



Dummy News and Views

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

Issue Number 14

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Welcome to the Dummy Stamps Study Group's Fourteenth 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

Congratulations to Joann Lenz

by Terry R. Scott

At the American Philatelic Society's "Ameristamp Expo" in Arlington, Texas held February 20-22, 2009, Dummy Stamps Study Group member Joann Lenz won a vermeil medal for her one frame exhibit titled "Early U.S. Dummy and Test Stamps of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing."

In addition to the vermeil award she also received the "Most Popular" exhibit award.

Congratulations are in order for Joann and her fine showing of test stamps. This wonderful display shows many unique dummy and test stamps that were placed

on public display for the first time at this stamp show. Hopefully this exposure will increase the interest in dummy and test stamps. Joann has agreed to allow me to display some parts of her pages in this newsletter. She emphasizes that the exhibit is a "work in progress."

Due to space limitations on this cover page, illustrations of selected portions of the pages can be found on Pages 3 through 5 of this newsletter. Unfortunately several of these illustrations needed to be reduced in size. □

Recent Articles of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

Possible Constant Plate Variety On Some Scott TD112 Test Coils

In the February 2009 issue of *The United States Specialist* there is an article regarding a plate scratch found on some Scott TD112 test coils.

Kenneth Moreau, a fellow member of the Dummy Stamps Study Group, sent me a strip of Scott TD112 test coils for my collection. TD112 is the black, untagged, dull gum "FOR TESTING PURPOSES ONLY" test coil that has a design that measures approximately 19 mm in width, compared all other "FOR TESTING PURPOSES ONLY" test coils that have a 19½ mm design width.

Upon close examination I saw what appeared to be a plate scratch on one of the stamps in the strip. The plate scratch variety is a horizontal scratch starting at the very left of the letter "O" in "ONLY" and continues sloping very slightly downward to the right

frame line of the design. The plate scratch variety is shown in on page 2 of this newsletter.

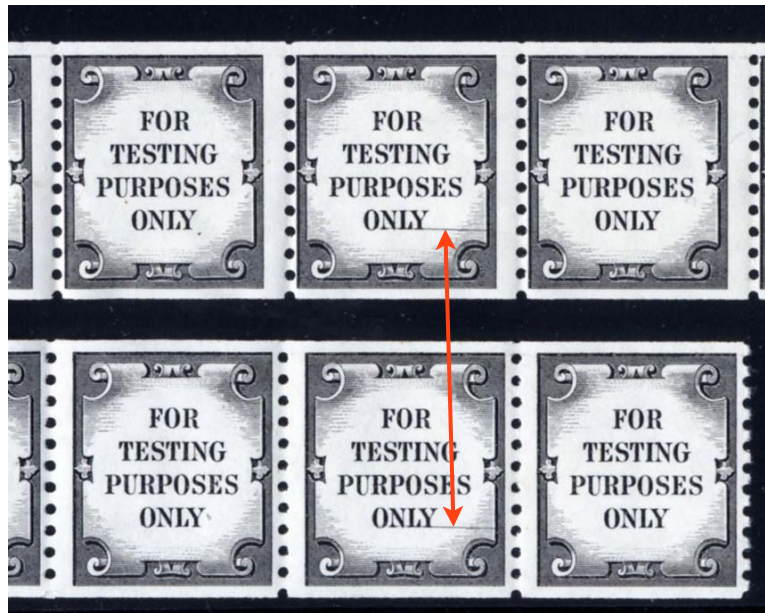
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Below is an illustration of a Scott TD112 with the plate scratch variety discussed in the The United

States Specialist article. Please refer to that article for additional information.



The constant plate scratch variety is shown on the center stamp of two different strips in the illustration above. Red arrows point to the plate scratch..

It appears every 52 stamps when found on a continuous strip □

Another Constant Variety On Some Scott TD65 Test Coils

By Terry R. Scott

After the publication of the December 2008 issue of *The United States Specialist* in which I reported about some Scott TD65 test coils that show a broken “OR” in “CORP’N” constant plate flaw, I was contacted by fellow test stamp collector, and Dummy Stamps Study Group member Carol J. Edholm and her husband Keith.

They compared their copies of TD65 with those illustrated in the article. They did find that they had an example of the constant variety showing a broken “OR” in “CORP’N” but also

noticed what appeared to be another constant variety on the stamps adjacent to the ones showing the broken “OR” in “CORP’N” that were noted in the article.

This newly reported constant variety can be seen as a semi-circle of missing printed red color on the bottom of the rectangle to the right of the central circle containing the words “SANITARY / POSTAGE / STATION.” It can be seen in the illustration below. Blue arrows point to the location of the two different varieties



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Selected Portions of the “Early U.S. Dummy and Test Stamps of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing Exhibit by Joann Lenz”

Hamilton-head experimentals, 1909-1910



Large die proof (India paper die-sunk on card), pulled from “miscellaneous die 7453.” Proof bears BEP control #400894 on reverse.

One of three proofs pulled Dec. 8, 1909; unique on India paper.



Letterpress-printed die proof on card, cut to shape, with #42039 on reverse.

As the Stickney experiments progressed, concern was expressed that the dummies didn't resemble actual stamps enough for accurate evaluation of printing trials. A right-facing profile portrait of Alexander Hamilton was added to the “1234” design to create a stamp-like, non-accountable test item — E. Shaffer, engraver. Misc. die 7453 was ordered Nov. 24, 1909 (above). Additional dies for the tests, printed by letterpress (left and right), also were created during this time period.



Sample of surface printing from die: done by Bureau E&P. 5/20/1910

Letterpress-printed large die proof on card with control #420270 stamped on reverse. Inscription reads: “Sample of surface printing from die: done by Bureau E&P. 5/20/1910.”

Unique

The above page from Joann Lenz's exhibit contains one of three die proofs of the “Hamilton-head”

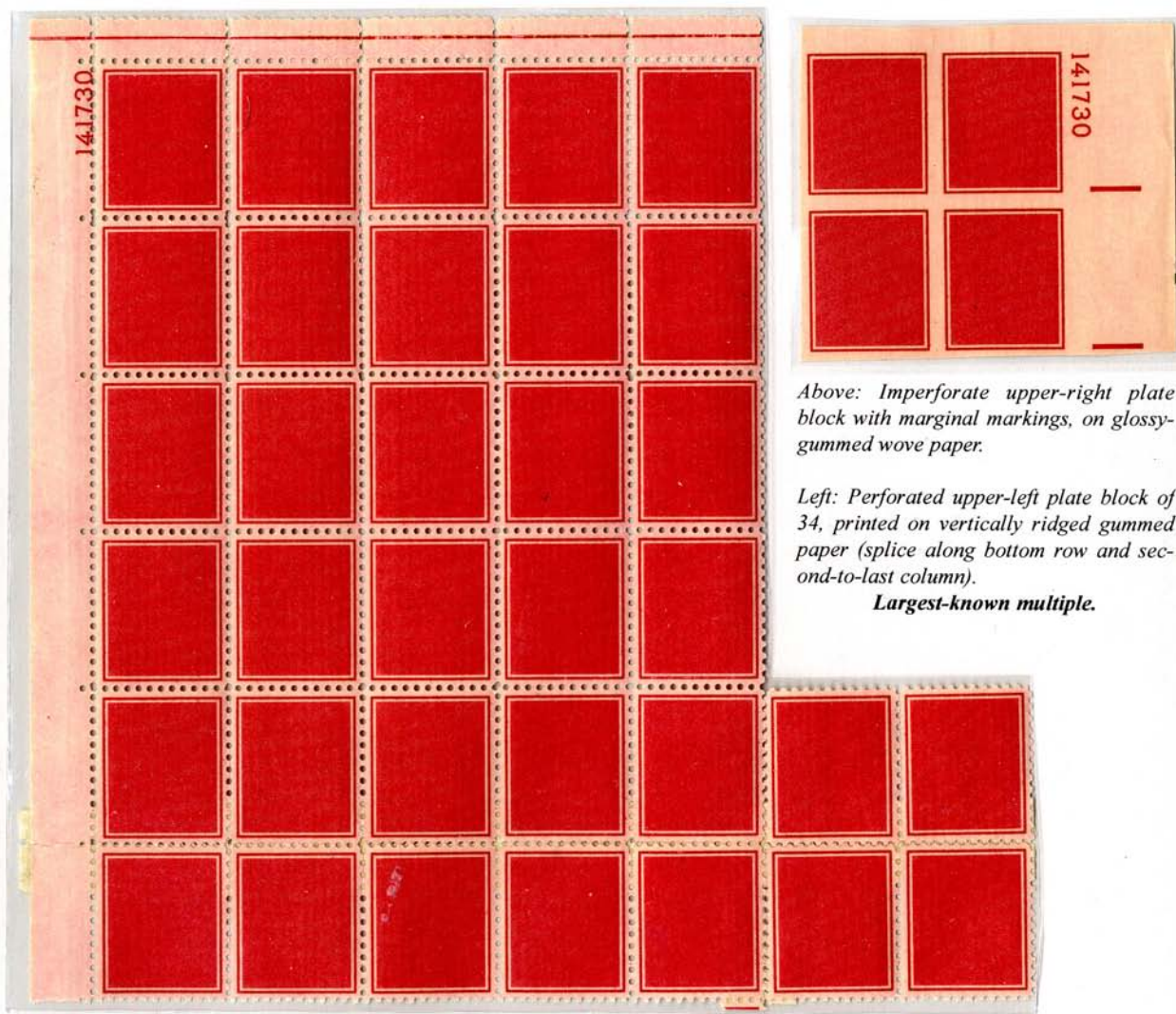
dummy, but the **only one known** on India paper and also a **Unique** large letterpress-printed die proof.

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Framed rectangles, 1954

In 1954, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing began producing sheet-format dummy stamps that very closely resemble actual postage stamps. These dummies consist of a red-colored line-engraved boxed rectangle. They were printed in 400-subject sheet format (four 100-stamp panes) from printing plates specifically created and assigned for the purpose. The plate pairing was Nos. 141730 and 141731.

Although it is not known what specific tests were performed with these dummies, it was likely related to electric-eye perforating equipment. Dummies are known both perforated 11 X 10 1/2 and imperforate, and with two different gum types; ridged and glossy. Neither type has breakers.



Above: Imperforate upper-right plate block with marginal markings, on glossy-gummed wove paper.

Left: Perforated upper-left plate block of 34, printed on vertically ridged gummed paper (splice along bottom row and second-to-last column).

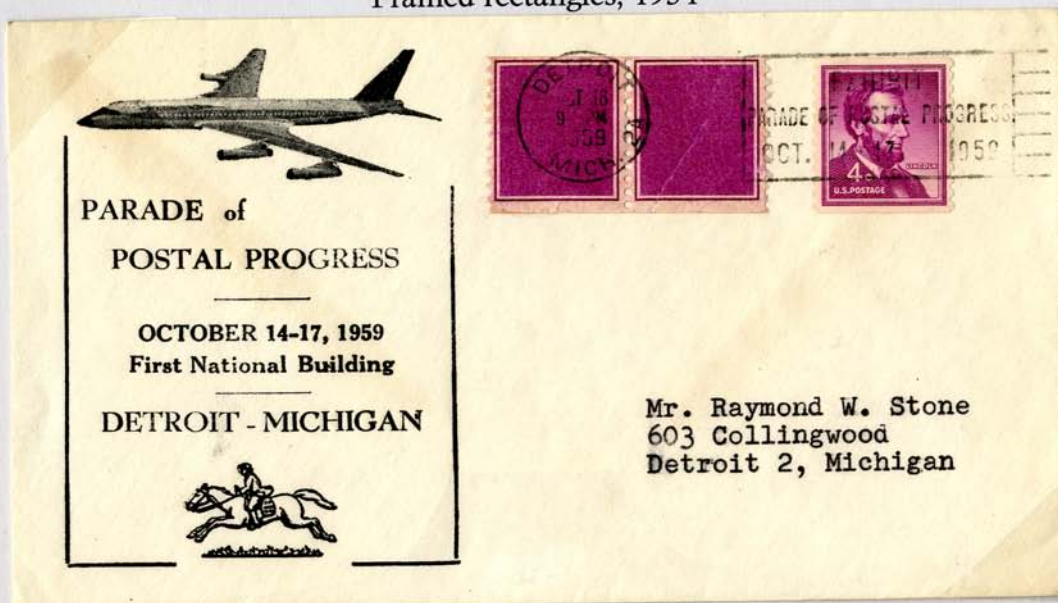
Largest-known multiple.

The above page from Joan Lenz's exhibit contains the
Largest-known block (34) of red-framed rectangle

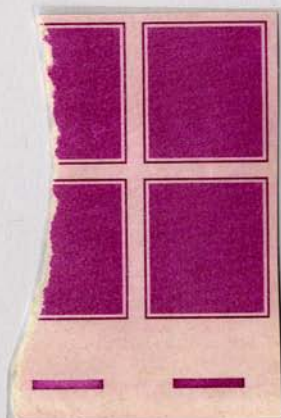
dummy, with plate number and splices.

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Framed rectangles, 1954



A cacheted cover mailed from the 1959 Parade of Postal Progress show, bearing a large-hole pair of dummy stamps and a single of the 4c Liberty series Lincoln coil it mimics.

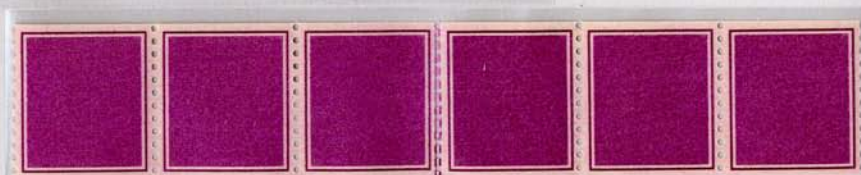


One large imperforate bottom-of-the-web multiple of 20 stamps (10 X 2) was found, showing bottom marginal markings and plate numbers.
Unique left-side block from multiple, as torn from web.

In addition to the previously detailed types of the 3c purple dummy coil, the 4c reddish-violet type also is known with both large- and small-diameter perforation holes caused by the 1959 experiments leading to the implementation of the Huck coiling machine. The small-hole type is from the Huck coiler.



Large-hole line strip of 6 (above),
small-hole line strip of 6 (right).



The last page to be illustrated in this newsletter from Joann Lenz's exhibit shows a **Unique** left-side block cut from only-known bottom-margin multiple of reddish-violet framed rectangle dummy coil. Also

shown on this page are examples of the reddish-violet coils with "large" and "small" perforation holes □

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Should it stay or should it go?

By James N. Drummond

The author is grateful for the loan of the only known copy of TD69 from the owner, Michael McBride.

Note: all of the images in this article have been either enlarged or reduced in size.

A first time look through the listings of test stamps that are in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue* reveals a number of peculiar looking items that are not found anywhere else in the catalog. There are some “stamps” that are completely lacking any ink at all; stamps that only have a plain box printed on them; stamps with a brief claim about how many envelopes per hour a certain machine seals and stamps the envelopes; and even one printed as a dizzying mirror image. Given that **all** of the test stamps are kind of strange looking, one that really seems odd is the one listed as TD69.

It is the only stamp in the entire section that has the text of “royalty stamp” on it. It is also the only one with an apparently intentional blank area as part of its design and with “No.” (for Number) in this blank area. There are only a few stamps listed that are perforated on all four sides, and TD69 is one of these as well.

Since stamps that have the text of “postage due” on them are considered postage due stamps and stamps with “savings stamp” on them are considered savings stamps, one kind of wonders how a stamp with “royalty stamp” on it was considered by someone to be a “test stamp.” Isn’t this stamp actually a royalty stamp, seeing as how it says so right on it?

But what exactly is a royalty stamp, anyway?

In 1935 Henry Holcombe released a booklet called “*Check List of License and Royalty Stamps.*” This 32 page book described in considerable detail the majority of the known royalty stamps. The book was based on earlier cataloging efforts done by E. B. Sterling, and it was updated with the contributions from several prominent contemporary collectors of these stamps.

The royalty stamps were used by various manufacturers to show that they had paid a fee to the person that had invented the item that they were manufacturing. They were also used to show that a license had been obtained from the patentee; in either case generally a small amount per item had been, or was going to be, paid.

The stamps were almost always designed and printed locally, and as a result a wide variety of shapes, sizes, and colors are known of these interesting stamps. In this respect, they are somewhat similar to the Scott-listed private die proprietary stamps, which are commonly called match and medicine stamps. The majority of the known stamps were used between 1860 and 1885, though different types of patent notice labels continued to be used until the 1930’s.

The stamps were applied to the box that an item was packaged in, or physically stuck to the manufactured good itself. For those that wanted to collect them, usually the only way to obtain them was to soak the article in a tub of warm water. This was impractical (if not messy) for things like brooms and trousers and hats, and as a result a large percentage of these royalty stamps are today found in damaged condition, as peeling a stamp off a pair of shoes usually results in thins, or worse. They are also almost without exception quite scarce; there are several that are probably unique.

In order for the holder of a licensed patent to keep track of not only who was making his or her product but also how many were made, a unique serial or control number was applied to many royalty stamps.



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The four typical license or royalty stamps shown above show the serial numbers, either press-printed or handwritten, as well as the date that the patent was granted. Note that two of these stamps, like TD69, also have “royalty stamp” as part of their design. The other two have “license stamp.”

Many royalty stamps are found without any numbers at all, though invariably there is a space on the stamp that is reserved for the number, as with the space at the bottom of the Coykendall Dirt Excluder Shoe stamp, shown to the right. Generally these number-less royalty stamps are “leftovers.”



TD69 appears to the author at least that it has the same basic design as most other royalty stamps, and that it is in fact a royalty or license stamp, and thus should be removed from the test stamp listings. Other than the fact that it clearly states on the stamp that it is a royalty stamp, there is one more reason for the removal; but if nothing else happens, at a minimum a correction to the description should be made.

When the test stamps were first listed in the Scott Specialized, the existing entries in the Krause-Minkus “Standard Catalog of U.S. Stamps” were apparently imported, and whatever inaccuracies that were in Krause were subsequently and unfortunately brought into Scott. The original listing of TD69 is from page 603 in the 2002 edition of Krause, and it is shown below.

1920s. ROYALTY STAMP ISSUE Stamp affixer in oval surrounded by "Stamp Affixing Machine Patented April 23, 1925" with "Royalty Stamp" below and "No." in lower left corner.



TT56A

red

TT56A

MNHVF

The “1920’s” dating might have been from when this stamp was first observed, or perhaps for some other reason. It was somehow further refined in the Scott listings as “1925?” In any event, the stamp actually contains the text of “Patented Apl 23rd 95,” as can be seen on the high resolution image below.



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So, if nothing else is done, the placement of this stamp within the test stamp section should be updated; it should be brought closer to the beginning of the section.

There is not enough space here to fully describe the processes that were involved in obtaining a patent in the United States in the mid-1890's. All that really needs to be explained is that patents were (and still are) awarded in a sequential numerical order, regardless of the idea or device being patented. This means that the patent, for example, for a new valve for a locomotive air brake will be issued right after the patent for a bob sled. Further, the U.S. patent office issues patents only on certain days, rather than continuously, as might be ordinarily thought.

The website Google has a section that allows one to search for old patents, and it is normally a straightforward procedure to input certain criteria, such as in this case "stamp," "affixing," "April 23," "1895," and so on. The specific patent is then usually identified by the search engine, and one can then download the patent and study it in detail.

This process was attempted with the text that is found on TD69. No such patent was found. A variety of different approaches were made, such as removing or adding different text into the search, and in each case no patent could be found that in any way described a stamp affixing machine that looked even slightly similar to this one, and that had been patented on April 23, 1895.

There were two that were close. Patents number 538,017, 538,018, and 538,019 all relate to a "mail marking machine" that was invented by M. V. B. Ethridge and H. E. Waite, and all three were patented on the correct date, however the illustrations that accompanied these patents looked nothing at all like the device that was shown on the stamp.

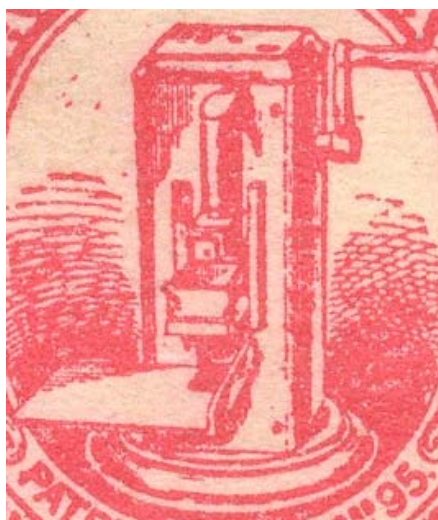
A close up look at the stamp affixing contraption (illustrated below) reveals the large flat tray at the bottom front, presumably designed for the stamped mail to accrue, and the crank handle at the top right.

These two features, along with the circular base, the vertical orientation of the device, and the angled top of the container, should be unusual and novel enough for one to match it with the drawing(s) that accompanies most patent applications.

Another close call was a "machine for affixing stamps," invented by Adolph Sanders, patent number 538,126.

Though Sander's machine was vertically orientated, it looked quite different, most obviously with the rod sticking out of the top instead of the hand crank on the side.

The illustration from Sander's machine is shown on the next page.



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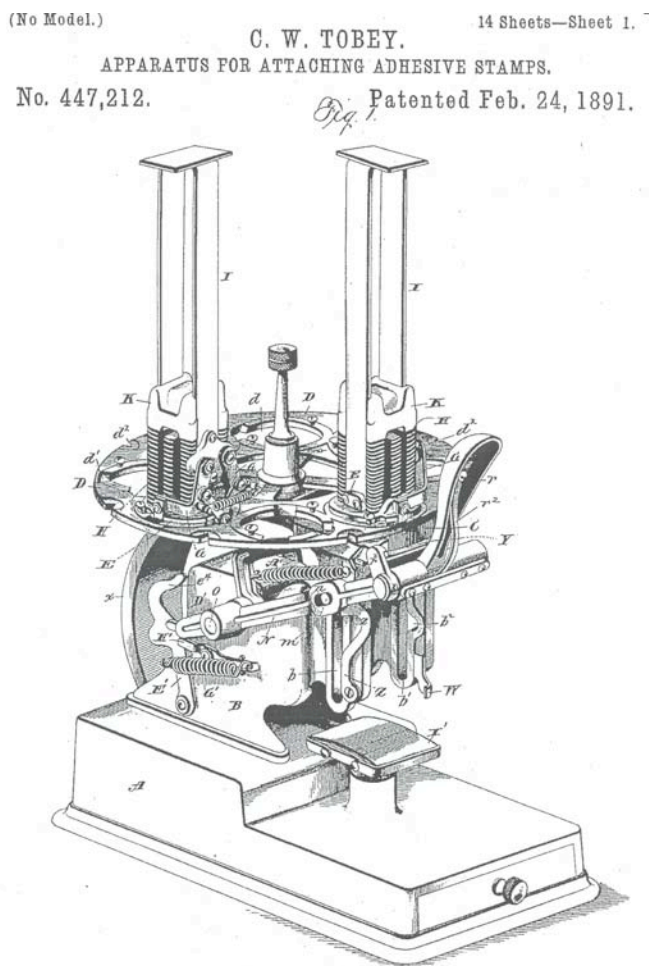
The conclusion to this mind-numbingly tedious exercise is that either a) the patented device shown on TD69 is not of U.S. manufacture, or b) I somehow missed a stamp affixing machine patent within the above range.

Just to be sure, I entered all of the numbers between 537,810 to 538,225 (inclusive) a second time, after several days went by. I still didn't find the patent to a stamp affixing machine that looked like the one on TD69.

In the author's opinion, TD69 should be removed from the test stamp listings because it is a royalty stamp, and it is not a test stamp; and further it does not appear to represent the patent for a United States manufactured device. I welcome any further discussion, either pro or con, regarding this interesting stamp. My email address is jdrummond@alberto.com.

Epilogue

While spending far too much time browsing through ancient patents I came across the patent for the device shown on TD9A and TD9B, the Burt and Tobey Stamp Battery. The first page of patent number 447,212 is shown below. I believe that these two stamps are **also** royalty stamps, and not test stamps... but that is a story for another time. ☐



Witnesses
Chas. Williamson
Henry L. Hazard

Inventor
Chas. W. Tobey, by
Brindle & Russell, his Attys

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Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

On January 28, 2009 Downeast Stamps held Public Auction #253 that included the following lots of test stamps. A 10% Buyers Fee is to be added to the price realized (R) for each lot.



Lot 0952 ** TD38a, carmine, strip of five, FVF, NH. Cat. \$120.++ R \$56.00

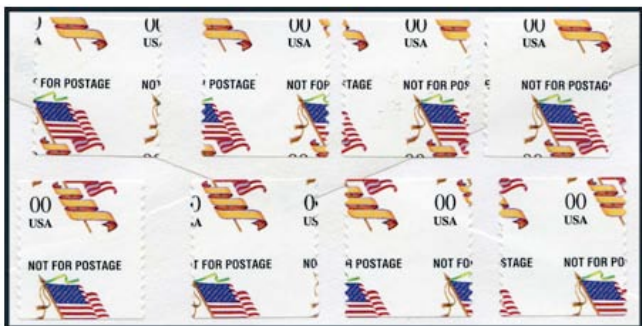
Lot 0953 ** TD75, coil roll of 1000, blank with horizontal ribbed gum, leader printed: '3¢ U.S. Postage stamps / coiled sidwise / perforated between sides', Cat. \$650.00 Not Sold

Lot 0954 ** TDB32, cplt booklet with gummed blank test stamps, VF Cat. \$20.00 Not Sold ☐

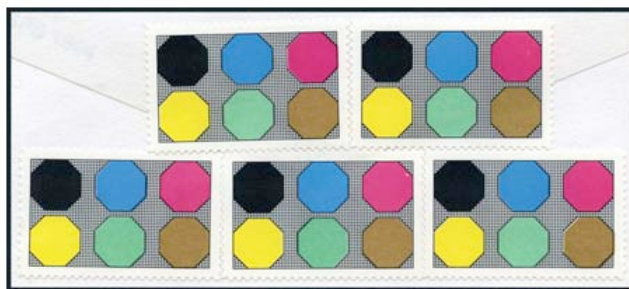
In conjunction with the American Philatelic Society's "Ameristamp Expo" in Arlington, Texas Convention Center, February 20-22, 2009 Harmer-Schau held Public Auction #80 that included the following test stamp lots. A 15% Buyers Premium is to be added to the price realized (R) for each lot.



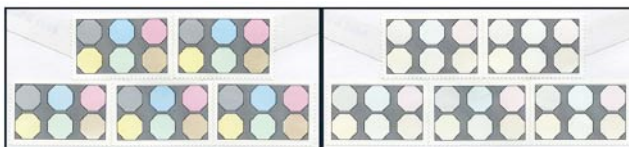
Lot 1062 U.S.; Test Stamps Covers, 1998, "Flag" 8 Singles on Cover, #TD130A. On reverse of #U632, cancelled 7 Dec 1998 from Philadelphia, with "Wavy Line" cancel, for testing purposes, unusual, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$280+. Estimate \$100/150. R \$150



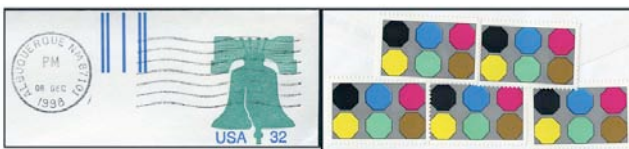
Lot 1063 U.S.; Test Stamps Covers, 1998, "Flag" 8 Singles on Cover, #TD130A var. On reverse of #U632, not cancelled, all drastically misperforated and miscut, very unusual, Very Fine, *New discovery*. Photo. Estimate \$200/300. R \$150



Lot 1064 U.S.; Test Stamps Covers, 1998, "Octagon", 5 Singles on Cover, #TD130B. On reverse of #U632, cancelled Dec 9, 1998 from South Suburban, IL for testing purposes, unusual, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$225+. Estimate \$100/150. R \$70

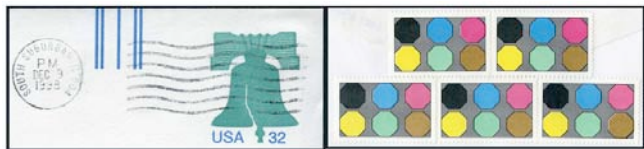


Lot 1065 U.S.; Test Stamps Covers, 1998, "Octagon" on 3 Covers, #TD130B. 5 singles on reverse of #U632 (3), all cancelled Dec 9, 1998 from South Suburban, IL for testing purposes, one with issued colors, next with medium colors and last with very light colors, new discovery, very unusual, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$675 ++. Estimate \$400/500. R \$250



Lot 1066 U.S.; Test Stamps Covers, 1998, 3 Issues on 3 Different From Albuquerque, NM, #TD130A-B, TDB89A. All on the reverse of #U632, 8, 5 and 8 copies respectively, cancelled 7 or 8 Dec, very scarce matching city postmark set, Very Fine. See article in the Nov. 2006 issue of the U.S. Specialist for more details. Photo. Scott \$785+. Estimate \$200/300. R \$230

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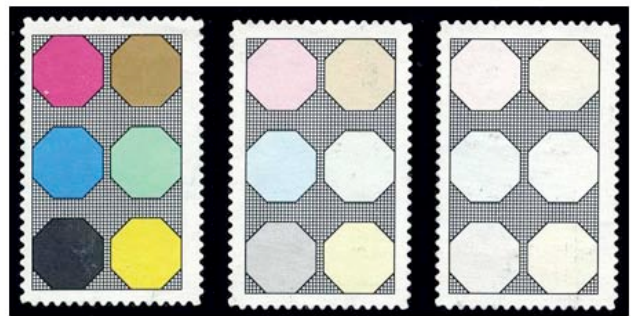
Lot 1067 ✉ U.S.; Test Stamps Covers, 1998, 3 Issues With 3 Different Cities, #TD130A-B, TDB89A. All on reverse of #U632, TDB89A (8), cancelled on front 4 Dec 1998, Fayetteville, AR, TD130A (8), cancelled on front Philadelphia 7 Dec 1998, TD130B (5), cancelled South Suburban, IL, very unusual items, Very Fine. *See article in the Nov. 2006 issue of The U.S. Specialist for more details.* Photo. Scott \$785+. Estimate \$200/300. R \$210



Lot 1068 ✉ U.S.; Test Booklets Covers, 1998, "George Clinton", 8 Singles, #TDB89A. On reverse of #U632, cancelled Dec 4, 1998 from Fayetteville, AR, with "Space Discovery" slogan cancel, for testing purposes, unusual, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$280+. Estimate \$100/150. R \$85



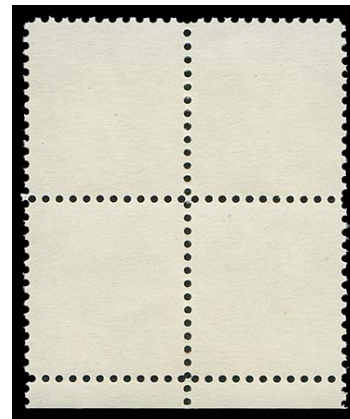
Lot 1069 ✉ U.S.; Test Booklets Covers, 1998, "George Clinton", 8 Singles, #TDB89A. On reverse of #U632, cancelled Dec 4, 1998 from Fayetteville, AR, with "Wavy Line" cancel, for testing purposes, unusual, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$280+. Estimate \$100/150. R \$85



Lot 1678 * U.S.; Test Stamp Issues, 1998, "Octagon" 3 Singles, #TD130B. In 3 different color printing intensities, one dark, one medium and one very light, for testing purposes, all soaked off cover, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$130+. *New discovery.* Estimate \$75/100. R \$120

On February 27 through March 1, 2009 Regency Superior held Public Auction #72 in conjunction with St. Louis Stamp Expo. in St. Louis, MO. The following test stamps were included in this sale. A 15% Buyers Premium is to be added to the price realized (R) for each lot.

Lot 2085 ** (TD107d) FOR TESTING PURPOSES ONLY FULL SEALED COIL ROLL, Full sealed coil roll of 500 phosphor-tagged, dull-gum type, not including premium for label. Roll is very fine MINT never hinged and will yield 20 line pairs. No photo, Cat \$1,120 R \$50.00



Lot 2086 ** (TD113/TD114) 1964 TEST STAMP, BLANK BEP WITH TWO TYPES OF TAGGING, MARGIN BLKS. Pristine matching MINT never hinged margin blocks of 4 from the only pane of each to ever surface. Test stamps were created by BEP to test different tagging. One block glows yellow-green (zinc-orthosilicate); the other glows reddish-orange (calcium silicate). Scarce position pieces! Cat \$400. R \$350.

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On February 28, 2009, Beck Stamp Auctions held Sale #291 that included the following test stamps. The photos are not shown as they were of very poor quality in the catalog. The abbreviations are as in the catalog. There is no buyers Premium. Prices realized are unknown.

Lot 54 * US TD-88, 1944-49, "Multipost" coil pair VG F (dist gum), Most all are Photo \$50.00

Lot 55 * TD-88, similar to above \$50.00

Lot 56 * TD-123, TD-138, 2 diff coil pairs, VF NH Photo \$34.00

Lot 57 * TDB-12, cpl "Dummy" booklet. VF. \$50.00

Lot 58 * TDB-32, 1985, cpl test booklet w/dull gum. VF. Est. \$25-30.00

Lot 59 * As above. Est. \$25-30.00

Lot 60 * US Pacific 97. Souv pane of 18. VF NH. Est. \$10-12.00

Lot 64 * SWEDEN, Cir 1937. The Ewert's trial proof, Imperf between very pair. VG F. Est. \$15-20.00 Photo

Lot 65 * SWEDEN, similar to above. Est. \$15-20. □

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 or his mailing address is: Leonard Piskiewicz, Editor, 951 Rose Court, Santa Clara, CA 95051, phone (408) 241-4626. □

Recent Publication of Interest

2008 Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog

According to an article in the June 2008 issue of *The United States Specialist*, The United States Stamp Society recently released the new *2008 Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog* at the Society's Annual Meeting at NOJEX '08, May 23, 2008.

The *2008 Durland* edition is the eighth produced by the USSS and its publication celebrates the 58th anniversary of the introduction of the *Standard Plate Number Catalog*.

The new *2008 Durland* has been reformatted and digitized by Len Piskiewicz and is edited by Wallace Cleland.

The new *2008 Durland* is an all-color presentation and is in a three-column 8-1/2" x 11" format. It is

available in two formats, a perfect-bound and spiral-bound.

The new greatly expanded edition contains listings for numerous back-of-the-book sections of the *Scott Catalogue*, including test stamps.

The *2008 Durland* is available for \$25 perfect-bound and \$27 spiral-bound. USSS members will receive discount pricing of \$20 perfect-bound and \$22 spiral-bound. All prices include postage. Orders may be sent to USSS Executive Secretary, P. O. Box 6634, Katy, TX 77491-6634. They can also be ordered online at the USSS website, www.usstamps.org. Online orders are only available for purchase with PayPal. □

Proposed Future DSSG Projects

Updating Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets

Actually, work is progressing on updating Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets. I have begun to design pages for the new version. The page layouts are pretty much like the existing page layout designs but without the external border all around the

pages. Some other minor changes have been made to make the pages appear more "clean", at least in my opinion.

please turn to page 14 ►

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 will be asking some of you to furnish scans of dummy booklets that I do not have scans of so they can be illustrated. Scans at 300 dpi are necessary for clarity. It is my goal to illustrate every known dummy booklet in color. I already know this is more than likely impossible since some of the dummy booklets have not been seen by DSSG

members. In that case, an illustration will be fabricated from the information known about the booklet and the panes.

I am in charge of this update project and knowing that it will take quite a bit of time to complete, I 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.

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. □

I would like to thank Dummy Stamps Study group member John Hotchner for the nice plug for our group in the March 2009 issue of U. S. Stamp News

The following appeared on page 38 in the "Join a Society" department the of that issue.

Join A Collector Specialty Society THE DUMMY STAMPS STUDY GROUP

Formed as a study group of the U.S. Stamp Society, the DSSG has already made an impact through its members' efforts working with Scott's to improve and update the Test Stamps and Test Booklets sections of the *Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogue*. Membership is near the 25 mark, but should be much higher as many collectors own dummy stamps and would like to know more about them. DSSG's webmaster Terry Scott, issues a free quarterly electronic newsletter that covers the range and depth of the field. The current and back issues can be accessed at <www.usstamps.org/dssg.html>. There are occasional



members-only auctions. Membership is free, and membership in the USSS is not a requirement (though recommended). Register with Terry Scott at <trs@napanet.net>, or by mail at PO Box 10406, Napa, CA 94581.

If you are a member of a U.S.-connected philatelic specialty society and would like to have it featured in this space, send a current issue of your publication and information about society benefits/services to the editor, PO Box 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041-0125. Send corrections to the listings below to the publisher, John Dunn, 42 Sentry Way, Merrimack, NH 03054.

Thank you for your patience while this extra lengthy newsletter was being prepared.

I would like to thank Joann Lenz and James N. Drummond for their interesting input into this newsletter.

I would like to encourage other members to submit similar articles and/or information for publication in future issues of this newsletter. □