



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-Seventh 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

Annual Meeting with the Scott Catalogue Editor Emeritus at WESTPEX 2017

by Terry R. Scott

Once again this year at the annual WESTPEX stamp show in San Francisco April 28-30, 2017, I was joined by Mike Perry and Doug Iams for a very productive meeting with Jim Kloetzel - Editor Emeritus of the Scott Catalogue. We schedule to meet every year at WESTPEX to have an opportunity to present to Jim our ideas to improve the Test Stamp section of the upcoming edition of the Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers and to report new discoveries. As usual Jim was very receptive to our suggestions and comments.

This annual meeting provides us the unique opportunity to meet with the editor of the Scott Catalogue to get his comments and feelings about certain items we wish to have listed in the catalogue and to participate in discussions about current listed items that may need some sort of revision to the existing catalogue listing or value. This year's meeting again was quite detailed.

There were several new discoveries, and some changes to a few existing listings that will be incorporated into the 2018 Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers. A few of the existing images in the current catalogue will also be replaced with new better quality images.

The meeting this year lasted almost two hours and, as always, all of us came away feeling that a lot was accomplished. Once again, thanks to Jim Kloetzel, Mike Perry and Doug Iams for their time, input,

suggestions and comments. We are looking forward to the 2018 issue of the Scott Specialized 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 2017.

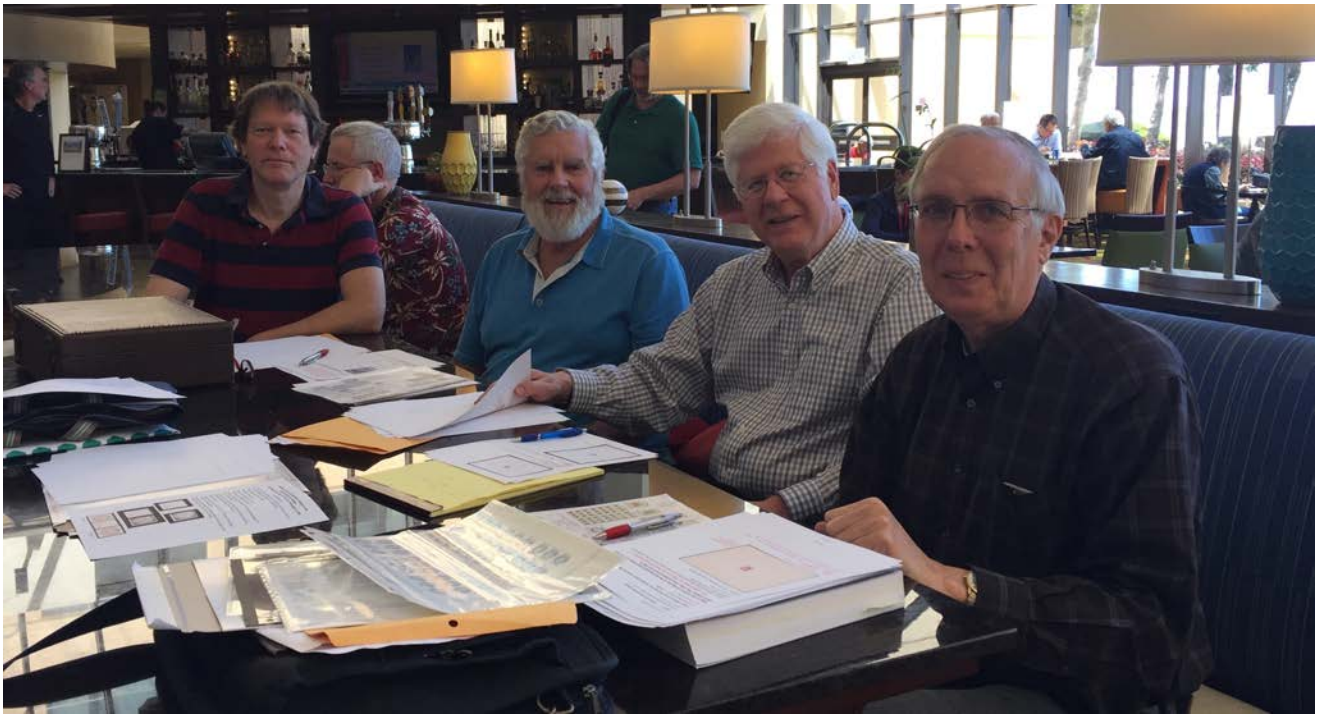
This year we had the privilege of having Jim's wife Karolyn take the group photo which is on page 2.

Special thanks go out to Jim Kloetzel for his continued support and patience with our love of test stamps. It is greatly appreciated and we hope to continue these meetings for a long time. ☐

please turn to page 2 ➤

In this issue:

Annual WESTPEX Meeting with James Kloetzel	1
A Series of Articles of Great Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors	2
Recent Auctions of Interest	3
Request For Articles For The United States Specialist	4
Proposed Future DSSG Projects	5



The usual group of suspects are shown above at the 2017 WESTPEX Stamp Show in San Francisco, CA. From left to right: Doug Iams, Terry Scott, Jim Kloetzel and Mike Perry. Thanks to Karolyn Kloetzel for the group photo.



A Series of Articles of Great Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

In the February 2017 issue of *The United States Specialist* monthly journal, Larry S. Weiss began a multiple part series of articles relating to the Stickney Rotary Press. The first article was titled "*Development of the Stickney Rotary Press: Part 1 - Dummy Stamps Were Used To Test Various Printing Methods*".

The introduction reads as follows:

This article begins a six-part series to fill a void in the philatelic literature regarding printing trials and dummy stamps used in the development of the Stickney rotary press.

*Larry S. Weiss perceived the need for such a series and carried out the bulk of the research over several years. To compliment Weiss's work, Kevin G. Lowther, a frequent contributor to *The Specialist*, examined Bureau of Engraving and Printing records in the National Archives. In addition to providing editorial and research assistance for the series, Lowther is author of Part 4, which tracks the history of BEP efforts to design what became known as the Stickney rotary press.*

Terry Scott and Michael Perry of the Dummy Stamps Study Group provided important information

and illustrations for this series. Gerald R. Nylander and members of the Washington-Franklin Head Committee have reviewed the series in draft."

To date this series has expanded beyond the original six-part series envisioned by the author. Numerous new finds have expanded the search for information and documentation and has pushed the series beyond that originally envisioned by Larry S. Weiss and the other researchers involved.

I strongly recommend this most interesting series of articles to anyone who collects regular postage stamps but especially for collectors of early United States test stamps.

If you are not a member of the United States Stamp Society please join and purchase *The United States Specialist* magazines containing this series of articles.

Information regarding membership may be found at: <http://www.usstamps.org/>

Please contact Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 6634, Katy, TX 77491-6634 <execsecretary@usstamps.org>



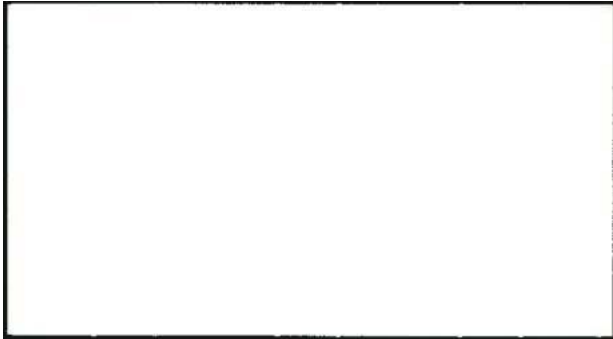
please turn to page 3 ►

Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

On March 22, 2017 Vance Auctions Ltd. held the following sales that contained the following test stamps. There is no Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 3958 ** TD107, Test stamp coils as singles, pairs, strips of 4 and Joint Line strips of 4. Incl. regular issue PLUS VARIETY showing horiz INK SMEARS. VF, NH (22 stamps) No photo Est. \$45.00+ \$Cdn Realization unknown.



Lot 3959 ** TDB61, Blank self-adhesive TEST PANE of 10 in complete booklet with blank cover. VF. Scarce Photo Cat \$150.00 Realization unknown.

On March 29, 2017 Downeast Stamps held Sale #306 that contained the following test stamp. There is a 10% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 861 ** TD95, purple test coil, misperfed. Photo Est. \$15.00 Not sold.

On April 16, 2017 Michael Rogers Online, a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC held Sale #5014 that contained the following test stamp. There is a 18% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 6089 1058 **1958, 4¢ Lincoln coil, dry printing, large perf holes & test coil (Scott 1058)**, tied by 1960 New York NY slogan cancel on cover addressed to Sarasota FL, F.-V.F. Photo. Suggested Bid \$60.00 - \$80.00 Not sold.

See photo at top of right column.



On April 27-30, 2017 Schuyler J. Rumsey Philatelic Auctions held Sale #74, the WESTPEX sale, that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 2438 TD107 **Test Stamp, 1962, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only", black, untagged, shiny gum.** Intact coil roll of 3000 with original packaging "Dummy 3000's", packaging partially open, o.g., never hinged, **Very Fine**, scarce in complete roll. Photo. Scott No. TD107; \$6,000.00 as pairs. Realized \$350.00



please turn to page 4 >

Lot 2439 TD111 **Test Stamp, 1978, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only", brown, untagged.** Intact coil roll of 3000 with original packaging "Dummy 3000's", packaging open, **Very Fine**, scarce in complete roll. Photo. Scott No. TD111; \$15,000.00 as pairs. Realized \$675.00



On May 12, 2017 Paradise Valley Stamp Company held Sale #F405 that contained the following test stamps. There is no Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 9183 * 1930s, **ELECTRIC VENDORS (ZEIGLE), INC. BLANK WHITE RESP. BLUE COIL PAIRS NH, #TD79**, mint never hinged, very fine, cat. \$60.00 Photo Est. \$30 Not sold



On May 12, 2017 Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. held Sale #1158 The Vaquero Collection of U.S. Essays and Proofs that contained the following test stamps. There is a 18% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 4212 E **3c Minerva, Harris Automatic Press Company Offset Essay on Hard White Wove Paper (TD28, TD29; Brazer 385-E2b).** Horizontal pair of first and single of second, large margins, Very Fine, scarce, Harris installed one of their presses in the BEP to demonstrate production of stamps by the offset method, the design was a variation on the 2c 1903 Issue, the presses were not adopted at that time but were used for printing some Revenue stamps, particularly Tax Pairs Photo. Catalog Value \$1,950.00 Realized \$850.00.



On May 13, 2017 Modern Stamps, Inc. held Sale #456 that contained the following test stamps. There is no Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 119 ** **TEST BOOKLETS, #TDB32 (x 10),** Each with Unprinted Pane of 5 Stamps (Dull Gum), MNH, VF Cond. (1985 Issue) Photo Cat. \$175.00 Realized \$28.00.



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

please turn to page 5 ➤

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>



Photo of a full box of 240 - TDB12a Dummy Booklets Showing two red-violet "DUMMY" handstamps and black Inspector's handstamp **B 10 B** with a **Jun 17, 1966** date, and **26**.