



Dummy News and Views

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

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Welcome to the Dummy Stamps Study Group's Eighty-first 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

A New Test Stamp Discovery

by Terry R. Scott and Michael O. Perry

Recently fellow Dummy Stamps Study Group member Scott Smith reported the discovery of yet another previously unknown test stamp. The newly reported test coil was produced by Avery Dennison.

The new discovery was a piece of the printed stamp web that is 9 stamps in width and 10 stamps tall. It was a proposed coil test stamp as determined by the small red "V1" under all the stamps in the 7th vertical column on the discovery piece. The spacing between the Plate # V1 on the printed rolls of stamps is unknown.

Vertically between all stamp columns, there are red printed perforation holes that are 1 mm round and measure 9.5 gauge. Within the vertical printed perforations, in the horizontal space between the bottom and top of each row of stamp designs, the typical printed perforation hole is replaced by a 1 mm red printed square. The red printed square is where the coil stamps were to be cut horizontally and separated into coil rolls.

The proposed Scott Catalogue Number for this new discovery will be TD132B with an image number of TE55h.



Shown above is a pair of the new TD132B Red Avery test coils. In this image you can see the 1 mm red printed hole perforations and also the 1 mm red printed square in the margin between the horizontal rows of stamps.

The 1 mm printed red square in the margins between the horizontal rows of stamps is used to trigger the cutting device when the coil stamps were affixed to envelopes.

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Shown to the left is a block of 4 and shown below is a block of 15 (5 x 3). Note that in each of these blocks, as well as throughout the entire discovery piece, are shown the 1 mm printed circle perforations between the stamps and also the 1 mm printed squares in the horizontal margins between the rows of printed stamps that triggered the cutting device when the coil stamps were affixed to envelopes.

In addition, the block of 15 (5 x 3) image below shows three Plate # V1 under the center column of stamps. The Plate # V1 appears under each horizontal row of stamps printed.



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Shown above is a block of 15 (5 x 3) that shows the vertical 1 mm circle printed perforations between the stamps and also the printed 1 mm squares in the horizontal margins between the rows of printed stamps trigger the cutting device when the coil stamps were affixed to envelopes.

In addition, this image shows three Plate # V1 under the third column of stamps from the right edge. The Plate # V1 appears under each horizontal row of stamps printed.

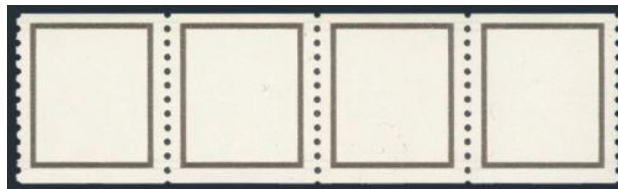
In addition, this discovery block of 90 had the bottom web margin still attached; we don't know how wide the printed web was, but the top margin and one or more rows of stamps were likely cut off of the block of 90. These are a "standard" series of markings used by Avery on their 6-color offset printing press. If they used more than one color on the press, then we think that five of the six circles would have had a solid color filling a circle (the sixth circle would appear empty, but most likely would have been used to print the tagging "ball"). If there had been more than one color used to print this coil, each offset plate would have printed a colored "+" mark at the left and right ends of the six circles. And, if there had been more than one color of ink used, there would have been a series of color density blocks printed in the bottom gutter - probably located to the left of the red color density blocks. And it is suspected there would have been a small solid all of color printed next to each set of color density blocks.

Recent Auction Results

On November 12, 2025 Vance Auctions held Sale #377 that contained the following test stamps. There was no Buyer's Premium for this auction.



Lot 4452 ** TD33, Standard Stamp Affixer Test Stamps Coil Strip of 6. F-VF, NH. Photo. Catalog \$120.00+. Not sold.



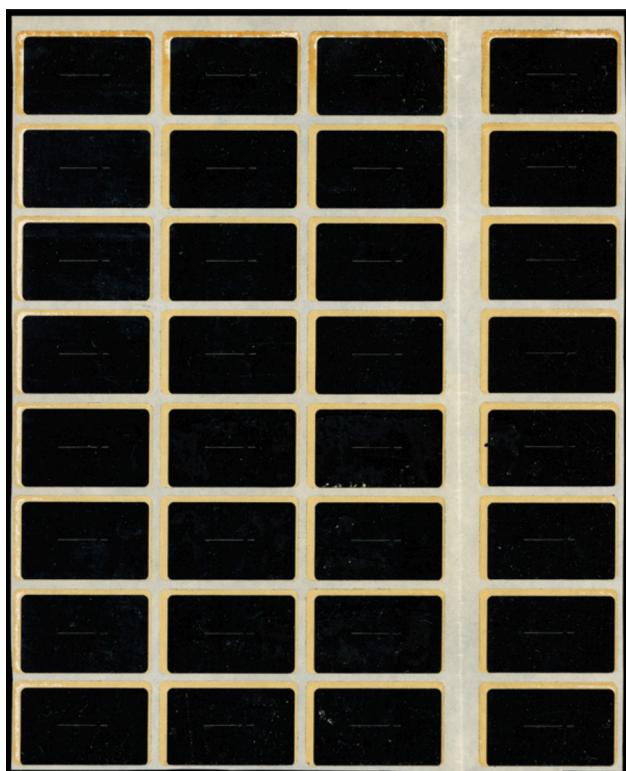
Lot 4453 ** TD125a, Gray TEST STAMP Coil Strip of 4, shiny gum. VF, NH. Photo. Catalog \$400.00. Not sold.

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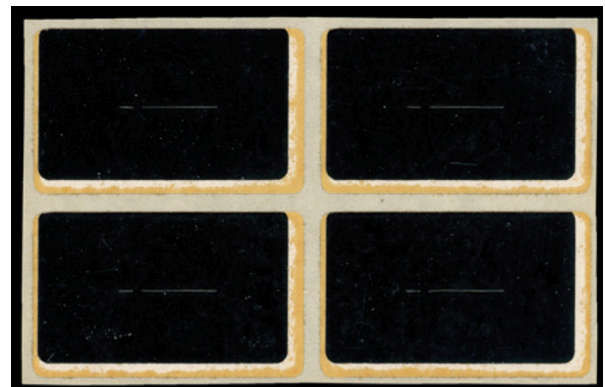
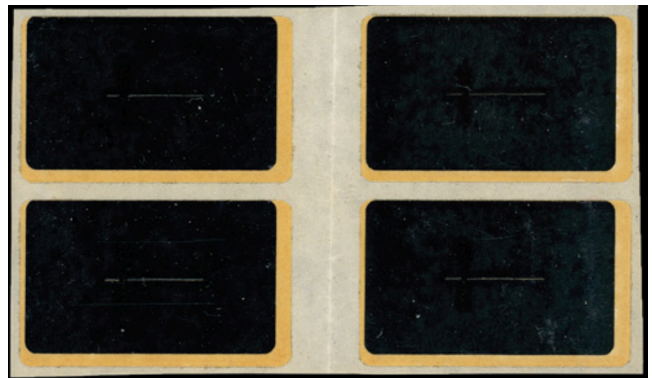
On November 18-19, 2025 Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC held The Kellerher Club Sale that contained the following test stamps. There was a 20% Buyer's Premium for this auction.



Lot 5921 * TD23 Test Stamp, 1914, B.E.P. (numerals & Hamilton design, litho.) coil, deep red, perf 10½ horizontally (Scott TD23), Difficult stamp to find, o.g., previously hinged; small thin at top, Fine, with 2024 P.F. certificate. Photos. Scott \$400.00. Realized \$225.00. (Ed. Note: This was not produced by the B.E.P. as noted in the description. The P. F. Certificate does not show who produced it.)



Lot 5922 ** TD117a Test Stamp, 1973, Christmas issue, black, self-adhesive, on imperf backing paper (Scott TD117a), vertical block of 32 with vertical gutter, o.g., never hinged, useful large multiple, offering 16 normal pairs and 16 gutter pairs; creased within gutter, light glossing or spots of color loss from prior storage, Very Fine nonetheless. Photo. Estimate \$400.00 - \$750.00. Not sold.



Lot 5923 ** TD117a Test Stamp, 1973, Christmas issue, black, self-adhesive, on imperf backing paper (Scott TD117a), o.g., never hinged, two blocks of four, one normal, one with vertical gutter (adhesive discoloration as always on these early self-adhesives); gutter creased between stamps, each with slight glossing from prior plastic holders, Very Fine nonetheless. Photo. Estimate \$100.00 - \$150.00. Not sold.

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On December 7, 2025 Weekly Online Sales - a Division of Daniel F. Kellerher Auctions - held Sale 5300 that contained the following test stamps. There was a 20% Buyer's Premium for this auction.



Lot 9322 ** TDB89a **Test Stamp, 1997, dark blue Temple "For ATM Testing" (Scott TDB89a)**, self adhesive booklet of 18, o.g., never hinged, Extremely Fine. 3 Photos. Scott \$225.00. Realized \$44.00.

On December 9-11, 2025 Schuyler Rumsey held Public Auction No. 127 that contained the following test stamps. There was an 18% Buyer's Premium for this auction.



Lot 2547 ★ ★ **Test Stamp, 1962-86 "For Testing Purposes Only" black horizontal coil, untagged**, complete coil roll of 500 (includes 20 line pairs), o.g., never hinged, includes an additional short roll, **Very Fine**. Photo. Scott No. **TD107e** Estimate \$775+. Not sold.

Requests for Articles for *The United States Specialist*

Andrew Kelley, 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 □

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>