



# Dummy News and Views

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

Issue Number 15

Spring 2009

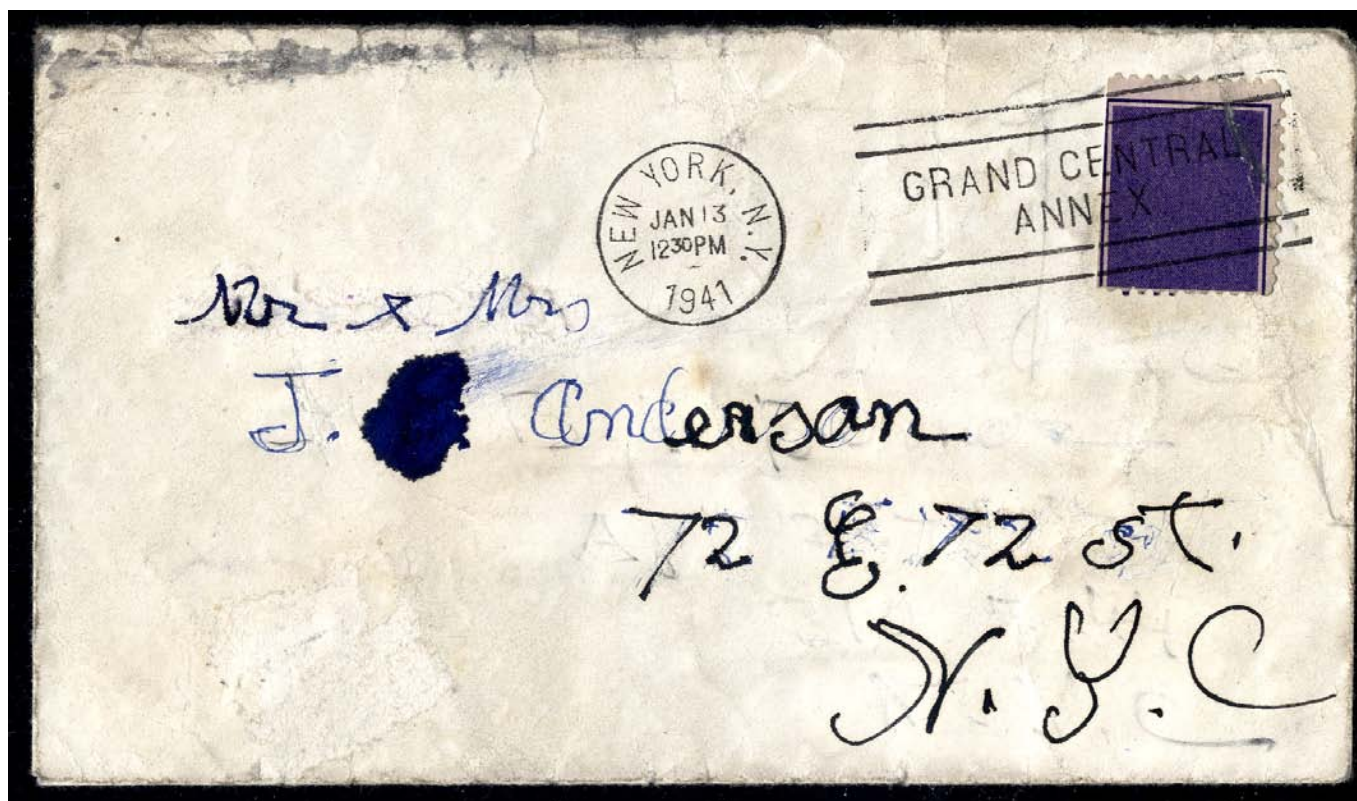


## Welcome to the Dummy Stamps Study Group's Fifteenth Newsletter

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](mailto:trs@napanet.net)

## Earliest Usage of TDB3a on Cover

by Joann Lenz



In early June I sent a scan of the cover shown above with the following message to the Dummy Stamps Study Group:

"Recently I acquired an envelope with a Jan 1941 postmark and a single label of TDB3a used on the cover. The addressing on the envelope is atrocious and the condition of the envelope is a bit on the dirty-looking side. Any opinions?"

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The cover has a single copy of TDB3a tied with a New York, N.Y., Jan. 13, 1941 cancel. As best I know this is the earliest known reported usage of this test stamp on cover.

It seems that the TDB3 booklets were discovered in New York sometime in 1940; a report of the discovery first appeared in the February 1941 issue of "*The Bureau Specialist*." In a follow-up article in the March 1941 issue, the author quoted the Bureau of Engraving and Printing which stated that to improve the process of cutting stamp books, experiments with automatic cutting machines were run. Some strips of postage stamp books containing dummy stamps without design were sent to New York where experimental cutting was conducted in the presence of BEP representatives.

Several members of the study group have offered ideas about the cover. Murray Eskenazi and David Eeles replied that it looked like a child had perhaps found the stamp and used it to address the envelope because of the child-like writing. If it traveled in the mail stream, Murray thought it remarkable that no postal clerk or carrier noticed that it was not franked with a valid stamp.

David added, "The cancel is definitely from an international machine that was in service at Grand Central Station at the time. The angle of the front cancel and that of the setoff cancel on the back, along with the crumpled look and ink all over the cover edges is typical of a jam on one of

these machines. However, it did not receive any sort of auxiliary marking – which seems strange at that time."

Wayne Youngblood agreed that the dummy stamp and cancel are legitimate. However, he did not think the envelope traveled through the mail although there is a marking on the reverse of a purple "86" or "98": perhaps an older mail processing mark. He surmised that the cover may have been used for testing, and perhaps the address was added later. The placement of the address so that it does not run into the cancel suggests it was added after the fact. He also commented that it does not matter if it actually went through the mail as "...the cancel and date are good..."

The cover was examined under several types of lights, including short- and longwave. Although there are a few other markings, there is nothing of significance that can be deciphered. The address may have been reinforced at least twice, and likely originally was in pencil.

I would appreciate any additional comments that others may have about this cover. Please email me at [joann@stampsjoann.net](mailto:joann@stampsjoann.net) or write me at PO Box 296, Sterling Heights, MI 48311

(Editor's note: The cover has been submitted to the Scott Publishing Company for listing in the 2010 Scott Specialized as an EKV of TDB3a.).

□

## Recent Publications of Interest

### *Guide to United States Vending and Affixing Machine Perforations 1907-1927*

Authored by Steven R. Belasco

At the April Mega Show in New York City, the United States Stamp Society sponsored a Champagne Book Publishing Event. The guest of honor was Steven R. Belasco, the author of *Guide to United States Vending and Affixing Machine Perforations 1907-1927*.

This publication tells the fascinating and complex story of the proprietary coils developed by manufacturers

of stamp vending and affixing machines in the early 20th Century. The book covers more than 250 major varieties of coil stamps made by six companies that created these perforations and discusses their history, proprietary perforations, stamps to which perforations were applied, scarcity of these stamps on and off cover, and factors to be considered to identify the many fakes of these coils.

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Of special interest to dummy stamp collectors is the detailed information at the end of several chapters regarding test coils by the various manufacturers.

These include: Schermack Mailing Machine Company Test and Demonstration Coils; Mailometer Company Test and Demonstration Coils; and U. S. Automatic Vending Company Test and Experimental Coils.

Any collector with an interest in these interesting stamps is urged to order a copy for their philatelic library. Dummy stamp collectors are especially urged to order the book for the wealth of information and

illustrations of numerous test stamps.

This is a hardbound publication consisting of 220 pages in the 8½" x 11" format.

The *Guide to United States Vending and Affixing Machine Perforations 1907-1927*, by Steven R. Belasco, is available for \$55 for non USSS members. USSS members will receive discount pricing of \$44. (postpaid in U.S.) Orders may be sent to USSS Executive Secretary, P. O. Box 6634, Katy, TX 77491-6634. The book can also be ordered online at the USSS website, [www.usstamps.org](http://www.usstamps.org). Online orders are only available for purchase with PayPal. □

## ***United States Supplementary Mail***

**Authored by Leonard Piskiewicz**

The United States Stamp Society also released another book earlier this year, *United States Supplementary Mail* by U.S. Specialist Editor Len Piskiewicz. While this book doesn't contain any dummy material, it does explore a previously mostly unknown area of postal history – the story of mail going out of the country that was posted at the last minute (or the last hour or two) before the ship sailed. For this service, mail was charged double the usual rates of postage, which has left a trail of interesting rates on covers

and cards. If you collect U.S. postal history, you might have one of these supplementary mail covers and not know it. The book is certainly worth being on your bookshelf. It's available to USSS members for \$32 and to non-members for \$40 (postpaid in U.S.) from the USSS Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 6634, Katy, TX 77491-6634. The book can also be ordered online at the USSS website, [www.usstamps.org](http://www.usstamps.org). Online orders are only available for purchase with PayPal. □

## ***2008 Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog***

**Authored by: Wallace Cleland**

According to an article in the June 2008 issue of *The United States Specialist*, The United States Stamp Society recently released the new *2008 Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog* at the Society's Annual Meeting at NOJEX '08, May 23, 2008.

The *2008 Durland* edition is the eighth produced by the USSS and its publication celebrates the 58th anniversary of the introduction of the *Standard Plate Number Catalog*.

The new *2008 Durland* has been reformatted and digitized by Len Piskiewicz and is edited by Wallace Cleland.

The new *2008 Durland* is an all-color presentation and is in a three-column 8-1/2" x 11" format. It is available in two formats, a perfect-bound and spiral-bound.

The new greatly expanded edition contains listings for numerous back-of-the-book sections of the *Scott Catalogue*, including test stamps.

The *2008 Durland* is available for \$25 perfect-bound and \$27 spiral-bound. USSS members will receive discount pricing of \$20 perfect-bound and \$22 spiral-bound (All prices are for postpaid in U.S.). Orders may be sent to USSS Executive Secretary, P. O. Box 6634, Katy, TX 77491-6634. They can also be ordered online at the USSS website, [www.usstamps.org](http://www.usstamps.org). Online orders are only available for purchase with PayPal. □

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# Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

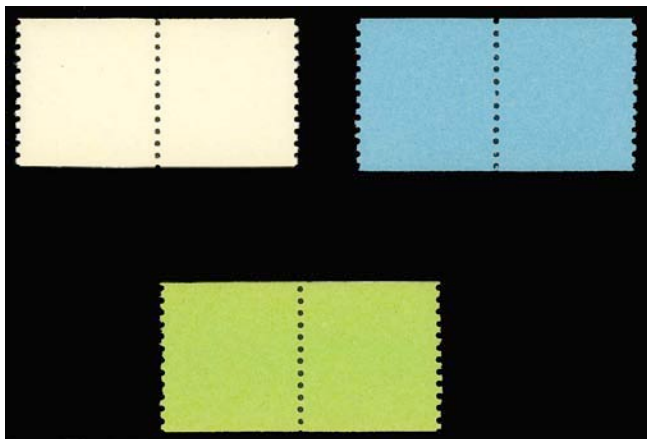
by Terry R. Scott

In the interest of saving space and not repeating illustrations of auction lots that are not sold in the Paradise Valley Stamp Company, Inc. auctions, I will show the illustration of the lot when they are first listed in this newsletter. I will only list the descriptions of lots previously illustrated. Paradise Valley Stamp Company, Inc. holds mail sales approximately every two weeks and lots that are not sold in any certain auction are normally re-listed in the following or the second auction after the listing in which they were not sold.

On March 10, 2009, Paradise Valley Stamp Company, Inc. held Mail Auction #F176 that contained the following test stamps. There is no buyer's premium to be added to the prices realized.



Lot 3622 1910-20, RED MULTIPOST CO. COIL PERF 9 3/4 PAIR NH, #TD37, mint never hinged, fine-very fine, cat. \$50.00 (Photo) MB\$25 Realized \$25



Lot 3623 1930s, ELECTRIC VENDORS (ZEIGLE), INC. WHITE, BLUE AND GREEN BLANK TEST COIL PAIRS NH, #TD79-TD81, mint never hinged, very fine, cat. \$120.00 (Photo) MB \$60 Not Sold



Lot 3624 1944, MULTIPOST COMMERCIAL CONTROLS MULTIPOST MAILMASTER PURPLE COIL PAIR NH, #TD91, mint never hinged, very fine, cat. \$50.00 (Photo) MB \$25 Realized \$25



Lot 3625 TEST STAMP - SMALL COLLECTION, eight diff in pairs, incl. nos. TD96, TD107, TD107b, TD111 line-pair, TD112, TD117, TD123, fine-very fine, cat. \$67.00 (Photo) MB \$30 Not Sold

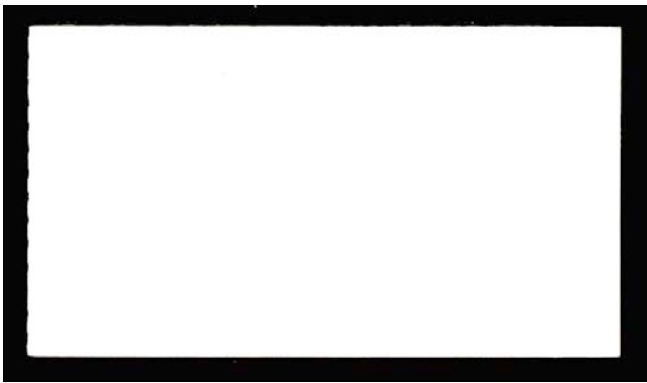


Lot 3626 1954, KANSAS TERRITORIAL CENTENNIAL EXPERIMENTAL NH, #TD98, mint never hinged, very fine, normal included for comparison, cat. \$200.00 (Photo) MB \$100 Not Sold

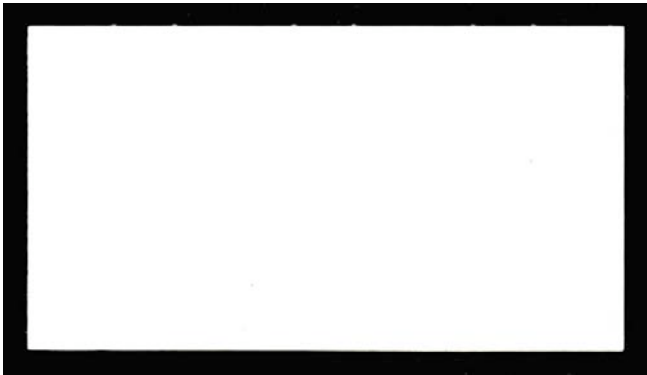
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Lot 3627 TEST BOOKLET, 1963, MR. ZIP WITH VIOLET 'DUMMY' HANDSTAMP, #TBD11, complete unexploded with panes and interleaving, fine-very fine, cat. \$125.00 (Photo) MB \$60 Realized \$75



Lot 3628 TEST BOOKLET, 1990s, SELF-ADHESIVE & GLUED BOOKLET, BLANK COVER AND PANE, #TBD60, complete unexploded, fine-very fine, unpriced in Scott (Photo) MB \$50 Realized \$75



Lot 3629 TEST BOOKLET, 1999, SELF-ADHESIVE & GLUED BOOKLET, BLANK COVER AND PANE, SERPENTINE DIE CUT, #TBD60, complete unexploded, fine-very fine, cat. \$150.00 (Photo) MB \$75 Not Sold



Lot 3630 TEST BOOKLET, 1997, BLACK SELF-ADHESIVE WITH 18 BLACK LABELS, STRAIGHT DIE CUT, #TDB87, very fine, cat. \$150.00 (Photo) MB \$75 Realized \$75



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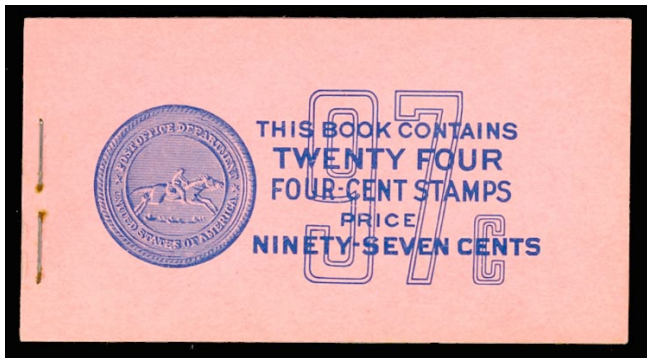


Lot 3631 TEST BOOKLET, 1997, BLUE SELF-ADHESIVE WITH 18 MAGENTA LABELS, SERPENTINE DIE CUT, #TDB89, very fine, cat. \$250.00 (Photo) MB \$125 Not Sold

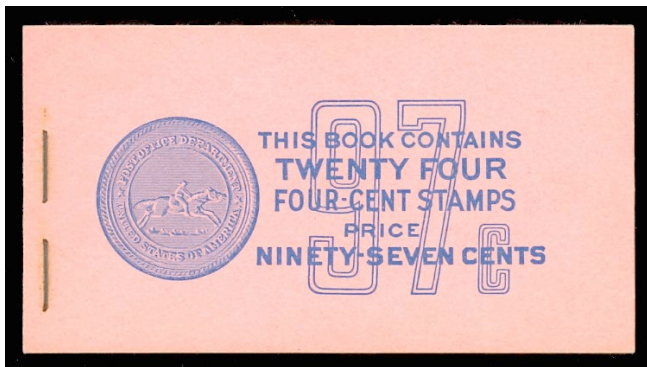
On March 18, 2009, Jacques C. Schiff, Jr., Inc. held their 323rd Public Auction that contained the following test stamps. A 15% buyer's premium is to be added to the prices realized.

Lot 1319 TD75, Blank, Cream, Cpl sealed blank coil roll (1,000), violet "Dummy Coils" stamped on outer wrapper No photo (Cat. \$1.25 pair) \$625.00 Unknown realization.

On March 24, 2009, Paradise Valley Stamp Company, Inc. held Mail Auction #F177 that contained the following test stamps. There is no buyer's premium to be added to the prices realized.



Lot 4186 TEST BOOKLET, 1959, 97c BLUE ON PINK COVER, #TBD5, with waxed glassine interleaves, very fine, cat. \$175.00 (Photo) MB \$75 Not Sold



Lot 4187 TEST BOOKLET, 1959, 97c BLUE ON PINK COVER, #TBD5b, with silicone interleaves, very fine, cat. \$175.00 (Photo) MB\$150 Realized \$210



Lot 4188 TEST BOOKLET, 1959, 85c BLUE AIR MAIL COVER, #TBD6, with waxed glassine interleaves, very fine, cat. \$175.00 (Photo) MB \$75 Realized \$190

On April 7, 2009, Paradise Valley Stamp Company, Inc. held Mail Auction #F178 that contained the following test stamps. There is no buyer's premium to be added to the prices realized.

Lot 4600 1930s, ELECTRIC VENDORS (ZEIGLE), INC. WHITE, BLUE AND GREEN BLANK TEST COIL PAIRS NH, #TD79-TD81, mint never hinged, very fine, cat. \$120.00 (Photo) MB \$60 Not Sold



Lot 4601 TEST STAMP - SMALL COLLECTION, eight diff in pairs, incl. nos. TD96, TD107, TD107b, TD111 line-pair, TD112, TD117, TD123, fine-very fine, cat. \$67.00 (Photo) MB \$30 Realized \$30



Lot 4602 1954, KANSAS TERRITORIAL CENTENNIAL EXPERIMENTAL NH, #TD98, mint never

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hinged, very fine, normal included for comparison, cat. \$200.00 (Photo) MB \$100 Realized \$170

Lot 4603 TEST BOOKLET, 1999, SELF-ADHESIVE & GLUED BOOKLET, BLANK COVER AND PANE, SERPENTINE DIE CUT, #TBD60, complete unexploded, fine-very fine, cat. \$150.00 (Photo) MB\$75 Not Sold

Lot 4604 TEST BOOKLET, 1997, BLUE SELF-ADHESIVE WITH 18 MAGENTA LABELS, SERPENTINE DIE CUT, #TDB89, very fine, cat. \$250.00 (Photo) MB \$125 Not Sold

Lot 4605 TEST BOOKLET, 1997, BLACK SELF-ADHESIVE WITH 18 BLACK LABELS, STRAIGHT DIE CUT, #TDB87, very fine, cat. \$150.00 (Photo) MB \$75 Not Sold

On April 16-19, 2009, Regency Superior held Public Auction #73 that contained the following test stamps. A 17% buyer's premium is to be added to the prices realized.

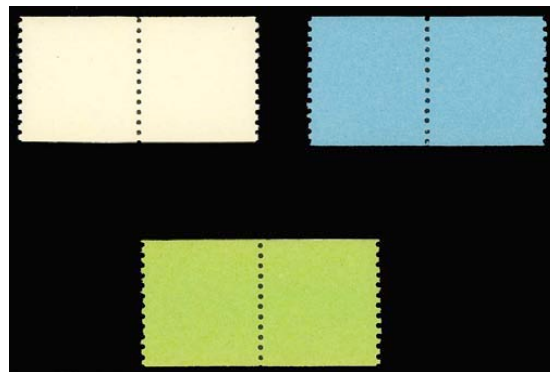


Lot 2926 (3019-23P) 1995 ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILES, TEST PANE PROOF Vertical strip of 5 with 00 denomination, imperf on gummed stamp paper with simulated perforations. Estimate: \$850, Realized \$150



Lot 2927 (TD19) 1909-10 HAMILTON (1,2,3,4) RED, BLOCK. Right margin block of 4. Unused, no gum as issued. Light wrinkles, fine to very fine. Rare and undervalued in Scott. \$2000 Not Sold

On May 5, 2009, Paradise Valley Stamp Company, Inc. held Mail Auction #F180 that contained the following test stamps. There is no buyer's premium to be added to the prices realized.



Lot 5553 1930s, ELECTRIC VENDORS (ZEIGLE), INC. WHITE, BLUE AND GREEN BLANK TEST COIL PAIRS NH, #TD79-TD81, mint never hinged, very fine, cat. \$120.00 (Photo) MB \$60 Realized \$60





Lot 5554 TEST STAMP - SMALL COLLECTION, eight diff in pairs, incl. nos. TD96, TD107, TD107b, TD111 line-pair, TD112, TD117, TD123, fine-very fine, cat. \$67.00 (Photo) MB \$30 Realized \$30

Lot 5555 TEST BOOKLET, 1999, SELF-ADHESIVE & GLUED BOOKLET, BLANK COVER AND PANE, SERPENTINE DIE CUT, #TBD60, complete unexploded, fine-very fine, cat. \$150.00 (Photo) MB \$75 Not Sold

Lot 5556 TEST BOOKLET, 1997, BLUE SELF-ADHESIVE WITH 18 MAGENTA LABELS, SERPENTINE DIE CUT, #TDB89, very fine, cat. \$250.00 (Photo) MB \$125 Not Sold

Lot 5557 TEST BOOKLET, 1997, BLACK SELF-ADHESIVE WITH 18 BLACK LABELS, STRAIGHT DIE CUT, #TDB87, very fine, cat. \$150.00 (Photo) MB \$75 Not Sold

On May 15-16, 2009, The Stamp Center - Dutch Country held Public Auction #262 A 12% buyer's premium is to be added to the prices realized.

Lot 599 TEST STAMPS TD107d Comp Roll of (500) F-VF NH No photo. Cat \$1,320.00 Realized \$190

On May 20, 2009, Downeast Stamps held Public Auction #255. A 10% buyer's premium is to be added to the prices realized.



Lot 0983 \*\* TD38, Rochester, strip of four, VF, NH Cat. \$100.00 Not Sold

Lot 0984 na \*\* TD75, coil roll of 1000, blank with horizontal ribbed gum, leader printed: '3¢ U.S. Postage stamps / coiled sidewise / perforated between sides', No photo. Cat. \$650.00 Not Sold

Lot 0985 na \*\* TDB32, cplt booklet with gummed blank test stamps, VF No photo Cat. \$20.00 Not Sold

On May 26-27, 2009, Daniel F. Kelleher Co., Inc held Public Auction #6195. A 15% buyer's premium is to be added to the prices realized.



Lot 785 Test Stamp, Mailometer (type I) (Scott TD47), blank print, Very Fine, o.g., never hinged; internal paper crease, very scarce. Scott \$200 Not Sold



Lot 787 BK Test Stamp, "For Testing Purposes Only" (Scott TDB89), unfolded booklet of 18 labels, Very Fine, o.g., never hinged. Scott \$250 Realized \$64



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Lot 786 Test Stamps, Nebraska Territorial Centennial Experimental complete (Scott TD99-TD101a), 5 different blocks of 4, Very Fine, o.g., never hinged, TD99a & TD101a ungummed, couple light gum bends, 4 cat. \$3,200 (TD99, TD100 & TD101, TD101a) + TD99a priced with a dash, all extremely scarce & seldom seen. Estimate \$2,000-\$3,000. Not Sold



Lot 788 Test Stamp, Multicolored Flower Test (Scott TD129B), horizontal pair + instruction label, Very Fine, o.g., never hinged, faint paper bend, very scarce & important position piece. Scott \$500 Realized \$100



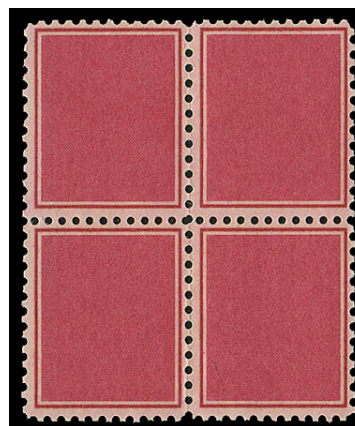
On June 2, 2009, Paradise Valley Stamp Company, Inc. held Mail Auction #F182 that contained the following test stamps. There is no buyer's premium to be added to the prices realized.

Lot 6563 TEST STAMP - SMALL COLLECTION, eight diff in pairs, incl. nos. TD96, TD107, TD107b, TD111 line-pair, TD112, TD117, TD123, fine-very fine, cat. \$67.00 (Photo) MB\$30 Not Sold

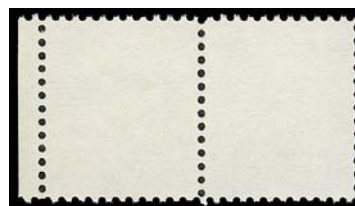


On 2009.06.6-7 Regency Superior held Public Auction #74 that contained the following test

stamps. A 17% buyer's premium is to be added to the prices realized.



Lot 2271 \*\* (TD94) 1954 FRAMED RECTANGLE, CARMINE, BLOCK, Fresh, MINT never hinged block of 4 with vertically ridged gum. Very fine, two trivial perf seps at side. Cat \$400. Estimate: \$250, Realized \$170



Lot 2272 \*\* (TD113-14) 1964 BLANK BEP TEST STAMP, BOTH TAGGING TYPES, MARGIN PAIRS (2 pairs), Pristine matching MINT never hinged margin pairs from the only pane of each to ever surface. Test stamps were created by BEP to test different tagging. One block glows yellow-green (zinc-orthosilicate); the other glows reddish-orange (calcium silicate). Scarce position pieces! Cat \$200 Estimate: \$150 Realized \$220. □

## Requests for Articles for The United States Specialist

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