



# Dummy News and Views

the Newsletter of the United States Stamp Society - Dummy Stamps Study Group

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## Welcome to the Dummy Stamps Study Group's Second Newsletter

This newsletter is produced quarterly by the United States Stamp Society's - Dummy Stamps Study Group for your information and pleasure. We hope that the information included in this newsletter will be informative, useful and encourage your enjoyment of collecting dummy/test stamps. Our goal is to keep you up-to-date with the latest information available to our group. Questions, comments and articles proposed for publication should be directed to Terry R. Scott, Chairman of the Dummy Stamps Study Group at [trs@napanet.net](mailto:trs@napanet.net)

## A few more items that the 2006 Scott Specialized did not illustrate

by Terry R. Scott

The first article illustrating items that the *Scott 2006 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers* did not illustrate was in the Fall 2005 issue of the Dummy Stamps Study Group (DSSG) newsletter.

This is a short follow-up to that article and an attempt to illustrate more items that were not illustrated.

First though, I would like to repeat an illustration that was used in the Fall 2005 DSSG newsletter. The original DSSG newsletter is prepared using 300 dpi illustrations that would show the slightest differences between stamps. Due to the limitations of the United States Stamp Society web page, and the need to reduce the size of the file for easy downloading by users that have dial-up internet service, the final version of the DSSG newsletter was greatly reduced in file size and therefore, quality of the illustrations. So much so that the differences between the Scott TD37 and TD38 illustrations was unable to be discerned. With this in mind, I want to use a better illustration but use only a cropped image that would show the differences in the final version of the newsletter.

The principal difference is in the shading lines, which is mentioned in the description below the listings in the Scott catalogue. Enlarged illustrations of both types would have been more helpful. I will show these and the differences.

The first one is an illustration of TD37 with the full shading lines, the second is of TD38 with the shorter shading lines. The shading lines referred to are the

horizontal ones that go across the stamps, starting at the frame line and ending at the central oval. The illustration on the right shows the shading lines falling short of the central oval and the outside frame lines. I hope the illustrations show this clear enough this time to avoid any further confusion. I have enlarged them in hopes that the difference will show.



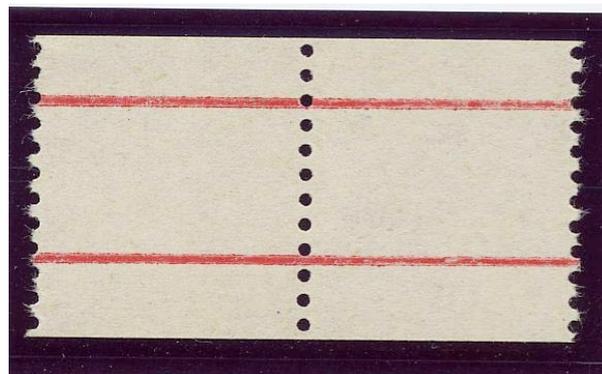
Another issue that could have been illustrated is TD76, the blank coil issue that has red horizontal lines 13.5 mm apart. There are several collectible versions of this test coil.

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There is a gap in the horizontal red lines every six stamps. The gap alternates in width from narrow to wide every six stamps. Variations of this gap location are also collectible. The gap occurs either on or near the vertical perforations in one version and at or near the center of the stamps in the other version. With these different variations, some collectors choose to collect these in longer strips to show both differences. *The 2006 Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers* lists a strip of 10 that would include both gaps in one strip. □



## Recent Articles of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

There have been several articles published in *The United States Specialist* in recent months that are of interest to dummy stamp collectors. I will make mention of them briefly and hope that you will either refer to your copy of *The Specialist* or if you are not yet a member of the United States Stamp Society, I am urging you to join and receive *The Specialist* on a monthly basis so you won't miss any future articles of interest to you. Single back issues of *The Specialist* are available for \$2.00 postpaid for both members and nonmembers. Make checks payable to USSS. Foreign postage is extra. Send orders to: USSS Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 6634, Katy, TX 77491-6634.

Now on to the recent articles of interest to dummy stamp collectors.

An excellent article by Steven R. Belasco in the January 2006 issue of *The Specialist* titled "Test and Experimental Coils of the United States Automatic Vending Company" illustrates and describes the usage and differences of several different test stamps. There are also several items in this article that are not illustrated in the *Scott 2006 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers*. One of these is shown below.



Another article in the February 2006 issue of *The Specialist* by John L. Larson, titled "Second RENA Test Coil Discovered," illustrates and describes details of a new version of self-adhesive test coil from RENA Systems, Inc. An illustration of this new RENA test coil is illustrated below.



In the March 2006 issue of *The Specialist*, Terry R. Scott has a follow-up article on his original article in the April 2005 issue that discusses the new For Testing Purposes Only (FTPO) self-adhesive test coil with the small vertical line between the "N" and "L" of "ONLY." Additional information was obtained from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing on this issue and the new article reveals what is newly known. A close-up detail of the FTPO test coil is illustrated in nearby.



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I am aware of four more excellent articles on dummy/test stamps in the works for *The Specialist* in the coming months. Please keep an eye out for these

as I am sure that there is something in one or all of them that will interest you. ☐

## **Proposed Future DSSG projects**

### **Updating Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets**

The time has come for the definitive publication on dummy booklets to be updated. The last update was in 1998 by Dummy Booklets Study Group Chairman, Earl McAfee. There have been many new discoveries, most of them written up in articles in *The Specialist*, that need to be documented and illustrated in the new updated version of Research Paper Number 3. I will head up this update project and knowing that it will take quite a bit of time to complete, have no estimated completion date in mind. There are many variables in

completing a project of this magnitude. I will be asking you to join me in this project as I am not able to do it all. I lack several of the computer skills necessary to make this a premier publication. Several illustrations are needed and a listing of these will be sent to you when I compile it. Scans in 300 dpi are necessary for clarity. It is anticipated that this publication will be in color. It has not yet been determined if it will be available on CD. ☐

### **Defacement lines on black FTPO coils**

The history of defacement lines on the black FTPO coils remains a mystery. Many different styles and colors exist and the Dummy Stamps Study Group is attempting to compile a list of all known types in all colors. If you have any that you wish to see listed on the summary of the DSSG please submit a 300 dpi

color scan of the stamps, pairs or strips. A detailed list of all known defacement lines will be published on the DSSG web site with photos of all types known. Dan Undersander sent an extensive set of scans for use in this project. I encourage everyone to send their scans using 300 dpi for clear resolution and printing. ☐

### **Dummy test stamp roll sizes, box and roll labels**

Another project that the DSSG is working on is listing all known dummy test stamp roll sizes and all known box and roll labels. There are a great number of different labels used on the 3,000 FTPO rolls and

documenting them if possible with date of manufacture will help date and determine the press used for printing the FTPO coils. Your assistance on this will also be greatly appreciated. ☐

### **Recording auction appearances and prices realized for test stamps**

The DSSG is attempting to gather all known auction appearances and prices realized for test stamps. This is a huge project and your cooperation is necessary to make it work. Probably every one of us has several auction catalogues with test stamps listed and

this information is needed for the listing. Please send all information requested by Robert Williams for this listings to him at his e-mail address which is:

[paleoman@brinet.com](mailto:paleoman@brinet.com) ☐

### **Compiling a comprehensive listing of references for test stamps**

Peter Thompson is working on the task of compiling a comprehensive listing of dummy/test stamp references. This is a massive undertaking and Peter may ask all of us for information and/or help at some time.

listings, but there is no urgency. He will merge it with the listings he has and format as appropriate. He can work with either a text file or Word document.

Please assist him if he requests help. He will keep us informed of what he is doing and how we can help. Peter mentioned sending him an update of more recent

Peter will communicate his needs to the group and we can contact him at:

[compbio.peterthompson@verizon.net](mailto:compbio.peterthompson@verizon.net) ☐