



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 Forty-Eighth 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 terryrscott@comcast.net

Additional Information and Corrections to Page 3 of the article titled ‘Early Test Stamps Printed by the Bureau of Engraving & Printing’ in the Summer 2016 Issue of Dummy News and Views

by Michael O. Perry

The BEP perforated sheets of letterpress stamps and cut them up to resemble coil and sheet stamps. One example of TD20 exists with vertical perforations; it was trimmed to look like a sideways coil. A half dozen examples of TD21 (with horizontal perforations) exist - they look like end coils (some were hand cut with scissors). One example of TD22 exists perforated on three sides with a straightedge at the top. At one time, a horizontal strip of three TD22 was known with a straightedge at the top; it is possible one of the stamps was removed and the bottom perforations trimmed off to make it look like a TD20 side coil.

People get confused when trying to identify the intaglio and letterpress test stamps. There are obvious minor differences between the intaglio and letterpress images when looking at them side-by-side. Footnotes in the Scott Catalog say to compare the facial shading dots and lines. But, unless you have known examples to compare, it is hard to know what to look for. The easiest way to tell them apart is the direction of the lines in Hamilton's lapel, directly under his chin.



**Intaglio lapel (left) has horizontal shading lines.
Letterpress lapel (at right) has vertical lines.**

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In 1908, the Harris Automatic Press Company of Niles, Ohio, talked to the BEP about their new automatic sheet-fed offset press. The BEP wasn't interested since they wanted a web-fed press. But, in June of 1910, Harris took their offset press into the BEP to demonstrate its capabilities. Minerva head test stamps (Scott TD28 and TD29) were produced from 192-subject plates.

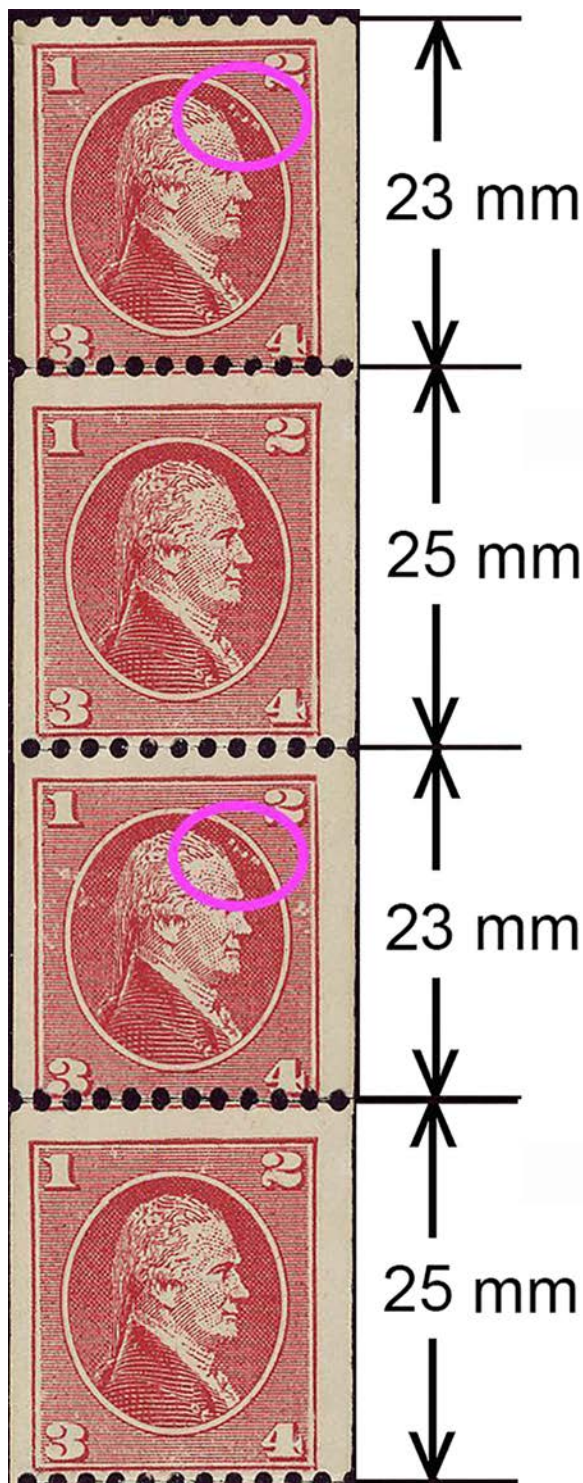
The BEP did not buy an offset press until September, 1912. However, offset Hamilton Head coils were produced prior to May 21, 1910, by an unknown company (almost certainly not by the BEP). Offset plates were made from a photograph of an intaglio die proof or an actual TD19 intaglio test stamp; the negative was altered by hand to produce the best offset printed image possible. The result is crude compared to intaglio stamps. The stamp frame lines don't line up; the stamps are misperforated (perforation spacing alternates between 23mm and 25mm), and constant plate defects repeat every other stamp. This may indicate they were printed on a small press similar to those used to print private perforation test coils from the same period.



Offset lapel is narrower than on intaglio stamp

The lapel on offset stamps is narrower than on intaglio stamps. All offset coils are perforated 10.33 with a stroke perforator that produced holes much larger than anything the BEP ever produced. □

Please see the continuing series of articles in The United States Specialist regarding The Development Of The Rotary Press



TD23 - Offset stamp printed in 1910

Strip of four showing alternating perforation spacing and repeating constant plate defect

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Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

On June 28, 2017 Vance Auctions Ltd. held Sale #324 that contained the following test stamps. There is no Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 4406 * TD107, Test stamp coils as singles, pairs, strips of 4 and Joint Line strips of 4. Including regular issue PLUS VARIETY showing horiz INK SMEARS. VF, NH (22 stamps) No photo. Estimate 45.00+ \$Cdn Realization unknown.

On July 19, 2017 Downeast Stamps held Sale #308 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 10% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 785 ** TD95, purple test coil, mis-perfed Photo Est. \$15.00 Not sold .

On July 21-22, 2017 Raritan Stamps, Inc. Sale #74 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 54 ** Sc. #TD107c, TD109b 1962-80, "For Testing Purposes Only", black on gray paper, imperforated horizontal pair of coil stamps; and green on white paper, top sheet margin vertical strip of three, imperforated horizontally, full OG, NH, VF, Photo. C.V. \$450.00 for two pairs. Not sold.

On August 3-6, 2017 Harmer-Schau Auction Galleries, Inc. held APS Summer Show Auction #114 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 1229 ** TD104A U.S.; Test Stamp, 1960's, Stamp-E-Z Postage Stamp Affixer Coil, Red (*Ed. Note they are Light Purple*), Overall Tagging (*Ed. There was No tagging*), Strip of 5, #104A, n.h., Fine to Very Fine. Photo. Estimate \$200.00 - \$300.00 Realized \$300.00



Lot 1475 B ** U.S. Back of the Book Collections, Test Booklet Group of 12, incl. minor diff. for same booklet, TCB17b, etc., clean group. Photos. Scott \$2,240.00 Estimate \$400.00 - \$500.00 Realized \$325.00

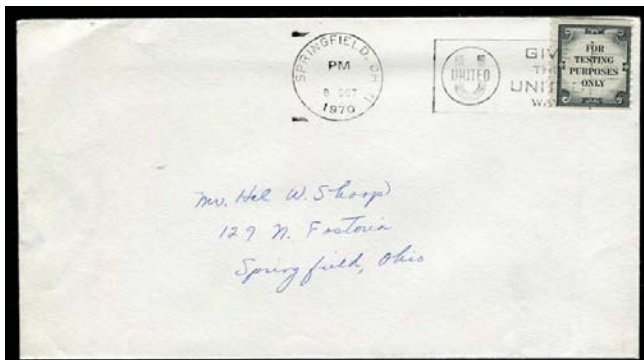
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On August 15-17, 2017 Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC held Sale #702 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 20% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 923 **2000, World Stamp Expo trial colors**, 5 test panes of 12, printed by Banknote Corp. of America, shows color progression, also includes 4 additional panes of 12 with slight staining, Very Fine, *scarce*. Photo Estimate \$200.00 - \$300.00 Realized \$100.00

On September 13, 2017 Downeast Stamps held Sale #309 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 10% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 1127 TD107, black Test Stamp, tied by slogan cancel and Springfield, Mass 8 Oct 1970 cds, posted locally, never seen solo use! Photo Est. \$40.00 Realized \$44.00



Lot 1446 1997, Wal-Mart dummy stamps, two strips/3 singles, one stamp w/vertical crease, self-adhesive. Est. \$40.00 Not sold.



Lot 2184 1997 Walmart Dummy stamps, strip/3 plus 3 different mailbox magnets featuring 32¢ Bugs Bunny, 32¢ Tweety & Sylvester & 33¢ Daffy Duck, w/article of explanation. Est. \$300.00 Not sold.

On September 16, 2017 Emerald Ventures, LLC (Alan Blair Auctions) held Sale #163 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 843 #TD107d Unopened roll of 500 Mint NH Test Stamps 1962-66 block tagged with dull gum, quite a gem CV \$1320++ Photo Estimate \$200.00 Realization not known. □

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Requests for Articles for The United States Specialist

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 ☐

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. ☐

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. ☐

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>