



Dummy News and Views

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

Issue Number 8

Summer 2007



Welcome to the Dummy Stamps Study Group's Eighth 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 Fall APS StampShow in Portland Oregon 2007

by Terry R. Scott

The APS StampShow was held on August 9-12, 2007 at the Portland Convention Center in Portland, Oregon. I was very happy to meet five other members of the Dummy Stamps Study Group that were in attendance. I met David Eeles, Doug Iams, Joann Lenz, Michael Perry, and Wayne Youngblood. At one time or another all of us were gathered around the United States Stamp Society booth for chats about, what else, test stamps. While there, USSS member John Larson displayed for all of us the newly reported test stamps he has written about in the August 2007 issue of *The United States Specialist*. (see page 5) Two of these are new discoveries. While both the dark blue and light blue South Carolina test coils had been discovered before, only one of each had been reported. Being able to see all three of these test stamps in large multiples was a nice experience for all of us.

Several dealers did have some test stamps but nothing that had not been previously reported. I am not aware of any test stamp exhibits at this show.

There were two auctions during the four day show and both of them contained test stamp lots. (see page 2)

I had several nice conversations with Mr. James Kloetzel, Editor of the Scott Catalogues. He and Chad Snee assured me that the test stamps section would be updated and some new items listed. Of those that will be listed are the four different Flower test stamps that were mentioned in the last DSSG Newsletter. The new discoveries reported in the August 2007 *United States Specialist* by John Larson will be listed as well.

The United States Stamp Society booth was well attended by various members and was a great place to stop and rest while chatting with long time members as well as a chance to meet new and prospective members. Chairman Roger Brody and President Nick Lombardi, as well as most of the other USSS officers, were present to meet and greet members who came by the booth.

There was a fellowship dinner at Kells Irish Restaurant and Pub in old downtown Portland on Friday night August 10th arranged by Tony Wawrukiewicz. It was very enjoyable and well attended.

There were two first days of issue for United States stamps at the show. On Thursday a Louis Comfort Tiffany single 41¢ vertical format commemorative was issued and on Friday ten different Flower Blossom stamps were issued. They were issued in coil rolls of 100 and double side panes of 20 stamps. □

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Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

As mentioned on page 1 of this newsletter, there were two stamp auctions at the APS StampShow in Portland that contained test stamps.

Regency - Superior had one test stamp lot in their auction. The lot was described as follows:

Lot Number: 1519 (TD28TC) 1910 MINERVA 3¢ BLACK TEST STAMP, LARGE DIE TRIAL COLOR PROOF Minerva facing right, die sunk on 5½"x4¾" card. Believed to be UNIQUE. Spectacular and certainly among most desirable pieces of test stamp philately. Very fine. E 3500.

It was not sold and an illustration is shown below.

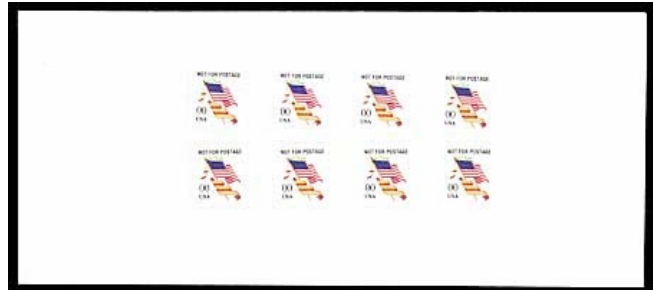


The other auction that was held by Harmer-Schau had several test stamp lots and their descriptions and selected photos follow. All prices realized do not include the 15% buyers premium.:

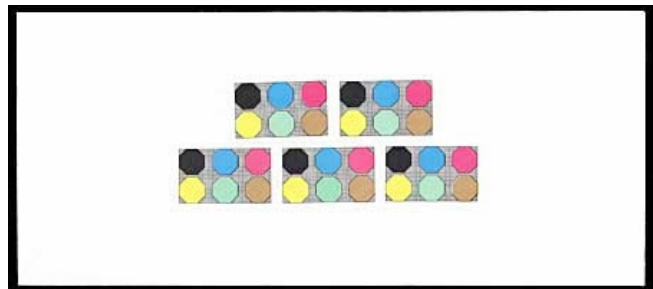
Lot 1178 ☒ Test Stamp, 1998, 3 Issues on Covers From Albuquerque, NM, #TD130A-B, TDB89A. All on reverse of #U632, TDB89A (8 copies), TD130A (8 copies), TD130B (5 copies), cancelled 7 or 8 Dec, 1998, very scarce matching city postmark set, Very Fine, see article in the Nov. 2006 issue of *The United States Specialist* for more details. No photo. Estimate \$250/350. Realized 650.00



Lot 1179 Test Stamp, 1998 Issues on 3 Covers, #TD130A-B, TDB89A. All on reverse of #U632, TDB89A (8 copies), cancelled on front 4 Dec 1998, Fayetteville, AR.; TD130A (8 copies), cancelled on front Philadelphia 7 Dec 1998; TD130B (5 copies), cancelled South Suburban, IL, very unusual items, Very Fine, see article in the Nov. 2006 issue of *The United States Specialist* for more details. Estimate \$200/300. Realized \$650.00.



Lot 1180 Test Stamp, 1998, "Flag" Test Stamp on Cover, #TD130A. 8 singles on reverse of #U632, cancelled 7 Dec 1998 from Philadelphia, for testing purposes, unusual, Very Fine. Estimate \$75/100. Realized \$450.00.



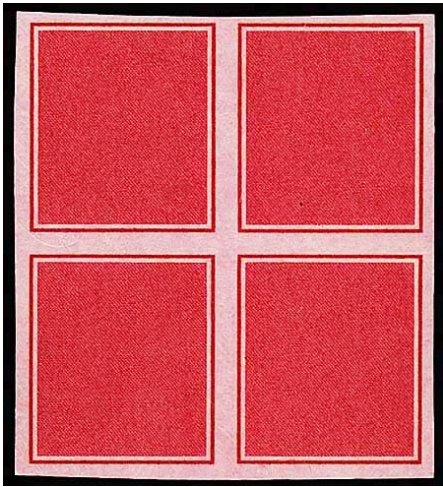
Lot 1181 Test Stamp, 1998, "Octagon" Test Stamp on Cover, #TD130B. 5 singles on reverse of #U632, cancelled Dec 9, 1998 from South Suburban, IL for testing purposes, unusual, Very Fine. Estimate \$75/100. Realized \$425.00.

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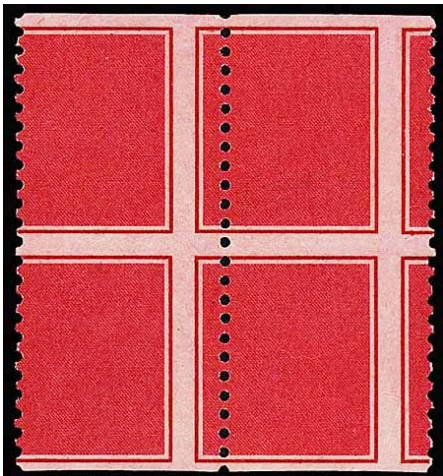
Lot 1182 Test Stamp, 1998, "George Clinton" Test Stamp on Cover, #TDB89A. 8 singles on reverse of #U632, cancelled Dec 4, 1998 from Fayetteville, AR, for testing purposes, unusual, Very Fine. Estimate \$75/100. Realized \$450.00.



Lot 2347 (★)□ Test Stamp, 1912 Bruckman Photo-Etching Test in Brown, Block of 4, #TD51. Ungummed, right marginal, Very Fine. Scott \$400+. Estimate \$200/300. Realized \$210.00.



Lot 2348 ★ Test Stamp, 1954, Carmine Imperforate, #TD97a. Block of 4, top pair o.g., bottom n.h., Very Fine. Scott \$600. Estimate \$200/250. Realized \$400.00



Lot 2349 ★ Test Stamp, 1954, Carmine Perforate Vertically, Unslit Horizontal, #TD97b. N.h. block of 4, unpriced, Very Fine. Estimate \$200/250. Realized \$230.00.



Lot 2350 ★ Test Stamp, 1970, Carmine, Tagged, #TD108. N.h., Extremely Fine. Scott \$500. Estimate \$150/200. Realized \$425.00.



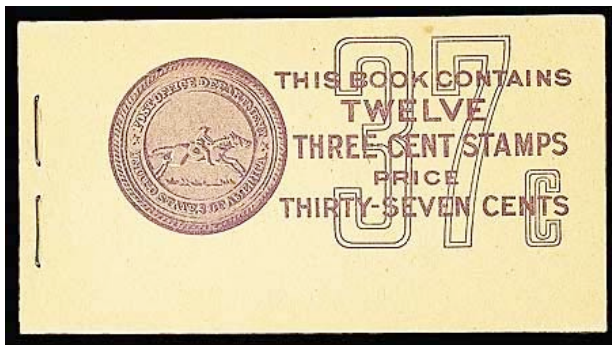
Lot 2351 ★ Test Stamp, 1992, Linerless Self-Adhesive, #TD123. N.h., mounted on removable backing, plate strip of 7, strips of 3 and 5 (no numbers), some adhesive on face of strip of 7, Very Fine. Scott \$580. Estimate \$200/250. Realized \$150.00.

Lot 2352 (★) Test Stamp, 1992 Test Plate Number Strip of 5, #TD123. Ungummed, Plate #1111, Fine to Very Fine. Scott \$400. Estimate \$150/200. Realized \$110.00.



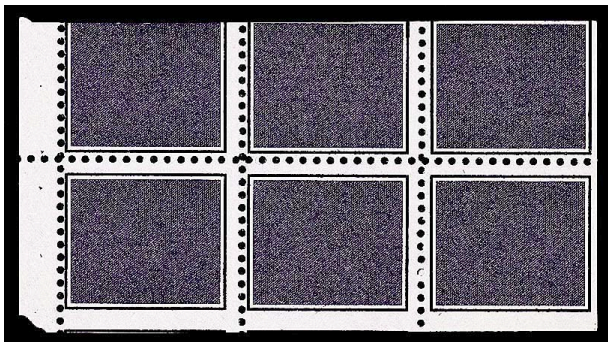
Lot 2353 (★) Test Stamp, 1998 Stamps and Booklet Pane Issues, #TD130A-B, TDB89A. 3 unused singles, all soaked off the test envelopes, great modern items, Fine to Very Fine, see article in the Nov. 2006 issue of The United States Specialist for more details. Estimate \$75/100. Realized \$240.00.

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Lot 2354 B Test Stamp, Booklets, 1953, Complete Booklet, #TDB3. 2 panes of purple dummy stamps, Fine to Very Fine. Scott \$600. Estimate \$300/350. Realized \$400.00.

Lot 2355 B Test Stamp, Booklets, 1953, Complete Booklet, #TDB3. Small blue mark on front cover and crease at staples, Fine to Very Fine, PF (2000) cert. Scott \$600. Estimate \$200/300. Realized \$230.00.



Lot 2356 B Test Stamp, Booklets, 1953, Booklet Pane of 6 in Purple, #TDB3a. N.h., typical centering, Fine to Very Fine. Scott \$250+. Estimate \$100/120. Realized \$150.00.

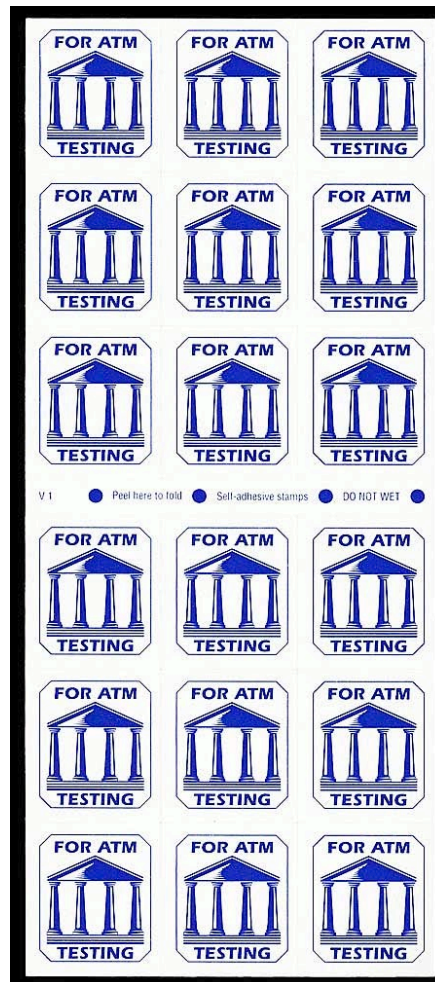
Lot 2357 B Test Stamp, Booklets, 1992-2000 Issues, Panes of 18, #TDB82, 87-88, 90. N.h., unusual, Very Fine. Scott \$230. Estimate \$75/100. Realized \$75.00.

Lot 2358 B Test Stamp, Booklets, 1997, Dark Blue, Booklet Pane of 18, #TDB86. N.h., for ATM testing, Very Fine. Scott \$250. Estimate \$100/120. Realized \$110.00.

Lot 2359 B Test Stamp, Booklets, 1997, Magenta, Booklet Pane of 18, #TDB89. N.h., for ATM testing, Very Fine. Scott \$250. Estimate \$100/120. Realized \$120.00.

This was a very fine offering of several test stamp items that are not normally offered. Lots of special interest include 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182 and 2353 which were the first known offering of these test stamps in a public auction. These test stamps were recently written up in the November 2006 issue of *The United States Specialist*. (see page xx)

Several of the lots, in my opinion, went for very



reasonable prices. Lot 2347, Scott #TD51, the 1912 Bruckman photo-etching test stamps in brown, block of 4, is one that I thought would bring more. Lot 2355, Scott #TDB3 unexploded booklet of 2 panes was a bargain considering the 2 panes inside the covers were without faults but the cover faults held the price down. □

Recent Publications of Interest

The Liberty Series

The American Philatelic Society recently released a 262 page book titled "*The Liberty Series*." The authors were Ken Lawrence, C. David Eeles and Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz. all of who were in attendance at the 2007 APS StampShow in Portland to discuss and autograph the book.

As a bonus to us dummy stamp collectors, Dummy Stamps Study Group member, and co-author, C. David Eeles produced Chapter 5: Liberty Series Dummy and Test Material. That chapter is not only loaded with great information about the dummy and test materials

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used during the Liberty Series period but has lots of wonderful illustrations. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the Liberty Series stamps but also for the content regarding the dummy and test materials. The cost is \$48.00 for APS members and \$60.00 for non-members. Both of these prices include postage.

It is a very nicely produced publication with lots of color illustrations and is available by mail from: **The American Philatelic Society, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823** and from philatelic publication retailers. □

Recent Articles of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

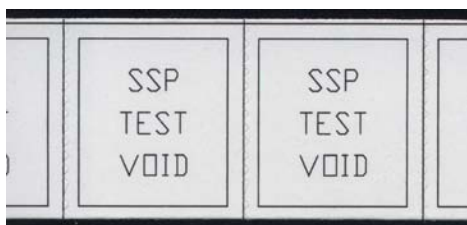
by Terry R. Scott

In the August 2007 issue of *The United States Specialist* there were two articles of interest to dummy stamp collectors.



The first one was authored by John L. Larson and it was titled “New BEP, SSP and Avery Self-adhesive Test Coils Discovered.” It is five pages in length and

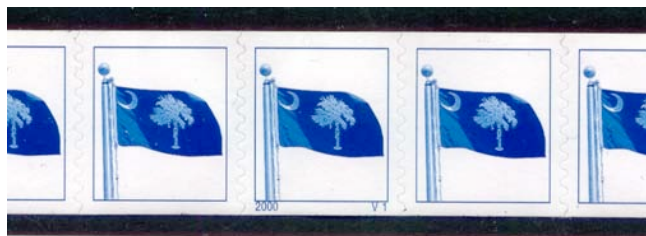
illustrates newly discovered black BEP For Testing Purposes Only rolls of 100 test coils. While the black BEP FTPO test coil is usually common, these found in rolls of 100 are not as readily available as the ones found in rolls of 3,000. The first obvious difference between the black BEP FTPO test coils from rolls of 100 and the same issue from rolls of 3,000 is the spacing between the stamps. On rolls of 100 there is no spacing between stamps but on rolls of 3,000 there is spacing between the tips of the perforations that accommodates its usage in automatic stamp affixing machines. The rolls of 100 are typically used to demonstrate hand held stamp dispensers made for self-adhesive rolls of 100.



The next new item in this article is a different perforation gauge reported on

a previously discovered Sennett Security Products test coil. The design consists of three lines of print that read: “SSP / TEST / VOID.” The new discovery is serpentine die cut gauge 11.6 while the original discovery copies are serpentine die cut 10.2. There are ongoing discussions regarding which of these varieties

may have been produced first by matching these perforation gauge differences with over-the-counter SSP produced coils of 100.



The outer wrappers are different on each of these two “SSP / TEST / VOID” issues also.

The third “new” discovery is really a discovery of additional copies of previously discovered South Carolina test coils, but the previous discovery was only one copy of each of the colors, light blue and dark blue. Even though this is not a new discovery, it is a very significant discovery because it makes available new information that was not possible with only one copy of each previously reported. Even with this new discovery, the dark blue version remains very scarce as only a total of 11 copies are known at this time.

The new information that is possible with the discovery of the additional copies of these test coils is that the date “2000” and the plate number “V1” appears every 5 stamps throughout the roll.

The article contains much more information than I covered here and it is recommended you obtain and read the article.

The second article on dummy stamps in the August 2007 issue of *The United States Specialist* was written by Terry R. Scott. It is intended to illustrate possible test items that are available from the Automated Postal Center machines that can be found

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in numerous post office lobbies for 24/7 use. The article illustrates not only dummy stamps but also dummy Return Receipt forms, blank paper used for printing the stamps and dummy receipts.

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: lep@pacbell.net or his mailing address is: **Leonard Piszkiwicz, 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 Publication

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 in 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. □

Proposed Future DSSG projects

Updating Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets

Work is progressing, albeit at a snails 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

Other projects currently being worked on by various members of the DSSG are:

- Dummy test stamp roll sizes, box and roll labels

- Recording auction appearances and prices realized for test stamps
- Compiling a comprehensive listing of references for test stamps □