



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 Thirteenth 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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Recent Article of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

Constant Variety On Some Scott TD65 Test Coils

In the December 2008 issue of *The United States Specialist* there is an article describing a constant variety on some TD65 test coils written by Terry R. Scott.

Some time ago I obtained a pair of Scott TD65, Licensed Sanitary Postage Coil test stamp through the online auction eBay. The seller described this pair as a pair with a constant plate flaw. The pair of Scott TD65 was mounted on a nicely handmade album page illustrating an old 3-station Schermack Products Corporation Sanitary Postage Station stamp dispenser, the pair of stamps mounted and close up illustrations of the broken "OR" in "CORP'N" constant plate flaw. A close up of a TD65 with the broken "OR" in "CORP'N" constant plate flaw is shown nearby.

I compared the pair of Scott TD65 Licensed Sanitary Postage Coils with the broken "OR" in "CORP'N" constant plate flaw against a few other pairs of Scott TD65 that I had access to. To my surprise, the pair obtained through eBay was the only pair to display the broken "OR" in "CORPN" constant plate flaw.

I encourage you to examine any TD65 test coils you may have access to and see if any of them show the broken "OR" in "CORP'N" constant plate flaw. If you are lucky enough to have Scott TD65 in a larger multiple than a pair then you too may have proof of

the broken "OR" in "CORP'N" constant plate flaw showing on every other stamp.

This variety does not seem to be especially difficult to find as there have been at least two pairs offered on eBay since the article appeared in *The United States Specialist*. I am sure there were quite a few more prior to the publication of the article also. □



Broken "OR" in "CORP'N" Normal "OR"

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Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

On September 19-20, 2008 The Stamp Center of Wilmington, Delaware held Public Auction No. 258 that contained the following test stamps. A 12% buyer's premium is to be added to the prices realized.

Lot 606 TEST STAMPS TD38 (44) Unused (4) Pairs, (2) Strips of 4, (2) Strips of 6, (2) strips of 8 AVG-F to F+ NH on Stocksheets! No Photo Cat \$1,100 Realized \$48

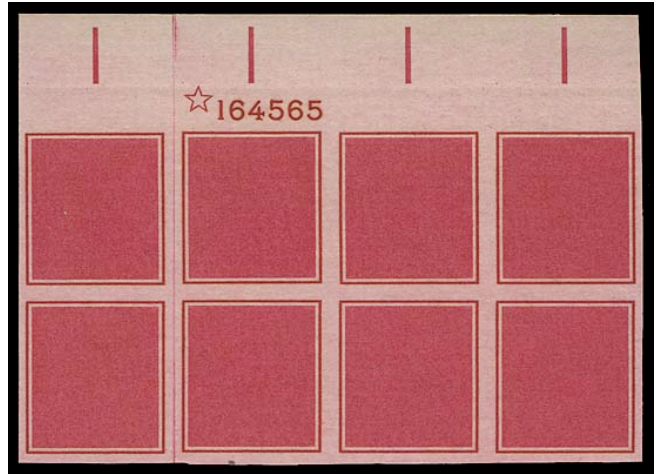
(Note: the catalog description was incorrect, the above is the correct number of stamps in this lot)

Lot 607 TEST STAMPS TD38 Roll of (100) F-VF NH No Photo Cat \$2,500 Realized \$270

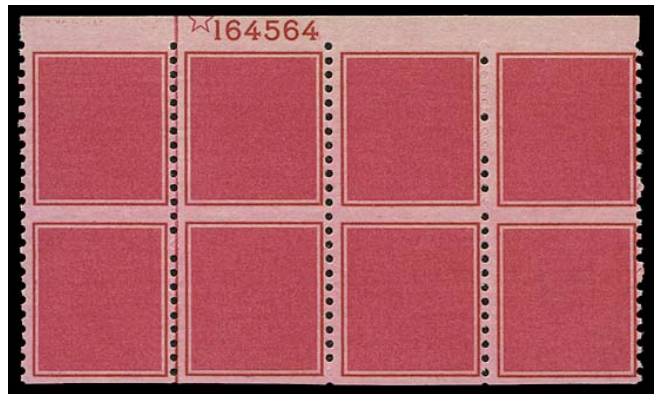
On November 21-23, 2008 Regency Superior of St. Louis, Missouri held Public Auction No. 70 at CHICAGOPEX that contained the following test stamps. A 17% buyer's premium is to be added to the prices realized.



Lot Number: 1979 (3019-23P) 1995 ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILES, TEST PANE PROOF, Vertical strip of 5 with 00 denomination, imperf on gummed stamp paper with simulated perforations. Estimate \$1,000 Not Sold



Lot Number: 1980 (TD97a) 1954 TEST STAMP, FRAMED RECTANGLE, RED VIOLET, IMPERF PLATE BLOCK, Incredible top plate block of 8, plate #164565 with star. Has to rank with rarest of 20th century plate blocks. MINT never hinged, very fine. Estimate \$5,000 Realized \$2,600



Lot Number: 1981 (TD97b) 1954 TEST STAMP, FRAMED RECTANGLE, RED VIOLET, PART PERF PL. BLK., Fantastic top plate block of 8, plate #164564 with star, of imperf horizontally variety. Has to rank with rarest of 20th century plate blocks. MINT never hinged, very fine. Estimate \$5,000 Realized \$2,600

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Lot Number: 1982 (TE19) 1909-10 HAMILTON (1,2,3,4) RED, BLOCK, Right margin block of 4. Unused, no gum as issued. Light wrinkles, fine to very fine. Rare and undervalued in Scott. Estimate \$3,500 Not Sold

eight (four error pairs), Fine-Very Fine Estimate \$800 Realized \$425



Lot 5384 1975, Orange on Gray, Test Stamp (TD110). Mint N.H. pair, brilliant color, wide and balanced margins, fresh and Extremely Fine Estimate \$2,000 Realized \$550



On December 16-19, 2008 Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. of New York, New York held Public Auction No. 967 that contained the following test stamps. A 15% buyer's premium is to be added to the prices realized.



Lot 5385 1996 Thick Lined Black Rectangle, Test Coil (TD125). Mint N.H. strip of six, Very Fine Estimate \$750 Realized \$300



Lot 5383 1970 Green Test Coil, Vertical Pair, Imperforate Horizontally (TD109b). Mint N.H. block of

Lot 5386 Test Coils and Vending Machine Packets. Nice selection incl. pairs or strips of four of Nos. TD38, TD88-TD89, TD91, TD93, also \$4.00 1936 Social Security Coil Essay and two different Eastman Kodak and one Bausch and Lomb coils (these are more likely advertising labels than test coils), there are five Stamp Packets, several with partial plate nos., these are the types that were dispensed from machines in little cardboard folders (usually in Drug Stores), various slogans or ads, this was supposed to be the way to buy your stamps in a "sanitary" fashion, Fine-Very Fine lot No Photo Estimate \$300-400 Realized \$225 □

Requests for Articles for The United States Specialist

by Terry R. Scott

Leonard Piskiewicz, Editor of *The United States Specialist*, is always looking for articles of interest for inclusion in our society's monthly publication. The type of articles Len needs most are the shorter ones, one or two-page articles. If you are considering writing an article for *The United States Specialist*, please contact him for instructions. If the article is regarding dummy stamps, I would appreciate knowing about it also. Many members of the DSSG have

written articles on dummy stamps and other stamps for this publication. It is rewarding and other USSS members benefit greatly from the information that is published in *The United States Specialist*.

Leonard can be reached by e-mail at: lep@pacbell.net or his mailing address is: Leonard Piskiewicz, Editor, 951 Rose Court, Santa Clara, CA 95051, phone (408) 241-4626. □

Recent Publication of Interest

According to an article in the June 2008 issue of *The United States Specialist*, The United States Stamp Society recently released the new *2008 Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog* at the Society's Annual Meeting at NOJEX '08, May 23, 2008.

The *2008 Durland* edition is the eighth produced by the USSS and its publication celebrates the 58th anniversary of the introduction of the *Standard Plate Number Catalog*.

The new *2008 Durland* has been reformatted and digitized by Len Piskiewicz and is edited by Wallace Cleland.

The new *2008 Durland* is an all-color presentation and is in a three-column 8-1/2" x 11" format. It is

2008 Durland Standard Plate

Number Catalog

available in two formats, a perfect-bound and spiral-bound.

The new greatly expanded edition contains listings for numerous back-of-the-book sections of the *Scott Catalogue*, including test stamps.

The *2008 Durland* is available for \$25 perfect-bound and \$27 spiral-bound. USSS members will receive discount pricing of \$20 perfect-bound and \$22 spiral-bound. All prices include postage. Orders may be sent to USSS Executive Secretary, P. O. Box 6634, Katy, TX 77491-6634. They can also be ordered online at the USSS website, www.usstamps.org. Online orders are only available for purchase with PayPal. □

Proposed Future DSSG Projects

Updating Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets

Actually, work is progressing on updating Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets. I have begun to design pages for the new version. The page layouts are pretty much like the existing page layout designs but without the external border all around the pages. Some other minor changes have been made to make the pages appear more "clean", at least in my opinion.

The last update by Earl McAfee, Dummy Booklets Study Group Chairman, was in 1998. Since then there have been many new discoveries. Many of them have been written up in articles in *The United States Specialist*. Now the time has come to document and illustrate them in a new updated version of Research Paper Number 3. I will be asking some of you to furnish scans of dummy booklets that I do not have scans of so they can be illustrated. It is my goal to illustrate every known dummy booklet in color. I already know

this is more than likely impossible since some of the dummy booklets have not been seen by DSSG members. In that case, an illustration will be fabricated from the information known about the booklet and the panes.

I am in charge of this update project and knowing that it will take quite a bit of time to complete, I have no estimated completion date in mind. I will be asking all of you to join me in this project as I am not able to do it all, nor would you want me to do it all. It is a DSSG project and all members should have a chance to provide their input.

Several illustrations are needed and a listing of these will be sent to you when I compile it. Scans at 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

There are several other projects currently being worked on by various members of the DSSG. They are as follows:

- Compiling a complete and comprehensive list of dummy test stamp roll sizes, box and roll labels. There are many different styles of labels sometimes found on the same test stamps. This is especially true of Bureau of Engraving and Printing products

- Compiling a complete and comprehensive record of auction appearances and prices realized for test stamps
- Compiling a complete and comprehensive listing of references for test stamps
- Compiling a complete and comprehensive list of plate numbers printed on test stamps and the frequency in which they appear and the frequency of joint lines on test coils when they appear. □