



Dummy News and Views

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

Issue Number 38

Winter 2014 - 2015



Welcome to the Dummy Stamps Study Group's Thirty-eighth 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 2 - Definitive Size Blank Coil 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.

In three separate articles we will attempt to demystify the identification of these various blank (no printing) test stamps.

Previously in the *Dummy News & Views* newsletter, Issue Number 37, Fall 2014 we published **Part 1 - Definitive Size Blank Sheet Test Stamps**. In that article we covered the differences in the eight definitive size blank sheet test stamps and also suggested changes in the listing of those blank sheet test stamps for the 2016 *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers* that we planned to discuss during our annual meeting with the Scott Catalogue editors at the 2015 WESTPEX stamp show in April in San Francisco.

This article, the second in this series, deals with the 20 different definitive size blank coil test stamps. There are three different sizes of the definitive size blank coil test stamps.

The first definitive size blank coil test stamp is identified as Scott TD30 with design type (TE20). It is a blank coil test stamp manufactured by an unknown private company, possibly as early as 1897. It is almost square and measures (25.5 x 25 mm). It is the

only coil with roulette separations so it's easy to identify.

The second type of definitive size blank coil test stamps measure 22 x 25 mm. TD44 is an imperforate version of TD45 that we were unable to examine. In fact, some collectors question its existence. The Scott Catalogue has a footnote recommending any potential copy of TD44 be expertised. The Scott Catalogue currently says TD44 looks like the TE20 image; but, that really isn't the case since TD30 (TE20) is a square stamp with roulettes. However, if TD44 actually exists, it would look more like TE20 than the perforated TE26a blank coil image.

Images of the perforated definitive size blank coil test stamps TD45 through TD75 all are correctly identified with the illustration number TE26a. However, the Scott Catalogue currently refers to a non-existent TE54a image for Scott TD122 and TD122a. We will suggest the catalog listings for TD122 and TD122a (with either shiny or dull gum) be changed to show the image as TE26a rather than TE54a.

please turn to page 2 ➤

In this issue:

Demystifying The Blank (No Printing) United States Test Stamps, Part 2 - Definitive Size Blank Coil Test Stamps	1
Recent Auctions of Interest	3
Proposed Future DSSG Projects	5
Request for Articles	5

Readers can see illustrations of the different private perforation type test stamps in the “Vending & Affixing Machine Perforations” section of the Scott Catalogue (page 555 in the 2015 catalog). Images of these test stamps can be seen on page 3 of this newsletter.

The third type of definitive size blank test coils measure 22 x 23.5 mm. These so-called Zeigle coils (TD79 - TD82) were used to test the coin-operated vending machines made by Electric Vendors Inc. TD79 is often confused with TD45 which is also perforated 10.5 vertically, but TD79 is 1.5 mm shorter

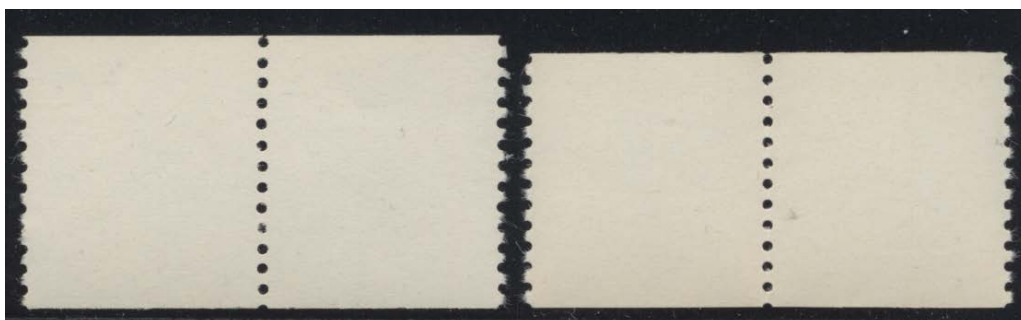
than TD45. The image for Scott TD79 currently is listed as as TE26a, but the Scott editors will be requested to add a new image called TE26b and to show the TE26a and TE26b images side-by-side at 100% full size. The other three Zeigle test coils (TD80, TD81 and TD82) are correctly identified as image numbers TE45c, TE45d and TE45e respectively.

The following **Table 2 - Definitive Size Blank Coil Test Stamps** shows the distinguishing features and differences of these definitive size blank coil test stamps.

Table 2 - Definitive Size Blank Coil Test Stamps

Scott #	Current Image #	Proposed Image #	Perf - H	Perf - V	Stamp Size	Description
TD30	TE20	TE20	None	13-1/4	25.5 x 25mm	On cream paper with rouletted vertical separations
TD44	TE26a	TE26a	None	imperforate	25 mm tall	Smooth gum, Imperforated coil - Expertization recommended
TD45	TE26a	TE26a	None	10.5	22 x 25 mm	Smooth gum
TD45A	TE26a	TE26a	None	11	22 x 25 mm	Smooth gum
TD46	TE26a *	TE26a *	None	Note 1	22 x 25 mm	Schermack Type III Perforations
TD47	TE26a *	TE26a *	None	Note 2	22 x 25 mm	Mailometer Type I Perforations
TD48	TE26a *	TE26a *	None	Note 3	22 x 25 mm	Mailometer Type II Perforations
TD49	TE26a *	TE26a *	None	Note 4	22 x 25 mm	Mailometer Type III Perforations
TD50	TE26a *	TE26a *	None	Note 5	22 x 25 mm	Perforated 11 Vertical Schermack Type I, 7-hole Perforations
TD50A	TE26a *	TE26a *	None	Note 6	22 x 25 mm	Perforated 10 Vertical Schermack Type I, 7-hole Perforations
TD75	TE26a	TE26a	None	9.75	22 x 25 mm	Horizontal ribbed gum, Cream tinted paper
TD79	TE26a	TE26b	None	10.5	22 x 23.5 mm	Produced by Electric Vendors (Zeigle) Inc.
TD80	TE45c	TE45c	None	10.5	22 x 23.5 mm	No printing, on blue paper, produced by Electric Vendors (Zeigle) Inc.
TD81	TE45d	TE45d	None	10.5	22 x 23.5 mm	No printing, on green paper, produced by Electric Vendors (Zeigle) Inc.
TD82	TE45e	TE45e	None	10.5	22 x 23.5 mm	No printing, on yellow paper, produced by Electric Vendors (Zeigle) Inc.
TD106	TE26a	TE26a	None	9.75	22 x 25 mm	Dull gum, overall yellow green tagging
TD122	TD54a	TE26a	None	9.75	22 x 25 mm	Coated paper, untagged, shiny gum, known on hi-brite fluorescent paper.
TD122 var	TD54a	TE26a	None	9.75	22 x 25 mm	Coated paper, untagged, dull gum. <i>Currently unlisted.</i>
TD122a	TD54a	TE26a	None	9.75	22 x 25 mm	Uncoated paper, untagged, shiny gum
TD122a var	TD54a	TE26a	None	9.75	22 x 25 mm	Uncoated paper, untagged, dull gum

TE26a * - These stamps don't actually look like image TE26a - images of the actual perms are found in the "Vending & Affixing Machine Perforations" section of the catalog.

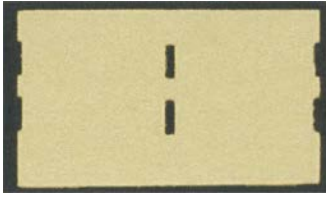


The above side-by-side images of TD45 (TE26a), left, and TD79 (proposed TE26b), right, show the two different sizes of definitive size blank coil stamps that are currently listed with image number TE26a.

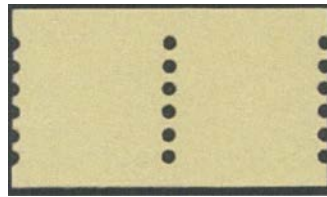
please turn to page 3 ➤

The following images of TD46 through TD50A are for the definitive size blank coil test stamps produced by the private vending companies. Readers can see illustrations of the different private perforation type test stamps in the "Vending & Affixing Machine Perforations" section of the Scott Catalogue (page 555 in the 2015 catalog).

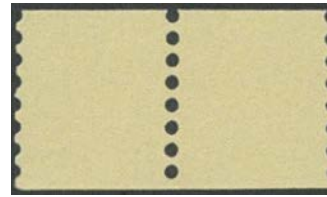
The current Scott listings for TD50 and TD50A are confusing since all known Schermack Type I varieties, whether 6-hole, 7-hole or 8-hole, have gauge 12 perforations. Thus, the Scott listings for TD50 and TD50A are probably incorrect. There is reason to believe TD50 and TD50A do not exist. Melvin Getlan, chairman of the the USSS's Vending and Affixing Machine Perforations Committee, also has questions about these two test coils.



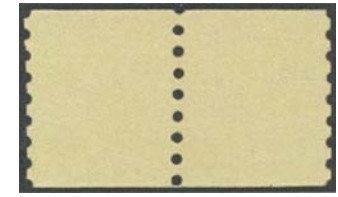
TD46 TE26a Schermack Type III Perforations



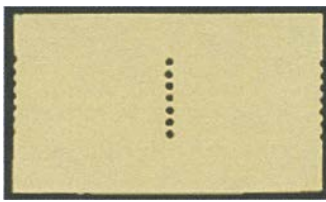
TD47 TE26a Mailometer Type I Perforations



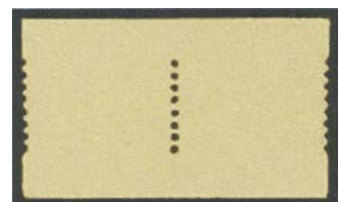
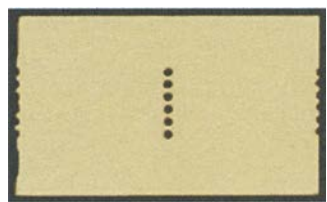
TD48 TE26a Mailometer Type II Perforations



TD49 TE26a Mailometer Type III Perforations



TD50 or TD50A TE26a Perf. 11 or 10 Vert. Schermack Type I 7-hole Perforations



Examples of Genuine Perf. 12 Schermack Type I 6-hole, 7-hole & 8-hole Perforations. These three are NOT test stamps.



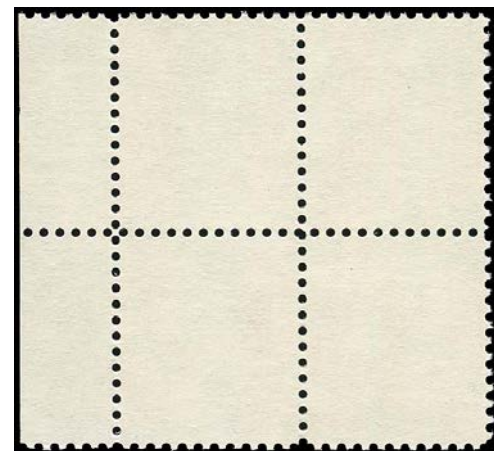
Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

On January 7, 2015 Downeast Stamps held Sale #290 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 10% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 1052 ** ALBINO, fully gummed & NH, perf 11.25, could be a test stamp? Est. \$40.00 Not sold. (Note: It is not a test stamp. It is a souvenir from Pacific '97, therefore, not Scott listed)



Lot 1921** USA (TD113-TD114) 1964 **EXPERIMENTALLY TAGGED DUMMY TEST STAMPS, BLOCKS** Two large margin blocks of 4 - one of each type - from only pane of each known. BEP-produced blank stamps were tagged with calcium silicate (glows orange red) and zinc-orthosilicate (glows yellow-green) to simulate both types of

please turn to page 4 ➤

phosphor tagging then in use, as a test for the 5¢ Christmas Flowers issue (#1254-57). Blocks are only one of 5 possible large margin blocks. Catalog value is for non-margin block. Extremely fine, RARE, premium and MINT never hinged. Accompanied by clipping of original discovery news story. Photo Cat \$600.00 Realized \$650.00

Lot 1922 ** USA 1962-90s TEST STAMPS COMPLETE COIL ROLLS & SPECIAL SOUVENIR CARDS Deep Back of Book lot. Includes: American Bank Note Company 1995 'The New York City Postmaster's Provisional' limited edition (#148/475) of six Souvenir Cards in original envelope with all information (not listed in Scott, Ken Barr Numismatics retail price \$400); Bureau of Engraving 1994 'Centennial of U. S. Postage Stamp Production' Souvenir Card Scott SC140A (x3, cat \$100 each); Test stamp TD107 MNH sealed complete coil roll of 500 (x2) plus another complete roll unsealed & 2 partial rolls of about 30 stamps each (each with 1 line pair). Scott values single MNH TD107 at \$2 each & line pair at \$20. Fine to very fine. No photo. Est. \$300.00 - \$400.00 Realized \$550.00

On January 21-22, 2015 Spink USA held Sale #117 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 20% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 341 */**o United States balance of consignment in box with a mish-mash of material including a couple of albums with collection balances, numerous pages with common used, glassines with various stamps including a few modestly better plate blocks, etc., there are some better and unusual things, we note quantities of high value mint postage dues including over 60 30c Scarlet and 85 50c Scarlet (#J85a, #J86a) in singles and blocks, o.g., n.h., plus another over 100 of the 50c with small faults, there are some better revenues, **there is a partial coil roll of 176 Black test stamps with seven joint line pairs (#TD107e)**, also sixteen (including three blocks) of the scarce 1911, Ty. II Christmas Seal without gum (#WX8; catalog value \$1,920.00 with gum), mentioned items are fine-very fine, but overall condition is quite mixed but well worth a look. No Photos Est. \$400.00-\$500.00 Realized \$425.00

On January 28, 2015 Vance Auctions Ltd. held Sale #307 that contained the following test stamps. There is no Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 4027 * TD91, Test Coil Pair. VF, NH No Photo Cat \$50.00 Not sold

Lot 4028 * TD107, Test stamp coils, 2 Joint Line Strips of 4 incl one with horiz INK SMEARS. F-VF, NH No Photo Est. \$35.00 Realized \$24.00

Lot 4029 * 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+ Not sold

On February 13-15, 2015 Harmer Schau held Auction #104 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

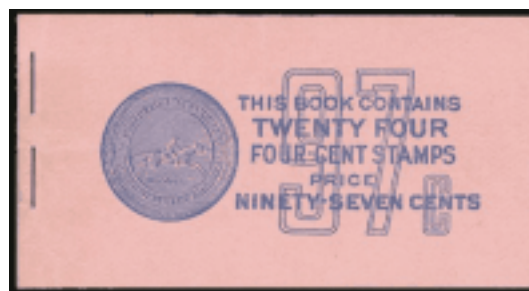


Lot 1108 ** / * U.S. Test Stamps, 1906-09, "Mail-O-Meter Stamp", Brown, Type I Perforations, Strip of 4, #TD15, middle pair o.g., others n.h., Fine. Photo. Scott \$500.00 Estimate \$150.00 - \$200.00 Realized \$300.00

On March 18, 2015 Vance Auctions Ltd. held Sale #308 that contained the following test stamps. There is no Buyer's Premium for this sale.

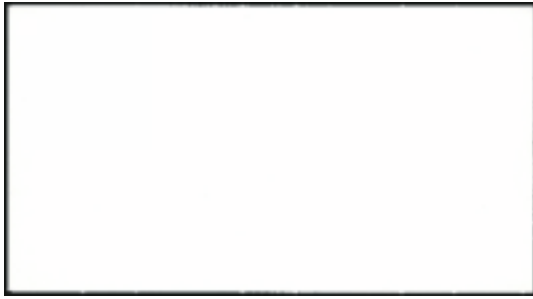


Lot 3739 * TD91, Strip of 4 of the 1944 Coil TEST STAMP. VF, \$100.00+ Not Sold

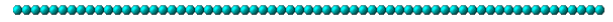


Lot 3740 * TDB5, TEST BOOKLET, 1959 blue on pink 97¢. F-VF, NH175.00 Realized \$75.00

please turn to page 5 ➤

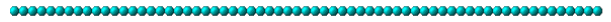


Lot 3741 * TDB61, Blank self-adhesive TEST PANE of 10 in COMPLETE booklet with blank cover. VF. Scarce ...\$150.00 Not Sold



On March 18, 2015 Sam Houston Philatelics held Sale #3027 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 240 ** TD107e, 1962-88 Black Coil Test Stamps, Roll of 3,000 unopened, centering appears VF-XF, untagged, NH No photo Cat. \$1,750.00 Not Sold



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>