



# Harrison Dummy Stamps of King George V

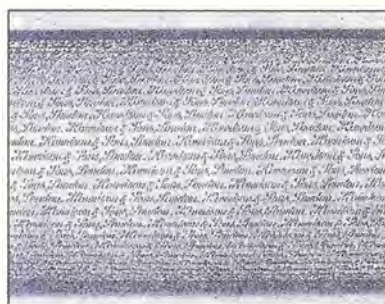
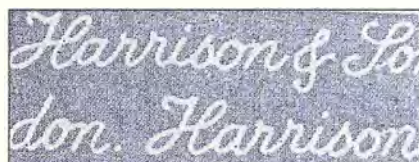
1910 saw Harrison and Sons take the British low value definitive stamp contract away from the mighty Thos. De La Rue, despite never having printed stamps before.

Development trials perfected stamp production techniques for sheets, booklets and coils for vending and affixing by use of dummy stamps, with publicity labels promoting their new-found skills. This rarely encountered material specifically excludes any essays, colour trials and proofs produced for any issued stamps.

Letterpress stamps were initially produced, with intaglio capability not utilised in this reign, despite producing publicity labels. Photogravure was adopted by 1921 - one of the first security printers anywhere to do so - and this proved to be an excellent decision. Harrison called on expertise from Dutch company NRM to train staff in making cylinders and to print by photogravure. Several dummy stamp designs were printed in Holland by Harrison staff, while NRM later helped them print some values of its photogravure contract for Egypt in 1923.

With Harrison expertise in photogravure stamp production growing, they were guaranteed worldwide contracts, going on to print almost all British stamps this way until, perhaps ironically, they were taken-over by De La Rue plc in 1997. The gravure technique still remains Royal Mail's stamp printing process of choice.

Contains much original published research and discovery, as marked *\*Item first reported and recorded by owner.*



The Harrison house watermark design (left) and portion of dandy roll (right) used on some of the dummy stamps, as annotated "H&S Script wmkd. paper" on the album pages that follow.

## Plan of Material in Display

### Introduction and Plan

1 page

### 1. Letterpress and Intaglio

3 pages

- 1.1 Thomas Richard Harrison Labels.
- 1.2 Seated Britannia Labels.
- 1.3 Royal Coat of Arms Labels.

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5 pages

- 2.1 Unprinted Label Trials.
- 2.2 "CANCELLED." Testing Labels.
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- 2.4 Stamp Vending Machine Testing Labels.

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- 3.3 Promotion of Photogravure.

## 1. Letterpress and Intaglio

### 1.1 Thomas Richard Harrison Labels

Circa 1910, labels showing the founder of Harrison were initially used for production trials prior to issuing their first stamps. The red label was the first colour later used for publicity purposes and as it resembled a current one-penny stamp the GPO requested a change of colour.

Perf. 15 x 14 on unwatermarked paper. Printed by letterpress.



Bistre. Un-defaced for various testing uses.



Purple.



Grey-green.



Dark bistre.



Red.



Bistre. Defaced for use in booklet trials.



The then current penny stamp.



Block of eight labels from Post Office counter sized sheets of 240.



Vertical coil pair.



D H Evans store 'DH / E' perfin on Harrison label with all four edges cut by the Beam affixing machine.

D H Evans perfin layout.



(right) Test piece of six labels from D H Evans Beam/Poko affixing machine showing misplaced detachment cuts on one label.





## 1.2 Seated Britannia Labels

A seated Britannia with trident and shield design was produced around 1911. Two versions bear either a rising sun design with horizontal lines in the background, or have an overall solid background to the sky area.

Perf. 15 x 14 on H&S script watermarked paper (brown label) or unwatermarked paper (others).



Red.



Black imperf. proof pull printed on card. \*



Blue.



Chocolate brown by letterpress process.

Three samples using intaglio. No issued postage stamps were printed by Harrison using this process between 1910 and 1936.

Booklet use (*left*) \*  
Coil use (*above and below*)



Sheet of 25 (5 x 5) labels using the letterpress process. \*  
Note that a single line comb head was used, as shown by the non-alignment of the horizontal perforations at foot of each label.

Coil join. >>



\* Item first reported and recorded by owner



### 1.3 Royal Coat of Arms Labels

Royal coat of arms labels were introduced in 1913 following a letter from the Inland Revenue stating an objection to any dummy design bearing an effigy. Appears to have been used only on coil vending, affixing and booklet development trials, as blocks from sheets remain unrecorded.

Perf. 15 x 14 on H&S script watermarked paper. Printed by letterpress.



Unusual violet blue and reddish ruby coil join strip of three labels.



Reddish ruby.



Powder blue.



Violet blue.



Red horizontal pair.  
Possibly from a booklet pane.



Reddish ruby stapled booklet pane.  
Possibly from a larger booklet pane.

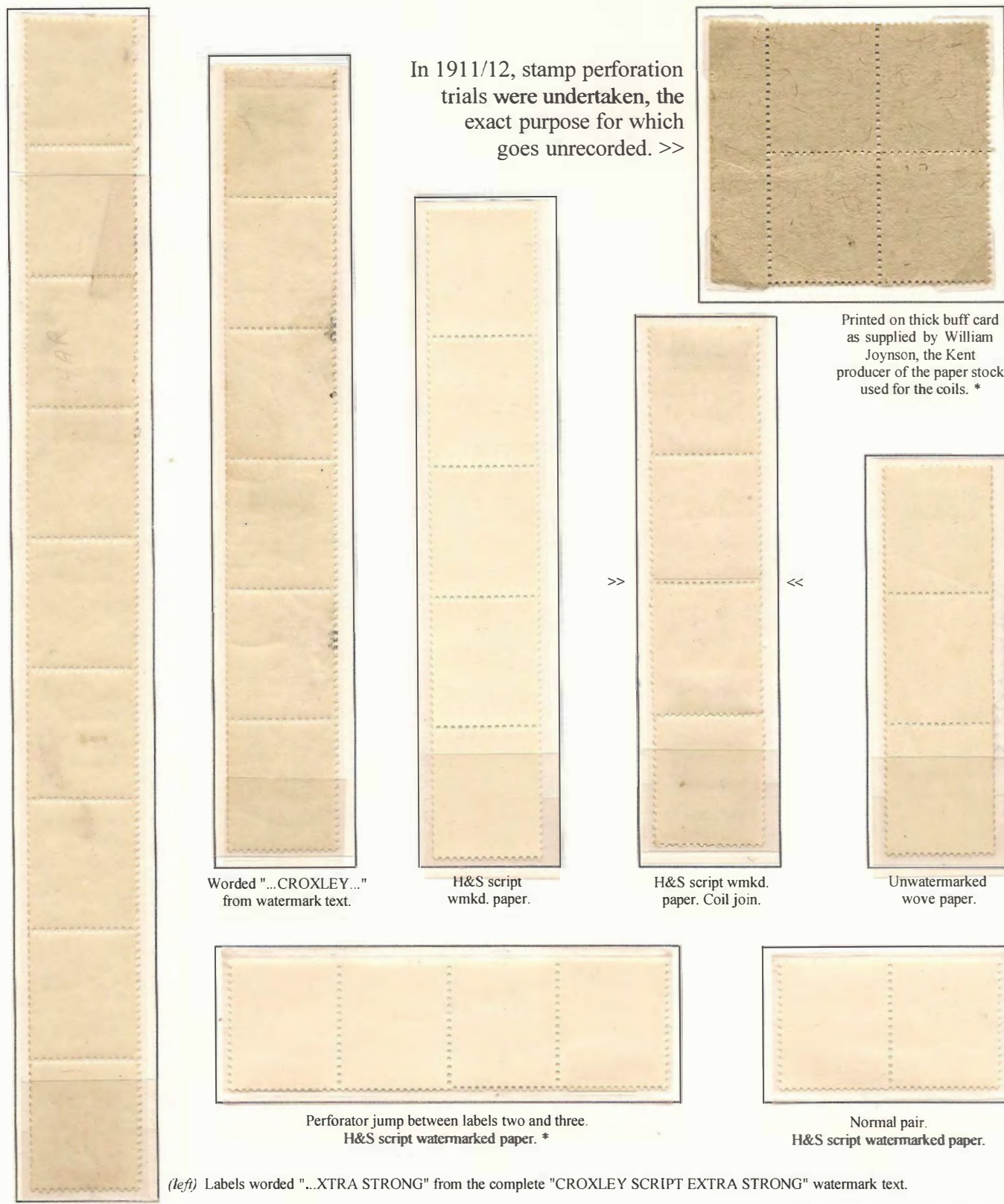


Test piece of eleven labels with two gripper marks and locating pin marks, as separate label shows.  
The Fixo stamp affixing machine applied these labels.

## 2. Stamp Affixing and Vending

### 2.1 Unprinted Label Trials

From 1910, Harrison created dummy rolls of stamps uniquely for stamp affixing machine suppliers. Initially made-up from sheets of different grades of plain or watermarked unprinted paper, Harrison versions are identifiable from those of De La Rue by their unique 15 x 14 perforation.



\* Item first reported and recorded by owner



## 2.2 "CANCELLED." Testing Labels

In October 1911, Harrison produced at the request of the Post Office labels overprinted "CANCELLED." using a serif typeface in green or red ink to simulate ½d and 1d stamp values.

These were supplied to the British Stamp & Ticket Automatic Delivery Co. and were produced in more than one print-run as Harrison responded to feedback from each trial.

Perf. 15 x 14 on Imperial Crown wmkd paper, except the gutter, which had no watermark.



Perforations are badly positioned at each join and this caused problems with stamp affixing machines...

<< Coil joins between labels 2 and 3. >>

...The two shades of green seen here are from different print runs designed to overcome this.

The "CANCELLED." overprint was also used on a small stock of imperf. Harrison printed King Edward VII one-penny stamps...



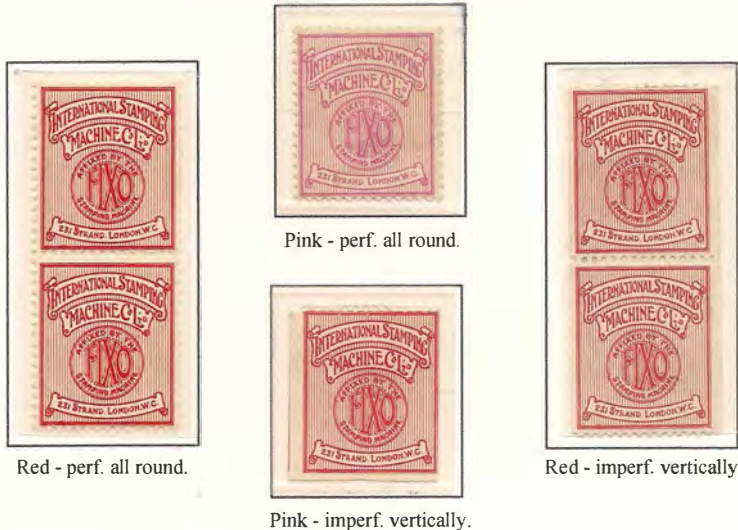
...It is recorded that they were used during stamp vending machine commissioning trials around the 1912 period.

## 2.3 Affixing Machine Demonstration Labels

Demand for preventing theft and rapidly affixing stamps saw three machines dominate: 'Beam/Poko' [Germany], Fixo [GB] and Multipost [USA]. Others were Lightning, Brooker's and Standard [all GB].

Harrison printed dummy rolls with branding for these suppliers (except Beam/Poko) and they were an important rehearsal for the development of stamps in coils by the Post Office in 1912.

**Fixo** supplied by The International Stamping Machine Co. Ltd.



**Brooker's** supplied by D M Stewart.



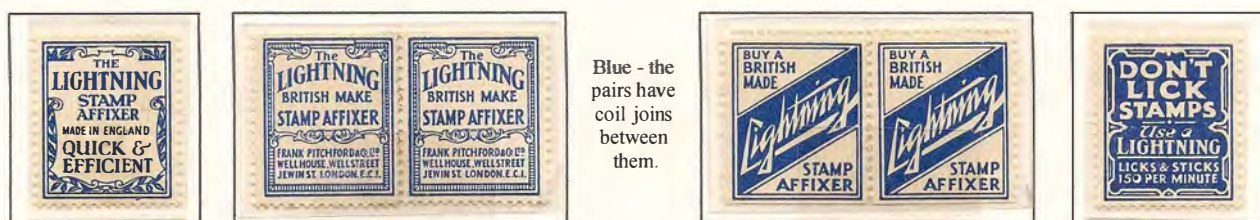
**Standard** supplied by Display Products Co.



**Multipost** supplied by The Merkhams Trading Co. Ltd. An American machine, it used horizontal delivery but was later modified for vertical rolls. Pressure from this company had led to the introduction of UK horizontal delivery rolls in 1920.



**Lightning** supplied by Frank Pitchford & Co. Ltd.



\* Item first reported and recorded by owner



## 2.4 Stamp Vending Machine Testing Labels

Harrison was commissioned by the GPO to produce printed dummy labels for stamp vending machines in March 1935 as there had been problems with using unprinted testing labels.

The first design used 5% ink coverage. This was followed by an interim blank label, then in 1936 by the 'Poached Egg' labels that closely resembled the ink quantity on real stamps.



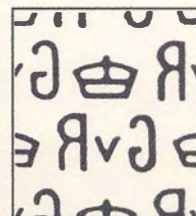
St Andrew's Cross design. Unwatermarked paper. Second label has misprint comprising green ink drag



An interim blank unwatermarked paper order was placed.



The Poached Egg design. Multiple block cipher watermark. Later replaced with EVIIIR grey version with text.

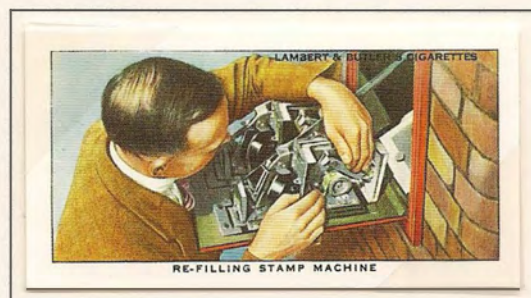


Cover posted in February 1937 with a single testing label and 1d EVIIIR stamp annotated "Stamp allowed for" with initials and a Post Office label requesting that the cover be returned for investigation. The customer failed to comply with the request.

Many egg labels escaped, allegedly being dispensed to the public during vending demonstrations of the new 1936 Mobile Post Office at events nationwide.

Collectors posted hundreds of covers, but few were surcharged and marked as being invalid by the GPO.

Cigarette card from Lambert & Butler's "Interesting Sidelights on the Work of the GPO" series of 50 cards from the 1930s. >>





### 3. Introduction of Photogravure

#### 3.1 Harrison Get Help in Holland

Nederlandsche Rotogravure Maatschopij (NRM) produced many printing cylinders for Harrison and crucially helped train its technicians in using the photogravure method.

Labels based on Dutch subjects or previously issued postage stamps were printed by Harrison staff who were training in The Netherlands. Robson Lowe, a famous dealer and collector, wrote:

"Some 1,200 perforated labels of each design are believed to have been produced on paper supplied by Harrison. The imperforate were colour trials or proofs and are very rare."

*This Dutch series of trial labels was to prove pivotal to the future long-term success of Harrison and Sons as printers of postage, trading, promotional and revenue stamps by the photogravure process.*

*Church of St Nicholas, Amsterdam, built 1887.*



Carmine and sepia - imperf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Brown and green - imperf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Carmine and green - imperf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Green and sepia - imperf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



Brown and sepia - imperf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



Brown and sepia - perf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



Green and sepia - perf.  
Unwatermarked paper.

*Maximilian de Robespierre, 1758-1794.*



Blue - imperf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Orange - imperf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Green - imperf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Orange - perf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Blue - perf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



### 3.1 Harrison Get Help in Holland

*Bernardino Rivadavia, 1780-1845.*



Green - perf.  
Unwatermarked paper.

*Sultan of Djokjakarta, Java.*



Greenish blue - imperf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



Brown - imperf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Greenish blue - perf.  
Unwatermarked paper.

*Netherlands Numeral Type Stamp Design, as issued stamps of 1922.*



Brown - imperf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



Purple - imperf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Brown - perf.  
Unwatermarked paper.

*Thomas Richard Harrison, 1798-1869.*



Source image of  
Harrison label design.



Blue - imperf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



Black - imperf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



Green - imperf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



Red - imperf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



Blue - perf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



*Javanese Negro Girl.*



Green - imperf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Bright blue - imperf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Orange - imperf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Dull blue - imperf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Dull blue - perf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.

*South African Springbok ~ Worded "Postzegel Inkomst" (Income Stamp).*



Blue and black - perf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



Blue and purple - perf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



Green and Carmine - perf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



Red mono colour - perf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



Blue and purple - perf. Unwatermarked paper.  
Full sheet of ten. No copies known with margins intact.

*Chateau de Chillon, Switzerland, built 1160.*



Mauve and green - imperf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Mauve and sepia - imperf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



Green and brown - imperf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



Mauve and brown - perf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



Mauve and green - perf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



### 3.1 Harrison Get Help in Holland

*Queen Wilhelmina, 1880-1962 ~ Design based on the 1923 Netherlands Indies stamps produced for the 25th anniversary of the assumption of the Netherlands government by Queen Wilhelmina at age 18.*



Source image of  
Wilhelmina label design.



Bright blue - imperf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Dark green - imperf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Orange - imperf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Light green - imperf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Light green - perf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Pink - imperf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Pink - perf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Green - imperf.  
Unwatermarked paper without gum. \*



Orange - imperf.  
Unwatermarked paper without gum. \*

\* Item first reported and recorded by owner

### 3.1 Harrison Get Help in Holland

#### *Queen Wilhelmina, 1880-1962.*



Source image of  
Wilhelmina label design.



Red and green - imperf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



Green - perf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



Red - perf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



Blue - perf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



Purple - perf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



Sepia - perf.  
Unwatermarked paper.

#### *Prince Hendrik, 1876-1934, Queen Wilhelmina's Prince Consort.*



Purple - imperf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



Blue - imperf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Orange - imperf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Purple - perf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



Light green - imperf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Dark green - imperf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



Dark green - perf.  
Unwatermarked paper.



Light green - perf.  
H&S script wmkd. paper.



### 3.2 Ink Colour Matching Labels

Harrison used inks from five main suppliers and by the mid-1930s had produced photogravure ink colour matching labels in sheets of ten on ungummed paper depicting a defaced Shakespeare. 30 colours known.



*The Ault and Wiborg Co. ~ USA.*  
Rotary Black W22.



Source image of William  
Shakespeare label design.



*Coates Brothers Inks Ltd. ~ UK.*  
Azure Blue G843.



*Fishburn Printing Ink Co. Ltd. ~ UK.*  
Hartley's Green 199/1.



*Lorilleux & Bolton Ltd ~ UK.*  
Red 8254G.



*B Winstone & Sons Ltd. ~ UK.*  
Red Brown AN296.

### 3.3 Promotion of Photogravure

Harrison promoted its mono-colour photogravure printing capabilities by producing publicity labels for the sales teams to show to potential postal administration clients.



Blue. Only known perforated.



Purple. Only known imperforate.

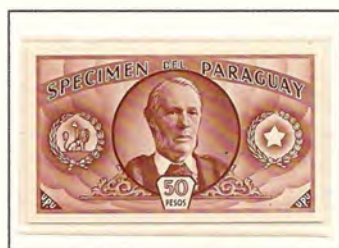
Ignoring previous requests not to use an effigy on labels, they produced a design depicting Thomas Richard Harrison in the size and general style of the new British definitives.



Source image of James William...



...Harrison dummy label design.



These sample labels depicting James William Harrison (1830-1912), used Universal Postal Union (UPU) regulation stamp rate colours, as utilised on British ½d, 1d, 1½d and 2½d values. \*

\* Item first reported and recorded by owner



### 3.3 Promotion of Photogravure

In 1927, Harrison set-up Collogravure Ltd to capitalise on photogravure opportunities. The block of green labels below is understood to have been produced to promote this new organisation, probably around 1934.



The "C" logo at bottom left is thought to stand for "Collogravure", the trade name used by Harrison for its photogravure process in the early days. \*

The perforations are the unique Harrison gauge, as is the paper, gumming and ink shade, and it had the capabilities to perforate 'in one operation'.



Largest known extant block. \*



Strip of four designs from full sheet that comprised six strips. \*

Ahead of its time, impressive attempts were made by Harrison around 1935 to print multi-coloured photogravure publicity labels.

By the end of King George Vs reign, photogravure printing at Harrison and Sons had come of age.

The use of letterpress and intaglio processes slowly declined, while today lithography is very much in the ascendency.

\* Item first reported and recorded by owner