



# Dummy News and Views

the Newsletter of the United States Stamp Society - Dummy Stamps Study Group  
Issue Number 41



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

## Results of Our Annual Meeting with the Editor of the Scott Catalogue at WESTPEX 2015

by Terry R. Scott

I am very happy to report that almost all of the test stamp items discussed at the annual meeting with the Editor of the Scott Catalogue at WESTPEX 2015 were incorporated into the newly issued 2016 *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers*.

Of great importance was the renumbering of several of the images for the different blank test stamps - the sheet, coil and commemorative size blank test stamps. These suggestions were first mentioned here in Issue Number 37, 38 and 39 of *Dummy News and Views*.

Please refer to the charts in each of these issues to see the proposed changes and other information regarding these sometimes confusing blank test stamps.

I would like to especially thank James Kloetzel, Editor Emeritus of the Scott catalogues for his continued interest and assistance with making these suggestions become a reality. Donna Houseman, Editor of Scott catalogues also deserves a thank you for her willingness to accept Jim's and our suggestions and making them happen.

Most of our other suggestions were accepted and entered into the 2016 *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers*. There are a few others that did not make this edition of the catalogue and are on our list for discussion and hopefully make it into the 2017 *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers*. □

## Newsletter No. 40, Summer 2015, Correction

by Terry R. Scott

In *Dummy News & Views*, Newsletter No. 40, Summer 2015, in the article titled "Scott TD119 Stamp Venturers Test Coil Stamps with Back Numbers", I made a glaring error that was caught by a couple of our members. It had to do with an incorrect description of the Scott 2525 and 2526 stamps.

Both Doug Iams and Rudy de Mordaigle pointed out that I erroneously referred to them as 29¢ Rose stamp designs when in fact they are both 29¢ Tulip stamps. Thanks for the keen eyes. □

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# Scott TD127C Avery Test Stamp at Auction

by Terry R. Scott

In this issue of Dummy News and Views we wish to report the first known auction listing of the elusive Scott TD127C Avery test stamp in the October 2, 3 & 4, 2015 Regency Superior's Public Auction #114 held at the SESCAL Stamp Show.

The discovery of the Scott TD127C Avery test stamp was first reported in an article published in the August 2009 issue of *The United States Specialist* monthly magazine. The following is a synopsis of that article.

The newly reported Avery Dennison test stamp is printed in red on white self-adhesive paper. The horizontal format commemorative-size stamp from the sheetlet measures 39.6 mm x 25.2 mm between the centers of the die cut separations. The red rectangle design containing the words "AVERY/DENNISON" and a triangular logo measures 36.0 mm wide x 21.0 mm high. The full Avery Dennison self-adhesive sheetlet of 20 stamp subjects (4 x 5) measures 166.0 mm in width and 149.5 mm in height. Plate number "V1" appears in the margin above the upper right stamp and also in the margin below the lower left stamp. The serpentine die cut separations measure 11.0 horizontally and 11.2 vertically. See the illustration of the sheetlet of 20 below.

The only known sheetlet was broken into two pieces several years ago, and now the upper left stamp has been sold at auction.

At the 1996 NAPEX Stamp Show, United States Postal Service (USPS) representatives, Dr. Joseph Peng and Louise Smith, presented a program called "Evolution of the U.S. Postage Stamp – Past and Present." This was a time of change in the format of postage stamps for the USPS.

The program at NAPEX gave the USPS and its contract printers a chance to show off their different styles of self-adhesive stamp products. Following that presentation, a few items were distributed by the various stamp printers to interested collectors attending the program. Reports of three of those items were made previously in the June 24, 1996 issue of *Linn's Stamp News* by Michael Schreiber, in an article titled "Backing of self-stick test stamps is die cut; single stamps, blocks are easily separated."

Those three items were two different formats of "Polar Bear Ice Skating" self-adhesive sheetlets (printed by Ashton-Potter (USA) Ltd., each containing 20 vertical format commemorative-size stamps, Scott TD127A and Scott TD127B) and a "Parrot" stamp in self-adhesive sheets containing 50 definitive-size stamps (printed by Banknote Corporation of America, Scott TD128). □



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# Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

In the Summer 2015 edition of *Dummy News and Views* we reported information on the June 19, 2015 Michael E. Aldrich Auctions held Sale #84. There was a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale. At press time the auction results were not available but subsequently they have been received and are posted here. Please refer to that issue of *Dummy News and Views* for the lot descriptions and illustrations.

- Lot 1522 Not sold.
- Lot 1523 Not sold.
- Lot 1524 Not sold.
- Lot 1525 Realized \$16.00.
- Lot 1526 Not sold.
- Lot 1527 Realized \$10.00.
- Lot 1528 Realized \$28.00.
- Lot 1529 Not sold.
- Lot 1530 Not sold.
- Lot 1531 Realized \$24.00.
- Lot 1532 Not sold.
- Lot 1533 Realized \$20.00.
- Lot 1534 Realized \$50.00.



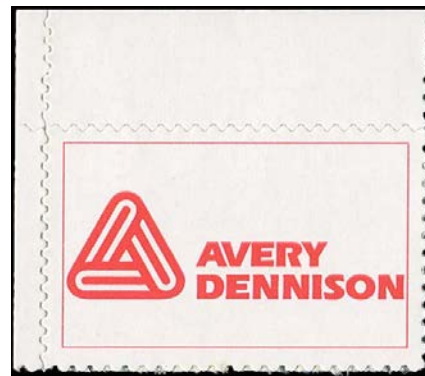
On October 2, 3 & 4, 2015 Regency Superior Auctions held SESCAL Stamp Show Public Auction #114 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 20% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



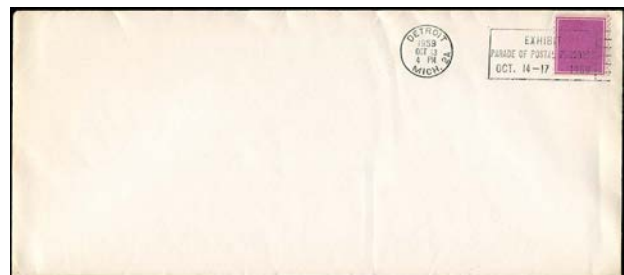
Lot 2379 \*\*/(\*) USA (TD99-101) 1954 NEBRASKA TERRITORIAL CENTENNIAL EXPERIMENTAL DUMMIES Extremely fine group of 5 gravure stamps printed by Eureka Specialty Printing. Includes brown, black and blue, MINT never hinged with shiny gum; and brown and blue on cream paper with no gum as issued. Entire set missing only gray shade. Fantastic reference set of these elusive test stamps. Photo ex. Cat \$450.00 Realized \$250.00



Lot 2380 TEST STAMPS (TD127A) 1995 ASHTON POTTER POLAR BEAR TEST STAMP, \*\* Self-adhesive, perf 13.5x11.8, fresh, very fine. Photo. Cat \$750.00 Realized \$450.00



Lot 2381 TEST STAMPS (TD127C) 1996 AVERY DENNISON TEST STAMP \*\* Self-adhesive, fresh, very fine. Listed, but not priced in Scott. Photo. Est. \$400.00 Realized \$575.00



Lot 2968 C USA (TD96) 1959 TEST COIL, RED VIOLET RECTANGLE, LARGE HOLES ON COVER (X4) Group of 4 legal-sized covers from the Postal Office Department's introduction of automated

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equipment conducted in Detroit, MI. Three are postmarked Oct 13, 1959 (the day before the demonstration opened). The fourth has a mute die hub (before the date slug was added), with the date written in (also Oct. 13). Each franked with large-hole and Test stamp coil single. Very fine, light toning. Catalog value represents exhibition dates, not scarce predates (equipment setup). Ex-Jim Czyl. Cat \$340.00 Realized \$135.00



On October 7, 2015 Eastern Auctions held a Mail Sale that contained the following test stamps. There is no Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 2107 USA Test Stamps TD107b - "For Testing Purposes Only" coil strips (3 strips of 4, one strip of 3 and one coil pair) One strip of 4 is a line pair and one strip of 4 has horizontal purple lines. F-VF pebble gum, NH Photo Estimate \$150.00 Realization Unknown

On October 20-23, 2015 Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions held Sale 61 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 1709 Test Stamp, 1970, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only", carmine, tagged, horizontal pair, o.g., never hinged, choice centering, fresh and Extremely Fine, a rare and seldom offered key test stamp issue; with 2015 W. Weiss certificate. Photo. Scott No. TD108 Car. \$1,900.00 Realized \$400.00

On October 15, 2015 Vance Auctions, Ltd. held Sale #312 that contained the following test stamps. There is no Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 3841 \* TD91, Strip of 4 of the 1944 Coil TEST STAMP. VF, NH Photo Cat. \$100.00 Realization unknown.



Lot 1710 Test Stamp, 1970, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only", carmine, tagged, horizontal strip of 3, o.g., never hinged, choice centering, left pair with minor natural gum crease, otherwise Extremely Fine, a seldom offered key test stamp issue and quite possibly the largest multiple; with 2015 W. Weiss certificate. Photo. Scott No. TD108 Cat. \$2,850.00 for pair and single. Realized \$575.00

On October 18, 2015 Harmer Schau Auctions held Sale #107 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 202 \* U.S.; Test Stamp, 1954 Eureka specialty printing, #TD101B-TD101E. Dist. o.g., very scarce set, Fine. Photo Scott \$3,000.00 Estimate \$400.00 Realized \$625.00

On October 26-28, 2015 Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions LLC held Sale 674 that contained the following test stamps. There is an 18% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

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Lot 1498 TD99, 99a, 100, 101, Test Stamp, 1954, Nebraska Territorial Centennial Experimental issue (Scott TD99, 99a, 100, 101, 101a), complete less the gray on white (TD100A), white paper o.g., never hinged, tan without gum as issued, large margins, Extremely Fine. Photo ex. Scott \$450.00 Estimate \$200.00 - \$300.00 Realized \$120.00

On October 29-31, 2015 H.R. Harmer, Inc. held their 75th Anniversary Public Auction Sale 3008 that contained the following test stamps. There is an 18% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 2491 NH TDB27, 1970s/80s Test Booklet, lot of 20 with blank covers and blank pane inside, Very Fine (no photo) Scott \$1,000.00 Est. \$250.00 - \$300.00 Realized \$140.00

Lot 2492 NH TDB27, TDB32, 1970s/80s Test Booklets, lot of ten each, Very Fine (no photo); Scott \$700.00 Est. \$400.00 - \$500.00 Realized \$240.00

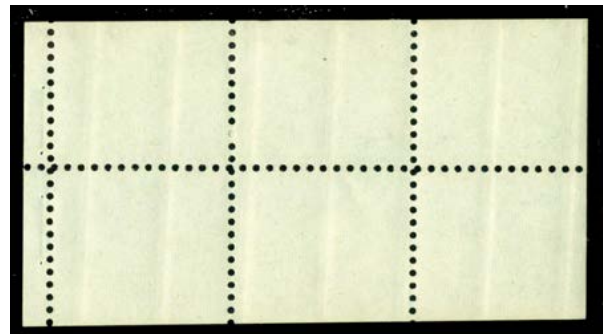
Lot 2493 NH TDB32, 1985 \$1.10 Booklet, lot of 20 booklets with printed covers and blank stamps, Very Fine (no photo); Scott \$400.00 Est. \$200.00 - \$250.00 Realized \$120.00

On November 6-7, 2015 H.R. Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC held Sale #675 that contained the following test stamps. There is an 18% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 198 U.S., Massive Test Stamp Group. Hundreds and hundreds of stamps, coils, booklet panes, shades, precancels, etc. Mostly sound and fresh. A wonderful group if you wish to study this area or have a fascination of extreme back of the book., o.g., mostly never hinged, Fine to Very Fine. Photo. Estimate \$500.00 - \$750.00 Not Sold

On November 11, 2015 Sam Houston Philatelics held Sale 3032 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 270 \*\* TDP2a, "TEST" Bklt Pane/6, totally blank, Fine NH Photo Est. \$25.00 Realized \$34.00

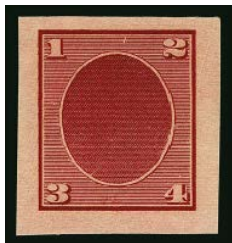
On November 15, 2015 Michael Rogers Online, a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC held Sale 5011 that contained the following test stamps. There is an 18% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 6707 \*\* Test Booklets, 1962. Consists of complete TDB9 and 14 complete TDB12 plus an extra set of covers, scarce items especially in this quantity, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$790.00 Realization unknown

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On November 17, 2015 Robert A. Siegel held Sale #1113 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 2434 (w) (no value) **Deep Red, Red, Test Stamps (TD18, TD19)**. Single of first and block of four of second, large margins, block with vertical crease ending in small tear, otherwise Fine-Very Fine, scarce,. Photo Ex. The single (which is sound) catalogues \$2,000.00 Realized \$550.00



Lot 2435 E **3c Minerva, Harris Automatic Press Company Offset Essay on Hard White Wove Paper (Brazer 385-E2b, TD28, TD29)**. Horizontal pair of first and single of second, large margins, Very Fine, scarce, Harris installed one of their presses in the BEP to demonstrate production of stamps by the offset method, the design was taken from the 2c 1903 Issue, the presses were not adopted at that time but were used for printing some Revenue stamps, particularly Tax Pairs. (Photo Ex) \$1,950.00 Realized \$900.00

On November 18-19, 2015 Spink USA held The Fall Collector's Series Sale #153 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 20% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 1067 \* og **#TD51, 5c Brown test stamp**, right sheet-margin horizontal strip of three, with large margins on the other three sides, without gum as produced, very fine; this was produced as a test of a photo-etching process by Bruckmann A.G. of Munich, Germany in 1912. (Image) Cat. \$300.00 Realized \$180.00

On November 21-22, 2015 Regency Superior held Auction 115 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 20% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 1504 USA (TD37) 1910-20 MULTIPOST RED COIL ROLL Fresh MINT never hinged roll with 200 pairs of TD37 (cat \$50 each pair). Fine to very fine. No photo. Cat. \$10000.00 Not sold



Lot 1505 USA 1960s EXPERIMENTAL STAMP W/ JEFFERSON MEMORIAL Unlisted perforated Test stamp on thick stamp paper without gum. Black engraved frame, vermilion vignette showing Jefferson Memorial. Text at left reads '9' and 'Color/Experimental/Stamp' in black. A bit wider than normal commemoratives. Interesting item. Very fine. Photo Est. \$750.00 Not sold

Lot 2739 \*\*/\* USA 1915-91 EARLY TO MODERN COILS IN PARTIAL & COMPLETE ROLLS Early to modern coils including pairs, line pairs, strips, and partial & complete rolls, with owner's total Scott Catalog Value \$5,451. Coils include: few Washington-Franklins 1¢-3¢ with 2¢ #450 (x10 singles) & 3¢ #489 partial roll; several partial rolls of 4th Bureaus 1¢-5¢, and 1½¢ #605 complete sealed roll of 500, larger partial roll 2¢ #606, others; Prexy 1¢-4¢ partial rolls & complete roll of 500 #840 (1½¢); various Transportation partial rolls & strips; Butte, Mountain, Auto, Auto Tail Fin & Juke Box folded strips; C37 complete sealed roll of 500 & C41 opened roll of 500; **partial roll purple TEST stamp**. ALSO: several pairs (most stuck together) for Lincoln 3¢ #600 & many line pairs Washington 3¢ #722, in glassine & stockcards; other odds & ends. Some pairs, rolls stuck internally from

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storage. Overall, fine to very fine appearance. Inspection recommended. No photo Est. \$900.00 - \$1,200.00 Not sold

Lot 3059 \*\*\*/\*\*/ WORLDWIDE 1870s - 2000 BOXES OF AFFORDABLE STAMP MATERIAL Various loose Album pages, sales cards, glassines, stock books, and shoe boxes full of affordable WORLDWIDE stamp material. Six banker's boxes in all, includes: on & off paper kilo ware, Disney stamps, perfins, bundle ware, socked on the nose cancels, **test coils**, Dunes, Machin Heads, revenue stamped paper, approval books, postal cards, few covers, stamps from the German States, Germany, Northern German Confederation, Canada, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Bulgaria, Columbia, Austria, Russia, British Commonwealth, Indian States, and more. Tremendous amount of material but mostly affordable type stamps. Condition mixed. Needs organization & some tender loving care. Perfect winter project. No photo. Est. \$600.00 - \$800.00 Realized \$300.00

On December 8-10, 2015 Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC held Sale - 676 that contained the following test stamps. There is an 18% Buyer's Premium for this sale



Lot 1682 \*\* TD14 Test Stamp, 1906-09, "Mail-O-Meter Stamp", brown, Schermack type

III perforations (Scott TD14), strip of 3, right pair with guide line, o.g., hinge remnant (left stamp never hinged); right stamp with small thin spot at bottom right, otherwise Very Fine, unpriced as single or pair in Scott. Photo Estimate \$400.00 - \$600.00 Realized \$350.00

On December 17, 2015 Michael E. Aldrich Auctions held Sale #86 that contained the following test stamps. There is an 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 1194 TD90 ST/4, unused, VF Photo Cat. \$90.00 Realization not available.



Lot 1195 TD91 ST/4, NH, VF Photo Cat. \$100.00 Realization not available.



Lot 1196 TD109 PR, NH, sharp color, fresh and VF Photo Cat. \$180.00 Realization not available.

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# Proposed Future DSSG Projects

by Terry R. Scott

## Updating Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets

Work is progressing on updating *Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets*. The last update by Dummy Booklets Study Group Chairman Earl McAfee, 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 - Dummy Stamp Booklets*. I am working closely with Mike Perry on this update project. We know that it will take quite a bit of time to complete,

mid 2016 is hopefully our estimated completion date. I will be asking all of you to join us in this project as we are not able to do it all, nor would you want us 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 it is compiled. Scans at 300 dpi, or better, are necessary for clarity. It is anticipated that this publication will be in color. It has not yet been determined if *Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets* will be available electronically. □

## The Other Proposed 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) □

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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>