



Dummy News and Views

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

Issue Number 76

Summer 2024



Welcome to the Dummy Stamps Study Group's Seventy-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

Annual Meeting with Jim Kloetzel at WESTPEX 2024

by Terry R. Scott

As always it was a great pleasure to get together with Jim Kloetzel, Scott Catalogue Editor Emeritus, at WESTPEX 2024, held in San Francisco on April 26 - 28, 2024, to discuss new items we would love to see in the next *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers*. And as usual, Jim's wife Karolyn was also there to meet us as she has done for quite a few years. Always a great pleasure to see her again and talk. This year Mike Perry and I were joined by Steve Unkrich who had a couple new discoveries to show us all and to get them listed in the next catalogue.

While we did not have the usual multiple pages of items to discuss with Jim, we did have some deep discussions about what we were proposing and some discussion about the "shrinkage" of the Scott Specialized Catalogue by reducing all the images in the catalogue by 25% and also removing several sections from the 2024 Scott Specialized that have always been in that catalogue. Three sections were removed: Die and Plate Proofs (-P); Essays (-E) 1861 First Design Essays and Trial Color Proofs, and Proofs (-P). While it is totally understandable cost-wise for Scott Publishing to reduce the sizes of all the images, thereby saving many pages, it is somewhat sad to see the pre-1940 issue illustrations reduced so that the smaller details are much harder to see in the shrunken illustrations.

In my opinion they should have left all the early United States stamp illustrations (pre-1940's, but especially the pre-1900 issues) the size that they have been for years and years and reduced the more recent illustrations where minute details in the designs are not present and necessary to see.

As many test stamp collectors are aware, the Test Stamp section in the 2024 Scott Specialized Catalogue was not updated; there also were other sections that weren't updated either. There were various reasons for this happening that probably were necessary but nonetheless we did get left out last year. We have been promised that the Test Stamp section will be brought up to date with the various items that were discussed and agreed to by Jim and Jay Bigalke for last years edition, but not done. Additionally we will have new additions and/or corrections that will be listed in the 2025 Scott Specialized Test Stamp section.

In this issue:

Annual Meeting with James Kloetzel	1
Test Stamp Full Coil Rolls Information	2
Recent Auction Results	11
Proposed Future DSSG Projects	14

Please turn to page 2 ►

A Summary of Known Test Stamp Rolls

by Terry R. Scott and Michael O. Perry

Longtime Dummy Stamps Study Group member Robert Williams asked the other day if we had information about what test coils were produced in what size rolls. An excellent question without an immediate answer. We decided to ask a few of the DSSG members what they knew about the different test coils and what size rolls they knew existed. Scott Smith, Robert Williams, Mike Perry and myself contributed to this article that combines information about what we have in our collections along with the information in articles found in past issues of *Dummy News & Views*, along with auction listings found in that publication.

We believe the test coils produced by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing contained 100, 500, 3,000 or 10,000 stamps, and that test coils produced by private contractors contained 50, 100, 500, 1,000, 3,000, 10,000 or 30,000 stamps.

The following list contains information from auction listings found in the previous 75 issues of *Dummy News and Views*, plus information about dummy coils found in the collections of several members of the Dummy Stamps Study Group. After that list, we will illustrate many of the different labels found on the various test coils. Unfortunately, not all rolls of test coils had labels, and in some cases nobody had images of some of the unopened dummy coils.

Test Stamp Rolls of 50 Stamps

TD132 1 Roll

Test Stamp Rolls of 100 Stamps

TD95	1 Roll
TD107	2 Rolls
TD119	3 Rolls
TD120	5 Rolls
TD120A	1 Roll
TD133A	2 Rolls
TD138	2 Rolls
TD138A	2 Rolls
TD139	1 Roll

Test Stamp Rolls of 500 Stamps

TD45A	1 Roll
TD75	3 Rolls
TD107	2 Rolls
TD107b	3 Rolls
TD107d	8 Rolls

Test Stamp Rolls of 1,000 Stamps

TD46	3 Rolls
TD75	2 Rolls
TD95	1 Roll

Test Stamp Rolls of 3,000 Stamps

TD95	1 Roll
TD107	6 Rolls
TD107d	1 Roll
TD107e	9 Rolls
TD111	4 Rolls
TD119	1 Roll
TD122a	1 Roll
TD123	1 Roll
TD126	1 Roll
TD133	2 Rolls
TD136	2 Rolls
TD137	1 Roll
TD141	1 Roll

Test Stamp Rolls of 5,000 Stamps (This is most likely a roll of 3,000)

TD136 1 Roll

Test Stamp Rolls of 10,000 Stamps

TD119	1 Roll
TD123	1 Roll
TD127	1 Roll
TD136A	1 Roll

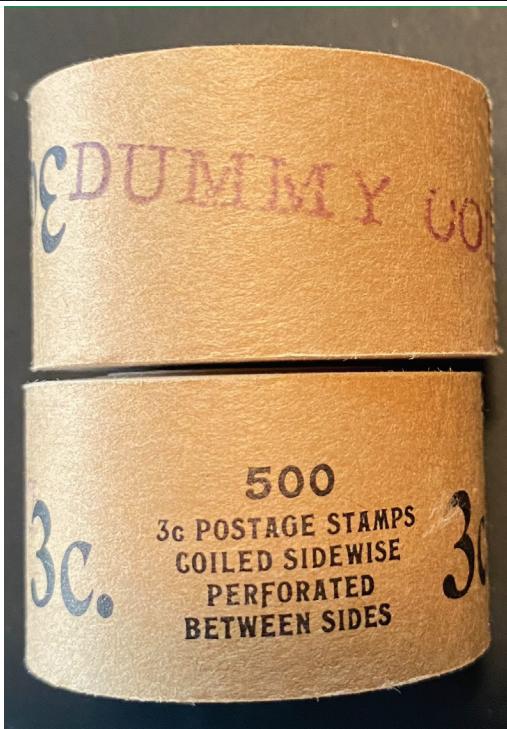
Test Stamp Rolls of 30,000 Stamps

TD123 1 Roll

The following are illustrations of full coil rolls and labels that are in auction listings or private collections. Due to space limitations in this issue, we are planning on showing the various boxes

Please turn to page 3 ►

that we are aware of that contained test stamps for shipping and distribution in the next issue of *Dummy News & Views*. Please note that the illustrations are not actual size due to limitations in the space we have to show them, but they are sized to fit on the pages. Where possible we will show the measurement of the coil roll and the coil roll label size.



TD75 - Unopened coil rolls of 500. The coil rolls are 1-5/8" in diameter. The violet "DUMMY COILS" rubber handstamp is 2-1/16" long. The brown paper wrapper is approximately 10-1/8" long.



TD75 - Unopened coil rolls of 1,000. The coil roll diameter is 2-1/4". The violet "DUMMY COILS" rubber handstamp is 2-1/16" long. The brown paper wrapper is approximately 10" long.

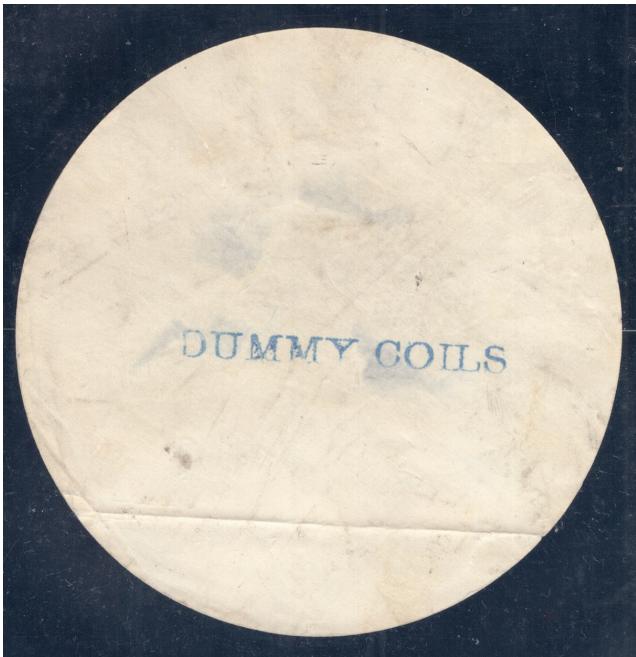


TD76 - Brown paper wrappers from coil rolls of 500 and 1,000.

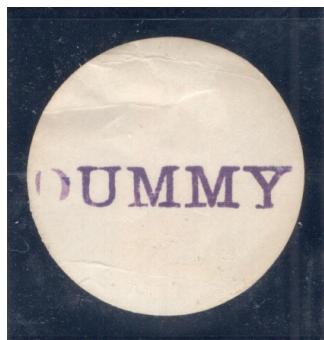


TD76 - Gummed pink paper wrapper with stamp attached. The violet "DUMMY COILS" rubber handstamp is 2-1/16" long.

Please turn to page 4 ➤



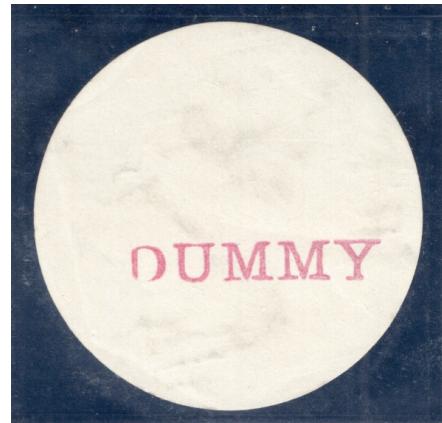
TD96 - Label from coil roll of 3,000 is 3-7/8" in diameter. The blue "DUMMY COILS" rubber handstamp is 2-1/16" long.



TD107 - Label from coil roll of 100 is 1-1/4" in diameter. The violet "DUMMY" rubber handstamp is 1-1/8" long.



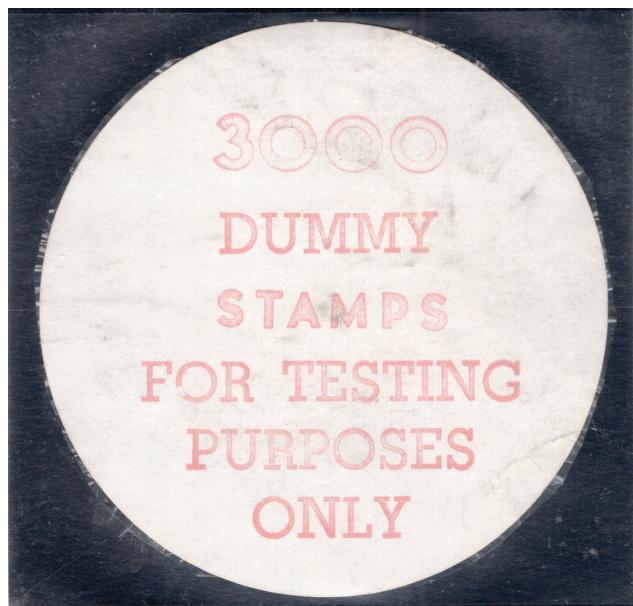
TD107 - Unopened coil rolls of 100. Coil roll and label diameter is 1-1/4". The violet "DUMMY" rubber handstamp is 1-1/8" long.



TD107 - Label from a roll of 500. Coil roll label is 1-3/4" in diameter. The red-violet "DUMMY" rubber handstamp is 1-1/8" long.



TD107 - Unopened coil rolls of 500. Coil roll diameter is 2". Black or violet "DUMMY" rubber handstamped labels are 1-3/4" in diameter. The black and red-violet "DUMMY" rubber handstamps are 1-1/8" long.

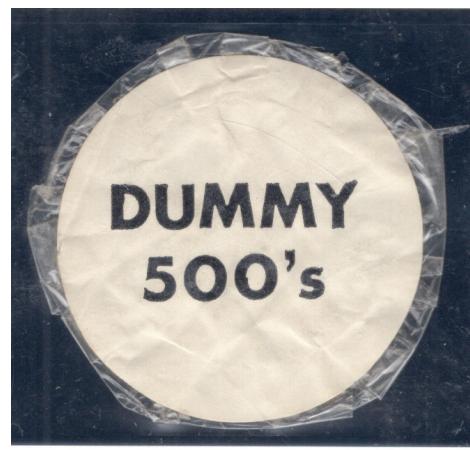


TD107 - Coil roll of 3,000. Coil roll label is 3-1/2" in diameter. The red "DUMMY" in the rubber handstamped label is 1-3/8" long.

Please turn to page 5 ►



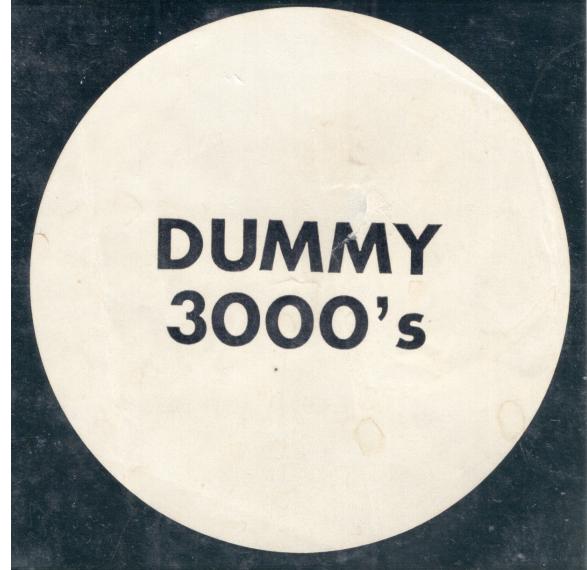
TD107a - Unopened coil roll of 500. Coil roll diameter is 2". Coil roll label is 1-3/4" in diameter.



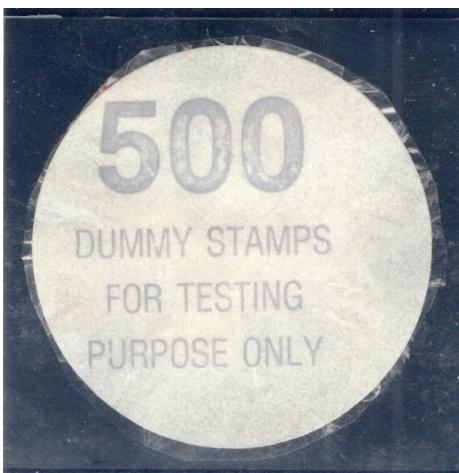
TD107b - Coil roll of 500. Coil roll label is 1-3/4" in diameter.



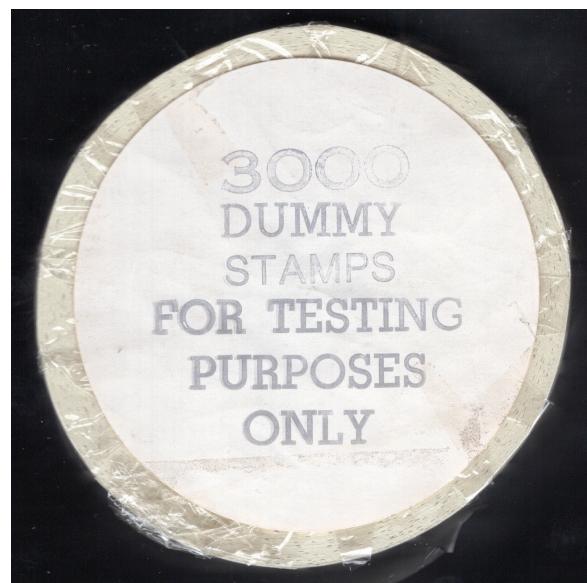
TD107a - Label from a roll of 3,000. Coil roll label is 3-3/4" in diameter. The violet "DUMMY" rubber handstamp is 1-1/8" long.



TD107b - Label from a roll of 3,000. Coil roll label is 3-3/4" in diameter.

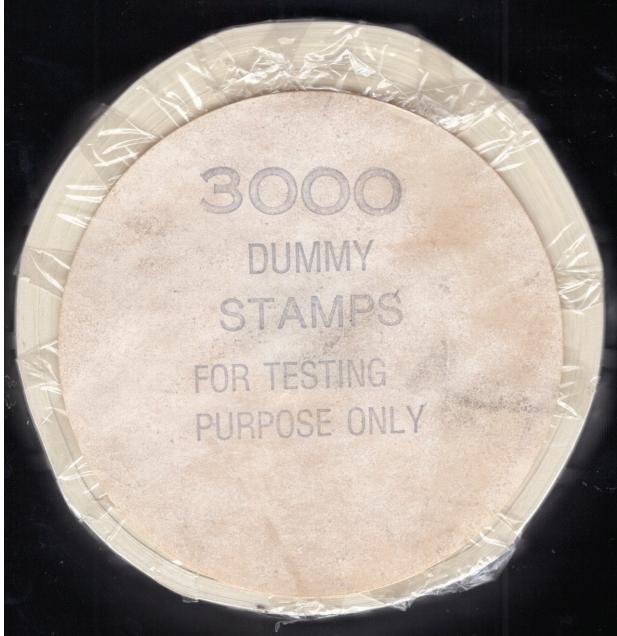


TD107b - Label from a coil roll of 500. Coil roll label is 1-1/2" in diameter. Note the label shows "PURPOSE" rather than "PURPOSES".



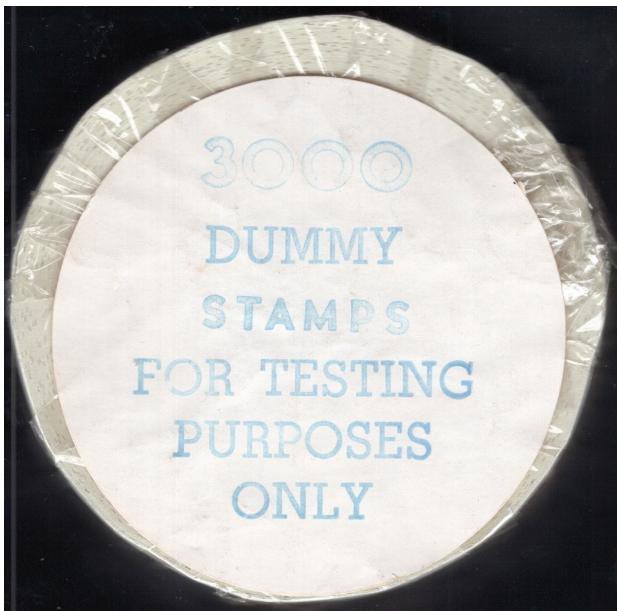
Please turn to page 6 ➤

At the bottom right of Page 5 is the TD107e - Unopened coil roll of 3,000 with a Type 1 label in black. Coil roll label is 3-1/2" in diameter. Coil roll is 4" in diameter. Note the different font and different word layouts on these 3 labels from the TD107e rolls of 3,000 stamps.



TD107e - Unopened coil roll of 3,000 with a Type 2 label in black. Coil roll label is 3-1/2" in diameter. Coil roll is 4" in diameter. Note the label shows "PURPOSE" rather than "PURPOSES".

TD109 - Unopened coil roll of 100. Coil roll is 1-1/8" in diameter. No printing on the coil wrapper.



TD107e - Unopened coil roll of 3,000 with a Type 3 label in blue. Coil roll label is 3-1/2" in diameter. Coil roll is 4" in diameter.

TD111 - Label for coil roll of 3,000. Coil roll label is 3-3/4" in diameter.



TD112 - Unopened coil roll of 3,000 is 4" in diameter. Note the label shows "PURPOSE" rather than "PURPOSES".

Please turn to page 7 ➤



TD119 and TD120 - Unopened TD119 coil roll of 100 shown above. The 2 line label is 1-1/2" x 5/16" and is printed repeatedly every 11 mm on a semi-transparent paper. The TD119 stamps are perforated 10 vertically and the TD120 stamps are serpentine die-cut 9-3/4 vertically.



TD122a - Unopened coil roll of 100. Coil roll is 1-1/8" in diameter. No printing on the coil wrapper. Coil rolls of 100 are in individual plastic holders with a plastic seal.



TD123 - Coil roll of 10,000.

Please turn to page 8 ➤



TD123 - Coil roll of 30,000.



TD123 - Label for a coil roll of 3,000. Label is 3" x 2" and was attached to the inside of the core of a coil roll of 3,000 stamps.



TD126 - Unopened coil roll of 3,000. Label is 3" x 2". Coil roll is 5-3/4" in diameter.



TD127 - Label for coil roll of 10,000. Label is "2-1/8 x 3/4". We are unsure if the illustrated label was attached to the inside of the coil's core, or to the leader strip on the outside of the coil roll.



TD130D - Two unopened coil rolls of 100 self-adhesive linerless coil stamps. Coil rolls are 1-1/8" in diameter. These two TD130D coil rolls have different tape types sealing the rolls. No printing on the coil wrappers.



Please turn to page 9 ➤

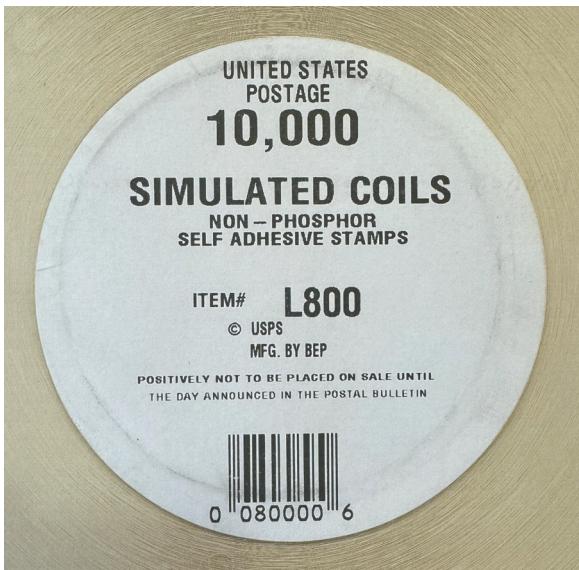
At the bottom right of Page 8 is a TD131 - Unopened coil roll of 3,000. There was no label on the coil roll packaging.



TD133 - Unopened coil roll of 3,000. Label is 3-1/2" in diameter. Coil roll is 5-3/4" in diameter. They mis-spelled who produced the coil as "MGF BY BEP" rather than "MFG BY BEP".



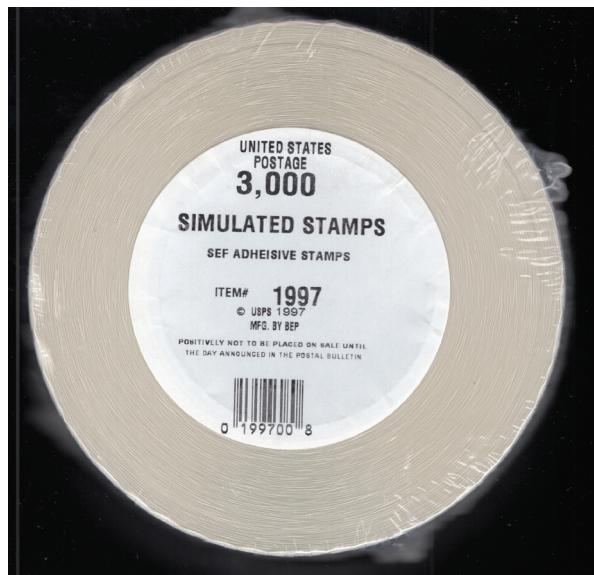
TD133A - Unopened roll of 100. No printing on the coil wrapper.



TD133B - Label on a coil roll of 10,000. Label is 3-1/2" in diameter. Coil roll is 9-1/4" in diameter.



TD135 - Unopened roll of 100 Light Blue Serpentine Die-Cut 8-1/2 vertically test coils with "2000" and Plate # "V1" every 5 stamps in a #3475 21¢ Bison issued stamps packaging.



TD136 - Unopened coil roll of 3,000. Label is 3-1/2" in diameter. Coil roll is 5-3/4" in diameter.



Please turn to page 10 ➤

At the bottom right of Page 9 is a TD137 - Unopened coil roll of 3,000. There is no label on this coil roll. Coil roll is 5-7/8" in diameter and has no label.



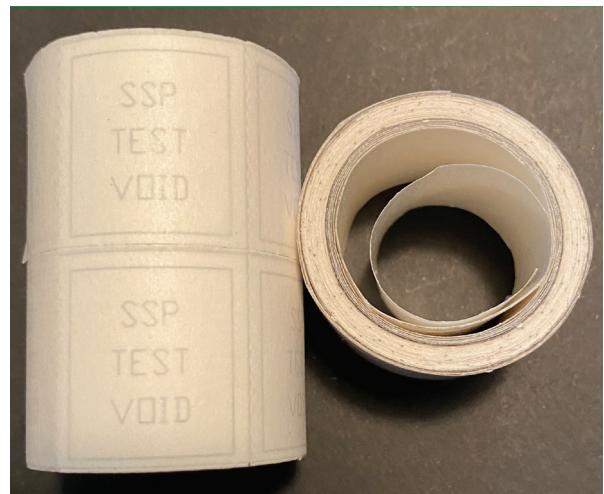
There is a 2" x 3/4" thin plastic like self-adhesive sticker to seal the TD137 roll from opening which is shown above.



TD138 - Two connected unopened coil rolls of 100. The "TEST MATERIAL" label is 1-3/4" x 1/2". Coil roll is 1-3/8" in diameter. Separations are serpentine die-cut gauge 10-1/4.



TD138A - Two connected unopened coil rolls of 100. The "TEST MATERIAL" label is 1-3/4" x 1/2". Coil roll is 1-3/8" in diameter. Separations are serpentine die-cut gauge 11-1/2.

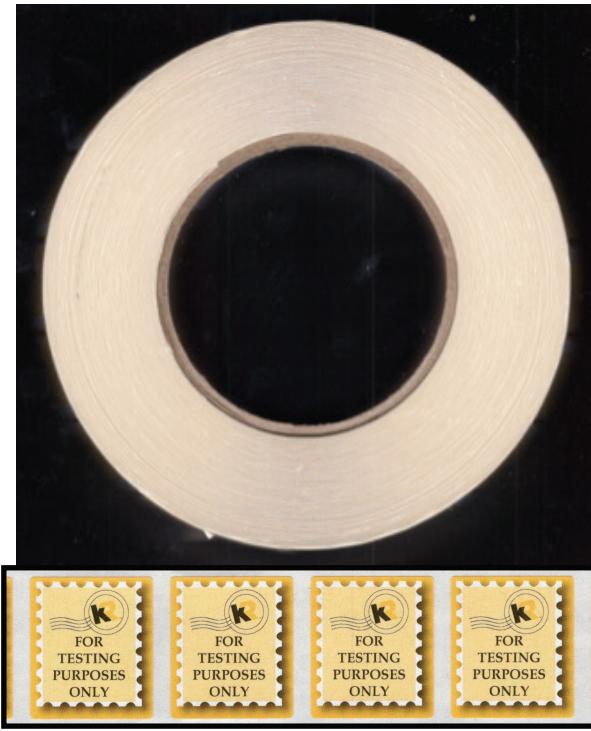


TD138A - Two connected unopened coil rolls of 100. There is no printing on the coil wrappers, they are just sealed. Coil roll is 1-3/8" in diameter. Separations are Die-Cut 11-1/2.



TD139 - Opened coil roll of 10,000. Coil roll is 10-1/4" in diameter.

Shown at the top left of Page 11 is a TD141 - Opened coil roll of 3,000 Kirk-Rudy test stamps. They do not have a label on the wrapping. A label was affixed to the inside of the core on some coil rolls. Coil roll is 5-3/4" in diameter.



In the next newsletter we will illustrate boxes and labels from boxes that test stamps were packaged and shipped in. If you have any examples, please write to: terryrscott@comcast.com

We welcome your comments and we would encourage any of you fellow test stamp collectors who have test stamp roll labels and/or full test stamp rolls that are not illustrated in this article to please submit your information and scans so we can update this list to show others what may be out there. There are almost certainly additional label varieties that were produced over the years

Recent Auction Results

On June 19, 2024 Sam Houston Philatelics held Sale #3114 that contained the following test stamps. There was a 15% Buyer's Premium for this auction.



Lot 259 ** TD107e, 1962-88 Black Coil Test Stamps, Roll of 3,000 unopened, centering appears VF-XF, untagged, NH Photo. Cat. \$3,000.00. Not sold.

On August 20-22, 2024 Daniel F. Kellerher, LLC held Sale #802 that contained the following test stamps. There was a 20% Buyer's Premium for this auction.



Lot 1153 ** TD110 Test Stamp, 1975, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only", orange on gray, tagged (Scott TD110), pair, o.g., never hinged, Post Office fresh and bright, Fine to Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$2,000.00. Not sold.



Please turn to page 12 ➤

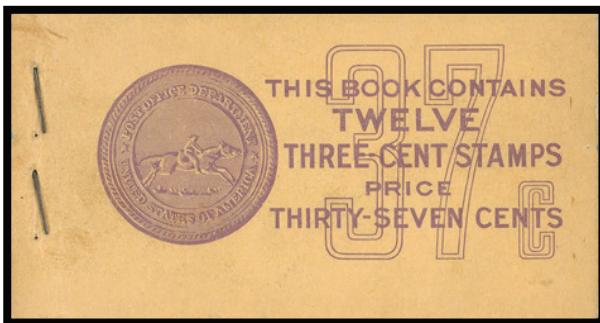
Lot 1154 ** TD127A Test Stamp, 1995, Christmas issue (Ashton-Potter printing), serpentine die cut 11x10.9 (Scott TD127A), o.g., never hinged, fresh and sound with clean separations along backing roulettes (natural straight edge at left), Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$650.00. Realized \$350.00.



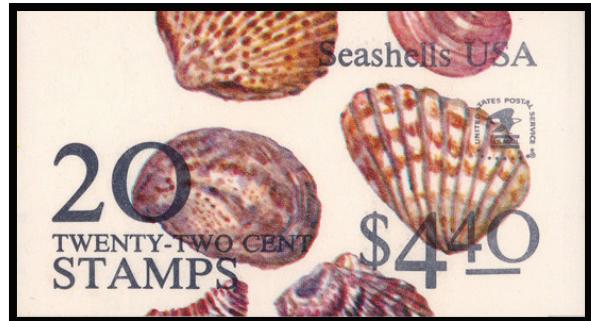
Lot 1155 ** TD127B Test Stamp, 1995, Christmas issue (Ashton-Potter printing), serpentine die cut 11x11.5 (Scott TD127B), left margin single, o.g., never hinged, Post Office fresh with sharp, clean teeth, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$750.00. Realized \$375.00.



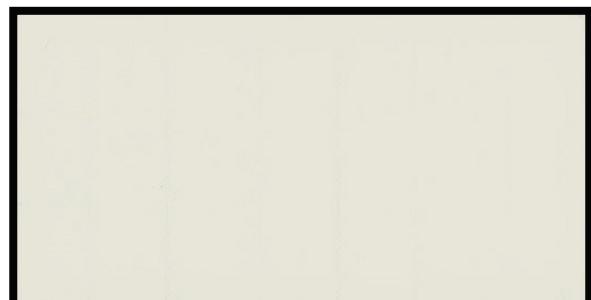
Lot 1156 ** TD128 Test Stamp, 1996, B.C.A. Perf Test (Scott TD128), o.g., never hinged, pristine and colorful, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$400.00. Realized \$130.00.



Lot 1157 BK ** TDB3 Test Stamp Booklets, 1940, 37¢ violet, buff covers (Scott TDB3), complete with two panes of six and two glassine interleaves, centering as per Scott, o.g., never hinged; cover creased at staples, staples broken, otherwise Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$500.00. Realized \$190.00.



Lot 1158 BK ** TDB33 Test Stamp Booklets, 1985, \$4.40 Seashells (Scott TDB33), complete and unexploded, o.g., never hinged, pristine with covers never opened; covers without red or blue lines sometimes found, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$400.00. Realized \$275.00.



Lot 1159 BK ** TDB86A Test Stamp Booklet, 1996, Blank self-adhesive, pane of 20 & reorder label, tagged, serpentine die cut 10 (Scott TDB86a), without indication of printer, nine-pane defacement rouletting to "reorder label" (bottom right in image) only found on #3112a, 3176a and 3244a convertible booklets from the BEP (normal #3176a included for comparison), o.g., never hinged; corner crease at top right, otherwise Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$600.00. Realized \$300.00.

On August 27, 2024 Daniel F. Kellerher, LLC held Sale #803 that contained the following test stamps. There was a 20% Buyer's Premium for this auction.



Lot 2138 Test Booklets, Blank Panes and Blank Covers, 1970s-80s (Scott TDB28c), 2,503 booklets in 100 shrink wrapped bundles of 25 plus 3 loose, each booklet with blank covers and four blank panes of No. TDP28c (five horizontal format stamps with shiny gum; identical to those used in the 22¢-32¢ commemorative booklets from the late 1980's-mid 1990's -- 22¢ Fish, 22¢ "We The People", 25¢ Classic Cars, 29¢ Steam Locomotives, 32¢ Garden Flowers, etc.), Extremely Fine, Scott catalog is \$12.50 per pane x 10,012 panes = \$125,150; no premium for complete booklets; see Scott US Specialized page 794. Shipping charges apply - weight 22 lbs. Photos. Scott \$125,150. Realized \$1,500.00.

On September 18, 2024 Vance Auctions, Ltd. held Sale #370 that contained the following test stamps. There was no Buyer's Premium for this auction.



Lot 4203 * TDB92a, Self adhesive TEST BOOKLET pane of 18. VF, NH. Photo. Cat. \$250.00. Realized \$140.00 Canadian.

Requests for Articles for *The United States Specialist*

Andrew Kelley, 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*. Andrew Kelley 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>