



Dummy News and Views

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

Issue Number 9

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Welcome to the Dummy Stamps Study Group's Ninth 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

Usage of FTPO Test Stamps on Card Stock

by Terry R. Scott

Recently a collector contacted me asking if I had seen, or had any information regarding some cards that had a black FTPO test stamp (Scott TD107) affixed and all of them canceled "EL PASO / NOV 30 / P M / 1967 / TEX." with a number "1" on the left of the oval. The oval is 22 mm in diameter. The slogan cancel reads: "SUPPORT YOUR / MENTAL HEALTH / ASSOCIATION" and has a bell with the initials "MH" in the bell. I have contacted several collectors of both test stamps and modern postal history and I will report their findings in the next newsletter. Meanwhile, I am requesting that if a reader has any information regarding these items, or similar items, please contact me at trs@napanet.net or by mail at P.O. Box 10406, Napa, CA 94581.

This is a very brief description of what I recorded from these cards. The size of each cards is: 184 mm wide and 89 mm in height. The cards are very stiff, white cards measuring 0.024" thick. The collector has a total of 3 of these cards and a cut corner from another card. All have the same cancellation but each of the three cards have a different address. None of the addresses are "real" addresses and none contain a ZIP Code. Each card has three 1/4" diameter holes punched through them and some of the holes match location from card to card.

I have illustrated the front and back of one of the cards nearby. If you would like additional information on these cards, please contact me at the aforementioned address. I am hoping that someone



will be able to add information regarding these unusual items. ☐

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New Report of an Old Test Stamp

by Terry R. Scott

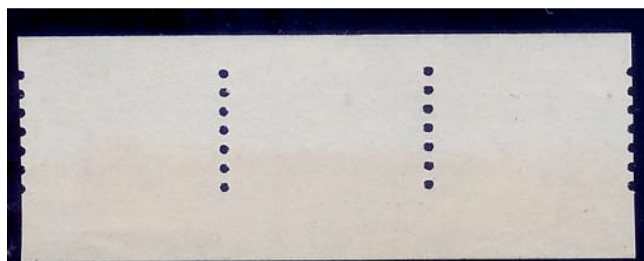
Dummy Stamps Study Group member Melvin Getlan has reported finding an older test coil. The item is illustrated nearby. It is mentioned on page 67 in George P. Howard's book "*The Stamp Machines and Coiled Stamps*," published by H. L. Lindquist, 1943.

The item shown is a strip of 3 blank stamps with a 7-hole vertical perforation pattern measuring perforation 10.

The caption below the illustration in Howard's book states "Coil Perforation Suggested by Pitney-Bowes Company." The paragraph immediately above the illustrations states "The Bureau then sent the Pitney-Bowes Company blank coils, gummed and perforated 10-gauge, for testing purposes. The Postage Meter Company countered with a blank coil in which only 7 holes of a 10-gauge perforation appeared in the center of the coil strip." This would suggest this blank test coil strip is a product of the

Postage Meter Company and not Pitney-Bowes Company as Howard's book states.

However, if you check page 63 in Howard's book, and a few pages after, you will note that the full name of Pitney-Bowes is Pitney-Bowes Postage Meter Co. He seems to also use both parts of the name in several places.



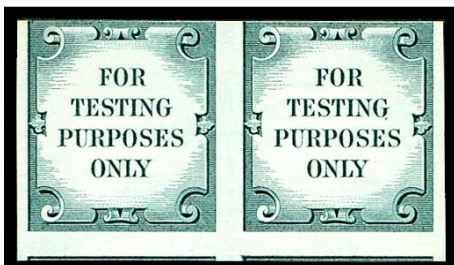
Your comments are most welcome on this item. The information will be submitted to Scott Publishing for consideration of including this newly reported test coil in the 2009 Scott Specialized Catalogue in the test stamp section. ☐

Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

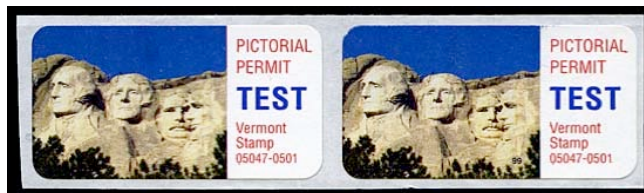
by Terry R. Scott

Following are a few of the recent auctions of interest to test stamps collectors. On October 14-17, 2007, Regency - Superior held Public Auction #63. The following test stamp lots were featured in this sale. The price realized shown does not include the 15% Buyers Premium added to all lots.

Lot 2416 ** (TD109a) 1970 FOR TESTING PURPOSES ONLY GREEN, IMPERF PAIR, Horizontal imperf pair with dull gum. Used to test coil machinery in Germany. Trimmed off-center, in very fine condition. Photo Cat \$400, Estimate: \$350, Realized \$450



Lot 2417 ** c.1980s VERMONT TEST STAMPS, Two pairs of self-adhesives, two different designs, one showing capitol building, one showing Mt. Rushmore. Fresh, very fine. Rare, Photo, Estimate: \$500, Realized \$475



2418 ** (CVP1, CVP6) 1989 FIRST COMPUTER VENDED 25¢, WASHINGTON DC, Group of 98 self-adhesive stamps, all denominated 25¢, all from Washington, D.C. From machines 82 and 83, dated in November, 1989 (NOT the first day of issue). Unused, very fine. Cat \$588., Photo, Estimate: \$150 Realized \$280



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Another interesting auction to take place was an auction by the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club (PNC3). The following lots were presented in their Auction #37 on October 20, 2007. There were several lots of test stamps that have been mentioned in this newsletter recently. [Note: The illustrations shown in this article are not the actual stamps in the mentioned auction.]

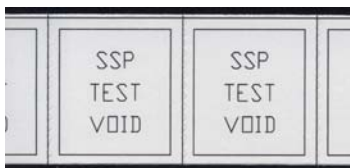
Lot 194 TD135, South Carolina Flag Coil, Plate Number Strip of 5, Cat. \$225, Realized \$200.



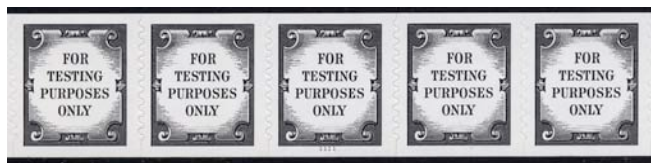
Lot 195 TD139, New RENA No Postage, Strip of 6, No Plate Number, Cat. \$6, Realized \$4.50.



Lot 196 TD138A, New SSP Test Void Coil, Strip of 5, No Plate Number, Cat. \$50, Realized \$52.50.



Lot 197 TD133A, New Black FTPO from rolls of 100, Plate Number Strip of 5, Cat \$300, Realized \$250.



Lot 443 TD133A, New Black FTPO from rolls of 100, Plain Pair, Cat. \$30, Realized \$40.

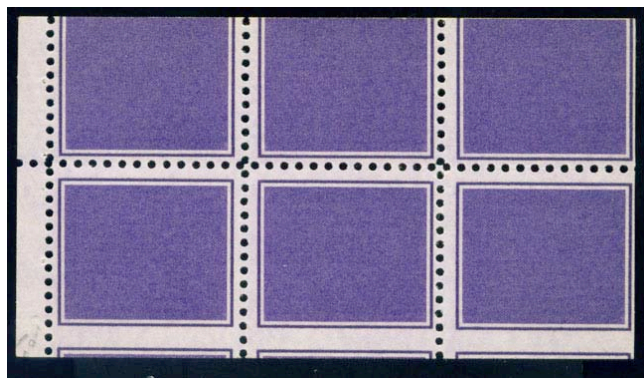
Lot 444 TD138A, New SSP Test Void Coil, Plain Pair, Cat. \$20, Realized \$10.

Lot 445 TD135, South Carolina Flag Coil, Plate Number Strip of 3, Cat. \$XX, Realized \$65.



On November 14, 2007, Downeast Stamps held Auction #245. The following lots of test stamps were included in their sale. The price realized shown does not include the 15% Buyers Premium added to all lots.

Lot 1035 ** TDB3a, purple, miscut as usual, otherwise sound, NH photo, E \$250.00, Realized \$105



Lot 1886 ** Unlisted test strip coil pair, red, from National One Cent Letter Postage Association, Cleveland, VF-XF, NH, E \$50-\$75, Realized NOT SOLD (Ed. Note: **THIS IS NOT A TEST STAMP**)



On December 8-9, 2007, Regency - Superior held Public Auction #64. The following test stamp lot was featured in this sale. The price realized shown does not include the 15% Buyers Premium added to all lots.

Lot Number: 1932 (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. Estimate: \$2500, Realized \$1500 □



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Recent Articles of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

In the October 1, 2007 issue of *Linn's Stamp News* there was an article by Jay Bigalke titled "U.S. Stamp Society journal reports two new test coil stamps, new

find." This article was basically a summary of the article that appeared in the August 2007 issue of *The United States Specialist* written by John Larson. □

Requests for Articles for The United States Specialist

by Terry R. Scott

A recent request was sent from Nick Lombardi, United States Stamp Society President, to each committee or study group chairperson to submit at least one article during 2008 from their group for publication in *The United States Specialist*.

There are currently 18 committees / study groups related to either specific stamp issues or types of postal history. If any of the DSSG members would submit just one article, this would certainly help make *The United States Specialist* a real benefit to all of our members.

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: lenp@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.** □

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 Stamp 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 DSSG 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

All of these projects need the support and involvement of all of the DSSG members in order to make them successful. Your involvement is requested. Please contact me to learn what you can help with. □