



Dummy News and Views

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

Issue Number 28

Summer 2012



Welcome to the Dummy Stamps Study Group's Twenty-Eighth 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

Wonderful Meetings at APS StampShow in Sacramento

by Terry R. Scott

Fellow Dummy Stamps Study group member, Mike Perry and I met Friday, August 17, 2012 with James Kloetzel, Editor Emeritus of the *Scott Catalogues* at the APS StampShow in Sacramento, CA to discuss various test stamp items that are currently listed in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers* and others that will be listed in the forthcoming 2013 edition due out in October of this year. We also had some additional test stamp items to show and discuss with Jim that will be the subject of a couple of articles to be published soon in *The United States Specialist*. These will be considered for listing in the 2014 *Scott Specialized*.

As always, it was a very productive and enjoyable meeting. After that meeting Mike and I met with Chad Snee, the current Editor of the *Scott Catalogues* also to discuss current and future test stamp entries and other items listed in the *Scott Specialized*. This was the first opportunity I had to meet Chad and I am very happy with our discussion. As always, the people associated with Scott Publishing and *Linn's Stamp News* are a pleasure to meet and talk with. They welcome your input and information.

A further discussion with Jim Kloetzel and Chad Snee was about permission to use the *Scott Catalogue* numbers in the upcoming revision and updating of *Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets*, a publication of the United States Stamp Society. The current edition of that paper was completed in 1998 under the editorship of Earl McAfee and has been long

overdue for updating. Chad directed me to the contact person at Scott to request permission. That was done and we have permission to use the Scott numbers in the updated RSP #3. It is because of the long-time great relationship between the United States Stamp Society and the people of Scott Publishing that this was an easy process. Thanks to all of you who in the past have made this easy for the rest of us.

With that in mind I would like to hear from DSSG members, and others, what changes they may want us to consider for the new edition. There will be many additions of newly reported test stamp booklets and updating of the current information. Color illustrations will be used where available.

This is a very large project to undertake and I will be asking all DSSG members for help in one way or another.. ☐

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Meeting New and Old friends at the APS StampShow

by Terry R. Scott

In addition to meeting Jim Kloetzel and Chad Snee, I had the opportunity to meet for the first time long time DSSG member, Steve Unkrich who has been a test stamp collector for many years and was instrumental in getting test stamps listed in the *Krause-Minkus Catalogues* and subsequently listed in the *Scott Specialized*. Steve Unkrich, Mike Perry and I had some very nice discussions about several different test stamps as well as other stamp collecting interests. It's always nice to finally meet in person someone with whom you have corresponded for many years. Steve has always been so nice and helpful to my many questions over the years.

We also got to talk a lot with fellow DSSG long-time member Wayne Youngblood. Wayne was there with Regency-Superior, one of the auction firms present at the APS StampShow. It's always nice to see and talk to Wayne as he has so much information that he is so willing to share. I know he and Mike Perry got into a deep discussion about the various test stamps that were trials for tagging., TD102, TD103, TD113 and TD114 as well as other interesting test stamp topics.

Fellow DSSG member, Dave Cockrill joined us Saturday at the APS StampShow and he, Mike Perry

and I spent a lot of time showing and discussing test stamps as well as drifting from dealer to dealer hoping to find the grand prize of test stamps. Not this time!

Fellow DSSG member, Doug Iams was also at the show and was working the Harmer-Schau auction which was the other official APS StampShow auction firm present. Doug always has some nice stories to share and information about something he has discovered or knows about that is news to us.

As always it is a pleasure to meet Roger Brody, Chairman, United States Stamp Society, and Nick Lombardi, President, United States Stamp Society. These are just a few of the people that make the United States Stamps Society such a wonderful organization. They always go the extra mile to make you feel great and they are always so helpful.

I don't want to forget to mention Larry Ballantyne, Executive Secretary, United States Stamp Society. Larry's wide smile is always the first I see at WESTPEX every year and then again at this show in Sacramento. I'm happy that Larry has family in the Sacramento area so he can enjoy visiting with them while stamping out west. □

Scott TD51 EFO

by Terry R. Scott

One of the nice items that I found at the APS StampShow was a pre-printing paper fold on Scott TD51. It is a very nice EFO and I am very happy to be able add it to my collection of test stamps. It is illustrated just across the center margin. Now the hunt continues for the stamps that were above and below this one that also would show the pre-printing paper fold EFO. Possibly it would extend further up or down, let's hear if you know of another example.

Scott TD51 was made by Bruckman A. G. of Munich, Germany by the photo-etching process using a somewhat mutilated 5¢ Washington/Franklin stamp design. □



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Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

On June 28, 2012, Danbury Stamp Sales, a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions LLC held Sale #4014 that contained the following test stamps. There is an 18% buyer's premium.



Lot 9196 TD109 Test Stamp, 1962, green (Scott TD109), fresh and choice, pair, o.g., never hinged, Extremely Fine. Photo Scott \$180.00. Realized - Unknown

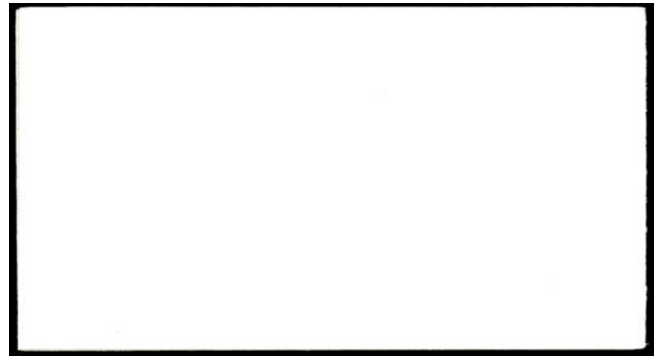


On July 17-19, 2012, Earl P.L. Apfelbaum Inc. held Public Auction #1111 that contained the following test stamps. There is an 18% buyer's premium.



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On July 18, 2012, Danbury Stamp Sales, a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions LLC held Sale #4016 that contained the following test stamp. There is an 18% buyer's premium.



Lot 7309 BK 2116a var 1985, 22¢ Flag Over Capitol Dome (Scott 2116a var), printing on both booklet pane and cover completely missing creating a stunning albino item, complete unexploded booklet, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Photo Suggested Bid \$60.00 Realized \$30.00

On July 27-28, 2012, Dutch Country Auctions - The Stamp Center held Sale - 281 that contained the following test stamps. There is no buyer's premium.

Lot 45 (2) Test Stamp Covers 1959 blue rubber stamp vertical & horizontal...uncanceled plus TD95 single w/ 1959 "Parade of Postal Progress" cancel all UA F-VF +, Unusual! No Photo. Est. \$100-150 LE Realized \$120.00

On August 14-16, 2012, Earl P.L. Apfelbaum Inc. held Public Auction #1112 that contained the following test stamps. There is an 18% buyer's premium.

See photos above for the July 17-19, 2012, Earl P.L. Apfelbaum Inc. Public Auction #1111.

On August 16-18, Harmer-Schau held APS StampShow Auction Sale #94 that contained the following test stamp. There is an 15% buyer's premium.

Lot 2032 U.S.; Test Stamp, 1944-49 Carmine, #TD93. N.H., 45 pairs, Fine to Very Fine. No Photo. Scott \$2,250.00 Estimate \$300.00-\$350.00 Not Sold



Lot 1755 * TEST STAMPS - NICE SPECIALIZED COLLECTION Photos. Suggested Bid...\$150.00-\$175.00 Not Sold

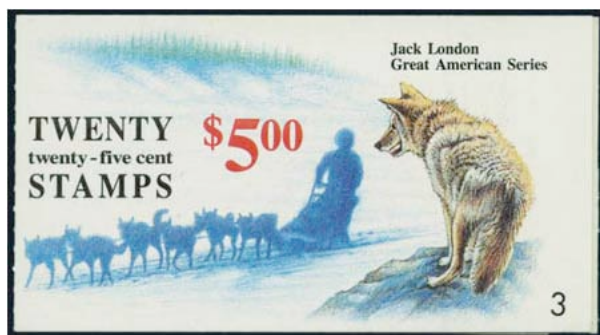
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Lot 2033 U.S.; Test Stamp, 1970 Carmine, Pair, #TD108. N.H., folded along perfs and some minor creases, Very Fine appearance. Photo. Scott \$1,900.00 Estimate \$400.00-\$500.00 Realized \$300.00



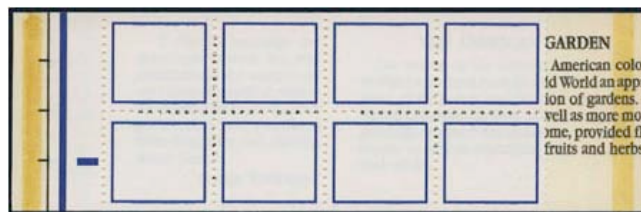
Lot 2034 U.S.; Test Stamp, 1980 Green FTPO Coil, Strip of 6, #TD109. N.H., untagged, dull gum, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$540.00 Estimate \$200.00-\$230.00 Realized \$160.00



Lot 2035 B U.S.; Test Stamp, 1988 Jack London Booklet, #TDB36. Complete, unexploded, 2 panes of 10, #3 on cover, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$500.00 Estimate \$200.00-\$250.00 Realized \$170.00



Lot 2036 B U.S.; Test Stamp, 1990s Daffodil Booklet, #TDB43b. Complete, unexploded, 2 panes of 10, #3 on cover, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$500.00 Estimate \$200.00-\$250.00 Realized \$160.00

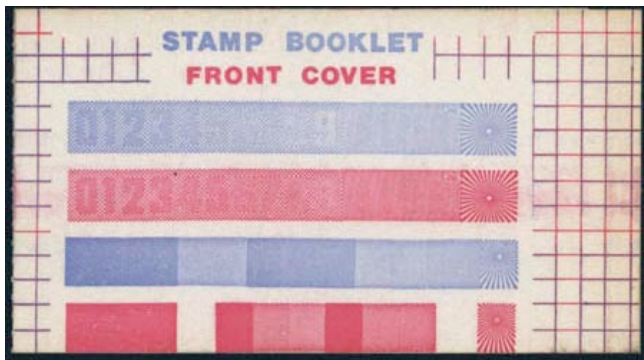


Lot 2037 B U.S.; Test Stamp, 1990s Daffodil Booklet, #TDB44. Complete, unexploded, 1 pane of 8, #3 on cover, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$500.00 Estimate \$200.00-\$250.00 Realized \$150.00



Lot 2038 B U.S.; Test Stamp, 1990s Daffodil Booklet, #TDB45. Complete, unexploded, 2 pane of 20, #3 on cover, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$500.00 Estimate \$200.00-\$250.00 Realized \$150.00

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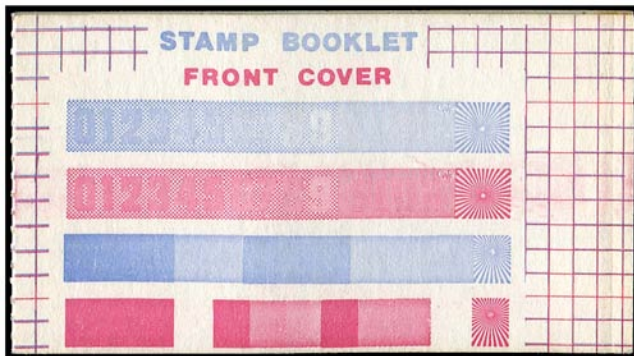


Lot 2039 B U.S.; Test Stamp, 1990s Black FTPO Booklet, #TDB48. Complete, unexploded, 1 pane of 8, perf. 10x9¾, scarce item, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$900.00 Estimate \$400.00-\$450.00 Realized \$290.00

Lot 2040 B U.S.; Test Stamp, 1999 Blank Cover Booklet, #TDB61. 3 copies, complete, unexploded, 1 pane of 10 in each, layout similar to pheasant booklet, Very Fine. No photo. Scott \$450.00 Estimate \$150.00-\$180.00 Not Sold



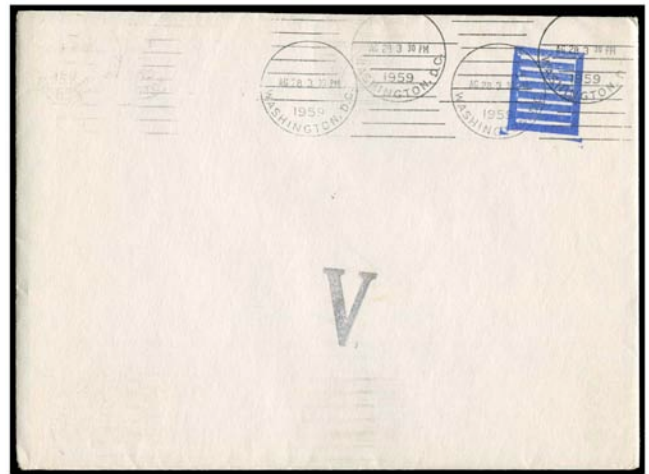
On August 16-19, 2012, Regency-Superior held . APS Sale Auction #94 that contained the following test stamps. There is an 19% buyer's premium.



Lot 1839 DUMMY/TEST (TDB48) 1980s PRINTED COVER 'FOR TESTING PURPOSES ONLY' BOOKLET Very fine complete booklet containing single pane of 8 tagged, dull gum FTPO stamps. Printed cover in red and blue shows various printer test and registration markings. Very scarce booklet, MINT never hinged. Photo Cat \$900.00 Est. \$650.00 Not Sold

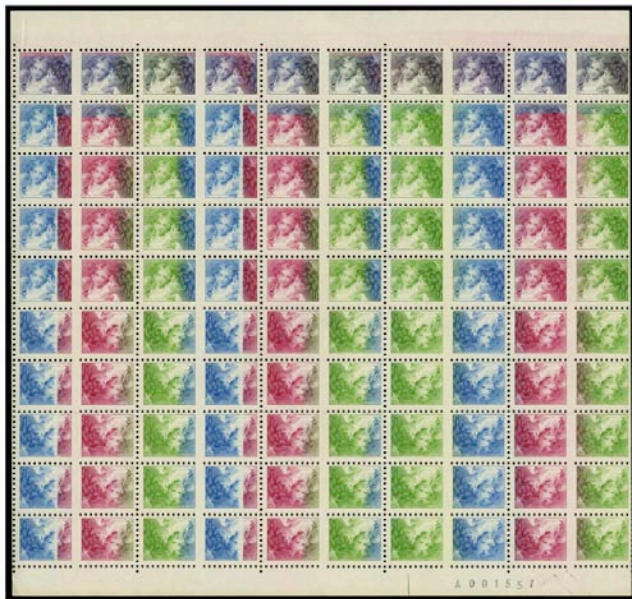


Lot 1840 DUMMY/TEST 1936 MULTICOLOR STRIPS CANADA 'SPECIMEN' TEST STAMPS Four very fine strips of 4 1936 imperforate 'SPECIMEN' dummy stamps created for British American Bank Note Co. by Goebel, in Germany, from files supplied by BABNC. Stamps produced by line engraved intaglio and were likely testing feasibility of new types of inking-in rollers for multicolored intaglio stamps. Each strip has single-colored stamps on ends, bicolored pair in center. Only red and blue strip is gummed; all others issued without gum. All fresh, MINT never hinged and scarce. Photo Est. \$500.00-\$700.00 Realized \$350.00

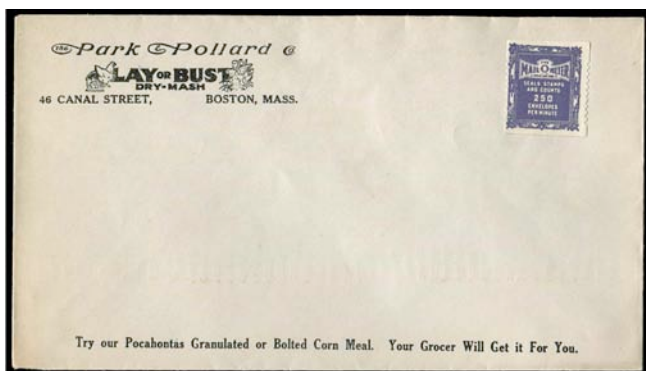


Lot 1841 USA 1959 DUMMY STAMPS; SYLBE-PONDORF TEST ENVELOPES A RARE and very fine group of three different covers created for mail testing on Aug 28, 1959. Two have vertical format grid 'stamps' to mimic then-current 4¢ Lincoln (rubber-stamped images), and one has horizontal format to mimic an airmail stamp, such as 7¢ Jet. All three have Roman numeral 'V' in address area. One cover bears Aug. 28, 1959, Sylbe-Pondorf machine cancel, also known from other live mail tests. Although specific nature of these tests is unknown, USPOD was experimenting with many different ways to speed mail processing for burgeoning mail volume. There are fewer than 20 total envelopes from this test known. Copy of 1992 'US Specialist' article accompanies. Photo Est. \$1,000.00-\$1,500.00 Not Sold

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Lot 1842 DUMMY/TEST 1967 'LITTLE SISTERS' TEST STAMPS, MULTI PANE OF 100 Full very fine pane of 100 test stamps produced by Goebel in Germany from files provided by Canada Post for printing competition leading up to EXPO '67. Pane produced by multicolored line engraving (blue, red, green and violet), with colors at times bleeding into each other on same stamp. Top row is all violet, with tinges of other colors. Remainder of color changes take place within columns, including 2 vertical white voids (1st and 4th columns). Booklet style format allows for imperf between pairs and center rows form tete-beche multiples. Very interesting exhibition piece, either as single items or broken down. MINT never hinged, DAVAC dull gum and very scarce. Photo. Est. \$1,000.00-\$1,500.00 Not Sold

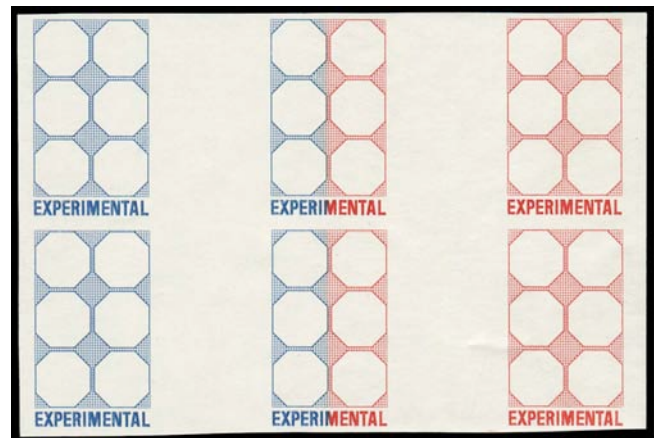
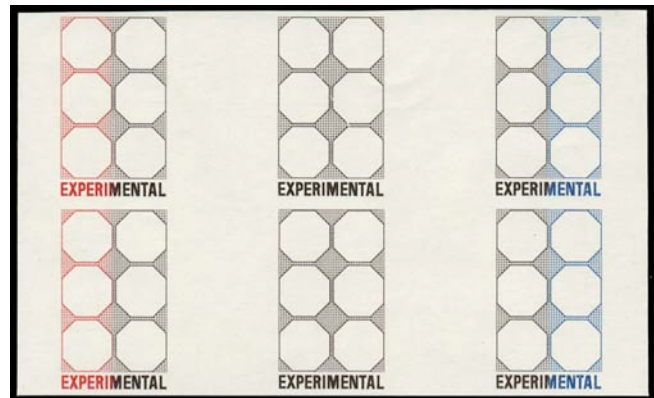


Lot 1843 DUMMY/TEST (TD56) 1922 DEEP PURPLE MAIL-O-METER TEST STAMP ON COVER Fine single affixed to illustrated livestock feed advertising cover. Stamp perf 10¼ with 10 small holes on each side. Although stamp is listed by Scott, it is not listed on cover and unpriced as well.

Extremely scarce. Photo. Est. \$500.00 Realized \$450.00



Lot 1844 DUMMY/TEST (TD90) 1944 MULTIPOST STRIPS WITH PLATE VARIETIES Two very fine no gum horizontal strips of 4 showing repeating and consistent plate varieties on every other stamp. First strip features voids in right of tablet on first and third stamps, as well as broken leg of 'N' in 'NEW'. Also first period in 'U.S.' missing on first and third, second period missing on second and fourth. Second strip shows significant distortion of lettering in bottom tablet, with specific flaws repeating every other stamp. Great exhibition piece. Catalog value for normal stamps. Photo. Cat \$200.00 Est. \$150.00 Not Sold



Lot 1845 DUMMY/TEST (TD118A-TD118F) 1978 'STOPLIGHT' GOEBEL TEST BLOCKS Two very fine DUMMY TEST stamp blocks of 6 (two

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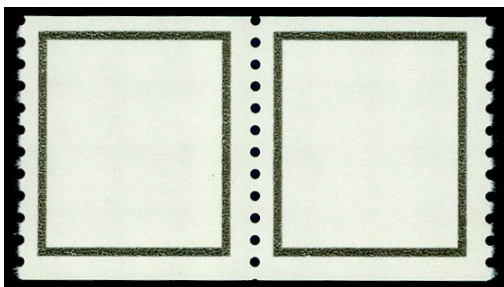
vertical pairs each, 6 different) from 1978 test of new Goebel press from specifications provided by Bureau of Engraving & Printing. Design features engraved 'EXPERIMENTAL' Stop Light pattern similar to TD118, but produced in 6 different color combinations (red, black & blue). Existing test stamps of this type have been locked in Goebel archives until bankruptcy decision in 2009 awarded materials to estates of several Goebel employee families. Remainder of archives were subsequently destroyed. Fewer than 150 examples are thought to exist in collector hands, and ONLY 6 block sets. Items will be listed in 2013 Scott Specialized as #TD118A-TD118F. MINT never hinged and RARE. Photo. Est. \$2,500.00-\$3,500.00 Not Sold

Lot 1846 DUMMY/TEST (TDB36var) 1988 JACK LONDON DUMMY WITH BLANK COVER Very fine booklet containing 2 panes of blue rectangle DUMMY stamps with #12 on lower left stamp. Rather than having the 25¢ Jack London printed cover, this cover is completely BLANK, either an error or new variety, as these stamps do not have the perforation scoring found on all others. Stamps printed by Goebel Co. in Germany from files supplied by BEP. Fresh, MINT never hinged and scarce. Photo. Est. \$1,000.00 Not Sold

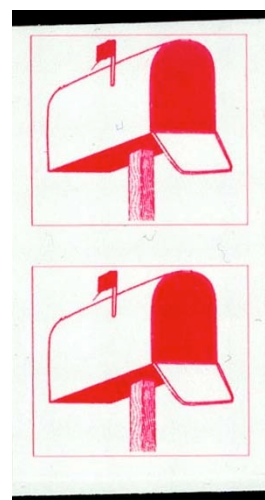
On August 23, 2012, Michael E. Aldrich Auctions held Sale #72 that contained the following test stamps. There is an 15% buyer's premium.



Lot 523 (TD123) 29c Eagle, Plate #1111 Strip of Five with open ends, self-adhesive, Extremely Fine. Photo. CV \$325.00 Realized \$170.00



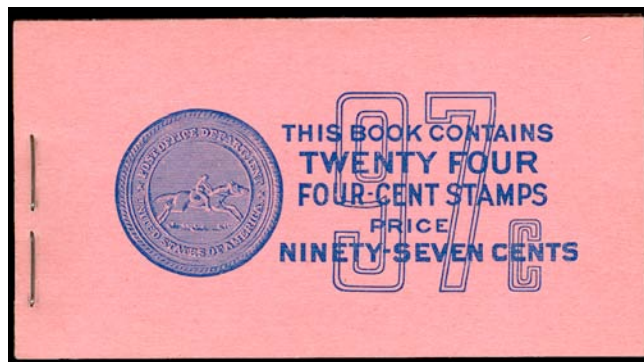
Lot 524 (TD125) Blank Gray Frame, H. Pair, OG, NH, Extremely Fine. Photo. CV 250.00 realized \$100.00



Lot 525 (TD132) Red Mailbox, V. Pair, self-adhesive, Extremely Fine. Photo. CV \$200.00 Realized \$115.00



Lot 526 (TD135) Blue Flag, H. Plate #V1 Strip of Five w/ctrl. number on back, self-adhesive, Extremely Fine and scarce. Photo. CV \$300.00 Realized \$160.00

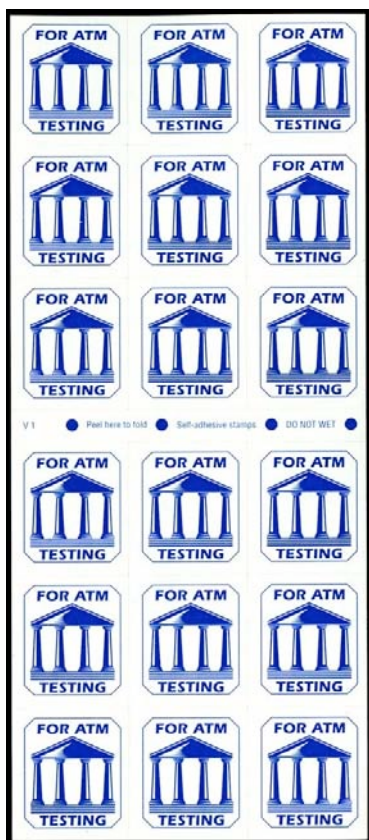


Lot 527 (TDB5) Blanks, Comp. Booklet of Four Panes of Six, OG, NH, Very Fine. Photo. CV \$175.00 Realized \$75.00

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Lot 528 (TDB11) Blanks, Complete Booklet of Four Panes of Six, overprinted "DUMMY" in violet, OG, NH, Very Fine. Photo. CV \$125.00
Realized \$65.00



Lot 529 (TDB86) Blue "For ATM Testing", Pane of 18 w/Pl. #V1, self-adhesive, Extremely Fine. Photo. CV \$250.00
Realized \$180.00



Lot 530 (TDB87) Black "For Testing...", Booklet Pane of 19 w/Pl. #V1, self-adhesive, Extremely Fine. Photo. CV \$150.00
Realized \$75.00



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Lot 531 (TDB89) Magenta "For Testing...",
Booklet Pane of 19 w/Pl. #V1, self-adhesive,

Extremely Fine. Photo. CV \$250.00 Realized
\$150.00

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

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. □

2012 Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog

The 2012 edition of the *Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog* is now available. The USSS introduced the book at the Society's annual meeting at NAPEX in June of 2012. Like the 2008 edition, the new *Durland* has an all-color presentation, with a three column 8½" x 11" format that is available both perfect and spiral bound. The large size makes the catalog easier to handle as the number of postage

stamps and back of the book listings continue to grow. The spiral bound version has the advantage of lying flat when open. All of the illustrations have been created in digital format that will produce high-quality printed images, and there are illustrations on nearly every page.

The new 2012 *Durland* is the most comprehensive research source for plate number information on

United States postage, special service, revenue stamps and other back of the book stamps listed in the *Scott Specialized Catalog*. The new edition includes plate number information for the last four years of new issues along with scores of previously unreported numbers for pre-Bureau and back of the book issues. The catalog also includes plate number information on Confederate issues, overprinted Possessions postage, Carriers, and WW II American Military Government stamps and is the most comprehensive reference for marginal markings.

The catalog lists and prices Bureau precancel plate blocks for the first time, including the experimental precancels of 1916, examples of which are illustrated. The Beer stamp section is greatly expanded on the

basis of recent discoveries of proofs and Bureau records. The taxpaid revenue section is also greatly expanded. The 2012 edition was formatted and digitized by Len Piskiewicz and edited by W. Wallace Cleland.

The *Durland* 2012 edition is available for \$26, perfect-bound, and \$28, spiral-bound. USSS members will receive discount pricing of \$21 perfect-bound and \$23 spiral-bound. Orders may be sent to USSS Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 6634, Katy, TX 77491-6634. Books can also be ordered on line at the USSS website, www.usstamps.org. Online orders are only available for purchase with PayPal.. □



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<http://www.usstamps.org/dssg.html>