



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 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 trs@napanet.net

News from the WESTPEX stamp show - San Francisco 2007

by Terry R. Scott

The annual WESTPEX Stamp Show was held on April 27-29, 2007 at, the San Francisco Airport Marriott. This is the first time I have been able to attend the WESTPEX show at its new venue. While there was not much new in the dummy/test stamp field to discover or look at, I did have an opportunity to talk with Eric Jackson who had the four new Flower dummy test stamps at his show table. (See nearby photos of these items) Several of you had the opportunity to view them last year at WASHINGTON 2006 and at the APS StampShow in Chicago last August. Joann Lenz wrote an article about these new test stamps in the Fall 2006 DSSG Newsletter.



I spent quite a bit of time gathering as much information as I could from Eric Jackson, in hopes that I will be able to write an article for *The United States Specialist* on these interesting test stamps sometime in the near future.

While there were no exhibits that featured dummy/test stamps, there were some spectacular exhibits.

While at the stamp show, I did, however, have an opportunity to visit with DSSG member Doug Iams and discuss test stamps among other things. It was nice to see Doug again after such a long time. □

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Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott



I do not have much information for this newsletter regarding recent auctions of interest to dummy stamp collectors. It could be that there were not many dummy stamps in auction or more than likely, I was not aware of them. Regarding the latter, if any of you see dummy/test stamps in auctions I would appreciate a notification so I can include this information in the DSSG Newsletter and also so that the information can be included in our project to try and list all dummy/test stamps that have been in auctions.

There was one item in particular that was noteworthy in the March 28-29, 2007 Jacques C. Schiff, Jr., Inc. 314th Public Auction. There were also a few small auctions and I will list information about a few of them here.

The lot in March 28-29, 2007 Jacques C. Schiff, Jr., Inc. 314th Public Auction was another of the Antique Automobiles sheetlets. The listing read as follows:

Lot 1232 TEST STAMPS, Antique Automobiles, (Scott #3023a), Pane (25) on pregummed paper, Imperforate, w/graduated color bars on each side. There was a photo (black and white) in the catalogue;

and the value was estimated at \$750.00 to \$1,000.00. The lot realized \$900.00 plus a 10% buyers premium.

This seems to be very close to what the other similar items have realized in past auctions. The origin and printer of these items still remains a mystery. I had the opportunity to examine these Antique Automobiles dummy items that were consigned to Jacques C. Schiff, Jr., Inc. Recent communications with Mr. Schiff have not uncovered any additional information on these interesting dummy stamps.

The above illustration is of an imperforated pane of 25 on water activated paper which is similar to the item in this recent Schiff auction. 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.

The small auctions that I mentioned at the beginning of this article are both from Beck Stamp Auctions, P. O. Box 2506, Mesa, AZ 85214.

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Owner Sam Beck holds several auctions throughout the year and he lists many esoteric items as well as occasionally some test stamps. As can be seen in the following listings, several of these items are not Scott listed but were included in the Test Stamps section of the old Krause-Minkus Catalogues. You may want to contact Mr. Beck if you are interested in receiving a catalogue for a future sale. I do not have the prices realized for any of the Beck Auction lost.

Sale No. 284, held on February 24, 2007 had the following lots that included test stamps:

Lot 17 * "Pacific 97", test pane of 18. F-VF NH. Photo Est. 15-20.00

Lot 18 The 1999 "Wal-Mart" test stamps in original magnet holder. (Stamp type A2212) 3 stps. cpl in VF condition. Photo Est. 25-30.00

Lot 19 Similar to above. Est. 25-30.00 P r i c e realized unknown

Sale No. 284, held on May 6, 2007 had the following lots that included test stamps:

Lot 28 * TD-107 (x2), 1962 Test stps in strips of 5. VF NH. Est. 5-7.00

Lot 29 * TD-117, 1973 Christmas Stamp issue. Test pairs. F. Photo Est. 5-7.00

Lot 30 * TD-126 (x2), pl # strips of 5. VF NH. Photo Cat. 10.00

Lot 31 * CANADA, Centennial Issue Test Coils. 3 mint pairs, one is perforated, one is imperf. & the third shows a nice misperforated error. VF NH, prepared by the Canadian Bank Note Co. Photo Est. 80-100.00 □

Recent Publications of Interest

Encyclopedia of United States Stamps and Stamp Collecting

The new "*Encyclopedia of United States Stamps and Stamp Collecting*" edited by Rodney A. Juell and Steven J. Rod has turned into a best seller for stamp publications. Total sales as of a recent accounting was near 5,000 copies. Only one other stamp book has outsold this publication and it is Pat Herst's *Nassau Street*. The *Encyclopedia of United States Stamps and Stamp Collecting* has been on the market for about one year while Pat Herst's book has been out for over forty years. Quite an accomplishment and a wonderful book to have.

To recap the features of *Encyclopedia of United States Stamps and Stamp Collecting*, it 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 philatelic 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! □

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 United*

States Specialist, that need to be documented and illustrated in the new updated version of Research Paper Number 3. I am heading 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

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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.

Request for Articles of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

I am aware of a couple more articles on dummy stamps that are currently being prepared for publication in *The United States Specialist* and some that have been completed waiting space in *The United States Specialist* for publication.

Leonard Piskiewicz, 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

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 in DVD format. □

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: lep@pacbell.net or his mailing address is: Leonard Piskiewicz, Editor, 951 Rose Court, Santa Clara, CA 95051, phone (408) 241-4626.

Single back issues of *The United States 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 also 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 the 2007 edition of the *Scott Specialized Catalogue 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*, Wallace 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 be done on the dummy stamp sections. There are still a few known dummy stamps that are unlisted, including some new discoveries that will be written about in the August issue of *The United States Specialist*.

Work is currently underway 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. The deadline for this information to be considered for inclusion into the 2008 edition of the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of Stamps and Covers* is mid-July, so time is of the essence for reporting the information.

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. □