

Dummy Stamps

Issue 9

"A Look at the World of British Dummy Stamp Material"

Summer 2008

Associated Automation Celebrated Half Century

Special coils produced in 1978 just 'discovered'

Formerly Hall Telephone Accessories, Associated Automation Limited of Dollis Hill Lane is best known for producing the GPOs coin-functioning telephone mechanisms between 1928 and 1982.

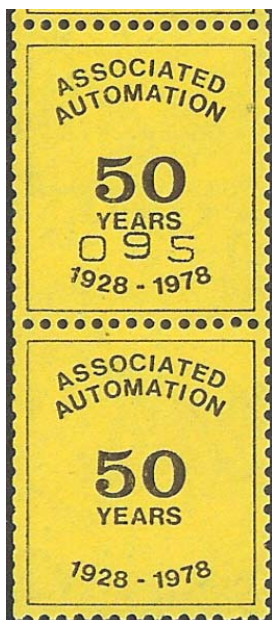
In 1933 the GPO Research Station was built at Dollis Hill and during WWII the components of *Colossus*, regarded as the first electronic computer in the world, were made there and sent to the code breakers working at Bletchley Park.

The company at some point became part of the Elliott Automation Group, which is now part of GEC Alstom.

AA also made stamp vending machines (SVMs) for the GPO, Type G coil SVMs being their last product.

Two strips of five labels were 'discovered' at Philatex this year.

Every fifth label bore a serial number (095 in this example) and it is surprising that none have been found before now. Printer is assumed to be Harrison.



This dummy coil adds to the story of Britain's stamp vending history and it was probably used for testing the equipment, as well as promoting the company's anniversary. ■

Harrison and Sons Stained Glass Window Update

It seems that it might have been saved after all

A reader who is an ex-Harrison and Sons employee contacted me shortly after publication of *DS8* regarding the stained glass window.

He wrote:

"I am fairly certain that the Hare-Rye-Sun window has survived the DLR take-over. I think it is currently in the possession of Mr Richard Harrison. It is after all an ancient emblem of his family.

For many years it resided in the Harrison and Sons offices/factory in St Martin's Lane in London.



The original St Martin's Lane premises

About 1970 St Martin's Lane was sold when the window was removed to the High Wycombe factory offices where it stayed over the main staircase until the DLR take-over."

What promising news. ■

1932 Pageant of Stamps *Waterlow marked stamp show with dummy items*

This event was held 6-23 January 1932 at the Dorland Hall in London. Waterlow & Sons Ltd produced two label designs, the first in Prussian blue overprinted SOUVENIR OF THE /

Printed in rose-pink, grey-black or violet-blue, they are generally sold as singles at around £2 a copy or in full sheets of nine at £120 per colour, which makes the singles real bargains!



Statue label used on meter-franked cover.



The set of three singles (above and alongside). Imperf die-proof in grey-black (below)



Imperforate proof of the un-overprinted statue label



PAGEANT OF POSTAGE STAMPS in red. Printed recess on gummed paper and perforated 12½, the label depicts Boadicea, while the Houses of Parliament can be seen across the river Thames. They sell at around £2 per label.



Full sheet of nine labels in grey-black. Note unusual format



The issued statue label

The second design is of Tower Bridge, including vessels in the foreground. This gummed publicity label bears a black overprint similar to that used on the above label.

An excellent article that goes into far more detail than I possess about these items can be found at website www.stamp2.com/articles/cinderella/cinderella13.asp where Francis Kiddle RDP FRPSL discusses both designs and variations. There are some very interesting illustrations of die proofs and the like accompanying the text.

Thanks to Rein C. Bakhuizen van den Brink and to Graham M Wilson for most of imagery used in this feature. 📷

Don't be Fooled by De La Rue Items *They are not what they seem*



When De La Rue sends supplies of counter sheets to Royal Mail for distribution to Post Offices and Tallents House, they separate suitably sized quantities into batches. These batches are then banded with a paper wrapper, as used to happen with stamp booklets and postal stationery items in days gone by.

Around three or four years ago, DLR started using paper bands that bore a repeat pattern of the De La Rue logo design, as was used on the self-adhesive teaching labels of 2001, but this time printed in dark green and black.

A while ago, I saw a strip of these being offered by a stamp dealer at a fair as a 'rare imperforate, un gummed horizontal coil trial strip of five'. The price tag was £75 and fortunately I knew it for what it was and declined the offer to purchase – I also educated the man, but fear that he already knew! You will now also realise their status as nothing more than curiosity items.

If you are interested in owning an example of these paper bands, then be sure to ask at Stampex (where I picked-up my copy) or just possibly you may find one at your local Post Office branch. 📧

DLR Promotional Labels

At Spring Stampex this year, Mike Holt (www.mikeholt-britishstamps.com) was selling several attractive labels from De La Rue.

The first depicts Bodiam Castle in Sussex and we know that it is this location because Mike's colleague Simon Heeley has a particular interest in this subject. His opinion is confirmed by the photo below that clearly shows a view taken from the same angle to that used on the labels, perhaps with some artistic licence on De La Rue's part, especially at the far right.



Bodiam Castle today, as shown on www.castles.org

Previously unknown dummy labels surface



Bottom left hand corner single

Printed in photogravure, the items are in six separate colours, namely blue, red, orange, dark brown, black and sepia.

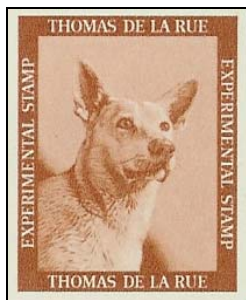
Mike thinks that this label design could date from c1955, i.e. the time when the Castle's high value definitives were newly issued.



The decimal reissued Castles in MS format



The third label is of a lady whose appearance would indicate to me that she is perhaps from somewhere like Indonesia or Thailand. If any reader is able to clarify this point, then I will record details in the next issue of *DS*.



The next new label (*above*) depicts a dog and it utilises the same artwork (*left*) that was recorded in an earlier issue of

Dummy Stamps. That was also a photogravure trial, but worded 'EXPERIMENTAL STAMP' and possibly from the 1940s era.

Before moving on to the fourth label recently found, I will mention the full page item that appears on the opposite page....

A totally separate purchase to the labels under discussion was made a few months earlier. As will be seen, the artwork design is of the non-central image area and is virtually the same as on these photogravure labels, but note the differences.

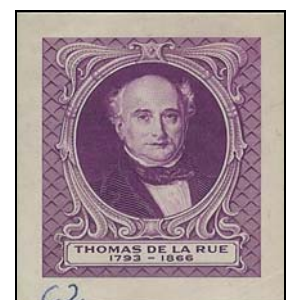
It was produced for the centenary celebration labels that had Thomas De La Rue as the central image, but those were printed by recess. As a series of labels, there are many colour trials beyond the issued four labels and they may be described and illustrated fully in a later article. For now, an issued label (*L*) and a colour trial (*R*) are shown below for comparison purposes.

Maltese 'Dogma' Penrose Annual Black Prints

Revisited....

A reader advises that the 1955 *Penrose Annual* is not the one that contained the Maltese *Dogma* Harrison and Sons 'stamps' detailed in *DS8*. He also confirms that there is no other article on stamps in that particular edition.

However, there is a Harrison and Sons contribution in the form of a series of continuous tone black and white gravure pictures illustrating an article by Sir Kenneth Clark entitled 'Art and Photography'. 📄



1. 

2. perforacja cieniutka białym
3. entent etc.

Thomas De la Rue.
1793 - 1866.

Perforation
30 x 35 lines.
1.5 lines
margin



22.5
90.0

14.4
33.6

35.1

H.S.

THOMAS DE

12.4
14.4
72.4
18.7
28.3
22.2
18.2
76.5
11.9
31.2

1. wykreślenie kato
2. umyć tarczę do
pracy
3. można ustawić w pracy

The final label is of a respectable looking gentleman with what I take to be a pen or brush in his hand. Does any reader know who this Regency period Dandy-like person might be?

(To the aristocratic dandies, the tying and arrangement of the cravats (neck tie) and arrangement of the hair, or hair pieces, was important. This is a picture of Gilbert Elliot painted by Daniel Gardner.)



A personal observation...

I have been buying and logging information on all types of dummy and testing related collectables since my first purchase back in 1969 and it never ceases to amaze me just how much new material can still be found after four decades of looking.

It makes you wonder just how much more is hidden away in collections and accumulations that are waiting to come to market and be recorded within these pages.

I was asked recently if *Dummy Stamps* would soon reach the end of its run. Clearly, if it does, it will not be due to lack of interesting philatelic items to record. 📄

Samuel Jones & Co. Ltd. and the Ideal Stamp, 1912

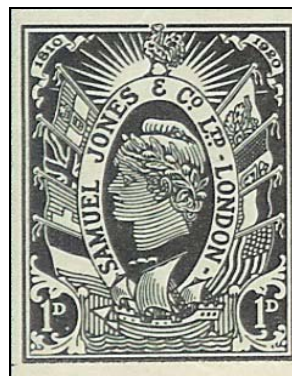
...coincidences

Life is full of coincidences. I purchased a Samuel Jones publicity label dating from 1920 and then received the special issue of *Stamp Lover* produced to mark 100 years of the publication, only to find that Francis Kiddle had written an article about the Ideal Stamp of 1912 and the follow-up show in Paris in 1913.

One of his illustrations was using the same design as my paper-maker's label.



Above imagery courtesy of Francis Kiddle



...and finally

I always welcome details of any new dummy finds from printers of British stamps, past and present, and so cordially invite you to drop me a line via the Guest Book facility provided on my website at www.stampprinters.info/guestbook.htm

Unfortunately, business, family and other commitments to the hobby mean that I cannot guarantee that I can rigidly stick to a publishing programme and therefore suggest that you go to www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm every so often where PDF files of this and all previous issues of *Dummy Stamps* will be available to download and print-off. Thank you.

Glenn H Morgan FRPSL