



Dummy News and Views

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

Issue Number 37

Fall 2014



Welcome to the Dummy Stamps Study Group's Thirty-seventh 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

Demystifying The Blank (No Printing) United States Test Stamps Part 1 - Definitive Size Blank Sheet Test Stamps

by Terry R. Scott and Michael O. Perry

The Test Stamp section of the 2015 Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers has 30 different test stamps identified with the color description of "blank". These are test stamps without any printed design. There are at least two more pending listings. Of these 32 different blank test stamps, eight are definitive size blank sheet stamps (in two different sizes), 20 are definitive size blank coil test stamps (in three different sizes) while the remaining four are commemorative size blank sheet test stamps.

Scott TD9 (design type TE9) is a large size blank sheet test stamp produced by the National Bank Note Company; it is the same size as the regular issue "Banknote" stamps produced prior to 1890 (23 x 28 mm). The other seven are small definitive size blank sheet test stamps and measure 22 x 25 mm.

Scott currently identifies the image of both TD9 (the large definitive size blank sheet test stamp) and TD10 (the first small definitive size blank sheet test stamp) as TE9. Scott currently lists the images of the other six small definitive size blank sheet test stamps as TE45f or (incorrectly) TE45g. We will propose Scott assign image TE9a to all small definitive size blank sheet test stamps, and that they place the image next to the TE9 image to show the different sizes of these definitive size blank test sheet stamps.

Therefore, our proposal will be to assign illustration number TE9a to TD10, TD83, TD84, TD84A, TD113, TD114 and TD114A. Doing this will require Scott to renumber the current TE9a image to become TE9b.

The images shown below, if printed in the Scott Catalogue at 100% full size, would help collectors and dealers better understand the two sizes of definitive size blank sheet test stamps.



TD9 (TE9) at left; TD10 (proposed TE9a) at right.

On page 2, Table 1 shows the distinguishing features of the eight different definitive size blank sheet test stamps. The chart shows Scott numbers for the eight different definitive size blank test stamps along with current and proposed image numbers.

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Table I - Definitive Size Blank Sheet Test Stamps

Scott #	Current Image #	Proposed Image #	Perf - H	Perf - V	Stamp Size	Description
TD9	TE9	TE9	12	12	23 x 28 mm	Unwatermarked - large size National Bank Note test stamp
TD10	TE9	TE9a	12	12	22 x 25 mm	Forward-stepping, double line watermark (Type 191)
TD83	TE45f	TE9a	10	10	22 x 25 mm	Unwatermarked; 5.5 mm gumbreakers
TD84	TE45f	TE9a	11	10.5	22 x 25 mm	Unwatermarked; 11.0 mm gumbreakers
TD84A	TE45f	TE9a	11	10.5	22 x 25 mm	Unwatermarked; 5.5 mm gumbreakers
TD113	TE45g	TE9a	11	11	22 x 25 mm	Test for Scott 1254-57 - yellow green tagging, very smooth shiny gum.
TD114	TE45g	TE9a	11	11	22 x 25 mm	Test for Scott 1254-57 - orange red tagging, very smooth shiny gum.
TD114A	TE45g	TE9a	11	10.5	22 x 25 mm	Yellow green tagging; 11.0 mm gumbreakers

In the past, the Scott Catalog editors have been most willing to work with the USSS Dummy Stamps Study Group in an effort to renumber images for consistency as well as making it easier to search the catalogue listings for test stamps that appear similar. The above suggestions were prepared to be presented during our annual meeting at the 2015 WESTPEX stamp show in San Francisco in April.

At the right is an enlarged illustration of the gum side of an upper right corner block of four TD10 test stamps with top and right sheet margins. It is viewed from the reverse and shows a forward-stepping Type 191 double line watermark. □



Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

On October 11, 2014 Vance Auctions, Ltd. held Sale #306 that contained the following test stamps. There is no Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 3761 ★ TD91, Test Coil Pair. VF, NH No Photo Cat. \$50.00 Realized \$19.00

Lot 3762 ★ TD107, Test stamp coils, 2 Joint Line Strips of 4 incl. one with horiz INK SMEARS. F-VF, NH No Photo Estimate 35.00+ Realized \$25.00

Lot 3763 ★ TD107, Test stamp coils as singles, pairs, strips of 4 and Joint Line strips of 4. Incl. regular issue PLUS VARIETY showing horiz INK SMEARS. VF, NH (22 stamps) no Photo Estimate 45.00+ Realized \$33.00

following test stamps. There is an 18% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 100 **U.S., Freaks & Errors Assortment.** Interesting holding in several stock pages, including 8¢ Eisenhower pairs and strips with shifted perforations; 14¢ Sinclair Lewis block of twelve with six imperforate pairs & block of twenty with ten imperforate pairs; 1963-66 \$1 test booklets with blank stamps (TDB12a x3), 1985 \$1.10 test booklets with blank pane of five stamps (TDB32a x3). We also noted 20¢ Flag over Supreme Court & 29¢ Flag over White House coil stamps, including imperforate strips or pairs imperforate between. A very clean lot with great retail value and good potential, Very Fine. No Photo. Est. \$400.00 - \$600.00 Realized \$325.00

On October 17 - 18, 2014 Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC held Sale #657 that contained the

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On October 21 - 22, 2014 Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. held Sale #1082 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 169 TD28-29 E **3c Minerva, Harris Automatic Press Company Offset Essay on Hard White Wove Paper (TD28-TD29)**. Singles showing both orientations, large margins, Very Fine and scarce, Harris installed one of their presses in the BEP to demonstrate production of stamps by the offset method, the design was taken from the 2c 1903 Issue, the presses were not adopted at that time but were used for printing some Revenue stamps, particularly Tax Pairs Photo Cat. \$1,300.00 Realized \$275.00

Lot 444 Balance **Private Vending and Affixing Machine Balance**. Stock pages of unused pairs and strips, incl. Brinkerhoff Ty. II 320 strip of four and pairs of 320a, 371 and 373, Schermack Ty. III 368 strip of four, 371 pair with plate no. and 347 strip of four, U.S. Automatic Vending Machine Co. 314 and 373 strips of four (latter with guideline), Mailometer Ty. II 383 pair, few other better, also nice group of test coils, few reference items to be expected, overall Fine-Very Fine and nice group, three with certificates No Photo Est. \$1,500.00 - \$2,000.00 Realized \$600.00



LOT 548 TD23 E (no value) **Deep Red, Test Stamp (TD23)**. Vertical pair, Mint N.H., perms cut into bottom stamp as always (see footnote in Scott), bright and

fresh, Fine, a scarce item. Photo Cat. \$800.00 Realized \$400.00

On November 11, 2014 Downeast Stamps held Sale #289 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 10% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 1088 ** TD109, green, test coil, dull gum, misperfed Photo Est. \$90.00 Not sold

On November 9, 2014 Harmer-Schau Auction Galleries, Inc. Sale #103 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 310 ** U.S. Back of the Book Collections, Airmail and BOB collection. Few hundred in glassines mostly n.h. with few early o.g. issues, incl. #C4, C18, E7, J76 (o.g.), few test coils, local reprints and Schermacks, Fine. No Photo. Estimate \$200.00 Realized \$325.00

On November 22, 2014 Alan Blair, Inc. held Sale #152 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 10% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 947 ** TD107B TD107B unopened roll of 500 1962-66 black test stamps; tagged, dull gum No photo. Cat. \$1320.00 Realization Unknown

On December 3, 2014 Vance Auctions, Ltd. held Sale #306 that contained the following test stamps. There is no Buyer's Premium for this sale.

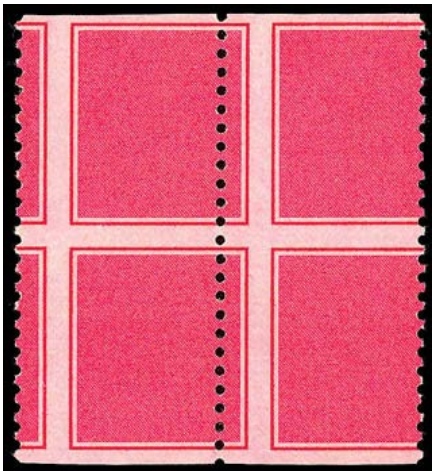



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Lot 4292 ** TD91, Strip of 4 of the 1944 Coil TEST STAMP. VF, NH Cat 100.00+ Not sold



On December 8-11, 2014 Schuyler J. Rumsey Philatelic Auctions held Sale #58 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 1697**  TD94A Test Stamp, 1954, carmine, imperf between. Block of four with two vertical pairs with gutter between, mis-perforated, o.g., never hinged, Extremely Fine. Photo. Scott No. TD94A; Cat. \$650.00 Realized \$160.00

Lot 2942 * United States and Foreign Test Stamp Booklet Collection. 3 binders of Test Stamps and ATM Test Booklets, including 38 US panes, some scarce, some not Scott listed, 19 coil stamps including strips of 3, 4, 6, ATM stamp panes or test panes from Australia (4), Canada (4), France (6), Japan (2), Luxembourg (4) and Singapore (5), including a binder of articles and the BIA Research paper on the subject, excellent research material, some slight duplication. No photos Estimate \$500.00 - \$750.00 Realized \$850.00



On December 11, 2014 Michael E. Aldrich Auctions held Sale #82 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



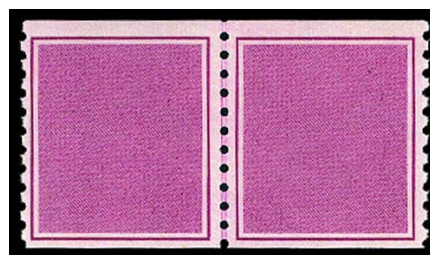
Lot 1035 (TD90) , ST/4, unused, VF Photo Cat \$90.00 Realization Unknown



Lot 1036 (TD91) , ST/4, NH, VF Photo Cat. \$100.00 Realization Unknown



Lot 1037 (TD92) , PR, NH, F Photo Cat. \$80.00 Realization Unknown



Lot 1038 (TD96) , LP, NH, large holes, VF Photo Cat. \$125.00 Realization Unknown



Lot 1039 (TD109) , PR, NH, sharp color, fresh and VF Photo Cat. \$180.00 Realization Unknown



(TD131) ST/4, NH, XF Photo Cat. \$50.00 Realization Unknown

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Lot 1041 (TD133A) , PNC/5, #1111, NH, XF Photo
Cat. \$300.00 Realization Unknown



On December 17, 2014 Sam Houston Philatelics, Inc. held Sale #3025 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 234 ** TD119, Flag & Eagle Over Trees, "Stamp Venturers" Test Coils of 1989, (27) rolls of (100) each, VF-XF NH, scarce Cat. \$50.00 Realized \$70.00



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 2016 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. □

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>