



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 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

A few items that the 2006 Scott Specialized did not illustrate

by Terry R. Scott

By now most of you have probably seen the new 2006 Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers. The test stamp section is remarkable compared to past issues of the catalogue.

Steve Unkrich was assigned to this project at somewhat the last minute to meet the publication deadline set by Scott and he did a remarkable job with the time frame that he had. Dan Undersander wrote a stunning introduction to the test stamp section and also deserves a big hand. Both of these men are members of the Dummy Stamps Study Group and we are proud of them and what they did to expose dummy stamps to collectors throughout the world.

There are several illustrations that were not included in the new Scott catalogue. This is also a result of the very short time allowed for information to be submitted and almost no time allowed for review of the information prior to printing. I believe that many of these are important to identification of the stamps. Others are varieties and are described well enough to not require a separate illustration. I will attempt to fill in only a few of the missing illustrations that Scott did not use with illustrations I think should have been shown.

One of the older issues that has two separate and distinctive varieties is Scott TD37 and TD38. The principal difference is in the shading lines, which is mentioned in the description below the listings in the Scott catalogue. Enlarged illustrations of both types would have been more helpful. I will show these and the differences.

The first one is an illustration of TD37 with the full shading lines, the second is of TD38 with the shorter shading lines. The shading lines referred to are the horizontal ones that go across the stamps, starting at the frame line and ending at the central oval. The illustration on the right shows the shading lines falling short of the central oval and the outside frame lines. I hope the illustrations show this clear enough. I have enlarged them in hopes that the difference will show.



Another issue that could have been illustrated is TD59, the Mail-O-Meter issue that is inscribed "10,000 Envelopes Per Hour." [continued on page 2](#) ➤

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The catalogue illustrates TD 55 through TD58 with illustration TE30, which has “250 Envelopes Per Hour” but failed to show this illustration that is very different because of the number of envelopes per hour it represents.



One of the more unusual items that should have been illustrated are the Nebraska Territorial Centennial test printings. In addition, the dimension given in Scott’s is incorrect. It is a horizontal issue and should have been listed as 40 x 25 mm.



The first one shown here is the brown variety - TD99



The second is the black variety - TD100



The third is the blue variety - TD101

The two recent test stamp discoveries from Avery Dennison that feature the South Carolina State flag made it to the Scott listings but the illustrations did not.

The first one is TD134, the dark blue variety, the second one is TD135, the light blue variety.



Another recent discovery that was detailed in the April 2005 issue of *The United States Specialist* is the For Testing Purposes Only (FTPO) self-adhesive coil with a vertical line between the “N” and “L” of “ONLY.” Scott lists this as TD136 but refers you to the illustration for TE55, which is the illustration for most all other FTPO stamps. The following enlarged illustration is shown to identify this from the others with the FTPO design.



There are several others that are missing a more definitive illustration that would help to identify that particular issue, but maybe next year these can be corrected. As it is, the editors of the *Scott 2006 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers* deserve a big hand of applause for expanding the test stamps and adding the dummy booklets sections. □

Caveat Emptor

by Joann Lenz



During the summer of 2003, several auctions on eBay were offering dummy For Testing Purposes (FTPO) coils with previously unknown defacement lines. These coils had defacement lines in four differ-

ent colors; blue, brown, red and silver. (appears as white in the photo on page 3)

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From the posted scans, these eBay listed coils looked to have been FTPO coils with what seemed to be magic marker types defacement lines.

At Stampshow 2003, in Columbus Ohio, I saw similar defacement line FTPO coils offered by a dealer and also listed in one of the live auctions.

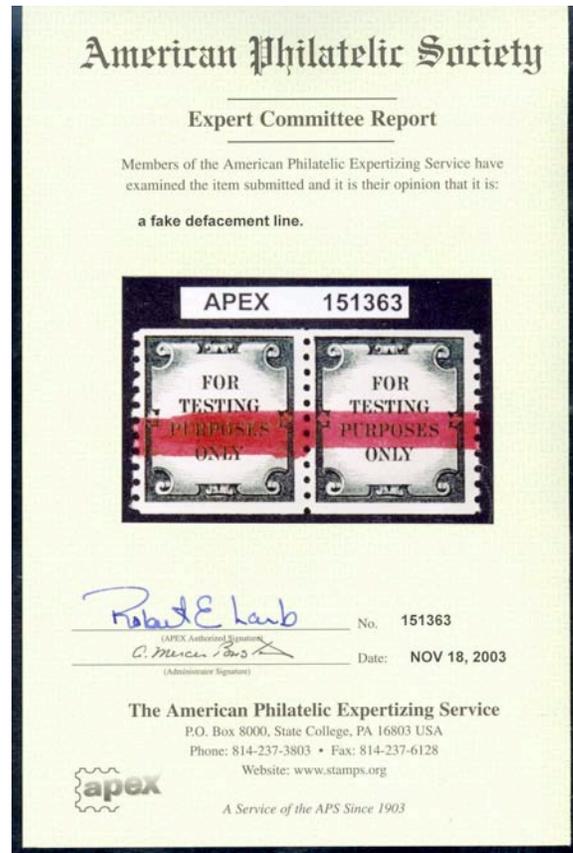
I purchased the three pairs of coils shown above from a dealer at Stampshow.

A scan of the back of the coils shows the defacement lines penetrating through the stamp.

While at Stampshow I submitted the coils I bought to the American Philatelic Society's expertising service (APEX). On this page is a scan of a certificate I received from APEX attesting the defacement lines to be fake. There was an additional note that accompanied the certificate about the red defacement lines that indicated all the colored defacement lines submitted were fake.

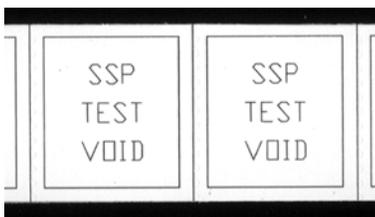
Another collector submitted the pairs, which included the one with the silver lines, that he won at the Regency auction in Columbus and they were returned with a bad certificate also. They are shown here also.

These are only a few defacement line varieties that have been faked. If you suspect that copies of the FTPO stamps you own have faked defacement lines, by all means submit them to an expertising service for their review and opinion. If you have any that are not shown here that have been declared faked by one of the expertising committees, please submit that information to us for inclusion in our study of defacement lines and so we can get the word out to other collectors of that variety too. The DSSG project to attempt to illustrate and list all known defacement lines will help to find others that have been faked, I am sure. □



New Test Coil From Sennett

By Doug Iams



A new self-adhesive test coil stamp has recently come to light. Instead of using the familiar For Testing Purposes Only design, the all black design features the text SSP TEST

VOID in three lines. SSP is short for Sennett Security Printers.

The text is enclosed in a rectangular frame which itself is enclosed in a larger rectangular frame. The larger rectangle is the same size as one of the stamps.

As such, a perfectly centered stamp would have the vertical lines of the larger rectangle right down the

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middle of the die cutting and there would be half of a horizontal line at both the top and bottom of the stamp.

The example shown is properly centered vertically, but the lines at the top and bottom do not show because of the black background that was placed behind the stamps. Other examples exist that are slightly miscut so that the line at the bottom has a small white space below it and there is no line at the top. There is no evidence of plate numbers or any other additional markings on any of the stamps in the roll of 100.

These test coils were produced in rolls of 100 and the rolls were connected the rolls were connected to each other in the stick format like Sennett is using for their 37c Flag rolls of 100. They also used this format

on the rouletted 29c Flower coil of 1991 and their Flying Eagle dummy coil (given out at the World Columbian Stamp Expo in Chicago in 1992).

Most test coils that reach collectors' hands were produced in the larger roll sizes for use in testing stamp affixing machines or vending machines. At the time this is being written it is not known what these new test stamps were used to test.

Editor's Note: This article was transmitted to DSSG members by Doug Iams on September 27, 2005 and it was published in "Coil Line," the journal of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club PNC³ in their October 1, 2005 issue, Vol. 18, No. 10, Whole Number 206. □

Proposed Future DSSG projects

Defacement lines on black FTPO coils

The history of defacement lines on the black FTPO coils remains a mystery. Many different styles and colors exist and the Dummy Stamps Study Group is attempting to compile a list of all known types in all colors. If you have any that you wish to see listed on the summary of the DSSG please submit a 300 dpi color scan of the stamps, pairs or strips with meas-

urements of the height of the top line followed by the dimension of the space between it and the next line (if there is more than one line) the next line and so on. A detailed list of all known defacement lines will be published on the DSSG web site with photos of all types known. □

Dummy test stamp roll sizes, box and roll labels

Another project that the DSSG is working on is listing all known dummy test stamp roll sizes and all known box and roll labels. There are a great number of different labels used on the 3,000 FTPO rolls and

documenting them if possible with date of manufacture will help date and determine the press used for printing the FTPO coils. Your assistance on this will also be greatly appreciated. □

Recording auction appearances and prices realized for test stamps

The DSSG is attempting to gather all known auction appearances and prices realized for test stamps. This is a huge project and your cooperation is necessary to make it work. Probably every one of us has several auction catalogues with test stamps listed and

this information is needed for the listings. Please send all information requested by Robert Williams for this listings to him at his e-mail address which is:

paleoman@brinet.com □

Compiling a comprehensive listing of references for test stamps

Peter Thompson has taken on the task of compiling a comprehensive listing of dummy/test stamp references. This is a massive undertaking and Peter may ask all of us for information and/or help at some time. Please assist him if he requests help. He will keep us informed of what he is doing and how we can

help. Peter will communicate his needs to the group and we can contact him at:

compbio.peterthompson@verizon.net □