



# Dummy News and Views

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

Issue Number 30

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## Welcome to the Dummy Stamps Study Group's Thirtieth Newsletter

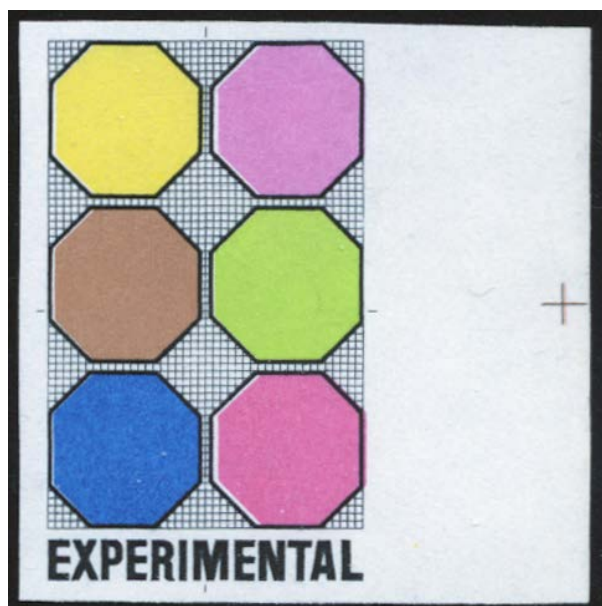
This newsletter is produced quarterly by the United States Stamp Society's - Dummy Stamps Study Group for your information and pleasure. We hope that the information included in this newsletter will be informative, useful and encourage your enjoyment of collecting dummy/test stamps. Our goal is to keep 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)

## Illustrating Some Interesting Scott #TD118 Multicolor "Experimental" Octagon Test Stamp Varieties

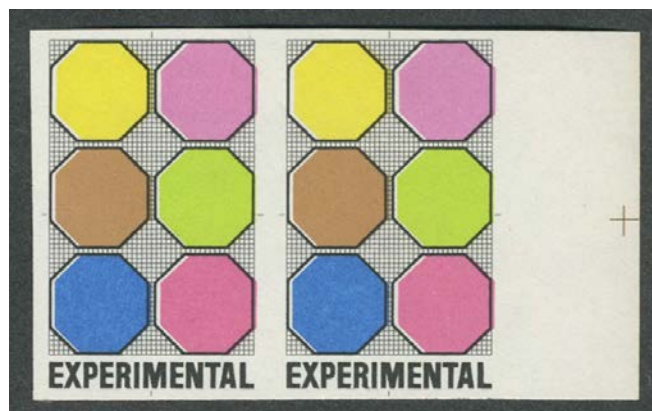
by Michael O. Perry & Terry R. Scott

The scans on this and the following pages show various images of the Scott #TD118 Octagon test stamp. The stamps shown are examples of pieces that have a cross "+" in the sheet margin that are from the two known sheets that were once in collectors hands, but have since been broken down to smaller pieces.

The first item shown is a single with wide right sheet margin from the side of the UR pane that shows a cross "+" opposite the green octagon. Note the very small horizontal mark at the lower corner of the octagon. The "+" in the margin is slightly above that mark.



The next item shown below is a horizontal pair with a wide right sheet margin showing the "+" in nearly the same location as the "+" in the single previously shown, but this "+" is slightly below the small horizontal mark at the lower corner of the green octagon.

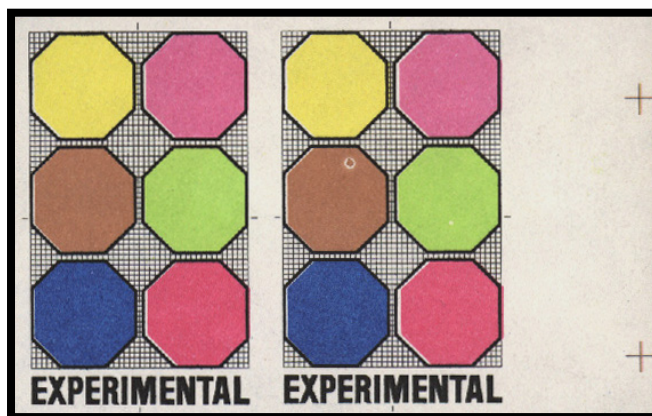
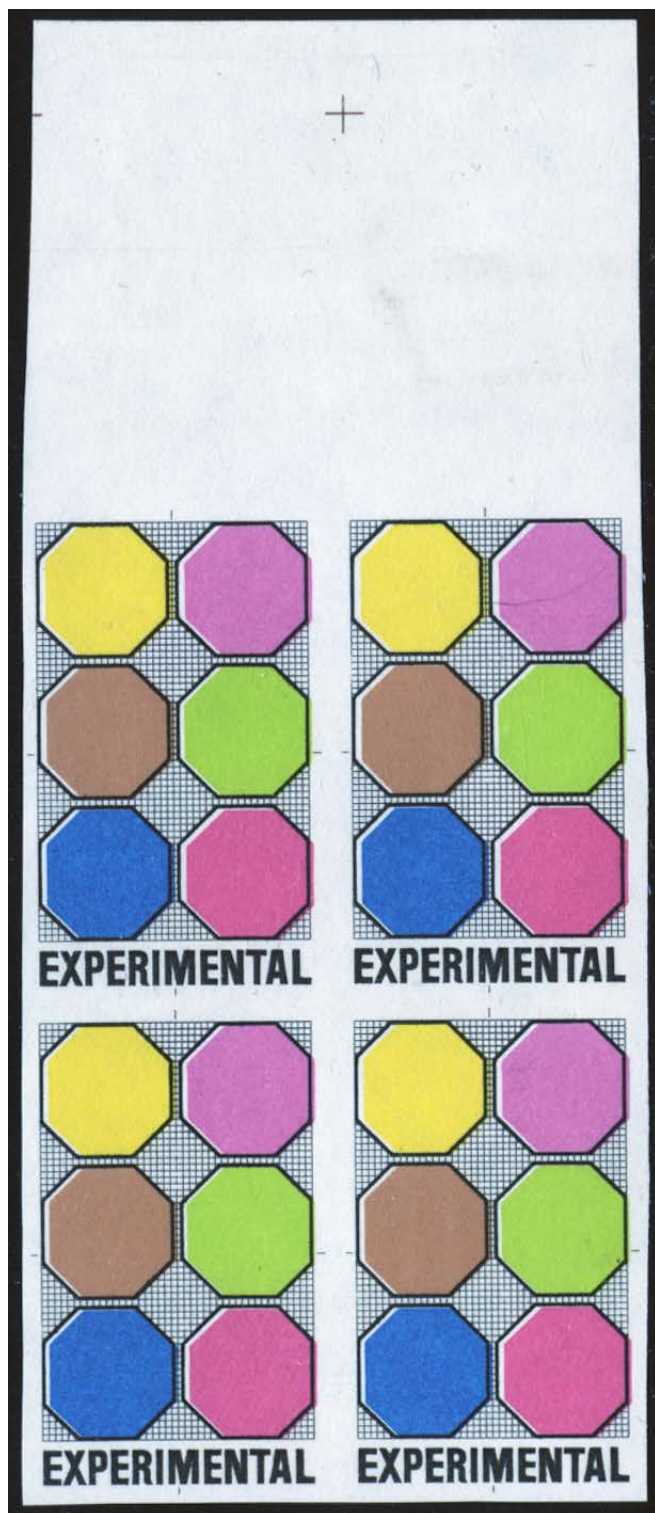


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Shown below is a top margin block of 4 with top sheet margin. In the top sheet margin is a “+” above the center vertical gutter between the two stamps. At the very left edge of the top sheet margin a portion of another “+” is visible that would have been above the stamp on the left and the one that would have been next to it on the piece removed. (See the item on the next page)



Shown above is another horizontal pair with wide right sheet margin but in this case showing two of the “+”s in the sheet margin. The first “+” is opposite the magenta octagon at top and slightly lower than the center of that octagon. The second “+” is opposite the lower reddish octagon and positioned near the bottom of it.

Note that on all four sides of each stamp there is a tiny black tic mark at the center of the design.

Plate 173404 was a 200-subject intaglio plate and it was certified on January 2, 1979. This probably was a layout mark to accurately enter the stamp die impression.

All of the items shown above came from the sheet of 50 with plate #173404 at upper right corner.

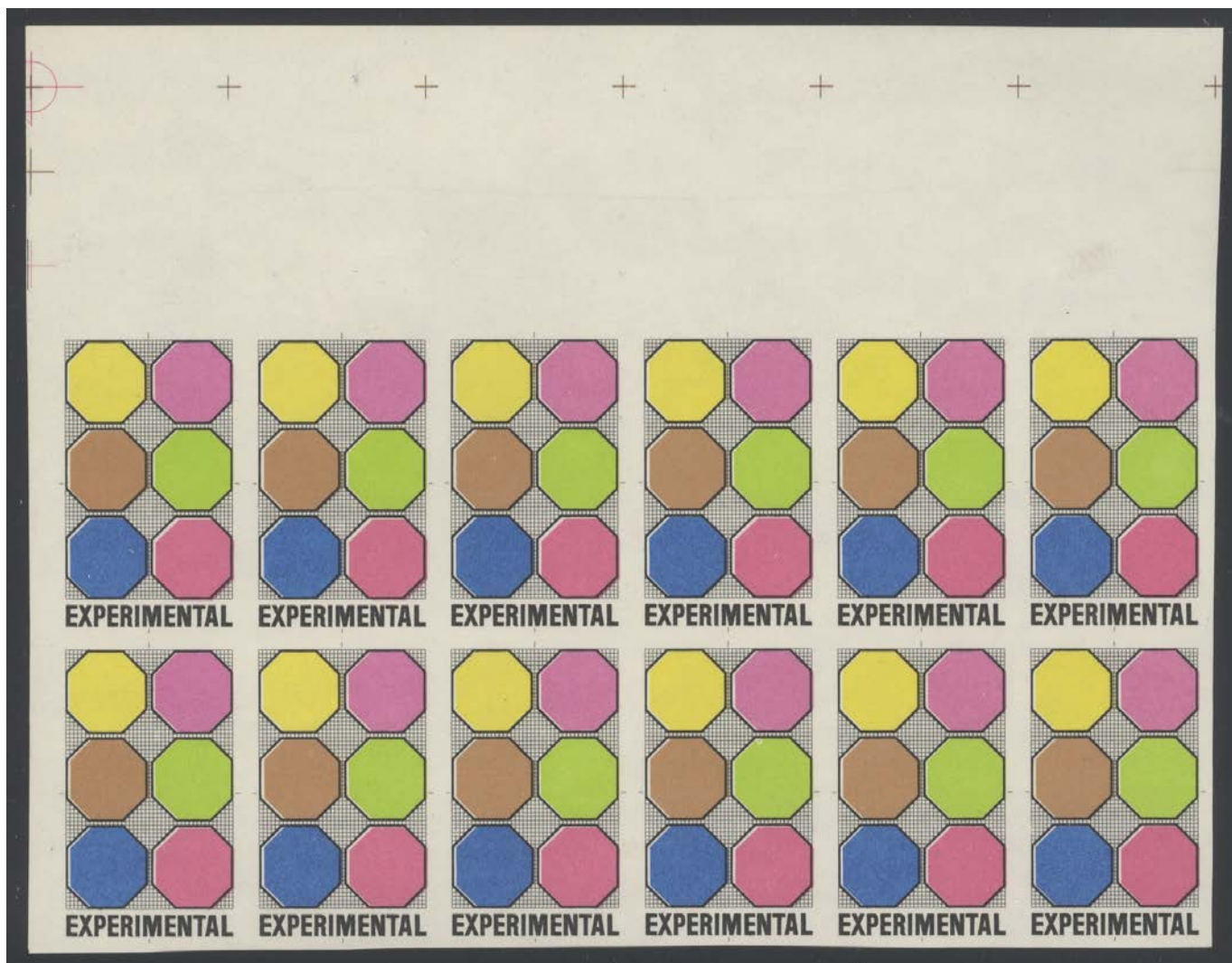
Sheets have been recorded in collectors’ hands with LL and UR plate numbers and sheets with UL and LR plate numbers probably existed at one time, but are currently unknown in stamp collector hands.

Shown on the page 4 is a plate block from the LL pane of 50 from plate #173404.

The LL position plate block has the “+” marks evenly vertically spaced to the far left of the stamp design in the sheet margin with the exception of the “+” at the very bottom at the 45° corner cut. There is also another small “+” in the bottom sheet margin directly below the vertical gutter between the two horizontal rows of stamps. In addition there is a much larger “target” “+” in a circle with all the colors printed that were used for color registration at the bottom left corner in the sheet margin.

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Shown above is a spectacular top margin block of 12 that shows the "+" markings in the top margin above the vertical gutters between the stamps. It also appears that the top margin block of 4 shown on the previous page was cut from the right of this top margin block of 12. Note the margin cut that clips off the right tip of the "+" at the upper right and also the scissor cut on the right of this block of 12 matches the scissor cut on the left side of the top margin block of 4 shown on the previous page. Also showing is a "target" in the top margin at the upper left. A closeup of this "target" is shown on page 4. This item was sold in the April 23, 2005 William Weiss auction. Other large blocks could exist but their whereabouts are unknown.

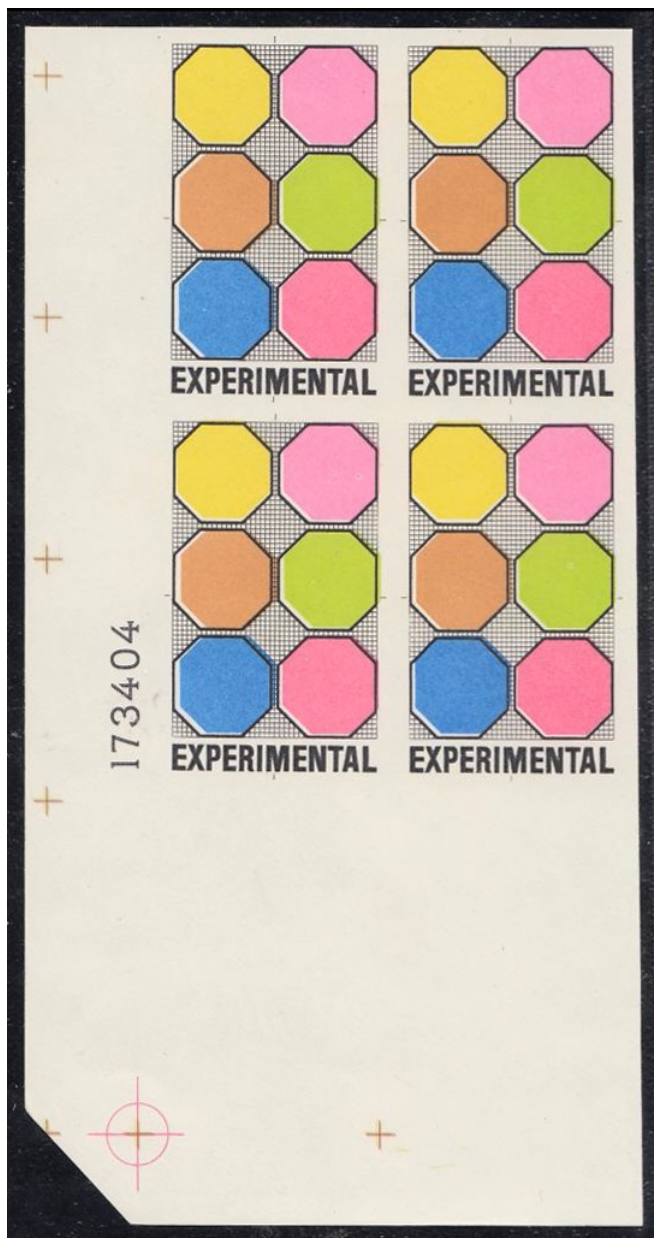


All of the "+" marks that are shown on these examples are made up of the six offset colors of ink: yellow, light pink, dark pink, brown, blue, and green.

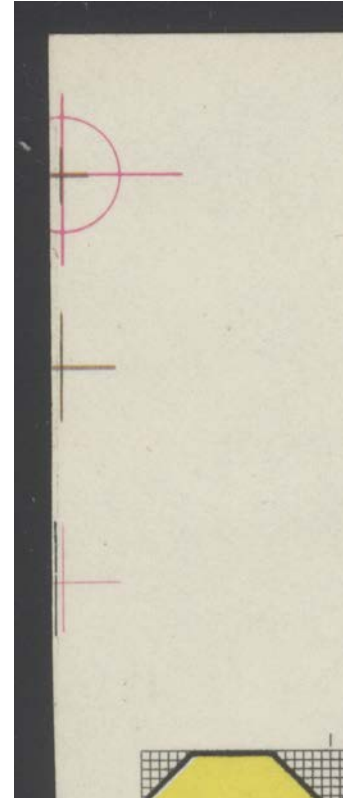
The intaglio black ink is not printed in the "+" marks. Shown to the left is a close up of the "+" marks in the margins.

The "target" register mark in the UL corner of the block of 12 shown above and in the LL corner of the plate block shown on the next page has the circle and large "+" printed in one of the pink inks, and the small "+" inside appears to be printed with the other five offset inks. A closeup of the "target" is shown on the next page of both the "target" on the block of 12 and the LL Plate block of 4.

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Shown to the left is a block of four with plate #173404 from the LL position pane. At the very bottom left of the plate block you will notice that the corner is cut at 45°. The clipped corner was something the BEP did on sheet fed stamps that were printed on two different presses (or in two different passes thru the same press) to prevent inverted centers. They trimmed off the corner of all the sheets in a stack so they could easily see if someone had removed a sheet(s) for examination (or added more to the pile) - and in the process rotated the sheets 180 degrees when doing so.



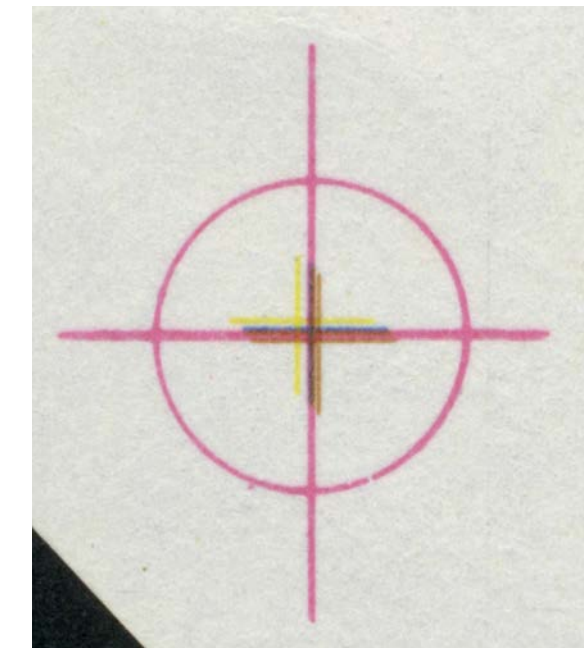
Shown above is a closeup of the upper left corner of the “+” and “target” markings on the block of 12 shown on the previous page.

Please note that all the scans in this article are not the same scale but the intent is to show the various sheet margin markings that are known. The apparent difference in paper colors is a result of scans from different sources and there is no known difference in paper colors on the actual stamps.

We wish to thank the contributors who provided scans of these items who wish to remain anonymous.

We would welcome other collectors with similar examples of Scott #TD118 with margin markings to send scans for showing in a future newsletter. □

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# Information Requested on Scott #TD116

by Terry R. Scott

I recently received a phone call from a non test stamp collector asking information about the Scott #TD116, Proclaim Liberty test stamp. It is listed in the Scott Specialized Catalogue as having perforations that gauge 12 x 11-1/2

The caller's question was regarding the perforation gauge listed in Scott compared to that of a full sheet of the Scott #TD116 that he had in his collection.

He had checked his sheet with several different perforation gauges and all of them indicated that his sheet is perforated 11.8 x 11.8. He wondered if he had a new discovery because of the different perforation gauge. He asked if I had any Scott #TD116 that I could compare with his perforation gauge.

I originally had a full sheet of Scott #TD116, since broken and most of the stamps previously distributed to others. I checked the gauge of my remaining singles using a couple different perforation gauges. My Scott #TD116 has the same perforation gauge as his sheet. Mine are also perforated 11.8 x 11.8.



It is possible that when Scott listed the TD116 they were rounding off to the nearest 1/2 gauge so the 11.8 became 12 and the 11.7 became 11-1/2.

Is the perforation gauge listed in Scott for #TD116 in error or do different perforation gauges exist? I ask you to please check your Scott #TD116 and reply with your perforation measurements so we can correct an error in Scott or add another perforation gauge variety. □

## Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

On February 5-6, 2013 Earl P.L. Apfelbaum, Inc. held Sale #1119 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 18% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



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Lot 1610 TEST BOOKLETS Specialized selection of 9 Test Booklets, VERY FINE, og, NH Photo Est. \$275.00 - \$300.00 Not Sold

On February 23, 2013 Rasdale Stamp Company held Sale #415 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot No 141 \*\* (TDB32) Lot of 50 test booklets, VF. No Photo. Cat. \$1,000.00 Realized \$110.00

Lot 142 \*\* (TDB32) Lot of 20 test booklets, VF No Photo. Cat. \$400.00 Realized \$45.00

On March 14, 2013 Sam Houston Philatelics held Sale #3011 that contained the following test stamps. A 15% buyer's premium for this sale.

Lot 472 \* TD95 Purple Test stamp, Coil Line Pair, large Holes, F-VF OG No Photo Cat \$20.00 Not sold.

Lot 473 \* TDB88 Black Test stamp Bklt Pane/18, Pl# V1, VF NH No Photo. Cat. \$15.00 Realized \$12.00

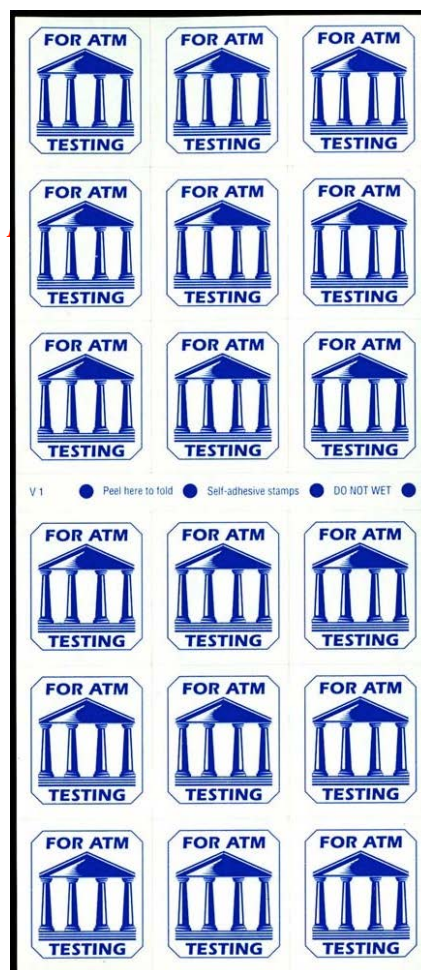
On March 20 Michael E. Aldrich Auctions held Sale #74 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% buyer's premium for this sale.



Lot 565 (TD123) 29c Eagle, Plate #1111 Strip of Five with open ends, self-adhesive, Extremely Fine Photo. CV \$325.00 Realized \$100.00



Lot 566 (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 567 (TDB86) Blue "For ATM Testing", Pane of 18 w/Pl. #V1, self-adhesive, Extremely Fine Photo. CV \$250.00 Realized \$95.00



Lot 568 (TDB87) Black "For Testing....", Booklet Pane of 18 w/Pl. #V1, self-adhesive, Extremely Fine Photo. CV \$150.00 Realized \$24.00



Lot 569 (TDB89) Magenta "For Testing....", Booklet Pane of 18 w/Pl. #V1, self-adhesive, Extremely Fine Photo. CV \$250.00 Realized \$100.00

On March 23-24, 2013 Regency Superior held Auction #98 that contained the following test stamps. There is an 18% Buyer's Premium.

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Lot #1856 USA 1970-96 TEST COILS SELECTION Group of 8 different test coils in varying quantities, mostly 'For Testing Purposes Only' type. Lot includes 100 TD107b (pebble gum, tagged), sealed roll of 500 TD107d (dull gum, tagged), 100 TD107e (dull gum, untagged), 50 TD111 (brown, untagged), 100 TD112 (B-press, untagged), sealed roll of 100 TD119 (Stamp Venturers, perforated), 100 TD126 (die-cut self-adhesive blue) and 150 TD127 (white die-cut). All MINT never hinged. TD107d has coil wrapper. All

have line pairs, plate strips, etc. Very fine. Photo Ex. Total catalog value over \$1,800.00 Realized \$150.00

Lot #2700 USA 1857-1930s INTERESTING COLLECTOR'S BALANCE LOT Selection on stock pages. Highlights include USED selection of 54 stamps Franklin 1¢ #24 through large Banknotes to the 90¢ (x3, 1 purple) including: #29, 64, 67, 76 (x2), Washington 24¢ #70 (x11, many shades), 15¢ Pictorial #118 & 119; a few 'Multipost' & test stamp pairs & strips and 6 used Schermacks; six different 'Match & Medicine' including Dalley's Galvanic RS74; a few foreign stamps with advertisements on back; Prexy \$1 #834b used (x2); descriptive pages with examples for 2¢-3¢ Washington Franklin types; double sided stock page with over 50 cut squares; selection of Newspaper stamps PR1//PR7. Expect some faulty, overall average to fine & better. No Photo. Realized \$1,700.00

## Proposed Future DSSG Project

### 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. □

## 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](mailto:lenp@pacbell.net) □

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This issue and all past issues of the Dummy Stamps Study Group Newsletter - Dummy News and Views may be found at:

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