



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 Thirty-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 Terry R. Scott, Chairman of the Dummy Stamps Study Group at trs@napanet.net

A Very Strange "Jump Print" on a Strip of Scott TD88 Multipost Test Stamps



Shown above is a very unusual strip of 4 Scott TD88 Multipost test stamps. For the lack of a better description of this unusual strip, I am calling it a "jump print strip".

I consulted both John Hotchner and Ken Lawrence about a possible explanation for this unusual item and basically both of them agree on how it may have happened.

John Hotchner had the following to say about his idea of how this may of occurred. "The perforations are where they belong all across the strip. My best guess is that the press was stopped because of a problem with the paper up ahead, when it was started up again, the tensioning of the web was interrupted and there was a momentary back up that straightened itself out between the misplace images and the next images. Since the web was completed, and the perforations were normal, the pressmen did not notice this and it got out. A very unusual variety that I have not seen with any regular postage stamps. Given that

the web was probably 20 subjects or more wide, there should be more of these out there."

Ken Lawrence had the following to say about this item and John Hotchner's comment. "I think his explanation is right, but that is two subjects horizontally. We don't know how many rows were printed vertically." *please turn to page 2* ➤

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It is apparent that the printing plate was 2 stamps in width but it is unknown how many rows of stamps were on the plate. I have noticed that on quite a few of the private printed test stamps they show constant plate varieties every two stamps. Some have actual

plate flaws, some just seem to be mis-aligned every two stamps.

Does anyone out there have a further idea of how this may have occurred? Your comments would be greatly appreciated.

Newly Discovered C & R Stamp Affixing Machine Test Coil

by Terry R. Scott

Earlier this year Dummy Stamps Study Group member, Sean Kennedy, found a previously unreported test coil listed on eBay and was successful in its purchase.

This discovery is shown to the right. It was originally a vertical strip of 6, but prior to the seller listing it on eBay, it was separated into 3 vertical pairs. The stamp is red in color and printed by lithography on unwatermarked paper by the American Bank Note Company, New York as printed at the bottom of the stamp design. It is perforated 11.0 horizontally and shiny gum.

The newly discovered C & R Stamp Affixer Machine test stamp has been proposed for listing in the 2015 *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers* with the catalogue number TD27A.

A detailed article on the newly discovered C&R Stamp Affixer test coil written by Sean Kennedy may be found on pages 315 - 318 in the July 2014 edition of *The United States Specialist*.

This new discovery is nearly 100 years old and makes us wonder how many other different unreported private printed test coils are still out there just waiting for someone to find them. Undoubtedly there are others just waiting to excite us when they

are discovered and reported. Keep your eyes open for such unreported test stamps and promptly report them to your fellow collectors and after positive research they could possibly be listed in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers*.



Mel Getlan's New Newsletter on Vending Perforations

Fellow Dummy Stamps Study Group member, Melvin Getlan has started a new newsletter on the subject of Vending & Affixing Machine Perforations.

Several of the Vending & Affixing Machine Perforations shown in that section of the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers* are also appear on test stamps of that same period.

Mel would appreciate contact from any collectors that are interested in the Vending & Affixing Machine Perforations as well as the test stamps associated with these interesting private perforations.

Mel can be contacted at: MIgacg@cs.com

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Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

On June 25, 2014 Vance Auctions, Ltd. held Sale #301 that contained the following test stamps. There is no Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 4791 * TD91, Test Coil Pair, VF, NH No Photo Cat. \$50.00 Realization unknown

Lot 4792 * TD107, Test stamp coils, 2 Joint Line Strips of 4 incl one with horiz INK SMEARS, F-VF, NH No Photo Est. \$35.00 \$Cdn Realization unknown

Lot 4793 * TD10-7, Test stamp coils as singles, pairs, strips of 4 and Joint Line strips of 4. Incl regular PLUS VARIETY showing horiz INK SMEARS, VF, NH (22 stamps) No Photo Est. \$45.00 \$Cdn Realization unknown

Lot 4794 * TDB5, TEST BOOKLET, 1959 blue on pink 97¢. F-VF, NH Photo Cat. \$175.00 Realization unknown

Lot 4795 * TDB61, Blank self-adhesive TEST PANE of 10 in complete booklet with blank cover. VF. Scarce. Photo Cat. \$150.00 Realization unknown

On July 18-19, 2014 Dutch Country Auctions / The Stamp Center held Sale #293 that contained the following test stamps (Note: This is not a test stamp but sometimes is believed to be one). There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 381 * Essay, (Unknown) VF 3 cent blue perforated, gummed plate essay block of (12), in (2) blocks of (6) folded over and adhering to one another. 2014 PF cert "Genuine product of ABN Co. opinion

declined re: usage in production of U.S. or foreign postal issue," very interesting! Photo Est. \$75.00 - \$125.00 Realized \$145.00

On August 2, 2014 Alan Blair Public held Auction #150 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 10% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 948 ** TDB9, TDB12 & TDB15 VF NH three



different TEST BKLTS, each marked "Dummy" Photo Cat. \$290.00 Realized \$21.00

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On August 21-22, 2014 Harmer Schau Auctions held APS Show Public Auction #102 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 2241 ** **TD108 U.S. Test Stamps, 1970, B.E.P.** "For Testing Purposes Only", Carmine, #TD108, n.h., line pair, well centered, unpriced as line pair, immaculate and Very Fine. Scott \$1,900 + (pair). *One of three known. Photo.* Estimate \$1,300.00 - \$1,600.00 Not Sold



On August 23, 2014 Rasdale Stamp Company held Auction #421 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 66 * **(TD61A) 1917 Kendall Stamp Affixer strip of four.** Both paper and gum are naturally dull. Left stamp with large facial scuff, small bit of gum adhered to the face of the right stamp. Middle pair is sound. Perfs are a little weak coming from the partial coil roll that was broken up years ago. Recently listed in the Scott Specialized. Very scarce item. Centered Fine. (Cover Photo) \$1,300.00 Realized \$270.00



On August 23-24, 2014 Regency Superior held Sale #106 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 19% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 1712 ** **TEST STAMPS (TD27) 1909-10 SIMPLEX STAMP AFFIXER, RED IMPERF, PAIR** Vertical pair, Mint, Never Hinged, vertical gum crease, bottom stamp horizontal crease ending in small tear at right, otherwise fine. A similar, sound pair in our June sale hammered for \$625.00 Photo. Est. \$400.00 Realized \$270.00

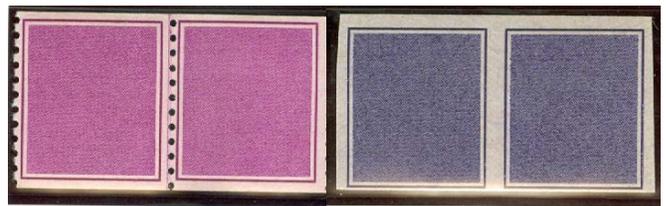


Lot 1713 **TEST STAMPS, RED PROTEST COIL, PAIR** Coil pair 'Half your letter postage is a tax,' produced by the National One Cent Letter Postage Association, Cleveland. Mint, never hinged, very fine, Photo Est. \$150.00 Realized \$80.00 (Note: This is NOT a test stamp although often passed off as one)



On August 27, 2014 Vance Auctions Ltd. Sale #304 that contained the following test stamps. There is no Buyer's Premium for this sale.

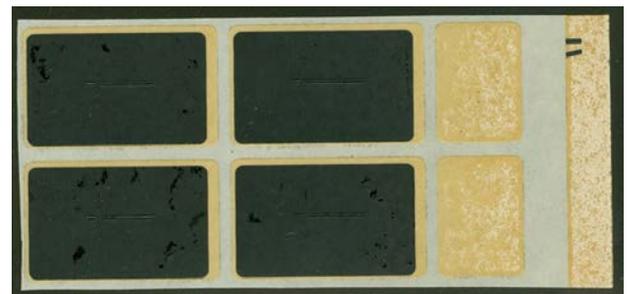
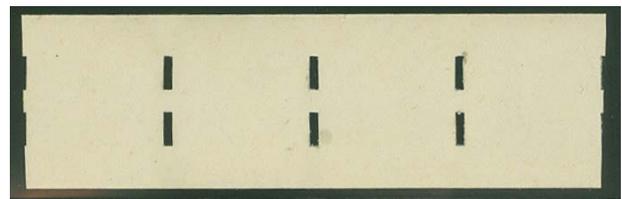
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Lot 4543 * TD91, Strip of 4 of the 1944 Coil Test Stamp, VF, NH, Photo Cat. \$100.00 Realization unknown.



On September 19-20, 2014 Dutch Country Auctions / The Stamp Center held Sale #294 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 704 Selection unused (11) pairs, incl. TD33, TD91, TD93, TD95a, (2) BK4 incl. TD101 & a few others varied cond. gen. VF NH No Photo Est. \$125.00 - \$175.00 Realized \$135.00



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Proposed Future DSSG Projects

Updating Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets

Work is progressing on updating *Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets*. The last update by Dummy Booklets Study Group Chairman Earl McAfee, 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 - Dummy Stamp Booklets*. I am working closely with Mike Perry on this update project. We know that it will take quite a bit of time to complete, mid to late 2015 is hopefully our estimated completion

date. I will be asking all of you to join us in this project as we are not able to do it all, nor would you want us 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 it is compiled. Scans at 300 dpi, or better, are necessary for clarity. It is anticipated that this publication will be in color. It has not yet been determined if *Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets* will be available electronically. □

The Other Proposed Projects

There are several other projects currently being worked on by various members of the DSSG. They are as follows:

- Compiling a complete and comprehensive list of dummy test stamp roll sizes, box and roll labels. There are many different styles of labels sometimes found on the same test stamps. This is especially true of Bureau of Engraving and Printing products
- Compiling a complete and comprehensive record of auction appearances and prices realized for test stamps
- Compiling a complete and comprehensive listing of references for test stamps
- Compiling a complete and comprehensive list of plate numbers printed on test stamps and the frequency in which they appear and the frequency of joint lines on test coils when they appear. □

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 □

This issue and all past issues of the Dummy Stamps Study Group Newsletter - Dummy News and Views may be found at:

<http://www.usstamps.org/dssg.html>