



Dummy News and Views

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

Issue Number 3

Spring 2006



Welcome to the Dummy Stamps Study Group's Third 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

News from Washington 2006

by Terry R. Scott

I am happy to know that several of the Dummy Stamps Study Group (DSSG) made it to the fantastic, once a decade, stamp show in Washington, DC this May and June. Unfortunately I was not one of them able to attend. Those who did attend had a very good time from the stories that I have heard.

Many of the DSSG members were able to visit with other members that they have not seen for several years and catch up on stories about dummy stamps and stamps in general.

I heard a few stories of new discovered dummy stamps at several of the dealers' booths. Efforts to secure scans of these have not proven to pan out so we will keep our eyes open for them to find their way to the stamp market and possibly into someone's collection who will share them with us.

One very exciting event to happen at Washington 2006 was the official introduction of the new "Encyclopedia of United States Stamps and Stamp Collecting" by Rodney A. Juell and Steven J. Rod. The encyclopedia was produced by *The United States Stamp Society* and contains no less than 55 chapters detailing the history, production and technology, covering Stampless Covers to Test Stamps, within 572 pages with the addition of seven chapters titled "Expanding the Collector's Scope" and four appendixes. A total of 730 pages with loads of illustrations in color and black and white.

It is a marvelous production by the society and I urge every member to have one in his library if you do not already. It is available by mail from: **USSS, P. O.**

Box 6634, Katy, TX 77491-6634. The modest cost is \$25.00 for members and \$30.00 for non-members. These prices include postage so it is one heck of a bargain that will give you in-depth information about all facets of United States stamp collecting. Don't be without it!

At the Washington 2006 show, there was a one frame exhibit of 16-pages. The various committee chairs were asked to contribute a one-page example of scanned material to illustrate the committee's interest. The DSSG was fortunate to have one of the pages. If you are interested in seeing it, I am hoping to get it posted at the DSSG web site soon, the DSSG web site can be found at: <http://www.usstamps.org/dssg.html>

In the July 2006 issue of *The United States Specialist*, there are lots of photos of Washington 2006 and the collectors and members of the USSS.

For your information, the committee reports for the various USSS committee's can be found in that same issue as well as many interesting articles. □

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Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

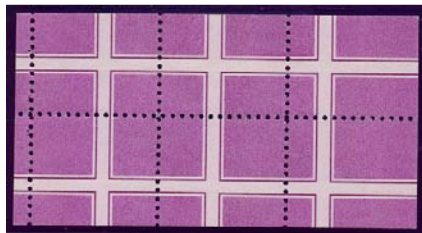
by Terry R. Scott

There have been several recent auction sales that included dummy/test stamps, many of which either went for remarkably high prices, contained very nice dummy stamps or in some cases, in my opinion, bargain prices,

One such nice item was in the February 24-26, 2006 Regency-Superior Stamps & Collectibles; Public Auction #53. It was the following lot:

Lot #1407 ** (BK109 var) (Scott TDB7) 1958 TEST BOOKLET 97¢ W/RED VIOLET COIL WASTE PANES, Complete, unexploded pink covered booklet with four panes of 6 of misperforated coil waste panes WITH joint lines, very rare thus. Pristine condition. MINT never hinged. Covers & panes very fine. photo MB 750 E 1000 R 800 + a 15% buyers premium.

This lot is particularly nice because of the joint lines on the panes. The following illustration is representative of these panes but is NOT from the booklet in this lot.



An interesting item that I feel was a bargain for what it is, was the following lot in the March 22, 2006 H. R. Harmer Sale #2961

Lot #1034 E TD51, (5c) Washington brown photo-etching test stamp on wove paper,” “wide right sheet-margin block of twelve (6x2) with ample to large margins on the other three sides, left block of four with natural pre-printing paper creases, otherwise fresh and Very Fine; only 372 stamps exist in private hands. The photo-etching process was tested by the firm of Bruckmann A.G. of Munich, Germany. A photographic negative was used to etch the image on

an intaglio metal plate. A defaced design of the then current 5c Washington was utilized, probably in hopes of showing a saleable product to the U.S. Post Office Department.” photo (TD51) E 1200 R 450 + a 15% buyers premium.

I was surprised to see that the left margin has been cut off of this piece. The plate was 6 stamps wide with large margins on both the left and right sides. Why the left margin has been cut off is a real mystery since there are only 372 of these dummy stamps in existence; it seems a shame to remove it.



The real surprise to me at least was the following lot from the May 29, 2006 H. R. Harmer Sale #2963.

Lot #217 **/* #409, 2c Carmine Imperforate, #TD14+TD14a, Mail-O-Meter Test Stamps, Perforate and Imperforate, an amazing paste up strip of four with paste up between the 2c stamp at right and the horizontal strip of three of Mail-O-Meter test stamps, Schermack Ty. III perforations at right of strip and 2c stamp, rough at left indicating previous Schermack perfs, imperforate between at center, Never Hinged except two of the test stamps have fingerprints on the gum (P.F. notes the test stamps are previously hinged), center test stamp with small tear at bottom, otherwise Extremely Fine and unquestionably unique, with 1987 Stampazine lot card where purchased by the owner and 2005 P.F. certificate. photo (409) E 2000-3000 R 5250 + a 15% buyers premium. □



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Recent Articles of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

There have been a couple more articles published in *The United States Specialist* in the past several 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. Now on to the recent articles of interest to dummy stamp collectors.

An article by Joann Lenz in the April 2006 issue of *The Specialist* titled "New Dummy Coil Find: Pence Mailing Machine Stamp" illustrates and describes the discovery and history of this test stamp. It is illustrated on the front cover in color. A single of this most interesting test stamp is shown below.



Another article in the May 2006 issue of *The Specialist* by Joann Lenz and Terry Scott, titled "BEP

Dummy Panes: Unusual Defacement Markings," illustrates and describes details of several different styles and colors of crayon defacement markings on blank BEP produced panes of stamps. This article generated several letters to the editor which make this an interesting mystery. Anyone who has more information on these unusual defacement markings is welcome to send the information to either Joann or me. A few examples of these are shown following:



I am aware of several more excellent articles on dummy/test stamps that are 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.

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.** □

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. □

The Other Projects

Other projects currently being worked on by various members of the DSSG are:

- Dummy test stamp roll sizes, box and roll labels

- Recording auction appearances and prices realized for test stamps
- Compiling a comprehensive listing of references for test stamps □