



Dummy News and Views

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

Issue Number 53

Fall 2018



Welcome to the Dummy Stamps Study Group's Fifty-third 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 United States Stamp Society's Dummy Stamps Study Group at terryrscott@comcast.net

New Test Stamps Listed in Scott Specialized Catalogue

by Terry R. Scott & Michael O. Perry

The 2019 edition of the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of Stamps and Covers* was released in early October 2018. There have been revisions to some of the listings and several new test stamp discoveries were listed for the first time.

In the next couple of issues of *Dummy News and Views* we will illustrate and describe some of the new test stamp discoveries.

With this issue we will illustrate the Scott TD130A new discoveries. The previous listing for Scott TD130A was for single copies without liner backing paper. These had been used in United States Postal Service (USPS) recycling tests and were only found on the back of envelopes used in the USPS recycle tests. The single stamps previously available had been removed from the back of the envelopes used in these tests and the gum was removed in the process. Previously no examples were known unused and on the liner paper.

The new discovery was a partially processed printed web section with die-cut coil stamps still attached to the liner paper. An interesting feature of these is that the image of the flag stamp is printed in black on the back of the liner paper. It is unknown if the original Scott TD130A stamps used in the USPS recycling tests had the same type of liner paper with printing on the back as all the liner paper was destroyed after applying the stamps to the back of the envelopes for the USPS recycling tests.

Scott TD130A was printed from a set of five gravure cylinders with horizontal and vertical spaces between stamps. It is likely these were produced by Sennett Security Products. The black stamp image (TE64b) printed on the back of the liner paper is not aligned with the stamp images on front. All known Scott TD130A attached to liner paper were hand cut from a partially processed coil web section.

It is to be noted that there is an error in the listing for Scott TD130A in the Scott Specialized catalogue. Currently the listings for both "Horizontal pair, with stamp image (TE64b) on liner" and "Vertical pair, with stamp image (TE64b) on liner" are valued at \$75.00 each. The listing for "Block of 4, with stamp image (TE64b) on liner" is also currently valued at \$75.00 and it should have a value of \$150.00. This error will be corrected in the 2020 Scott Specialized Catalogue.

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Illustrated above is a Scott TD130A block of 100 (10 x 10) from the coil web as shown from the front.
The gravure cylinders may have been 10 stamps across and 21 stamps around.

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Illustrated above is the back side of the Scott TD130A block of 100 (10 x 10) from the coil web shown on the previous page. The image above was scanned and therefore shows that the outlines of the stamps on the front side do not align with the black printed stamp images on the backing liner paper.

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Illustrated above is a horizontal pair cropped from the images on the previous pages that more clearly shows the mis-alignment of the black stamp image printed on the backing liner paper compared with the actual stamps printed on the front side. When looking at the illustration of the front of the horizontal pair above, you can see parts of the black printed stamp image protruding beyond the right and bottom of the actual stamps on the front. Likewise, on the illustration of the backing liner paper side with black printed stamp images, you can see the outline of the stamps on the front side.

The next issue of Dummy News and Views will feature the newly listed Scott TD130C stamps. □

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On a very sad note we wish to inform you that a good friend of dummy stamp collectors everywhere has passed away unexpectedly.



John L. Larson
February 6, 1949 - September 19, 2018

John was an avid collector of United States stamps and a part-time stamp dealer, mostly on eBay but occasionally could be seen at stamp shows with another dealer sharing a table. Many of you have met John and have added test stamps to your collection because of John. He was most fair with his friends and customers. Over the many years I knew John I have gained much knowledge about different test stamps from him and added some very nice items to my collection of both United States and foreign test stamps.

When John worked in San Francisco near where I was assigned at the time, we would meet for lunch on a pretty regular basis and the conversations always consisted of various test stamps subjects and trading not only information but stamps for each of our collections.

John's fascination of test / dummy stamps was the catalyst for his articles and his interest in the Dummy Booklet Study Group.

John was very involved with the Dummy Booklet Study Group of the *Bureau Issues Association* during the second and third editions of *Dummy Stamp Booklets, BIA / USSS Research Paper Number 3*.

John wrote 18 articles for *The United States Specialist*, the monthly publication of The United States Stamp Society, between 1977 and 2008. These articles were about newly reported discoveries of United States test / dummy stamps.

One of the most significant articles published by John was an article in *The United States Specialist's*, April 2002 issue regarding the discovery of a previously unreported dummy booklet. It is the Scott #TDB31 \$1.20 Flag Over Supreme Court dummy booklet. Today, this booklet remains one of the scarcest modern day dummy booklets with just two examples known.

An abbreviated summary of John L. Larson's stamp collecting affiliations follows:

- Former BIA / USSS member #8499
- EFOCC member
- APS member #104998
- Former member, BIA / USSS Dummy Booklet Study Group
- Major contributor to second and third editions of *Dummy Stamp Booklets, BIA / USSS Research Paper Number 3*
- Champaign-Urbana (IL) Stamp Club member for many years
- Co-editor of the 1994, 1997 and 2000 editions of the Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog, a publication of the United States Stamp Society
- John assisted Derrick M. Slate with the 2015 publication *Swiss Trial Prints* □

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An update on the publication *Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets*. Mike Perry and I have been working hard on the updated version of this interesting paper and we hope to have it finalized and ready for release mid 2019.

We would appreciate any items that you may have, or have knowledge of, that should be included in this edition of *Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets*. This new edition will have an amazing amount of new information.

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Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

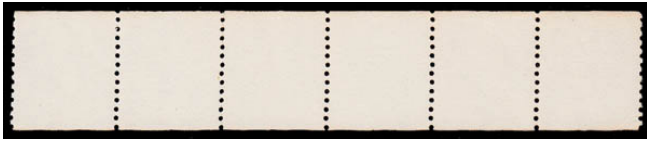
On September 14-15, 2018 Dutch Country Auctions/The Stamp Center held Sale #318 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 1667 "TEST STAMPS" an award winning exhibit/ collection of over (100) incl. much US w/pairs of #TD99, TD99a, TD100, TD101, TD101a also TD88-89, TD91, TD93 plus bklt panes TDB12 & more, other countries incl. Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, GB, Norway, Sweden & Switzerland generally VF H, most NH. Photos of some of the lot. Est. \$200.00 - \$300.00 Realized \$475.00 (*Ed. Note: I will only illustrate the Scott listed United States items.*)



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On September 23, 2018 Michael Rogers Online, a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC held Sale - 5027 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 20% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 6852 ** TD45A Test Stamp, 1910-27, blank design, perf 11 vertically (Scott TD45A), horizontal strip of 6, o.g., never hinged; light gum bend on left stamp, small corner crease at bottom right and couple perforations separated between second and third stamps, Very Fine appearance, *seldom available; unpriced in Scott*, with 2018 P.F. certificate. Suggested Bid \$200.00 Photo. Realized \$100.00.



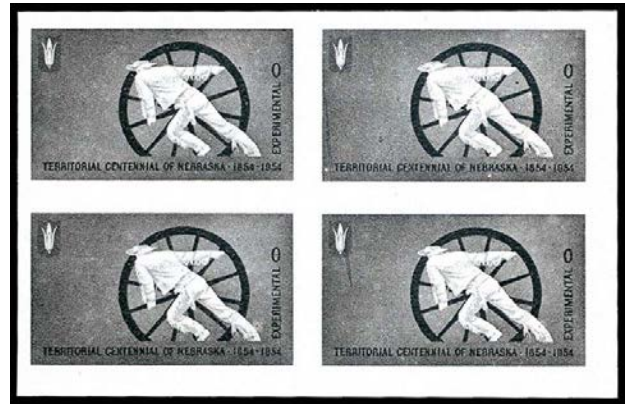
On October 11, 2018 Vance Auctions Ltd. Sale #333 that contained the following test stamps. There is no Buyer's Premium for this sale.



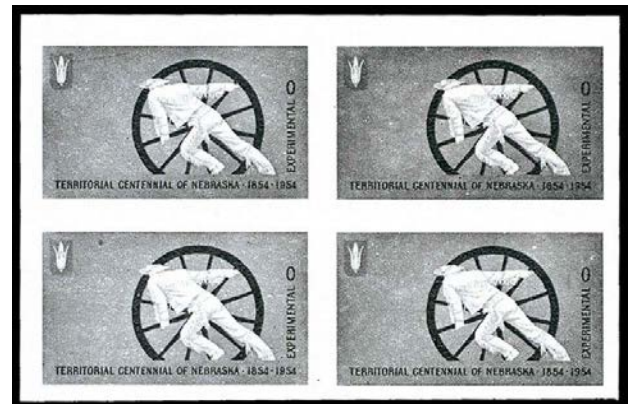
Lot 4496 ** TDB92a, Self adhesive TEST BOOKLET pane of 18. VF, NH, Photo Cat. \$250.00 Realized \$110.00 Canadian (Approximately \$85 US)



On November 1-3, 2018 Michael E. Aldrich Auctions held Sale #95 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 629 (TD100) Gray, Block of Four, OG, NH, Extremely Fine, Photo. Cat. \$120.00 Realized \$40.00



Lot 630 (TD100A) Gray, Block of Four, OG, NH, Extremely Fine, Photo. Cat. \$300.00 Realized \$100.00



On November 28, 2018 Sam Houston Philatelics held Sale #3060 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 244 ** TD88, Multipost Commercial Control Coil Test Stamps Pair, F-VF NH, Photo. Cat \$45.00 Realized \$50.00.




On November 28, 2018 Vance Auctions Ltd. Sale #334 that contained the following test stamps. There is no Buyer's Premium for this sale.

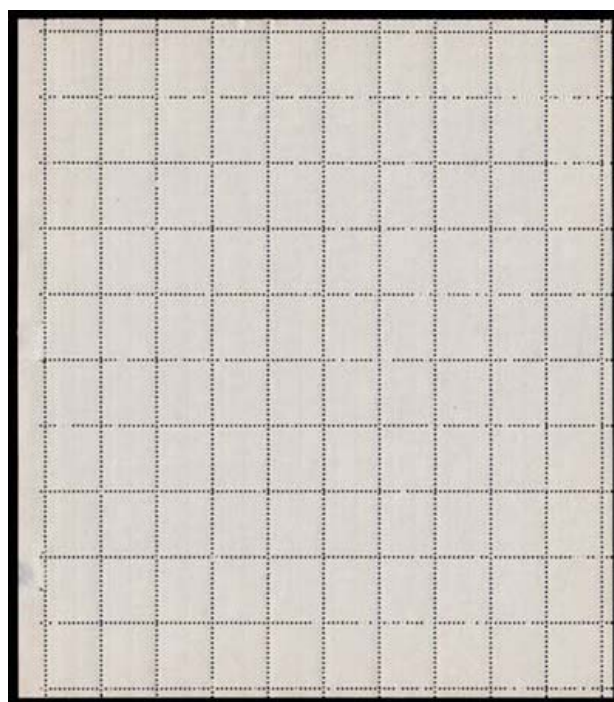
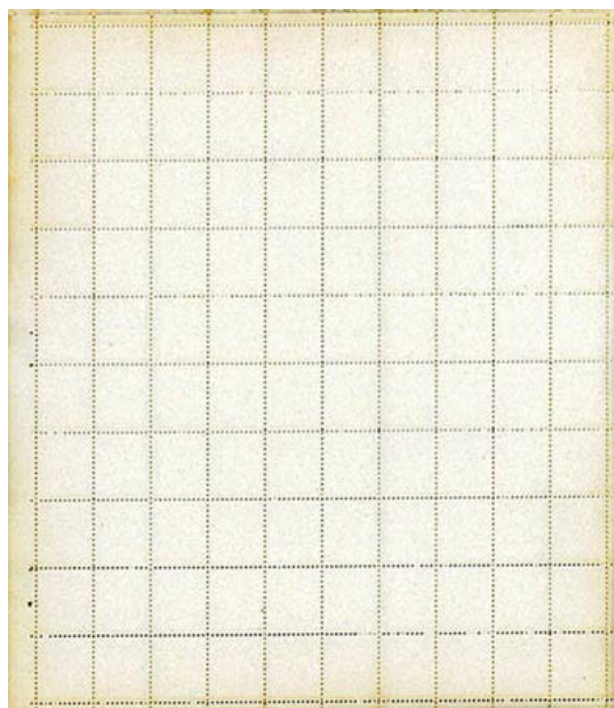
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


Lot 4151 * TDB92a, Self adhesive TEST BOOKLET pane of 18. VF, NH, Photo. Cat. \$250.00 Realized \$90.00 Canadian. (Approximately \$70 US)

On December 18-20, 2018 Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC held Sale #721 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 20% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 3320 **  **Test Stamp, 1920's-50's, B.E.P. blank design, gum breaker ridges 5mm to 6.5mm apart (Scott TD84A), (Ed. Note: 10) complete sheets of 100, o.g., never hinged, unusual complete test sheets; staple holes and selvage faults on each sheet, most of the stamps are sound, only a few minor faults on four stamps, Fine to Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$12,500 as blocks of four. Not sold. See in right column.**



Lot 3321 **  **Test Stamp, 1920's-50's, B.E.P. blank design, gum breaker ridges 5mm to 6.5mm apart (Scott TD84A), complete sheet of 100, o.g., never hinged (some disturbed gum in large selvage), unusual complete sheet of test stamps; tiny spots of gum disturbance, a couple selvage thins on large selvage, Fine to Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$1,250 as blocks of four. Realized \$160.00**

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Requests for Articles for The United States Specialist

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 □

Proposed Future DSSG Projects

Updating Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets

Work is progressing at a rapid pace on updating *Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets*. (See note on Page 5 of this issue.) 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 - Dummy Stamp Booklets*.

I ask all of you to join Mike Perry and myself in this project as we are not able to do it all, nor would you want us to do it all. It is a Dummy

Stamps Study Group project and all members have a chance to provide their input. Any information on new items or any items not listed in the previous 1998 edition of this paper would be appreciated. While we believe we have most everything necessary to complete this paper, we may be missing important information that you can provide.

This publication will be in full color. It has not yet been determined if it will be available in printed format or only online to United States Stamp Society members. □

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. □

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>