



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 Fourth 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

News from the APS StampShow - Chicago 2006

by Joann Lenz

The annual APS StampShow was held on August 24th – 27th at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, IL, a northern suburb of Chicago. At the United States Stamp Society table, I was glad to see so many of the Dummy Stamps Study Group: David, Dan, Phil, Steve, and Wayne.

While at the show I had an opportunity to talk with Jacques Schiff, Jr. about three listings in his September auction. (Terry describes these items on page 2.) Jacques told how he unsuccessfully tried to learn the background of these items. Since none of his contacts could verify that they were “test” items, he listed them under the heading of “Printer’s Waste”. The items are similar to the Antique Automobiles released on November 3, 1995, Scott 3023a, but they have a “00” denomination. George Amick showed the first designs that the USPS released for the Antique Automobiles on page 276 of *Linn’s U.S. Stamp Yearbook, 1995*. Those first designs look like the designs on the items in the Schiff auction.

Eric Jackson had the four new Flower dummy items at his show table. The two large Flower types are slightly different: one has black intaglio only in the text; the other has intaglio in the text and on the flower. These items were listed on Eric’s web site prior to the show. Examples of two of these newly reported Flower dummy stamps are pictured at the end of this article.

Regency-Superior held auctions on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. There were a few dummy items in the auctions, one of which Terry describes on page 2.

Although I found a few items at the dealers’ tables, the most fun was seeing and spending time with the fellow collectors and others who attended. -□



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Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

There have been several recent auction sales that included dummy/test stamps, many of which either went for remarkably high prices, contained very nice dummy stamps or in some cases, in my opinion, bargain prices. One of the auctions contained dummy/test items that have never before been offered. These are detailed in the Jacques C. Schiff, Jr. auction lots described below.

In the September 6 & 7, 2006, Jacques C. Schiff, Jr., Inc., 311th Public Auction. there were three very unusual lots. No estimated value was given for any of the three lots. Black and white illustrations of lots 1511 and 1513 were shown in the catalogue. The three lots were described as follows:

Lot 1511 TEST STAMPS, Antique Automobiles, (like Scott 3023a) 5 black framed vert. strips (5) Imperforate, on water activated paper, ea w/00 denomination,

USPS copyright at bottom of each row. Printer's unknown (PH) Realized \$800 + a 10% buyers premium.



Lot 1512 TEST STAMPS, same as last lot except on pre-gummed (Self-Adhesive type) paper (no photo) Realized \$800 + a 10% buyers premium.

Lot 1513 TEST STAMPS, Same as last lot except Pane (25) on hard paper, Imperforate, w/ graduated color bars on each side, w/o copyright (PH) Realized \$800 + a 10% buyers premium.

The prices realized are somewhat surprising since the provenance of these items is still in question.

Above is a color illustration of one of the vertical strips of 5 from lots 1511 and 1512. Lot 1513, which was a pane of 25, had a different layout with the 5 different Automobile dummy test stamp designs in a different order within each vertical strip of 5..

Another difference on the test stamps is the location of the automobile *description and the date.*

The illustration on the following page is of an imperforated pane of 25 on water activated paper. Note the automobile designs are not in the same order as the automobile designs in the strips of five in the previous two lots. These are placed as they were in the issued stamp panes. There are also other differences.

One very nice item was in the August 25-27, 2006 APS StampShow auction by Regency-Superior



Stamps & Collectibles; Public Auction #56. It was the following lot:

Lot # 1831 (TDB12a, 19) 1963-71 TWO DUMMY BOOKLETS \$1 Mr. Zip blue booklet with red DUMMY overprint, blank panes inside; \$1.92 red brown Eisenhower booklet with red DUMMY handstamp, test stamp panes inside. Both fresh, MINT never hinged, very fine. Cat \$165. E 100 R 170 + a 15% buyers premium.

The Scott #TDB19 dummy booklet in this lot is particularly nice because there is no sign of any fold marks on the outside front cover at the staples which is sometimes found on these dummy booklets. It is very clean with a nice clear red "DUMMY" rubber handstamp on the outside front cover. I feel that some very lucky collector was quite fortunate to obtain this dummy booklet for the price realized.

These items are not offered too often and when they are found in this type of pristine condition, they are quite a fortunate find indeed. □

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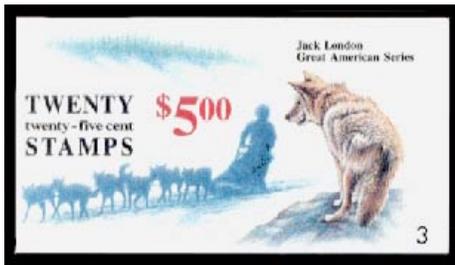


Recent Articles of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

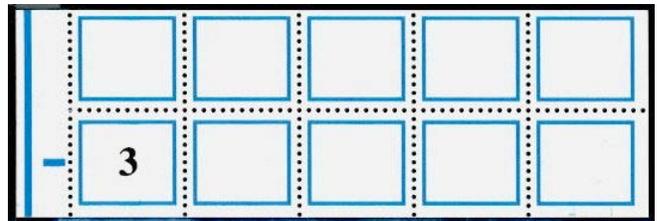
There have been a couple more articles published in *The United States Specialist* in the past several months that are of interest to dummy stamp collectors. I will make mention of them briefly and hope that you will either refer to your copy of *The Specialist* or if you are not yet a member of the United States Stamp Society, I am urging you to join and receive *The Specialist* on a monthly basis so you won't miss any future articles of interest to you. Now on to the recent articles of interest to dummy stamp collectors.

An article by John Larson in the August 2006 issue of *The Specialist*,



titled "More \$5.00 Jack London Dummy Booklets Reported" illustrates and details

the discovery of eight additional dummy booklets. These were first reported in the June 2000 issue of *The Specialist* in an article titled "New \$5.00 Jack London Dummy Booklet Confirmed" written by Terry R. Scott.



In the original article it was reported that six of these dummy booklets were discovered. Combined with this new report the total known in collectors' hands is now 14. These are listed in the Scott 2006 *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers* as #TDB36.

Illustrated to the left is the outside front cover of a \$5.00 Jack London Dummy Booklet showing the number "3." The pane illustration above, from the same booklet, shows the pane also with the number "3." In all of the \$5.00 Jack London Dummy Booklets examined, the number on the outside front cover and the number on the pane match. □

Another article by one of the Dummy Stamps Study Group members is in the September 2006 issue of *The United States Specialist*. [please turn to page 4 ➤](#)

The article titled "New Dummy Find: U. S. Stamp Distributing and Sales Corporation Stamp" illustrates a dummy stamp that had not been previously reported. The company was incorporated in 1913 and sold and distributed automatic vending machines. These dummy stamps were used for the purpose of demonstrating how the vending machines functioned. Illustrated above is an example of one of these dummy stamps. □



I am aware of several more excellent articles on dummy/test stamps that are in the works for *The*

United States Specialist in the coming months. At this time, Leonard Piskiewicz, Editor has informed me that there is a back log of articles waiting for space in *The Specialist*. This is great news for the society. I think the reason is that more people love the additional color provided and, therefore, more articles are being written. Please keep an eye out for these future articles as I am sure that there is something in them that will interest you.

Single back issues of *The Specialist* are available for \$2.00 postpaid for both members and nonmembers. Make checks payable to USSS. Foreign postage is extra. Send orders to: **USSS Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 6634, Katy, TX 77491-6634.** □

Recent Publications of Interest

Encyclopedia of United States Stamps and Stamp Collecting

The new "Encyclopedia of United States Stamps and Stamp Collecting" by Rodney A. Juell and Steven J. Rod was produced by *The United States Stamp Society* and contains no less than 55 chapters detailing the history, production and technology, covering Stampless Covers to Test Stamps, and everything in between, within 572 pages with the addition of seven chapters titled "Expanding the Collector's Scope" and four appendixes. There are a total of 730 pages with numerous illustrations in color and black and white.

It is a marvelous production by the society and I urge every member to have one in their library if you do not already. It is available by mail from: **USSS, P. O. Box 6634, Katy, TX 77491-6634.**

The very modest cost is \$25.00 for members and \$30.00 for non-members. These prices include postage so it is one heck of a bargain that will give you in-depth information about all facets of United States stamp collecting. Don't be without it! □

New 2006 Brookman Price Guide Published

The new 2006 Brookman Price Guide: *United States & Canada Stamps & Postal Collectibles* has been released and there is quite an extensive listing of

United States Test Stamps. They are arranged by stamp printer but use the Scott® numbering system. □

Proposed Future DSSG projects

There are several DSSG projects in the works. Among them are: listing dummy test stamp roll sizes, box and roll labels; recording auction appearances and prices realized for test stamps; and compiling a comprehensive listing of references for test stamps.

The primary project of the DSSG is updating Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets. The time has come for the definitive publication on dummy booklets to be updated. The last update was in 1998 by Dummy Booklets Study Group Chairman, Earl McAfee. There have been many new discoveries, most of them written up in articles in *The Specialist*, that need to be documented and illustrated in the new updated version of Research Paper Number 3. I will head up this update project and knowing that it will

take quite a bit of time to complete, have no estimated completion date in mind. There are many variables in completing a project of this magnitude. I will be asking you to join me in this project as I am certainly not able to do it all, nor should I. It is a publication of the Dummy Stamps Study Group of the United States Stamp Society and hopefully all members of the DSSG will contribute what they can towards this project. I lack several of the computer skills necessary to make this a premier publication. 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 also be available on CD/DVD. □