



# 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 Sixtieth 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)

## An Introduction to the Different TD130E "Octagons" Color Shades

by Terry R. Scott and Michael O. Perry

A footnote under the listing for Scott TD130E in the Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers reads: "No. TD130E was printed in sheets of 50. Each of the horizontal rows contained stamps with ten different densities in the octagons, ranging from dark colors in the left column of 5 to a very light color in the right column of 5 stamps." The Scott catalogue does not show different values for any of the shades since each shade was equal to the other in the number of stamps printed.

A simple enough of an explanation, but without actually having several of the TD130E "Octagon" stamps to look at together, there can be confusion about the color shade. Different collectors will see the shades differently. Is the example you are looking at dark, medium dark or light and how light or dark is it? There is absolutely no way to be 100% sure since shades can vary in the printing since several different types of paper were used.

We suggest that you take a look at the article in Issue 921, Volume 77, No. 11 November 2006 of The United States Specialist. In that article there are details about three different test stamp designs that were used in extensive testing to be sure future production of Pressure Sensitive Adhesive (PSA) stamps would comply with stringent processing requirements by paper manufacturers and recyclers.

With the advent of self-adhesive postage stamps, it was suddenly discovered that processing

of the recycled envelopes with PSA stamps was "gumming" up the works at the recycling mills.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) began to address the concerns of recyclers in 1994 with the formation of the Environmentally Benign Pressure Sensitive Adhesive Program. One aim of the program was to develop PSA's for postage stamps that could later be recycled into fine grade paper products.

In order to evaluate how the types of stamp printing, paper and self-adhesive gums impacted recycling plant operations, the USPS wanted stamps printed by intaglio (TDB93, Clinton ATM stamps), gravure (TD130A and TD130B, Star Spangled Banner coil stamps), and offset (TD130E, colored "Octagons"). In addition, they wanted different papers and self-adhesive gums for each of the three different design and format test stamps.

To familiarize you with the number of varieties used in the test for the USPS let us start with the particulars of what was printed.

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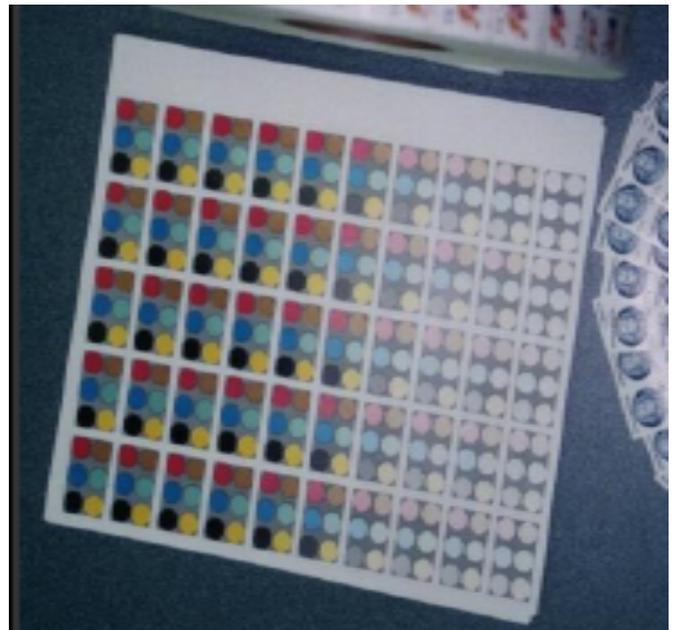
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Three different stamp designs, each a different format, were prepared for these tests using three different security printers selected by the USPS. The 5-color gravure printed “Star Spangled Banner” dummy stamp was produced in the horizontal coil format, in rolls of 10,000, with a serpentine die cut gauge of 11¼. The 6-color “Octagon” test stamp actually has a black intaglio background, with each octagon filled with one of six different color offset inks. These dummy stamps were produced in a vertical commemorative size format, in sheets of 50, with a serpentine die cut gauge of 12½. The TD130E “Octagon” test stamps were probably printed on the BEP’s “D Press”. The blue-gray intaglio printed “George Clinton” dummy stamp was produced in ATM size sheetlets of 18 with a removable horizontal strip between two blocks of nine stamps, with a serpentine die cut gauge of 11¼ x 11½. These dummy test stamps all have overall yellow-green tagging.

For the test, fourteen different Benign Pressure Sensitive Adhesives (BPSAs) were used in combination with the various stamp versions. For example, BPSA #1 was used with three gravure types, three offset types and three intaglio types for a total of nine versions. The total of fourteen different BPSAs used times the nine products yields a total of 126 different configurations to be used on the four million envelopes prepared for this test. However, one version of the intaglio Clinton ATM pane was destroyed in the early phase of production, leaving 125 different configurations available to be used in this test. The different varieties of papers resulted in slightly different “shades” of offset ink colors when the “Octagon” stamps were printed.

The low resolution photo of a sheet of TD130E “Octagon” stamps on this page shows how the shades of the six offset inks changed from left to right across the full sheet of 50 stamps. The image is poor, but it is the only known photo of this test stamp. Also note there is a full roll of the TD130A test coil and the TDB93 dummy ATM panes in the photo.

All “Octagon” stamps found on the back of any particular envelope were printed on the same variety of paper, so the shades of offset ink on any of the five stamps torn from the same column of



the sheet will be the same. However, when stamps are removed from an envelope and mixed together, it is easy to see why some stamps have shades of one ink that don’t seem to follow the rules.

In this article, we will try our best to show the different shades as we see them. Having examined quite a few of the TD130E stamps, we have put together what we feel is a representative group of 10 different shades of the “Octagon” stamps, and will show them on the following page.

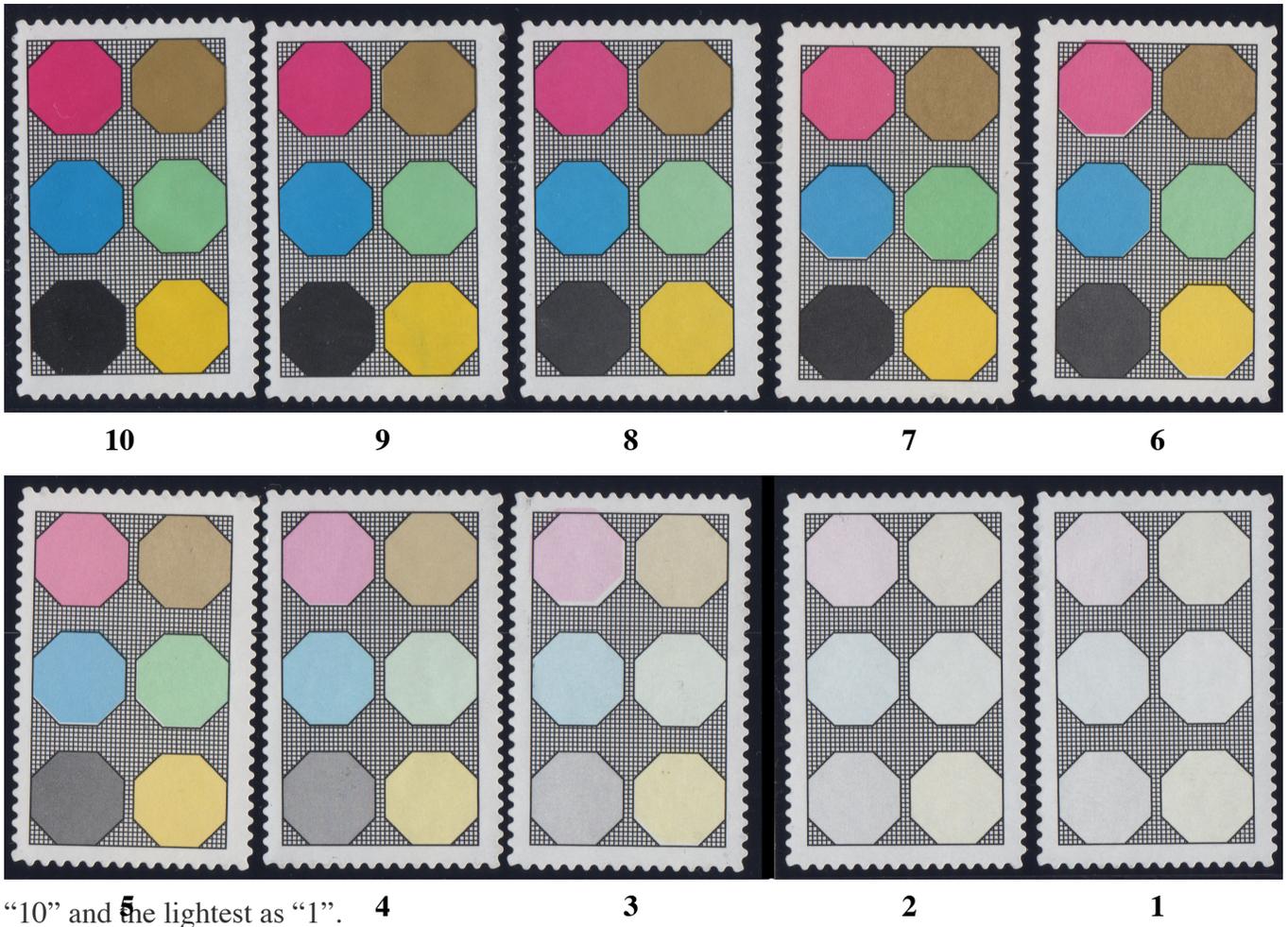
Since the test envelopes with the TD130E “Octagon” stamps had five of the stamps attached to the reverse of each envelope, it is interesting to see how the different employees applied said stamps to the envelope. Since there are five of the same color shade in each column of stamps on each sheet of 50 stamps, the person applying the stamps could use the vertical strip of five stamps on the same envelope or could just use part of the horizontal strip of 10 stamps with differing shades. Or, they could use any combination of five stamps!

Keep in mind that this is our opinion on the shades. Your opinion may differ and that is understandable.

Because of the different papers used, on some of the stamps shown on the following pages you can see that one or more of the octagon colors may look darker or lighter than on an adjacent stamps that is marked either darker or lighter. That is to be expected because of the different papers used and the different absorption of the inks on the different paper types.

*please turn to page 3 ►*

We will illustrate the different “Octagon” color shades below and we will refer to the darkest color as



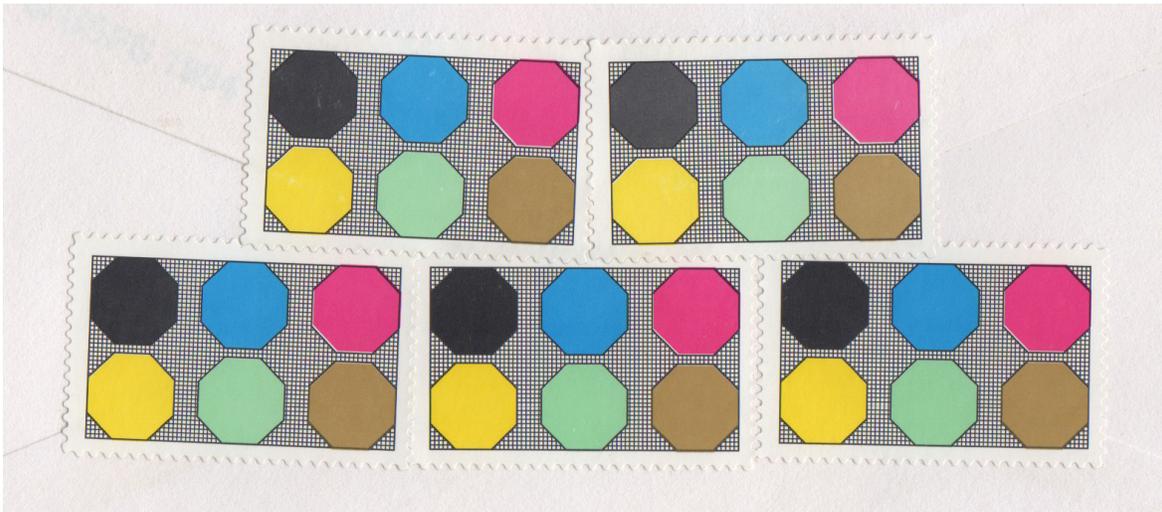
While the green octagon on stamp 7 appears darker than the green on stamp 8, the pink on stamp 7 is clearly much lighter than the pink on stamp 8. This illustrates the problem of organizing the individual stamps from different sheets.

Below and on the following pages we will illustrate some of the groups of five TD130E stamps placed



on the back of different envelopes.

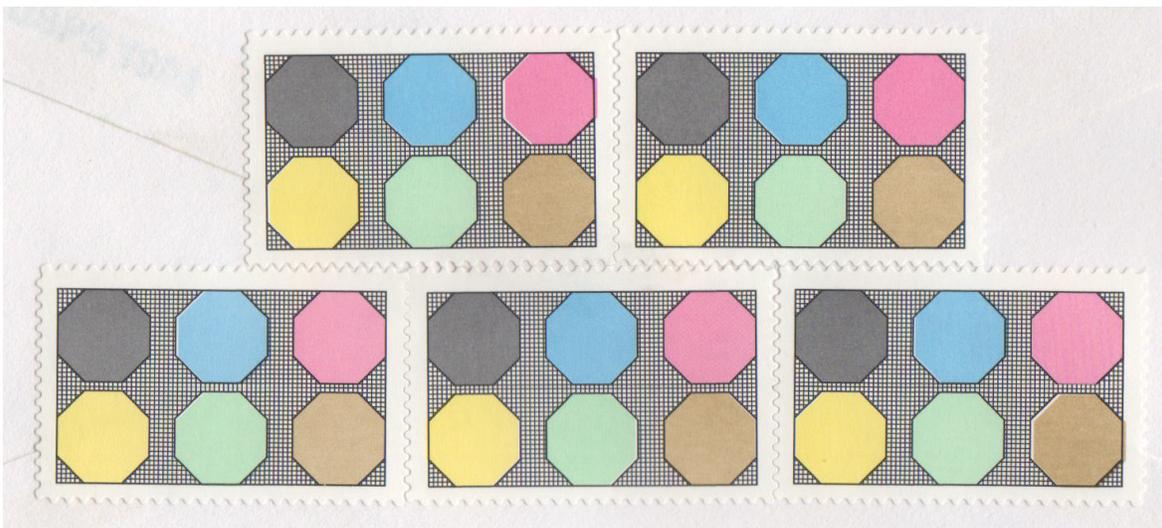
The two stamps in the top row appear a little lighter than the three stamps in the bottom row. *please turn to page 4* ➤



While the five stamps on the back of this envelope appear to be the same shades, the upper right stamp is actually slightly lighter - see the black and blue octagons.



The group of stamps on the back of this envelope appear to be three different shades and the bottom left stamp is rotated 180 degrees from the top two with same shade.

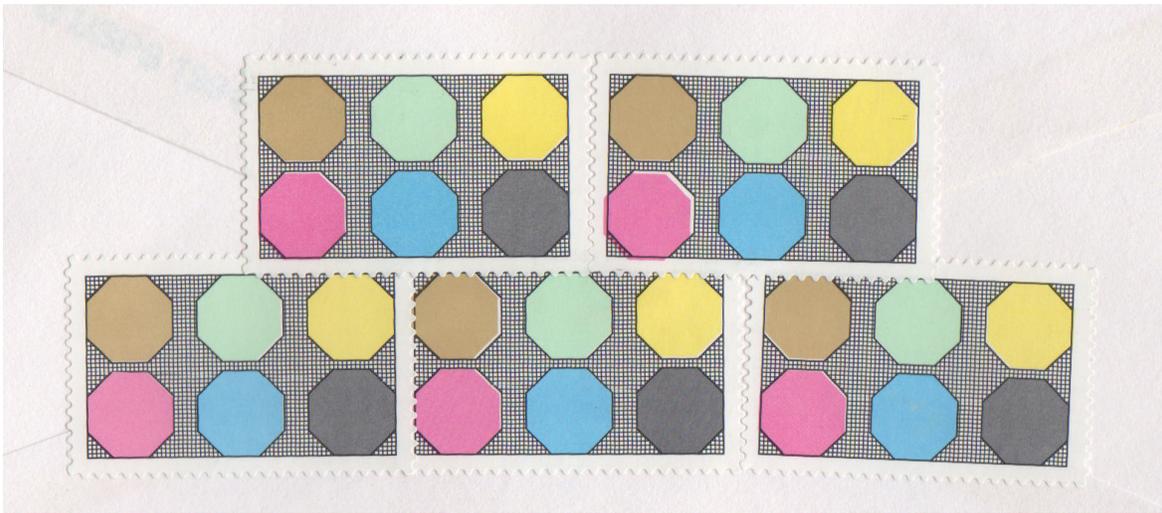


All five stamps appear to be the same shade.

*please turn to page 5 ➤*



The back of this envelope has a random selection of shades



The stamps on the back of this envelope all appear to be the same shade but a couple have slight color mis-registration.



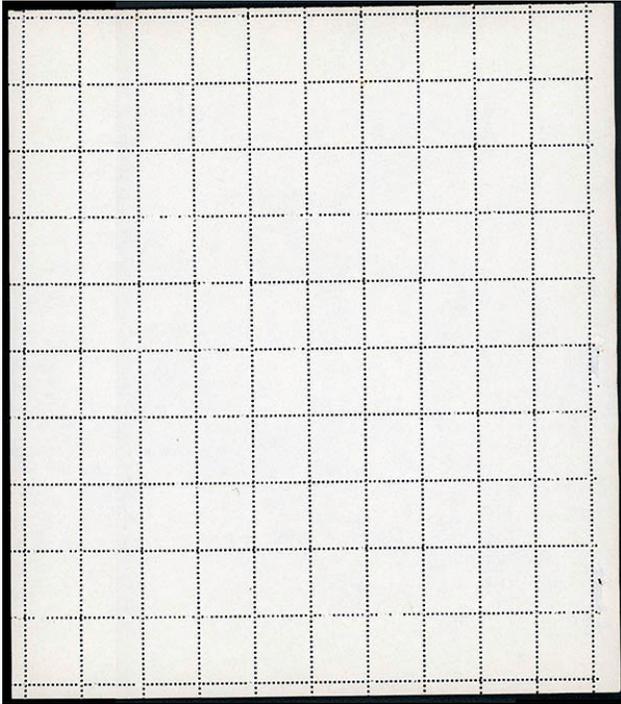
A couple of these on the back of this envelope are as light as they come. ☐

*please turn to page 6 ➤*

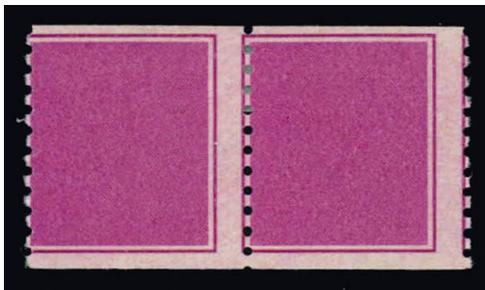
# Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

On June 21, 2020 Michael Rogers Online, a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, held Sale #5105 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 20% Buyer's premium for this sale.



Lot 11677 \*\*  TD84A. Test Stamp, 1920's-50's, B.E.P. blank design, gum breaker ridges 5mm to 6.5mm apart (Scott TD84A), full pane of 100, Blank with no defacement markings., o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$1,250.00. This auction firm does not report prices realized.



Lot 11678. \* TD96 Test Stamp, 1954, B.E.P. framed rectangle design coil, red violet (Scott TD96), pair, 2mm vertical perf shift, o.g., hinge remnant, Fine to Very Fine. Photo. Est. \$5.00. This auction firm does not report prices realized.



On June 24, 2020 Downeast Stamps, held Sale #327 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 12% Buyer's premium for this sale.



Lot 905 \*\* TD88, Multipost Test Stamp, dark blue, coil pair, some blue offset on back, o/w F-VF, OG NH. Photo. Est. \$45.00. Realized \$14.00.

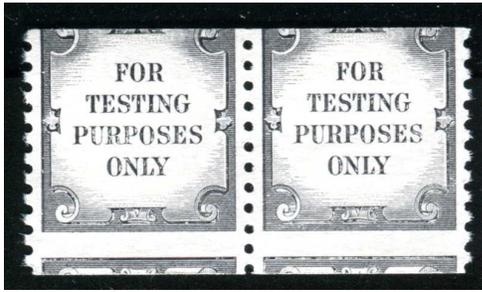


Lot 906 \*\* TD91, Multipost Test Stamp, violet, coil pair, F-VF, OG NH. Photo. Est. 50.00. Realized \$26.00.



Lot 907\*\* TD109, Test Stamp, slate green, pair, dull gum variety, NH, VF. (*Ed. Note: This is not an image of TD109, it is an image of TD111, brown For Testing Purposes Only coil pair*) Photo. Est. \$150.00. *The lot was withdrawn from the auction.*

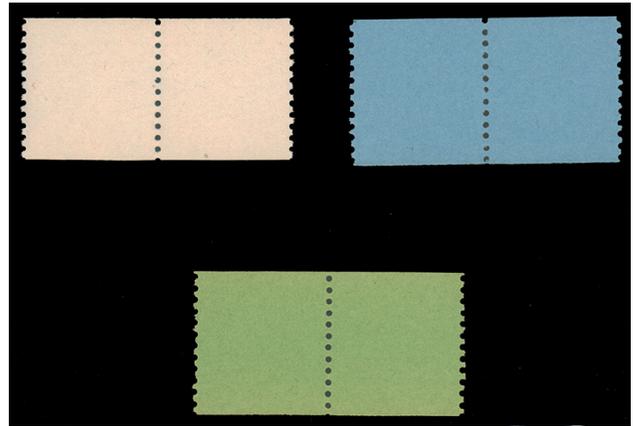
*please turn to page 7 ➤*



Lot 940 \*\* TD107e, Test Stamp, black, miscut pair, dull gum variety, NH. Photo. Est. \$20.00. Realized \$10.00.



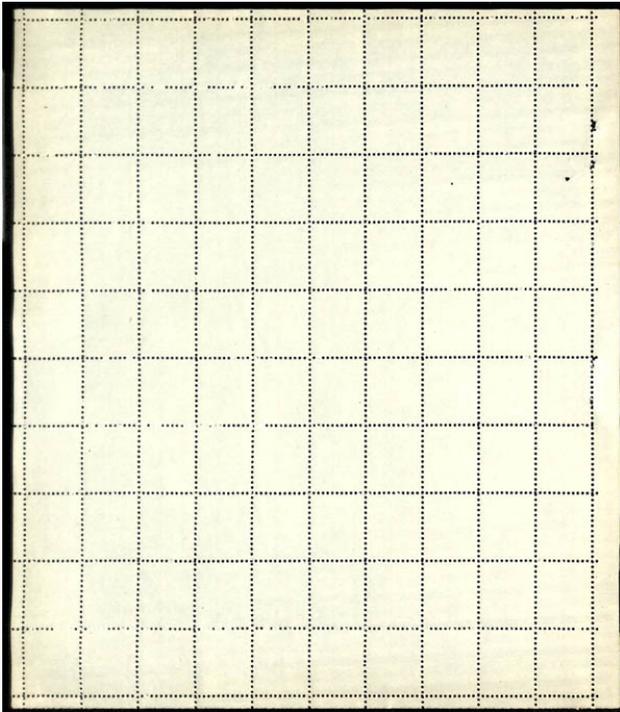
On July 5, 2020 Michael Rogers Online, a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC, held Sale #5107 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 20% Buyer's premium for this sale.



Lot 8051 \*\* 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. Realized \$60.00.



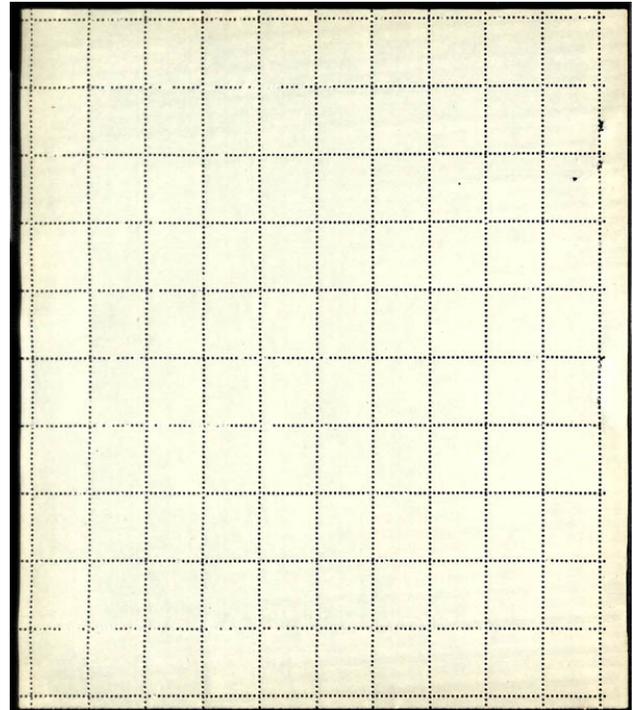
On July 19, 2020 Michael Rogers Online, a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC held Sale #5109 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 20% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 6836 \*\*  Test Stamp, 1920's-50's, B.E.P. blank design, gum breaker ridges 5mm to 6.5mm apart (Scott TD84A), full pane of 100, o.g., never hinged; slight toning around edges with several small tears at upper right, otherwise Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$1,000.00. This auction firm does not report prices realized.

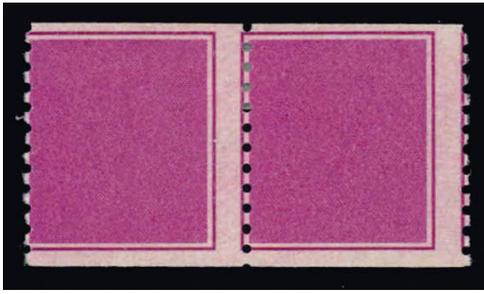


On July 17, 2020 Paradise Valley Stamp Company held Sale #F550 that contained the following test stamps. There is no Buyer's premium for this sale.



Lot 11483 \*\*  TD84A Test Stamp, 1920's-50's, B.E.P. blank design, gum breaker ridges 5mm to 6.5mm apart (Scott TD84A), full pane of 100, o.g., never hinged; slight toning around edges with several small tears at upper right, otherwise Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$1,000.00. This auction firm does not report prices realized.

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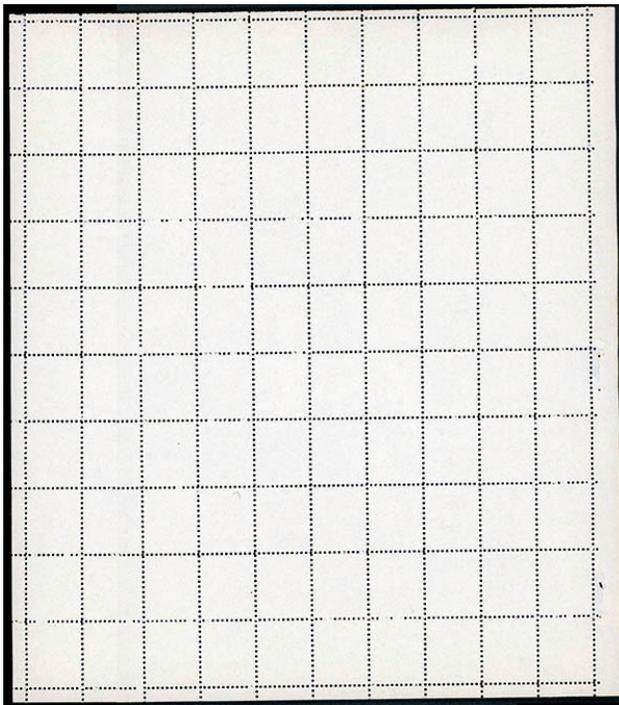
Lot 11678. \* TD96 Test Stamp, 1954, B.E.P. framed rectangle design coil, red violet (Scott TD96), pair, 2mm vertical perf shift, o.g., hinge remnant, Fine to Very Fine. Photo. Est. \$5.00. This auction firm does not report prices realized.



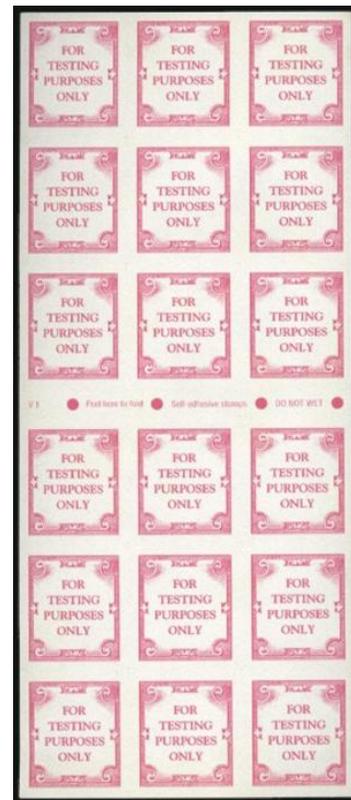
Lot 193 \*\* TD107e, 1962-88 Black Coil Test Stamps, Roll of 3,000 unopened, centering appears VF-XF, untagged, NH. Photo. Cat. \$3000.00. Not sold.

On August 2, 2020 Michael Rogers Online, a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC held Sale #5111 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 20% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

On August 26, 2020 Vance Auctions Ltd. held Sale #345 that contained the following test stamps. There is no Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 3959 \*\*  TD84A Test Stamp, 1920's-50's, B.E.P. blank design, gum breaker ridges 5mm to 6.5mm apart (Scott TD84A), full pane of 100, Blank with no defacement markings., o.g., never hinged, Very Fine. Photo. Scott \$1,250.00. This auction firm does not report prices realized.



Lot 4215 \* TDB92a, Self adhesive TEST BOOKLET Pane of 18. VF, NH, Photo. Cat. \$250.00 USD. Realized \$185.00 CDN.

On August 12, 2020 Sam Houston Philatelics held Sale #3075. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

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Lot 7279 \* USA TEST STAMP MINT COLLECTION: TD76/TD127, Very interesting collection of TEST stamps from 1930-96. Primarily Coil Pairs or Strips of 3 to 8 including Plate Strips, from 1930-96. VF, NH (70 stamps). Photo Ex., Est. \$100.00 CDN. Realized \$170.00 CDN.

On September 12, 2020 Golden Oak Online Auctions held Sate #29 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 20% Buyers Premium for this sale.



Lot 536 \*\* TD88 Test Stamp, 1944-49, Multipost Commercial Controls coil, blue (Scott TD88), pair, o.g., never hinged, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Photo. Scott \$45.00. Not sold.

## Proposed Future DSSG Projects

### Dummy Booklets Guide

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

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

The last update by Earl McAfee, Dummy Booklets Study Group Chairman, was in 1998. Since then there have been many new discoveries. Many of them have been written up in articles in *The United States Specialist*. Now the time has come to document and illustrate them in a new *Dummy Booklets Guide*.

I ask all of you to join Mike Perry and myself in this project as we are not able to do it all, nor would you want us to do it all. It is a Dummy Stamps Study Group project and all members have a chance, and are greatly encouraged, to provide their input. Any information on new items or any items not listed in the previous 1998 edition of *Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets* would be appreciated. While we believe we have most everything necessary to complete this book to include currently known dummy booklets, we may be missing important information that you can provide. This publication will be in full color. ☐

*please turn to page 10 ➤*

# 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>