



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-ninth 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 3 - Commemorative 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. In a series of three separate articles, we have attempted to demystify the identification of these various blank (no printing) test stamps.

This article, the third and last in this series, deals with the four different commemorative size blank sheet test stamps. All four commemorative size blank sheet test stamps are the same size, 40 mm x 25 mm. It is impossible to determine if they are vertical or horizontal format as there is no printing so they are typically shown as horizontal format stamps.

The first three blank commemorative size test stamps have white paper, while the fourth stamp is light brown paper. The Scott Catalogue currently only lists two of the three known white paper test stamps, TD85 and TD86 (both with design type TE45g). But, there are actually two varieties of TD85 - one has gum breakers spaced 11 mm apart (probably made in the 1930s) and another with alternating 5.0 and 6.5 mm gum breakers (probably made in the 1950s). The Scott

Catalogue listing for TD85 doesn't specify which gum breaker spacing TD85 is, but we will suggest they assign TD85 to the stamp with 11 mm gum breakers and TD85A to the stamp with alternating 5 and 6.5 mm gum breakers. This would match the way TD84 and TD84A are listed.

TD86 was manufactured by the American Bank Note Company as a test for the Overrun Country series, Scott 909-921. There is a manuscript marking in the margin of the only known sheet of 50.

TD114B with the current design type TE55b was manufactured by the BEP and is on light brown paper that was also used for the Bison stamp, Scott 1392. TD114B has yellow green tagging with horizontal gum breaker ridges 11 mm apart. It will be proposed to the editors of Scott catalogues that the image number for TD114B be changed to TE45h as the current image number TE55b is already being used for image of TD136.

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The following **Table 3 - Commemorative Size Blank Sheet Test Stamps** shows the distinguishing features and differences of these four blank sheet test stamps.

Table 3 - Commemorative Size Blank Sheet Test Stamps

Scott #	Proposed Scott #	Current Image #	Proposed Image #	Perf - H	Perf - V	Stamp Size	Description
Not Listed	<i>TD85</i>	Not Listed	<i>TE45g</i>	11.25	10.5	40 x 25 mm	Brownish gum with Type III gum breaker ridges 11.0 mm apart.
TD85	<i>TD85A</i>	TE45g	TE45g	11.25	10.5	40 x 25 mm	Brownish gum with alternating 5.0 mm and 6.5 mm gum breaker ridges
TD86		TE45g	TE45g	12	12	40 x 25 mm	TD86 was produced as a test for the Overrun Countries stamp by the American Bank Note Company, no gum breakers.
TD114B		TE55b	<i>TE45h</i>	11.25	10.5	40 x 25 mm	Gum breaker ridges 11.0 mm apart, with yellow green tagging, on light brown paper that was used for the Bison stamp, Scott 1392.

The following images will help to visualize the different commemorative size blank sheet test stamps.



Illustration TE45g 40 x 25 mm



Proposed Illustration TE45h 40 x 25 mm

The first illustration (TE45g) shown above at the left is for TD85, TD85A and TD86. It measures 40 x 25 mm.

The proposed illustration TE45h shown above at the right is for TD114B.



Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

On March 27, 2015 James T. McCusker, Inc. held Sale #360 that contained the following test stamps. There is 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 330 E 3c Minerva (Scott TD-29; Brazer 385-E2b), Harris Automatic Press Company, offset essay on hard white wove paper, pair, Superb very Rare & seldom offered, 2013 PF Cert. Photo Est. \$1,250.00 - \$1,750.00 Realized \$700.00



On March 27-29, 2015 Regency-Superior held Public Auction Sale #110 at the St. Louis Stamp Expo

that contained the following test stamps. There is a 19% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



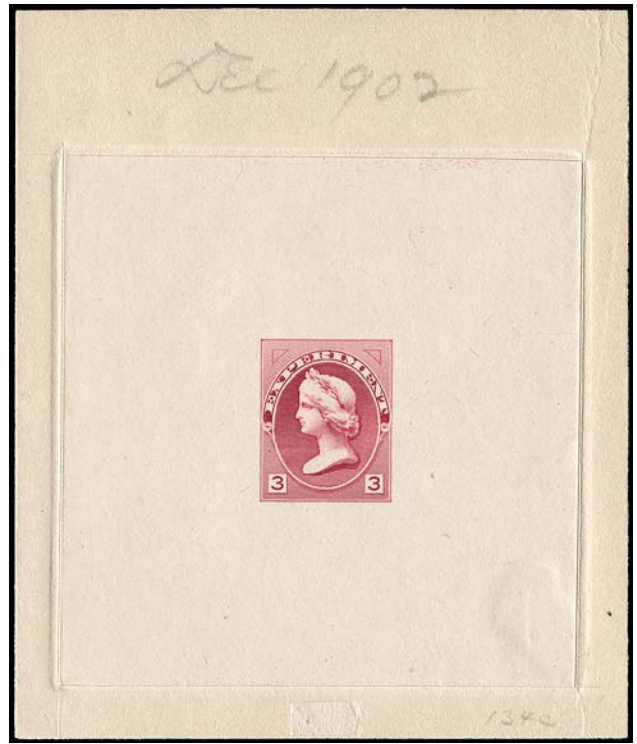
Lot 1926 (*) USA (TD9A) 1890 BURT AND TOBEY'S STAMP BATTERY TEST STAMPS The earliest known printed test stamp for early affixer invented by Charles Burt and Samuel Tobey of New Bedford, MA. (23 Middle street). Burt's firm originally manufactured electrical supplies. Stamp has very fine centering, perf 12 (with printed perf design) and sound. It is the first one we've seen offered publicly, listed, but not valued in Scott. Ex-Jim Czul Photo Est. \$750.00 Realized \$550.00

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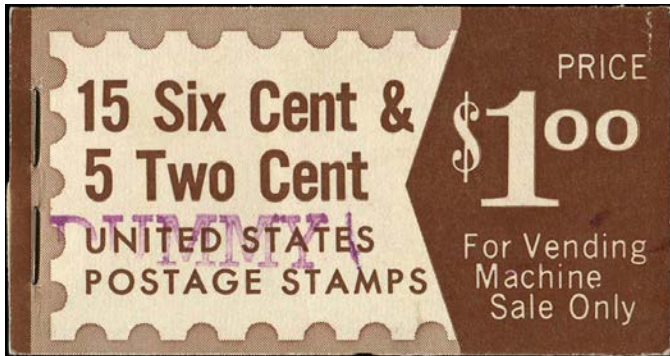


Lot 1927 (*) USA (TD27) 1909 SIMPLEX STAMP AFFIXER TEST STAMP Very fine single, imperf, no gum as issued. Color is light rose, whereas Scott listing for red. Extremely rare, not valued in Scott. Ex-Jim Czyl. Photo Est. \$500.00 Realized \$425.00

Lot 1928 ** USA (TD37) 1910-20 MULTIPOST RED COIL ROLL Fresh MINT never hinged roll with 200 pairs of TD37 (cat \$50 each pair). Fine to very fine. No photo. Cat \$10,000.00 Est. \$2,000.00 - \$3,000.00 Not Sold



Lot 1930 P USA 1902 AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO. LIBERTY 3¢ CARMINE, LARGE DIE ESSAY PROOF Engraved full-sized large die proof (3¼"x¾") 'EXPERIMENT,' on India, mounted on card, manuscript pencil 'Dec 1902' above. Design elements closely resemble those of First Bureau issue. Light horizontal crease to card just above India paper, otherwise very fine. Rare and desirable item. Photo Est. \$750.00 Not Sold



Lot 1929 ** USA (TDP16) 1969 UNEXPLODED DUMMY BOOKLET Very fine, MINT never hinged booklet with tagged 'For Testing Purposes Only' dummy stamps. Tiny scuff at upper right of cover. Extremely fresh and scarce. Ex-Jim Czyl. Photo (*Ed. Note: This booklet is clearly a TDB14 not a TDB16 as listed*) Cat. \$400.00 Realized \$105.00



Lot 1931 ***/0/C USA 1906-2000 TEST & DUMMY STAMP COLLECTION WITH BETTER Impressive collection of Test and Dummy stamps in sheet, booklet and coil format, with many seldom-seen items. Includes 10 unexploded MINT dummy booklets (with TDP13, \$200; TDP15, \$150; and TDP17, \$300); early test coils, with imperf pair TD14a (brown, \$200) and many other Multipost, Stampmaster, 'For Testing

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Purposes Only,' and even a blank leader strip from a coil roll of 1,000. Collection also includes several ATM panes, 5 Peckmore engraved violet 'SPECIMEN' stamps (with pair), test and sample meters, a few foreign dummies and even some trading stamp test items. Lot also features several covers, such as 1959 Parade of Postal Progress (x2), 1960 World Trade Fair (with TD95 tied by cancel) and scarce 1971 Letter Mail Code Sort System cover. You'll even find 3 Pitney-Bowes simulated postage stamps created for use in advertising campaign. Much here with significant resale or study value. Ex-Jim Czul. Photo ex Est. \$1,000.00 - \$1,500.00 Realized \$750.00



Lot 540 0/** EFO Lot, of (56) items, Test Coil, Revenue Misperf, Utah Misperf and Revenue diag perfs, etc., used & mint Part photo. Est. \$25.00 Realized \$55.00

On May 6, 2015 Vance Auctions, Ltd. held Sale #309 that contained the following test stamps. There is no Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 3779 * TD91, Test Coil Pair. VF, NH No photo Cat \$50.00 Realization unknown

Lot 3780 * TD107, Test stamp coils, 2 Joint Line Strips of 4 incl one with horiz INK SMEARS. F-VF, NH No photo Estimate \$35.00+ Realization unknown

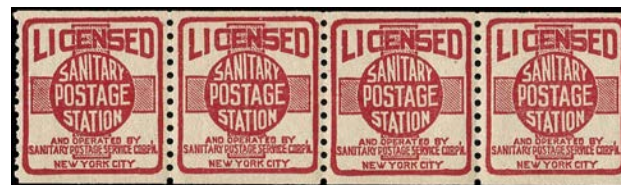
Lot 3781 * TD107, Test stamp coils as singles, pairs, strips of 4 and Joint Line strips of 4. Incl regular issue PLUS VARIETY showing horiz INK SMEARS. VF, NH (22 stamps) No photo Estimate \$45.00+ Realization unknown

On May 10, 2015 Harmer-Schau Auction Galleries, Inc. held Sale #105 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 282 U.S. Collections, Unusual booklet collection. 16 complete mostly postal insurance booklets, incl. #Q11, plus S6 complete booklet and couple better test booklets, Fine. No photo (Ed note: lot included TDB5 and TDB127 dummy booklets) Estimate \$100.00 Realized \$180.00

On May 13, 2015 Sam Houston Philatelics held Sale #3028 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

On June 3-7, 2015 Regency-Superior Auctions held NAPEX Sale #111 that contained the following test stamps. There is an 18% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 2149 ** USA (TD65) 1920s TEST COIL 'SANITARY POSTAGE' IN STRIPS (x70) Grouping of 70 stamps total, in 10 strips of 5 and 5 strips of 4. Most very fine, all no gum, few perf faults here and there. Nice wholesale lot of this test item. Ex-Jim Czul. Photo Cat \$1600.00 Realized \$130.00

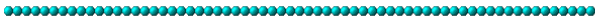


Lot 2151 ** USA 1997-2000 SMALL GROUP OF DUMMY BOOKLETS (x5) Unquestioned highlight of lot is full pane of TDB89, magenta labels with blue backing (\$250). Also includes TDB88 (x2, black labels) and TDB90 (imperf NCR ATM panes). All very fine and MINT never hinged. Ex Photo Cat \$425.00 Realized \$100.00

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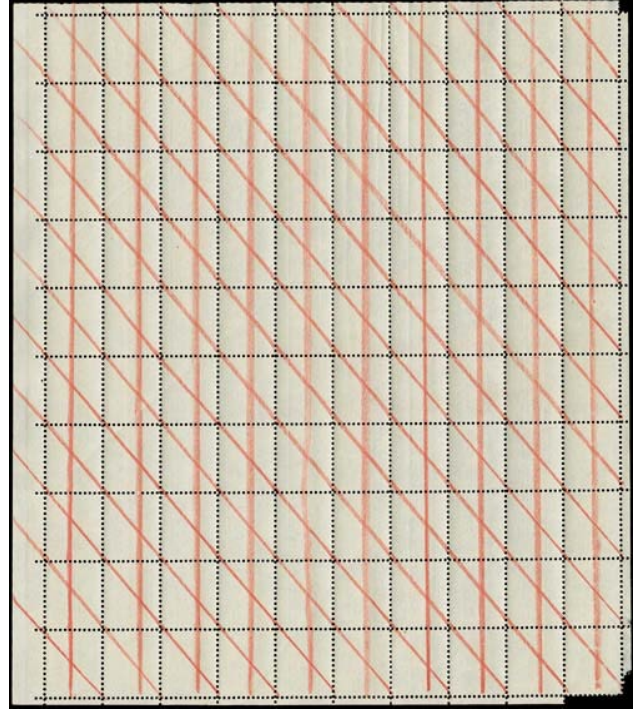
Lot 3040 C USA (TD96) 1959 TEST COIL, RED VIOLET RECTANGLE, LARGE HOLES ON COVER (X4) Group of 4 legal-sized covers from the Postal Office Department's introduction of automated equipment conducted in Detroit, MI. Three are postmarked Oct 13, 1959 (the day before the demonstration opened). The fourth has mute die hub (before the date slug was added), with the date written in (also Oct. 13). Each franked with large-hole Test stamp coil single. Very fine, light toning. Catalog value represents exhibition dates, not scarce predates (equipment setup). Ex-Jim Czyl. Cat \$340.00 Realized \$100.00



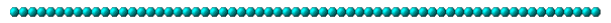
On June 4-6, 2015 H.R. Harmer, Inc. held sale #3007 that contained the following test stamps. There is an 18% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 3627 NH Eagle test booklet uncut sheet, of 100 (20 booklet panes), NH, Very Fine No Photo Est. \$1,000.00 - \$1,500.00 Realized \$725.00 (Note: this is the Postal Presort stamps and not test stamps. Sorry about the image but that is what H.R. Harmer sent to use for this lot.)



Lot 3628 NH TD84A, 1956 Blank, red defacement markings, NH, disturbed gum in corners and thins at lower right stamp and selvage of right top and bottom corners, some crayon offset on gum, otherwise Fine (Scott \$1,250.00) Photo Realized \$200.00



Those of you readers who are not a member of any stamp society should seriously consider joining one. There are a couple that I would recommend very highly.

The first is the United States Stamp Society. If you love fascinating details about United States stamps then this is the place for you. An application may be found at <http://usstamps.org/>. Go ahead fill it out and see just how wonderful it is to read articles written by various experts about United States stamps that are in so much detail it will amaze you.

The second is the American Philatelic Society. Their monthly publication covers many interesting stories about stamps from around the world. Please see their web site for membership at <http://stamps.org/Join-Now>.

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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 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. □

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. □

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>