



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 Thirty-first 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

John L. Larson Discovers a New Scott TD140 "FOR TESTING PURPOSES ONLY" Variety

by Terry R. Scott



Fellow dummy stamp collector John L. Larson recently discovered a previously unknown variety of Scott #TD140 black FOR TESTING PURPOSES ONLY test coil. There was a listing on eBay, describing a lot as test stamps, but illustrating sheets of regularly issued Scott #1552 10¢ Christmas Weather Vane self-adhesive stamps. However, also included in the listing was an illustration that appeared to be a piece of paper with several black FTPO test stamps affixed to it in a very neat order and even spacing. Upon closer examination, and correspondence with the seller, John determined the FTPO test stamps were actually a small piece of the paper web which contained black self-adhesive FTPO test stamps with matrix removed, but un-severed into strips of coils.

John was the successful bidder on this lot. The lot contained 3 of the Scott #1552 10¢ Christmas Weather Vane self-adhesive sheets as well as 2 small pieces of the paper web containing the black self-adhesive FTPO test stamps. One piece had 35 stamps (7 x 5) and the other had 39 stamps (8 x 5 with 1 missing). Both pieces have some fold marks and had been torn roughly from a larger piece of the web. These blocks were a darker shade of black than known finished Scott #TD140 coils. This new discovery was submitted to Scott Publishing for listing as Scott #TD140a Imperf vertically, backing paper unslit horiz. in the 2014 Scott Specialized Catalogue. □

please turn to page 2 >

In this issue:

John Larson Discovers New TD140 Variety	1
Meeting With Scott Editors at WESTPEX	2
Recent Auctions of Interest	2
Proposed Future DSSG Projects	3

Meeting With The Editors of Scott Catalogue At WESTPEX

Again this year I had the privilege of meeting with the Editors of The Scott Catalogues to discuss the Test Stamp section at the annual WESTPEX stamp show in San Francisco April 26-28, 2013. This year Chad Snee - Editor of Scott Catalogues, Jim Kloetzel - Editor Emeritus of Scott Catalogues and I were joined by Ken Lawrence and Doug Iams.

This annual meeting helps us to have face-to-face contact with the editors and to get their comments and feelings about certain items we wish to have listed in the catalogue and discussions about current issues that may need some sort of revision to the listing or value revision. This year was no exception.

Several new, unreported items were brought up for discussion by Doug Iams that will hopefully make the catalogue. Notes were taken by Chad and Jim and the items that Doug discussed will most likely be included in the 2014 Scott Specialized Catalogue.

After Doug made his presentation, I discussed several new discoveries including the new variety of TD140 discovered by John Larson on page 1.

There was a lengthy discussion about some of the current listings in the Scott Specialized Catalogue that need updating or correcting with new information.

Ken Lawrence had quite a bit of input on a couple of new unreported test stamp items I presented.

The meeting lasted about two hours and as I always do, I came away feeling that a lot was accomplished. Thanks to all that attended the meeting for their input, suggestions and comments. We are looking forward to the 2014 Scott Specialized Catalogue to see what was accomplished.

As always, I typically refrain from illustrating or describing these new items that were presented to the Scott Editors until the new catalogue is released. □

Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

On April 25-28, 2013 Schuyler J. Rumsey held Philatelic Auctions Sale #52 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 2322 * TD127A, TD127B, TD128 1995-1996 Test stamps. Pristine examples on backing paper, with both varieties, rarely seen, immaculate and Very Fine. Photo ex. Cat. \$1,800.00 Withdrawn due to computer problems.

On May 3-5, 2013 James T. McCuster, Inc. held Sale #339 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.




Lot 442 E 3c Minerva (Scott TD-29; Brazer, 385-E2b), Harris Automatic Press Company, offset essay on hard white wove paper, pair, Superb, very Rare & seldom seen or offered. Photo. Est. \$1,250 - \$1,750.00 Realized \$1,000.00

please turn to page 3 ➤

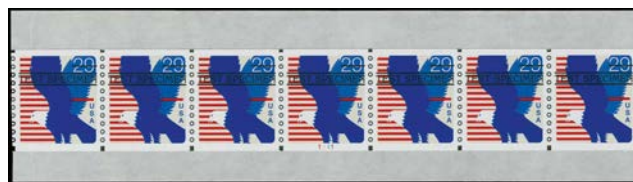
On June 6-8, 2013 H. R. Harmer, Inc. held Sale #3003 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 18% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 1786 *  **Sennett Security Products Dummy Samples**, sheet of 20 and coil strip of 9, NH, distributed at World Stamp Expo 2000, Very Fine Photo Est. \$500.00 - \$700.00 Realized \$300.00



Lot 1787 ** **Large Dummy Coil Test Stamp Wholesale Group**, NH, consisting of an unopened Scott #TD95 roll of 500, an unopened TD96 roll of 100, a partial roll of 1,000s (estimated 4,000) TD96 and some loose strips of TD96. Condition is mostly sound with many F-VF (Scott estimate over \$9,500) Photo Ex. at bottom of left column. Realized \$525.00



Lot 1788 * TD123, 1992 Multicolored, NH, Plate No. 1111 strip of 7, Extremely Fine (Scott \$325.00) Photo Realized \$200.00

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On June 20, 2013 Vance Auctions, Ltd. held Sale #296 that contained the following test stamps. There is a no Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 4216 * TD91, Strip of 4 of the 1944 Coil TEST



STAMP, VF, NH Photo Cat. \$100.00 Price realized not available.

Proposed Future DSSG Projects

Updating Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets

Work is progressing, very much still at a snail's pace, on updating Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets. 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 am in charge of this update project and knowing that it will

take quite a bit of time to complete, 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.

This issue and all past issues of the Dummy Stamps Study Group Newsletter - Dummy News and Views may be found at:

<http://www.usstamps.org/dssg.html>