



# Dummy News and Views

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

Issue Number 62

Winter 2020 - 2021



## Welcome to the Dummy Stamps Study Group's Sixty Second 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](mailto:terryrscott@comcast.net)

## New Test Stamps Listed in the 2021 Scott Specialized Catalogue

by Terry R. Scott & Michael O. Perry

The 2021 edition of the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers* was released as usual in early October 2020. As has become pretty normal, there were revisions to some of the test stamp listings and several new test stamp discoveries were listed for the first time.

We have no intention of showing all the changes, deletions or additions in the new edition of the *Scott Specialized Catalogue*, but will highlight a few of the more interesting items.

One big difference for the 2021 issue was that our normally scheduled meeting with Mr. James Kloetzel, Editor Emeritus of the *Scott Catalogues* didn't happen because Covid-19 cancelled the annual WESTPEX stamp show that is held in April of every year in San Francisco, California. It is something that we very much look forward to and it was quite a disappointment to not be able to meet as usual with Jim to visit and discuss the proposed items for the 2021 *Scott Specialized*.

We have been informed that the WESTPEX 2021 stamp show will be held in San Francisco this year but on the last couple days of July and the first of August.

It will again be very nice to meet with Jim but unfortunately it is past the deadline for proposed changes for the 2022 *Scott Specialized Catalogue* so suggested changes will need to be done remotely a bit earlier like it was for the 2021 *Specialized*, which worked out amazingly well.

One of the more significant new entries into the 2021 *Scott Specialized* was the addition of five new stamps, all with the same design but different papers and other differences. These were produced by the *Bureau of Engraving and Printing* (BEP) in 1970 but just recently reported to the editors of the *Scott Specialized Catalogue*.

These new test stamps are listed as Scott TD115B through TD115Df. There are five different stamps listed, in two easily identifiable categories. Two stamps are untagged (TD115B and TD115Bc), while three stamps are tagged (TD115D, TD115De and TD115Df).

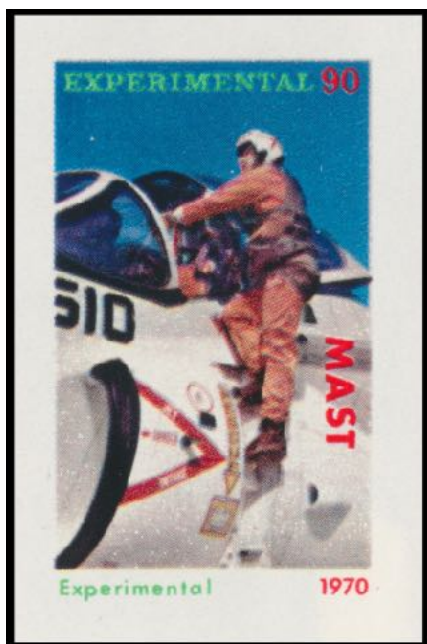
The vertical format stamp design features an illustration of a Jet Fighter Pilot on the side of a jet plane, either entering or exiting the pilot compartment.

The five different sheets of 50 stamps are all imperforated. The differences are in the tagging, or lack of, and the paper and gum differences.

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The illustration above is that of the new stamps with *Scott Specialized Catalogue* numbers TD115B-TD115Df and illustration description “Jet Fighter Experimental — TE56b”.

To summarize the listings, they were all printed in 1970, on the BEP’s new 7-color Andreotti gravure press. The first untagged variety (TD115B) was printed on white coated paper with very smooth shiny gum that was produced by Watervliet Paper Company. The other untagged variety (TD115Bc) was printed on regular uncoated and ungummed postage stamp paper. Gravure printing requires a very smooth surface, so the printed image on TD115Bc might best be described as very poor.

The three tagged versions are all printed on coated paper. TD115D was printed on white coated paper with very smooth shiny gum that was produced by Warren Paper Company. TD115De and TD115Df were both printed on coated paper produced by the St. Regis Paper Company; TD115De has white coating, while TD115Df has cream colored coating. Both TD115De and TD115Df have pebbled shiny gum.

Unfortunately, the footnote after the Scott Catalogue listings describing the five different paper varieties is incorrect. The sources of the

paper used for TD115D and TD115De were inadvertently reversed, and will be corrected in the 2022 Scott Catalogue.

Only one sheet of each of the above listed stamps has been reported. They all come from the bottom left position of the press sheet of 200 stamps, the discovery sheets being sheets of 50 stamps each.

These test stamps were printed on the new gravure press built by Andreotti S.P.A. of Italy which was purchased by the BEP in 1969. Each sheet has six plate numbers printed in the bottom margin. The plate numbers are 171337 (yellow), 171338 (magenta), 171339 (cyan), 171340 (black), 171341 (green), and 171393 (red). Also in the bottom margin are “Crow’s Foot” EE markings of each color that are a vertical line and the same color slanted vertical line to the right of it. The plate number locations and EE markings are similar to the regularly issued Scott No. 1414. Please see the cropped illustration of the bottom left corner shown on the bottom of the next page.

While this press was capable of printing seven colors from seven gravure cylinders in seven different print stations, only six inks were applied since the seventh print station was used to apply a solid layer of phosphorescent tagging (the tagging did not extend all the way to the edges of the web).

Note that the yellow EE marks, and the yellow plate number, at the far left are barely visible in the photocopy shown here.

Each sheet discovered has the name of the company that made the paper and other information hand written on the back of the plate block location.

On the following pages we will illustrate a plate strip of 6 cropped from one of the sheets and photo cropped scans of the backs of all five plate blocks that shows the handwritten inscriptions describing the manufacturer and paper type used for that particular sheet. The hand written inscriptions are all located on the back of the lower left corner of the sheets (where the Crows Foot markings are seen). Another illustration will be a of a full sheet of 50 stamps.

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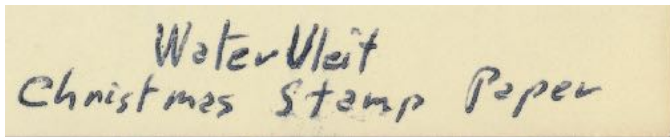


Shown at the top of page 3 is a full sheet of TD115D, the glossy Warren paper stamps.

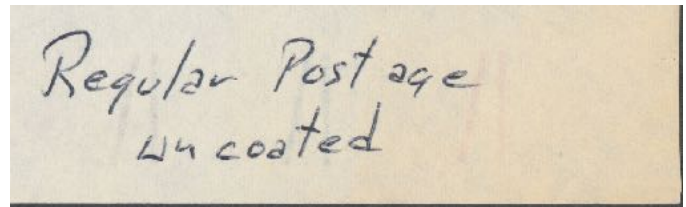
Directly below the full sheet is a photographically cropped image of a plate strip of 6 from the sheet of TD115Df stamps printed on cream colored paper from St. Regis.

While it may be a bit difficult to see in the scan of the plate number strip of six, notice that the bottom part of the sheet margin is slightly duller than the area above the top of the six colored “Crows Foot” markings. The two pink pointers show where the tagging applied to the web ended; the area where the Crows Feet are printed is untagged.

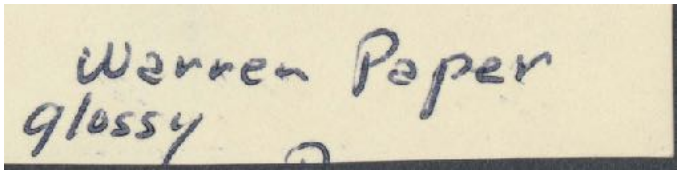
Shown below are images cropped for the back of each of the five sheets showing the handwritten notes describing each paper manufacturer and the description of the different paper types.



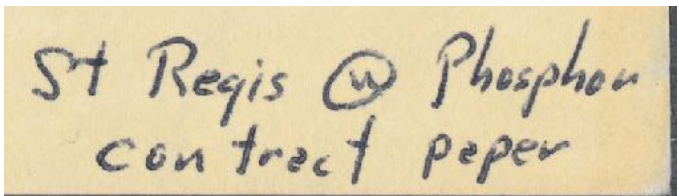
Paper description hand written on the back of the TD115B “WaterVleit Christmas Stamp Paper” sheet; note that the paper company name is misspelled; it is actually “Watervliet”.



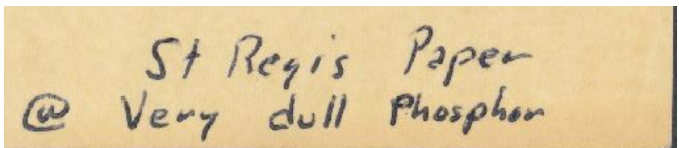
Paper description hand written on the back of the TD115Bc “Regular Postage uncoated” paper sheet.



Paper description hand written on the back of the TD115D “Warren Paper glossy @” sheet; whatever was originally written below the half of the “@” was trimmed off.



Paper description hand written on the back of the white TD115De “St. Regis @ Phosphor contract paper” sheet.



Paper description hand written on the back of the cream colored TD115Df “St. Regis Paper Very dull Phosphor” paper sheet.

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Another very significant new entry for the 2021 *Scott Specialized* was the listing of the Scott TD120C Seal test stamp. This particular test stamp is not a new discovery, but for unknown reasons it has been neglected as far making its entry into the *Scott Specialized* catalog.

Wayne Youngblood wrote a wonderful article in the March 2016 issue of the *American Philatelist* monthly magazine on this newly listed test stamp. The title of Wayne’s article is “Creating Seat Belts for Stamps” — “New Test Items About Stamp Sandwich Emerge”. It is a wonderful 4-page article about the newly listed TD120C Seal test stamp that was made for testing



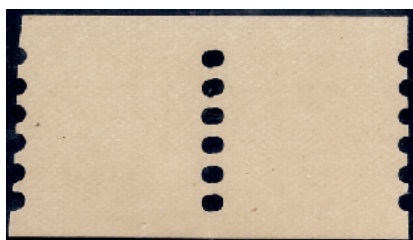
*Please turn to page 5 ➤*

in 1990. It is recommend it to anyone interested in learning the story behind this test stamp. It is a fascinating article of behind the scenes research that the *United States Postal Service* (USPS) does trying to improve stamps. You don't have to have an interest in test stamps to enjoy this finely detailed article.

The basis of this fine article is the USPS searching for the “perfect” water-activated gum to use for stamp adhesives. There were several different gum formulations used in these tests.

The article centers on the two types of gum that were known at the time, which still are the only gum types reported. They were titled Type E and Type F gums. There were strips of five of the TD122 Seal test stamps adhesive along with five different paper types of envelopes to be used in these tests to determine how well the stamps stuck to the different types of envelopes while traveling through the mails. The user was to fill out a several page questionnaire about the stamps used. It is highly likely at least four types of gum were used in these tests since the only known gum varieties have the letters E and F assigned to them.

Other interesting additions to the *2021 Scott Specialized* are a couple listings for test stamps with double perforation varieties. None of them are illustrated so we to show them here for your information.



The first we will illustrate is described in the footnote under TD47 that lists the double perforation variety. It is illustrated above.

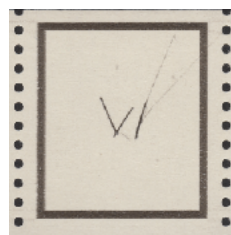


Another double perforation variety is known on the TD57A Violet Mailometer coils that are perforated 12 vertically with 9 small holes. It is also listed in a new footnote and is illustrated it at the bottom of the left column and we show the front and the back.



Additional illustrations were added to show the details of listings. In the listings for TD124, TD125 and TD130 there were listings that described a number printed on a stamp that repeated every so many stamps in a strip of these stamps.

The first one illustrated in the *2021 Scott Specialized* is for a crudely etched, rotated 90-degrees, reversed “12” that is printed every 24 stamps on TD124 stamps. Numbers known are “2” and “12”. The illustration of the numbers “2” and “12” are shown above.

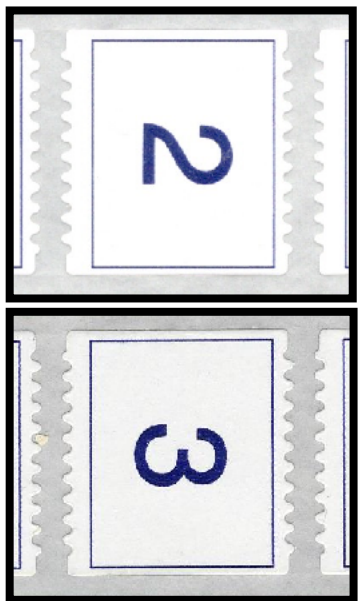


The second one is a recent discovery of a crudely etched Roman Numeral “IV” (or perhaps it is a reversed “IV”) that is also printed every 24 stamps on TD125a coil stamps with shiny gum.

The third is the large printed, rotated 90-degrees, numbers on TD130. Numbers known are “2” and “3” and occur every 21 stamps, as these are self-adhesive with gaps between stamps. The illustration of the number “2” is shown in the catalogue. The illustration of the numbers “2” and “3” are shown at the top of the following page.

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Several new test stamps were also listed and several existing listings were either re-worded or simplified for easier understanding.

Some of the additions, but not all, were a new color for Burt & Tobey's Stamp Battery illustration "TE8" is new TD8A. A new Extensive Manufacturing Co. coil that is perforated 8-1/2 vertically in red and blue is a new TD39A listing. Another new listing is the Sennett Security Products Flag and Eagle Over Trees commemorative size test stamp. It is listed as TD120B.

A new Seashell cover test booklet is listed as TDB35 following previously listed Seashell cover test booklets. The new TDB35 has different covers than the TDB33 - TDB34A Seashell booklets that were previously listed.

We thank James Kloetzel, *Editor Emeritus* and Stacey Mahan, Amos Publishing for all the attention and cooperation we have with the throughout the year for making the test stamps section a wonderful part of the Scott Specialized catalogue.

## Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors


by Terry R. Scott

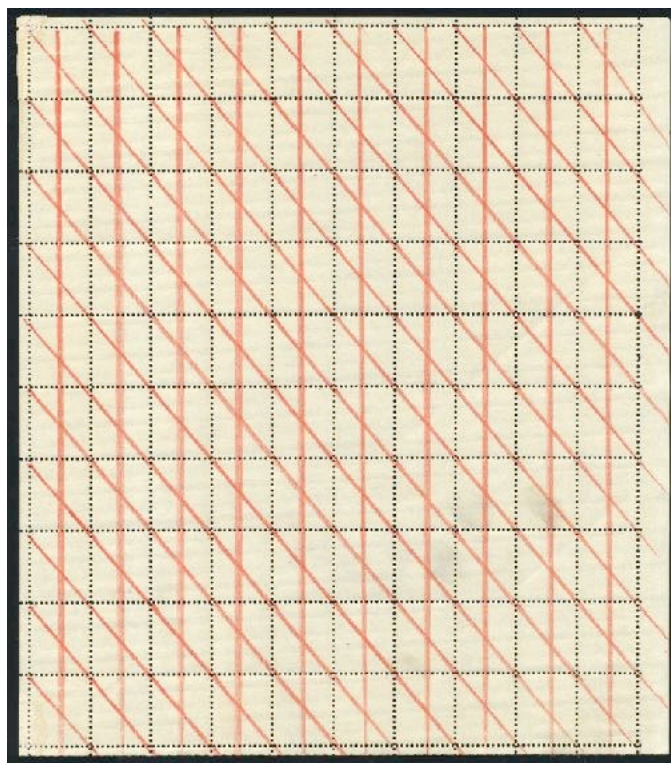
On December 9, 2020 Downeast Stamps held Sale #330 that contained the following test stamp. There is a 12% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 598 TD85A, 1930's, Test Stamp, blank, with gum breaker ridges 11mm apart, VF, OG NH. Photo. Est. \$50.00. Realized \$27.00.


On January 15-17, 2021 Harmer-Schau Auction Galleries, Inc. held Sale #122 that contained the following test stamp. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 1143 \*\*  TD84A U.S., Test Stamp, 1920's-50's, B.E.P. Blank Design, Gum Breaker Ridges 5mm to 6.5mm Apart (Scott TD84A), sheet of 100, n.h., disturbed gum in corners and thins at lower right stamp and selvage of right top and bottom corners, some crayon offset on gum, otherwise fine. Photo. Scott \$1,250.00. Not sold.



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Lot 1144 \*\*  U.S., Test Stamps, 1995 "Polar Bear" Die Cut 11½ x 11½ (Scott TD127B), block of 4, n.h., marginal, Very Fine and scarce. Photo. Scott \$3,000.00. Realized \$800.00.

On January 2021.01.24 Daniel F. Kellerher Auctions LLC Sale #5136 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 20% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 6351 \*\* Testing Booklets, 1997, Avery Dennison, die cut and serpentine die cut (Scott TDB90a, TDB91a), complete unexploded booklets, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$143.00. Realized \$100.00.



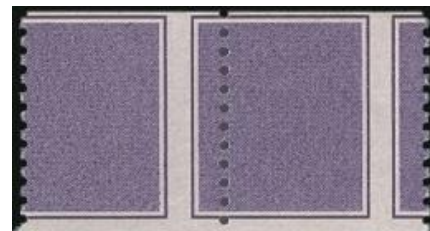
Lot 6352 \*\* Test Stamp, 1970, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only", carmine, untagged, shiny gum (Scott TD108), pair, o.g., never hinged, Post Office fresh with warm color and fresh paper, F.-V.F., with 2010 P.S.A.G. certificate. Photo. Scott \$1,600.00. Realized \$600.00.

On February 3, 2021 Downeast Auctions held Sale #331 that contained the following test stamp. There is a 12% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 691 (\*) TD14, Mail-O-Meter, test stamp, brown, FVF. Photo. Cat. \$. Realized \$42.00.

On February 3, 2021 Vance Auctions Ltd. held Sale #348 that contained the following test stamps. There is a no Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 4208 \* TD95, TEST Coil Pair with MAJOR MISPERF. VF, NH. Photo. Est. \$40.00 Cdn. Not sold.

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Shown above at the left is the illustration shown in the auction catalog. Shown at the right is the actual Antique Automobile test stamp strip of 5.

Lot 4209 \*. TDB92a, Self adhesive TEST BOOKLET pane of 18. VF, NH. Photo. Cat. \$250.00. Not sold.

On March 2, 2021 Daniel F. Kellerher Auctions LLC held Sale #753 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 20% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

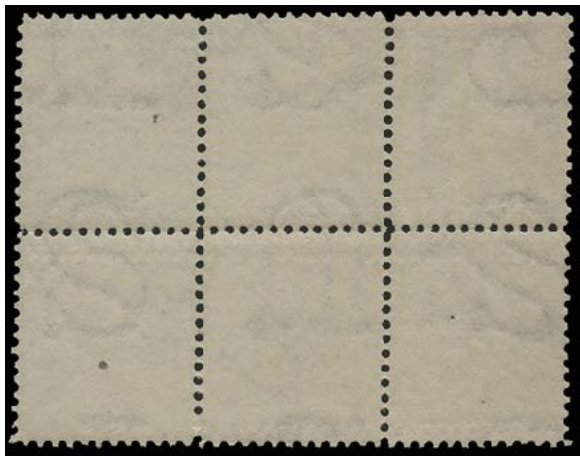
Lot 5016 \* 3023a **1995, Antique Automobiles, sample (Scott 3023a)**, printed on thin card, unperforated with 1995 copyright at bottom, Very Fine. Photo. Scott not listed. Realized \$250.00. (Ed. Note: The stamp illustrated was the issued vertical strip of 3023a consisting of Scott 3019 - 3023. The description matches the test stamps of proposed to be listed in the Scott Specialized.




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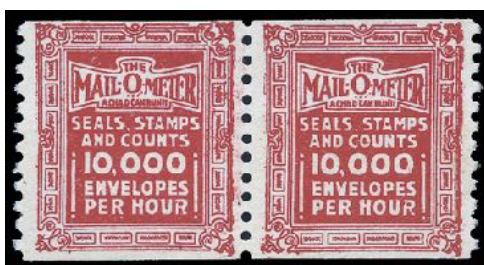
Lot 5431 BK \* TDB89var. Test Stamp Booklet, 1997, dark blue (Scott TDB89 var.), 2 different self-adhesive panes of 18, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$500.00. Realized Not sold. (*Ed. Note: These 2 ATM test sheetlets are TDB100a and TDB101a with Scott Catalogue value of \$110.00 each, \$220.00 total*)



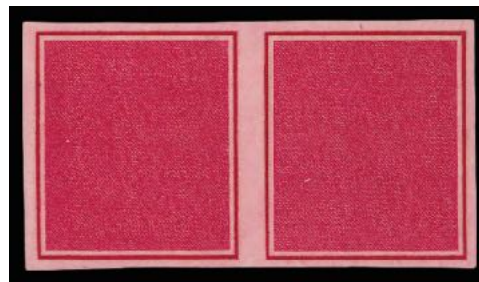
Lot 5432 ++ / \*  TD10 Test Stamp, 1907, B.E.P., blank (Scott TD10), block of 6, o.g., 5 stamps never hinged, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$450.00. Realized \$150.00. (*Ed. Note: This item is Scott TD11*).



Lot 5433 \* TD38A Test Stamp, 1910-20, Midland Supply Co. coil, red, perf 10½ vertically (Scott TD38A), o.g., hinged, Fine to Very Fine, *a scarce issue that is not priced in Scott*. Photo. Realized \$375.00.



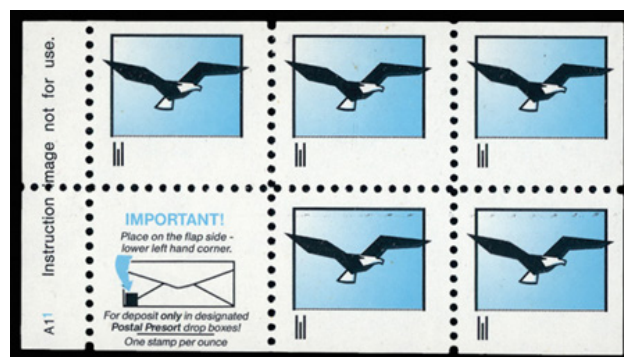
Lot 5434 \* TD60A Test Stamp, 1922, Mail-O-Meter ("10,000 Envelopes Per Hour") coil, red (Scott TD60A), pair, o.g., lightly hinged at right, Fine, *a scarce issue that is not priced in Scott*. Photo. Realized \$150.00.



Lot 5435 \*\* TD97 Test Stamp, 1954, B.E.P. framed rectangle design coil, carmine, imperf (Scott TD97), horizontal pair, o.g., never hinged, Fine to Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$400.00. Realized \$130.00.



Lot 5436 \*\* TD97 Test Stamp, 1954, B.E.P. framed rectangle design coil, carmine (Scott TD97), pair, vertical pair, unslit horizontally, o.g., never hinged; pulled perf at lower right, Very Good. Photo. Scott —. Realized \$110.00.



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Lot 5437 BK \*\* **Test Stamp, 1990's Presort Label**, booklet pane of 5, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Photo. (*Ed Note: This lot was withdrawn before the auction since it was not as described*) Not sold.



Lot 5438 \*\* TD107c Test Stamp, 1962, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only", black, tagged, pebble-surfaced gum, imperf (Scott TD107c), pair, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$250.00. Realized \$150.00.



Lot 5439 BK \* TDB83a Test Stamp Booklet, 1990, 25¢ no printing on back (Scott TDB83a), self-adhesive pane of 12, Very Fine, unpriced in Scott. Photo. (*Ed Note: This lot was withdrawn before the auction since it was not as described*) Not sold.

On March 7, 2021 Daniel F. Kellerher Auctions LLC held Sale #5142 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 20% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 6236 \*\* **Test Stamp, 1970, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only"**, carmine, tagged

(**Scott TD108**), strip of 3, o.g., never hinged; clipped perfs along left and right, gum creases on center and left stamps, Very Fine to Extremely Fine centering, with 2015 Weiss certificate. Photo. Scott \$2,400.00 Realized \$840.00.

## 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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# The British Equivalent to our *Dummy News and Views*

Periodically I get an inquiry about foreign test stamps. While my principal test stamp collecting interest is United States test stamps, for many years I have also collected foreign test stamps. Many years ago I was introduced to a wonderful quarterly publication from Great Britain, that is basically the same age as *Dummy News and Views* and it is titled *Dummy Stamps*. The author and publisher of this wonderfully interesting publication is well known in British stamp collecting circles. Mr. Glenn H. Morgan, FRPSL is not only a great writer of stamp articles but he also is a first class exhibitor of his different collections, including test stamps.

On this page is an illustration of the front cover of a past issue. It is highly recommend that you take a look at these wonderful publications and maybe you will learn more about some of those mystery foreign test stamps you have had in the stock book for years. There is an

amazing amount of information contained in every issue.

Glenn has additional publications and articles well worth reading and saving that are list on the web site below. The latest *Dummy Stamps* newsletter, as well as previous issues, may be viewed and downloaded at <https://stampprinters.info/dummystamps.htm>

## Dummy Stamps

Issue 22 A Newsletter Covering Dummy Stamp Material from British Stamp Printers Quarter 3, 2011

### *Enschedé Lady Needs Identifying*

Any idea who she might be?

A recent purchase from The Netherlands of some Enschedé labels included one depicting a lady of unknown identity. Can anyone please assist? Some of the other labels are illustrated below as they had not been seen previously. ✉



The labels with large X's were used for coil testing purposes, while the other two were for company publicity purposes.

### *De La Rue Photographic Essay*

Oversea Dominions dummy stamps

Understood to be from around 1925, this pair of photographic essays was recently on offer at a German auction and had a starting price of €150.



Printed versions exist imperforate (in single colour) and perforated (two colours) with a favourite being the one worded THOS. DE LA RUE & CO. LTD. in place of OVERSEA DOMINIONS ✉

© Glenn H Morgan FRPSL

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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](mailto: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. □

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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>



