



# Dummy News and Views

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

Issue Number 10

Winter 2007-2008



## Welcome to the Dummy Stamps Study Group's Tenth 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](mailto:trs@napanet.net)

Yet another DSSG Newsletter that is late. It is the Winter 2007-2008 issue but to many of us it is definitely Spring. Here in Napa, CA it is around 85 degrees as I compose this newsletter.

## South Carolina Test Coils Mentioned in May 2008 Scott Stamp Monthly Article

by Terry R. Scott

The May 2008 issue of *Scott Stamp Monthly* contains an article by Donna Houseman, Editor titled "Avery Dennison plant tour provides greater understanding of stamp printing."

This article is a "must read" for all stamp collectors. Included in this article is a real bonus to test stamp collectors. A photograph of the copper cylinder for Avery Dennison's South Carolina Flag Test stamp (Scott TD134-TD 135) is shown in Figure 2 of the article. It is shown on page 2 of this newsletter. Jim Bigalke, *Linn's Stamp News* Associate Editor took the photos for the article. Test stamps are used by printers to test printing presses and equipment.

I have attempted to read the three labels on this wooden crate and my interpretation follows. Unreadable letters or numbers are indicated by a "?" in the descriptions that follow.

The left label on the wooden crate reads:

**REGISTRATION TEST -  
COLOR: BLUE - KEEP  
BASE FOR CHROME  
THICKNESS  
CALIBRATION USE !!**

The smaller print on this label reads:

SGS JOB 251893  
FACE 43.307"  
DIA: 9.698"  
CIRC: 30.468"

The middle label on the wooden crate reads:

ITEM: **South Carolina  
State Flag**  
Cylinder **VO4188**  
ID:  
Color: **Black**

The smaller print on this label reads:

SGS JOB **420710**  
FACE **43.307**  
DIA: **9.6968**  
CIRC: **30.463**

*please turn to page 2 ➤*

### In this issue:

South Carolina Test Coils Mentioned in Scott Stamp Monthly Article	1
Recent Auctions of Interest	2
Proposed Future DSSG Projects	7
The Other Projects	7
Requests for Articles	7

The right label on the wooden crate reads:

ITEM: **35 US Coil 1234 Test Stamp**  
Cylinder ID: **VO4324**  
Color: **Black**

The smaller print on this label reads:

SGS JOB **590960** (*This is questionable*)  
FACE **43.307**  
DIA: **9.9700**  
CIRC: **31.432?**

What might this coil 1234 test stamp look like?  
We may never know but it seems apparent that there is yet another test coil out there to be found.



I would like to thank Donna Houseman, Editor of *Scott Stamp Monthly* for permission to use this photo and Jay Bigalke of *Linn's Stamp News* who took the photo. □



## Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

The following lots were presented in a Harmer-Schau Public Auction held on January 11-13, 2008. A 15% buyer's premium is to be added to the prices realized.

Lot 507 Test Stamp, 1954, Brown, Red and Yellow, #TD98. N.h., s.e. at left, Very Fine. Photo Scott Cat.: \$200, Estimate: \$100/120, Realized \$75



*please turn to page 3 ➤*



Lot 508 Test Stamp, 1954, 5 Values, Brown, Black and Blue, #TD99-TD101a. N.h., brown, black and blue, incl. #TD99a (brown on tan) and unlisted TD101a (blue on tan), margins all around, Very Fine. Photo, Scott Cat.: \$600++, Estimate: \$400/500, Realized \$525



Lot 509 Test Stamp, 1954, 5 Values, Brown, Black and Blue, blocks of 4, #TD99-TD101a. N.h., brown, black, and blue, incl. #TD99a (brown on tan) and unlisted TD101a (blue on tan), margins all around, Very Fine. Photo Scott Cat.: \$2,400++, Estimate: \$1,800/2,000, Realized \$1400



Lot 510 B Test Booklets, 1963-66, \$1 Blue, Red "Dummy" Overprint, #TDB12a. 155 complete booklets, all with "Minute Man" inside front cover, Very Fine. No photo Scott Cat.: \$2,325, Estimate: \$300/400, Realized \$220



On February 29 through March 2, 2008 Regency - Superior held Public Auction #65 that contained the following test stamp lots. This is quite a lengthy list but there is lots of information here and some of you may not have access to this catalogue so I will illustrate all the lots. A 15% buyer's premium is to be added to the prices realized.

Lot 1862 \*\* (TD98) 1954 KANSAS TERRITORIAL CENTENNIAL; BROWN, RED & BLACK, Fresh, MINT never hinged. Natural straight edge at top, very fine. Cat \$200. Estimate: \$100, Realized \$95



Lot 1863 \*\* (TD99) 1954 NEBRASKA TERRITORIAL CENTENNIAL, BROWN, BLOCK, Fresh, MINT never hinged block of 4. Very fine. Cat \$800, Estimate: \$500 Not Sold



Lot 1864 \*\* (TD99) 1954 NEBRASKA TERRITORIAL CENTENNIAL, BROWN, Fresh, MINT never hinged. Very fine. Cat \$200, Estimate \$150 Not Sold



Lot 1865 \*\* (TD99a) 1954 NEBRASKA TERRITORIAL CENTENNIAL, BROWN ON TAN, BLOCK, Fresh, MINT never hinged. Block of 4. Very fine. Listed but not priced in Scott. Estimate: \$500 Not Sold



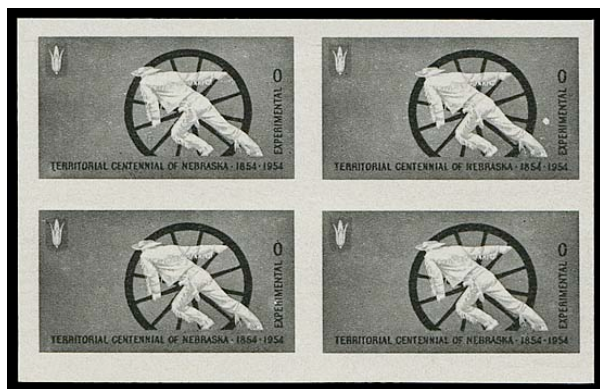
*please turn to page 4 ➤*



Lot 1866 \*\* (TD99a) 1954 NEBRASKA TERRITORIAL CENTENNIAL, BROWN ON TAN, Fresh, MINT never hinged. Very fine. Listed but not priced in Scott. Estimate: \$200 Not Sold



Lot 1867 \*\* (TD100) 1954 NEBRASKA TERRITORIAL CENTENNIAL, BLACK, BLOCK, Fresh, MINT never hinged block of 4. Very fine. Cat \$800. Estimate: \$500 Not Sold



Lot 1868 \*\* (TD100) 1954 NEBRASKA TERRITORIAL CENTENNIAL, BLACK, Fresh, MINT never hinged. Very fine. Cat \$200. Estimate: \$150 Not Sold



Lot 1869 \*\* (TD101) 1954 NEBRASKA TERRITORIAL CENTENNIAL, BLUE, BLOCK, Fresh, MINT never hinged block of 4. Very fine. Cat \$800. Estimate: \$500 Not Sold



Lot 1870 \*\* (TD101) 1954 NEBRASKA TERRITORIAL CENTENNIAL, BLUE, Fresh, MINT never hinged. Very fine. Cat \$200. Estimate: \$150 Not Sold



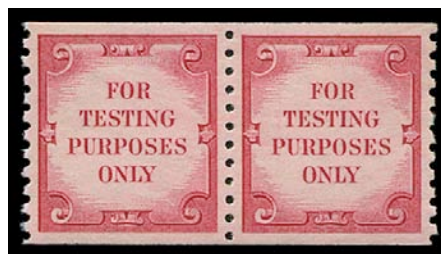
Lot 1871 \*\* (TD101 var) 1954 NEBRASKA TERRITORIAL CENTENNIAL, BLUE ON TAN, BLOCK, MINT never hinged block of 4. Very fine. Unlisted in Scott. Estimate: \$500 Not Sold



Lot 1872 \*\* (TD101 var) 1954 NEBRASKA TERRITORIAL CENTENNIAL, BLUE ON TAN, MINT never hinged. Very fine. Unlisted in Scott. Estimate: \$150 Not Sold



Lot 1873 \*\* (TD108) 1970 FOR TESTING PURPOSES ONLY, CARMINE COIL PAIR, Extremely scarce UNDAMAGED coil pair, as almost all of the carmine test stamps have faults of some kind. MINT never hinged, very fine. Cat \$1000. Estimate: \$2500 Not Sold

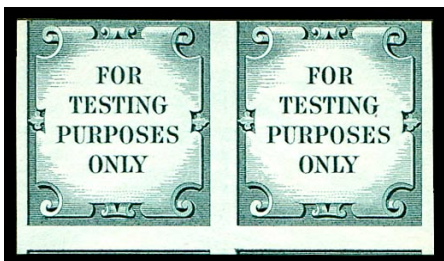


*please turn to page 5 ➤*

Lot 1874 \*\* (TD109) 1970 FOR TESTING PURPOSES ONLY (-) GREEN, COIL PAIR, MINT never hinged horizontal coil pair. Untagged, green color, dull gum. This type was sent to Germany to test coil production equipment. Very fine. Cat \$180. Estimate: \$500 Not Sold



Lot 1875 \*\* (TD109a) 1970 FOR TESTING PURPOSES ONLY GREEN, IMPERF PAIR, Horizontal imperf. pair with dull gum. Used to test coil machinery in Germany. Trimmed off-center, in very fine condition. Cat \$400. Estimate: \$300 Not Sold



Lot 1876 \*\* (TD116) 1970s PROCLAIM LIBERTY TEST STAMP, BLOCK, MINT never hinged block of 4. Nice Bicentennial Era design. Fresh, very fine. Cat \$1400. Estimate: \$850 Not Sold



Lot 1877 \*\* (TD116) 1970s PROCLAIM LIBERTY; BLUE, RED & GREEN, Fresh, MINT never hinged. Very fine. Cat \$350. Estimate: \$300 Not Sold



Lot 1878 \*\* (TD123) 1992 EAGLE, MULTICOLORED, PNC STRIP OF 5, Self-adhesive, simulated perforations and printed TEST SPECIMEN between bars. Plate #1111. Fresh, MINT never hinged. Very fine. Cat \$350. Estimate: \$300 Realized \$290



Lot 1879 \*\* (TD129A) 1997 FLOWER, MULTI, 18 x 18 mm, Self-adhesive, Fresh, MINT never hinged. Very fine. Cat \$375. Estimate: \$300, Realized \$350



Lot 1880 \*\* (TD129B) 1997 FLOWER, MULTI, 18 x 21 mm, Self-adhesive. Fresh, MINT never hinged. Very fine. Cat \$250. Estimate: \$200, Realized \$280



Lot 1881 \*\* (TD129C) 1997 FLOWER, MULTI, 22 x 31 mm, Self-adhesive. Fresh, MINT never hinged. Very fine. Cat \$375. Estimate: \$300, Realized \$375

*please turn to page 6 ➤*





Lot 1882 \*\* (TD129D) 1997 FLOWER, MULTI, 22 x 31 mm, ENGRAVED LINES IN FLOWER, Self-adhesive. Fresh, MINT never hinged. Very fine. Cat \$375. Estimate: \$300, Realized \$325



Lot 1883 \*\* (TD133A) 2000 FOR TESTING PURPOSES ONLY, SELF-ADHESIVE PNC5, Self-adhesive horizontal coil strip of 5 in black, with no gap between stamps. Center stamp has plate #1111 at bottom center. Only 44 PNCs known. Very fine. Copy of recent *United States Specialist* article enclosed. Cat \$300. Estimate: \$250, Realized \$135



Lot 1884 \*\* (TD135) 2000 SOUTH CAROLINA FLAG, PNC5, Self-adhesive horizontal strip of 5 light blue test stamps showing South Carolina flag. Center stamp has year date 2000 at lower left and plate #V1 at lower right. Very fine. Only 106 PNCs known. Copy of recent *United States Specialist* article enclosed. Cat \$225. Estimate: \$200, Realized \$250



Lot 1885 \*\* (TDB89) 1997 FOR TESTING PURPOSES ONLY, BOOKLET PANE OF 18 MAGENTA LABELS Self-adhesive pane of 18 labels, blue back. Fresh, MINT never hinged. Very fine. Cat \$250. Estimate: \$200, Realized \$180



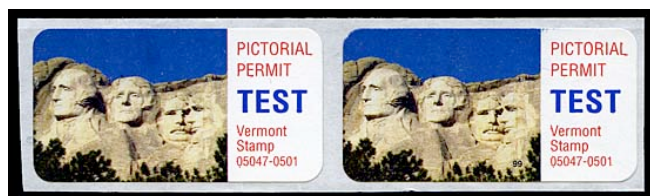
Lot 1886 (\*) c.1980 BEE TEST STAMP, BLOCK, Lower left block of 4 of BEP test stamp for B stamp, appropriately showing a bee. On stamp paper, without gum. Very fine. Estimate: \$2000, Realized \$1100



please turn to page 7 ➤

Lot 1887 (\*) c. 1980s VERMONT TEST STAMPS, Two pairs of self-adhesives, two different designs, one showing Capitol building, one showing Mt. Rushmore. Fresh, very fine. Rare. Not Sold

Only the Mt. Rushmore pair is illustrated here and in the catalogue.



You will note that there were several lots of the Kansas (TD98) and Nebraska (TD99-TD101) test stamps in this auction that were not sold. Is this a sign that more have been “discovered” or released by the owners or is it a simple supply and demand issue? Definitely this shows that many more than originally thought to exist are now showing up in auctions.

There were also several foreign test stamps in this auction. □

## Proposed Future DSSG Projects

### Updating Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets

Work is progressing, very much still at a snail's pace, on updating Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets. 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 updated version of Research Paper Number 3. I am in charge of this update project and knowing that it will

take quite a bit of time to complete, have no estimated completion date in mind. I will be asking all of you to join me in this project as I am not able to do it all, nor would you want me 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 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 be available on CD. □

### 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 Piszkiwicz, 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](mailto:lenp@pacbell.net) or his mailing address is: **Leonard Piszkiwicz, Editor, 951 Rose Court, Santa Clara, CA 95051, phone (408) 241-4626.**