



Dummy News and Views

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

Issue Number 55

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Welcome to the Dummy Stamps Study Group's Fifty-fifth 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 United States Stamp Society's Dummy Stamps Study Group at terryrscott@comcast.net

Annual Meeting with Scott Catalogue Editor Emeritus Jim Kloetzel at WESTPEX 2019

by Terry R. Scott

An event we look forward to every year at the WESTPEX stamp show in San Francisco is our annual meeting with Jim Kloetzel, Editor Emeritus of the *Scott Specialized Catalogue*. This year's show was held April 26-28, 2019 and as usual it was a great stamp show.

This year, once again, I was joined by Mike Perry and Doug Iams for another very productive meeting with Jim. We are fortunate to have this opportunity to present our ideas to improve the Test Stamp section of the upcoming edition of the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers* and to report new discoveries in the test stamp collecting area. As usual Jim was very receptive to our suggestions and comments.

This year we were able to have Jim's wife Karolyn take a photo of the group in the perfect location for our meeting - in the youth area of the show! From left to right are Terry R. Scott, James Kloetzel, Doug Iams and Michael O. Perry.

The signs in the background imply collecting test stamps is for kids or beginners, but we choose to believe it keeps us young at heart. □



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New Test Stamps Listed in the 2019 Scott Specialized Catalogue

by Terry R. Scott & Michael O. Perry

The 2019 edition of the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers* was released in early October 2018. There were revisions to some of the listings and several new test stamp discoveries were listed for the first time.

In the Fall 2018 and Winter 2018-19 issues of the Dummy Stamps Study Group's *Dummy News and Views* (Issue numbers 53 and 54), we presented information about two of the newly listed test stamps (Scott TD130A and TD130C). In this issue of *Dummy News and Views* we will illustrate another new test stamp discovery.

This test stamp is listed as Scott TD130G and has a tropical fish design. The dimensions of the design are 35.5 mm x 21.0 mm, which is typical for a commemorative size stamp. Based on similar marginal markings on the previously reported Scott TD130C Flag, it is also likely these were produced by Sennett Security Products.

Like Scott TD130A and Scott TD130C stamps, all known Scott TD130G stamps are attached to liner paper that was hand cut from a partially processed coil web section.

Unlike the Scott TD130A and Scott TD130C stamps, there is no printing on the back of the liner paper. Shown below is a top margin block of 8 cropped from the press sheet that shows the printing information in the upper left margin above the magenta, cyan and yellow triangles. Note the date "07/09/98". As shown in the previous Newsletter, the press sheet of TD130C was printed two days earlier (on July 7, 1998).

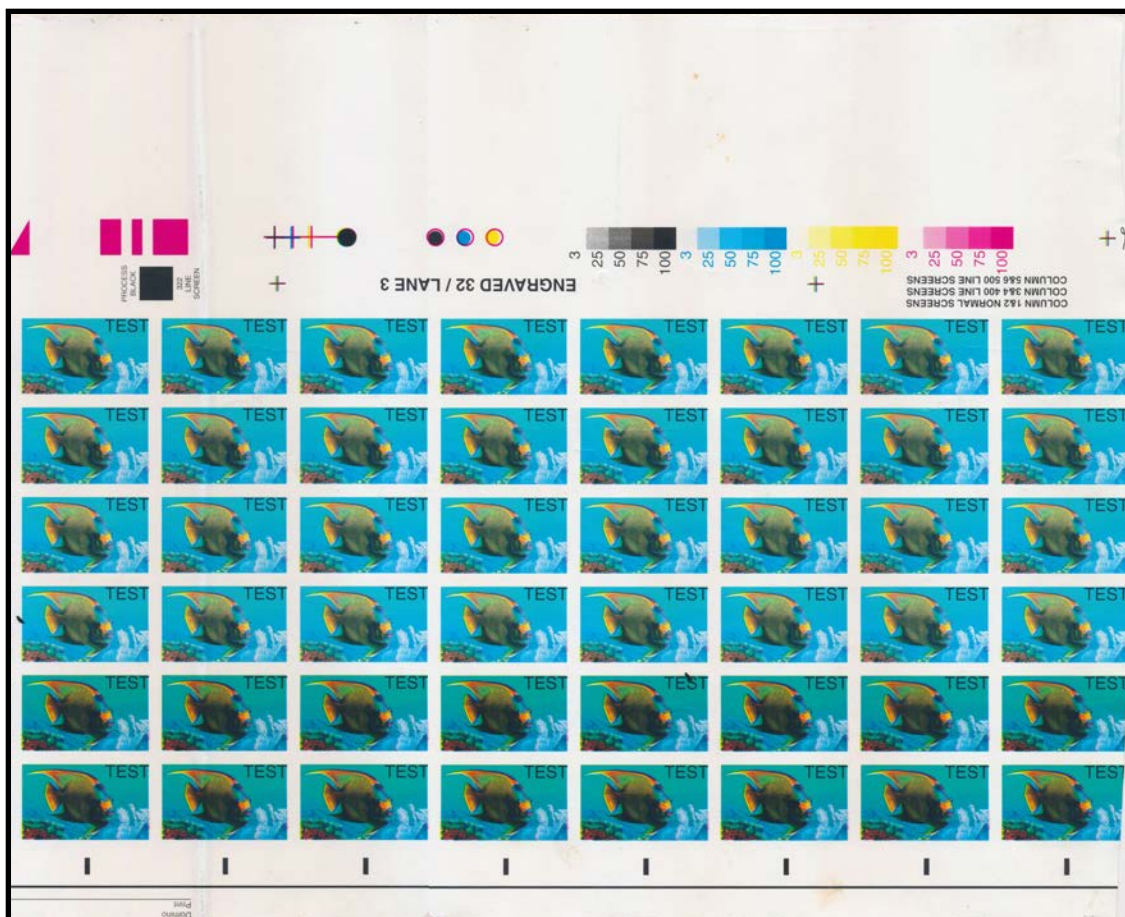
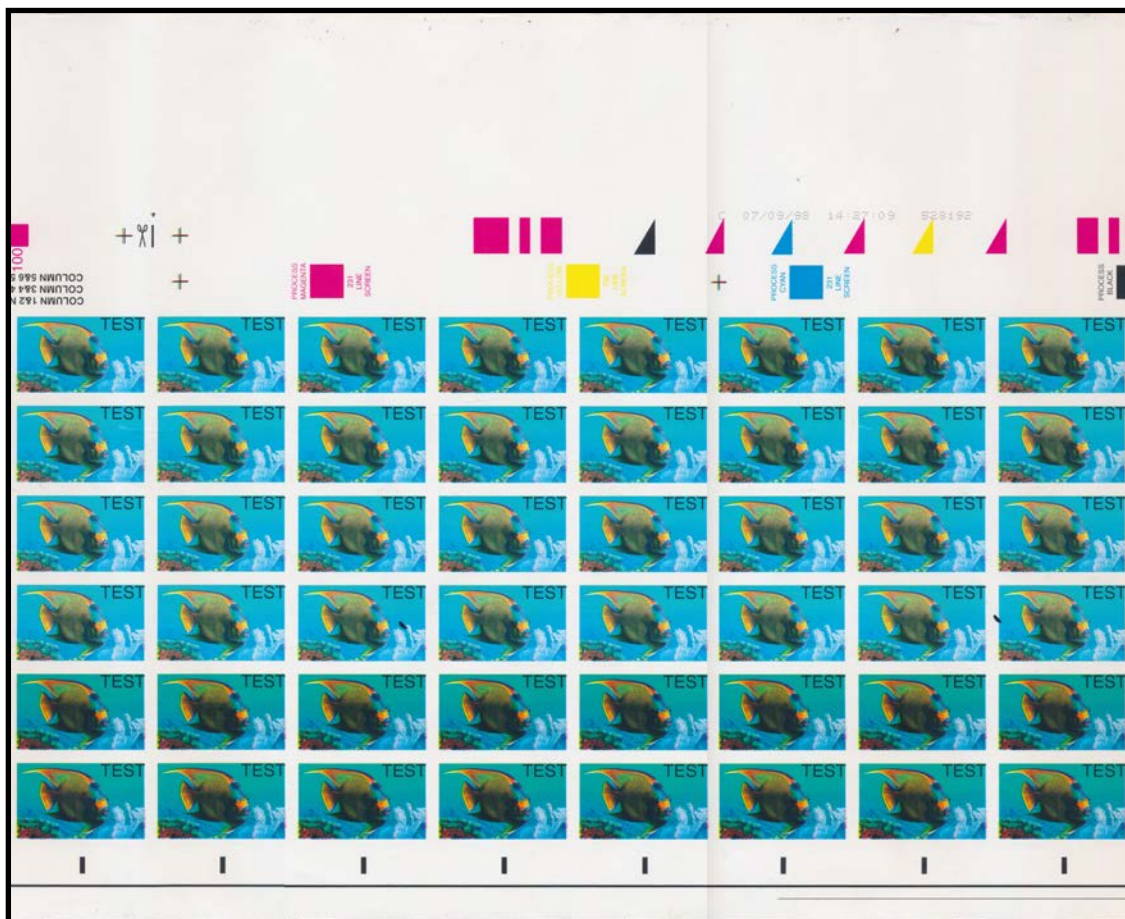
This 1998 Tropical Fish test stamp was intended to be processed into coil rolls of commemorative size stamps. While not identical to the longer commemorative "Flags of Our Nation" series of coil stamps issued ten years later (in 2008-12), they have similarities (both were Sennett Security products).

The following page shows two photographically cropped portions of a complete plate impression from the set of four 84-subject gravure cylinders. Those two images each contain an extra vertical column of stamps to allow you to better understand how the web actually looked (the left column on the top image is identical to the right column on the bottom image, and the left column on the bottom image is identical to the right column on the top image). Thus, if you overlapped those two images, you would see what a complete plate impression looked like.

The bottom web section would overlap the web section shown at the top over the right column of stamps. That would be the top stamps with the black square with "**PROCESS / BLACK / 322 / LINE / SCREEN**" around it. Both images are 48-subjects for a total of 96-subjects, whereas a complete cylinder circumference is 84-subjects, therefore there is one additional column of 6-subjects shown and one column of 6-stamps that would be overlaid. Note the scissor image at the far right and the same scissor image on the top image between the first and second column of stamps. The purpose of most of the registration markings can be understood, but the inverted "**ENGRAVED 32 / LANE 3**" notation is a mystery.



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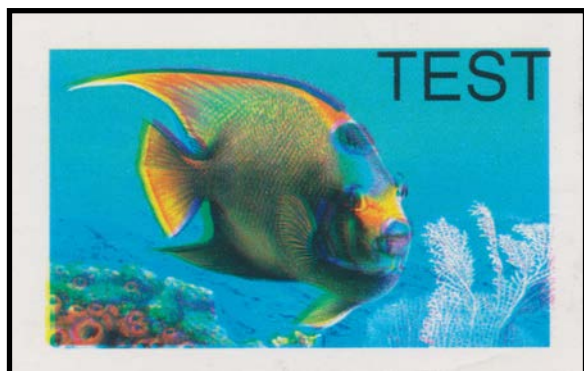


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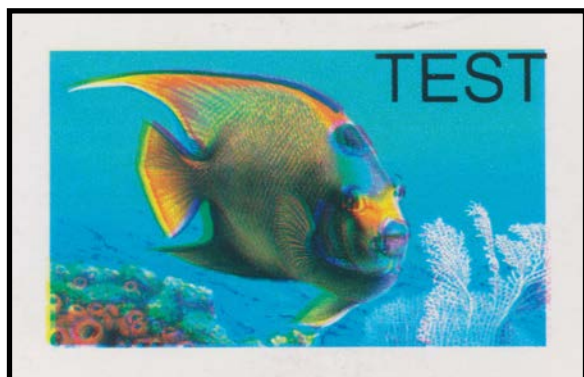
The short black “cutting” lines along the bottom

edge of the web are identical to the black dashes seen at the bottom of the TD130C Flag test coils. These black dashes possibly indicate that TD130C and TD130G were printed at the same time on the same press from the same set of gravure cylinders. Note that the TD130C press sheet has an **"ENGRAVED 24 / LANE 2"** inscription whereas this Fish sheet has **"ENGRAVED 32 / LANE 3"**.

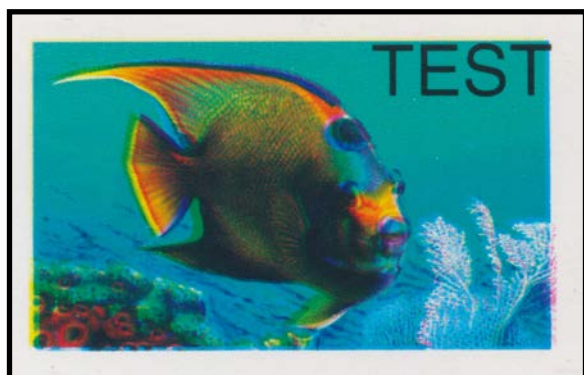
The singles shown below, that were cropped from the web piece, are indicated with the line screen print used. Can you tell any difference in the normal "300" and the 400 line screen printings?



300 line screen print from the top two rows.



400 line screen print from the center two rows.



500 line screen print from the bottom two rows.

The 300 line screen print from the top two rows and the 400 line screen print from the center two rows are virtually indistinguishable. It is obvious that the 500 line screen print from the bottom two rows is much darker.



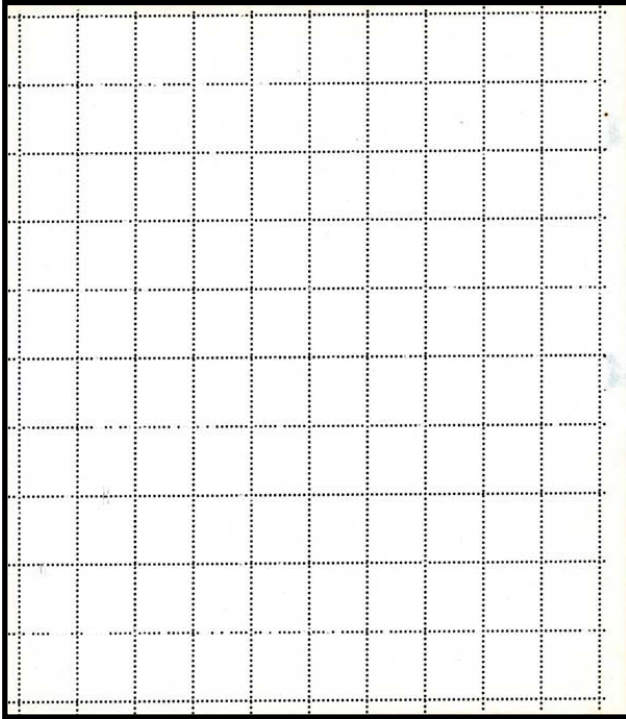
If you have any additional information on the Scott TD130G and/or other test stamps please do not hesitate to contact the Dummy Stamps Study Group. ☐

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Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

On March 24, 2019 Michael Rogers Online, a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC held Sale #5041 that contained the following test stamps. There was a 20% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



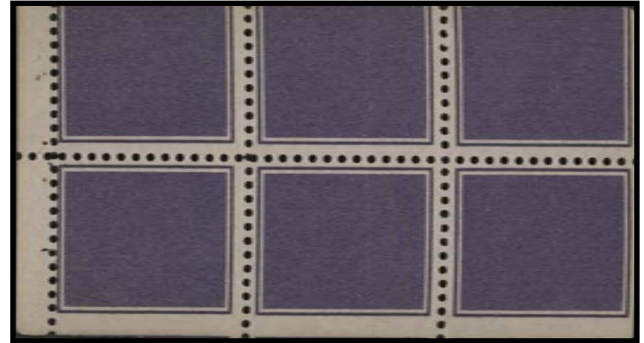
Lot 11433 ★ ★ TD84A Test Stamp, 1920's-50's, B.E.P. blank design, gum breaker ridges 5mm to 6.5mm apart (Scott TD84A), two complete sheets of 100, unusual complete test sheets; usual staple holes on each sheet and some damage to large selvage, most of the stamps are sound, perf disc indents on several stamps, diagonal crease across ten stamps, o.g., never hinged, F.-V.F. Photo. Scott \$2,500 as blocks of four. Not sold.



On April 2, 2019 Kupersmit Philatelic Auctions held an auction that contained the following test stamps. There was an 18% Buyer's Premium for this sale. These test stamps were from the collection of the late Sam Frank.

Lot 230 ** TDB3, Complete test booklet with cover of BK84 (used for Scott 720b) and two panes of "Framed Rectangles", VF. New York City stamp dealer B. I. Berger discovered 16 of these booklets when he bought a group of 3c "Presidential" booklets at the New York Post Office around 1940, the BEP stated that these

booklets were supposed to have been destroyed once the testing of new cutting devices that made them had concluded. No photo. Catalog \$600.00, Realized \$230.00.



Lot 231 * #TDB3a, slightly miscut Never Hinged Test Booklet Pane with covers and one pane of interleaving from booklet (Per Sam Frank's notes on glassine envelope in which it was found), Fine, Photo. 2019 Scott Specialized Catalog USD \$250.00 Realized \$60.00.

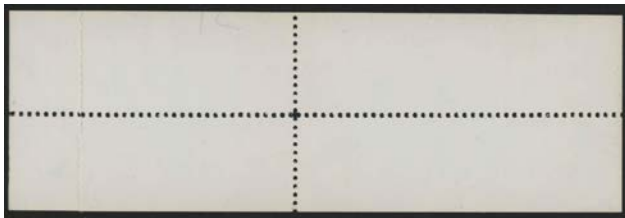


Lot 232 * #TDB17, TDB17a, Complete Test Booklets with different "Dummy" Overprints, one is 34 x 6.5mm and the other is 30 x 5mm, Very Fine, Photo. 2019 Scott Specialized Catalog: USD \$600.00 Realized \$300.00.

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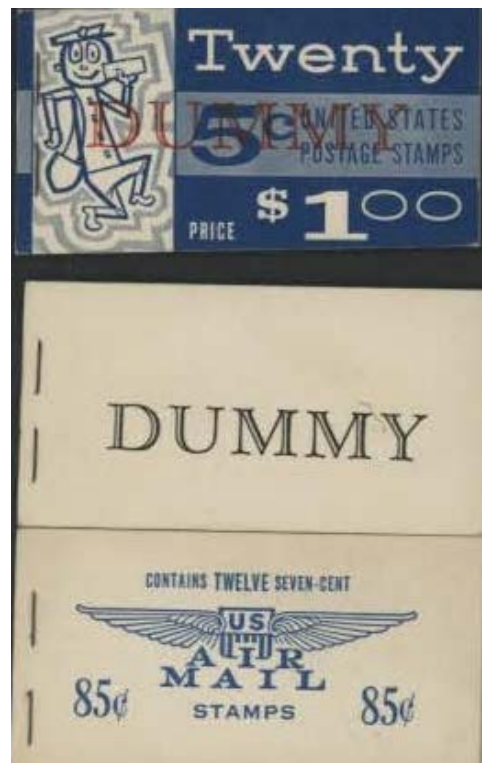
Lot 233 * #TDB18a, Complete Test Booklet with "Dummy" Overprint, Very Fine, No Photo. 2019 Scott Specialized Catalog: USD \$400.00 Realized \$300.00.



Lot 234 ** Test Booklet Unlisted Type, 43 x 135mm with horizontal and vertical perforations and extra row of unpunched horizontal perfs 16mm from top, dull gum, tab has two tiny thins on reverse from removal from booklet, Extremely Fine, there is a part of a post it note that reads, "unique \$1,500". [Editor's note: the "unpunched perf" were actually where the pane accordioned on itself after the pane was glued into the booklet and the booklet folded. This pane came from a dummy Pheasant booklet with Scott BC41 covers] Photo. Estimate: \$300.00 - \$400.00 Realized \$250.00.



See additional photos of items in Lot 235 in the right column on this page. See the lot description is on Page 7.



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Lot 235 ** Test Booklet and Test Booklet Pane collection, comprising complete booklets TDB5 (three), TDB6, TDB9, TDB12, TDB26, TDB27 (3), TDB32 (4), booklet panes TDB7a misperforated and miscut booklet pane, disturbed gum, with pen note "From BK109 "HIS" booklet from Ken Zigler 5/30/04", TDB13a, TDB14a, TDB15a, Very Fine collection, Photo. 2019 Scott Specialized Catalog: USD \$1,415.00 Realized \$350.00.



Lot 236 ** Self Adhesive Test Booklet Pane collection, comprising Nos. TDB81, TDB82 (four), TDB89 (two), TDB91 (three), TDB92, TDB99 (two), also incl. the following unlisted similar items -- "NCR & USPS" (two), "NCR" with flag (two), 29c Rose, Avery Denison sheets at Pacific 97 (three) and World Stamp Expo 2000, Extremely Fine group, Photo. 2019 Scott Specialized Catalog: USD \$471.50 Realized \$700.00. (Editor's Note: The correct 2019 Scott Catalog value was \$3,477.50 rather than \$471.50.)

On April 3, 2019 Downeast Stamps held Sale #319 that contained the following test stamps. There was a 12% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 652 ** TD107, black, strip of three with purple horizontal rejection smear across stamps, VF, OG, NH, Photo. Est. \$15.00 Realized Unknown.



Lot 850 ** TD107, black, miscut strip/5, Photo. Est. \$30.00 Realized \$15.00.

On April 4-6, 2019 H. R. Harmer, Inc. held Sale #3024 that contained the following test stamps. There was an 18% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



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Lot 1617 * **BEP Rotary Press Development, TD23, 1910 Red coil, Numerals and Alexander Hamilton**, pair, NH, perfs cut design (as per Scott footnote), top single light margin stain, still Fine and scarce. Photo. Scott \$800.00 Realized \$450.00.

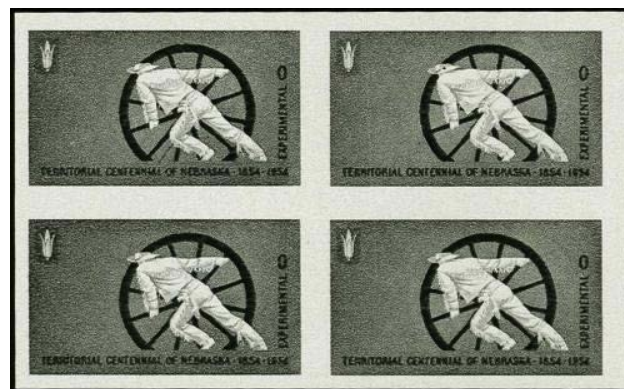
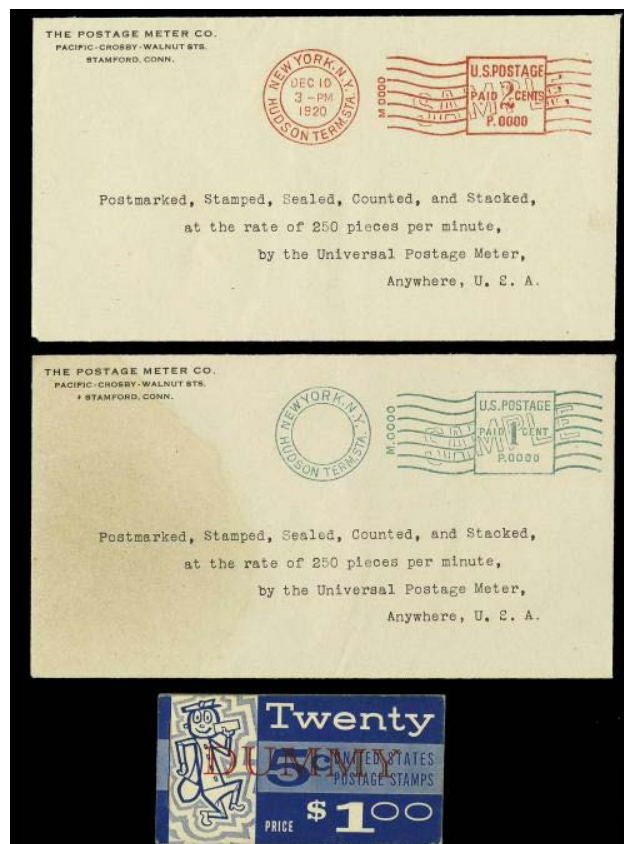


Lot 1618 * Harris Offset Press, Essay on Hard White Wove Paper, TD29, 3c Minerva facing left, pair on hard white wove paper, large part watermark in right stamp (Scott footnote states "No stamps are known with the watermark"), without gum as issued, Extremely Fine, Photo. Scott \$1,350.00 Realized \$625.00.



Lot 1619 ** TD110, 1975 Orange coil, pair, NH, small scuff at bottom left corner of left stamp, o/w Very Fine; 2019 PSE Certificate, Photo. Scott \$2,000.00 Realized \$1,050.00.

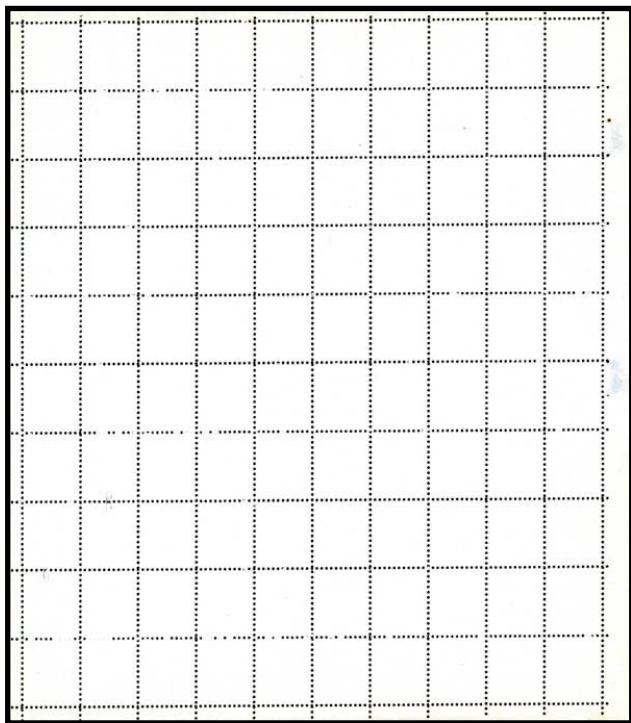
Lot 1620 "U.S. Postage Paid 2 Cents, P.0000 Sample", Meter, Machine Cancel. in red, dated Dec 10 1920 with New York Hudson Term. Sta., a sample run created by Postage Meter Co., also includes 1c in green (undated), both with typed address panel "Postmarked, Stamped, Counted and Stacked at the rate of 250 pieces per minute, by the Universal Postage Meter, Anywhere, U.S.A.", also includes "Dummy" booklet (TDB12a). 1¢ cover with light water stain, otherwise VF and quite unusual, of special importance to meter or machine collector. Photo. Realized \$75.00. See photo in top right column.



Lot 1621 ** Test Stamps Assortment, 1930s/90s, on Safe hingeless pages and incl. TD79 pair, TD100 single and block, TD101 single and block, assortment of TD107 pairs incl. some with various defacement lines, TD109 pair, TDB91-92 panes of 18, etc., F-VF. Photo Ex. Realized \$200.00.

On April 7, 2019 Michael Rogers Online, a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC held Sale #5042 that contained the following test stamps. There was a 20% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

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Lot 6338 ** TD84A Test Stamp, 1920's-50's, B.E.P. blank design, gum breaker ridges 5mm to 6.5mm apart (Scott TD84A), two complete sheets of 100, unusual complete test sheets; usual staple holes on each sheet, selvage creases above one stamp of one sheet, most of the stamps are sound, only a few perf disc indents, o.g., never hinged, F.-V.F. Photo. Scott \$2,500.00 as blocks of four. Not sold.

On April 25-28, 2019 Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions held their annual WESTPEX auction that contained the following test stamps. There was a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 1922 ** TD108 Test Stamp, 1970, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only", carmine, untagged, dull gum. Horizontal pair, o.g., never hinged, exceptional centering, pristine, Extremely Fine, a rare key test stamp issue, with 2015 Weiss certificate. Photo. Scott No. TD108; \$1,900.00 Realized \$525.00. (Editor's Note - these stamps

were always tagged. Also, these stamps were never produced with dull gum; the pair they offered may have had no gum (as is often the case with the carmine FTPO coils).

On May 8, 2019 Vance Auctions Ltd. held Sale #337 that contained the following test stamps. There was no Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 5200 * TDB92a, Self adhesive TEST Booklet Pane of 18. VF, NH. Photo. Cat. \$250.00 Realized \$105.00

On May 10-11, 2019 Dutch Country Auctions / The Stamp Center held Sale #322 that contained the following test stamps. There was an 18% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 398 ** TD99-TD101,TD99a,TD101a VF NH, test stamps, Nebraska Territorial Centennial Experiment. Photo Ex. Cat. \$450.00 Realized \$475.00.

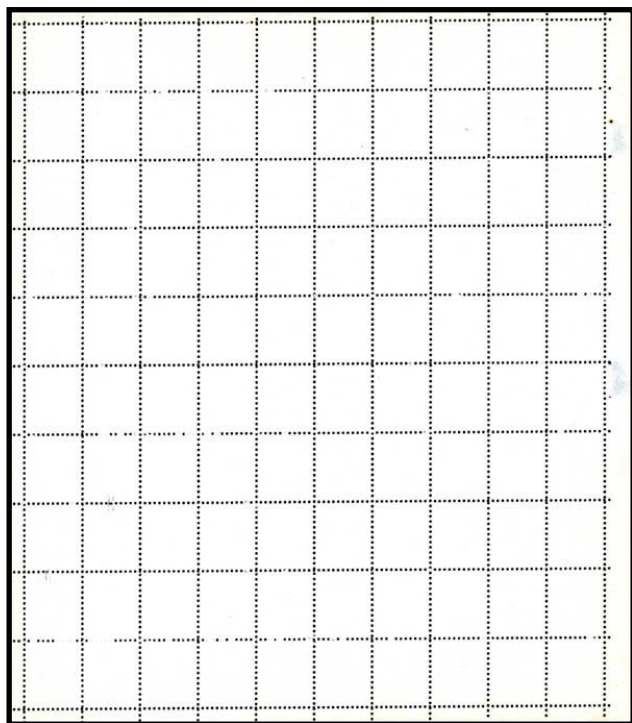
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Lot 399 ** TDB41 VF NH Daffodil test bklt, complete w/ (4) panes of (10). Photo. Cat. \$900.00 Realized \$300.00.



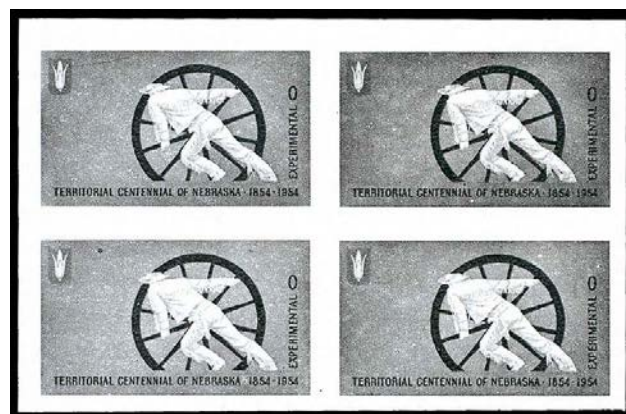
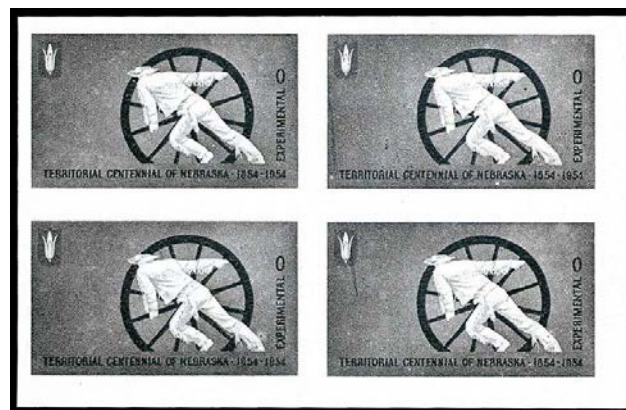
On May 12, 2019 Michael Rogers Online, a



Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC held Sale #5047 that contained the following test stamps. There was a 20% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 8721 ** TD84A **Test Stamp, 1920's-50's, B.E.P. blank design, gum breaker ridges 5mm to 6.5mm apart (Scott TD84A)**, two complete sheets of 100, unusual complete test sheets; usual staple holes on each sheet, selvage creases above one stamp of one sheet, most of the stamps are

sound, only a few perf disc indents, o.g., never hinged, F.-V.F. Scott \$2,500 as blocks of four. Photo. Not sold.



On May 16-18, 2019 Michael E. Aldrich / ABC Auction held Sale #97 that contained the following test stamps. There was a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 661 ** **TD100** Black, Block of Four, OG, NH, Extremely Fine, Photo. Cat. \$120.00 Realized \$50.00.

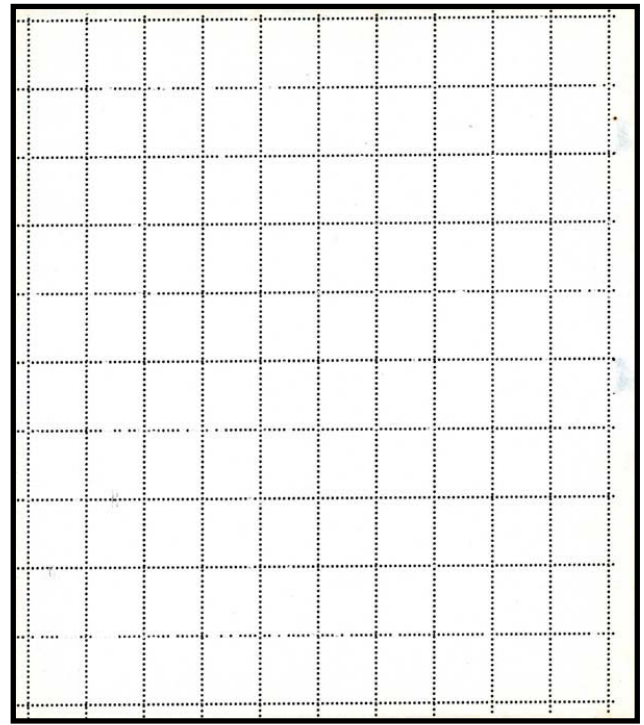
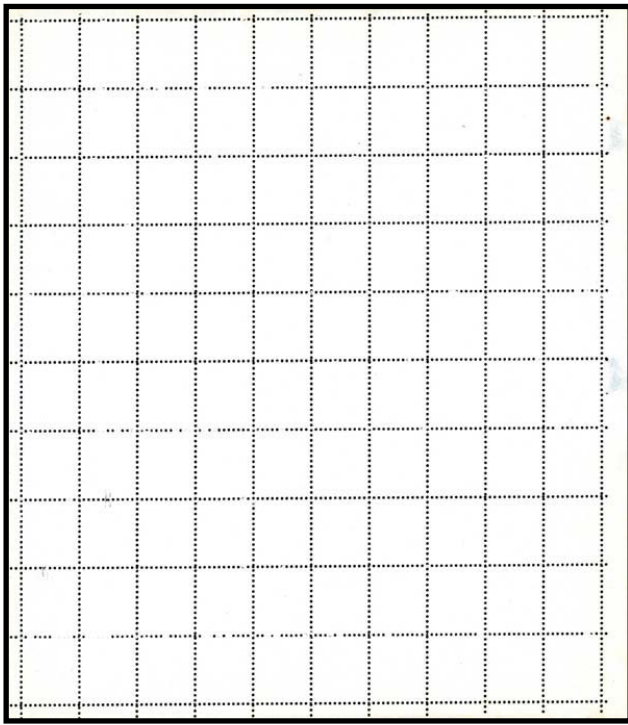
Lot 662 ** **TD100A** Gray, Block of Four, OG, NH, Extremely Fine. Photo. Cat. \$300.00 Realized \$110.00.



On May 19, 2019 Michael Rogers Online, a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC held Sale #5048 that contained the following test stamps. There was a 20% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 12460 ** TD84A **Test Stamp, 1920's-50's, B.E.P. blank design, gum breaker ridges 5mm to 6.5mm apart (Scott TD84A)**, two complete sheets of 100, unusual complete test sheets; usual

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staple holes on each sheet and some damage to large selvage, most of the stamps are sound, perf disc indents on several stamps, diagonal crease across ten stamps, o.g., never hinged, F.-V.F. Scott \$2,500 as blocks of four . Photo. Not sold. See photo on Page 11.

Lot 9221 ** **Test Stamp, 1920's-50's, B.E.P. blank design, gum breaker ridges 5mm to 6.5mm apart (Scott TD84A)**, two complete sheets of 100, unusual complete test sheets; usual staple holes on each sheet and some damage to large selvage, most of the stamps are sound, perf disc indents on several stamps, diagonal crease across ten stamps, o.g., never hinged, F.-V.F. Photo. Scott \$2,500 as blocks of four. Realized \$75.00.

On June 9, 2019 Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC held Sale #5051 that contained the following test stamps. There was a 20% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Proposed Future DSSG Projects Dummy Booklets Guide

You may have noticed a change in the title of the project that Mike Perry and I have been working on. At the WESTPEX 2019 stamp show in San Francisco, California Mike and I met several times to discuss and to show both Roger Brody and Nick Lombardi the latest draft of a project that was previously known as the updating of *Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets*.

After several discussions, Roger decided that it would be in the best interest of the *United States Stamp Society* to make this project an actual published book. In making it a book, it was also decided that the title would be changed to *Dummy Booklets Guide*. Needless to say that Mike and I were very pleased at

this decision and are working to make it the best possible publication on this interesting subject of dummy stamp books.

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 *Dummy Booklets Guide*.

I ask all of you to join Mike Perry and myself in this project as we are not able to do it all, nor would you want us to do it all. It is a Dummy Stamps Study Group project and all members have a chance, and are greatly encouraged, to provide their input. Any information on new items or any items not listed in the

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previous 1998 edition of *Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets* would be appreciated. While we believe we have most everything necessary to complete this book to include currently known dummy

booklets, we may be missing important information that you can provide. This publication will be in full color. □

Requests for Articles for The United States Specialist

Martin Kent Miller, the new 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 Martin 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*.

Martin can be reached by e-mail at: editor@usstamps.org □

The Other 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. □

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>