



Dummy News and Views

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

Issue Number 66

Winter 2021 - 2022



Welcome to the Dummy Stamps Study Group's Sixty-sixth 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

Summary of Test Coils Printed on the Stickney and Cottrell Presses

by Michael O. Perry

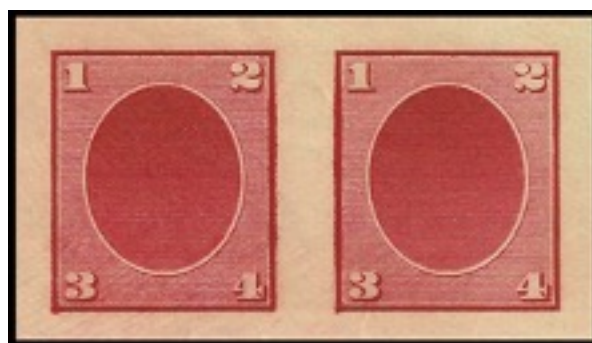
Collectors recognize that it is impossible to obtain examples of all the test stamps ever produced since the vast majority were destroyed. For the few examples we have managed to obtain, there is usually very little information available about how and why they were created. In the 17 years this newsletter has been produced, most of the articles simply illustrated and described the various test stamps that had found their way into collector hands. However, whenever possible, we have attempted to explain the purposes for the test stamps.

The first test stamps known to have been issued by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing were Scott catalogue numbers TD10 and TD11, 100-subject unprinted sheets of gummed and perforated definitive size stamps made by the BEP between 1907 and 1910. While both were perf 12, one has double line watermarks while the other is unwatermarked. Those test stamps were used by private companies that were developing vending machines for the Post Office. In the following years, additional blank sheet, booklet and coil test stamps were produced. Most of those were created to test how various mechanical processes worked.

Printed test stamps are more interesting, but it is usually difficult to find out why they were created. One purpose would be to evaluate some new or improved printing process, but it is clear

that wasn't the only reason. This article will cover various test coils printed by (or for) the BEP from 1909 to 1986.

The first printed test stamp known to have been produced by the BEP is TD18, the 1-2-3-4 solid oval design printed in 1909 on a small prototype intaglio rotary press that the BEP's mechanical expert, Benjamin Stickney, had built to see if coil stamps could be printed on a continuous web of paper. That first press may have only printed 12 stamps per revolution of the experimental printing plate.



In this issue:

Summary of Test Coils Printed on the Stickney and Cottrell Presses	1
Recent Auctions of Interest	14
Proposed Future DSSG Projects	24

please turn to page 2 ➤

The small model rotary press was successful, so Stickney built a larger prototype printing press. In 1910, a new intaglio test stamp die was created that replaced the solid oval with a vignette of Alexander Hamilton. This was done to better evaluate the new rotary press and its ability to produce a more stamp-like printed image.



That die was used to make a set of two 150-subject plates (10 stamps wide by 15 stamps tall). Those experimental plates were used from early 1910 until at least 1917 to print TD19 vertical test coils. While plate joint lines were printed between every 15th stamp, no examples are known to exist. All known examples of TD19 are imperforate but it seems likely some stamps printed from those two plates were used to test a new rotary coil stamp perforator that Stickney invented about the same time he was building his rotary printing press.

Several other printing processes were evaluated. In April of 1910, the BEP made a die for a letterpress (typography) test stamp similar to TD19. TD20, TD21 and TD22 were produced from a plate used on a letterpress to compare with the intaglio printed TD19. The letterpress test stamps were perforated to resemble horizontal and vertical coils (and possibly on all four sides to resemble sheet stamps). The intaglio TD19 test stamp was a superior stamp.

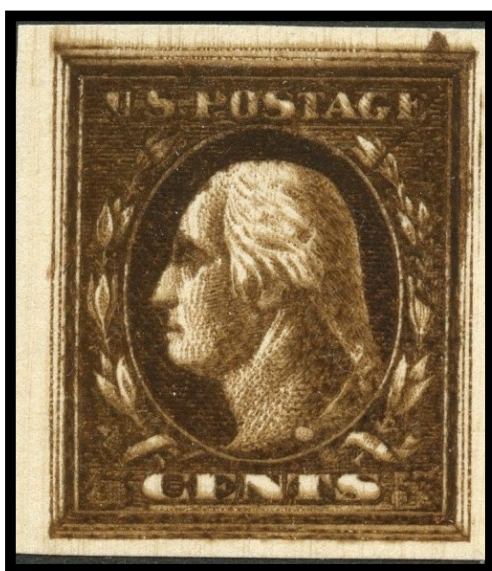


please turn to page 3 ➤

An offset test stamp with a design similar to TD19 also exists (TD23). While once thought to have been produced by the BEP, it is now believed to have been produced outside the Bureau prior to May of 1910. TD23 was printed by offset lithography, and is quite inferior to the intaglio and letterpress test stamps that the BEP produced.



Another test stamp that might have some connection to the BEP is TD51, a brown imperforate vertical coil. This test stamp was apparently produced in Germany in January, 1912. The TD51 test stamp resembles the then-current 5¢ George Washington stamp, that had been defaced. This test stamp was printed by photogravure (a photo-etching process) by Bruckmann A. G. of Munich, Germany using a 96-subject seamless printing cylinder that was six stamps wide and 16 stamps around. Recently, a 138-stamp piece was sold in an auction.



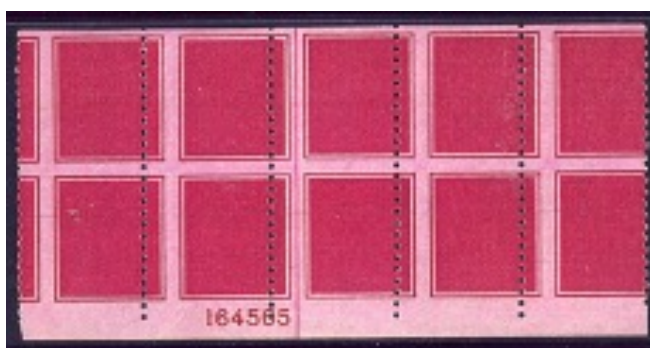
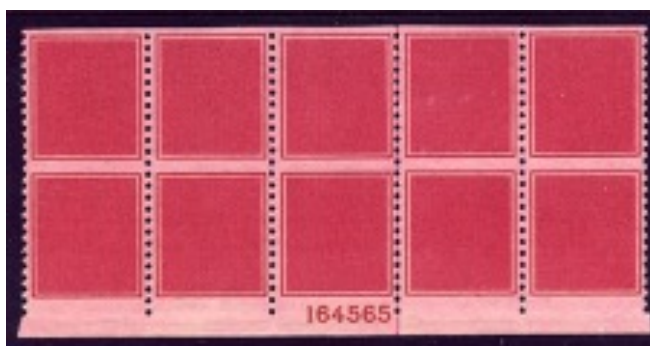
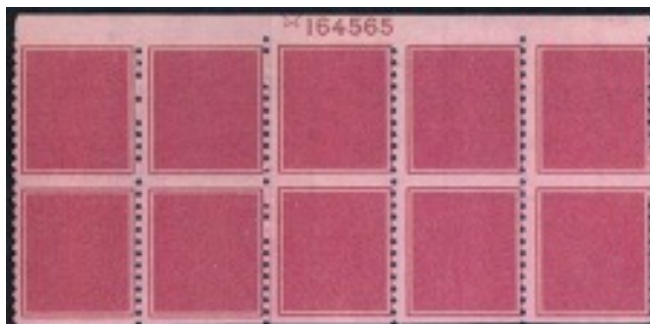
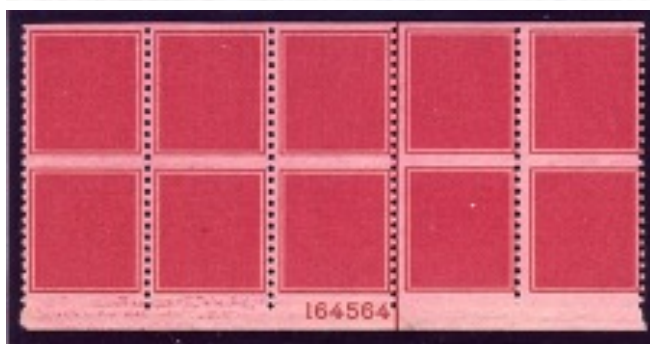
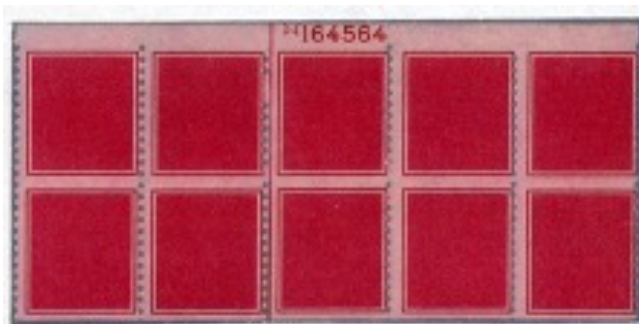
please turn to page 4 ➤

Stickney's new rotary press began printing actual postage stamps in 1912, using 150-subject plates to print 2¢ coil stamps. However, those initial coil stamps weren't released to the public. In fact, the Post Office didn't begin selling the new rotary press printed postage stamps until 1914. It didn't take long to agree the rotary press was going to replace the old flat plate presses. Eight more "narrow" rotary presses were built - some were used to print coil stamps until 1962.

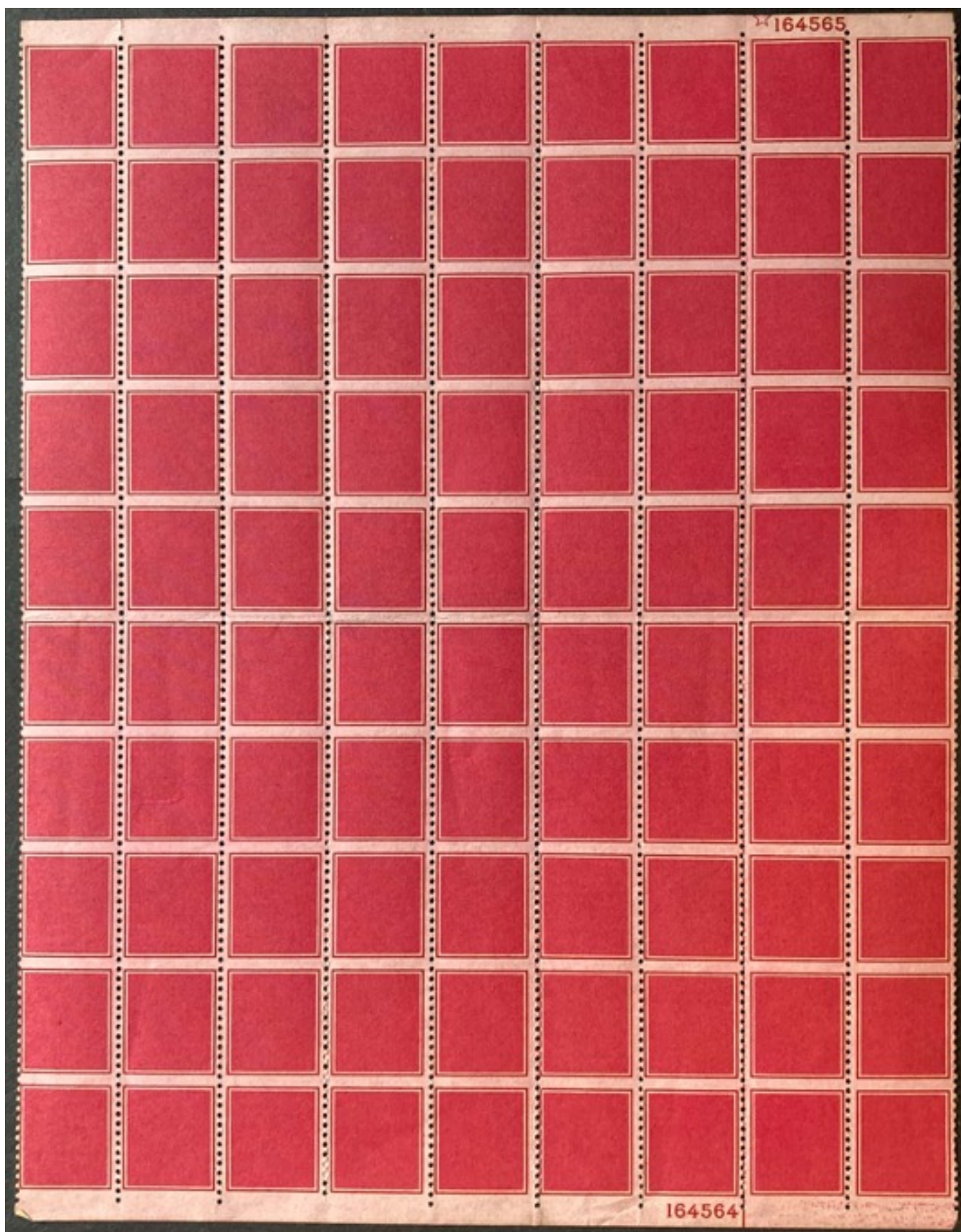
The original rotary press was too narrow to print a 400-subject sheet of stamps. It could only print coil stamps (along with some revenue stamps). The maximum width it could print was ten rows of stamps - either from 150-subject vertical coil plates, or from 170-subject horizontal coil plates. It was soon decided to build a wider rotary press, but it wasn't until 1920 that the BEP began printing 400-subject sheet stamps on the new Stickney presses. Within a few years, the BEP had installed twenty of the wide Stickney presses.

In 1954, forty years after making the 1-2-3-4 Hamilton Head test stamps, the BEP made plates for a new 170-subject coil test stamp (TD97) for use on the narrow Stickney presses. This new test stamp had a framed solid (cross-hatched) rectangle that resembled the 1938 Presidential series stamps. The test coils in collector hands were printed with carmine ink, the same color as 6¢ Airmail coil stamps (Scott C41). While examples of actual TD97 coil stamps from BEP produced coil rolls are unknown in collector hands, several pieces cut from partially processed web sections did escape the Bureau. Those sheets were printed and gummed, and while some stamps were perforated correctly others are misperforated or imperforate.

Examples of these carmine test coils are seen on eBay and in auctions occasionally. The most desirable pieces contain pairs or blocks with plate numbers or plate joint lines. Since the imperforate web sections still had the full top and bottom web margins attached, they show the electric eye bars and dashes in addition to the plate numbers. At least five sheets containing plate numbers once existed. It is believed that only one large 90-subject sheet is still intact - it was cut from a larger web section to obtain a large block to fill an album page. That sheet is shown on the next page. Shown here are some desirable TD97 position pieces:

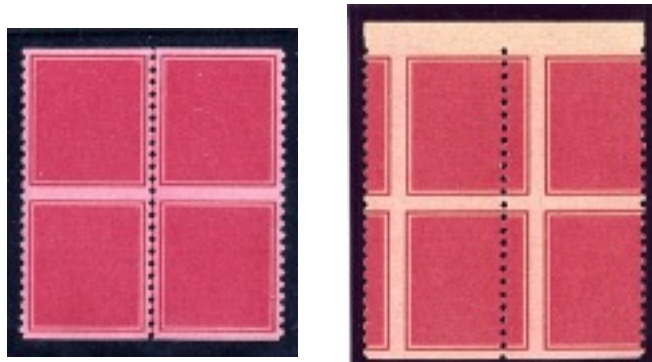


please turn to page 5 ➤

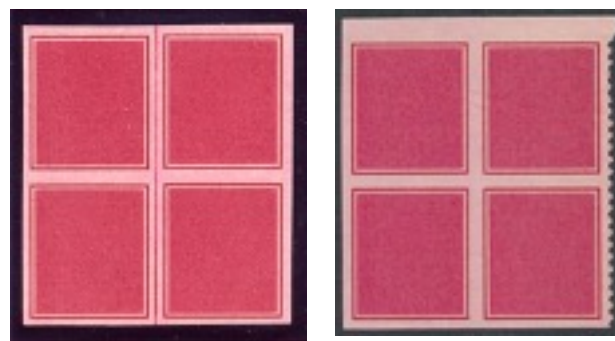
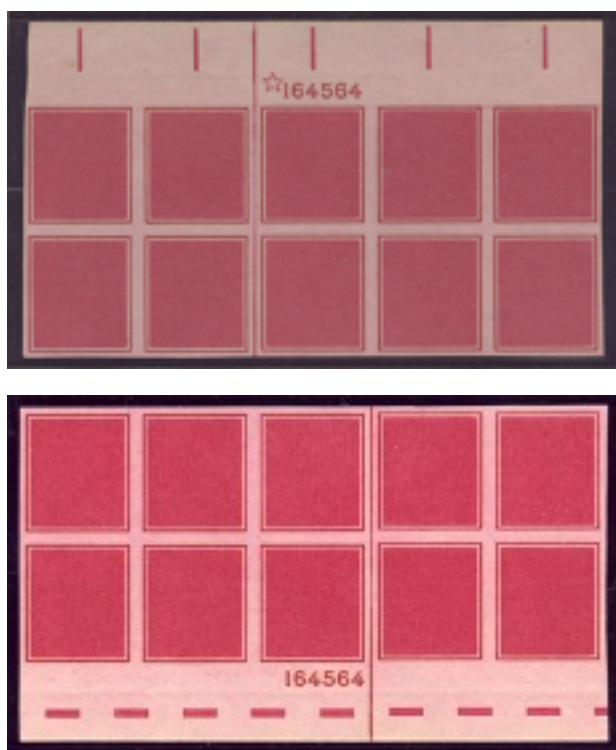


please turn to page 6 ➤

The 170-subject coil plates printed a vertical plate joint line every 17 stamps. A joint line is formed by excess ink that is deposited in the crack where the two plates joined together. A plate number was printed in the top margin immediately to the right of the joint line (above stamp number 1). Another plate number is in the bottom margin immediately to the left of the joint line (under stamp number 170). Those numbers are different on a piece like shown on the previous page since the stamps on either side of the joint line were printed from two different plates. Below are two desirable TD97 position pieces.

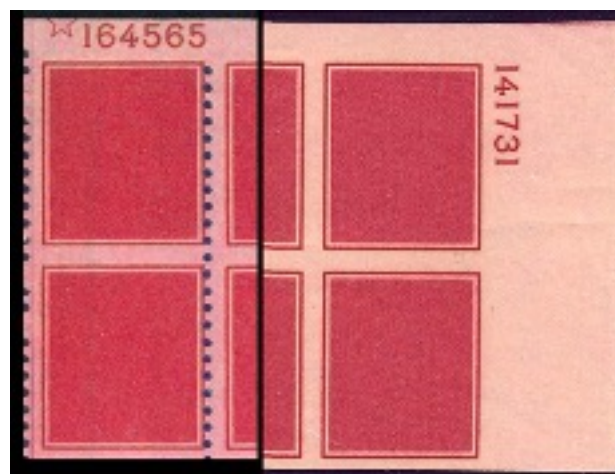


The imperforate TD97a test stamps seem to be scarcer than the perforated TD97 test stamps. It is possible only two sheets were found; one of those sheets transitioned from imperforate to perforated vertically. Imperforate web sections still had the full top and bottom margins, so the EE bars and dashes can be found. Below are some better TD97a pieces.



Many collectors and dealers mis-identify imperforate TD97a coils and TD94a imperforate sheet stamps. There is a way to tell them apart. When printing plates were made for the rotary presses, the stamp designs were entered onto a flat steel plate. After the plate proof was pulled and approved, the flat plates were bent into a semi-circle (it took two bent plates to fit on the rotary press).

The images on the coil and sheet stamp plates were exactly the same size before the plates were bent. Bending the plate increased the dimension of the stamp designs about 0.0152 inch per inch in the direction the plate was bent (the plate was 0.31 inches longer after it was bent). Sheet stamps are laid out on the plate with the long dimension in the same direction the printing plates were bent; coil stamps are oriented perpendicular to that. Thus, a sheet stamp will be slightly taller and narrower than a coil stamp, but measuring the two stamps isn't practical since a TDB94a sheet stamp would only be 0.015 inches taller than a TD97a coil stamp. The best way to tell those two stamps apart is to compare two known stamps as shown below. As you can easily see, the coil stamp on the left is shorter and wider than the sheet stamp on the right.



please turn to page 7 ➤

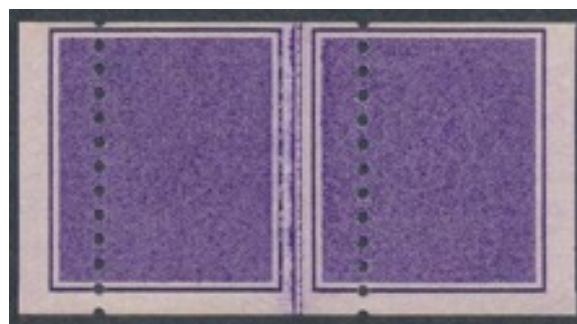
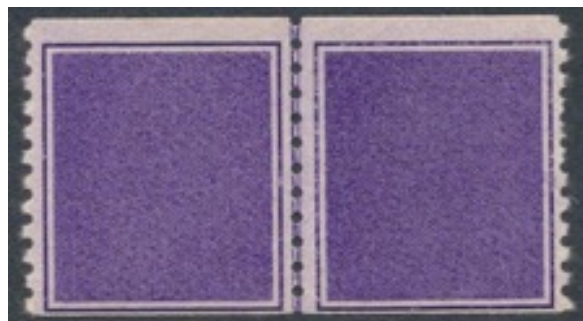
Note that the plate numbers shown above indicate that the carmine sheet stamps were produced before the carmine coils. The sheet stamp plates were made in 1939, but the coil plates weren't made until 1954.

Another framed rectangle test stamp is the violet coil listed as TD95 and TD95a. The violet coils were printed after the carmine coils. The violet test coils were probably used to test the new Huck (or Cottrell) rotary presses.

Records of the plates used to print the violet test coils have not been located. However, while no examples of TD95 are known with partial plate numbers showing, it is possible to say TD95 was not printed with the same 170-subject plates that printed the carmine test coils. Instead, the violet test coils were printed from 384-subject or 432-subject plates on the new Huck press (or, possibly, one of the five Cottrell presses that were almost identical). How do we know that? Because TD97 carmine coils have 17 stamps between plate joint lines while TD95 violet coils have 24 stamps between joint lines.

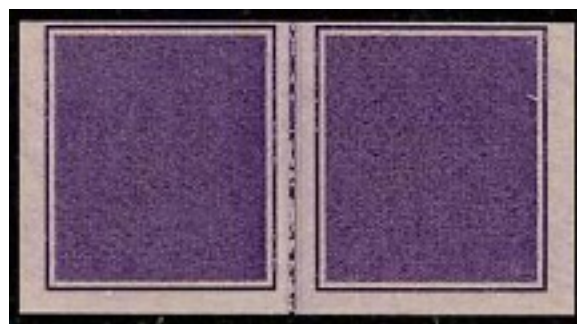
The first 432-subject plates used to print 3¢ coil stamps went to press in June of 1956 (all 227,000 impressions were destroyed). The first 3¢ coil stamps printed with 384-subject plates was in October of 1956. The earliest report of a TD95 violet test coil was at the October 1959 Parade of Postal Progress held in Detroit, Michigan. Thus, it would appear TD95 was produced between mid-1956 and 1959.

Mis-perforated examples of TD95 are more common than correctly perforated coils, and correctly perforated coil strips with plate joint lines are decidedly scarcer than miscut coil line strips.



The Scott Catalogue lists two sizes of perf holes on TD95; large holes supposedly exist on mis-perforated coils (produced between 1954 and 1956), while small perf holes are claimed to have been produced in 1959 and are supposedly found on correctly perforated coils. The holes appear to be the same size when viewed from the gum side. While TD96 red violet test coils exist with two sizes of perf holes, there is no evidence that is true for TD95 violet test coils. In fact, the holes on TD95 appear to be slightly smaller than the large hole TD96 coils, but larger than the TD96 small hole coils. It is possible the BEP perforated all of the violet coils on their old "pilot model" electric eye perforator built in 1941.

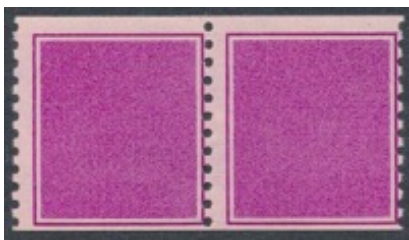
Imperforate coil strips of the violet test coils were found (TD95a). They are available on eBay and from auction firms on a semi-regular basis, but line pairs (and especially line strips of 6) are much more difficult to locate.



TD95 violet test coils (both mis-perforated and correctly perforated) are found on covers created at Detroit's 1959 Parade of Postal Progress. Covers with the red violet TD96 test coils were also created at that Detroit show, and at another Postal show in New York a month later.

All TD96 coil stamps used on those covers have large perf holes, showing they were perforated on the old narrow coiling equipment. Several varieties of test stamps were distributed to show attendees.

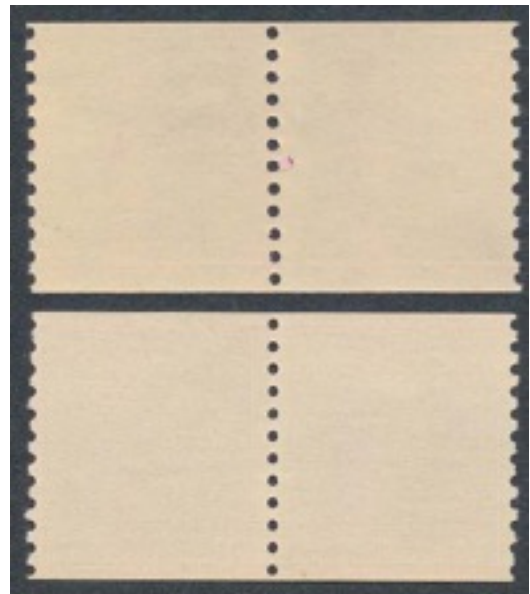
please turn to page 8 ➤



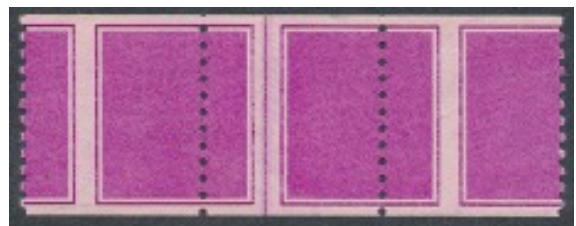
Scott TD96 and TD96a red violet test coils were printed on a Cottrell press from 432-subject plates made in September, 1956. As will be shown below, we know the plate numbers were 165939 and 165940. It is possible the violet TD95 test coils were also printed from these same plates, or they may have been printed from plates 167741 and 167742.

The red violet test coils were produced when the BEP was installing a new perforating and coiling machine. Some TD96 coils were perforated on the old Huck-Cottrell coiling equipment (which made larger diameter perf holes). The new Huck (or Cottrell)

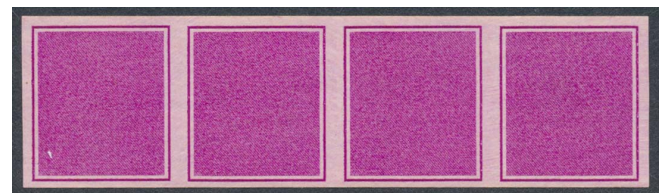
printing presses used a wider web of paper that had 18 rows of stamps across the web rather than just the ten rows that older Stickney coil printing presses, perforators and coiling machines were capable of. Thus, the 432-subject web had to be slit down the middle in order to run through the old perforators while waiting for the new coiling machines ordered from the Huck Corporation that could perforate the full width of the web. The new Huck perforator produced the same gauge perforations, but the perf holes were a smaller diameter. The images below show the gum side of two TD96 coils – the top pair has large hole and the bottom pair has small holes.



Mis-perforated examples of TD96 exist, but they are not very common.

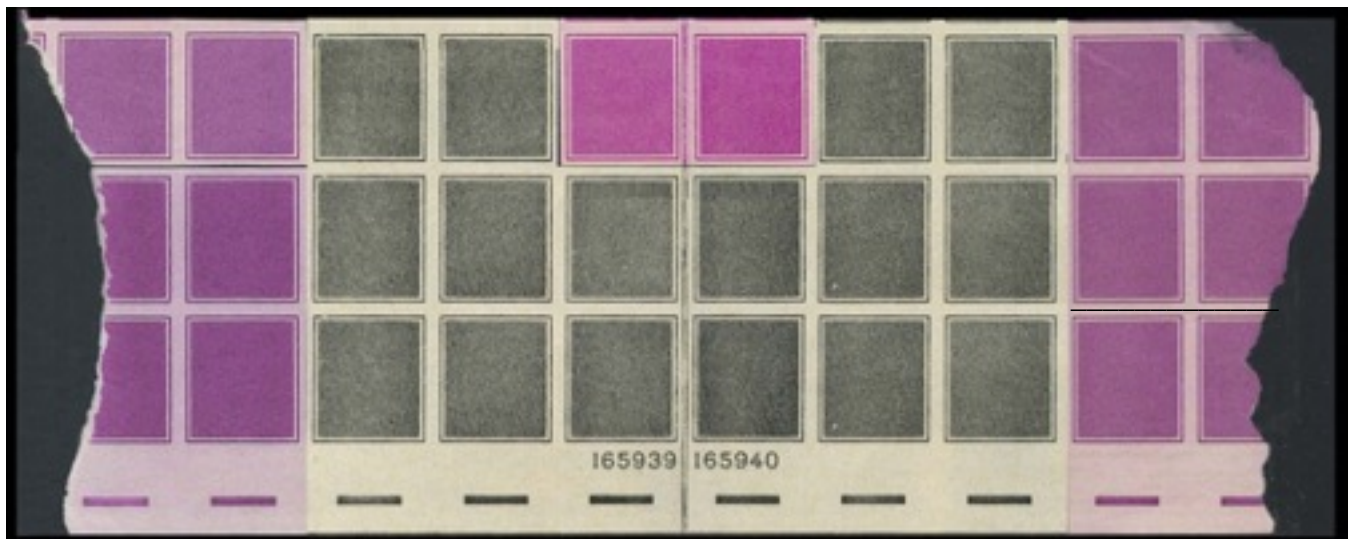
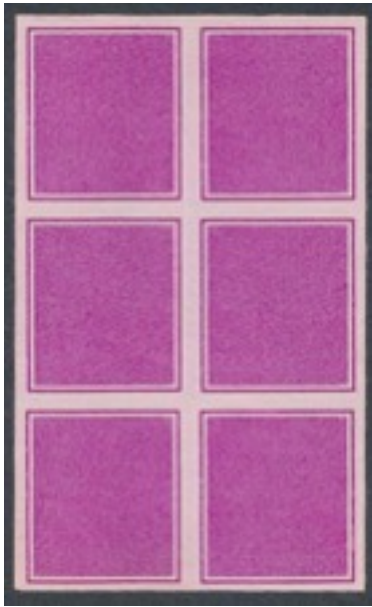


At least one imperforate TD96a pair and a strip of four are known that came from a BEP produced coil roll. Imperforate TD96a coils are exceedingly rare.



please turn to page 9 ➤

In addition, a block of six imperforate TD96a stamps is known, along with a vertical strip of three with an EE dash at the bottom.



The July 1977 American Philatelist had an article about an imperforate margin block torn from the bottom of a TD96a coil web. The block had a plate joint line in the center with two plate numbers, one on each side of the line. This proves that the plates used to printed those stamps were 432-subject plates. The block was found by Alfred “Tag” Boerger, an early test stamp dealer. He purchased the block of 24 full stamps plus six partial stamps and cut it up into at least eight pieces. The owners of five of those pieces have supplied scans of their pieces, and those images have been superimposed onto the black & white image from that 1977 article as shown above.

Hopefully the plate number block of 12 has been kept intact. If a reader of this article has one of the missing pieces from the black and white portion of the above image (or knows who might have them), please contact the editor of the DSSG Newsletter at the email address shown at the top of the first page.

The final coils we will discuss in this article have the well known For Testing Purposes Only (“FTPO”) design. This test coil was first printed in 1962 on a Cottrell press. The first two 432-subject plates, 27086 and

please turn to page 10 ➤

27087, were used from 1962 to 1975, when plates 36111 and 36112 replaced them. The BEP printed thousands of FTPO coil rolls with those plates. The “TD107-series” coils were all printed with black ink; gum and tagging provide a challenge in finding the varieties.

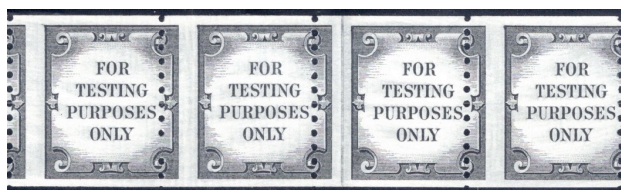
TD107 was untagged and has smooth shiny gum.

TD107a was tagged and has smooth shiny gum.

TD107b has pebbled gum and is tagged. Some coils were found that were miscut enough to show 10% of the plate numbers 27086 and 27087 at the bottom.



Mis-perforated TD107b coils exist; they are scarce.



TD107c is the imperforate version of TD107b; it is tagged and has pebbled gum. One example of this imperforate coil is known with partial plate numbers 36112 and 36111 at the bottom of a line strip of six that transitions from perforated to imperforate (there are blind perforations between stamps 2 and 3, and the stamps to the right are totally imperforate).



TD107d is tagged and has dull gum.

TD107e is the last black FTPO coil printed on the Cottrell press. It is untagged and has dull gum; it exists on both high-brite and “dead” paper.

TD108 is the rare carmine FTPO coil. It is tagged with the orange-red airmail tagging. All other tagged FTPO coils glow yellow-green under UV light. TD108 only exists with shiny gum.



TD109 is actually the second variety of the slate green FTPO coil that was printed by the BEP when their supply of TD109C was exhausted. Unprocessed rolls of these were shipped to the Goebel factory in Germany to test coiling equipment the Bureau had purchased. TD109 was untagged and had dull gum, and was printed on white paper like used for Scott 1623a, a booklet pane.



Mis-perforated TD109 coils also exist.



TD109a is the imperforate version of TD109.

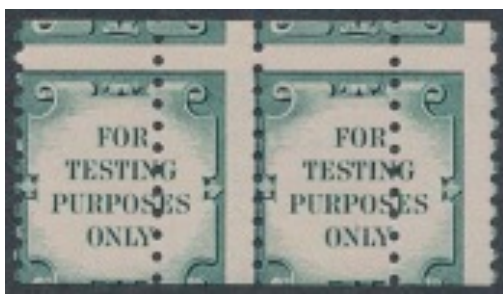


TD109b is a vertical pair cut from a perforated piece of the web that had not been slit into coil strips. This coil exists in a full width web section that shows the EE bars and dashes in the top and bottom margins. Plate numbers 36111 and 36112 are found in the bottom margin. This example is shown on the next page.

please turn to page 11 ➤



TD109C was the first slate green FTPO coil printed by the BEP. Complete unprocessed rolls of these stamps were shipped to the Goebel factory in Germany to test coiling equipment the Bureau had purchased. TD109C was tagged and had shiny gum; it was printed on the same gray paper used for Scott 1616 (the 9¢ Dome of Capitol coil). A few coils were found with double perforations.



TD110 is an orange FTPO coil printed in 1975 on the same gray paper used for Scott 1593, the 11¢ Early American Printing Press sheet stamp. TD110 is tagged and has shiny gum.



TD111 is the brown FTPO coil printed in 1978. It is untagged and has dull gum.



That completes the listing of test coils known in collector hands printed on the Stickney and Cottrell rotary presses. Are there any other colors of Cottrell printed FTPO coils waiting to be found?

The BEP produced two additional water activated gum black FTPO coils after the Cottrell presses were decommissioned. Since these two stamps are similar to the Cottrell coils, they are included in this article. However, the later produced self adhesive FTPO coils will be omitted.

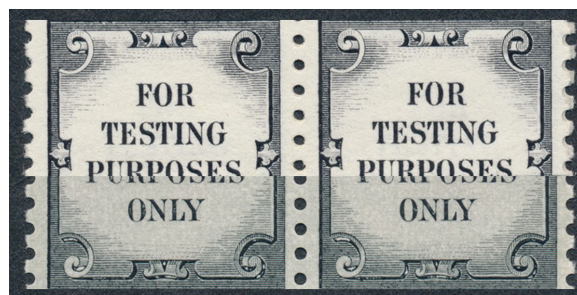
At first glance, TD112 appears to be identical to the earlier black FTPO coils. TD112 test coils were printed in 1986 on the Bureau's B Press, after the Cottrell presses had been decommissioned. The B Press was a 3-color intaglio press the BEP obtained in 1973 to print multicolor coil and booklet stamps. Rather than using two curved printing plates like had been done on the Stickney and Cottrell presses, the B Press used a single

please turn to page 12 ➤

chrome plated seamless sleeve (shaped like a piece of pipe that was tapered on the inside so as to fit over the press mandrel). There were no plate joint lines printed on B Press stamps. The sleeves printed 936 coil stamps per revolution (18 stamps wide and 52 stamps around).

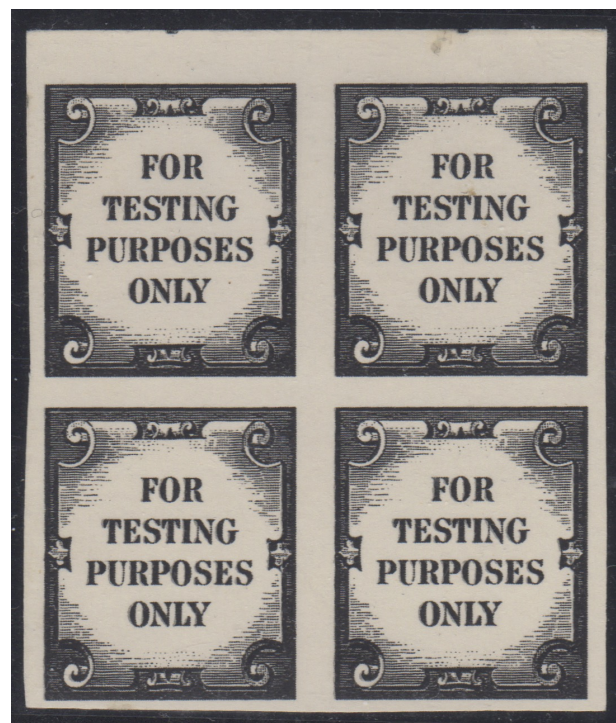
The TD112 test stamps printed on the B Press look almost the same as the earlier FTPO test coils printed on the Cottrell presses. TD112 was printed on dull gum paper and was untagged, so the stamps are often confused with TD107e. The lack of a plate joint line is the easiest way to identify TD112 coils - but that only works when you have a strip of 25 or more stamps. The earlier Cottrell press FTPO coils had a plate joint line every 24 stamps. However, there is an easy way to differentiate the two test coils. The width of the design on TD107e (and all other Cottrell printed FTPO test stamps) is slightly more than the width of the TD112 test coils. That is because when the plates for the Cottrell press were made, a transfer roll was used to enter the stamp designs on a flat piece of steel. After the plate proof was approved, they bent the flat plate to form a half circle - the Cottrell press required two such plates. That process stretched the stamp designs in the direction the plate was bent, which caused the width of each stamp design to increase a little (about 0.01 inch). The same transfer roll that was used to make the Cottrell plates was used to enter the 936 stamp designs into the smooth B Press sleeve. Since the printing surface of the B Press sleeve was already curved, the size of the stamps didn't change while making the printing sleeve. So, while the heights of FTPO coils printed on the Cottrell and B Press were identical, the B Press stamps were slightly narrower than stamps printed on the Cottrell press.

Another way to identify TD112 coils is to compare the width of the vertical gutters between the stamps. The B Press coils have a slightly wider gutter. This was intentionally done to compensate for the narrower stamps due to not having to bend the B Press plate (the BEP needed to keep the overall distance of a stamp plus the width of a gutter the same, so they increased the width of the vertical gutters to compensate for the slightly narrower stamp designs).



The illustration above shows the difference in widths. The TD112 (B Press) pair is on the top and the TD107e (Cottrell Press) pair is on the bottom cut in half horizontally. On the horizontal pair, the top half are B Press stamps that clearly show the wider gutters and narrower stamps.

TD112A was printed on the Bureau's Andreotti press in 1978. While unverified, an imperforate press roll of TD112A stamps was reportedly sent to one of Martin Marrietta's subsidiaries as part of a USPS contract. TD112A was printed on a gravure press that used a solid seamless printing cylinder. While all known examples of TD112A are imperforate and were once believed to be sheet stamps, we now know the plate was laid out to produce coil stamps. These test stamps have shiny gum and are untagged. A few stamps from the top of the web were found with the narrow EE bars. The bars are located over the center of stamps from the top row of the web.



please turn to page 13 ➤



A bottom block of 18 stamps exists that shows plate number 173285 along with the horizontal EE dashes and a set of six black color density blocks (three shades of ink in each of the six groups).

The BEP is known to have produced other test stamps on their 29 Stickney rotary presses, but none appear to have escaped into collector hands. One of those is a “Horse and Rider” coil that was described in two articles in the January and March 2013 issues of *The United States Specialist*.

In August of 1935, the Post Office Department asked the BEP to prepare a model of a special non-postage stamp. Five dies were made and displayed at various philatelic events between 1936 and 1939.

More than three dozen printing plates were made, including 150-subject end coils, 170-subject side coils, 240-subject coil plates, 360-subject booklet panes, and 400-subject sheet stamps (both flat and curved plates). In addition, the BEP made several plates for their own use, and those should be considered test stamps.

Plates 168451 and 168470 were 170-subject plates for the narrow Stickney presses, certified February 27, 1964. This is interesting because the last Stickney press was decommissioned in 1962. A hand written note on the proof sheets might explain this – the note says “*For Smithsonian Institution (Stickney press plate) - Horse & Rider design.*”

When the last four Stickney presses were declared surplus in 1962, the BEP transferred one of them to the Smithsonian Institution. The 29 old Stickney press had been replaced with six new single-color rotary presses between 1955 and 1959. By 1985, those six presses (a Huck press plus five Cottrell presses) were obsolete and all had been replaced.



please turn to page 14 ➤

That wraps up the list of all known test coils printed on the Stickney and Cottrell rotary presses. There were several test sheet stamps and booklet panes printed on those presses, but they will be covered in another article.

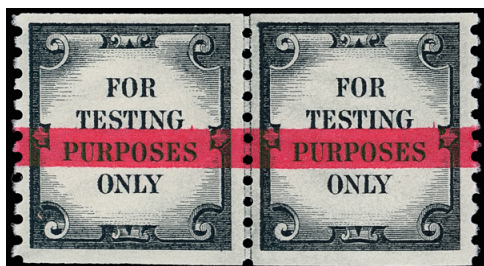
Recent Auction Results

On December 3-4, 2021 Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC held Sale #762 that included the following test stamps. There was a 20% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



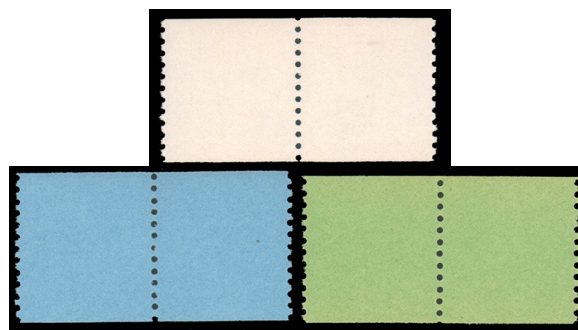
Lot 159 **U.S., Warehouse Worth of Test Dummy Coils, 1927-30.** Extraordinary lot of complete rolls of #TD75; includes 38 rolls of 1000 stamps and 52 rolls of 500 with original POD paper wrappers; in wonderful condition (a few are missing the outer wrapper); unusual and great for online sales and at shows; *64,000 stamps in all*, o.g., never hinged, Fine to Very Fine. Shipping charges apply - weight 7.8 lbs. Photo. Scott \$38,000.00+ Estimate \$750.00 - \$1,000.00. Realized \$1,100.00.

On December 5, 2021 Weekly Online Sales - a Division of Daniel F. Kellerher Auctions held Sale #5153 that included the following test stamps. There was a 20% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 8931 **** TD107b Test Stamp, 1962, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only", black, tagged, pebble-surfaced gum (Scott TD107b)**, line pair, with red defacement line, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Photo. *(Ed. Note - This is a fake and examples have been certified as fakes by the American Philatelic Society Expertising Service.)* Suggested bid \$100.00. Realized \$50.00.

On January 7, 2022 Paradise Valley Stamp Company held Sale #F625 that included the following test stamps. There was no Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 8119 1930s, **ELECTRIC VENDORS (ZEIGLE), INC. WHITE, BLUE AND GREEN BLANK TEST COIL PAIRS NH, #TD79-TD81**, mint never hinged, very fine. Photo. Cat. \$120.00. Minimum Bid \$60.00. Not sold.

On January 26, 2022 Vance Auctions Ltd. held Sale #354 that included the following test stamps. There was no Buyer's Premium for this sale.

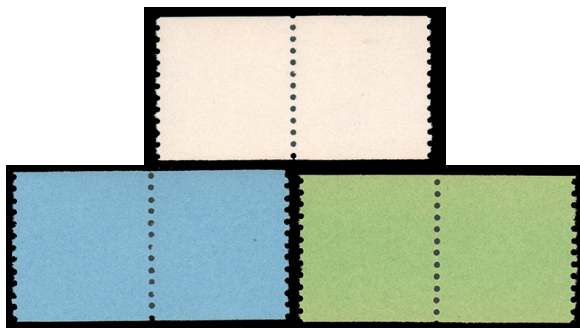


please turn to page 15 ➤

Lot 4524 * TDB92a, Self adhesive TEST Booklet Pane of 18. VF, NH. Photo. Catalog \$250.00. Realization is unknown.



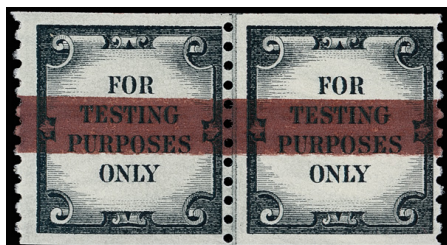
On February 4, 2022 Paradise Valley Stamp Company held Sale #F629 that contained the following test stamps. There was no Buyer's Premium for this sale.



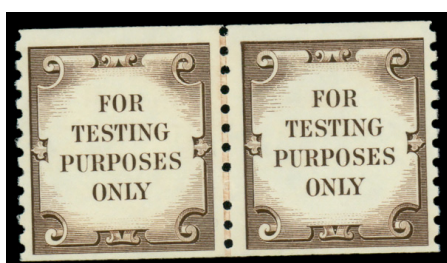
Lot 4127 1930s, ELECTRIC VENDORS (ZEIGLE), INC. WHITE, BLUE AND GREEN BLANK TEST COIL PAIRS NH, #TD79-TD81, mint never hinged, very fine. Photo. Cat. \$120.00. Not sold.



On February 6, 2022 Weekly Online Sales - a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions held Sale #5155 that included the following test stamps. There was a 22% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 7077 ** TD107b Test Stamp, 1962, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only", black, tagged, pebble-surfaced gum (Scott TD107b), line pair, with brown defacement line, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Photo. *(Ed. Note - This is a fake and examples have been certified as fakes by the American Philatelic Society Expertising Service.)* Not sold.



Lot 7078 ** TD111 Test Stamp, 1978, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only", brown, untagged (Scott TD111), joint line pair, o.g., never hinged, Fine to Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$30.00. Realized \$22.00.



On February 13, 2022 Weekly Online Sales - a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions held Sale #5156 that included the following test stamps. There was a 22% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



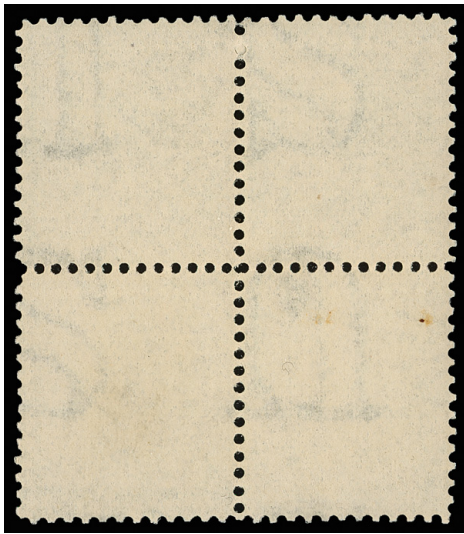
Lot 8363 ** **Pictorial Permit, self-adhesive test stamps by Vermont Stamp**, two different designs in coil strips of 3, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine, Ex-Undersander. *These Pictorial Permits were developed by Vermont Stamp, of Hartford CT, to enhance the mailings that were regularly sent to their collector clients. They added decorative design elements to the normal USPS wording required on mailing permits and were created in 500-unit rolls to give commercial mailing firms an opportunity to confirm that Pictorial Permits could be applied with their automatic label affixing equipment.* Photo. Estimate \$150.00 - \$200.00. Not sold.




Lot 8364 * **Pictorial Permit, self-adhesive test stamps by Vermont Stamp**, two different designs in coil pairs, Very Fine. These Pictorial Permits were developed by Vermont Stamp, of Hartford CT, to enhance the mailings that were regularly sent to their collector clients. They added decorative design elements to the normal USPS wording required on mailing permits and

please turn to page 16 ➤

were created in 500-unit rolls to give commercial mailing firms an opportunity to confirm that Pictorial Permits could be applied with their automatic label affixing equipment. Photo. Realized \$50.00.



Lot 8365 **  TD10 Test Stamp, 1907, B.E.P., blank (Scott TD10), block of 4, o.g., never hinged. Photo. Scott \$300.00. Not sold.



Lot 8366 ** TD23 Test Stamp, 1914, B.E.P. (numerals & Hamilton design, litho.) coil, deep red, perf 10½ horizontally (Scott TD23), o.g., never hinged, Fine for this. Photo. Scott \$400.00. Realized \$50.00.



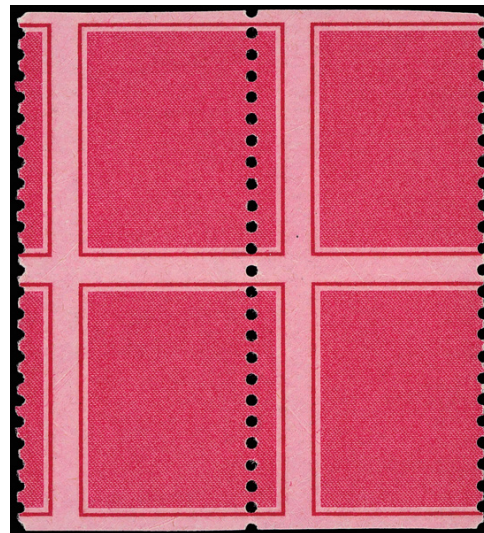
Lot 8367 (*) TD23 Test Stamp, 1914, B.E.P. (numerals & Hamilton design, litho.) coil, deep red, perf 10½ horizontally (Scott TD23), pair, unused without gum; small faults, Very Good-Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$800.00. Realized \$65.00.




Lot 8368 ** TD74 Test Stamp, 1920's-30's, Stampmasters Inc. coil, violet (Scott TD74), pair, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$30.00 Realized \$20.00.




Lot 8369 ** TD91 Test Stamp, 1944-49, Multipost mailMaster Commercial Controls coil, purple (Scott TD91), pair, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Photo. Scott \$50.00. Not sold.

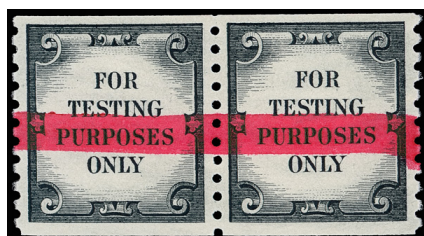


Lot 8370 (*)  TD97 Test Stamp, 1954, B.E.P. framed rectangle design coil, carmine (Scott TD97), vertically perforated and imperforate horizontally block of 4, misperforated vertically, listed only with a dash in Scott, unused without gum, F.-V.F. Photo. Not sold.

please turn to page 17 ➤



Lot 8371 **  TD101 Test Stamp, 1954, Nebraska Territorial Centennial Experimental, blue (Scott TD101), block of 4, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$120.00. Not sold.



Lot 8372 ** TD107b Test Stamp, 1962, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only", black, tagged, pebble-surfaced gum (Scott TD107b), pair, with red defacement line, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Photo. *(Ed. Note - This is a fake and examples have been certified as fakes by the American Philatelic Society Expertising Service.)* Not sold.

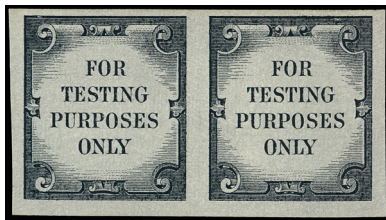


Lot 8373 * TD107b Test Stamp, 1962, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only", black, tagged, pebble-surfaced gum (Scott TD107b), small accumulation of pairs and strips with various colored "defacements": red (48), blue (22), brown (26) & silver (10); includes several joint lines. Photos. *(Ed. Note - The are fake and examples have been certified as fakes by the American Philatelic Society Expertising Service.)* Scott \$106.00+. Realized \$125.00.



Lot 8374 ** TD107b var. Test Stamp, 1962, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only", black, tagged, pebble-surfaced gum (Scott TD107b var.), joint line strip of 6 with thin red defacing lines, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Photo. Not sold.

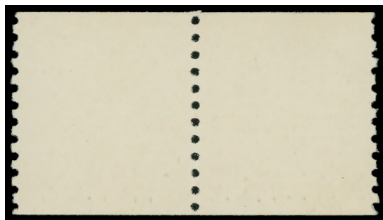
please turn to page 18 ➤



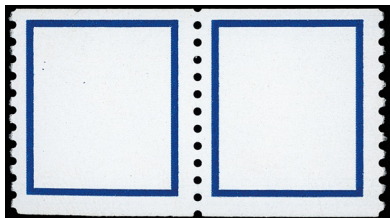
Lot 8375 ** TD107c Test Stamp, 1962, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only", black, tagged, pebble-surfaced gum, imperf (Scott TD107c), pair, o.g., never hinged, F.-V.F. Photo. Scott \$250.00. Realized \$40.00.



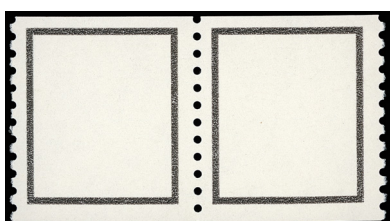
Lot 8376 ** TD108 Test Stamp, 1970, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only", carmine, untagged, dull gum (Scott TD108), o.g., never hinged (gum crease), Extremely Fine. Photo. Scott \$800.00. Not sold.



Lot 8377 ** TD122 Test Stamp, 1990's, B.E.P. blank design, blank, coated paper, shiny gum (Scott TD122), pair, o.g., never hinged, Superb. Photo. Scott \$20.00. Realized \$22.00.



Lot 8378 ** TD124 Test Stamp, 1996, B.E.P. framed rectangle design coil, blue (Scott TD124), pair, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$100.00. Realized \$22.00.



Lot 8379 ** TD125 Test Stamp, 1996, B.E.P. framed rectangle design coil, gray black (Scott TD125), pair, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$250.00. Realized \$40.00.



Lot 8380 ** TD130A Test Stamp, 1998, "Not For Postage" coil (Scott TD130A), o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Scott \$35.00. Realized \$12.00.



Lot 8381 ** TDB14a Test Booklets, 1997, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only", booklet pane of 6 (Scott TDB14a), o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$35.00. Not sold.

On February 15-17, 2022 Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC held Sale #764 that contained the following test stamps. There was a 22% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



please turn to page 19 ➤

Lot 1013 P TD28TC1af Test Stamp, 1910, B.E.P./Harris "Minerva", carmine trial color large die proof on India (Scott TD28TC1af), die-sunk on full 118x132 mm card, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$1,000.00. Realized \$425.00.



Lot 1014 P TD28TC1ag Test Stamp, 1910, B.E.P./Harris "Minerva", dark brown trial color large die proof on India (Scott TD28TC1ag), full size, 59x61 mm, removed from card, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$1,000.00. Realized \$225.00.



Lot 1015 P TD28TC1ag Test Stamp, 1910, B.E.P./Harris "Minerva", dark brown trial color large die proof on India (Scott TD28TC1ag), die-sunk on full 118x132 mm card, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$1,000.00. Realized \$350.00.



Lot 1016 P TC28TC1af, g, h, and TD28TC2 Test Stamp, 1910, B.E.P./Harris "Minerva", four different trial color large die proofs (Scott TD28TC1af,g,h, TC2), carmine, dark brown & dark green on India die-sunk on full 118x132mm cards, and in black directly on glazed card, 120x142 mm, Very Fine. Photos. Scott \$4,500.00. Realized \$1,000.00.

please turn to page 20 ➤



Lot 1071 * TD28TC2 Test Stamp, 1910, B.E.P. Harris "Minerva", black trial color large die proof on glazed card (Scott TD28TC2), 122x140 mm, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$1,500.00. Realized \$375.00.



Lot 1072 ** TD108 Test Stamp, 1970, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only", carmine, untagged, dull gum (Scott TD108), a superlative pair, line drawn in, o.g., never hinged, Extremely Fine. Scott \$1,600 for a plain pair. An exceedingly rare joint line pair of the carmine "For Testing Purposes Only" coil—listed but not priced by Scott. Photo. Realized \$800.00. *(Ed. Note: This TD108 Joint Line pair has a questionable "extra" joint line. The joint line at the right edge is the real joint line and the one in the center of the is pair a fake)*



Lot 1173 BK ** TDB89a - TDB92a. Test Booklets, 1997, Four different Avery Dennison self-adhesive ATM format booklet panes of 12 (Scott TDB89a-TBD92a), blue "For ATM", black "For Testing Purposes Only" - straight die-cut and serpentine die-cut - and magenta "For Testing Purposes Only", Very Fine. A scarce group, ex Undersander. Photos. Scott \$643.00. Realized \$110.00.

please turn to page 21 ➤



Lot 1074 BK * TDB89 Var. (*Ed. Note: These are Scott TDB100a and TDB101a*). **Test Stamp Booklet, 1997, dark blue (Scott TDB89 var.)**, 2 different self-adhesive panes of 18, Very Fine. Scott \$500.00. (*Ed. Note: The Scott catalogue value for these is TDB100a = \$110.00; TDB101a = \$150.00.*) Not sold.

On February 27, 2022 Weekly Online Sales - a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions held Sale #5158 that contained the following test stamps. There was a 20% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 7754 ** TD107b Test Stamp, 1962, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only", black, tagged, pebble-surfaced gum (Scott TD107b), pair, with red defacement line, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Photo. (*Ed. Note - This is a fake and examples have been certified as fakes by the American Philatelic Society Expertising Service.*) Realized \$35.00.



Lot 7755 * TD130B Test Stamp, 1998, Star Spangled Banner coil, miscut & misperforated (Scott TD130B), eight singles on the back of a legal size 32¢ Liberty Bell entire (U632) with pre-printed address and corner card to Hartford CT, uncanceled, Very Fine. Photos. Scott \$125.00. Realized \$52.00.



Lot 7756 ** TDB92a Test Stamp, 1997, magenta serpentine die-cut "For Testing Purposes Only" booklet pane (Scott TDB92a), complete, unfolded pane of 18, with great color and centering, o.g., never hinged, F.-V.F. Photo. Scott \$2,500.00. (*Ed. Note: This is not \$2,500.00 catalog. It is \$250.00.*) Realized \$115.00.

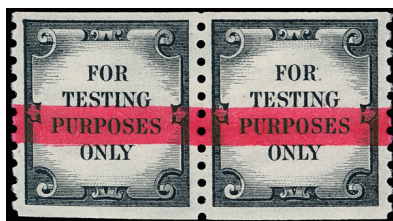
please turn to page 22 ➤



Lot 7757 ** TDB92a **Test Stamp, 1997, magenta serpentine die-cut "For Testing Purposes Only"** (Scott TDB92a), complete, unfolded booklet pane of 18, o.g., never hinged, with great color and centering, F.-V.F. Photo. Scott \$2,500.00. *(Ed. Note: This is not \$2,500.00 catalog. It is \$250.00.)*. Realized \$125.00.



On March 6, 2022 Weekly Online Sales - a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions held Sale #5159 that contained the following test stamps. There was a 20% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 8295 ** TD107b **Test Stamp, 1962, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only"**, black, tagged, pebble-surfaced gum (Scott TD107b), pair, with red defacement line, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Photo. *(Ed. Note - This is a fake and examples have been certified as fakes by the American Philatelic Society Expertising Service.)* Realized \$35.00.

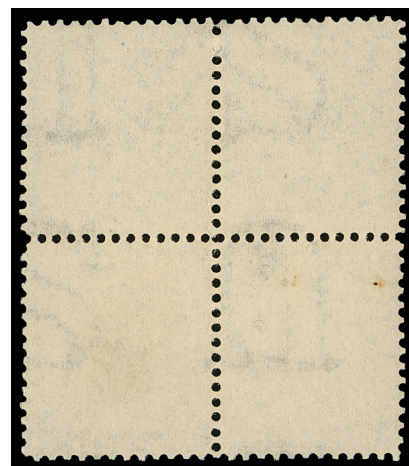



On March 13, 2022 Weekly Online Sales - a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions held Sale #5160 that contained the following test stamps. There was a 20% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 9109 ** **Pictorial Permit, self-adhesive test stamps by Vermont Stamp**, two different designs in coil strips of 3, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine, Ex-Undersander. Photo. Suggested Bid \$70.00. Not sold.

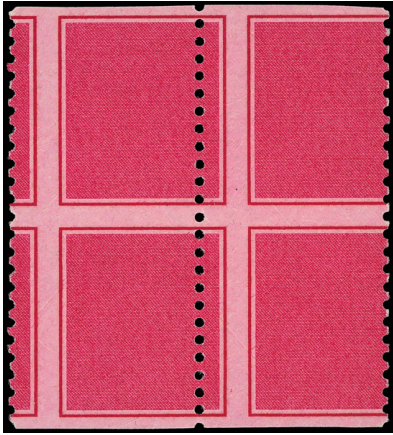
These Pictorial Permits were developed by Vermont Stamp, of Hartford CT, to enhance the mailings that were regularly sent to their collector clients. They added decorative design elements to the normal USPS wording required on mailing permits and were created in 500-unit rolls to give commercial mailing firms an opportunity to confirm that Pictorial Permits could be applied with their automatic label affixing equipment.




Lot 9110 **  **TD10 Test Stamp, 1907, B.E.P., blank** (Scott TD10), block of 4, o.g., never hinged. Photo. Scott \$300.00. Not sold.

Lot 9111 ** TD91 **Test Stamp, 1944-49, Multipost mailMaster Commercial Controls coil, purple** (Scott TD91), pair, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Photo. Scott \$50.00. Realized \$11.00. *(See illustration at top of Page 23)*

please turn to page 23 ➤



Lot 9112 (*)  TD97 Test Stamp, 1954, B.E.P. framed rectangle design coil, carmine (Scott TD97), vertically perforated and imperforate horizontally block of 4, misperforated vertically, listed only with a dash in Scott, unused without gum, F.-V.F. Photo. Realized \$105.00.



Lot 9113 ** BLOCK TD101 Test Stamp, 1954, Nebraska Territorial Centennial Experimental, blue (Scott TD101), block of 4, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$120.00. Not sold



Lot 9114 ** TD107b Test Stamp, 1962, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only", black, tagged, pebble-surfaced gum (Scott TD107b), pair, with blue defacement line, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Photo. *(Ed. Note - This is a fake and examples have been certified as fakes by the American Philatelic Society Expertising Service.)* Suggested bid \$50.00. Not sold.



Lot 9115 ** TD107b var. Test Stamp, 1962, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only", black, tagged, pebble-surfaced gum (Scott TD107b var.), joint line strip of 6 with thin red defacing lines, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Photo. Not sold.



Lot 9116 ** TD108 Test Stamp, 1970, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only", carmine, untagged, dull gum (Scott TD108), o.g., never hinged (gum crease), Extremely Fine. Scott \$800.00. Realized \$80.00.



Lot 9117 ** TDB14a Test Booklets, 1997, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only", booklet pane of 6 (Scott TDB14a), o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$35.00. Realized \$18.00.



please turn to page 24 ➤

Proposed Future DSSG Projects

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.

Dummy Booklets Guide

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. □

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 Kent Miller 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>