day stamp from Dubai.



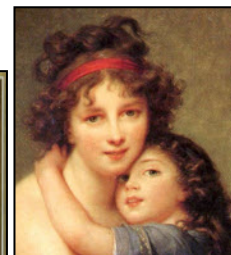
(right) self-portrait of Louise on French stamp.



Close-up of DLR engraving.



Mini-sheet from Rwanda showing the full painting on show at The Louvre.



Close-up of the painting.

Knowing that the above design has a companion item referred to by collectors as *Virgin on Clouds*, the source was then sought for this second item.

It was soon located on the Internet*, but no mention of the artist could be found on any website that was using the image. So, having shared the scan with a fellow enthusiast, he went to a London museum where the curatorial staff were able to confirm that it is known as *The Immaculate Conception* and that it was painted by Murrillo, who had created about 18 examples of this image in 1650, with this one being held in the Prado Museum, Madrid.



* drag and drop an image into Google Images browser and it will return any matching, or closely matching, results. A useful tool.



"A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all readers of DS"

Artisan Press and De La Rue

Do dummy stamps exist for this trial run?

While going through hundreds of issues of *Stamp Collecting Weekly* [GB] recently, a snippet in the news pages of its 28 August 1969 issue proved of interest. It had been extracted from the *Bulletin* of the Leicester Philatelic Society, who had in turn first seen it in a print trade journal.

The piece in part read: "De La Rue had won a GPO contract for printing the *Post Office* commemorative stamps by offset-litho. De La Rue ordered, and received, a four-colour sheet-fed press, which was installed at their Gateshead works for this purpose. It is a Roland Rekord type RVKIII having a maximum sheet size of 25 5/8 inches x 38 inches, manufactured by Faber & Schleicher AG out in Germany.

"Before placing this order, De La Rue insisted on tests being made on a Roland press to ensure that it would meet the register requirements necessary for stamp printing. These tests were run at the Artisan Press at Anstey, near Leicester, using gummed paper; test plates and ink were provided by De La Rue."

The obvious questions that spring to mind are what was the test plate design and do copies exist from that trial? The Artisan Press still exists to this day, but it is unlikely that they would have any records on the trial, which would have no doubt been accomplished in one shift working.

Does this project ring any bells with anyone who reads *Dummy Stamps*?

BW Bearded Briton

Die proof surfaces

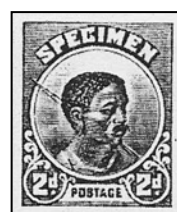
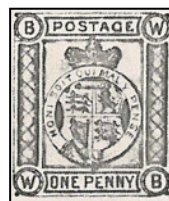
An attractive die-proof of the Bradbury, Wilkinson Bearded Briton design was recently sold. ☒



Help Needed re Several Bradbury, Wilkinson Dummy Items

No man is an island....

Can anyone supply scans of the following dummy items from Bradbury, Wilkinson, please, as only these poor photostats have been seen. ☒



DAVAC Gumming

A new gum from 1963 aided production of Gold Coins

In issue *DS31*, your compiler used the term ‘water-activated’ to describe the gumming used on the Tonga Gold Coins stamps. This is the term that is invariably used by stamp printers to signify stamps that require either saliva or a wet sponge to activate the gum on the reverse. This term was unfamiliar to more than one reader, so if you were one of them, it is now hopefully clear to you.

Space on the front page prevented full details of what was then a new gum type from being described, for while the Tongan issue was water-activated for sure, it actually comprised a new invisible gum called DAVAC. The producers, Samuel Jones, wrote at the time.....

DAVAC is a clear, matt adhesive. Made and pioneered by Samuel Jones for Walsall's Tonga coins of 1963. A suspension of discrete particles of adhesive in a non-aqueous solution of a resin binder, which is then coated on a paper and the solvent dried off. This leaves a paper, on the surface of which lie the small individual particles of the water soluble adhesive anchored to the body paper by a small proportion of resin. On moistening, the binder permits the water to permeate through to the adhesive particles, so giving a tacky gummed film indistinguishable from normal gumming.

The advantage of DAVAC is that it does not cause the paper to curl under extreme climatic conditions. It also enables specialised papers and foils to be used, which could not normally be processed by mechanical non-curling processes.

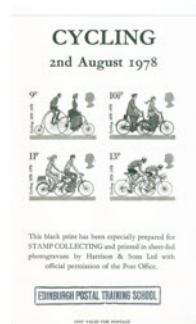
The “mechanical non-curling processes” that are referred to above are the ‘gum-breakers’ used for normal paper production. The reel of paper is drawn across steel blades, or similar, under tension resulting in minute gaps between the particles of gum that allows the paper to expand or contract depending on climatic conditions without causing a curling of the substrate - the bane of postal counter clerks and collectors. On most stamps, this process is invisible to the eye when examining the gum on the issued stamp, but on some German, American and possibly stamps from other countries as well, there are colourless lines across the gum at intervals that serve the same purpose.

The Tonga gold-foil stamp substrate was too thick to pass across the steel blades without causing damage before printing, hence the new gum.

DAVAC was also used on two issues of stamps from Canada, but as these comprised normal thickness paper, it may explain why they did not continue with this gum type. However, it fails to explain why the Canadian printers ever bothered with DAVAC-gummed paper in the first place, as there are no obvious benefits when used on normal thickness paper. ☒

More eBay Rubbish

Continue to be vigilant when buying on eBay



eBay continues to be a great source for philatelic items, but also a place where vendors sell material that is not that which it purports to be.

The item alongside has never seen the inside of a training school, so do not purchase. ☒

Waterlow specimen dummy stamps surface for the first time

Exercise caution when buying

A couple of examples of the Lady with the Torch design have been seen for sale with a SPECIMEN overprint in black.

They appear to be “right”, but as they have not been seen, examine closely before buying. ☒



Interesting Finds since the Previous Issue of Dummy Stamps

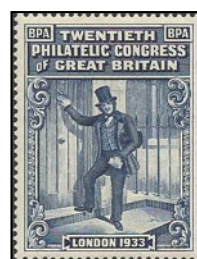
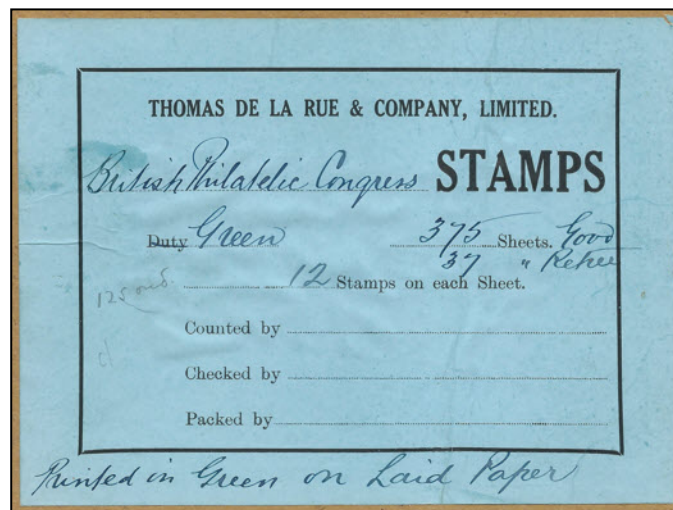
.....and still they keep coming

With thanks to those readers who supplied scans. ✉



The Harrison Alexandra Rose design has been seen in an imperforate condition.

It is just possible that all colours exist imperforate, but having never seen these until now it seems unlikely.

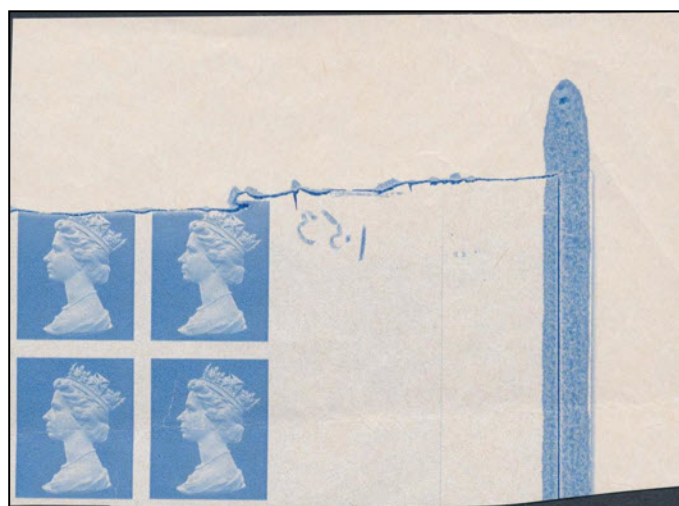


It is unusual to find box end labels, this being for the Postman's Knock Philatelic Congress of GB design dating from 1933.

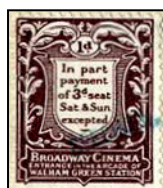


All three of these £20 dummy stamps are modern prints.

Worded FAKE on reverse, they may still fool some, so if offered this design for under a fiver... beware!



Harrison Jumelle trial block.



These Broadway Cinema labels recycled the Arms dummy design.



Previously unrecorded, both values (3d / 6d) were printed in brown, surely making correct selection at point of sale difficult?

Contained in a book of Trade Stamps printed by Harrison with the Patriots label at centre. All overprinted in blue 'SPECIMEN'.

The cinema was in Waltham Green, Fulham and closed in 1955. ✉

International Security Printers to Relocate Printing away from Walsall

Exciting new plans to relocate the Midland Road, Walsall, premises to the i54 site at Wolverhampton

Many months ago, your compiler became aware, through idly surfing the web one afternoon, of a planning application that would relocate ISP's British stamp printing premises away from the town of Walsall to a new site known as i54, which is in Wolverhampton. It was thought best not to comment before now but as the press were advised in November the information can be freely shared with those who have not heard.

ISP intends building a seven-figure state of the art security stamp printing facility on five acres of land at the i54 site. Initially comprising 70,000 square feet, it has the flexibility to expand by a further 30,000 square feet if demand for its stamp products continues to increase in the future.

The 80 staff will be relocating from Walsall following completion of the new building in 2014, enabling it to seamlessly continue its core production of printing self-adhesive stamps, where more than 60% of total output is destined for overseas, including major contracts for postal administrations in Europe and Japan.

Speaking about the move, ISP's managing director Paul White said to the press last month: *"This is a major investment and key strategic acquisition for the company. The new manufacturing premises on the prestigious i54 site, coupled with an ambitious programme of investment in state of the art printing technologies will provide us with a firm foundation from which to expand our business operations.*

The proximity of the site to key transportation networks will be invaluable in efficiently servicing UK, European and global clients."

The new building was designed by Wolverhampton architects Tweedale and is to be constructed by A & H Construction of Halesowen, thus giving a major boost to two further locally-based companies.

For ISP to make this major financial commitment to new premises is proof that they see stamps as a part of daily life for many years to come, despite those who talk of the imminent demise of the postage stamp. (The meter franking machine was to have killed-off stamps in the 1920's, so nothing changes.)



*(above and right) Visuals of the new premises.
All wording and use of imagery on this page
has been approved by ISP.*

Your compiler wishes International Security Printers Ltd well in this exciting new venture. ☒

When Walsall Security Printers Ltd acquired Cartor, a new company named International Security Printers Ltd was set up to head up both of these trading companies offering the services and combined resources of both manufacturing plants to its clients.



Bradbury, Wilkinson Album

A rare opportunity to purchase samples

An attractive album is on offer as these words are being typed. The lot description reads:

Presentation book by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. containing imperforate colour trials and essays of various countries, each perforated "SPECIMEN," including:

- Belgian Congo 1920 airmail set of 4 in issued colours.
- British Central Africa Freedom, Justice, Commerce revenues.
- British East Africa 1890-94 8a in brown.
- Chile 1894 1c in brown.
- Crete 1905 & 1907 values in unissued colours.
- Egypt 1906 5m Sphinx and 10m Bedouins & Camels essays.
- Falkland Islands 1898 2s6d in green and 5s in red.
- Greece 1913 25l in unissued colours.
- Mexico 1899 and 1910 values in unissued colours (16).
- Romania 1906 values in unissued colours (2 with different central design to that issued) and 1906 semi-postal with value.
- Salvador 1903 MarozÁ;n monument 12c in unissued colour and two fiscals.
- Serbia 1915 King Peter & Staff 25p in unissued colour.
- Spain 1916 Cervantes issue set of 4 in unissued colours.
- Turkey 1914 (14) plus 2 postage dues in unissued colours.

However, it is the final part of the offering that interests us here, namely: "Specimen dummy stamps depicting Mercury and King George V*, and vignettes with Portsmouth Memorial & Portsmouth's Heroes vignette and Milan 1906 Exhibition vignette."



These enlargements are too large for clear rendering and are becoming pixilated. However, they do show that the dummy stamps are indeed pin-perforated at foot SPECIMEN.



* Actually King Edward VII!

Described as a "wonderful item for the connoisseur", the lot bore an estimate of € 10,000 - € 15,000. ☒

200 Years of De La Rue Banknote

No stamps, but an attractive Guernsey banknote. ☒



...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. ☒

