



Dummy News and Views

the Newsletter of the United States Stamp Society - Dummy Stamps Study Group

Issue Number 6

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Welcome to the Dummy Stamps Study Group's Sixth 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 Terrv R. Scott, Chairman of the Dummy Stamps Study Group at trs@nananet.net

Report of Unusual Actions by eBay Stamp Watch

by Terry R. Scott

Reports have been received that eBay Stamp Watch has taken action against an eBay seller who had been listing the faked black For Testing Purposes Only (FTPO) coils with silver defacement lines for bid/sale at the on-line auction site. These are the same black FTPO coils with silver defacement lines that the American Philatelic Society's Stamp Expertising Service (APEX) had previously issued a certificate with the opinion that the defacement lines were fake.

An article written by Joann Lenz on these same black FTPO stamps, and others, was in the October, 2006 issue of *The United States Specialist*.

That article was brought to your attention in the Fall 2005, *Dummy News and Views*, Newsletter No. 5. The article by Joann in *The United States Specialist* mentions several other black FTPO with different color defacement lines that received the same opinion.

I will repeat the "warning" that was in the last newsletter - "from time to time, FTPO coil copies with the blue, brown, red, and silver defacement lines continue to show up at public and on-line auctions. If you suspect that copies of the FTPO stamps you own have faked defacement lines, by all means submit them to an expertizing service for review and opinion."

This is only one of the reasons we need to work on the pending DSSG project, defacement lines on black FTPO coils.

Following is an illustration of an example of the black FTPO with silver defacement lines. It may be difficult to reproduce accurately due to the silver color.

Additional information on these may be found at: <http://stampsjoann.net/Dummy-Forgery/Dummy-Forgery-main.html>



In another situation, eBay Stamp Watch had the same eBay seller revise the description of a Postal Presort booklet from dummy/testing booklet to Private Service Delivery Booklet.

In addition, these Postal Presort booklets have appeared in several public and on-line auctions, and eBay, described as dummy/testing booklets for some time. They are not dummy/test booklets but are more correctly described as, Mail Consolidating Service booklets. These have been written about in several stamp publications over the years but if you are not familiar with them, you may mistake them for dummy/test booklets if the seller so describes them.

Thanks to DSSG member, Joann Lenz, for bringing these items to the attention of eBay Stamp Watch.

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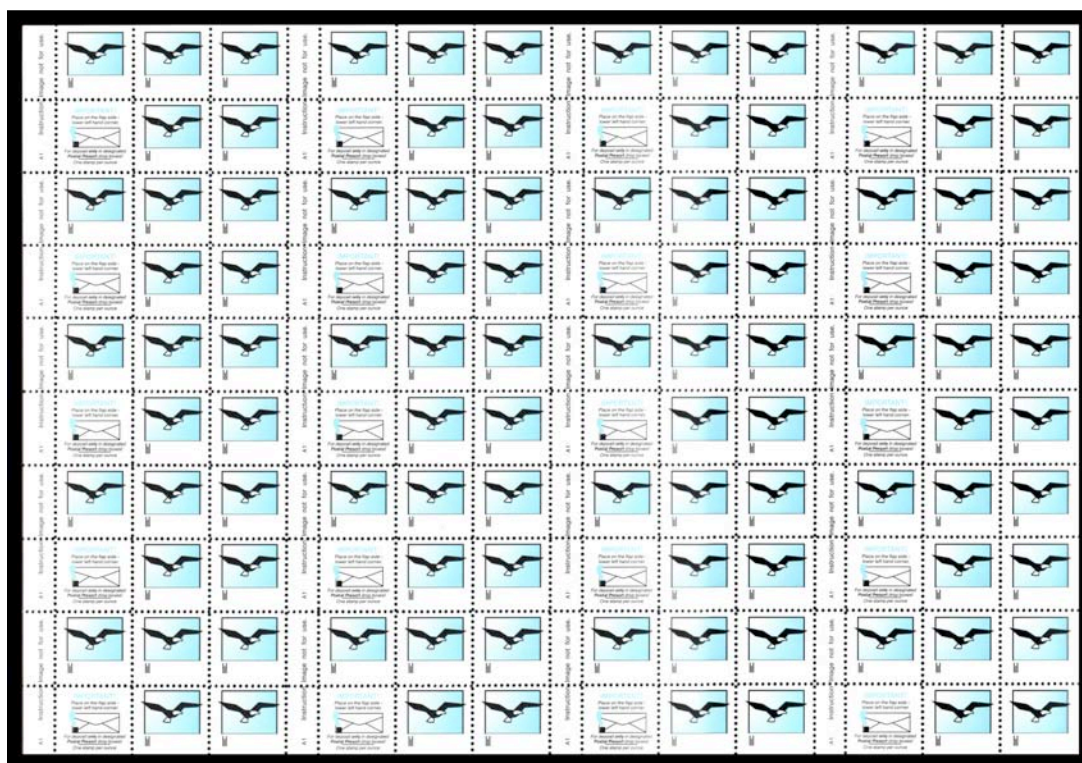
Following are a few illustrations of the Postal Presort items so you may be familiar with them and collect them for what they are, if you so desire. They are a very interesting part of postal history and did serve the intended purpose when they were used. This is the outside front cover of a Postal Presort booklet. The fold is at the top in this illustration.



The illustration shown to the right is a booklet pane of five Postal Presort stamps plus an instruction label in the lower left corner.



Also illustrated nearby is a full, uncut pane of the Postal Presort booklet panels. This piece shows 20 booklet panes of 5+label prior to cutting. Additional information on these can be found at: <http://stampsjoann.net/PrivateServices/PrivateServices-PostalPresort.html> . □



Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

There have been several recent auction sales that included dummy/test stamps. One such auction was held on January 10-11, 2007 by Jacques C. Schiff, Jr., Inc. It was their 313th & Elite XXV Public Auction

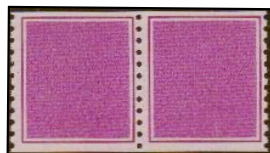
Sale. There were six lots containing test stamps listed in this sale. The prices realized listed here do not reflect the buyer's premium of 10% that is to be added.

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Descriptions of these lots follow along with illustration of them or similar items fitting the descriptions:



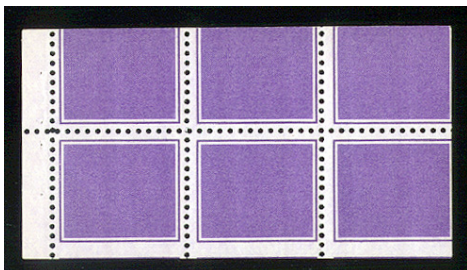
Lot 1200 #TD33, Standard Stamp Affixer, Everett, MA Test Coil, 2 singles w/o gum, F-VF photo No Est. – Realized \$60



Lot 1201 #TD96, Test Coil, Red Violet small holes, Strip (250). 115 pairs, 10 line pairs, NH, F-VF Cat. Val.. \$695 Realized \$80

Lot 1202 #TD107d, Black “For Testing Purposes Only”, Tagged, Dull gum, strip (150) w/6 Line pairs, NH, F-VF Cat. Val. \$312 Realized \$42

Lot 1203 #TD109, For Testing Purposes Only, Green, Untagged 1970, Miscut pair, NH photo Cat. Val. \$180 Realized \$55

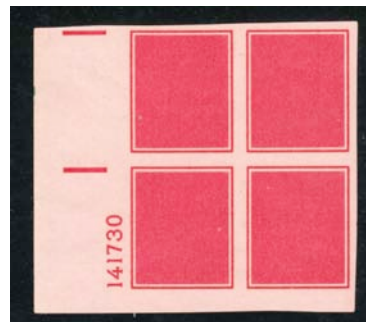


Lot 1228 TEST Booklet Pane, #TB3a Violet, Pane (6), slight flaws, photo Cat. Val. \$250 Realized \$75

Lot 1307 #TD94a, Carmine Framed Rectangle Test Stamp, Pl# Blk (4) #141730 Imperforate, LH, Superb color photo Cat. Val. \$750 R \$850 (See nearby)

Several lots in this auction sale went for quite a bit below catalogue value and were certainly bargains.

One lot in this sale was outstanding, in my opinion. Illustrated nearby is Lot 1307 the Carmine Imperforated Plate Number Block of 4, is one of those items that you very seldom see. A very nice item for sure and a great addition to any test stamp collection. Someone is a very lucky owner of this elusive item.



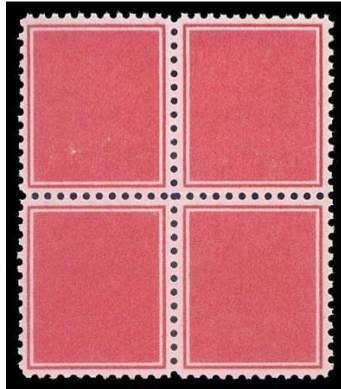
Public Auction #59 by Regency-Superior was held on February 23-24, 2007. There were six lots of test stamps listed in this sale. It appears that three of these lots are a re-listing from the last sale on December 9-10, 2006. They are lots 1654, 1655 and 1657. The description of these six lots is as follows with photos from the catalogue as provided for four lots. The prices realized listed here do not reflect the buyer's premium of 15% that is to be added to the price realized.

Shown here are representative examples of some of these test stamps.



Lot 1652 ** (TD75) 1927-30 DUMMY 3¢ COIL ROLL OF 1000. Totally blank coil roll of 1000 with horizontally ribbed gum and perforated 9¾ vertically. Leader & trailer present. Leader reads 1000 3¢. POSTAGE STAMPS COILED SIDEWISE PERFORATED BETWEEN SIDES. Stamped on leader in purple ink is a poor impression of DUMMY COIL. Appears to match the description for #TD75 in Scott. Estimated cat \$625. Estimate: \$350 Realized \$180

Lot 1653 ** (TD75) 1927-30 TEST COILS, BLANK (x740). Blank, cream paper, perf 9¾, horizontally ribbed gum. Partial roll of 470, plus 27 strips of 10. All fresh, MINT never hinged, very fine. Cat \$462. (TD75) 1927-30 TEST COILS, BLANK (x740) Estimate: \$200 Realized \$100 *please turn to page 4* ➤



Lot 1654 ** (TD94) 1954 FRAMED RECTANGLE (-) CARMINE TEST STAMP, BLOCK. Fresh, MINT never hinged block of 4. Very fine. Cat \$760. Estimate: \$600 Not Sold



Lot 1655 ** (TD101) 1954 NEBRASKA TERRITORIAL EXPERIMENTAL, BLUE, BLOCK. Block of 4. Fresh, MINT never hinged. Extremely fine. Cat \$800. Estimate: \$550 Realized \$500

Request for Information

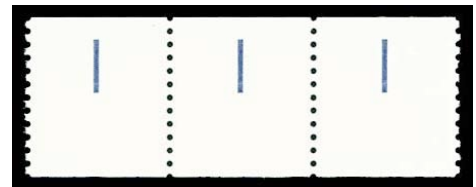
by Terry R. Scott

DSSG member Steve Unkrich is seeking help in the identification of a pair of stamps that appears to me some sort of a test stamp. Shown on the following page is a cropped image of this pair of "test" stamps. They appear to be horizontal coils since the top and bottom edges are straight cut.

They each have a black rectangle printed on white paper. Both stamps have been heavily damaged with the upper portion of each stamp scraped away. Was this damage done by some of the postal machinery?

They are on an unaddressed post card, near the top center of the postcard. In the lower left corner of the

Lot 1656 ** (TD107) 1962-88 TEST STAMP COIL ROLLS. Five complete coil rolls of 500, plus about 75% of a 6th roll. All but the last in original cellophane with DUMMY handstamp to white paper label. Fresh, MINT never hinged. Very fine. Cataloged as singles, no premium added for line pairs. Cat \$1450. Estimate: \$500 Realized \$325

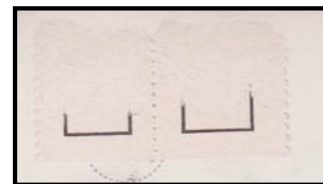


Lot 1657 ** (2464 var) 1991 LUNCH WAGON 23¢ TEST COIL, STRIP OF 3. Only 100 test coils exist, unusual coil variety. MINT never hinged, very fine. Estimate: \$500 Not Sold (*Editor's Note: This is NOT a test coil*)

The item in lot 1657 has been subject to much misunderstanding. It has been called a test coil in several different auctions but in fact it is not a test coil. It has been written up in different publications and correctly described as the top margin of a Scott 1657, 23¢ Lunch Wagon coil sheet that has been mis-slit horizontally, above all the stamp designs and then packaged in normal coil wrappers and shipped with normal coil rolls. Examples of both an imperforated and perforated coil with similar markings was illustrated in the Fall 2005, *Dummy News and Views*, Newsletter No. 5. □



post card is printed "Reproduction Interdite / Photo Déposée - N. 114." In the center of the post card, the words "Photo Sport - Rue Weygand - Beyrouth" are printed vertically from bottom to top. There may be additional words above, but the stamps are placed there.



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The text on the post card certainly make is seem to be from overseas but it still would be nice to try and solve this mystery for Steve. You may send any in-

formation to me or directly to Steve at his e-mail address: sunkrich@cinci.rr.com ☐

Request for Articles of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

Leonard Piskiewicz, Editor, of *The United States Specialist* is always looking for articles of interest for inclusion in our society's monthly publication. If you are considering writing an article for *The 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.

Leonard can be reached by e-mail at: lenp@pacbell.net or his mailing address is:

Leonard Piskiewicz, Editor, 951 Rose Court, Santa Clara, CA 95051, phone (408) 241-4626.

I am aware of a few more articles on dummy stamps that are currently being prepared for publication in *The Specialist*.

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.** ☐

Requests for Information for United States Stamp Society and Other Publications

by Terry R. Scott

Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog, 2008 Edition

Work is in progress on the *Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog, 2008 Edition*. This is a massive project and many people help contribute information to the editor for his use and consideration. Wallace Cleland is the Editor and has requested help with several sections of the catalogue.

There is a section near the back of the Durland for "Test or Dummy Stamps." Several test or dummy stamps have plate numbers. These are generally listed in the 2007 edition of the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers* but some of the listings are not complete. If you have any information

regarding plate numbers on dummy stamps that are not listed in the 2007 edition of the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers*, we would appreciate hearing from you. In particular, Wallace is wondering does anyone have a full pane of TDB89A (George Clinton ATM pane)? If so, can you supply a scan at 300 dpi against a black background? Does anyone have an example of TD96b showing the plate numbers? If so, can you supply a scan? I believe that for dummy stamps, Wallace would prefer that you direct your information through me and I will pass it on to him if we don't already have that information. ☐

Scott 2008 Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers

The 2007 edition of the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers* was released in October of last year. While it was vastly improved over the previous year, lots of work still needs to be done on the dummy stamp sections. There are still a few known dummy stamps that are unlisted.

Work will get underway shortly to gather information, additions, corrections and comments for the

dummy stamp section. If you would kindly route these through me I can consolidate them and forward them to the necessary persons.

One thing that is much in need of work is values for some of the older issues. I am very aware that some of them change hands very seldom, making it very difficult to place values but some of them can be valued fairly with your help. ☐