



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 Fortieth 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

WOW - 10 Years of the *Dummy News & Views*

by Terry R. Scott

Amazing at it seems, it has been a full 10 years since the USSS's Dummy Stamps Study Group published their first newsletter - *Dummy News & Views*.

It has totally been a labor of love for me and the numerous other contributors of this newsletter. Those of you who have followed it since it's inception know that it has very rarely been published on time. Even though it's a quarterly newsletter, too many times that

has not happened. No excuses as it lies entirely with me and my desire (or lack of) to work on them.

It has actually been a very wonderful time in my life being able to share one of my loves - test stamps.

Without the help of several fellow Dummy Stamps Study Group members, notably Mike Perry and Joann Lenz, a lot of this would have not been possible. I wish them to stand up and take a bow. OK enough about that, now to the latest newsletter. ☐

Annual Meeting with the Editor of the Scott Catalogue at WESTPEX 2015

by Terry R. Scott

Once again this year I had the privilege of meeting with Jim Kloetzel - Editor Emeritus of the *Scott Catalogues* - to discuss the Test Stamp section of the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers* at the annual WESTPEX stamp show in San Francisco April 24-26, 2015. I was joined by Mike Perry, John Larson and Doug Iams for a wonderful meeting with Jim on Saturday. It is always nice to see Jim, and as usual he was most receptive to our suggestions and comments about test stamps for the catalogue.

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In the above photo, from left to right, is Terry Scott, James Kloetzel, Mike Perry and. Doug Iams. John Larson who also attended the meeting took the photo.

This annual meeting provides us the unique opportunity to meet face-to-face with the editors of the *Scott Catalogues* to get their comments and feelings about certain items we wish to have listed in the catalogue and to participate in discussions about current issues that may need some sort of revision to the existing catalogue listing or value. This year's meeting was more detailed and lengthy than past years and we all came away feeling we made major accomplishments.

Each one of us had new discoveries and / or comments that we hope will be considered for listing as well as items from previous year's meetings that were not able to get into the 2015 *Scott Specialized Catalogue Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers* due to the need for further review.

This year the meeting lasted about three and a half hours and as I always do, I came away feeling that a lot was accomplished. Thanks to Jim Kloetzel, Mike Perry, Doug Iams and John Larson for their input, sometimes intense discussions, suggestions and comments. We are looking forward to the 2016 issue of the *Scott Specialized Catalogue Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers*.

As always, I will refrain from illustrating or describing these new items that were presented to the Scott Editors until the new catalogue is released in October of 2015.

Special thanks go out to Jim Kloetzel for his continued support and patience with our love of test stamps. □

Scott TD119 Stamp Venturers Test Coil Stamps with Back Numbers

by Terry R. Scott and Michael O. Perry

For the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus in 1492 there was a major stamp show, the World Columbian Stamp Expo held in Rosemont (Chicago), Illinois on May 22 - 31, 1992. Throughout the year there were

many foreign and several United States stamps issued to commemorate that historic event.

Among those stamps issued, on May 22, 1992 the American Bank Note Company issued a complete set

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of replica stamps with the same designs that were originally issued for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago, Illinois from May 1 through October 30, 1893. The replica set included all the original values and were issued in a set of six souvenir sheets that had three different stamps on each of five sheets plus a sixth sheet with just the \$5.00 stamp. They are beautiful lithographed and engraved stamps using the original dies and colors with only the dates on the stamps changed to 1992.

While these souvenir sheets are a wonderful set of commemorative stamps, another important event took place at the World Columbian Stamp Expo that was of interest to test stamp collectors.

Stamp Venturers, one of the United States Postal Service stamp printing contractors, had a large display of the many different products they could produce and among them was a coil roll of 3,000 with back numbers every 10 stamps and a roll of 10,000 coil stamps.

Introducing coil stamps that for the first time had accounting numbers printed on the reverse side would enable bulk mail users and philatelic clerks to immediately see how many stamps remained on the roll. This was particularly difficult prior to the idea of putting numbers at regular intervals (in this case 10 stamps) especially with coil rolls of 3,000 and 10,000 stamps.

Of particular interest to test stamp collectors was the distribution to show attendees of full rolls of gray color test coils of 100. The design has an eagle flying and trees in the background, with a portion of the United States flag in the upper left. They were issued in standard gummed rolls, perforated 10 (Scott #TD119) and on standard gummed paper, but with roulette separations (Scott TD120). These are shown below.



These test stamps were produced to demonstrate the ability to issue postage stamps with roulette separations and also coil rolls in "sticks" of 13 coil rolls. These rolls are separated in the coiling process with the exception of a very tiny tab of paper joining the coil rolls to each other and the individual coil rolls were separated by "snapping off" one coil roll from the "stick" of joined coil rolls. Examples of segments of the coil roll "sticks" are shown to the right.



On August 16, 1991 (nine months prior to the World Columbian Stamp Expo), the USPS released a 29c Tulip stamp (Scott 2525) in coils that were produced by Stamp Venturers with the experimental gauge 10 vertical roulettes (10 slits per 2 cm). On March 3, 1992, the same 29c Tulip design stamp (Scott 2526) was issued with normal gauge 10 perforations.

While the distribution of the Scott TD119 and TD120 test stamps to show attendees was very exciting, another significant event took place several months after the World Columbian Stamp Expo. Following the World Columbian Stamp Expo, Hurricane Andrew caused major devastation to residents of several Southern states. Stamp Venturers decided they wanted to help those people in some way. A decision was made to auction a unique perforated test coil of 3,000 with the back numbers every 10 stamps to the highest bidder. Richard Sennett, the company's managing partner, decided a fair way to distribute stamps from this test roll with a 4-digit violet back number on every tenth stamp would be to hold an auction and donate the proceeds to the American Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund.

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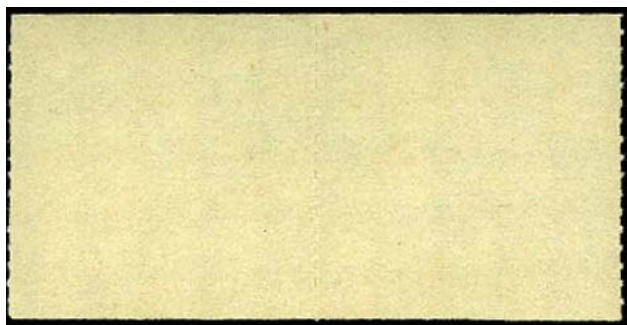
The minimum set for opening bids was \$1,500.00, which was the amount Stamp Venturers promised to donate to the Hurricane Andrew Relief fund. The successful bidder was Henry Karen, of Michael M. Karen, Inc. of North Woodmere, New York. The winning bid was \$3,500.00 which Stamp Venturers matched with \$3,500.00 and the \$7,000.00 was donated to The American Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund in Washington, DC.

Following the successful bid by Michael M. Karen, Inc., Karen placed advertisements in various stamp publications offering the back numbered coil test stamps in a strip of 5 with a back number in the center for a price of \$45.00 to \$50.00. Just 299 back numbered coil strips existed on the coil roll that Karen purchased, so they are a very nice addition to any collection. An example of one of the ads for the back numbered test coils strips from 1993 is shown here. □

Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

On June 19, 2015 Michael E. Aldrich Auctions held Sale #84. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 1522 (TD30) , Blank PR, NH, XF Photo CV \$40.00 Realization unknown



Lot 1523 (TD90) , ST/4, unused, VF Photo CV \$90.00 Realization unknown



Lot 1524 (TD90) , PR, unused, VF Photo CV \$45.00 Realization unknown



Lot 1525 (TD90) , PR, unused, VF Photo CV \$45.00 Realization unknown



Lot 1526 (TD91) , ST/4, NH, VF Photo CV \$100.00 Realization unknown

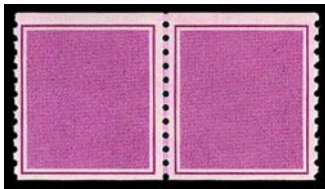
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Lot 1527 (TD91) , PR, NH, VF Photo CV \$50.00
Realization unknown



Lot 1528 (TD92) , PR, NH, F Photo CV \$80.00
Realization unknown



Lot 1529 (TD96) , LP, NH, large holes, VF Photo CV \$125.00
Realization unknown



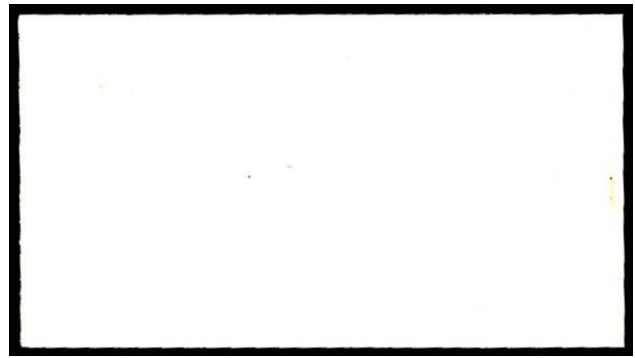
Lot 1530 (TD109) , PR, NH, sharp color, fresh and VF
Photo CV \$180.00 Realization unknown



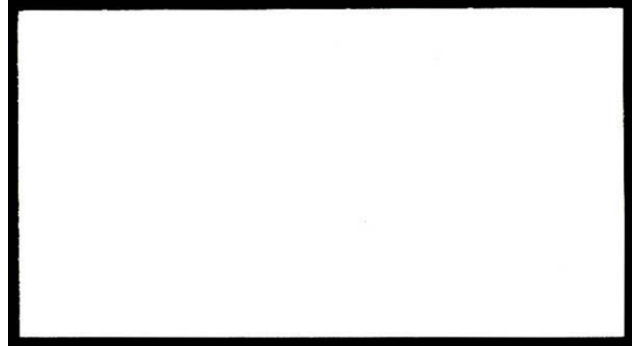
1531 (TD131) , ST/4, NH, XF Photo CV \$50.00
Realization unknown



Lot 1532 (TD133A) , PNC/5, #1111, NH, XF Photo CV \$300.00
Realization unknown



Lot 1533 (TDB29) , Comp. Bklt./2, NH, blank cover,
XF Photo CV \$50.00 Realization unknown



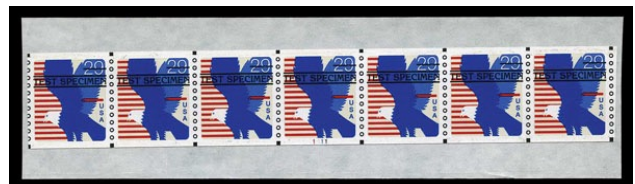
Lot 1534 (TDB61) , Comp. Bklt., NH, blank cover
and blank pane of 10, XF Photo CV \$150.00
Realization unknown

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On June 24, 2015 Vance Auctions Ltd. held Sale #310 that contained the following test stamps. There is no Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 4083 * TD91, Strip of 4 of the 1944 Coil TEST STAMP. VF, NH Photo Cat. \$100.00 Not sold

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On August 20-22, 2015 Harmer Schau held APS StampShow Philatelic Auction #106 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



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Lot 2240 * U.S. Test Stamp, 1992, 3M Corp. "Stylized Eagle" Coil, Plate Strips of 7, #TD123, on liner paper, 2 copies, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$678.00 Estimate \$150.00-\$180.00 Realized \$110.00

On August 22-23, 2015 Regency Superior held APS StampShow Sale #112 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 20% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 1724 ** USA (TD37) 1910-20 MULTIPOST RED COIL ROLL Fresh MINT never hinged roll with 200 pairs of TD37 (cat \$50 each pair). Fine to very fine. No photo. Cat \$10,000.00 Est. \$1,500.00 - \$2,500.00 Not sold.



Lot 1725 E USA 1960s EXPERIMENTAL STAMP W/ JEFFERSON MEMORIAL Unlisted perforated Test stamp on thick stamp paper without gum. Black engraved frame, vermilion vignette showing Jefferson Memorial. Text at left reads '9' and 'Color/Experimental/Stamp' in black. A bit wider than normal commemoratives. Interesting item. Very fine. Photo Est. \$750.00 Not sold.

On August 26, 2015 Vance Auctions Ltd. held Sale #311 that contained the following test stamps. There is no Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 3692 TD91, Test Coil Pair. VF, NH No Photo Cat \$50.00 Not sold

Lot 3693 TD107, Test stamp coils, 2 Joint Line Strips of 4 incl one with horiz INK SMEARS (Ed. Defacement Lines). F-VF, NH No Photo Estimate \$35.00 Not sold

On September 9, 2015 Michael E. Aldrich Auctions held Sale #85 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 899 1960's Jefferson Memorial Test Stamp, unused as issued, imprint in L. margin which includes a natural SE, sharp colors, unlisted in Scott and quite rare, this stamp normally retails in the \$900.00 - \$1,000.00 range when available, Photo (Est \$750.00 - \$1,000.00) Realized \$525.00

On September 9-10, 2015 Cherrystone Auctions held Sale #915 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 1508 TDB3 1941 test stamps, unexploded 37c booklet with one pane (another removed), also single on cover (New York Jan 10, 1941, three days earlier than Scott's Jan. 13 "earliest documented use"). Also included are Great Britain, 1937 "Poached Egg" vertical strip of five, plus four singles on covers, interesting lot (Cat No. TDB3) Photos Realized \$230.00

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Proposed Future DSSG Projects

by Terry R. Scott

Updating Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets

Work is progressing on updating *Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets*. The last update by Dummy Booklets Study Group Chairman Earl McAfee, 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 - Dummy Stamp Booklets*. I am working closely with Mike Perry on this update project. We know that it will take quite a bit of time to complete,

mid 2016 is hopefully our estimated completion date. I will be asking all of you to join us in this project as we are not able to do it all, nor would you want us 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 it is compiled. Scans at 300 dpi, or better, are necessary for clarity. It is anticipated that this publication will be in color. It has not yet been determined if *Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets* will be available electronically. □

The Other Proposed 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. □

Requests for Articles for The United States Specialist

by Terry R. Scott

Leonard Piszkiwicz, 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: lenp@pacbell.net □

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>