



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



Issue Number 59

Spring 2020

Welcome to the Dummy Stamps Study Group's Fifty-ninth 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

Handy Tricks to Identify TD107 FTPO Stamps from TD112 FTPO Stamps and Information About Plate Numbers on For Testing Purposes Only Stamps

by Michael O. Perry and Terry R. Scott

Recently a fellow test stamp collector asked if there was an easy way to tell the difference between the black TD107 series For Testing Purposes Only (FTPO) stamps and the black TD112 FTPO stamp. How can you be sure a For Testing Purposes Only coil is TD112 rather than one of the TD107 family?

Most collectors know TD112 has dull gum and is untagged. TD107, TD107a, TD107b and TD107c all have shiny gum, so you can eliminate them. Don't get distracted by the fact TD107 is untagged (and that TD107a, TD107b and TD107c are tagged); simply checking the gum is all you need to do to reduce the number of possible TD112 look-a-likes to two coils -TD107d and TD107e. While both of those have dull gum, TD107d is tagged and TD107e is untagged. Thus, only TD107e can be confused with TD112 since they both have dull gum and are untagged. However, you don't need to check tagging or gums to identify TD112; this newsletter will show you a couple of do-ityourself handy tools.

The Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers shows that the design size of TD107e is approximately 19½ mm wide and the design size of TD112 is approximately 19 mm wide. Not all measuring devices are accurate, so we will show you an easier way to identify TD112. But first, let's give a little history and details about the different water-activated gum For Testing Purposes Only test coils.

Scott TD107, TD107a, TD107b, TD107c, TD107d and TD107e were printed from a pair of 432-subject rotary press intaglio plates on the old Cottrell Presses. The plates were made using a transfer roll on a flat piece of steel; after all 432 stamp designs (along with the plate numbers and electric eye markings) had been entered on the plate, it was bent to form a semi-circle. In that process, the stamp designs were stretched as the plate was bent, resulting in a stamp design that was ½ mm wider than it was when the plate was laid out. Two such "half plates" were attached to a drum on the Cottrell press, resulting in a printing surface that was 48 stamps in circumference.

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There is a plate joint line every 24 stamps where the two semi-circle plates were joined together on the Cottrell Press. If the coil web was miscut enough, the tops of the two plate numbers could be found at the bottom of the stamps, to the left and right of the joint line, on the eighteenth row of stamps.

In addition, at the left and right sides of plates 27086 and 27087, in the horizontal gutter between the ninth and tenth rows of stamps on the 18 row plate, there was a very short horizontal line scribed into the edges of the plates to help the technicians align the plates when they were mounted on the printing press. These scribe lines can sometimes be found at the top or bottom of coil line pairs if they are slightly miscut, but if the web was slit correctly the scribe lines usually won't be seen. Examples of scribe lines can sometimes be found on FTPO booklet panes since they were created from rolls of paper printed from the FTPO coil plates. Scribe lines were not used on plates 36111 and 36112. The last Cottrell press was retired in November 20, 1985. Interestingly, the final stamps printed on the last Cottrell press were TD107e FTPO dummy testing coils.

After the Cottrell presses were decommissioned in 1985, the BEP made a 936subject seamless sleeve to print TD112 coils on the B Press. The B Press was purchased in 1973 and it was scrapped in 1993. This sleeve was 52 stamps in circumference. A sleeve is a hollow cylinder tapered on the inside so it fits on the press's mandrel. The same size transfer roll that had been used to make the 432-subject Cottrell plates was used to create the 936-subject sleeve. However, since the sleeve was already curved prior to entering the stamp designs, the stamp design didn't get stretched. Thus, stamps printed on the B Press were 1/2 mm narrower than those printed on the Cottrell Press. To adjust for this, the BEP made the vertical gutters between the TD112 test stamps ¹/₂ mm wider than is found on TD107 test coils. There is no plate joint line on the B Press coils.

One problem with measurements of very small differences ($\frac{1}{2}$ mm) such as these, is that perforation gauges are not totally accurate. Several years ago at one of our annual meetings with James Kloetzel at WESTPEX, the three of us compared a few of the same brand perforation gauges against each other and were quite surprised to find that there were differences of up to 2 mm in a 100 mm length between the same brand perforation gauges. Not all

measuring devices are accurate, so we will show you an easier way to identify TD112.

Some time ago, a fellow test stamp collector, the late Earl McAfee, told us about a "trick" he used to determine with great accuracy the difference between the design width of the TD107 stamps and the TD112 stamp. It is simply using one of each stamp and making your own "gauge".

Earl's homemade gauge is shown below. It is made from a TD107e stamp that has been mis-slit horizontally so that a portion of the top of the stamp below is showing. Then you paste the TD107e stamp to the top of a TD112 stamp so that the small portion of the bottom of the mis-slit TD107e stamp overlaps the design of the TD112 stamp allowing you to clearly see the slight ½ mm difference in the stamp widths. Then cut the bottom of the bottom stamp (TD112) so that the full width of the design is showing at the bottom.

To use this homemade gauge you simply place it on top of the TD107 or TD112 in question and the width of the actual stamp design will show if it is $19\frac{1}{2}$ mm wide or 19 mm wide.



Use the top or the bottom of this pair to determine the design width of the black For Testing Purposes Only stamps.

You can see that the design of the stamp on top is $19\frac{1}{2}$ mm wide and the design of the bottom stamp is 19 mm wide.

Another similar homemade gauge can be made by affixing a bisected TD112 coil pair on top of a TD107e coil pair. It is preferred by several collectors since, after the top and bottom margins are trimmed off, it clearly shows that the vertical gutter on TD112 is 1/2 mm wider than on TD107e. This second homemade gauge is shown below



Below are illustrations of plate numbers found on TD107 coils, followed by an image of a unique plate number strip of of six that has perforated, part perforated and imperforate coil stamps. The TD107 coils were printed with plates that have the plate number combinations of 27086-27087; 27087-27086; 36111-36112; and 36112-36111.



The TD107 pair above shows Plate #'s 27086-27087



The TD107 pair above shows Plate #'s 27087-27086



The TD107 pair above shows Plate #'s 36111-36112



The TD107 pair above shows Plate #'s 36112-36111



The above unique TD107 strip of six shows the plate number combinations of 36112-36111 at the bottom. The left pair is perforated - there are blind perfs between stamps 2 and 3, but the rest of the strip is imperforate.

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As described at the top of page 2, there was a short horizontal alignment mark scribed at each edge of the plate in the horizontal gutter between the ninth and tenth row of coil stamps. If the two plates were correctly mounted on the press, the scribe lines on the edges of each plate would line up. Shown below are blocks photographically cropped from an image of the proof sheet for plate 27086 in the Smithsonian collection. You can see the scribed lines in the left and right margins between the ninth and tenth rows - these appear to be the "long" scribe lines. It is speculated that the scribe lines on plate 27087 are the "short" variety.



Below are examples of scribe lines on the bottom of joint line pairs from the ninth row of the web, followed by examples of the scribe lines at the top of line pairs from the tenth row of the web.



Shown above are two joint line pairs from row nine of the printing plate that show the scribe line that occurs between rows nine and ten on the printing plate. The top pair has the "long" line at the left of the joint line while the pair at the bottom has the "short" line at the left. The closeup views are at the right.

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Shown above are two joint line pairs from row ten of the printing plate that show the scribe line that occurs between rows nine and ten on the printing plate. The top pair has the "long" line at the left of the joint line while the pair at the bottom has the "short" line at the left. The closeup views are at the right.

Since Dummy booklet panes with the FTPO design were printed from the 432-subject coil plates on the Cottrell press, but perforated and processed as if they were sheets 360- or 400-subject booklet panes, it is possible to find examples of the scribe lines on dummy FTPO booklet panes of six and eight. Below we will show examples of FTPO booklet panes with plate joint lines and scribe lines.





Shown above is a TDB15a (TDP6b) FTPO booklet pane of 6 from a TDB15 dummy booklet. Note the Scribe line between the second and third row of stamps on the joint line. The closeup view of this scribe line is at the right.

The TDB15a (TDP6b) For Testing Purposes Only booklet pane image has been rotated 180° so that the staple tab is at the right. TDB15a booklet panes are inverted in TDB15 booklets.

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Below is a TDB13a (TDP7) FTPO booklet pane of 8 from a TDB18 dummy booklet.





Above is an enlargement of the scribe line shown on the TDB13a For Testing Purposes Only booklet pane from the TDB18 booklet shown at the left.

FTPO booklet panes are known in the following dummy booklets: TDB8, TDB13, TDB14, TDB15, TDB15b, TDB16, TDB16c, TDB16e, TDB17, TDB17a, TDB17b, TDB17c, TDB18, TDB18a, TDB18b, TDB19 and TDB19a.

FTPO booklet panes TDB8a, TDB13a, TDB14a, TDB15a, TDB16a, TDB16d, and TDB16f will sometimes show the scribe line when there is a joint line on the panes.

Annual Meeting with James Kloetzel at WESTPEX

by Terry R. Scott and Michael O. Perry

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As has happened to all scheduled Stamp shows around the world, due to the COVID-19 outbreak worldwide, the 60th WESTPEX Stamp Show scheduled for April 24-26, 2020 at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel in California was cancelled. Therefore, there was no meeting this year with James Kloetzel, Editor Emeritus of the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers*.

However, that did not prevent the usual group of suspects, Michael Perry, Doug Iams and Terry Scott, from presenting several pages of suggestions for additions, deletions and improvements to test stamp listings for the 2021 Scott Specialized Catalogue of United *States Stamps & Covers* to Jim by using the internet with several back and forth discussions.

As usual, Jim was very receptive but did not hesitate to point out things that he was not in agreement with or suggested changes to make the ideas better and consistent with Scott's policies for catalogue listings.

We look forward to seeing the actual printed 2021 Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers when it is released on October of this year.

It is always a pleasure to meet with Jim at the WESTPEX stamp show and we hope that next year we will be able to continue a long tradition of annual meetings. \Box

Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors by Terry R. Scott

On March 29, 2020 Michael Rogers Online, a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC held Sale #5093 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 20% Buyer's premium for this sale.



Lot 10591 * TD96 Test Stamp, 1954, B.E.P. framed rectangle design coil, red violet (Scott TD96), pair, 2mm vertical perf shift., o.g., hinge remnant, F.-V.F. Photo. Suggested Bid \$10.00. This auction firm does not report prices realized.

The above illustration is the same item for the following auctions and lots. Lot 10591 for the March 29, 2020 Michael Rogers Online a Division of Roger F. Kellerher Auctions LLC sale #5093: Lot 6599 for the May 3, 2020 Michael Rogers Online a Division of Roger F. Kellerher Auctions LLC sale #5098 and Lot 7241 for the June 7, 2020 Michael Rogers Online a Division of Roger F. Kellerher Auctions sale 5103.

On May 3, 2020 Michael Rogers Online a Division of Roger F. Kellerher Auctions LLC held sale #5098 that contained the following test stamps. There is a Buyer's premium of 20% for this sale.

Lot 6599 * Test Stamp, 1954, B.E.P. framed rectangle design coil, red violet (Scott TD96), pair, 2mm vertical perf shift, o.g., hinge remnant, F.-V.F. Photo. This auction firm does not report prices realized.

Lot 6600 ** H Test Stamp, 1997, magenta serpentine die-cut "For Testing Purposes Only" booklet pane (Scott TDB92a), complete unfolded pane of 18, o.g., never hinged, with great color and centering, F.-V.F. Photo. Scott \$250.00. This auction firm does not report prices realized.

Please see the illustration for Lot 6600 at the top right of this page



The above illustration is the same for the following auctions and lots. Lot 6600 for the May 3, 2020 Michael Rogers Online a Division of Roger F. Kellerher Auctions LLC sale #5098 and Lot 7242 for the June 7, 2020 Michael Rogers Online a Division of Roger F. Kellerher Auctions LLC sale #5103.

On May 17, 2020 Michael Rogers Online, a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC held sale #5100 that contained the following test stamps. There is a Buyer's premium of 20% for this sale.

Lot 9675 ** **H** TD84A Test Stamp, 1920's-50's, B.E.P. blank design, gum breaker ridges 5mm to 6.5mm apart (Scott TD84A), full pane of 100, Blank with no defacement markings., o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Photo. Catalog \$1,250.00. This auction firm does not report prices realized.

Please see the illustration for Lot 9675 at the top left side of Page 8.

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The above illustration is the same for the following auctions and lots. Lot 9675 for the May 17, 2020 Michael Rogers Online a Division of Roger F. Kellerher Auctions LLC sale #5100 and Lot 7240 for the June 7, 2020 Michael Rogers Online a Division of Roger F. Kellerher Auctions LLC sale #5103

On June 7, 2020 Michael Rogers Online, a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC held sale #5103 that contained the following test stamps. There is a Buyer's premium of 20% for this sale.

Lot 7240 ** III TD84A Test Stamp, 1920's-50's, B.E.P. blank design, gum breaker ridges 5mm to 6.5mm apart (Scott TD84A), full pane of 100, Blank with no defacement markings., o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$1,250.00. This auction firm does not report prices realized.

Lot 7241 *. TD96 Test Stamp, 1954, B.E.P. framed rectangle design coil, red violet (Scott TD96), pair, 2mm vertical perf shift, o.g., hinge remnant, Fine to Very Fine. Photo. This auction firm does not report prices realized.

Lot 7242 ** III TDB92a. Test Stamp, 1997, magenta serpentine die-cut "For Testing Purposes Only" booklet pane (Scott TDB92a), complete unfolded pane of 18, o.g., never hinged, with great color and centering, Fine to Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$250.00. This auction firm does not report prices realized.

On June 15-16, 2020 Auktionshaus Christoph Gärtner GmbH & Co KG held sale #47 that contained the following test stamps. There is a Buyer's premium of 19% for this sale.



Lot 20187 ** 🖽 TD100 (40) + TD101 (40) 1954 TEST STAMPS: Group of 80 'Nebraska' test stamps in 20 blocks of four, with 10 blocks in blue and 10 blocks in black, all unmounted mint, fresh and fine. Photo. Sc. \$2,400.00. Not sold.

On June 17-18, 2020 H. R. Harmer GPN, Inc. held sale #3031 that contained the following test stamps. There is a Buyer's premium of 18% for this sale.



Lot 1679 **** TDB17b, \$1 "DUMMY" Booklet,** unexploded booklet (BC15) with two panes of six (TDB14a) with perforations at end of panes, purple "DUMMY" overprint on front cover (34.5x6.5mm), Very Fine. (Scott (\$300). Provenance Undersander. Photo. Est. \$100.00 Realized \$250.00.

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Lot 1680 ** TDB17b, \$1 "DUMMY" Booklet, unexploded booklet (BC15) containing two panes of six (TDB14a) with perforated ends, purple "DUMMY" 36.5x6.5mm handstamp, booklet



front cover with small nick at right, otherwise Very Fine, also includes unexploded "Dummy" booklet (TDB9). Photo. Scott \$390.00 Realized \$220.00.

On June 17, 2020 Eastern Auctions Ltd. Worldwide Internet/Mail held a sale that contained the following test stamps. There is a Buyer's premium of 18.5% for this sale.



Lot 1233 * USA Test Stamps - "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 Ex. Estimate \$125.00. Realized \$65.00.

On June 20, 2020 Golden Oak Online Auctions held sale #25 that contained the following test stamps. There is a Buyer's premium of 20% for this sale.



Lot 747 ** TD88 Test Stamp, 1944-49, Multipost Commercial Controls coil, blue (Scott TD88), pair, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Photo. Scott \$45.00. Not sold.

Proposed Future DSSG Projects Dummy Booklets Guide

You may have noticed a change in the title of the project that Mike Perry and I have been working on. At the WESTPEX 2019 stamp show in San Francisco, California Mike and I met several times to discuss and to show both Roger Brody and Nick Lombardi the latest draft of a project that was previously known as the updating of Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets.

After several discussions, Roger decided that it would be in the best interest of the United States Stamp Society to make this project an actual published book. In making it a book, it was also decided that the title would be changed to Dummy Booklets Guide. Needless to say that Mike and I were very pleased at this decision and are working to make it the best possible publication on this interesting subject of dummy stamp books.

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 Dummy Booklets Guide.

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, and are greatly encouraged, to provide their input. Any information on new items or any items not listed in the previous 1998 edition of Research Paper Number 3 -Dummy Stamp Booklets would be appreciated. While we believe we have most everything necessary to complete this book to include currently known dummy booklets, we may be missing important information that you can provide. This publication will be in full color. 🖵

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Requests for Articles for The United States Specialist

Martin Kent Miller, the new 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 Martin 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*.

Martin can be reached by e-mail at: editor@usstamps.org

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