

Dummy Stamps

Issue 33

A Newsletter Covering British Stamp Printers' Dummy Stamp Material

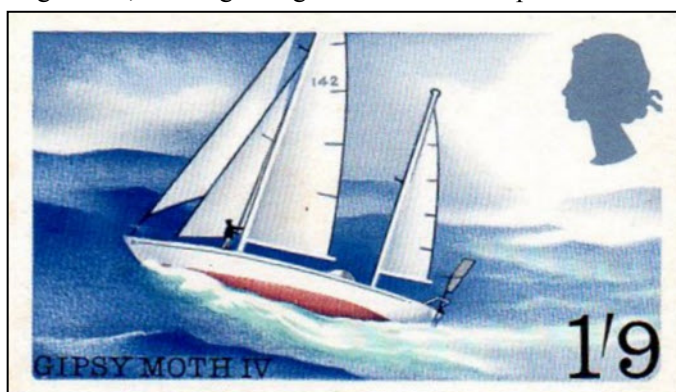
Quarter 1, 2014

Questa's Chichester Printing is Reported in the Collection of a DS Reader

This exciting new discovery has been verified as genuine by an ex-Questa Director at the recent Spring Stampex

In an earlier issue of Dummy Stamps, mention was made of a Questa printed Chichester trial proof. This lead article takes details from that original piece and now incorporates additional information and images.

Think back to 1967 when Sir Francis Chichester was commemorated on a GPO stamp. Now study the image below and decide what is different to any copy that you might own, while ignoring that the scan is imperfect!



If you cannot readily find a difference, it is that the GOAMAN and HARRISON imprints normally found in the bottom margin are absent and the overall look is brighter. Why? The House of Questa also officially proofed this stamp to show-off the quality of its stamp printing capabilities to the British Post Office.

One-time House of Questa director Wally Rodgers recorded a series of three oral history tapes for BPMA in 2001. (*Repository GB 1971 British Library, The National Sound Archive. Finding No F9723-F9725.*)

On tape three, side A in an interview summary, the transcriber of Wally's words wrote: "Broke into P.O. work by persuading them that they (Questa) could do the work. P.O. gave them a piece of Chichester artwork*, told HoQ to go away and do some proofs from it. Went back three or four weeks later, P.O. thought that they were excellent." (* held by BPMA.)

This trial had not been seen before, indeed copies seemed not to have entered the philatelic market, so it came as a surprise when regular reader and supporter

of *Dummy Stamps* Derek Weston came forward with a scan of his Questa proof card, as reproduced here with his kind permission.

The proof is better than the scan implies and it will hopefully be seen that the quality is excellent, indeed it is much better than the Harrison version that Questa have affixed below their proof. Colours are more vibrant, text is easier to read against the sea and the paper is much whiter. In fairness to Harrison, the proof was not part of a multi-million print run, but a controlled item comprising just a few copies.

Derek owns a second card with the proof marked with biro (not seen). This damage probably occurred after despatch from Questa, as any essay not up to standard would have been destroyed before mounting on a presentation card.

While not a dummy stamp, per-se, the chance of sharing this item with readers could not be missed. ☒



An item of great importance to the story of Questa and its involvement with the printing of British stamps.

McCorquodale Interest is High

Why was there such a demand for this item?

The McCorquodale 1879 tender design below is relatively common and can invariably be obtained for between £10-£20 per copy.

eBay recently sold a block of 12 for £133 (£11 a copy, which is fair enough). The biggest surprise was that this lot attracted a massive 47 bids! ☒



Training Stamps with Controls

Probably the best sheet position to purchase

An attractive pair of King George VI definitive stamps overprinted using letterpress by Harrison with the all-too-familiar training defacement bars are depicted below. These pairs are the first seen by your compiler from this important sheet position that identifies the printing. ☒



More eBay Rubbish

The output continues....

Your compiler is against publicising these items as they are not worthy of inclusion, but they have to be revealed, lest anyone buys under a false pretext.

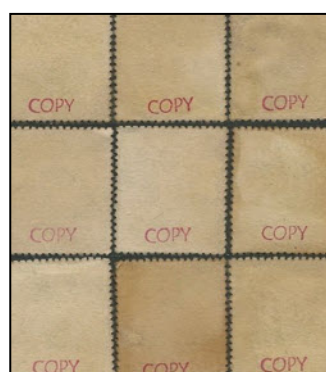
The De La Rue £20 Oversea (sic) Dominions design was included last time. The lot description showed the word FAKE on the back, but copies supplied were *without* this text. They WILL fool some. (The three copies cost 58p for the 'set' and were bought for reference purposes only. A moral dilemma!)

Now from another seller we have the same design but with Jubilee rules in the margins and a price (including P&P) of around a fiver. Not purchased!



<< Fake

<< Genuine



These are of far more concern as the paper has been aged and while the reverse states COPY in the auction description maybe the actual items do not have this hand-stamp inscription.

This is a worrying trend.

To end this section, a new faked version of the poached egg label with the addition of four parallel horizontal lines.

This type of overprint was never sanctioned by the Post Office. Buyer beware, as usual. ☒

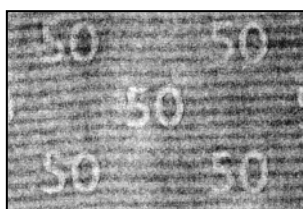


Watermarked Paper Samples

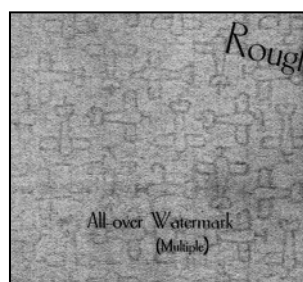
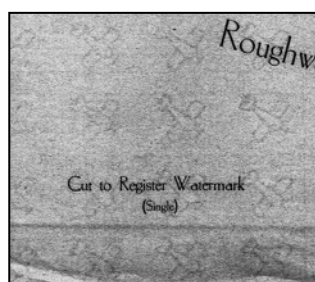
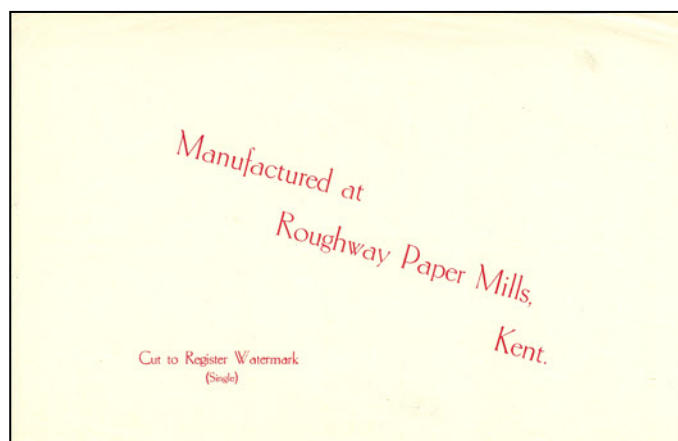
Given away by Royal Mail at exhibitions and in the *Bulletin* in 2002, and by a paper mill in 1923

Many readers will be aware of the use of a watermark device comprising a repeated number 50. It was used on philatelic products marking the Golden Jubilee of the Accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Samples of this paper in an A5 format were given away at exhibitions and bore no printing on each piece. However, a second version exists from similar sized sheets that appeared as a gift in the February 2002 issue of the *British Philatelic Bulletin*. A much reduced A5 sheet appears below, together with an enlargement of the text used.



It is not often that such gifts are made and your compiler can only recall one other instance dating back to 1923 by the Roughway Paper Mill in single and multiple watermark bit versions. ✉



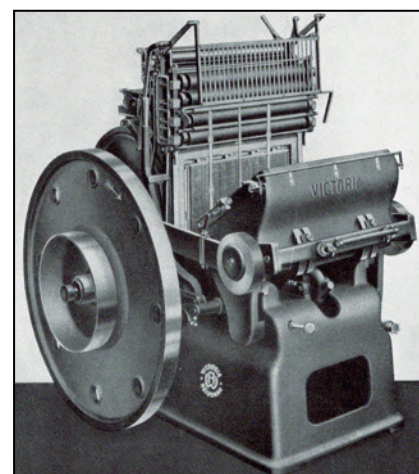
A QEII multiple crown watermark dandy roll on and off of the paper making machine. Photo taken by Harrison in the 1960s.

The Victoria Printing Press

New label surfaces depicting this British press



The scan above is sadly severely pixilated (the actual item has not been seen at this time).



It is interesting because it depicts a Victoria platen printing press, as shown on plate xxxi of the 1949 book *Postage Stamps in the Making* by John Easton. In fact, the photo appears to be identical to that used on the promotional dummy stamp and was probably the source image. For this reason, it is almost certain that the dummy stamp is of British, not German, origin.

Easton wrote: "Victoria platen machine. This is used for fine colour printing, and is a great improvement on the earlier types. The ink is distributed by a series of rollers working in pyramid on a drum. The inking rollers are shown, just clear of the type-forme, and about to descend). The three steel fingers in front of the type forme are used for attaching a frisket*." (Courtesy of Frank F Pershke Ltd.)"

* Frisket definition: a thin metal frame for keeping the paper in position during printing on a hand press.

These presses are of German descent, as originally made by Rockstroh-Werke AG of Heidenau, but they were subsequently (also?) made in the UK by Frank F Pershke of London, a company now shown as being dissolved. ✉

Of Marginal Interest

Error in placement of guide arrow



While these items are not strictly of relevance to these pages, they are interesting.

Your compiler therefore decided to show them here...

... and where else could he have used the play on words! ☒



King George V Post Office Training Stamps

Early instructional school material offered

It is not often that pre-King George VI overprinted British training stamps are offered for sale.



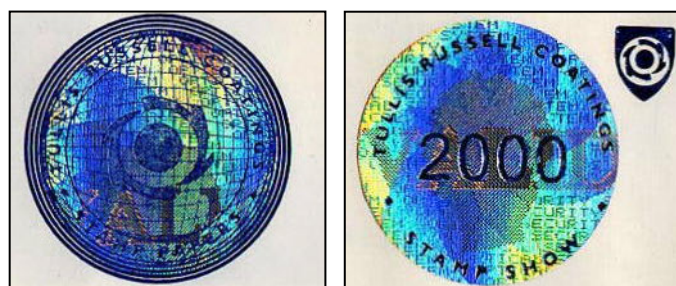
These examples are nice additions to a collection of such material.... assuming that they are genuine. In fairness, they were offered by the British firm of Sandafayre, the well-known auctioneers, so all should be well and they do look 'right'. ☒

Tullis Russell and Polymer Fibres

The results from checking your stamps may surprise you



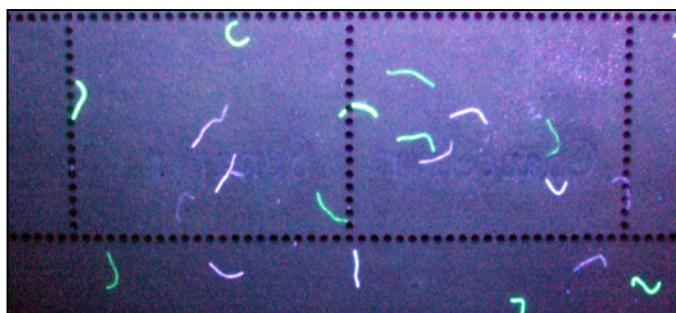
One of the two issued sheets.



Both types of light-refracting foil, as overprinted by navy intaglio ink.

Many readers will be aware of the Tullis Russell sheets that were available at The Stamp Show 2000 (was it really 14 years ago) and that two versions exist. *See both types of the differing foiling used on the full sheetlets.*

Recent examination of these items under Ultra Violet lighting revealed that the paper contains fluorescent fibres on the reverse side only.



They resemble glowing micro-organisms grown by a mad biologist in a Petri dish (a shallow cylindrical lidded dish used to culture cells). They are actually a covert (hidden) security feature to protect the stamp against forgery and comprise fine polymer fibres that are machine readable under UV light. They can be ordered in various colours and lengths.

It always pays to check your stamps - and not just the face, but clearly the reverse also. ☒

Stephen Mayer International (SMI) and its Involvement with the Automation of Philatelic Products

A company with a long history of assisting philatelic bureaux to efficiently prepare packs and covers for customers

If you collect worldwide Presentation Packs (PP) and / or First Day Covers (FDC), there is every likelihood that you possess material created with the assistance of automated equipment produced in the United Kingdom by SMI.

THE COMPANY

The company was founded by the late Stephen Mayer and was registered at Companies House in 1970, initially using the name **Philmec** for each of the machines produced, having obtained the licensing rights for manufacturing the early products from the British Post Office. The **Philmec** product name was later changed for copyright reasons.

Since Stephen's retirement in 1992 the company has been under the ownership of David C Faulkner.

SMI still manufactures bespoke sheet bursting, presentation pack assembly and FDC stamp affixing machinery, although it has to be said that demand is not what it once was. This is in part due to falling demand for philatelic products, coupled with the change-over by many postal administrations to self-adhesive stamps, which can utilise "off the shelf" labelling equipment, often using bespoke coils of stamps instead of sheets for the purpose.

SMI's EARLIEST CUSTOMERS

The first was Jersey in 1984, followed by Norway, Austria, Zimbabwe, Ireland and Isle of Man.

The British Post Office bureau in Edinburgh (now known as Tallents House) was the seventh SMI customer and many other bureaux followed.

THE FIRST MACHINE

SMI commissioned The Monotype Corporation to develop and manufacture the first **Autophix** (then known as **Philmec**) machine in 1981/2.

Development took three years at a cost of around £95,000. Over 30 postal administrations and security printers were to become users of this innovative equipment by 1990.

WHAT FOLLOWS....

The sections that follow describe the types of equipment, their function and the dummy stamps and dummy covers that have resulted. It is thought to be as true and complete a record as is feasible with the passage of time and the demise of the founder.

This article has been seen and approved by Dave Faulkner in advance of circulation of this issue of *Dummy Stamps* and his considerable assistance is acknowledged here with grateful thanks.

STAMP BURSTING MACHINE

How does it work? Well, after feeding in the stamp sheets in batches of 5, the burster will tear off strips as required before transporting them forward for separating into individual stamps or groups of stamps, with the selvedge being removed by a vacuum removal system. As many as 10,000 stamps per hour can be processed, depending on stamp size.

The stamp products are then inserted into hoppers (a.k.a. cassettes) of the presentation pack assembler or FDC affixing equipment for further processing.

The **SB500** bursting product has been used in several post offices, the first of which was Belgium.

No dummy material exists with Stamp Burster branding, as any stamps destined for use in presentation pack or FDC hoppers would have used the unique dummy material created for those products. Today, it is not unusual for sheets of unprinted blank, perforated stamps, as supplied by the relevant postal administration, to be utilised during the testing phases of a new machine.



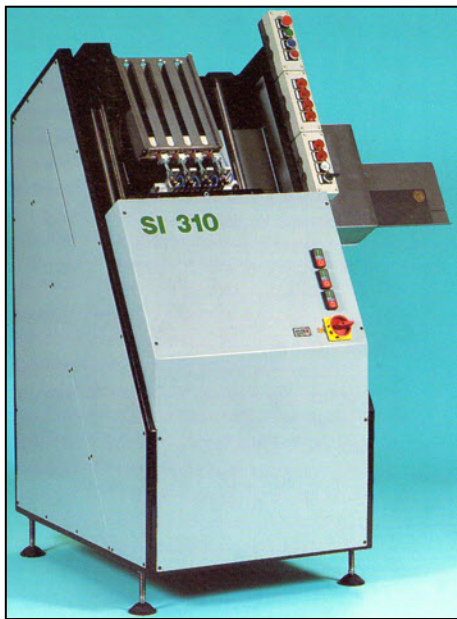
SB500 Stamp Burster

PRESENTATION PACK ASSEMBLY

Presentation pack assembly involves the insertion of stamps under a clear sheet of plastic film that is glued along the bottom edge with a rubber cement to a carrier sheet.

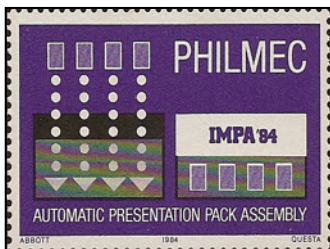
These were for many years separate black cards, but today can be an integral part of the printed pack information folder, or “wrap around” as they are referred to in the philatelic industry.

Insertion is achieved by a row of suction cups that opens up the flap while simultaneously a second row pulls down the stamps from the cassette and inserts.

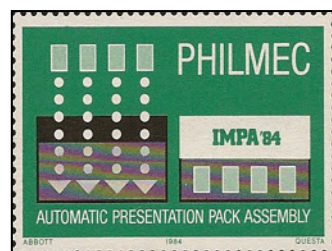


(The small **SI 310** stamp inserter.

The equipment employed for this operation has used different product names down the years. **Philmec**, **Versatile Pack Assembler**, **Autopak**, **Stampac** and the smaller **SI 310 Stamp Inserting Machine** (for customers with low/medium output requirements) being five such names.



SMI-84-1



SMI-84-2

Date: 1984. Designer: Clive Abbott. Printer: House of Questa [GB].



SMI-87-7

Date: 1987. Designer: 'Garnier'. Printer: CPE [Australia].



SMI-00-12



Date: c2000. Designer: SMI. Printer: Walsall Security Printers [GB].
The above version in green was used for pack and FDC use.

FIRST DAY COVER STAMP AFFIXING

To process FDCs, the water-activated stamps are loaded into the hoppers and the single or multiple stamps or miniature sheets required for each cover are extracted by a vacuum platen. The stamps are then advanced, moistened, positioned, lowered and pressed home on to the envelope.



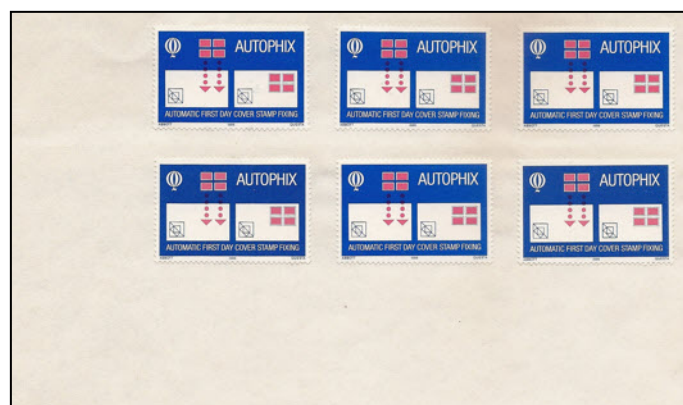
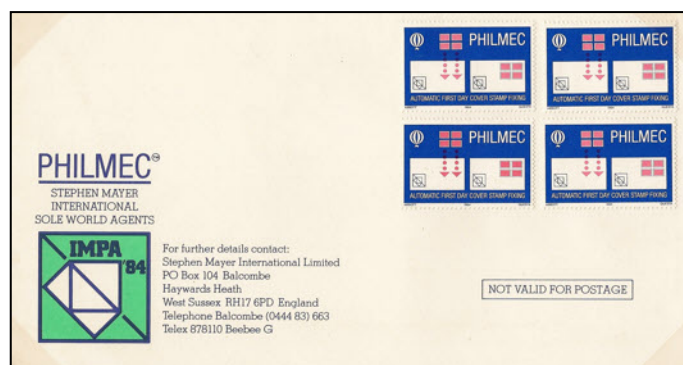
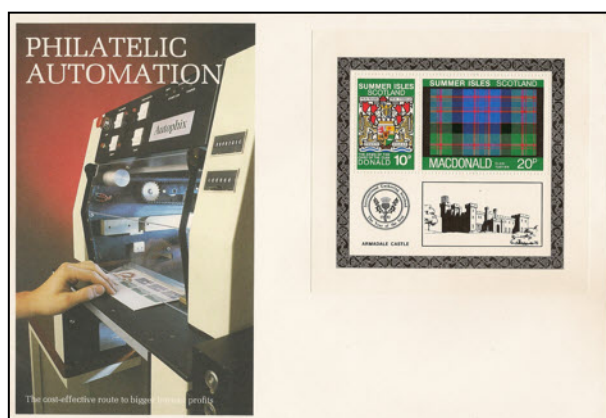
Dummy **Autophix** stamps in their cassettes awaiting affixing.

As with the packs, the FDC stamp affixing equipment has used different product names down the years. **Philmec**, **Autophix**, **Autofix** and **SAM21** being four such names.

A later development saw the optional addition of an auto-feeding device, rather than manual feeding of covers. Postmarks can be applied using a **Super Autophix** machine or **SAM21**, both of which can incorporate an FDI cancelling system.

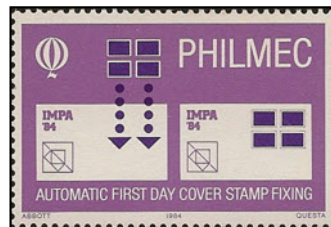
Jersey was the first purchaser of **Autophix** in 1985, having bought it following demonstrations at IMPA, Hamburg, in 1984. It was used “very successfully” in its first year, from the *Artists VI* stamp issue onwards. Of 33,000 envelopes processed for one issue just four covers were damaged.

In 2011, the Hong Kong Post Office bought a newly designed model, renamed **Autofix**, with a second machine being purchased the following year.



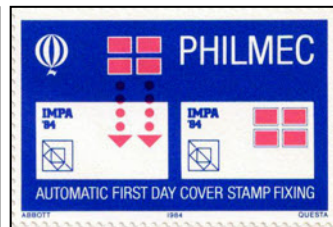
Three covers using a) Summer Isles issued Miniature Sheet (demonstrating how the machine could cope with large affixings), b) **Philmec** and c) **Autophix** dummy stamps respectively.

SMI-84-3



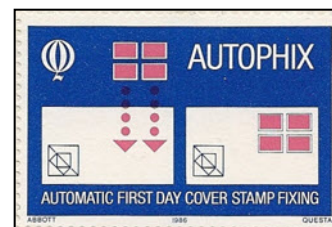
Date: 1984. Designer: Clive Abbott. Printer: House of Questa [GB]. IMPA '84 branded versions.

SMI-84-4



SMI-84-5

Date: 1984. Designer: Clive Abbott. Printer: House of Questa [GB]. Generic post-IMPAs version, still retaining show logo on FDCs.



SMI-86-6

Date: 1986. Designer: Clive Abbott. Printer: House of Questa [GB]. Generic post-IMPAs version, still retaining show logo, and with change of product name to **Autophix** and 1986 imprint at foot. Machine first seen at the Stockholm 'Posttec' technical postal services exhibition held that year, where SMI and the Norwegian PO designed a stand in Oslo, transporting it to Stockholm for the duration of the show.

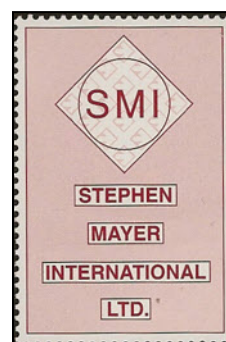
SMI-87-8



SMI-87-9



Date: 1987. Designer: 'Garnier'. Printer: CPE [Australia]. **Autophix** spelling (left), **Autofix** spelling (right), an error as this product name was not introduced until 2011 (see preceding column).



SMI-00-11

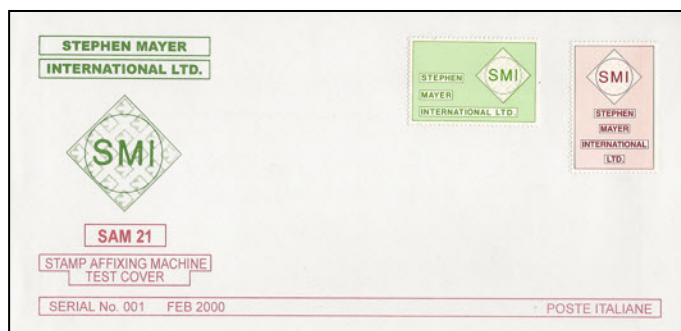
SMI-00-12



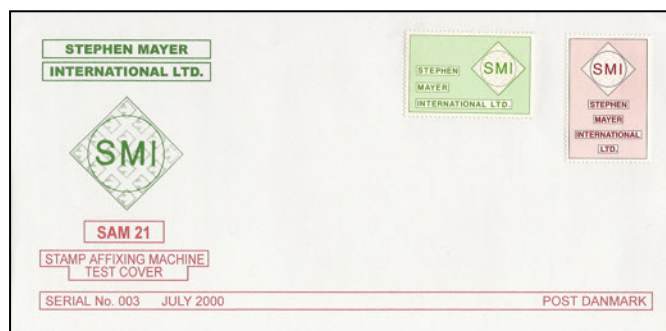
Date: c2000. Designer: SMI. Printer: Walsall Security Printers [GB]. The above horizontal format version printed in green was used for pack and FDC use.



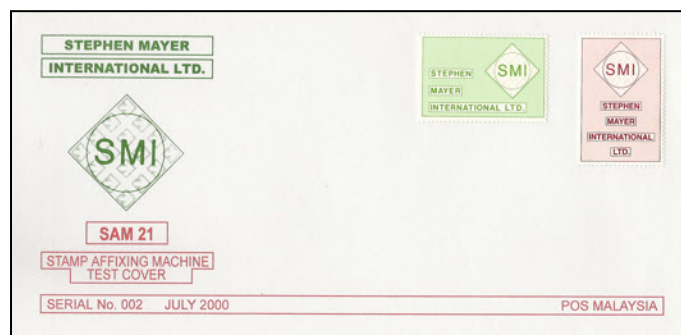
An IMPA '84 cover signed by John England, the designer of one of the machines, using the four show dummy stamps for PP and FDC.



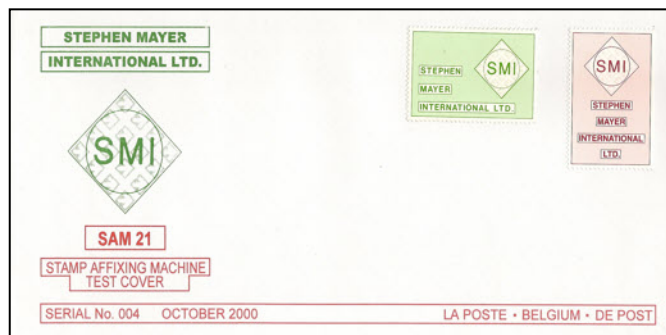
1. SAM21. Poste Italiane. February 2000 demonstration.



3. SAM21. Post Danmark. July 2000 demonstration.



2. SAM21. Pos Malaysia. July 2000 demonstration.



4. SAM21. La Poste / De Post Belgium. October 2000 demonstration.



An IMPA '84 exhibition cover using six Jersey Post Office issued stamps instead of the more usual dummy stamps.

SELF-ADHESIVE STAMP HANDLING

As mentioned previously, dealing with self-adhesive stamps is totally different to water-activated stamps, with a new approach required.

SMI was contacted by the United States Postal Service (USPS) in 2007 to produce a machine that could process the vast quantities of philatelic material needed for every new stamp issue.

It is the only machine of its kind that is capable of handling such stamps and accommodates a wide variety of formats - including booklets - and an even wider range of target materials, such as FDCs and presentation sheets. The machine automatically peels the stamps from their backing sheets and affixes them to the target material individually, in a line, or in a grid, depending on the requirements.



As there are no dummy items available, fuller details of the **PAC-24** machine will not be provided here, but visit <https://www.ppma.co.uk/pubs/pdf/MU-2007-November-Component-Matters.pdf> for the story.

This latest machine ably demonstrates that British engineering skills are still very much in demand across the world at a time when it is easy to think that this country no longer produces anything in the manufacturing sector.

STAMPAC MODEL

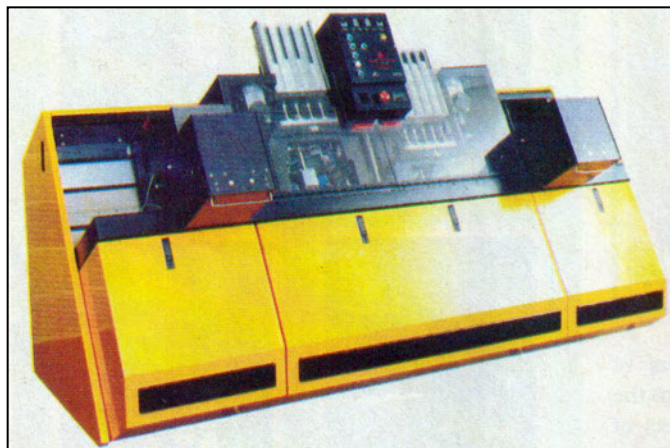
A model of the **Stampac** machine in a glass display case, sitting on green and grey block is inscribed 'STAMPAC' on yellow backing with black double outline letters and is held by the British Postal Museum & Archive at its Debden store in Essex.

The museum catalogue entry reads: "Rectangular machine, mainly yellow with black and silver parts. Consists of a unit with operating buttons in red, green, yellow, white and blue.

Inscribed on it is 'VERSATILE PACK ASSEMBLER BRITISH PO'. Adjoined to this are slots with small blank pieces of paper in. There are two trays on either side of this, one with sheets of stamps in. Below this is a pane of glass and mechanical parts."

BPMA finding aid -

Title: Stampac Machine Model
Accession Number: 2003-0523/05
Previous Number: E6832/19



This **Stampac** model was made by Richard Pendell Model Makers.

The **Stampac** machine is still in active use around the world at several postal administrations.

ONE FURTHER DUMMY STAMP

The three blue and red dummy stamps with outline drawings of the machines on previous pages have a fourth label that promotes the stamp printer CPE (Cheque Printers and Encoders Australia Pty Ltd), resulting in a block of four designs. Mr Mayer wrote to your compiler in 1990 stating: "not a successful venture".



SMI-87-10

It will be noted that the designer and year are stated. The artist "Garnier" has not been traced and may have worked for CPE, or as a freelance designer.

...AND FINALLY

While the story of Stephen Mayer International continues, its use of dummy stamps does not.

These days, postal authorities are far more willing to permit the use of real stamps during machine testing phases. This is one reason why the **PAC-24** self-adhesive machine did not result in any dummy stamps for our collections.

It is hoped that the information and imagery relating to SMI, told here this completely for the first time, will start you searching for available material. ☒

Harrison at WIPA 1933 International Stamp Exhibition

Interesting information regarding intaglio printing

In 1933 Harrison and Sons attended / displayed at the WIPA international stamp exhibition held in Vienna, Austria that year. This was brought to your compiler's attention when the medal awarded to the company for their participation was seen.

The owner of the medal undertook some enquiries and he reported back with his findings, which are shared here, albeit marginally amended.

"On page AB of the WIPA show catalogue is recorded the following text:

20, Printing offices of postage stamps.

Harrison & Sons Ltd., Hayes (England), 1m², -V.

The enterprise existing already since 1750 has been occupied since 1910 with printing of postage stamps by means of recess-printing and photogravure and has executed such stamps for Great Britain, Egypt, Palestine, Gold Coast, Peru and Columbia, as well as entires for South Africa. There are being shown samples of the stamps.

The above 20 is apparently their display number, and it assumed that the 1m² probably signifies one table or display frame of one square meter. The -V may stand for "Verlag", because all the others in this category have that same designation except for the Austrian Staatsdruckerei which had a large area in the Sezession building.*

The Harrison entry was found in a list of displays, and is not indexed in the list of philatelic exhibits."

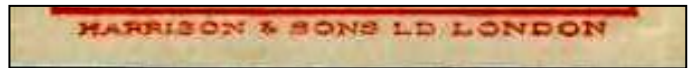
* German for publishing house.

From the above information, the opportunity was taken to delve deeper into this, especially as the words contained in the catalogue would have been supplied by Harrison, as is normal practice for any show catalogue entry to this day. It can therefore reasonably be assumed to be accurate information.

Of particular interest is the fact that they claim to have printed stamps by recess (intaglio), but make no mention of their letterpress printings. Photo-gravure was an exciting new venture at that time, but it plays second fiddle to intaglio, which seems odd, given an apparent lack of recess stamps.

The entry states that Harrison had : "...executed such stamps for Great Britain, Egypt, Palestine, Gold Coast, Peru and Columbia, as well as entires for South Africa."

All of these stamps are recorded in the Harrison Timeline (available for free download at [www.stampprinters.info/Harrison Timeline KGII to KGVI.pdf](http://www.stampprinters.info/Harrison%20Timeline%20KGII%20to%20KGVI.pdf)), with the exception of Columbia and the "entires for South Africa" (for another issue of DS, if traced).



HARRISON & SONS LD, LONDON

taken from an imperforate proof and an issued stamp

It was finally recalled that three Columbian stamps overprinted **HARRISON'S SPECIMEN** had been shown in an issue of DS. It had previously been assumed that these had been printed by letterpress (real examples had not been examined, just poor online scans), but it is now apparent that intaglio was used following research into this stamp issue.

In 1916, the mighty American Bank Note Company had produced the very same stamp series and the enlarged imprint is shown here.



AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY

So, that's the end of it, then? Well 'no' actually, as the same stamp series was then found to have been printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson, De La Rue, Perkins, Bacon AND Waterlow & Sons.



BRADBURY, WILKINSON & CO. LTD



T. DE LA RUE & CO. LD, LONDRES



PERKINS BACON & CO LD, LONDON



WATERLOW & SONS LTD, LONDRES

Excuse the terribly poor quality of these imprints which are from very low-resolution internet scanned images. The imprint wording appears below each image for clarity.

So, it would have almost have been rude not to have included Harrison in the contracts, as all of the big

players of the time were included. Maybe even more imprints exist, but they have not been seen, or looked for, at this time.

There must have been a huge demand for these revenue stamps for so many stamp printers to have been involved in their production. The full story is probably told in one or more of the philatelic works relating to Colombia, but these are not going to be searched, at least not for now.

It is unusual to find so many British printer imprints available on the same stamp series and they make for an interesting set of generally inexpensive revenue stamps, but the temptation for yet another side-line collection sometimes has to be resisted!



As this feature is not really about dummy stamps, the opportunity has been taken to show above the only pre-1933 intaglio dummy stamp designs from Harrison and Sons in an attempt at bringing us back 'on topic'. ☒

Further Olympics Trial Discovered

The true origins are probably being masked by seller

British stamp dealer Brandon Stamp Auctions has recently sold copies of a previously unrecorded Jessica Ennis 2012 Olympic Games trial.



The new discovery (low-res), as sold by Brandon Stamp Auctions.



The issued stamp.

His site recorded: "SGa3353Var. 2012 Olympics 1st Gold Medal Winners Jessica Ennis MAJOR ERROR OF VIGNETTE. The Image Shows Ennis Facing Forward Instead Of Sideways Otherwise Exactly As Issued. Purchased from a Post Office in the the Midlands and two panes (12 stamps) showed the variety. As these were issued in panes of twenty-four it is probably reasonable to assume that 24 stamps may/do exist, as there was very limited time to choose/print the image (just 1 hour) that the printer either adopted the wrong image or quite conceivably 'old stock' may have found it's (sic) way into the hurried shipments. A Highly Dramatic & Truly Wonderful New Variety."

A lovely new discovery for sure, but the chances of it having been sold at a Post Office branch in the Midlands, or anywhere else for that matter, seems pretty unlikely, as the image was not even taken at the Olympics, but at an athletics meet in Istanbul earlier in 2012.

And the price? £475 for a week or so in February, then up £50 to £525 for a single copy. None left. ☒

Early Harrison & Sons Essays and Dummy Stamps with a South African Connection

Interesting photographic images were made available by the South African Government Printer or SAPO

In 1974 the South African Government Printers or SAPO produced 30 sets of photographs depicting undated coloured essays.

Three of them were of Harrison designs, as shown alongside.

An accompanying part album page stated: "Harrison and Sons Ltd. Not dated. On gilt-edged cards with rounded corners, 113 x 88mm or 88 x 113mm. All printed."

It is not clear what the final sentence means.

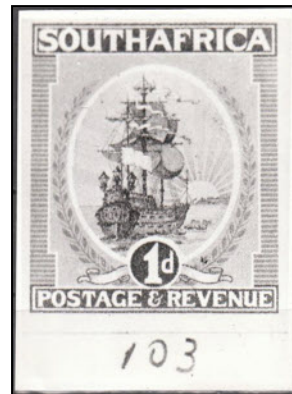
The images are as shown and have been randomly cropped prior to photography! Still, at least the previously unrecorded) HARRISON & SONS, LTD handstamp proves a Harrison connection.

The reverse of each photograph has a violet '24' indicating that they were from set 24 of the 30 made. There is a separate poorly applied handstamp that reads: "UNION ESSAYS REPRODUCED UNDER GOVERNMENT PRINTER'S COPYRIGHT AUTHORITY 5250 OF 28-8-1974." The same text is then repeated in Afrikaans.

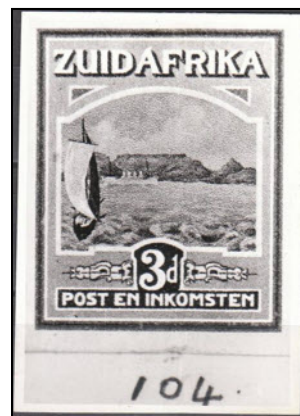
That appeared to be the end of the story, until use



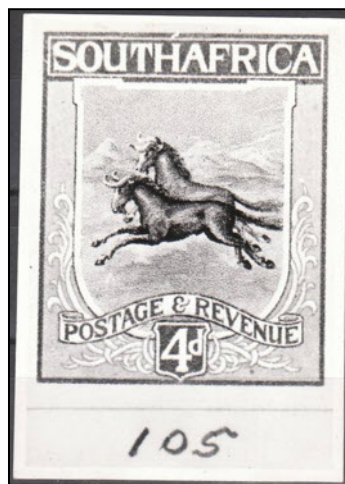
The 'Ship' design.



The 'Table Bay' design.



The 'Gnus' design.



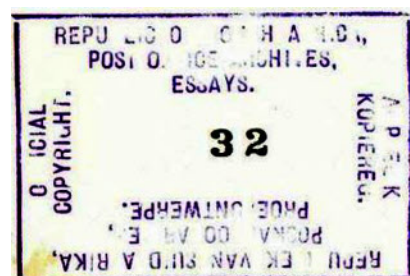
was made of Google Images and its drag and drop system mentioned in the last Dummy Stamps.

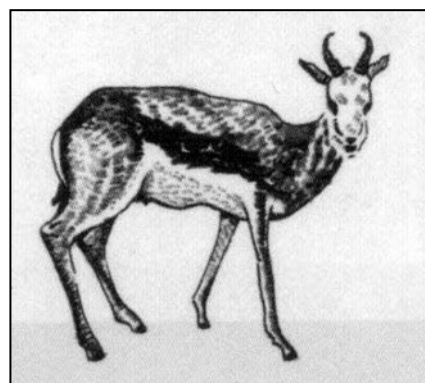
A new set of photographs was then found, but in black and white this time. It also revealed that the 'set' in column one is missing a crucial image (recorded as design 102, and shown on next page).

These images are referred to by a South African vendor as being "photographic proofs", stretching the truth somewhat. They bore a price tag of 560 Rand each, or c£31.

The reverse of each photograph has a black '32' indicating that they were from set 32 of the [?] sets made. Date unknown.

There is also a separate explanatory boxed handstamp, as depicted below, which is in a different format to that on the colour set of photographic images.

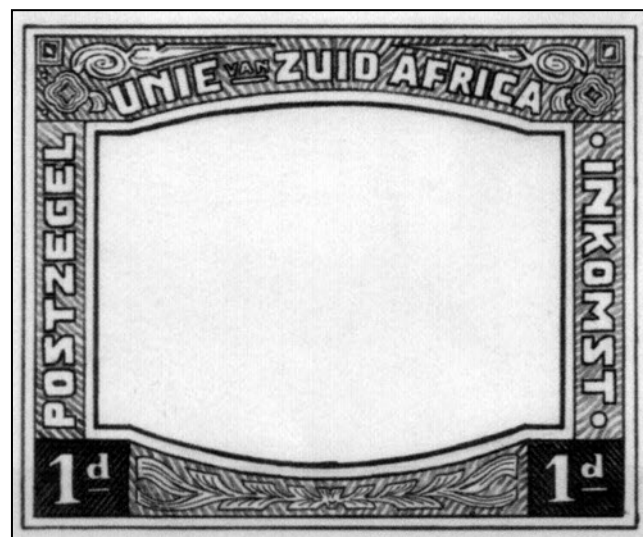




(left and below)

The original artwork for the horizontal format springbok design.

Produced in black pencil and ink on thick white paper, the design was by B G Harrison.



Two of several colour schemes used for the Springbok design. As shown, they exist as mono- and bi-coloured printings.

The issued pair of Springbok stamps, thus revealing the differences between the dummy and the issued product.



The top image depicts the horizontal format Springbok design, known to have been printed at NRM in The Netherlands in 1923 while Harrison staff were being trained in cylinder creation techniques.

The vertical format design below it has not been seen before and certainly not as a dummy stamp. The equivalent colour photograph from the first set of images presumably exists to better show it off.

With bit between teeth, a visit to the library of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, was made. These essays were found reproduced in the 1979 book *"The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910-1961. Handbook Catalogue Definitive Edition. Editor S J Hagger RDPSA"*, as published by Reijer Publishers.

This book proved to be invaluable, for we learn that the essays were submitted in 1923 in various colour combinations on unwatermarked, ungummed paper using the photogravure printing process.

Also, the Springbok dummy stamp design exists in unscreened* and screened versions in differing sizes. While previously unknown to your compiler, clearly collectors of South Africa were aware.

Unscreened*: (Worth 50% more than dearest screened version.)

1. Perf. 14 (size 20.75 x 17mm) in black, blue, purple or carmine.
2. Imperf (23 x 18.75mm) in black, blue or purple.

Screened:

3. Perf 13.5 x 13 (23 x 18.75mm) in carmine/green, black/blue, purple/blue, carmine/blue, black/green or orange/black.
4. Perf 13.5 x 13 (21.5 x 17mm) in blue or carmine.
5. Imperf (23 x 18.75mm) carmine/green, black/blue, purple/blue, carmine/blue, black/green, purple/green or blue/green.

It would have been useful had the handbook illustrated the clear differences in appearance between the unscreened and the screened types, so Hagger's omission is rectified below with 1200dpi images. In both cases, the top right quartile is shown enlarged.



Unscreened* (left) and screened (right). Both stamp images have been converted to black and white. Look especially at the thin rule at the top edge of the design. The serious break-up of that line into screen dots is evident on the right-hand version.

The trials undertaken by Harrison while in Leiden at NRM were printed in sheets of ten, two rows of five dummy stamps. (The overly-large sheet margins were removed by H&S on this presentation page.)



A second printing cylinder was made (possibly back at Harrison in Hayes, England?), as a block of 15 has recently been seen. This enlarged sheet format appears to be previously unrecorded.



As the *Ship*, *Table Bay* and *Gnus* designs were not produced as dummy stamps (but were printed as essays), their story is not told here, but they (and the *Springbok* design) were used with considerable amendment for the issued series of definitive stamps BUT contracts for printing them went to Waterlow and to Bradbury, Wilkinson, not Harrison, despite all the effort that they had clearly gone to in an attempt at securing the contract.

It is assumed that the archives of the South African PO, or maybe the Government Printer, hold the four original essays (plus two further designs by DLR).

It is recognised that much of this article started off somewhat "off-piste" by showing essays rather than dummy stamps, but the topic was able to be rapidly brought back on track with the 'discovery' of the photographic reproduction of the Springbok designs.

There is always something new in this fascinating hobby of ours and the final word on the subject will probably never be written.

* Despite Hagger describing one type as being "unscreened", it is felt that the term "fine screen" might be more appropriate, as it is apparent from the blow-ups that there appears to be a screen visible across the entire dummy stamp, albeit resulting in much smoother edges to straight and curved lines.

This is a subject that deserves greater investigation. ✉

'Lady with Parrot' by Harrison

An intriguing marginal hand annotation reported



The offset dummy stamp design shown alongside was printed by Harrison at its Hayes factory (from where it printed its offset litho stamps, as Wycombe was not used for stamp printing by this process).

There is an intriguing inscription by hand that reads "Phos HS6 / 1630 / 15%" in top margin.

The purchaser, a French reader of *DS*, is the fortunate new owner and it was probably missed by collectors in Britain as it was described as being Yugoslavian by the Slovakian vendor!!

Your compiler exclusively revealed in 2007 (in *DS6*) that Harrison had produced stamps by a new printing process, known internally as 'Harricryl'. DLR had 'Delacryl' and this was the Harrison response.

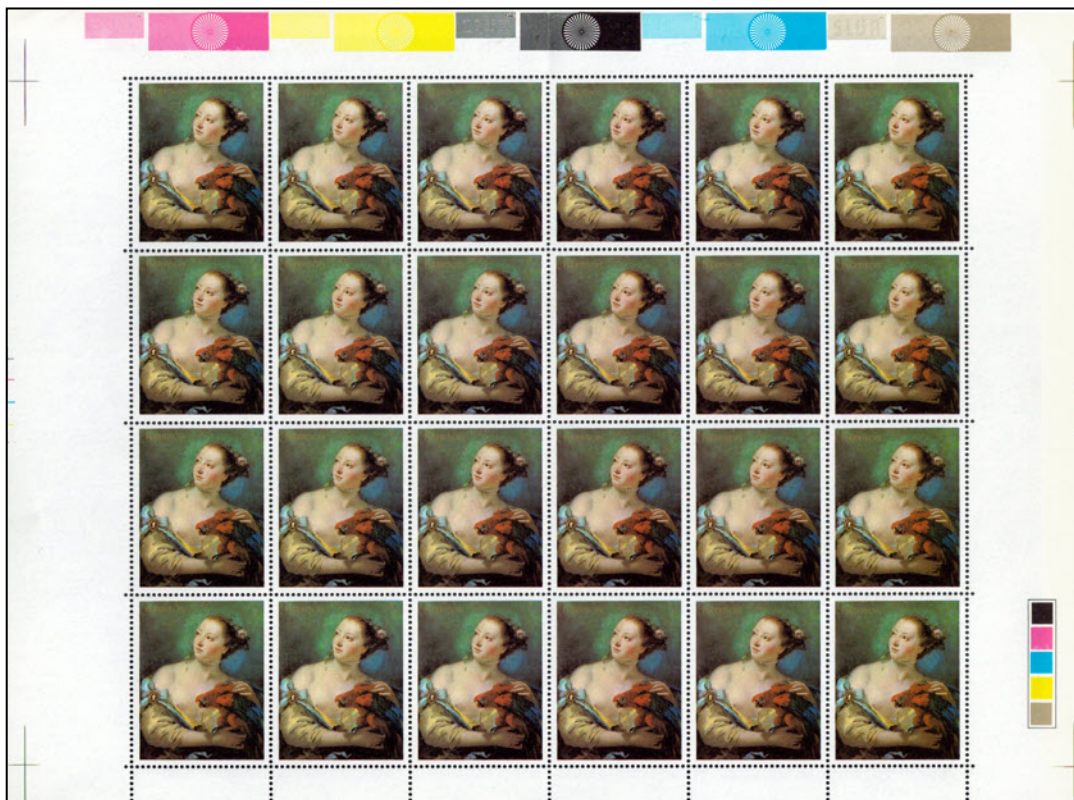
He wrote that Harrison was introduced to fine screen stamp printing in the factory they had in

Hayes by a new employee fresh from De La Rue. They unofficially called the process 'Harricryl' and it was based on 250 lines per inch screen ruling, chosen because the eye was unable to distinguish it from 300 lines and mid-to-heavier tones were less liable to 'clog in' on printing plates available on the market at the time. The process was never used on British stamps, but it was utilised for some foreign issues.

As part of the testing stage, trials were undertaken internally using the famous painting by Tiepolo entitled 'Lady with Parrot'. This design was sent in complete sheets to almost all post offices throughout the world by Harrison in 1969, 1970 and 1971 to try and secure new stamp printing contracts.

As this item bears phosphor (the owner states: "*paper is slightly phosphorescent with UV*"), then it is potentially of even more interest to collectors of British dummy stamps as 1969 was the year that the British Post Office first started to use litho for its special stamps (albeit recorded under De La Rue's 'Delacryl' brand name).

Maybe Harrison saw that a move away from only gravure in GB was potentially on the cards (as is frequently the case today) and thought it prudent to experiment with phosphorised litho stamps just in case? Pure speculation at this time, of course. ☒



A full sheet of the *Lady with Parrot* design, as sent to all post offices worldwide by Harrison and Sons.

Harrison Paper Types Described

Several paper types exist, but more information needed

Mention is made on the previous page of Harrison paper type **HS6**. This is one of eight main types used by the company and thanks to Ian De La Rue Brown and Graham Eyre's useful contribution, a preliminary list can be provided here, together with details of their intended use, where ascertained.

Can anyone assist with further details where there are gaps in the information, please?

The **HS** prefix stands for **H**arrison and **S**ons and the code is always followed by a number, thus **H55**, **H51**, etc are simply incorrect interpretations of poor hand writing.

HS1

HS2 * For gravure, intaglio or combination printing. Chalk coated, FCP.

Plain or watermarked, coated and gummed stamp paper suitable for printing postage stamps by gravure and line engraved printing methods in up to six colours gravure and three colours line engraved. Extremely white, highly reflective and an excellent vehicle for phosphor/luminescent tagging.

HS3 Not used for Royal Mail stamps.

HS4 For gravure printing. Chalk coated. /B4, PCP, /ACP.

HS5 Not used for Royal Mail stamps.

HS6 * For litho and, in some circumstances, combination printing. Clay coated. /B4, PCP /ACP.

Extremely white, highly reflective and an excellent vehicle for phosphor/luminescent tagging.

HS7 For litho printing.

Grade A phosphor coated paper for stamps printed by litho. Produced with a high phosphor and paper properties between **HS6** ACP and ACP paper. The paper had a higher absorption property than **HS6** which should have improved print definition.

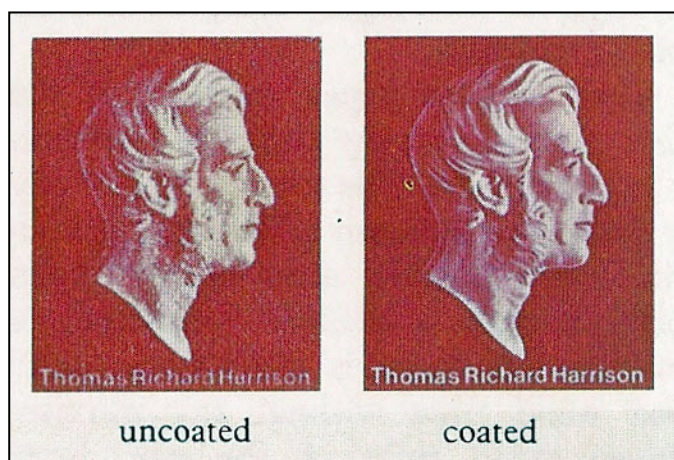
HS8 For litho printing. Clay/chalk coated. PCP/ACP.

* The two most commonly used Harrison papers. ☒



Paper receiving a final polish at the paper making area in High Wycombe.

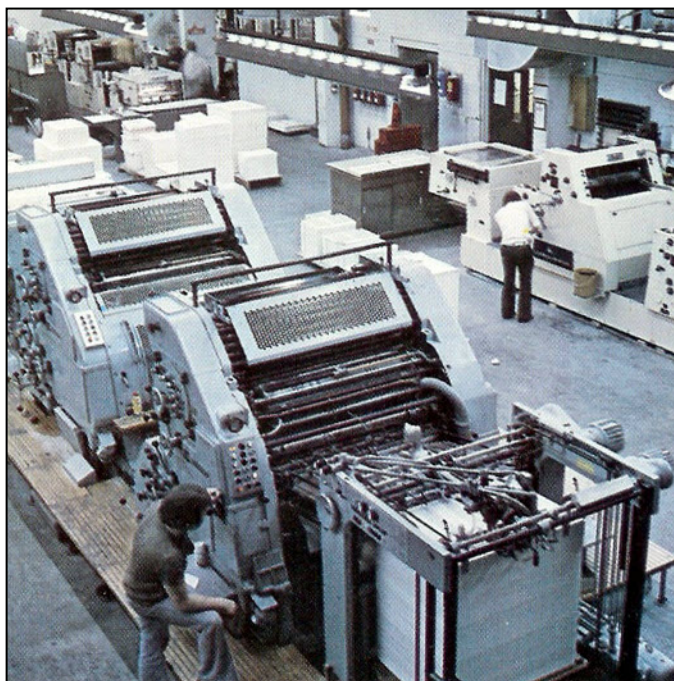
(Harrison, 1969)



Magazine scan of uncoated and coated papers made by Harrison.

The right hand version is clearer, as uncoated paper tends to soak-up the ink like a sponge, rather than sit on the surface. Question: Why would you ever print on uncoated paper today?

Answer: Sought, please!

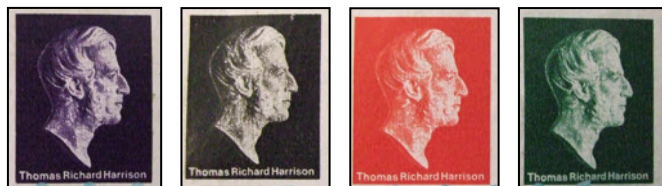


Stamps being printed by litho on **HS6** paper at Hayes where the 'Lady with Parrot' dummy stamp was produced. (Harrison, c1975)

Harrison Dummies Used in 1982 with pre-Decimal Machin Colours

Surprising use of colours for postal mechanisation trials

Four imperforate examples of the Thomas Richard Harrison design were recently seen used on a single PO internally used cover (i.e. it did not enter the postal stream) from an “opacified tape trial 1982”. It bore additional text reading “Harrison Opacified”.



Note the partial blue phosphor dots on the bottom edge of each of the dummy stamps, as highlighted in the enlargement above.

A second cover bore a joined pair of the vermilion colour with text reading “KoRes Opacified 1982”.

These labels are well-known, but not in the colours shown. Printers and postal research areas are renowned for using-up old stocks of dummy and postage stamps found “lying around” and it seems that this is probably the case here for there is no other apparent reason for the choice of the old pre-decimal Machin colours. Assistance appreciated. ☒



3d violet. 4d Sepia. 4d Vermilion. 9d Green.
The issued Machin head stamps from 1967/69.

Questa Christmas Tender Design Presents a New Perforation Error

What's with the double vertical perforations?



The unremarkable scan seen on eBay at £25.
This unusual perforation error was still for sale mid-March.

The scan alongside was seen recently on an eBay offering. A quick glance saw that it was a typical example of the gutter pair, but severely damaged.

Taking a closer look it was apparent that the vertical perfs were repeated, but with no impact on the horizontal ones. It seems that the sideways second strike was precisely the spacing between two perf holes, otherwise all horizontal ‘bridges’ between the perfs would have been punched out. ☒



Enhancing the scan by darkening and enlarging, the double vertical perforations are much better revealed. (Excuse the pixelation.)

Harrison Once Printed Stamp Errors Deliberately...

but keep calm and read on!

It's true, but unlike another British printer who did it with real postage stamps, Harrison can still claim an untarnished record in this respect because they did it with *The Sun* Soccerstamps in 1971.



The promoter placed an order for 75,000,000 gummed Soccerstamps in 500 numbered designs. A potential 150,000 sets could therefore exist, but clearly do not due to loss down the years, plus the fact that many (most?) collectors will not have pursued the entire series. They were given away in response to coupons cut from the newspaper daily and were a huge success for Harrison and *The Sun*.

Due to the run length, they were printed in up to five different colours by photogravure and were given normal stamp perforations. Marginal copies are not thought to exist, at least none have ever been seen by your compiler.

And the errors? The promoter requested a 'small quantity' to create interest in the campaign and to 'add a rarity value' to the series. This entailed 'omitting certain colours and printing some subjects upside down'. It is not thought that details of the numbers of errors produced exist, or how many different artificially created varieties were printed.

All good fun, even if not one for the purist! ☐

Harrison Spirograph Design by Don McGairy

A talented Harrison employee

At the time of the commissioning of the Jumelle press by Harrison at its High Wycombe plant, Don McGairy prepared a complicated design in a Spirograph-type pattern around 1972.



It was printed in brownish red, grey and black, with colours merging into each other, using the intaglio portion of the press on PVA gummed paper stock.

It is currently only known imperforate, with just one block of four recorded,

until it was later broken-up for sale by Mike Holt and priced at £70 for each single copy.

Your compiler had queried in an earlier issue of *DS* whether Don was a freelance worker, or on the Harrison payroll. Well, Donald McGairy worked in the Research and Development section in the early 1970s (at least), so was clearly an employee.

This confirmation was found while trawling through issues of *Harrison Forme*, the award-winning in-house staff magazine, from where the information about the Soccerstamps alongside was traced. ☐

Links within Dummy Stamps

Easily go to sites highlighted within these pages

If you are reading this PDF in Windows (may also work with Mac) and are online, it is possible to click on any of the blue underlined links to go straight to the page required rather than have to type out often complicated strings of characters.

By way of an example, hover your mouse over www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm and the hand symbol now contains a letter W. Click the link with the left-hand button of your mouse and go to the home page for *Dummy Stamps*. A Security Warning box may appear first - click ALLOW.

This may be obvious to many readers, but not everyone was aware, as revealed by a recent query. ☐

Waterlow and Tokalon Cosmetics

Strange word on label finally understood

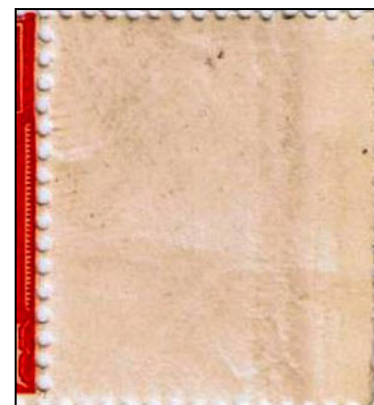
The example of this design (middle top row and enclosed within a red border, with better B&W example at right) appeared within a 1950 four page brochure on Waterlow's Rotary Direct Plate process, along with five other designs.



Harrison Double-width Panes?

Single marginal copy poses a question....

Sight of a right-hand marginal copy of the Harrison head dummy stamp leads one to believe that these were from double width panes, as remnants of vertical perforations are visible at far right edge where cut. Gutter pairs may therefore exist. ☒



The cropped image at right has been darkened and enlarged to help better reveal the perforations discussed above.

NCR Post & Go

New vending machine produces kiosk printer test prints

Royal Mail has a new Post & Go vending machine made by NCR USA, first used at Harpenden in February.

They issue the familiar Machin, Union flag or flora and fauna labels.

A test print checks print quality. ☒



There had been a mystery surrounding why such an 'odd' name would be chosen by Waterlow. Research has now revealed that Tokalon is actually a brand of cosmetics, so it is not strictly a Waterlow dummy stamp but a publicity label for the cosmetics maker but used in a dummy sense by Waterlow, so it is exceptionally able to be included within these pages.

The powder puff and 1949 advert from *Paris Match* above includes the logo as proof of the logo user. The copyright aspect of that logo is almost certainly why Waterlow handstamped the publicity label examples with a SPECIMEN marking. ☒

Bumper Issue

Where does it all keep coming from!

Dummy stamp news came thick and fast this past quarter. It seems that there is no end in sight for new information on this type of collectable material.

As a result, this is a bumper issue of 22 pages and it is hoped that there will be much of interest. ☒

Harrison and the Gemini (later renamed Jumelle) Press Trials of 1973

New formats for these well known dummy stamps found

Delcampe auctions recently had the two blocks depicted below for sale with an estimate of £950 for each block. They help to show the format of the master sheet, although whether the pale or the dark impression was at the top of the sheet is not known to your compiler. For illustration purposes here, the pale is at top on both blocks showing that one is from the left and the other from the right hand margins.



For the purpose of page layout, the violet version is overlapped by the blue version but does not hide anything other than the continuous dark violet line.

Note how creased many of the dummy stamps are in both blocks. With prices for singles falling as more copies appear to enter the philatelic market-place the proposed estimated prices seem excessive for these invariably damaged examples. ☒

Harrison Dummy Stamp in Violet Finally Found

After years of searching, eBay offers this missing colour found in Machin collection

DS2 included details of a Royal Mail phosphor trial. The next issue mentioned that violet and stone colours also existed, but not in collector hands. Wrong! Violet has just surfaced with the four phosphor types. Only stone to find now. ☒



Harrison and the Maltese Dogma Penrose Annual Samples

Reader advises the volume that the item appeared in

Your compiler had not traced when the Dogma sheet had been in the *Penrose Annual*. A reader of *DS* kindly advised that it was 1956 and that it had comprised volume 50 in the much-missed series of annuals that once contained so much of interest on the graphics and printing front.

A search of Amazon or eBay will reveal occasional offers of the book at recent prices ranging from £13 to a whopping £146. Choose your supplier wisely if you are interested in procuring a copy!

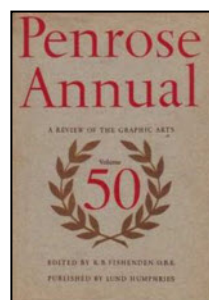
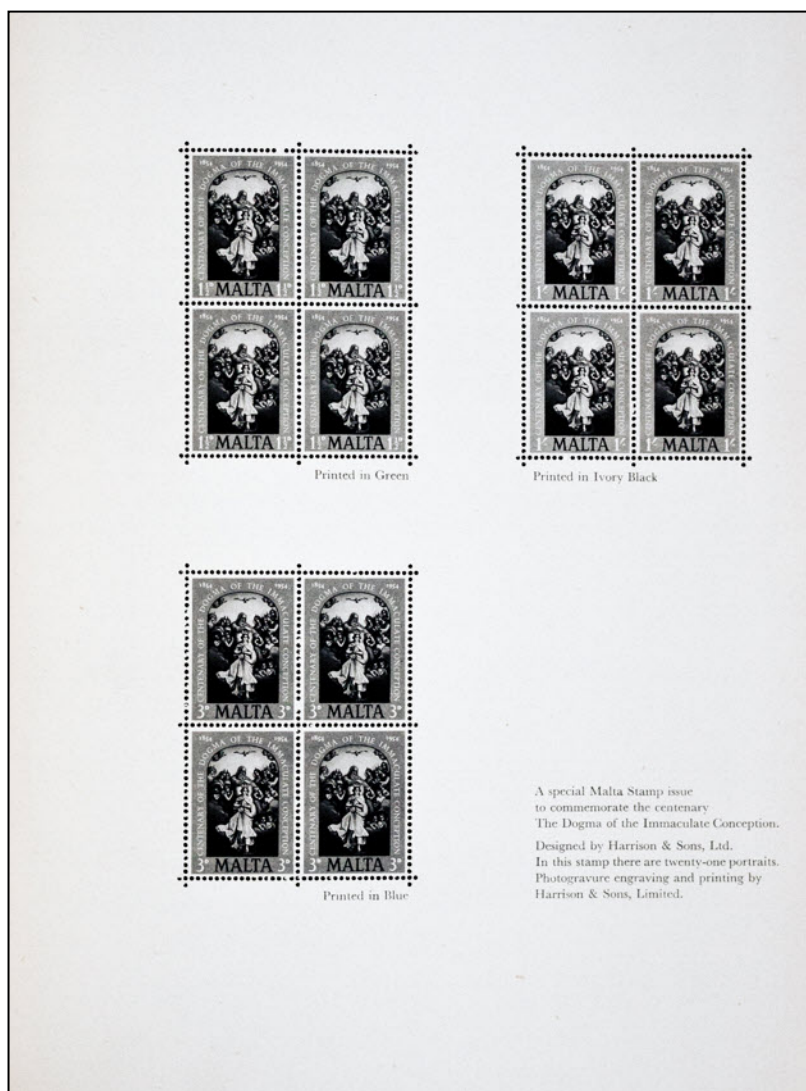
The book was recently purchased (at £13!), but at the time of circulating this issue of *Dummy Stamps* it had not arrived and is feared lost in transit after more than two weeks. Any further information that might have been contained within the book about the sheet cannot therefore be shared at this time.

Incidentally, in *DS6* it was stated that Misha Black (designer of one of the Coronation stamps in the 1954 *Penrose Annual*) was a man. Wrong! A reader wrote: "Please find below information on Sir Misha Black, who was a man and not female as you surmise. I suspect that he was also a private philatelist, but I cannot confirm this." See Wikipedia page http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Misha_Black for more.

Sir Misha Black OBE
KBE (16 October 1910
– 11 October 1977) was
a Russian-born British
architect and designer.



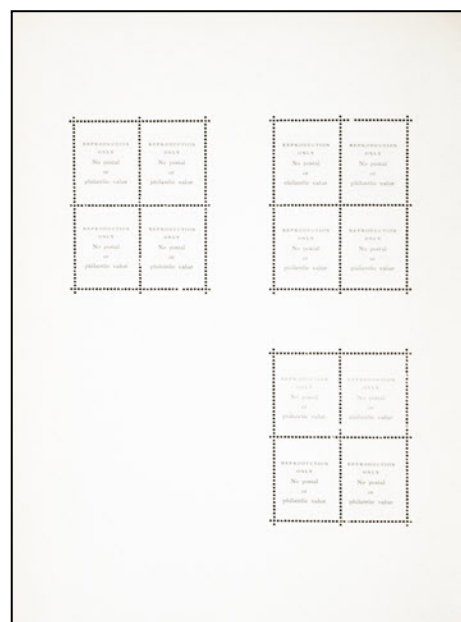
Misha was perhaps best recognised for designing the iconic City of Westminster street signs to be found across the area to this day. ✉



(far left) The full sheet of dummy stamps.

(left) The cover of the 1956 *Penrose Annual*, the fiftieth in the series.

(below) The reverse of the sheet with its "No Postal or Philatelic Value" warnings.



Text of sheet bottom right reads in part:
"Designed by Harrison & Sons, Ltd. In this stamp there are twenty-one portraits. Photogravure engraving and printing by Harrison & Sons, Ltd."

Stamp Printing Plates, Dies and Rollers: from Vault to View

A great new project from BPMA

The British Postal Museum and Archive has recently announced that it is to digitise objects from its collections, including printing dies, rollers and plates, over the coming year. These objects are difficult to photograph and are not currently available for consultation by the public.

This project, funded by Share Academy, will provide access to these important items through a combination of a number of technologies. The final output will be a set of 3D digital objects for use by philatelic enthusiasts, researchers and the general public.

It must be stressed that this is a pilot with only 12 to 15 objects being scanned. It is also a test of the technology available with three different types of scanning being tried. If the pilot scheme is successful BPMA will see what it can do to introduce 3D scanning when the new museum opens. By that time technology may well have gone far forward in any case. Go to the following link to read the BPMA blog on the matter:

<http://postalheritage.wordpress.com/2014/01/29/stamp-printing-plates-dies-and-rollers-from-vault-to-view/> ☒

Anonymity ...or not

Henceforth, it's your chance to be credited for help given

Your compiler has adopted a principle of not revealing the names of the owners of items that are submitted to *DS*, as not everyone has wanted this to be known to the wider world, using instead the term "...a *Dummy Stamps* reader...", or similar.

However, some collectors are happy for their name to appear alongside their piece. So, in future issues anonymity will still be preserved *unless you specifically request each time you supply news that your name can be included within these pages.*

Either way, the assistance of the many contributors who provide either snippets or major revelations is gratefully acknowledged here, for without this kind co-operation this quarterly newsletter would be much the poorer. ☒

A Correction re Grieg Dummy Stamp and its Perforations

A gremlin crept into the copy

At the foot of page four of *DS29* are the words: *"Incidentally, the perforating of a relatively small proportion of these sheets was undertaken by Harrison at High Wycombe, no less."*

This is totally wrong, for which apologies, as a small section of text somehow got deleted during compilation in error.



Will you please substitute the following sentence that contains the missing text:

"Incidentally, the perforating of a relatively small proportion of these sheets was undertaken by Grover & Co at its Stratford premises, while the production of the cylinder used to print the dummy stamps was undertaken by Harrison at High Wycombe, no less."

It has since been found out that, perhaps not surprisingly, the dummy stamps were printed at Timson's own premises in Kettering on the photo-gravure press type that Moestue was considering purchasing at the time. ☒

...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. ☒

