

COIL LINE

JOURNAL of PNC³

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12.5¢ #2 Found Tagged

A tagged version of 12.5¢ #2 surfaced 10 days before it was scheduled to go off-sale. After a curious course of events, the USPS decided 4 days before withdrawal to extend mail sales an extra 31 days.

The first sighting of unprecanceled #2 was made by PNC³ member Dr. Bill Griffiths on incoming mail. He tried for 2 days to phone the sender to find out where he had purchased the stamps. News of the Seal Beach, CA postmark leaked out, and some high-powered PNCers across the country frantically called around Southern California looking for them.

Bill found that the mailer had not purchased the stamps at all, but had soaked them from a Readers' Digest sweepstakes return envelope. Bill called Pleasantville, NY and talked to a promotions official of Readers' Digest. The #2's were a special order from USPS, and they had already been using them for 6 months (remember the 4¢ #5/6 special printing for DAV?). The official promised to try to locate some mint examples for Bill, and instructed him to call the next day. The answer next day: "Sorry."

The same day, Bob Rabinowitz was attempting to wholesale 12.5¢ strips to dealers. He had gotten them from the Readers' Digest after Bill Griffiths had talked to them. In characteristic fashion, Bob prefers to keep his trade secrets as secrets, but one has to marvel at his philatelic contacts, given the fact that he was not the first person at the source. Perhaps this part of the story will be revealed in an upcoming "Expose."

Rabinowitz offered the strips at \$55/10, or \$450/100 strips wholesale. He encountered some sales resistance, and so within two days lowered the wholesale price to \$3 each if 300 strips were purchased.

On April 26, Jon Denny of M&M/Southwest called Linda Foster at USPS L'Enfant Plaza and explained the marketplace conditions--4 more days of sale, no #2's in any post office, and all known mint strips in the hands of one dealer. She said she would take it under advisement.

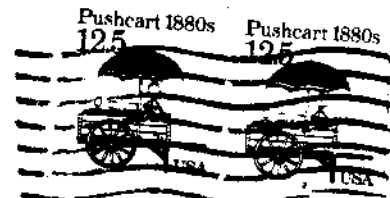
On April 27, dealer Al Haake phoned Foster, and was told that a decision had been made to extend mail sales through May.

The #2's are the only tagged fractionals on rolls of 3,000. All others, of every denomination, are on the more easily-handled rolls of 500--a size preferred by most philatelic clerks.

Dale Hendricks of Dale Enterprises feels that Denny and Haake made a big mistake. His view is that this limited find could have been a nice spark to an otherwise "ho-hum" PNC season, and that the \$9.50 retail price would not have gouged any collectors. Although Dale purchased strips from Rabinowitz

inside

22¢ Flag "Black Field"	2
Letters	3
Commercial Covers: Consumer Ed and "D"	5
Briefly	6
PNC ³ Auction Results	7
Ads	8



before the extended mail sale was announced, Dale maintains that this has nothing to do with his viewpoint.

The extent of USPS supplies of 12.5¢ #2 tagged is not announced. Nevertheless, there seems to be little need for collector panic. Readers' Digest says that they still have enough to do national mailings for the next two years. That's a lot of strips! They have further conceded that they have often exchanged rolls for rolls with dealers and collectors in the past.

For commercial cover collectors, the Readers' Digest is not a good source. The return envelope has a smaller inner pouch that protects the contents from the opening blades. The envelopes are cut on 4 sides, almost always cutting the stamps.

Congratulations to Dr. Griffiths for discovering and tracking down the source of this plate number. His efforts have assured that we can all have a copy at face (or nearly so). His reward: earliest known use of the #2 on cover.

Wrong color on Flag coil



The May 1 issue of Linn's front-paged a story under Charles Yeager's bi-line reporting the 22¢ flag color error. The flag's field is black instead of blue, and has been called a true error since the miscolor does not result from contamination or wiping, but from a press ink fountain that was erroneously filled with black ink instead of blue.

The finder requests anonymity. Yeager writes: "The owner, a California man who handles a lot of mail, reports that the two sleeve numbers in his coil are underinked at the top of the 8." "Man who handles a lot of mail" is code talk for you-know-what.

Some previously unreported details follow: The error was spotted in late March, 1988, on a piece of mail. The finder says that he copied down the sender's address and went to the sender's local post office to search for them. The postmark was Los Angeles, CA. He reports that he found but one roll. He is an errors collector, but does not collect PNCs. He gave a strip of 20 to a friend, who inquired about the plate number. The finder said that there was only one number 8 on the roll. Was he sure? "Yes."

It is possible on a B-press printing to have only one plate number on a roll of 100, but on C and D-press printings there are at least 2 plate numbers and, on rare occasion, 3. Number 8 was printed on C and D-press.

I have a strong suspicion that the find does not involve a full roll of 100, but was a broken roll obtained directly from the sender. The finder's friend thinks so, too. If you found an error on cover with a return address, how would you approach the task? If two plate strips appear on the market, then I'm wrong.

The finder's friend, being a very generous sort, gave some of his 20 examples away. The illustrated strip is part. Four of the 20 were used on covers. One has a bullseye cancel of City of Industry, April 12, 1988, and was soaked off cover. A pair was sent to himself. The fourth was mailed to the Editor. At present, there are a maximum of 96 mint copies known, perhaps fewer; two plate number strips, perhaps one.

If you hunt through stock of #8's for the black error, do so with strong natural light coming through the window. In artificial room light, the black error and the normal dark blue look very similar.

Sorters may have already handled used singles and discarded them without recognizing the error. The hope of finding more may now rest with re-examining used copies of #8.

New Applicants

Elwin Didway	Visalia, CA
Floyd Jensen	Fresno, CA
James Bailey	Grand Rapids, MI
Emil Barondeau	Corpus Christi, TX
Rocco Caponi	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Caxton Foster	East Orleans, MA
Gregory Paulick	Fond Du Lac, WI
James Kenney	Havertown, PA
Eugene Krieg	Chino, CA
Homer Bentley	Hobe Sound, FL
Elmer Degon	Augusta, ME
Kim Cuniberti	Danbury, CT
Steve Crown	League City, TX
Daniel Hazard	Hohokus, NJ
Jon Denny	Phoenix, AZ

Reinstated

John Foxworth (#14)

Summary

331 May report
+15 new applicants
+ 1 reinstated

347 currently active

PNC BOOKLETS

PNCs On Cover

A compilation of all known PNCs on cover. Emphasis is on commercial covers and includes scarcity ratings for each plate number. Also included are separate listings of PNCs on FDCs.

\$7.00 postpaid

PNC Varieties

An indispensable booklet for variety collectors. Includes imperfs, plate flaws, color/inking varieties and tagging varieties. Over 1,100 listings.

\$11.00 postpaid

****Special**** both booklets for \$16.00

Rob Washburn
P.O. Box 840
Skowhegan, Maine 04976

Letters

I am interested in putting my stamp collection inventory on my IBM ps2 computer. My collection consists entirely of U.S. plate blocks, PNC's, and booklets. I would appreciate hearing from other members with both success and horror stories, recommendations, and any suggestions, before I undertake this monumental task. I know APS insurance does not require much detail when insuring the stamps. How much detail is required if and when you try to collect?

Eric Russow
Whitefish Bay, WI

On April 22, 1989 I received the following from Philatelic Sales in Washington, D.C:

Unprecanceled--11¢ Bearcat (#3,4); 12.5¢ (#1);
20¢ Cable Car (#1); 25¢ Breadwagon (#2);
25¢ Honeybee (#1); 25¢ Yosemite Prephos. (#8);
25¢ Yosemite (block tagged, #7).
Precanceled--7.6¢ (#1); 8.4¢ (#1);
21.1¢ Letters (#111111).

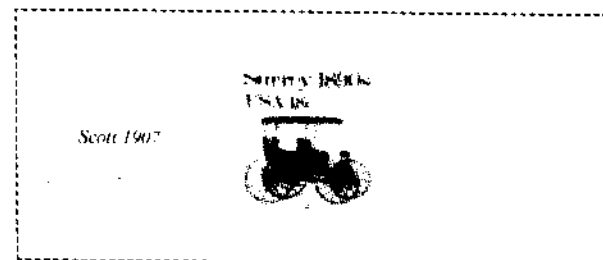
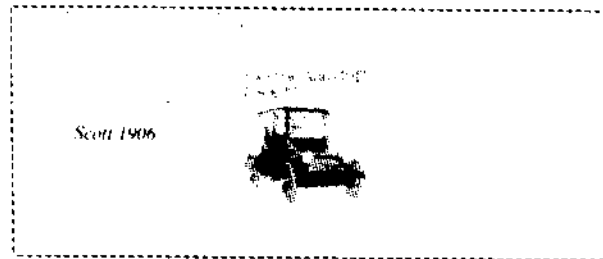
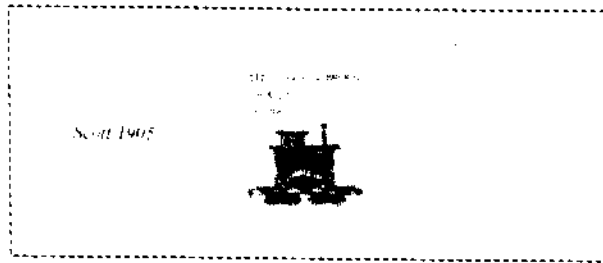
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½ page, \$15; ¼ page, \$8.
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1981-84

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- The Plate Number Coil pages provide spaces for one example of each strip. The Comprehensive Album and the Singles Album provide spaces for every plate number of every issue.
- Chemically neutralized paper protects your stamps for generations.
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- Yearly supplements available to keep your album up-to-date.
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COMMERCIAL COVERS

Rob Washburn
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Skowhegan, ME 04976

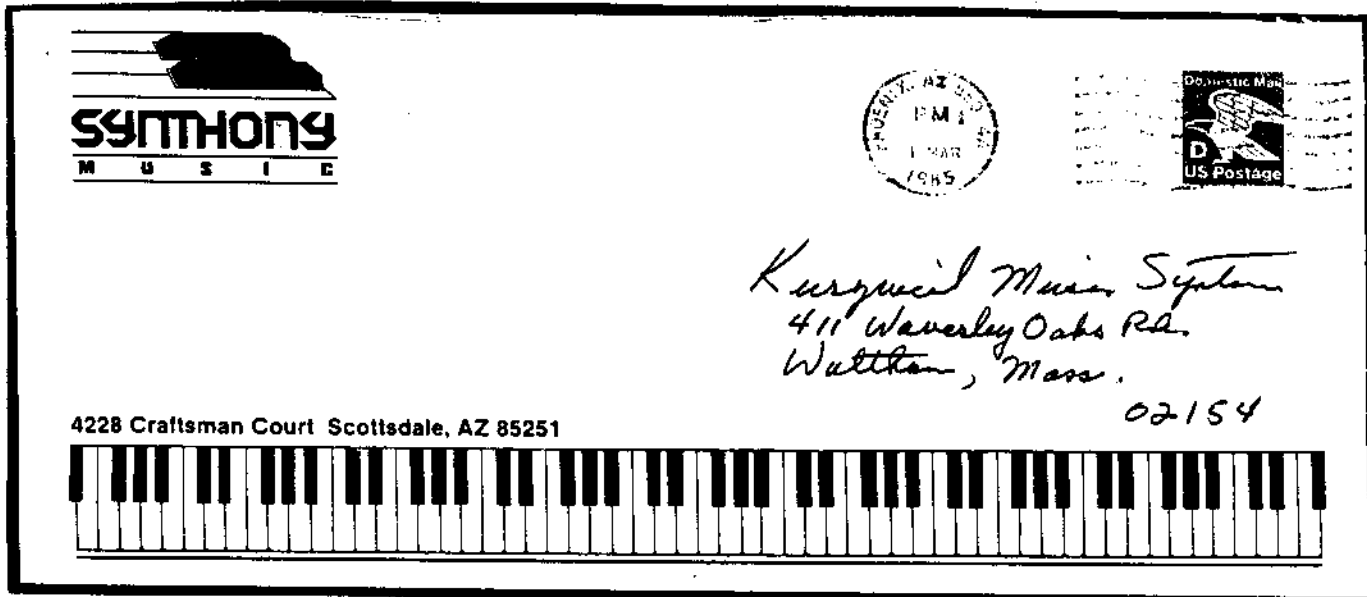
(5th in a Series: Consumer Ed. and "D")

The 20c Consumer Education coil was released on April 27, 1982 in Washington, D.C. It was issued in order to meet the 20c first ounce first class rate (which was in effect from November 1, 1981 until February 16, 1985). The plate numbers appear every 24 stamps on a roll. Plate numbers 1 through 4 exist, and all four numbers are known on first day covers.

The earliest known usages of this issue on commercially used cover are as follows:

<u>Plate Number</u>	<u>Earliest Known Usage Date On Commercially Used Cover</u>
1	5/3/82
2	5/13/82
3	5/4/82
4	5/7/82

All four numbers are fairly easy to find on commercial covers. Prices for Consumer Education PNC commercial covers are generally \$5 - \$10 each. All four numbers are known on covers tied by purple machine cancels. Be sure to check your Consumer Education PNC covers for tagging varieties, especially the untagged errors.



The 22c "D" coil was issued on February 1, 1985 in Los Angeles, California. It was issued to meet the 22c first ounce first class rate which was in effect from February 17, 1985 until April 2, 1988. The plate numbers appear every 38 stamps on a roll. Plate numbers 1 and 2 exist and both are known on first day covers.

The earliest known usages of this issue on commercially used cover are as follows:

<u>Plate Number</u>	<u>Earliest Known Usage Date On Commercially Used Cover</u>
1	2/13/85
2	2/12/85

Both numbers are fairly easy to find on commercial cover, but are not as plentiful as one would think. Such covers are valued at \$5 - \$10 each. "D" stamps also exist with tagging varieties, including untagged errors. It just might be worth your while to get out your UV light and check for such varieties.

I received three new reports this month...20c Pumper #14 has been found on cover tied by purple machine cancel. That same PNC has also been found on a cover dated 8/11/82. The 20c Flag #10 also has been found with an earlier usage date - 2/9/84.

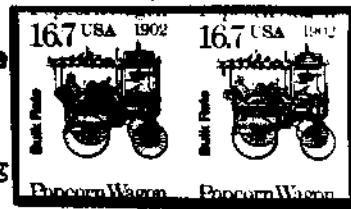
Next month, I'll review the 22c Flags.

Briefly...

Thank you for postage contributions: Neil Steckley, \$6.06; Pat Kelley, \$43.42.

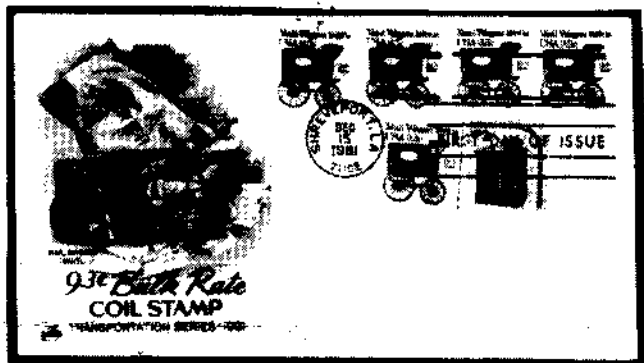
The 25¢ Yosemite "Black Forest" has been reported on rolls of 100 of plate number 9 in Arizona. This color variety has now been reported on plate numbers 4, 5, and 9.

In addition to an imperf and misout 16.7¢, the 25¢ Yosemite exists on #5 (block tagged) imperf. Imperf examples are rumored on Yosemite #8, 3¢ #1, and 20.5¢ #1.



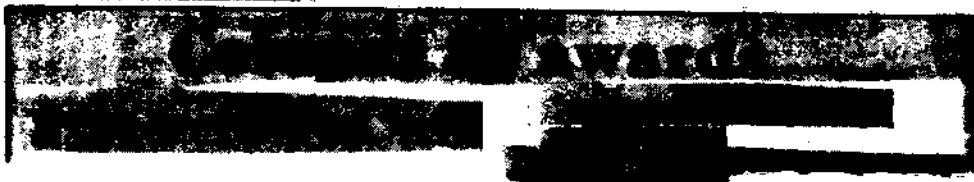
PNC³ officers serve for a one-year term from annual meeting to annual meeting. The meeting this year is in August at STAMPSHOW in the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, California. Members will receive a ballot in the mail before then.

"Sad Story" Department: a Chicago sorter found this 18¢ Flag #6 in a mixture. He xeroxed it in a supermarket photocopier, took the photocopy home, but forgot the stamp. He rushed back, but it was gone.



949 © 1903 F.D.C. Very Rare, Pht. No. 3, on Aircraft, U.A., also has 1903's, super combination cvr., perhaps unique! 2,000.00
950 © 1903 F.D.C. Very Rare, Pht. No. 4, (Same as #3)..... 2,000.00

Each of these covers realized \$1,350 in Dale Enterprises' May 1 Mail Sale. Dale reports that bidding on all PNCs on First Day Cover was strong.



There will apparently be separate Scott catalog numbers for 25¢ Yosemite "block-tagged" and "pre-phosphored." Most of us, then, will need to be on the look out for both examples on those numbers which come both ways.

Known block-tagged: #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9.

Known pre-phosphored: #5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

For the February 14 first day postmark, I doubt whether USPS personnel scrutinized what was affixed. If you buy or trade for these covers, be sure the plate strips are pre-phosphored. Pre-phosphored numbers 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 are known on FDC.

