

Diadem & Laureated Head of Queen Victoria
Design Development & Proof Material

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE DESIGN INCLUDING PROOFS.

In 1854 the Board of the Inland Revenue engaged Jean Francois Joubert de la Ferte to engrave a design of the Queen's head from a drawing by Henry Corbould which was based on the Wyon medal.

The 1855 GB 4d stamp was the first to utilise the design.

From this master die a number of variants were known as the Diadem Heads.

The Diadem IV was adopted as the master for Jamaica.

Phase 1 High Value Revenues¹

Plates were registered 13 November 1857.

The invoice dated 30 November 1857 contained the following charges:

- Engraving a highly finished head of Her Majesty to serve as the original for all future denominations of Jamaica stamps.	£57	0	0	
- Creating counter dies.	£8	0	0	
- Striking and finishing master dies for each denomination.	£48	0	0	
- Making the plates.	£255	0	0	
- Printing, Perforating & Gumming.	£20	15	9	at 3/6 per 1000
Total	£388	15	9	

The wording of the first item is interesting and explains why, apart from the Ceylon Halfpenny, Jamaica should with British Honduras hold the distinction of being the only colony with a special Queen's head on her postage stamps.

Phase 2 1d, 2d, 4d, 6d & 1/- Postage Denominations.

The 17 October 1860 invoice for preparing this first postage issue contains as it's first item:

"Making from the original die of H.M. head used for the Jamaica Receipt stamps a counter die and altering it in part, so as to adapt it for the postage stamp. Transferring the counter die on five dies to be used as master dies for the postage rates 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d., and 1/-.

Working up the Queen's head on each equal to the original die and engraving a distinctive device on each respective die; fitting and hardening the same five dies at £30 each....£150.0.0 (De La Rue History pages 253-4).

After preparing the dies for the 1d, 2d, 4d, and 1/- it seems clear that the printers were conscious of the design deficiencies of the laureated head. Consequently the 6d die was to some extent recut. For instance, the two leaves protruding above the Queen's forehead - and which, as John Easton wrote, gave the Queen "a slightly dissipated, if not faunish, air" - were cut back, and the forehead made more rounded.

Phase 3 3d, ½d, 2/- & 5/- Postage Denominations

For the 3d the master die was considerably retouched in a more open style (according to John Easton by Pound) and this later became the original for the ½d, 2/- and 5/- denominations which made their appearance in the series watermarked Crown CC. The retouching is exactly reproduced in the working dies for these latter three denominations.

The 3d die was charged at £30².

½d order sent 14 June 1872 charge of £50 for the die, the Colonial Secretary complained at the increase in price but the Crown Agents responded that the previous rate had been uneconomic and the revised charge had been agreed in 1867.

¹ Easton - The De La Rue History p245 to 248 details correspondence and the invoices.

² Easton De La Rue History p255.

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The requisition for the 2/- and 5/- was received on 9 March 1875 and the dies, plates and stamps were invoiced on 14 July 1875³.

Phase 4 Die Proofs in Colour⁴.

These impressions in colour from the original dies were printed not later than 1873 and were, we believe, made for the Annual South Kensington Exhibition of that year. Similar die proofs of practically all the British Empire stamps that were then current were struck off, and they occur both with and without the "SPECIMEN" overprint.

Fiscal Die Proofs		1870-72	Postage Die Proofs	
1d	Pale Rose		½d	Maroon
1/-	Pale Rose		1d	Blue
5/-	Lilac		2d	Rose
10/-	Green		3d	Green
			4d	Pale Reddish Brown
			6d	Pale Lilac
			1/-	Brown

Phase 5 Stationery & Telegraphs

- 1877 Postcards
- 1879 Telegraph Stamps & Forms
- 1888 Newspaper Wrapper
- 1889 Postal Orders

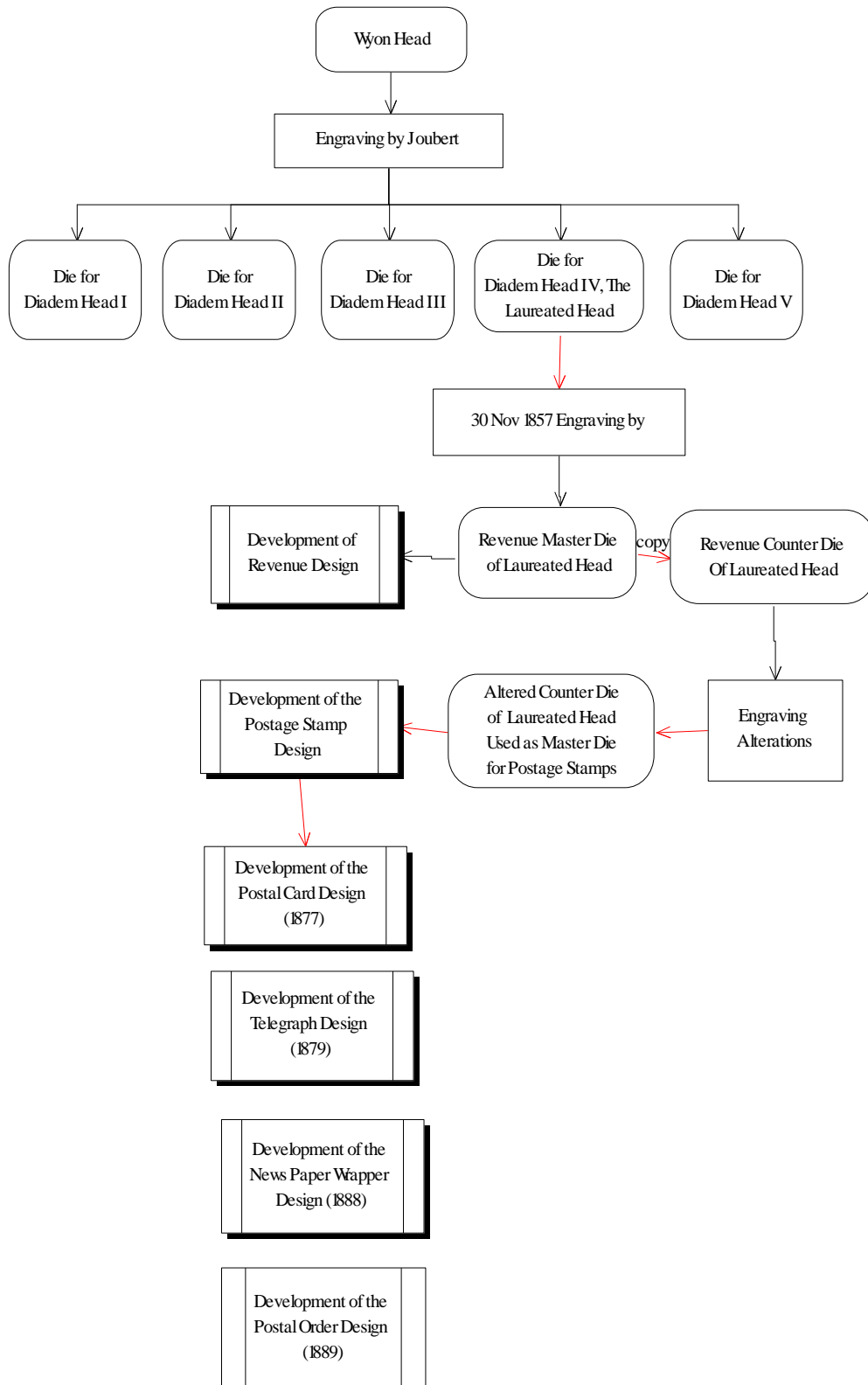
³ Easton De La Rue History p 307.

⁴ The following information has been gleaned from the following sources:

- Sir Edward Bacon describes in The London Philatelist, January 1922, The National Stamp Collection at the British Museum;
- The London Philatelist, Volume XXXI, pp.3,28 Sir Edward Bacon describes a set without overprint in the collection presented to the British Museum in 1900.
- The London Philatelist Vol 56 p61 March 1947 quotes correspondence between a Mr. Agerup and the Editor

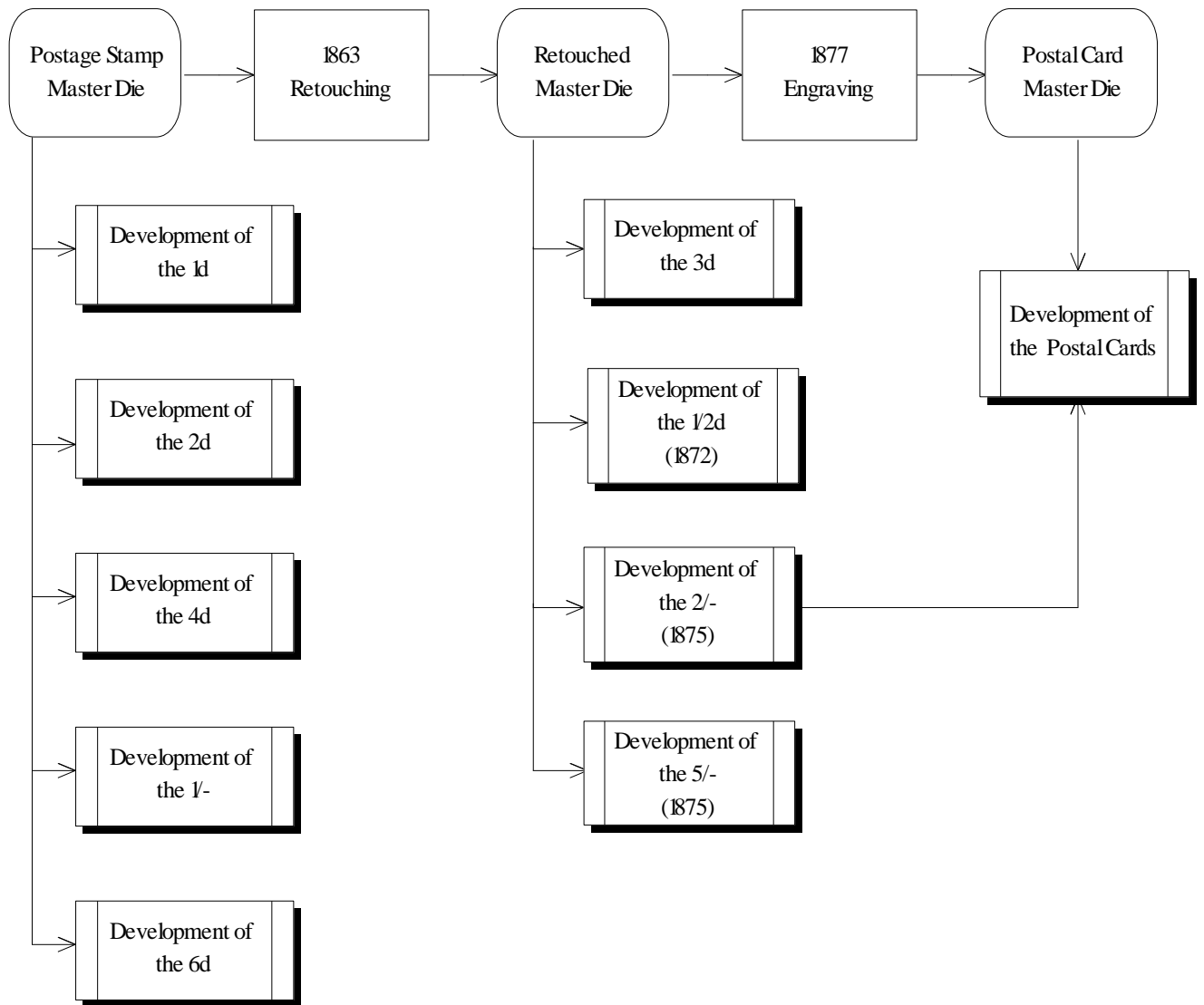
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Flowcharts Overview



(JQQHDI00)

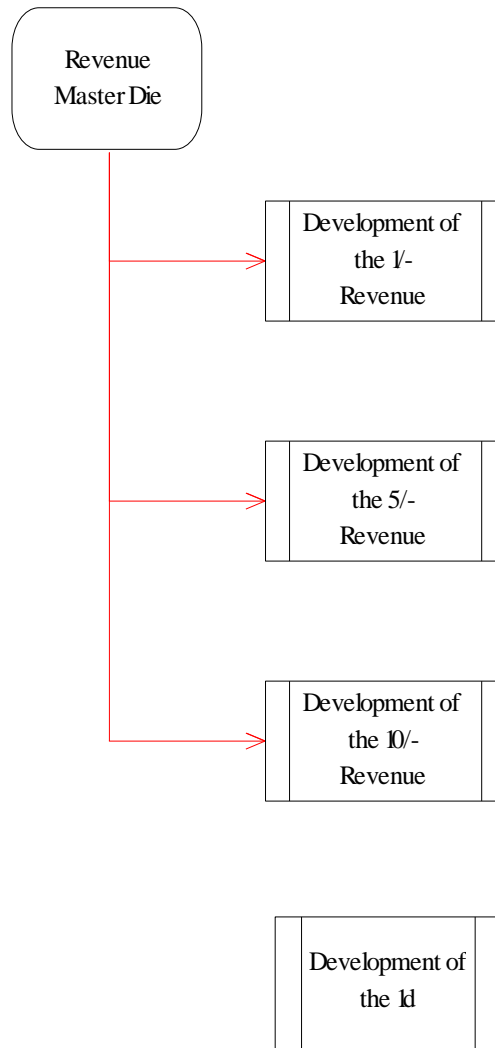
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(JQVHDI01)

1860 to 1910 QV Laureated Head
Design Development

REVENUES



London Philatelist January 1922 cites Die

Proofs

1/- black & rose

5/- black & lilac

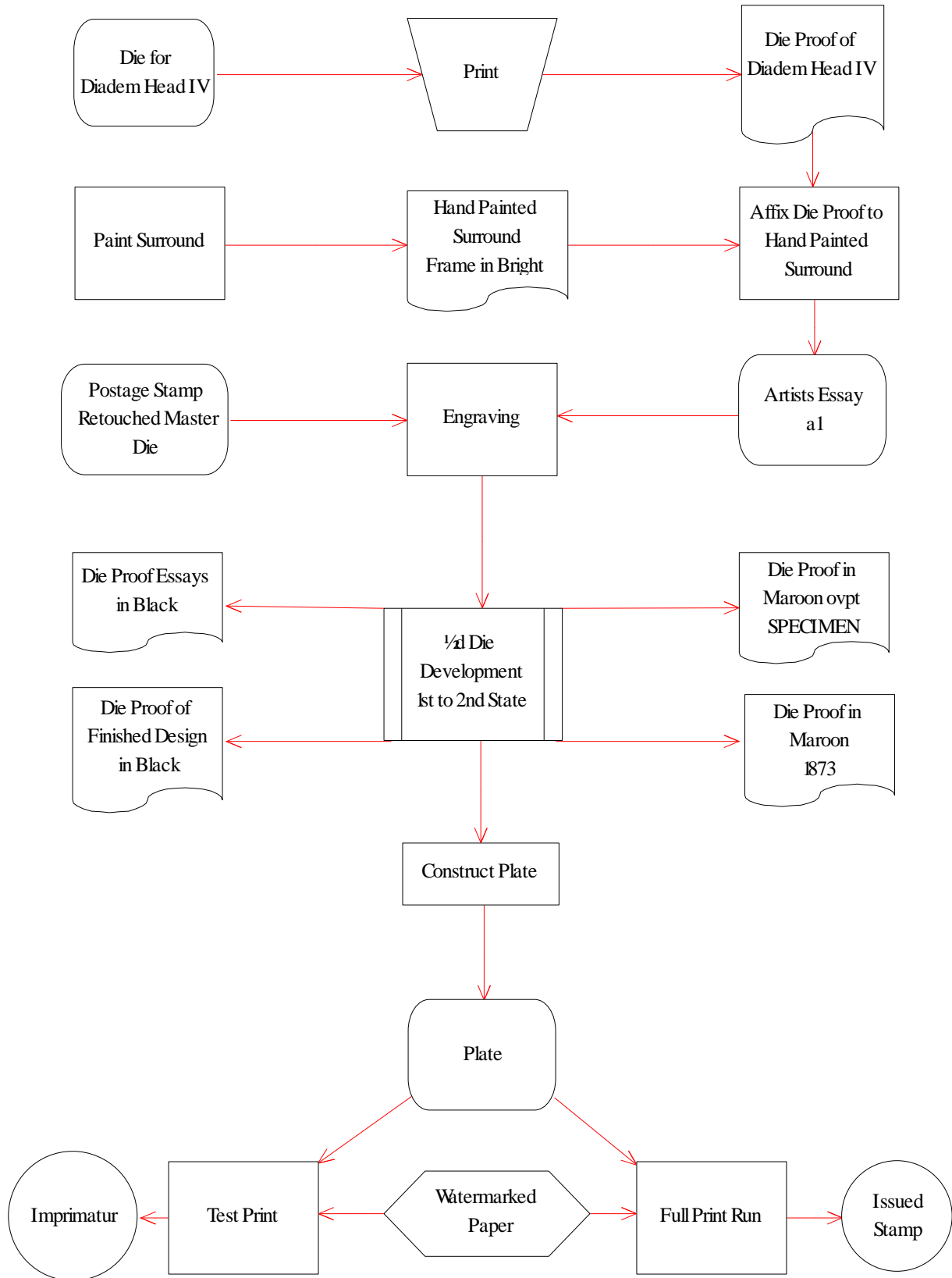
10/- black & green

(JQVHDI16)

1860 to 1910 QV Laureated Head
Design Development

Postage Denominations

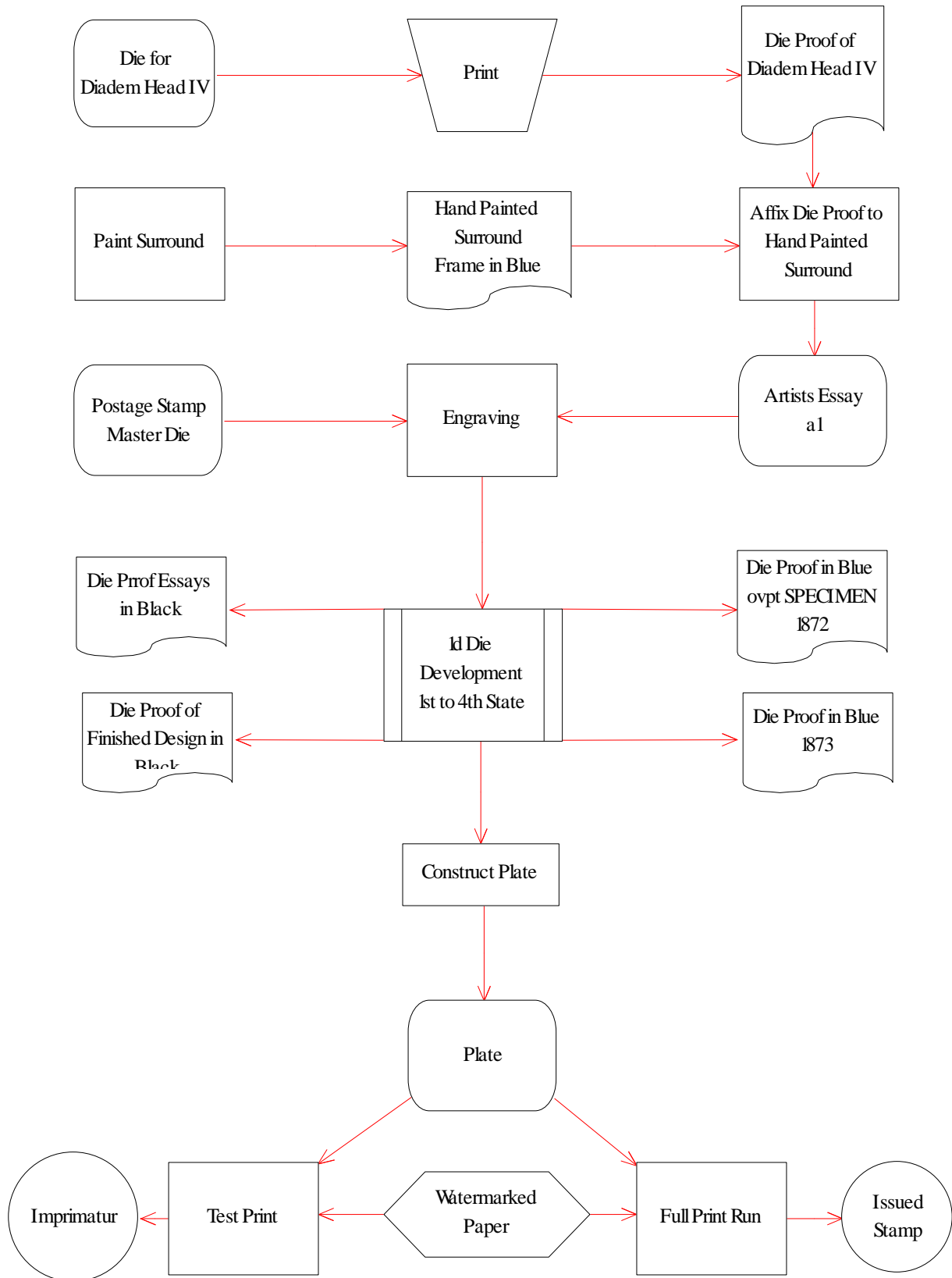
POSTAGE 1/2D



(JQVHDI13)

1860 to 1910 QV Laureated Head
Design Development

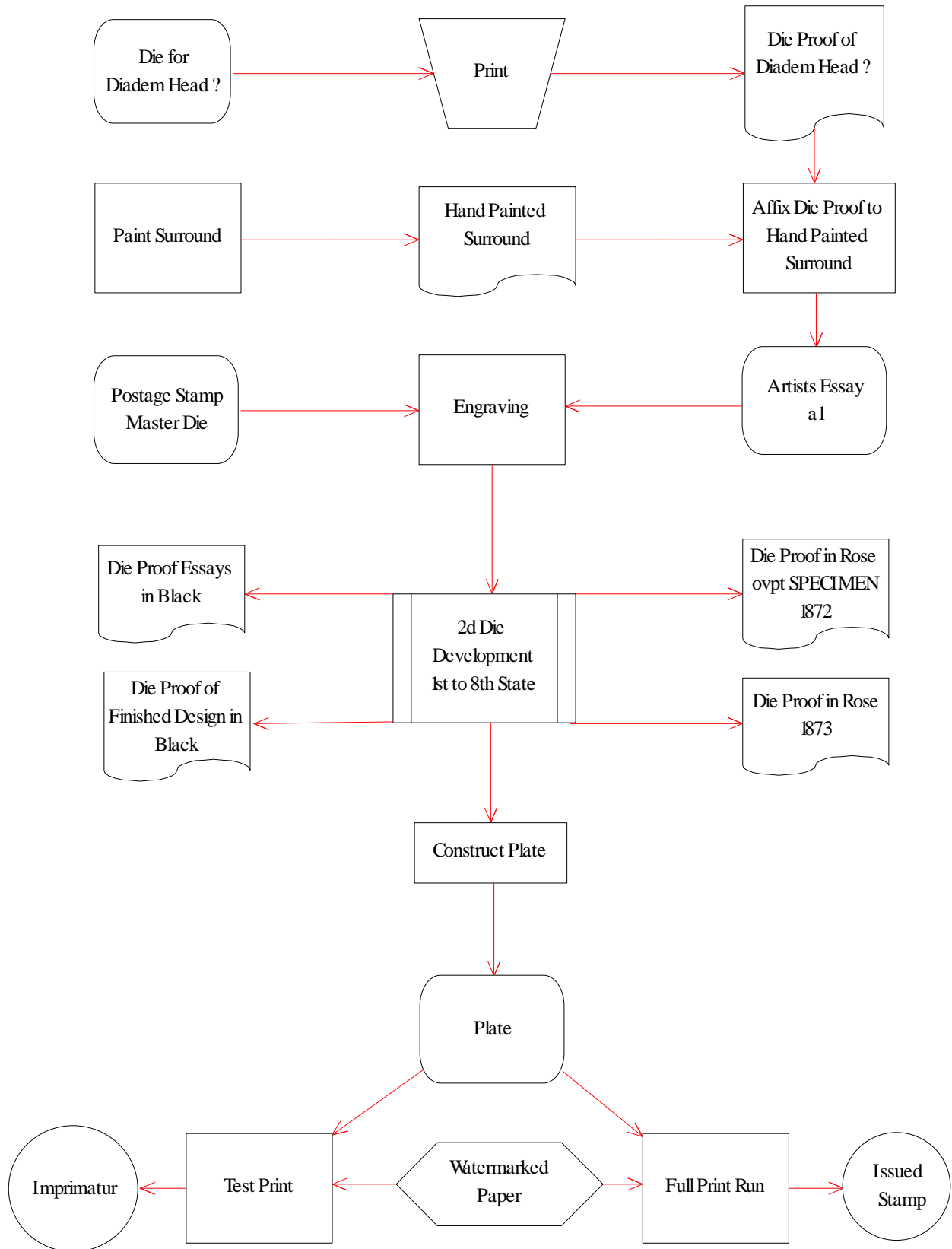
POSTAGE 1D



(JQVHDI02)

1860 to 1910 QV Laureated Head
Design Development

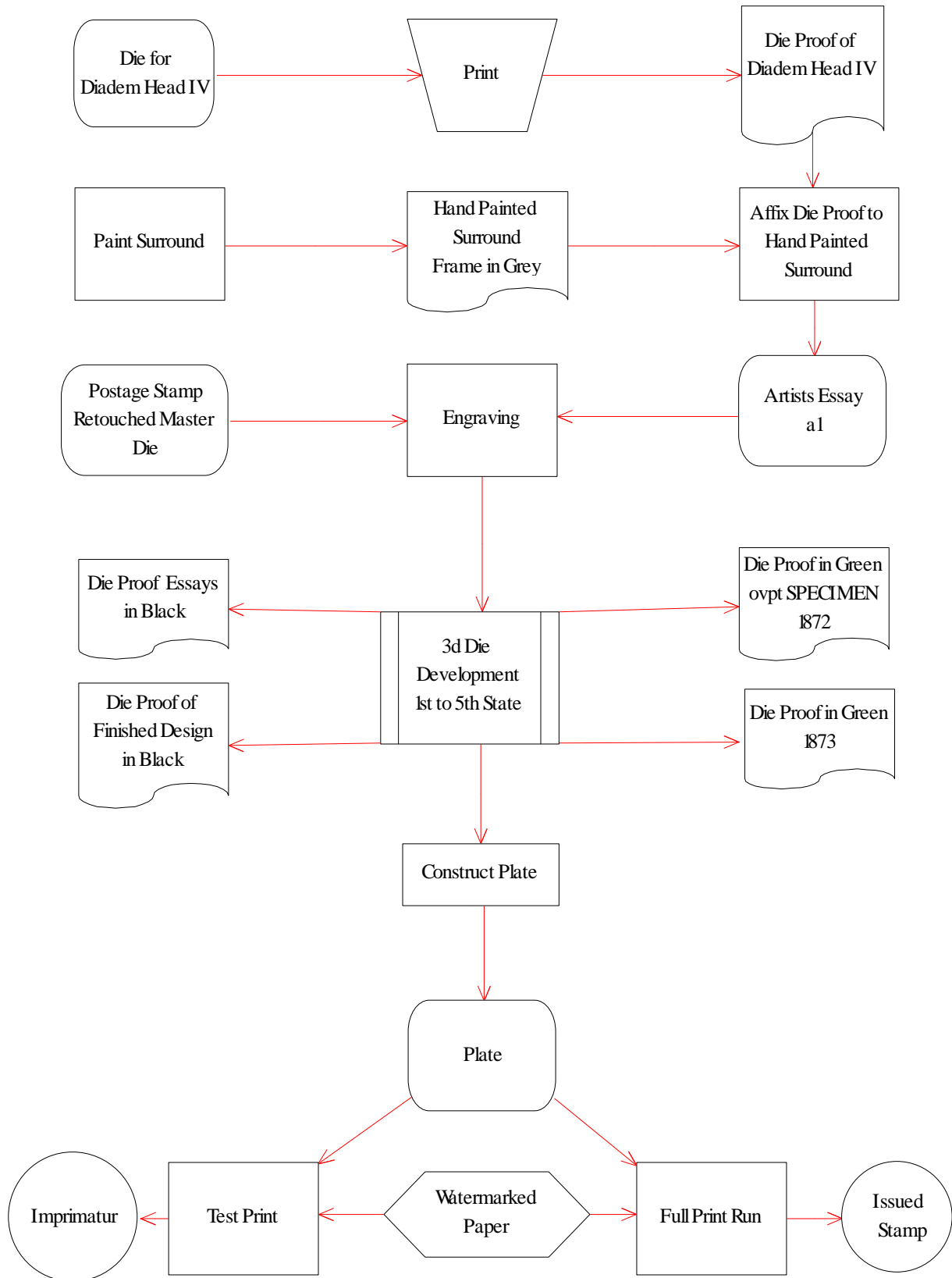
POSTAGE 2D



(JQVHDI03)

1860 to 1910 QV Laureated Head
Design Development

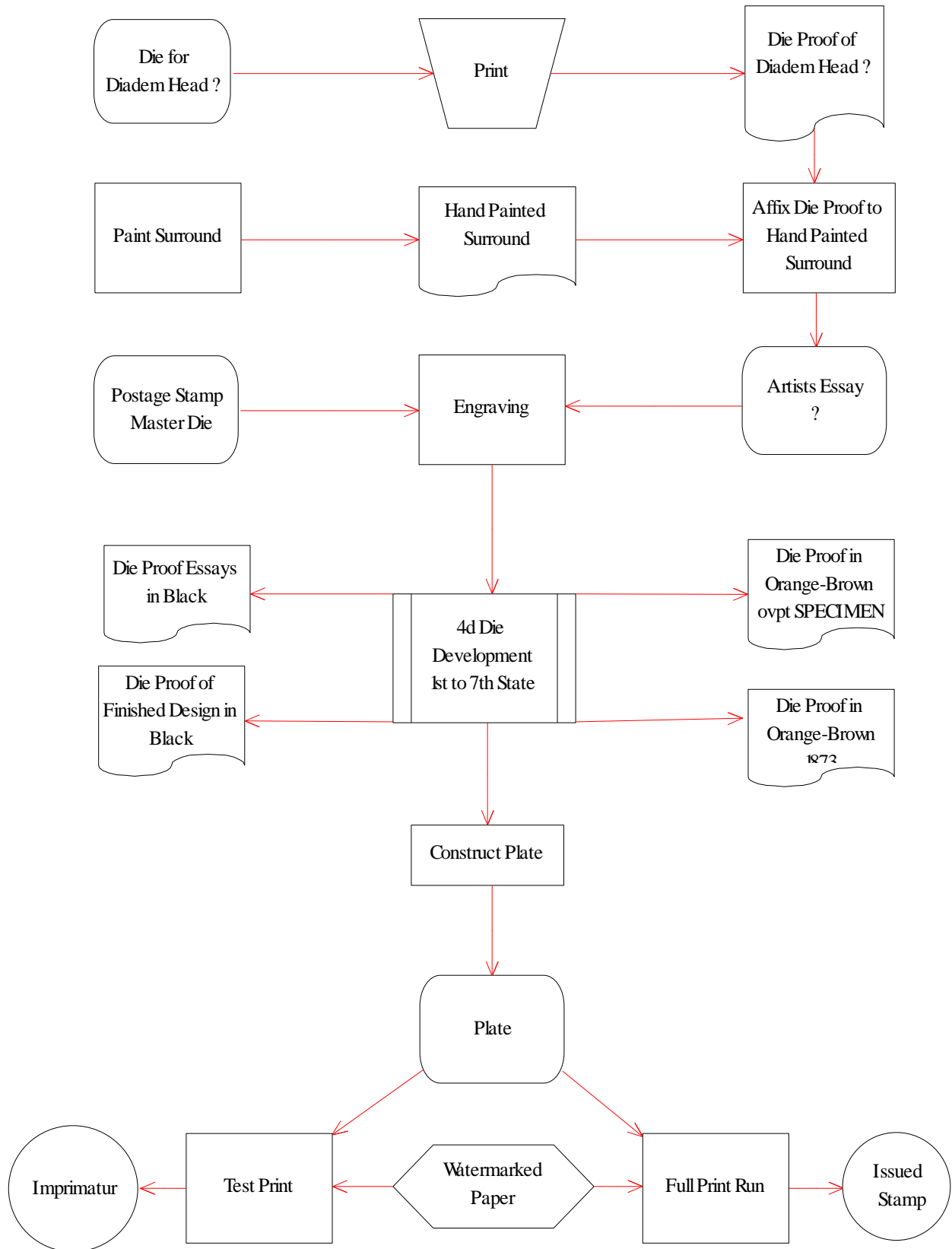
POSTAGE 3D



(JQVHDI12)

1860 to 1910 QV Laureated Head
Design Development

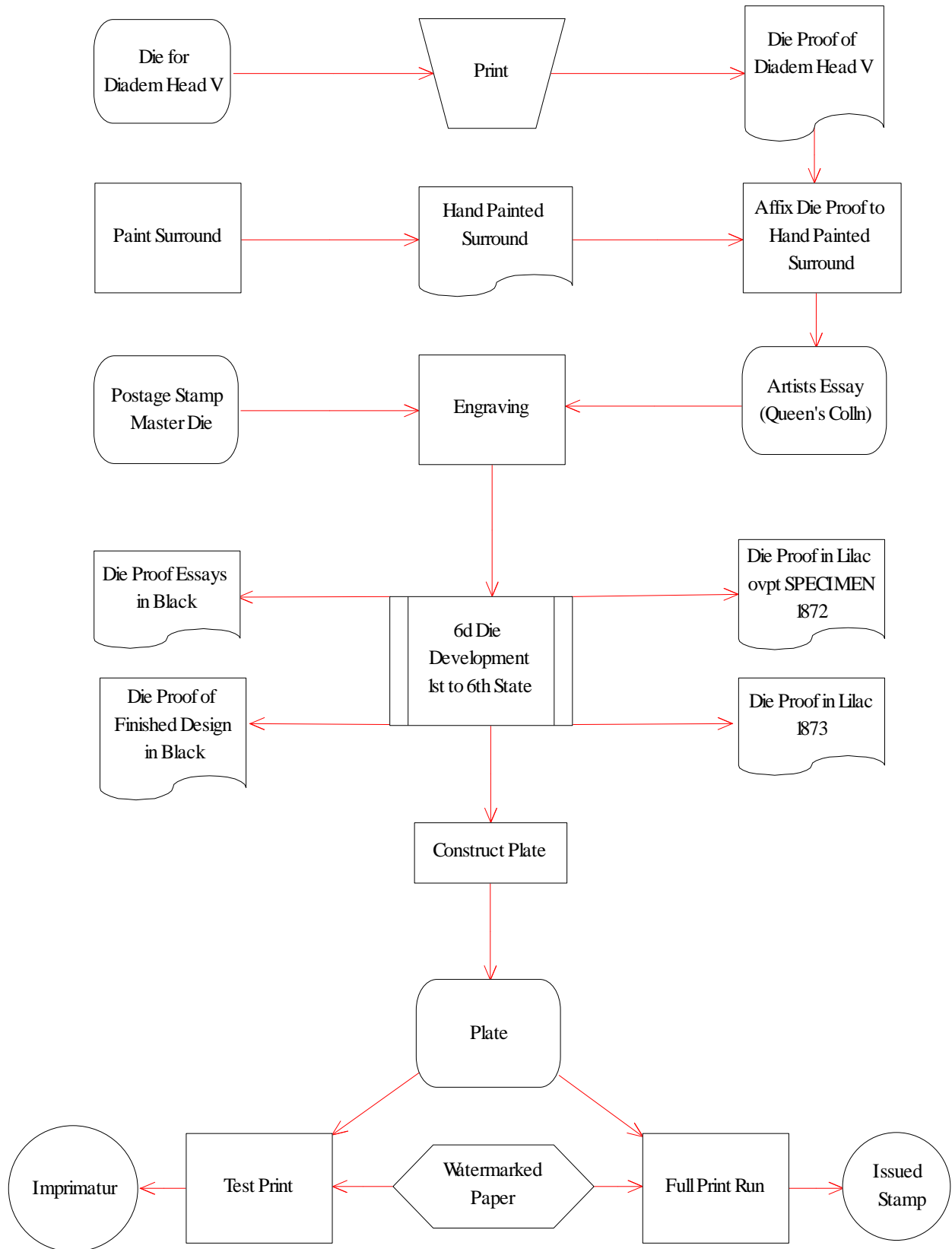
POSTAGE 4D



(JQVHDI04)

1860 to 1910 QV Laureated Head
Design Development

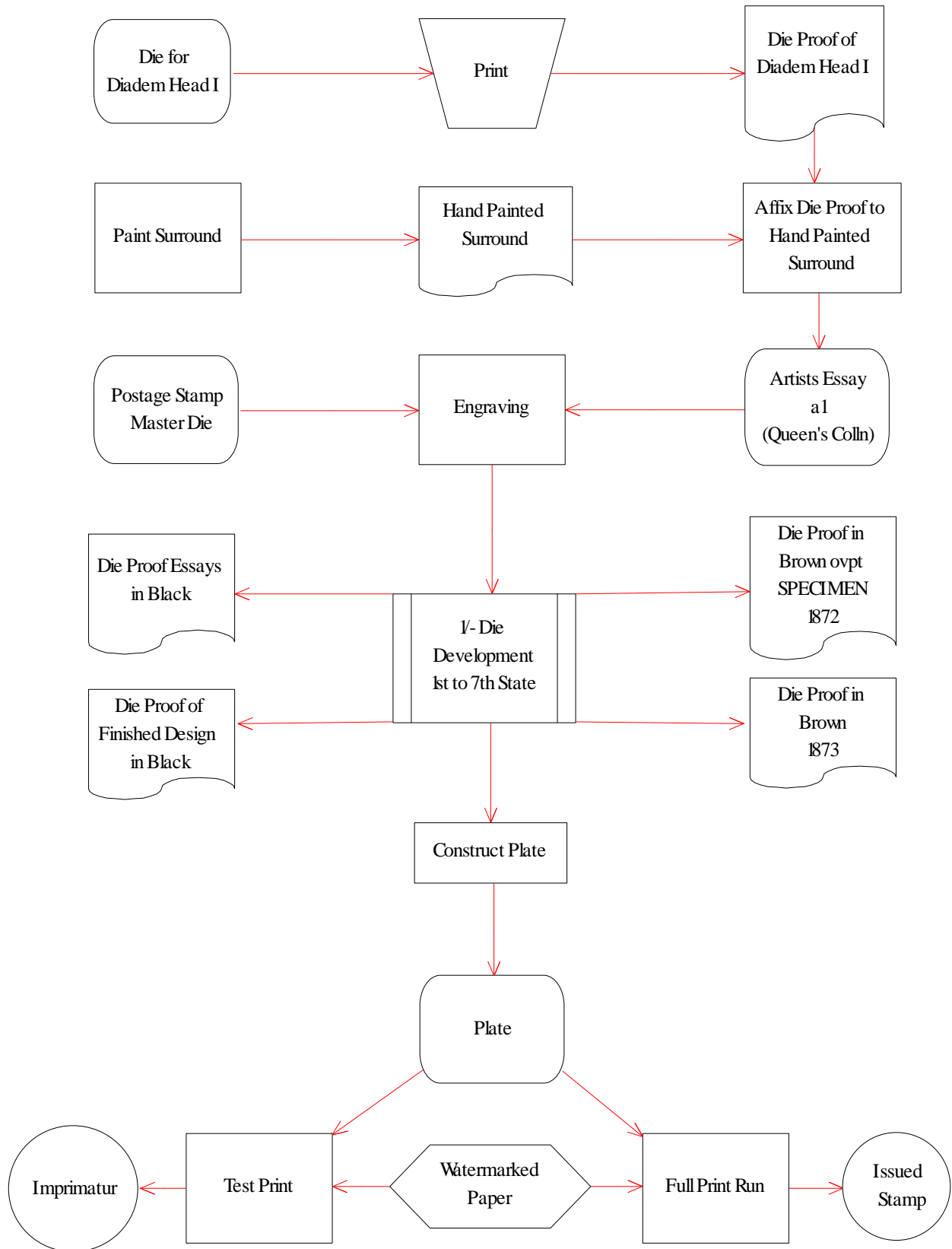
POSTAGE 6D



(JQVHDI06)

1860 to 1910 QV Laureated Head
Design Development

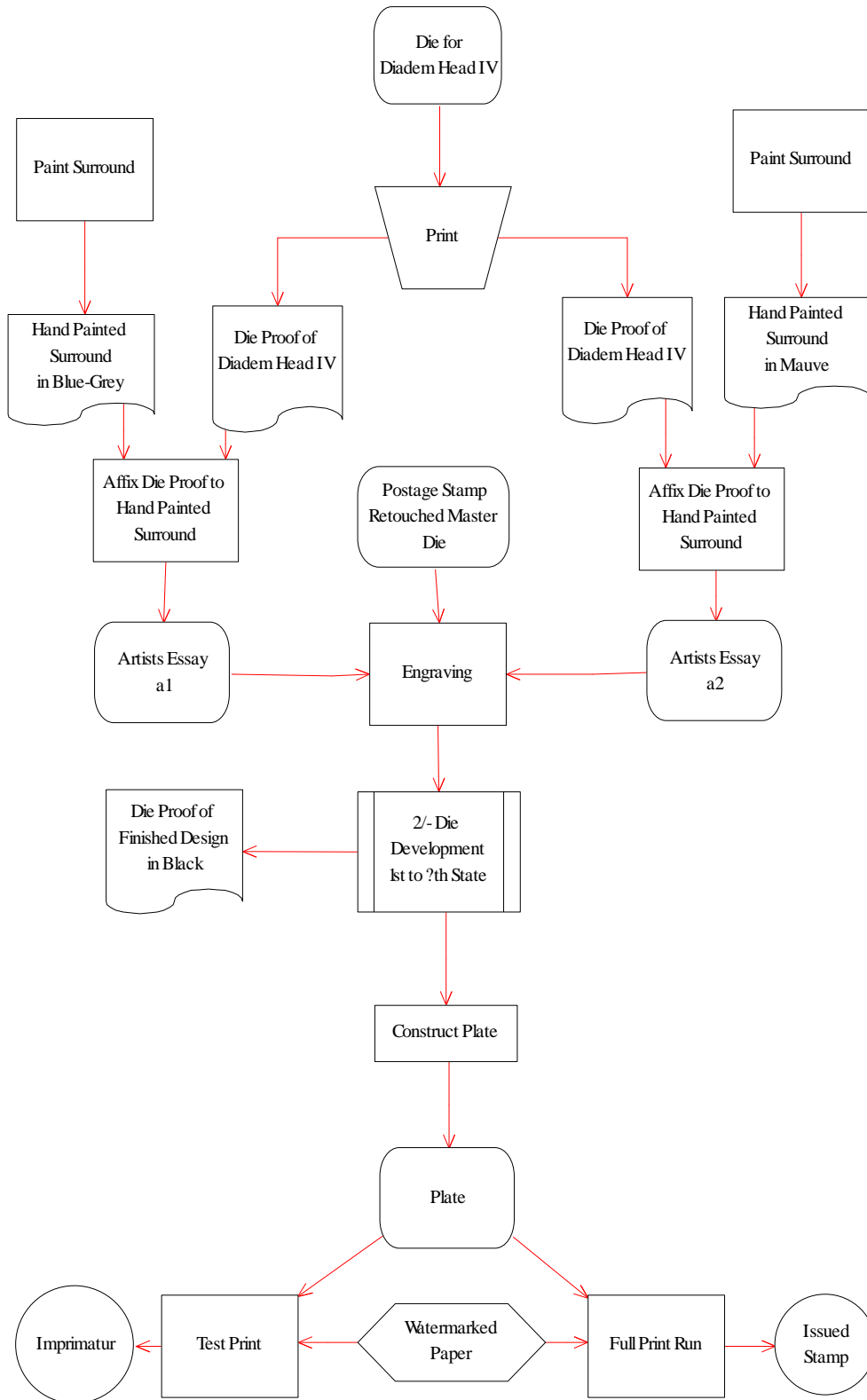
POSTAGE 1S



(JQVHDI05)

1860 to 1910 QV Laureated Head
Design Development

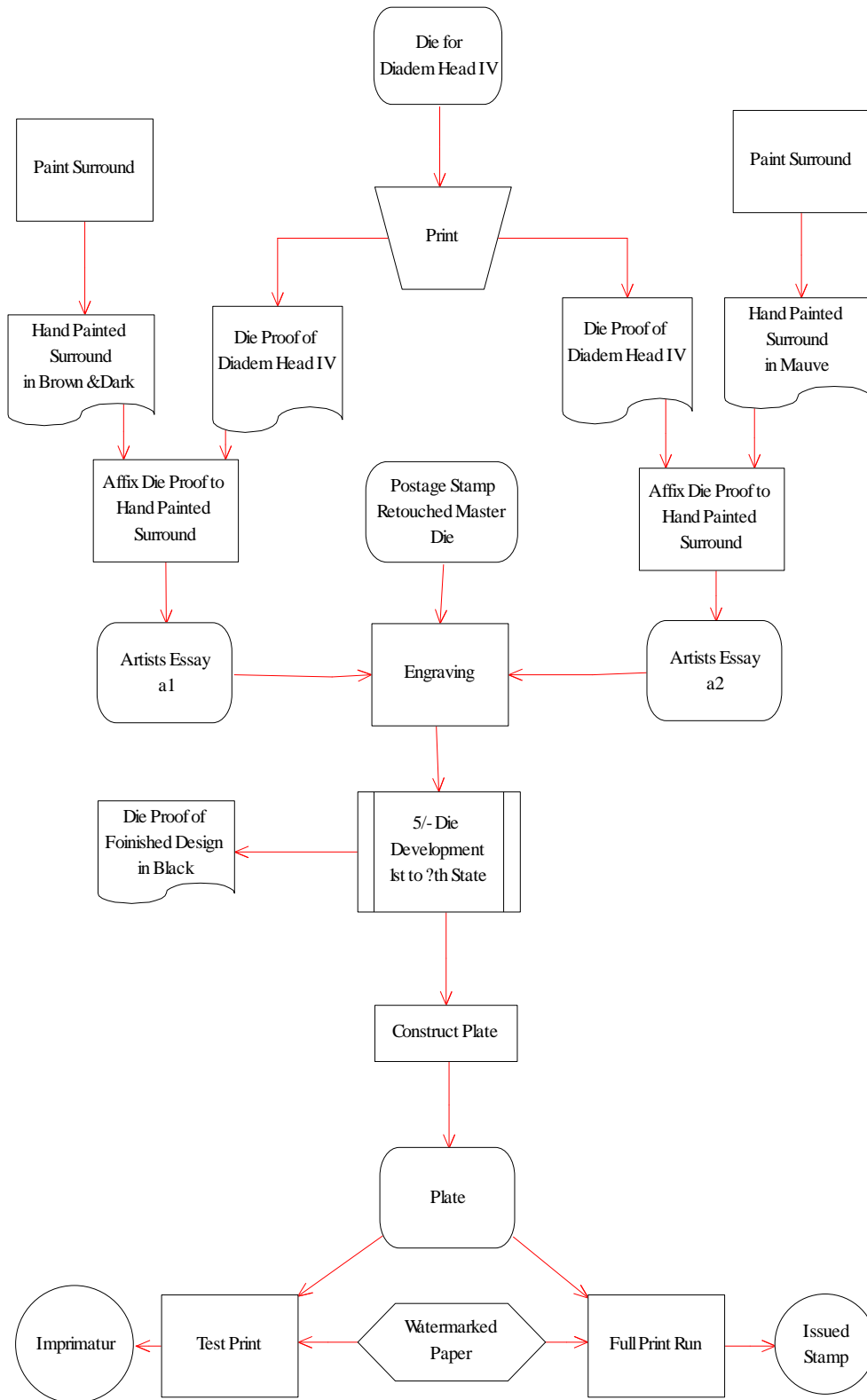
POSTAGE 2S



(JQVHDI14)

1860 to 1910 QV Laureated Head
Design Development

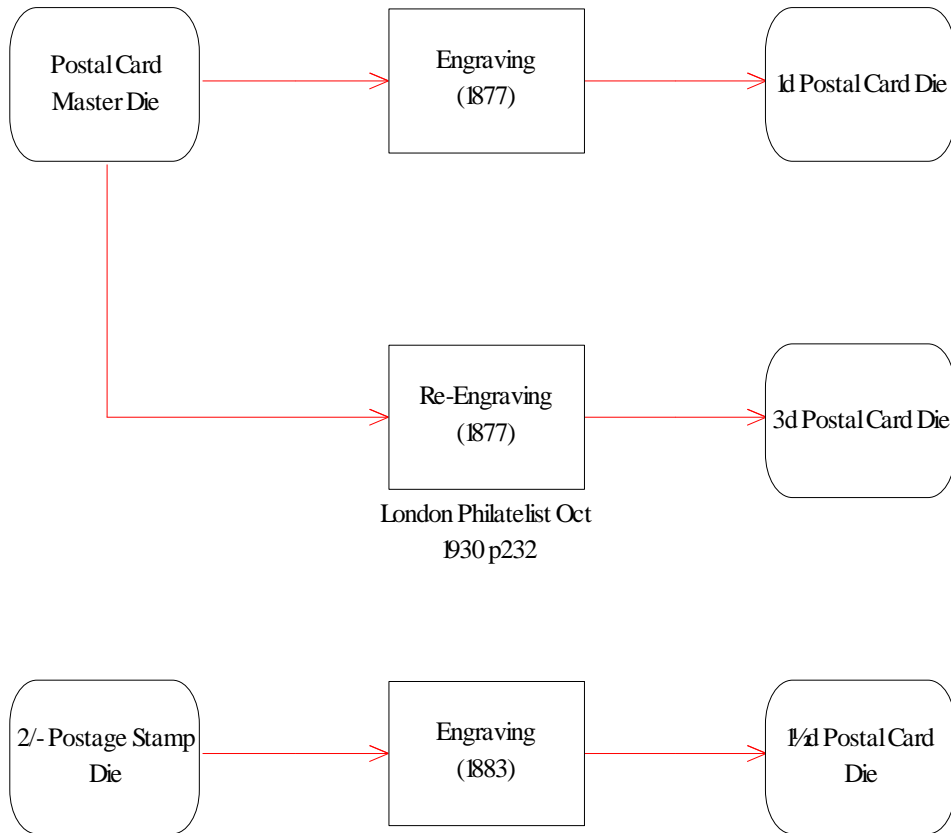
POSTAGE 5S



(JQVHDI15)

1860 to 1910 QV Laureated Head
Design Development

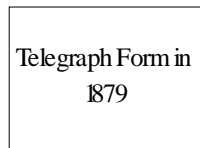
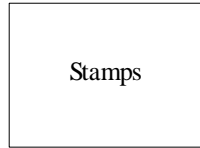
Postcards



(JQVHDI21)

1860 to 1910 QV Laureated Head
Design Development

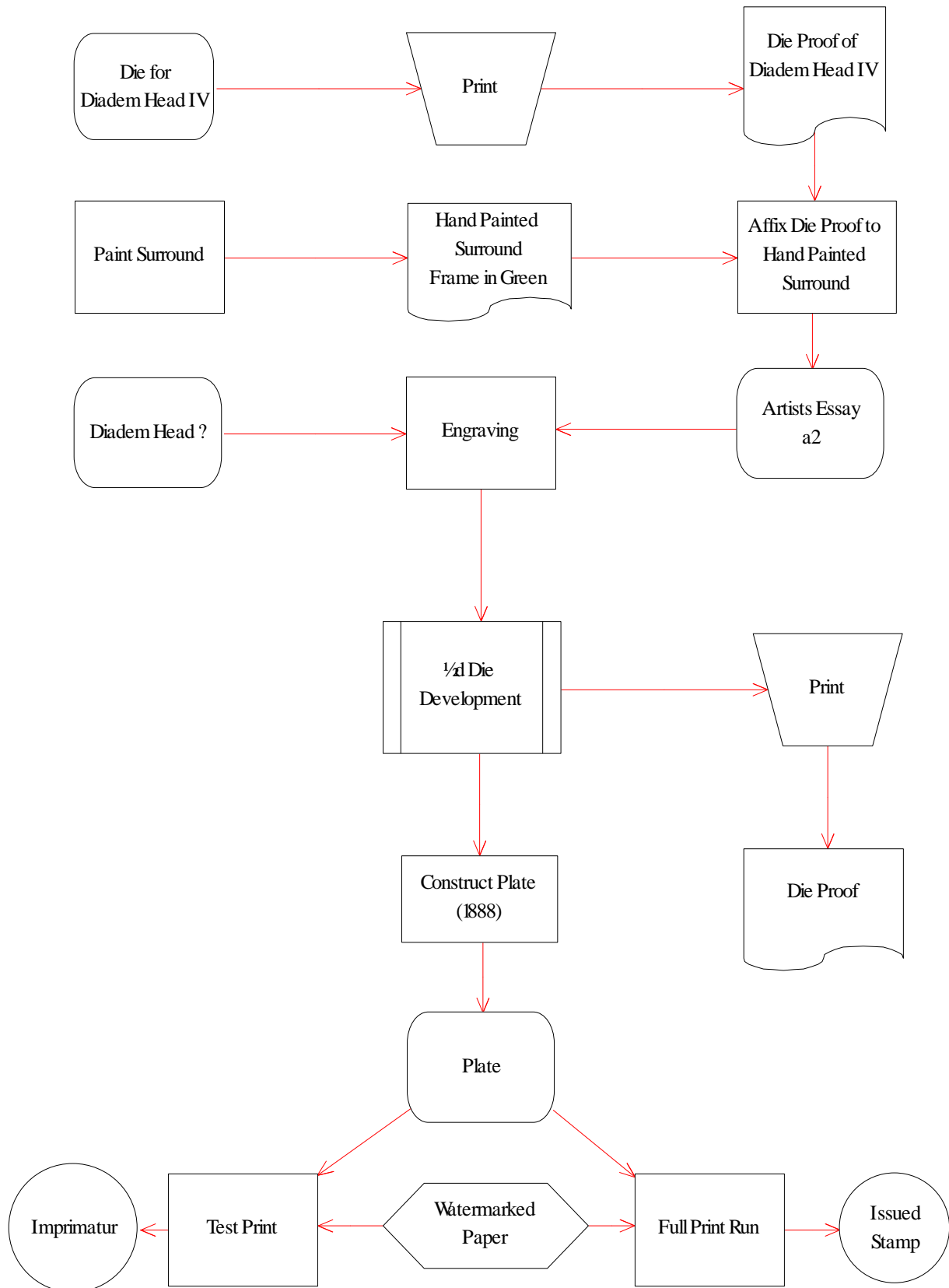
Telegraphs



(JQVHDI22)

1860 to 1910 QV Laureated Head
Design Development

Newspaper Wrappers



(JQVHDI23)