



# Dummy News and Views

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

Issue Number 21

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## Welcome to the Dummy Stamps Study Group's Twenty-First 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)

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

*I wish all of you a very happy, healthy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.*

*We are very fortunate to feature the following article by James Drummond announcing the discovery of a new test stamp - The National Postage Service Test Stamp.*

### A New Discovery:

### The National Postage Service Test Stamps from Northwestern Corporation

by James N. Drummond

The Northwestern Novelty Company was founded on August 12, 1909 by Emerson A. Bolen and his two partners, Frank H. Hayes and Earl D. Fuller. The firm was (and still is) located in Morris, Illinois.

Mister Bolen's first product came out before the company was formed. It was called the Yankee, and it was a cast iron device that dispensed one match at a time after a lever had been pressed. As the match came out of the device, the tip was struck against an abrasive, and it emerged lighted and ready for use. Bolen's device was popular with saloon owners around the turn of the century; previously, patrons had been helping themselves to handfuls of complimentary matches, which caused considerable cuts into the saloon's profit margins.

The Yankee sold for two dollars and it cost one dollar to produce. It was sold through specialty salesmen and grocery tobacco wholesalers. In the first nine months the company built and sold about 100,000 of the Yankee devices.

Other vending machines were developed in the following years. By 1912 Northwestern had brought out their first postage stamp vending machine. It featured a glass front and back, so that the customers could see the rolls of stamps inside, and it sold for eight dollars. Vending machines that dispensed chewing gum, gumballs, and rolls of mints soon followed.

The Northwestern Novelty Company became The Northwestern Corporation in 1922.

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Today the company manufactures a wide variety of vending machines, from small counter-top devices that dispense candy and stickers, such as the two shown here, to giant collections of machines, like the Citadel, that offer dozens of different candies and products. The Citadel is shown below



### The Citadel

Considering that the test stamp section in the current Scott Specialized Catalogue includes the issues from dozens of manufacturers of obscure and short-lived stamp dispensing devices, it is somewhat surprising that there has not been any entry at all for the test stamp from the Northwestern Corporation.

In early December, 2010, a lot on eBay appeared with the following description: "Test coils group of 4 diff MNH with joint line Pr." Within the listing the only lot-specific information was "Test coils group of MNH

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stamps. The line pair has dry gum. The other pair is shiney (sic) gum.” The listing was in the “United States – Back of Book – Proofs and Essays” section, for some reason. The image in the listing showed the front and back of two pairs of Scott TD107 (or a variety) and a strip of five of TD119; these three test stamps are unremarkable and appear frequently on eBay. However a strip of four and two-thirds of a fifth stamp of a new design was also shown. Even after the eBay image had been enlarged, the mediocre quality of the image didn’t allow for one to closely examine the “new” test stamp.

The author requested a better-quality scan, and the seller promptly provided one. When the lot finally closed (fortunately for a very reasonable amount), I was then able to make an even better scan of this new test stamp. The stamp is perforated 9.25 vertically.



Enlarged 2 times.



The strip, as originally discovered.

As far as the author has been able to determine, the Northwestern Corporation has manufactured various models of stamp dispensing machines for many years. But according to their website, [www.nwcorp.com](http://www.nwcorp.com), they don’t appear to currently offer any kind of stamp dispensing device.

The advertisement to the right appeared on page 70 of the August 8, 1942 issue of Billboard magazine.

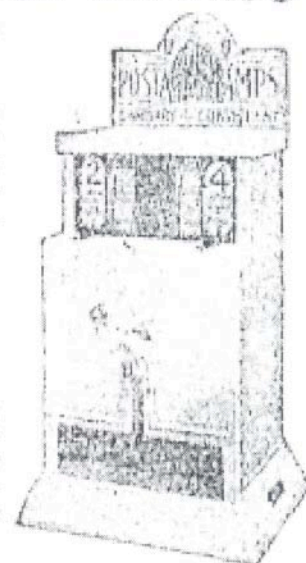
The model shown on the next page was called the "Stamp-O-Matic" It dispensed four 1 cent stamps for a nickel, or three 3 cent stamps for a dime. Though the flyer is undated, the tiny image of Scott 839, the one cent green coil stamp from 1939, is visible in the machine's front windows.

## SELL POSTAGE STAMPS Automatically

Save time—avoid loss.  
Enjoy the many advantages of self-service postage stamp accommodation—and make a profit besides.

NATIONAL  
POSTAGE  
SERVICE

Is furnished in six models, selling direct from government rolls. Meets the requirements of every merchant. Write for complete details.



NORTHWESTERN, Morris, Ill.

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## Another Newsletter of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

Issue number 19 of *Dummy Stamps Newsletter*, authored by fellow dummy stamp collector Glenn Morgan in the United Kingdom was released earlier this month. *Dummy Stamps Newsletter* was instigated in the Summer of 2006 and covers items of interest to the compiler about items from the world of British dummy philatelic material, with an occasional excursion abroad. It is published when time permits, but roughly quarterly. It is a wonderfully illustrated, full color publication and can be viewed online as a PDF file, downloaded as a PDF file and printed on your color / black and white printer, or it can be saved as a file on your PC / Mac computer for screen viewing at any time.

The web link is: <http://www.stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm>

I strongly urge you to check these newsletters out even if you are only interested in United States dummy stamps. The depth of research that Glenn does makes for wonderful reading and a lot can be learned about British dummy stamps by checking this link out.

Thank you Glenn for making this information available to us all.

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# Recent Articles of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

## Two New Blue ATM Test Panes Reported

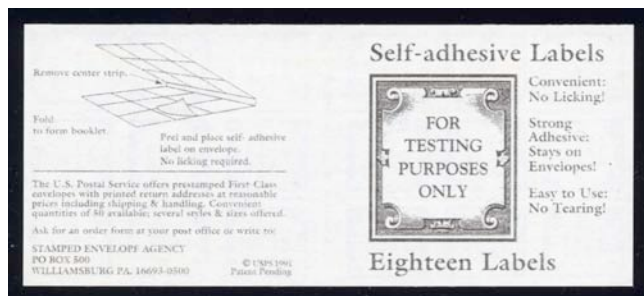
In the December 2010 issue of *The United States Specialist* there is an article describing two newly reported blue ATM test panes written by Dummy Stamps Study Group member Doug Iams.

The first new blue ATM test pane is from Avery and features the familiar “FOR TESTING PURPOSES ONLY” design. The back of the pane is printed in black, but much weaker than previous Avery ATM test pane back side.

See the illustration of both the front and back of the Avery blue ATM test pane following.

The second new blue ATM test pane is a product of Ashton Potter. It too features the “FOR TESTING PURPOSES ONLY” design, but it is a new modernized version. The back of the pane is also printed in black, but with several modifications.

See the illustration of both the front and back of the Ashton Potter blue ATM test pane following.



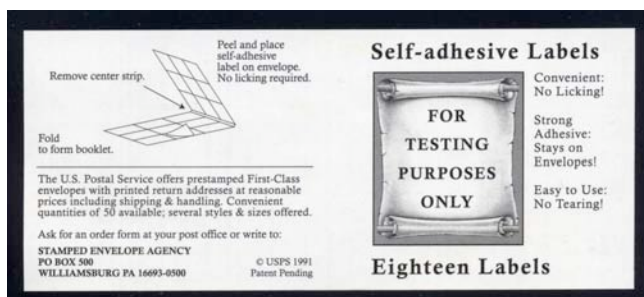
Avery blue ATM test pane back



Avery blue ATM test pane front



Ashton Potter blue ATM test pane front



Ashton Potter blue ATM test pane back


In the same December 2010 issue of *The United States Specialist* there is an article about a previously unreported Kendall Stamp Affixer test stamp written by Dummy Stamps Study Group Chairman Terry R. Scott.

The Kendall Stamp Affixer test stamp is blue in color and was possibly manufactured around 1917. It was reported by Michael Pappas of Plymouth, Michigan after he found a partial roll of them in a Kendall Stamp Affixer he had purchased on eBay.

A Kendall Stamp Affixer test stamp pair is illustrated nearby.



Each of these articles in the December 2010 issue of *The United States Specialist* contain several additional illustrations and the complete details of all items. Each article is four pages in length, including illustrations.

Copies of this publication can be ordered from: United States Stamp Society, P. O. Box 6634, Katy, TX 77491-6634. The cost for this publication is \$2.00 postpaid. Many back issues are also available for \$2.00 each from the same address. Check for availability of back issues prior to ordering.. 

## Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

On September 24-25, 2010 The Stamp Center Dutch Country Auctions held Sale #270 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 12% buyer's premium to be added to the price realized.

Lot 646 TEST STAMPS TD107d Unopened Roll of (500) Dull Gum Block Tagged (Ed.-These are overall tagged confirmed by The Stamp Center) F-VF NH, No Photo CAT \$1,320.00 Unknown Realization

On October 1-3, 2010 Regency Superior held Public Auction #83 at the SESCOAL stamp show that contained the following test stamps. There is a 17% buyer's premium to be added to the prices realized.

Lot #1910: USA TEST STAMP (TD107b) 1962-88 BLACK COIL, WHOLESALE GROUP Wholesale group, black coil, pebbled gum. Includes: two complete rolls of 500, 100 strips of 10 (no plate numbers), 30+ line strips of 4 plus additional strips, pairs & singles. Fresh, MINT never hinged, fine to very fine. No photo. Cats well over \$3000.00. Not Sold

Lot #1911: USA TEST STAMP (TD108) 1970 CAR-MINE, PAIR. Fresh, MINT never hinged, extremely fine horizontal pair. Photo Cat \$1750.00. Not Sold

Lot #1912: USA TEST STAMP (TD110) 1975 OR-ANGE ON GRAY, PAIR. Fresh, MINT never hinged,

extremely fine and rare horizontal pair. Photo. Cat \$2000.00. Not Sold

On October 6, 2010 Downeast Stamps held Auction No. 264 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 10% buyer's premium to be added to the price realized.

Lot 1023 \*\* TDB32, \$1.10 test booklet, cplt, VF Cat. \$20.00 Unknown Realization

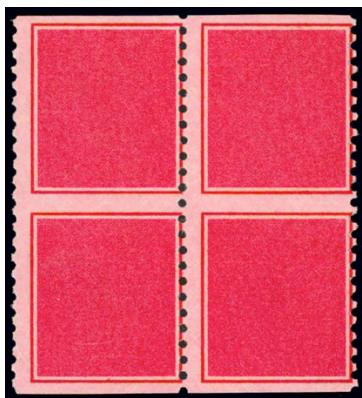
On October 21-24, 2010 Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions LLC held Sale 622 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% buyer's premium to be added to the price realized.




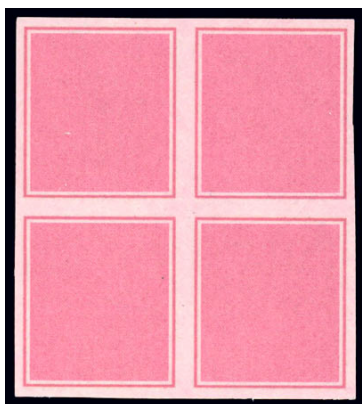
Lot 1565 E 1910, 5¢ brown, Washington head essay (Scott 335E var.), horizontal right margin block of 10, German printer private samples from a photogravure press similar to U.S. design of 1908-11, without gum as issued, Very Fine, Scarce Multiple. Estimate \$1,500 - 2,000. Realized \$1,500.00


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Lot 2589 ★ ★  **Test Stamps, 1954, carmine, imperf vert (Scott TD94), block of 4, o.g., never hinged, PO fresh, always centered to the right, F.-V.F. Scott \$300.00 Realized \$ 60.00**



Lot 2590 ★ ★  **Test Stamps, 1954, carmine, imperf (Scott TD94A), block of 4, o.g., never hinged, nice margins, bright fresh color, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Scott \$400.00 Realized \$70.00**

On October 26-29, 2010 Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. held Sale Number: 997 that contained the following test stamp. There is a 15% buyer's premium to be added to the prices realized.

Lot 6364A **3c Purple, 37c Test Booklet (TDB3).** Complete booklet of two panes of six, fresh and Fine No Photo Cat. \$600.00 Realized \$130.00

On October 29, 2010 Michael Rogers held Mail Sale 92 that included the following test stamps. There is a 15% buyer's premium to be added to the prices realized.

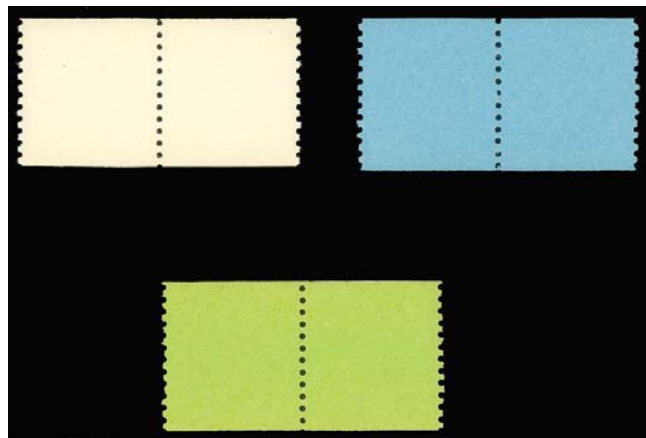
Lot 3132 \*\* 1959 85c Blue Test Booklet, complete unexploded booklet containing two panes of six blank labels, og NH VF. Photo (Sc TDB6 cat val \$175) MB \$50.00 Realized \$105.00

Lot 3133 \*\* 1967 \$1 Red Test Booklet complete unexploded containing two panes of six black "Test" stamps, cover with violet "Dummy" handstamp, og NH VF. Photo (Sc TCB17 cat val \$175.00) MB \$50.00 Realized \$105.00

On November 16, 2010 Paradise Valley Stamp Company, Inc. held Mail Auction #F219 that contained the following test stamps. There is no buyer's premium for this sale.



Lot 1582 **1940, 37c VIOLET ON BUFF BOOKLET COVER WITH TWO PURPLE PANE OF SIX, #TBD3,** complete mint never hinged unexploded booklet, very fine, scarce, Photo, Cat. \$600.00 MB \$300.00 Not Sold



Lot 1583 **1930s, ELECTRIC VENDORS (ZEIGLE), INC. WHITE, BLUE AND GREEN BLANK TEST COIL PAIRS NH, #TD79-TD81,** mint never hinged, very fine, Photo, Cat. \$120.00 MB \$60.00 Not Sold

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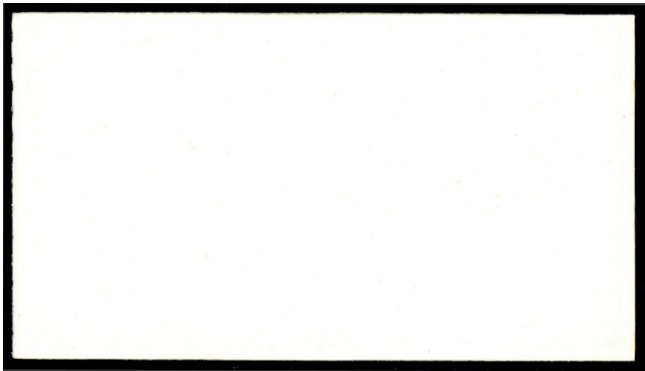


Lot 1586 **TEST BOOKLET, 1999, SELF-ADHESIVE & GLUED BOOKLET, BLANK COVER AND PANE, SERPENTINE DIE CUT, #TBD60**, complete unexploded, fine-very fine, Photo, Cat. \$150.00 MB \$75.00 Not Sold



On November 19-20, 2010 The Stamp Center Dutch Country Auctions held Sale #271 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 12% buyer's premium to be added to the prices realized.

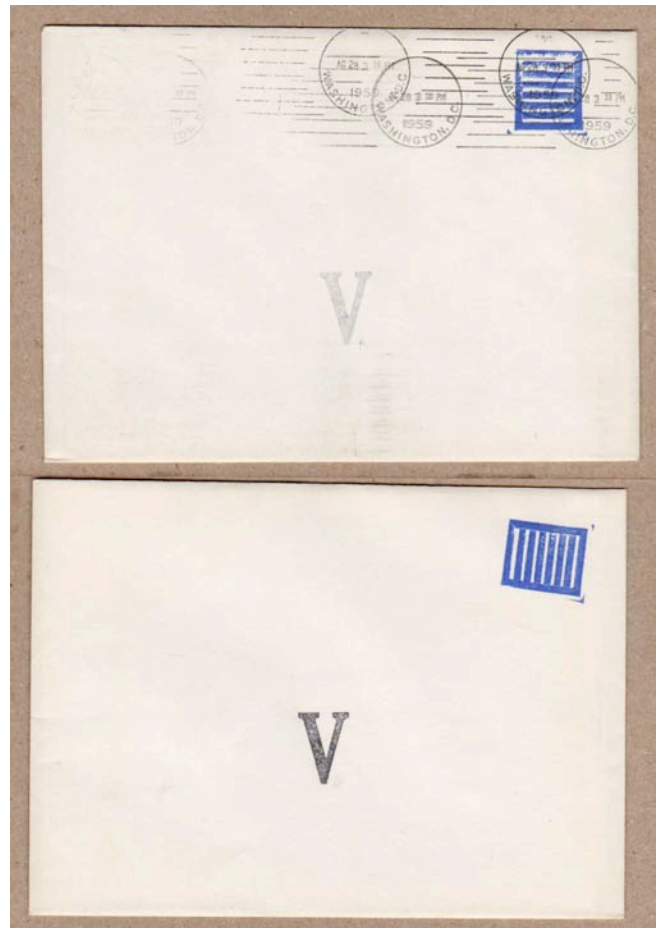
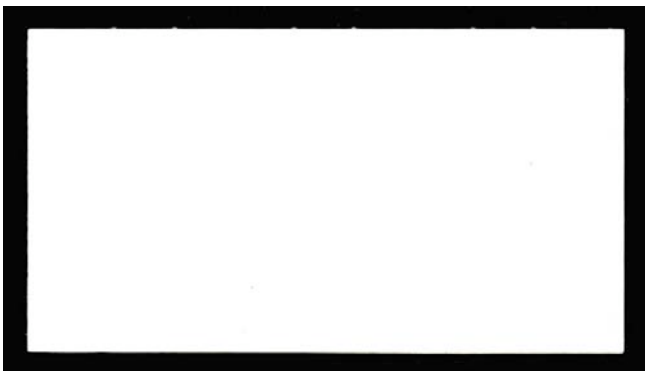
Lot 1584 **TEST STAMP - SMALL COLLECTION**, eight diff in pairs, incl. nos. TD96, TD107, TD107b, TD111 line-pair, TD112, TD117, TD123, fine-very fine, Photo, Cat. \$67.00 MB \$30.00 Not Sold



Lot 1585 **1990s?, TWO BLANK SELF-ADHESIVE PANES 44 x 132 mm IN COMPLETE BOOKLET, #TDB60**, blank cover, very fine, Photo, unpriced in Scott MB \$125.00 Realized \$125.00

*(Editor Note: I was advised by the winner of this lot that it was not a TDB60 but a TDB29..... with no perfs, no self-adhesive gum and no glued-shut cover....)*

*It appears that the catalog number shown in the listing was incorrect.*



Lot 78 **TEST STAMP COVERS 1959 Blue Rubber Stamp (2) ... Uncanceled & Tied April 28, 1959 Wash DC Cancels F-VF+ Seldom Seen! Photo Est. \$150.00-\$250.00 Realized \$190.00**