



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 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 Dummy Stamps Study Group at trs@napanet.net

Report of Unlisted Test Stamp Color

by Terry R. Scott

A test stamp that was previously listed in the 2006 and 2007 editions of the Scott *Specialized Catalogue of Stamps and Covers* as red brown in color has recently been reported in red. Test stamp, Scott TD68, Agnew Auto Mailing, has been reported by test stamp collector, Art Groton. Art was kind enough to send me scans of two of these items which are illustrated here.



It's an interesting thought that the scissor cuts might have been an attempt to see if sheet stamps could be made to work in a vending machine. Or maybe it's just someone's poor cutting technique. Most likely, the latter.

The second stamp shown at the bottom has a straight edge at the bottom but the vertical perforations are intact.

The first one shown at top has scissor cuts along the left and right edges. Is it possible that the Agnew Mailing Machine used vertical format strips of stamps? Maybe this is a clue or maybe this is just how this stamp was separated from the others. It does conjure up some interesting questions though.



If anyone can supply information about the Agnew Auto Mailing Company, it would be much appreciated and can be published in a follow-up article on these test stamps.

Art noted that he is a collector of all non-governmental stamps issued prior to 1899. He is interested in finding an example of Scott TD1. If anyone has a duplicate let me know! □

Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

There have been several recent auction sales that included dummy/test stamps. One such auction was held on October 13-15, 2006 by Regency-Superior Stamps & Collectibles. It was Public Auction #57 for Regency-Superior and was the official auction of SESCOAL.

Following are the auction lots that contained test stamps. The prices realized listed here do not reflect the buyer's premium of 15% that is to be added.

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Lot 1261 ** (TD94) 1954 FRAMED RECTANGLE - CARMINE TEST STAMP, BLOCK, Fresh, MINT never hinged block of 4. Very fine. Cat \$760 photo E \$700 R Not Sold

Lot 1262 ** (TD94) 1954 FRAMED RECTANGLE - CARMINE TEST STAMP Fresh, MINT never hinged. Sheet margin at right, extremely fine. Cat \$240. photo E \$200 R \$289

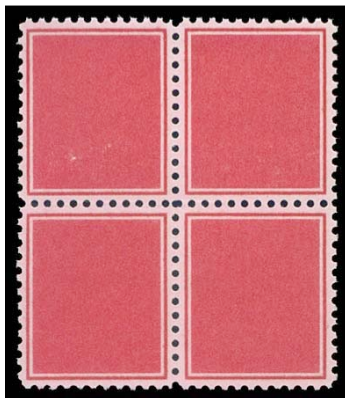
Lot 1263 ** (TD98) 1954 KANSAS TERRITORIAL EXPERIMENTAL MINT never hinged test stamp with similar design to future #1183. Natural straight edge at left. Fresh, extremely fine. Cat \$200. photo E \$150 R \$210

Lot 1264 ** (TD99-101) 1954 NEBRASKA TERRITORIAL EXPERIMENTAL (x3). Complete set of 3 test stamps showing man turning wheel & ear of corn. In black, brown and blue. MINT never hinged, extremely fine. Cat \$600 photo E \$500 R \$625

Lot 1265 ** (TD101) 1954 NEBRASKA TERRITORIAL EXPERIMENTAL, BLUE, BLOCK, Block of 4. Fresh, MINT never hinged. Extremely fine. Cat \$800. photo E \$600 R Not Sold

Lot 1266 * (TD108) 1970 CARMINE COIL FOR TESTING PURPOSES ONLY, PAIR, Slightly disturbed OG, with some trivial perf tip staining, otherwise fresh, very fine. Cat \$1000. photo E --- R \$450

Shown here are examples of the lots in the Regency-Superior sale. These illustrations are not the actual lot illustrations but examples of what was listed.



Another auction that contained test stamps was the Weiss Philatelics sale held on October 28, 2006. The two lots are described below. As in the previous auction, the prices realized listed here do not reflect the buyer's premium of 15% that is to be added.

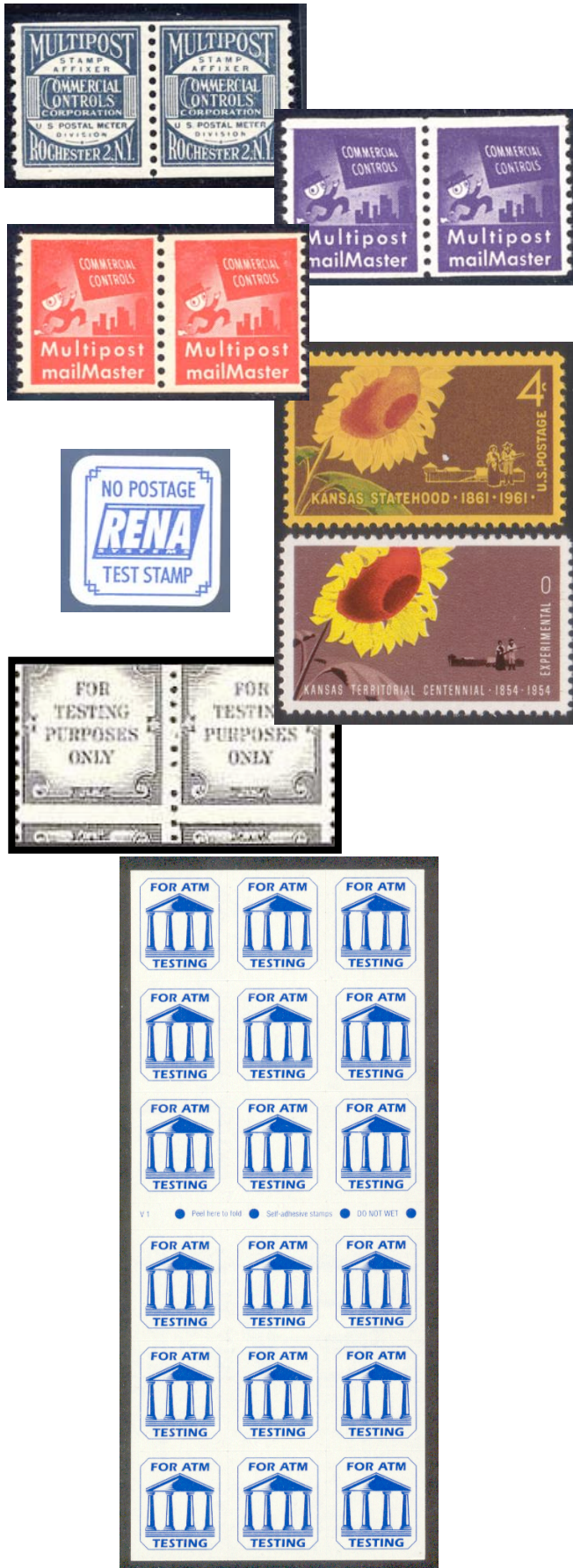
Lot 1655 * TEST/DUMMY LARGE LOT; Approx. 50 pieces inc. some not in Scott, duplication incl. TD93 x 9 strips of 6, TDB32 x 3. etc. Items to \$200. (TDB86 & TDB98), *(T.S.. I believe that this is supposed to be TD88, not TD86)* very nice quality, also inc. scarce sheet of 50 of TD117. Those listed by Scott are \$2,580+ ENV \$750/1000 Minimum Bid \$500 R \$1,200.

Lot 1656 * UNL (Blue RENA Test Coil); 79 copies in strips, XF-NH, not in Scott but see TD131 at \$2./pair R \$160.

A few of the items in Lot 1655 were shown in the catalogue. It appears that the lot contained an example of each of the following: TD88-pair, TD91-pair, TD92-pair, TD98-single, TD107e mis-cut horizontally-pair and TDB86-sheetlet.

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Lot 1656 contained strips of the new RENA test coil listed in Scott as TD139.



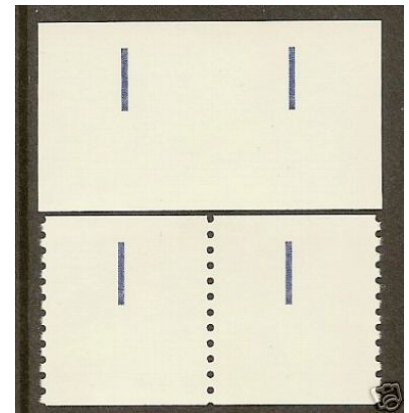
Shown here are representative examples of these test stamps.



Another public auction by Regency-Superior was held on December 9-10, 2006. One lot was described as a test stamp. It was lot 1095. The description of this lot is as follows:

Lot 1095 ** (2464 var.) 1991 LUNCH WAGON 23¢ TEST COIL, STRIP OF 3. Only 100 test coils exist, unusual coil variety. MINT never hinged, very fine. photo Estimate \$500. R Not Sold.

This item has been subject to much controversy. It has been called a test coil in several different auctions but in fact it is not a test coil. It has been written up in different publications and described as the top margin of a coil sheet that has been mis-slit horizontally, above all the stamp designs and then packaged in normal coil wrappers and shipped with normal coil rolls. Shown here is an illustration of both imperforated and perforated examples from this type of coil and other coils that used the same marginal markings in the top margin.



New Test Stamp Newsletter from England

by Terry R. Scott

Test stamp collector, exhibitor and friend, Glenn H. Morgan has put together a newsletter in England dealing with British dummy philatelic material.

The publication is titled "Dummy Stamps" and Issue 1 and Issue 2 are available now. I recommend that you take a look at this excellently written publication. I for one, also collect dummy stamps of the world and Glenn covers issues that I am familiar with. Copy this URL into your browser to view the current newsletters on file. Bookmark the site and return later.

www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm

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Recent Articles of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

There have been more articles published in *The United States Specialist* recently that are of interest to dummy stamp collectors. I will make mention of them briefly and hope that you will either refer to your copy of *The Specialist* or if you are not yet a member of the United States Stamp Society, I urge you to join and receive *The Specialist* on a monthly basis so you won't miss any future articles of interest to you. Now on to the recent articles of interest to dummy stamp collectors.

There is a well illustrated five-page article by DSSG member Joann Lenz in the October 2006 issue of *The Specialist*, titled "Fake Defacement Lines Discovered on FTPO Coils." The article details the confirmation by the American Philatelic Society's expertizing service (APEX) that several, previously unreported styles of defacement lines on the Scott TD107b FTPO coils appear to have fake defacement lines applied. These faked FTPO coils were offered beginning in 2003 on the online auction firm eBay and also by dealers at several stamp shows. They have also been reported in a few stamp auctions.



Illustrated above are examples of some of these FTPO coils with fake defacement lines.

From time to time, FTPO coil copies with the blue, brown, red, and silver defacement lines continue to show up at public and on-line auctions. If you suspect that copies of the FTPO stamps you own have faked defacement lines, by all means submit them to an expertizing service for review and opinion.

After this article appeared, I received a few e-mails from test stamp collectors that had seen the article and were pleased that something was finally put in print. One of these collectors is in the Air Force stationed in Turkey. He had seen and been offered these examples by two different dealers in the United States when he first started collecting test stamps. He was not sure of whether they were genuine and did not purchase them and now he is glad he did not. He has been skeptical

of other FTPO stamps with defacement lines. He was much luckier than others who did purchase them.

This is one reason we need to work on the DSSG project, defacement lines on black FTPO coils.



Another article on dummy/test stamps is in the November 2006 issue of *The United States Specialist*.

The article titled "Special Dummy Stamps Created for USPS Tests" illustrates three new dummy stamps that had not been previously reported. The dummy stamps were created for use by the USPS in testing new self-adhesive gums. Three different types of printing were used. Gravure was used for coils, offset/intaglio was used for sheet stamps and intaglio was used for printing ATM sheetlets. The article details the reasons for the different types of printing and gums.

Illustrated here is one of the Flag test coils used in these tests.



Several years ago some USSS members had reported seeing this design on a tour of the BEP during a NAPEX stamps show. This is the first report of examples of these in collectors' hands.



I am aware of several more excellent articles on dummy/test stamps that are in the works for *The United States Specialist* in the coming months. At this time, Leonard Piskiewicz, Editor, has informed me that there is a back log of articles waiting for space in *The Specialist*. This is great news for the society. I think the reason is that more people love the additional color provided and, therefore, more articles are being written. Please keep an eye out for these future articles as I am sure that there is something in them that will interest you.

Single back issues of *The Specialist* are available for \$2.00 postpaid for both members and nonmembers. Make checks payable to USSS. Foreign postage is extra. Send orders to: **USSS Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 6634, Katy, TX 77491-6634.** □

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Recent Publications of Interest

by Terry R. Scott

Scott 2007 Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers

The 2007 edition of the Scott *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers* was released in October. As always there are many new listings, some deletions and corrections in each issue. This years Test Stamp and Test Booklet sections were no exception.

There are now color illustrations for almost every different test stamp design. The 2006 catalogue had a few black and white illustrations and some missing illustrations. The Scott editor is to be complemented on this nice improvement. There were also several additional listings and a few changes noted.

Quite a few of the items still are lacking values. It is very difficult to assign values for stamps that are so infrequently sold or traded on the open market. The

values established by some of the auction sales are on the high end while some of the eBay transactions seem to be on the low end. Somewhere in between there is a value that is more "real" and that is what should be published in Scott. As the Dummy Stamps Study Group, I feel it is something we should assist Scott with. I have provided illustrations and information on test stamps and booklets for a few years now and Scott does listen to what we say. I would propose that you feed your information on these things through me so it can be collected in one place. I know from past experience that the editors of Scott have many different publications with different deadlines and things seem to get lost if they trickle in at random times. Sending information to one person to be sent to Scott seems to be the best way to do it. □

Encyclopedia of United States Stamps and Stamp Collecting

The new "*Encyclopedia of United States Stamps and Stamp Collecting*," edited by Rodney A. Juell and Steven J. Rod, was produced by *The United States Stamp Society* and contains no less than 55 chapters detailing the history, production and technology of stamps. It covers Stampless Covers to Test Stamps (a chapter written by Dan Undersander, a DSSG member), and everything in between, within its 572 pages with the addition of seven chapters titled "Expanding the Collector's Scope" and four appendixes. There are a total of 730 pages with numerous illustrations in color and black and white.

It is a marvelous production by the society and I urge every member to have one in their library if you do not already. It is available by mail from: **USSS, P. O. Box 6634, Katy, TX 77491-6634.**

The very modest cost is \$25.00 for members and \$30.00 for non-members. These prices include postage so it is one heck of a bargain that will give you in-depth information about all facets of United States stamp collecting. Don't be without it! □

Proposed Future DSSG projects

There are several DSSG projects in the works. Among them are: listing dummy test stamp roll sizes, box and roll labels; publishing a comprehensive listing of defacement lines on black FTPO coils; recording auction appearances and prices realized for test stamps; and compiling a comprehensive listing of references for test stamps.

The primary project of the DSSG is updating Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets. The time has come for the definitive publication on dummy booklets to be updated. The last update was in 1998 by Dummy Booklets Study Group Chairman, Earl McAfee. There have been many new discoveries, most of them written up in articles in *The Specialist*, that need to be documented and illustrated in the new updated version of Research Paper Number 3. I will

head up this update project and knowing that it will take quite a bit of time to complete, have no estimated completion date in mind. There are many variables in completing a project of this magnitude. I will be asking you to join me in this project as I am certainly not able to do it all, nor should I. It is a publication of the Dummy Stamps Study Group of the United States Stamp Society and hopefully all members of the DSSG will contribute what they can towards this project. I lack several of the computer skills necessary to make this a premier publication. Several illustrations are needed and a listing of these will be sent to you when I compile it. Scans at 300 dpi are necessary for clarity. It is anticipated that this publication will be in color. It has not yet been determined if it will also be available on CD/DVD. □