



Dummy News and Views

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

Issue Number 54

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Welcome to the Dummy Stamps Study Group's Fifty-fourth 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 United States 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 issue of *Dummy News and Views* we will illustrate another new test stamp discovery.

In the previous issue of *Dummy News & Views*, Issue Number 53, Fall 2018, we illustrated and wrote about the new Scott TD130A listing. In this issue we will illustrate and discuss the new listing for Scott TD130C. This is a new variety of the Star Spangled Banner coil stamps. While this same test stamp design was originally used by the BEP, it is likely these were produced by Sennett Security Products.

Like the previously reported Scott TD130A coil stamps, these Scott TD130C stamps were also found in a short unprocessed section of the web with the liner paper still attached. As with the Scott TD130A stamps, an interesting feature of the Scott TD130C is that the image of the flag stamp is also printed in black on the back of the liner paper.

The main difference between the Scott TD130A and the Scott TD130C stamps is that the Scott TD130C stamps are imperforate and don't have the wide horizontal and vertical gutters between the stamps as found on TD130A. Scott TD130C was printed from a set of four 225-subject (25 x 9) gravure cylinders.

As with the Scott TD130A stamps, the black stamp image (TE64b) printed on the back of the Scott TD130C liner paper is not aligned with the stamp images on front. All known Scott TD130C stamps attached to liner paper were hand cut from a partially processed coil web section.

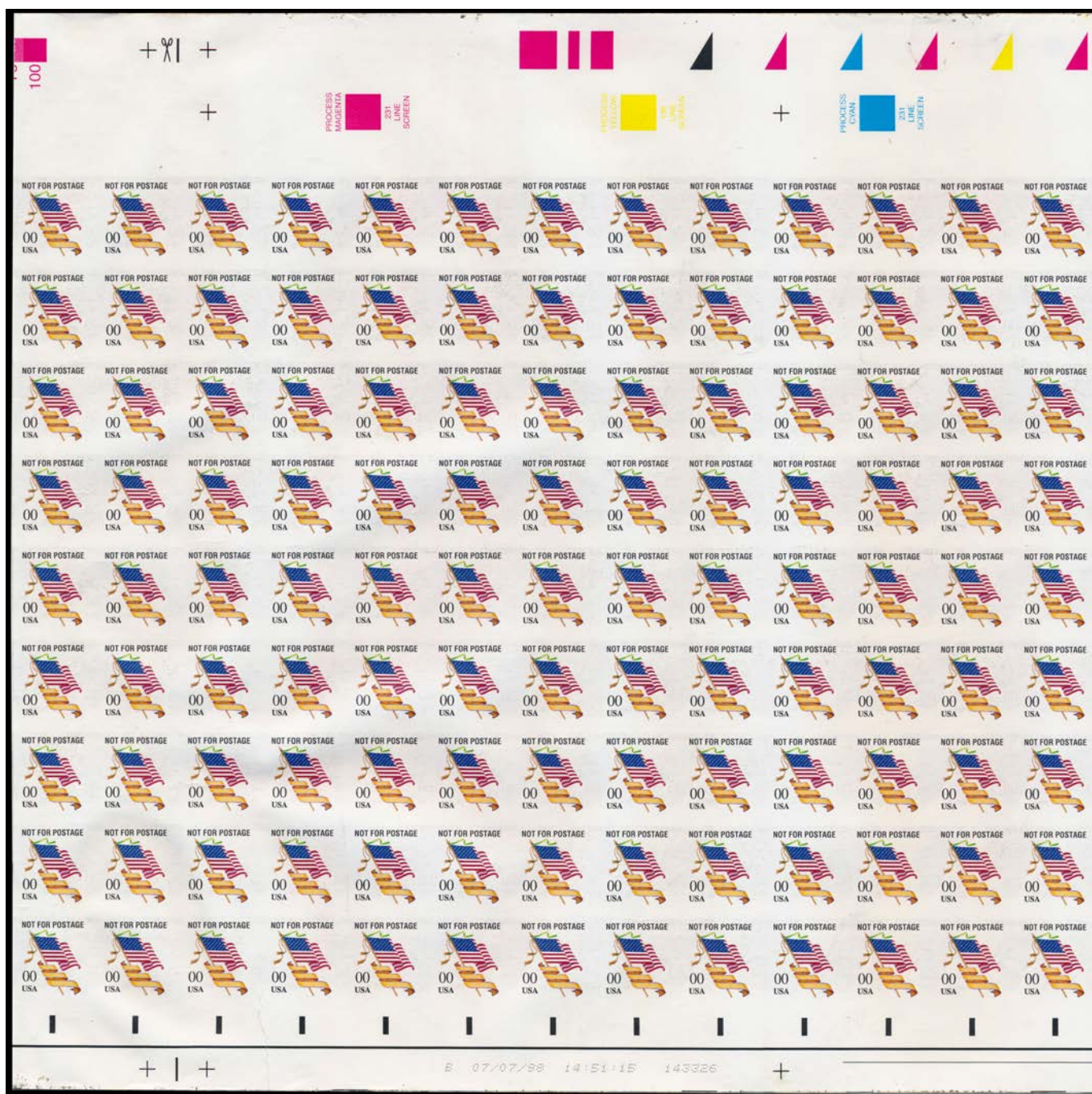


Illustrated above is a block of 4 of Scott TD130C stamps.

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In this issue:

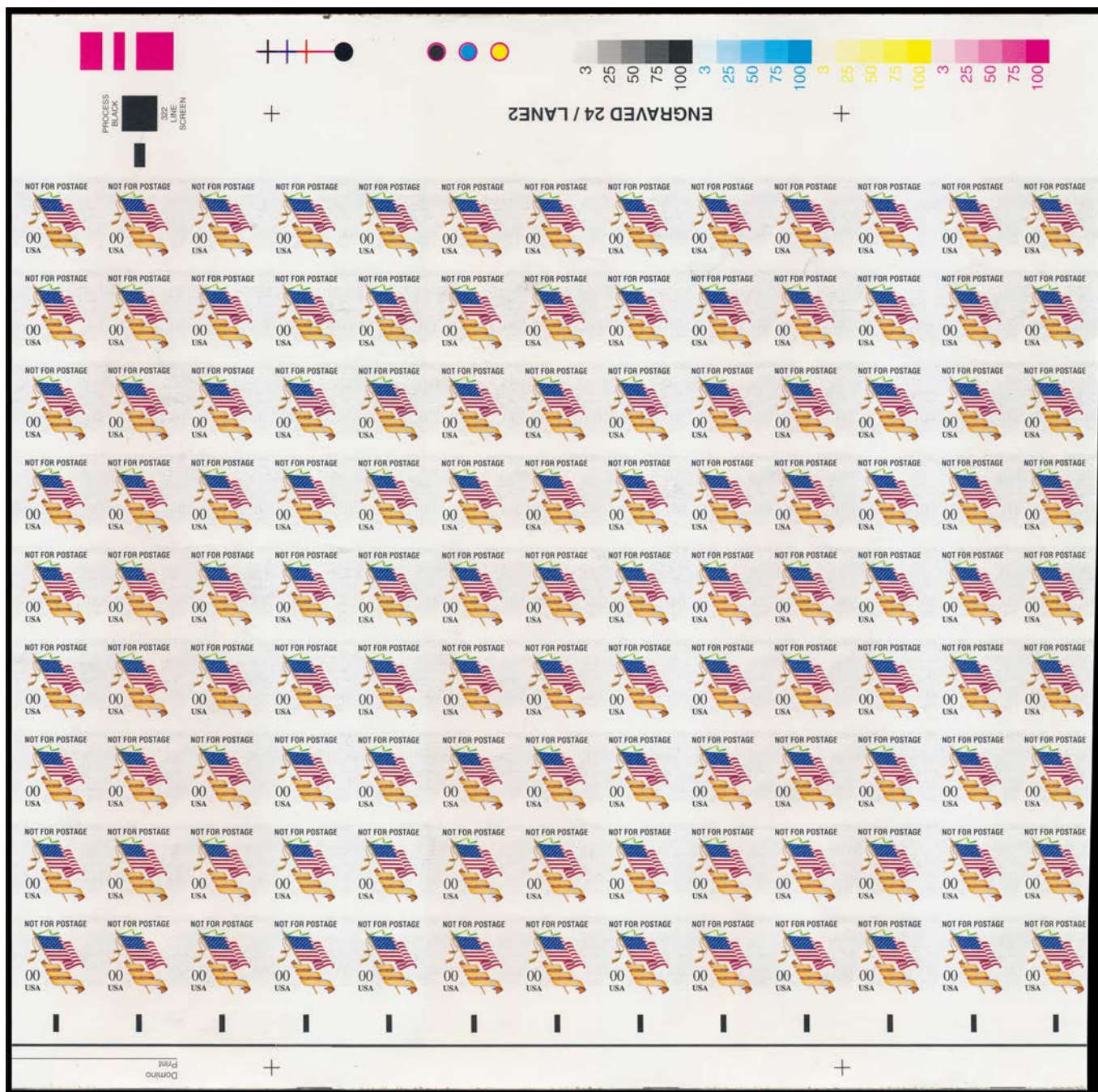
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Shown above is a portion of a 234-stamp section of the TD130C coil web; this image shows the left half of a full impression of the 225-subject gravure cylinders. In this image, the left two columns are actually part of the next plate impression since the 'scissors' denote the beginning and end of a complete revolution of the printing cylinders.

Shown on the next page is the right half of the 234-subject sheet. Note that the 100% magenta color density block at the far left of the image on page 2 repeats at the right end of the series of five magenta color density blocks at the upper right of the image on page 3. In a perfect world, the web section would have been cut so at least one more column of stamps remained attached to the right side of the block on page 3 since that would have shown the pair of 'scissors' and vertical line designating the beginning and end of the full plate impression. The purpose of most of the registration markings can be understood, but the inverted "ENGRAVED 24 / LANE2" notation is a mystery.

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This bottom margin strip of four (cropped from the portion of the web section shown on page 2) shows the inkjet marking (B 07/07/98 14:51:15 143326) that was applied once per revolution of the gravure cylinders. This indicates these test stamps were printed at 2:51 PM on July 7, 1998 and that the counter had recorded 143,326 plate impressions (it seems likely the counter hadn't been reset at the beginning of this press run).

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The images of the Star Spangled Banner coil stamps on the front side do not align with the black printed stamp images on the backing liner paper but it is hard to see in those images. Possibly the backing liner paper is a bit thicker not allowing transparency enough to see the image printed on the back.

The black "target" register markings on the back side were undoubtedly intended to be aligned with the mirror image markings seen at the top of the block on page 2. This indicates the front and back plates were out of register by four columns of stamps.

Illustrated below is the reverse side of the left half of the TD130C press sheet cropped from the coil web as shown on Page 2.



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Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

On January 9, 2019 Sam Houston Philatelics, Inc. held Sale #3061 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

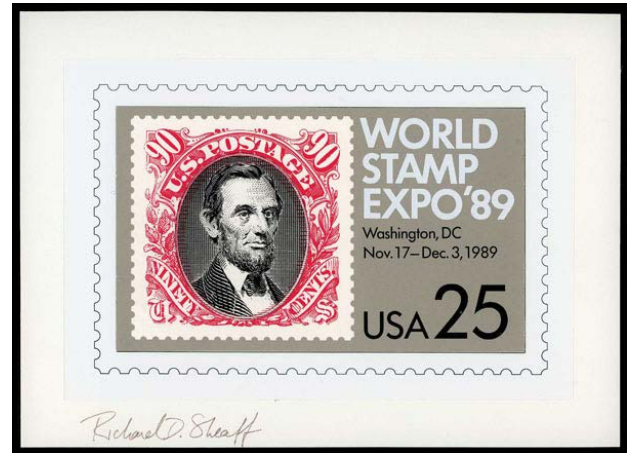


Lot 362 ** TD88, Test Coil Pair, Multipost, F-VF NH Cat. \$45.00 Realized \$30.00.

On January 11-12, 2019 Dutch Country Auctions / The Stamp Center held Sale #320 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 491 TEST STAMPS & BOOKLETS Collection unused (100s) 1897-2006 Extensive specialized collection w/ many rarities, incl. set of (12) #TDB36 w/ numbers 1 to 12 (only seven sets known), TDB36 w/ mismatched pane & cover numbers, TD51 pair w/ pre printing paper fold, TD97 vertical pair unsplit horizontally, TDB 45a mis-perf, plus several imperf coil pairs, and many other uncommonly seen coils & booklets, even a few on cover items (TD95(2), TD96), plus extra items not listed by Scott & WW test stamps (GB, France, Sweden, Switzerland), little duplication, appears all NH, owners CV \$33,000, Well Worth Review!!! No photos. Est. \$10,000.00 - \$12,000.00 Realized \$8,600.00.

On January 11-15, 2019 Harmer-Schau held Sale #118 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 865 ** **U.S.; Test Stamp, 1989, 25¢ World Stamp Expo '89, #2410 var.,** n.h., unique large essay prepared by Richard Sheaff who is credited as the designer of the issued stamp which, while similar, came in a vertical format, Very Fine. *Signed by Richard Sheaff.* Estimate \$400.00 - \$600.00 Not Sold

(Ed. Note: I would not call this a test stamp but an artists proof but I show it FYI)

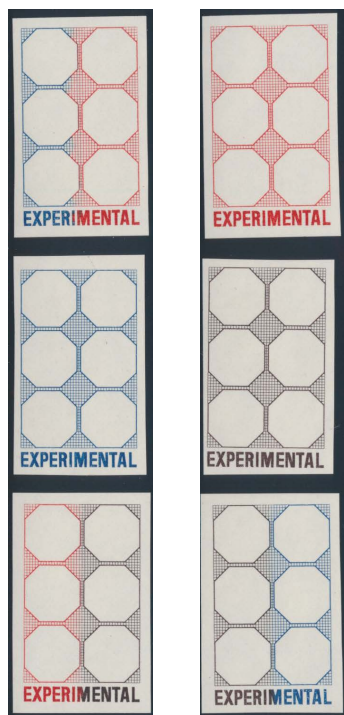


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Lot 1043 ** **U.S. Back of the Book Collections, Duplicated Test Stamp Group**, n.h., few hundred mostly "For Testing Purposes Only" incl. #TD121 block of 4 and 20, also coil strips, few colored, few blank. Photo ex. Very Fine. Estimate \$500.00 - \$750.00 Realized \$1,100.00.

On January 23-24, 2019 Sparks Auction held Sale #29 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



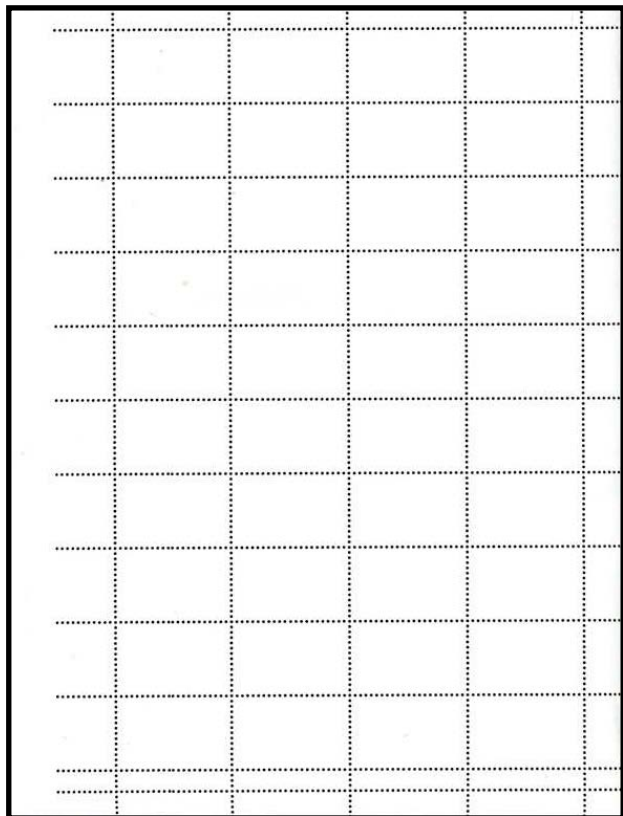
Lot 765 TD118a-TD118F **Set of Six 1979-1980 Test Stamps**, printed in all different colours by Goebel in Germany for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Mint never hinged, very fine. Photo. Cat. \$1,200.00 Realized \$50.00.



Lot 766 TDB36/TDB45 **Group of 5 Different 1980's Dummy Test Booklets**, TDB36 Jack London, Daffodils; TDB39a, TDB43b, TDB44 and TDB45. With write ups. All very fine mint never hinged. Photos. Cat. \$1,850.00 Realized \$325.00.

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On February 6, 2019 Downeast Stamps held Sale #318 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 12% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

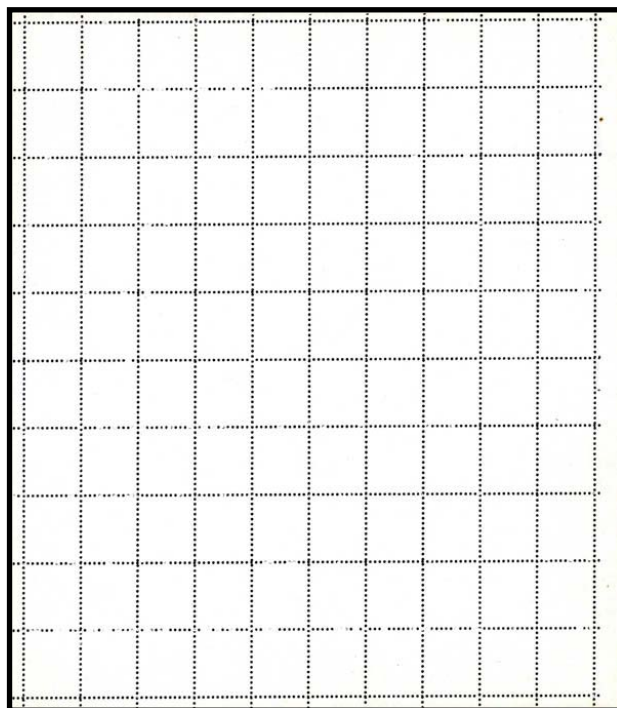


Lot 916 (*) Perforation Machine test, complete sheet of 40, VF, no gum. (Ed. note: These sheets of 40+ blank "stamps" were made and given free to attendees at PACIFIC '97 in San Francisco and not Scott listed) Photo. Est. \$25.00 Realized \$21.00.

On February 17, 2019 Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC held Sale #5036 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 20% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

See the column at the right for illustration of Lot 12029.

Lot 12029 ** TD84A Test Stamp, 1920's-50's, B.E.P. blank design, gum breaker ridges 5mm to 6.5mm apart (Scott TD84A), two complete sheets of 100, unusual complete test sheets; usual staple holes on each sheet and some damage to large selvage, most of the stamps are sound, perf disc indent on one stamp, o.g., never hinged, F.-V.F. Photo ex. Scott \$2,500.00 as blocks of four. Realized \$100.00.



On February 20, 2019 Sam Houston Philatelics, Inc. held Sale #3062 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 262 ** TD88, Test Coil Pair, Multipost, F-VF NH, Photo. Cat \$45.00 Realized \$18.00.



Lot 596 (*) RWT1, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 1997 PSA Test "Stamp", reverse explains the planned release of 1998 Duck Stamp (RW65) as a "Dollar Bill" size self-adhesive, VF NG, Photo Est. \$10.00 Realized \$14.00.

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On February 22, 2019 Modern Stamps, Inc. held Sale #472 that contained the following test stamps. There is no Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 99 ** **TEST BOOKLET**, TDB32 (x 10), Each Bklt. Contains Unprinted Pane of 5, Perf. 10 Horiz., Dull Gum, 1985 Issue, OG, MNH, Sound Cond., VF. Photo. Cat. \$60.00 Realized \$20.00.

On March 8-9, 2019 Dutch Country Auctions / The Stamp Center held Sale #321 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 376 ** VF TD127A VF Self-adhesive Polar Bear Skating test stamp w/ space around stamp. Photo Cat. \$750.00 Realized \$300.00.



Lot 377 ** VF TD127B VF Self-adhesive Polar Bear Skating test stamp, top margin single no space between stamps. Photo Cat. \$750.00 Realized \$300.00.

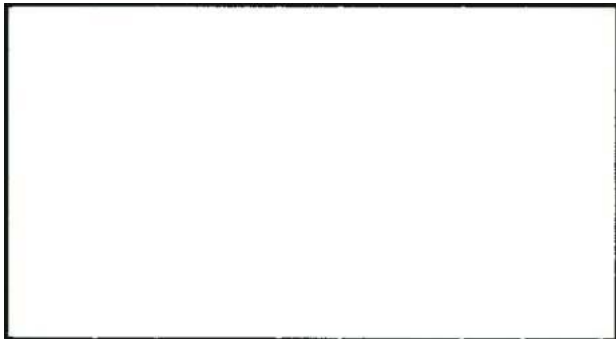


Lot 378 ** VF TD128 VF Top margin single Parrot self-adhesive test stamp. Photo Cat. \$450.00 Realized \$250.00.

Lot 1448 **TEST STAMPS** Collection couple (100) test stamps (US, Canada, Switz) & instruction stamps & covers (GB, S Africa, Japan, France); incl. US TD17 (not valued in Scott), TD65 pair, TD111 several line pairs (\$30 ea in Scott), TD116, TDB9, TDB12a; also Mailomat card, CVP31 w/o value, Postal Presort, Inc stamps, bklt & cover, React stamp bklt & covers; also photocopies of catalog listings, articles and price lists; minor dup esp coil strips, gen F-VF+. No photo. Est. \$400.00 - \$500.00 Realized \$290.00.

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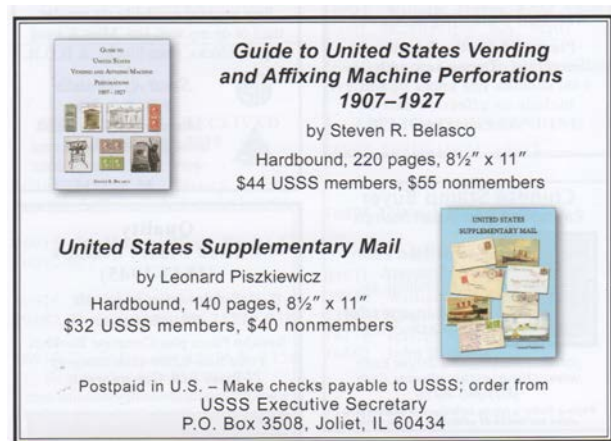
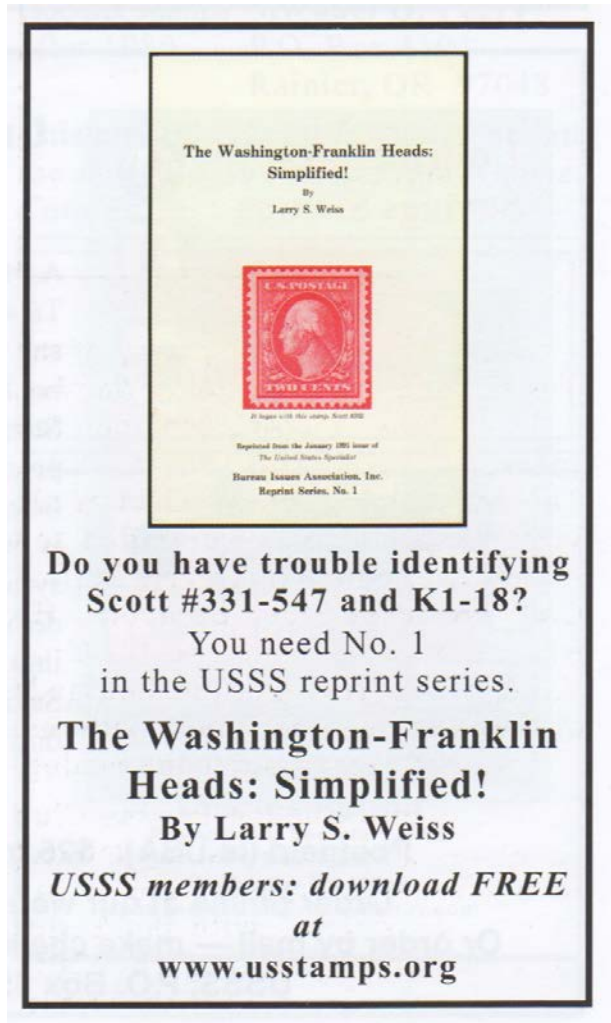
On March 20, 2019 Vance Auctions Ltd. held Sale #336 that contained the following test stamps. There is no Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 4823 ★ TDB61, Blank self-adhesive TEST PANE of 10 in complete booklet with blank cover. VF. Scarce. Photo. Cat. \$150.00 Not sold.



Lot 4824 ★ TDB92a, Self adhesive TEST Booklet Pane of 18. VF, NH. Photo. Cat. \$250.00 Not sold.



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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*. 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>