

# COIL LINE

## JOURNAL of PNC<sup>3</sup>

Vol. III, No. 8

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August 1990

Don Eastman, President  
24 Bemis Street  
Berlin, NH 03570

Harold Brown, Editor  
909 Parker St.  
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

## PNC<sup>3</sup> annual meeting Aug. 25

The annual General Meeting of the Plate Number Coil Collector's Club (PNC<sup>3</sup>) will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 25 in room 234 of the Cincinnati Convention Center.

The meeting is being held in conjunction with the American Philatelic Society's 104th Annual Convention, STaMpsHOW '90, which runs Aug. 23-26.

The PNC<sup>3</sup> Board Meeting will be held at 10 a.m. Aug. 25 in room 225.

Two hours have been set aside for the annual meeting. Among the topics will be the announcement of new PNC<sup>3</sup> officers. There may also be some issues relative to the PNC<sup>3</sup> charter that may come before the board. Charter changes must be submitted to the membership for approval.

Admission to STaMpsHOW '90 is

\$2 per day. There is also a four-day pass that costs \$6.50. Youth under age 18 are admitted free when accompanied by a parent or an adult.

STaMpsHOW '90 will feature a bourse of more than 100 dealers and suppliers. Dealers will be present from the United States, Canada and Europe.

A number of governmental agencies, including the U.S. Postal Service, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the United Nations and the Federal Duck Stamp Program will have booths.

There will be two stamp exhibits—The World Series of Philately and the Open Exhibition. The show also features the largest exhibit of philatelic literature in the world.

Show hours are 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Aug. 23, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Aug. 24 and 25 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug.

26.

The Hyatt Regency Cincinnati is the show headquarters and is across the street from the main entrance to the convention center.

Because of construction on Interstate 75 along the west side of Cincinnati, those traveling south are advised to take I-275 to I-71 south. Follow I-71 to the Vine Street exit. Go to 6th Street, turn left, go to Plum, turn left then left on 5th St.

Northbound from Kentucky, take I-75 to the 5th St. exit in Covington, Ky., turn left on Main St. and proceed across the Clay Wade Bailey Bridge to Cincinnati. Turn right on 3rd St., then left on Elm St.

The Convention Center and Hyatt Regency are at 5th and Elm.

Parking garages are available near the Convention Center.

## Editor's corner

By HAROLD BROWN  
Coil Line Editor

PNC<sup>3</sup> member Richard McBride, Glendale, Calif., died June 25. In a letter to PNC<sup>3</sup> member Alan Thomson, McBride's son, Sean, wrote that his father "was an avid stamp collector and enjoyed your publication very much."

The last two pages of this issue contain the rules and regulations, along with consignment forms for the fourth PNC auction. Members owe a great deal of thanks to Dave Agrodnia for volunteering to organize these auctions. Dave is one of many PNC<sup>3</sup> members who have decided to become involved in the club and its success. If you want to become involved or have an idea that might spur others to get involved, let me know. In your letter, outline what you have in mind and include your phone number.

During an "Interstate 75 luncheon" between the editor and Gene Trinks, who was passing by Bowling Green on business, Trinks passed on the idea of a clearing house to assist members who are building exhibits of PNC material. He said a clearing house would provide a method for members to let other members know what they need to enhance an exhibit. Such a clearing house could become a monthly feature of Coil Line. However, before going ahead, we need your

ideas on how such an operation would work, and any problems that might be crop up. Send your ideas to the editor. If there is enough response by the annual meeting at STaMpsHOW Aug. 25, the issue might be among those discussed.

Ballots for the PNC<sup>3</sup> election were mailed via first class mail in early July. Ballots are due by August 10 so that the nominating committee of Conrad Keydel, Joann Lenz and Gene Trinks can make the count and notify the winners. Results will be announced at the annual meeting and in the October issue of Coil Line. The editor hopes PNC<sup>3</sup> members are better at exercising their right to vote than most Americans.

President Don Eastman reports the club officers and directors have decided that all future advertising, dues and other debts to the club must be paid for in cash. Postage will no longer be accepted as an equivalent. Donations of postage will continue to be accepted.

The "cash" policy does not affect free classified ads available to all members. Two free 40-word ads per year are allowed each member. Buy, sell or trade, what do need?

(Continued on page 2)

# Editor's corner

(Continued from page 1)

Send all ad copy to the editor to arrive by no later than the 15th of the month.

This month's Coil Line includes the start of a new series on used PNC material by Michael Lipson of Reston, Va. The series will appear every other month. Let Mike (and the editor) know how you feel about the points he raises. Mike presently envisions four articles. With member suggestions, the series may be able to continue longer.

Do you have an idea for an article or a series of articles? If so, send the editor an outline of the article or series. The frequency of the articles is up to the author. The editor is happy to have material for Coil Line. Copy makes the 15th of the month a lot brighter for the editor.

After three months in charge of Coil Line, the editor has been overwhelmed by the support and contributions of material. Coil Line's content is a reflection of your contributions. I know there are many more stories and ideas among the membership. As the summer vacation season begins to wind down (all good things must come to an end) think about your collection and what interests you. Write a letter, an article or send in a photocopy of something you find unusual. Contact another member, bid in the upcoming PNC auction or begin building an exhibit.

Readers of Linn's Stamp News may have seen in the July 23 issue the latest survey of its subscribers, shows 37.2

percent said they collect PNCs. The figure was 32.6 percent in 1988. If PNC collecting is a fad, it certainly is growing. The editor suspects interest will be sparked anew when the rate changes occur in 1991. In the meantime, I plan to fill in a few of the many blanks in my collection, if I can find the extra money!

Joseph Coveney of Orchard Park, N.Y., points out he erred in a letter published in the July issue of Coil Line. Joseph wrote he had received a block tagged 25c Yosemite from the Philatelic Sales Division. He meant to write the stamp was phosphored.

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### Exceptional Buy Prices Regular Issue F-VF PNCs

Add 25% for XF PS5, Bonus for longer size XF strips

	PS3	PS5		PS3	PS5
5.2¢ #1,2	\$2.80	\$4.75	18¢ #4	\$2.00	\$4.00
5.2¢ #3	\$55.00	\$70.00	18¢ #6	\$775.	\$1250.
5.2¢ #5	\$40.00	\$50.00	18¢ #7	\$5.50	\$8.50
5.9¢ #3,4	\$1.75	\$5.00	20¢ #1	\$2.00	\$30.00
7.4¢ #2	\$4.00	\$5.00	20¢ #4	\$15.00	\$275.
9.3¢ #1,2	\$2.50	\$8.00	20¢ #6	\$20.00	\$40.00
9.3¢ #3,4	\$7.00	\$14.00	22¢ #3	\$5.00	\$22.00
9.3¢ #5	\$70.00	\$95.00	22¢ #6	\$2.00	\$2.50
9.3¢ #6	\$80.00	\$115.	22¢ #13	\$2.00	\$2.50
10.9¢ #1,2	\$4.00	\$14.00	22¢ #14	\$4.00	\$8.50
11¢ Cab #2	\$1.10	\$1.50	25¢ BK #9	\$3.00	\$4.50
14¢ B#2	\$0.70	\$1.00	Pumper		
17¢ #6	\$4.00	\$8.00	20¢ #1	\$15.00	\$70.00
Surrey			20¢ #2	\$70.00	\$500.
18¢ #1	\$25.00	\$42.50	20¢ #7,8	\$12.00	\$80.00
18¢ #3,4	\$20.00	\$30.00	20¢ #11	\$20.00	\$35.00
18¢ #15,16	\$1.75	\$3.00	Consumer		
18¢ #13-18	\$1.25	\$2.10	20¢ #1,2	\$10.00	\$6.00
Flag			20¢ #3,4	\$10.00	\$50.00
18¢ #1	\$50.00	\$165.	20¢ Off #1	\$8.00	\$17.00
18¢ #2	\$8.00	\$20.00	22 D Off #1	\$15.00	\$30.00
18¢ #3	\$80.00	\$450.	25¢ BW #4	\$1.00	\$1.75

I buy mint and used PNC collections.

Ship for my prompt offer check.

Michael B. Lipson - Box 2543 • Reston, VA 22090

## COIL LINE

Published as the monthly journal of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club, also known as PNC3.

Deadline for copy to be considered for the next issue is the 15th of the month, except as otherwise announced.

President  
Don Eastman  
24 Bemis St.  
Berlin, NH 03570

Distribution  
Al Thomson  
P.O. Box 91  
Northwood, NH 03621

Precancel Permit No. 1 Northwood, NH 03621.

Change of address notices and club applications should be sent to:  
Eric Russow, Secretary,  
P.O. Box 7386  
Des Moines, IA 50309.

Dues should be sent to:  
Rob Washburn, Treasurer,  
P.O. Box 840  
Skowhegan, ME 04976

## Membership

### New applicants:

Philip Young  
Panama City, FL 32404

Daniel Brown  
Charlotte, NC 28209

Howard Himmelbaum  
Bedford, TX 76021

Linda Hooghe  
Kettering, OH 45429

J. Curtis Mack II  
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Margaret Stanchfield  
Kent, WA 98031

Paul Kattelmann  
Sharonville, OH 45262

### Change of address:

Gary Lovinger (No. 314)  
9111 Saratoga Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46804  
(effective Aug. 15)

John Tubbs  
P.O. Box 1805  
Burleson, TX 76028-1895

Charles Morton (No. 515)  
2001 E. 21st St. No. 220  
Signal Hill, CA 90806

Carl Darnell (No. 552)  
1338 Hathaway Rising  
Rochester Hills, MI 48306

## Letters

# Thanks from auctioneer

### To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many consignors and bidders who have expressed their satisfaction with the auction program. I think many of you have a sense of the extraordinary amount of time that is put into this endeavor. I certainly appreciate your notes of encouragement and the many nice gestures in the form of nice used stamps on your correspondence.

On the negative side, I have had six lots returned through the first three auctions. In every instance the bidder had a valid reservation with

the material received. Three of the lots resold to other bidders, so to date only three bid lots have been returned to consignors. I appreciate the understanding that consignors have shown in these matters.

Also, there have been a few errors or omissions in the auction listings. I will endeavor to eliminate these in the future.

If you have not participated in the auction program, and you have questions, don't hesitate to write.

Dave Agrodnia  
219 School Street  
Berlin, NH 03570

## Author corrects error

### To the Editor:

I goofed. My last article on the 2c Locomotive EKUs listed my own earliest known usages from my own collection. I looked at the wrong list when I took down the dates. In any case, the actual EKUs on cover of the 2c Locomotives are as follows.

Plate Number	Earliest Known Usage Dates on Cover
Cotrell 2	2/19/85
3	6/16/84
4	12/14/82
6	2/20/85
8	2/18/85
10	2/23/85
B-press 2	3/17/87

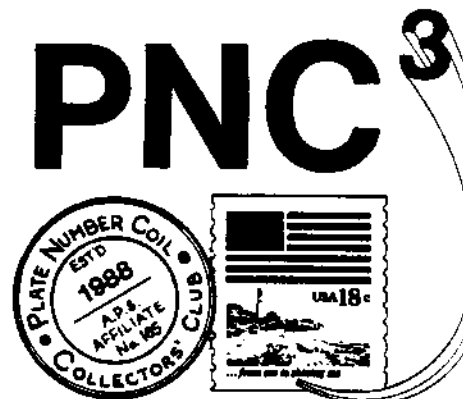
Rob Washburn  
P.O. Box 840  
Skowhegan, ME 04976

## Ads

**GROWING STOCK** of PNC commercial covers for sale or trade. Also seeking dealers who'd like to trade excess covers and used singles for same of mine to balance stock. Send haves, wants and quantities. My lists in return. Mac Johnson, 279 Roan Road, Eugene, OR. 97401.

**COLLECTION** of First-Day Ceremony Programs and USPS Souvenir Pages for sale. Of 23 programs, 20 have PNCs-including two with different PNCs, two with error dates in the cancels and one with a buggy whip. All four SPs have PNCs. Retail value plain (without PNCs) is \$230. Price for entire collection, postpaid and insured is \$920. Ken Lawrence, P.O. Box 3568, Jackson MS. 39207. Phone 601-969-2269.

**NEW AND IMPROVED!!** Lots of new listings and **ILLUSTRATED!!** 1990 editions of **PNCs on COVER** and **PNC VARIETIES**. **PNCs ON COVER** - "a must for cover collectors" \$7.50. **PNC VARIETIES** "the most comprehensive list of PNC varieties available anywhere," \$12.50. Special: Save \$2 when you buy both-\$18.00 postpaid. Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, ME 04976.



# Lawrence/Linn's book a 'buy'

By DR. ROBERT RABINOWITZ

37 Stanwick Place  
Stamford, Conn. 06905

*Linn's Plate Number Coil Handbook by Ken Lawrence. Published by Linn's Stamp News. \$14.95 paperback, \$30, clothbound.*

I opened the package from Linn's that I knew contained Ken Lawrence's book with great anticipation. At first glance I certainly wasn't disappointed. The glossy illustrated cover painted in the colors of America was certainly attractive. Thumbing through the pages revealed a continuum of illustrations, along with a print size and clarity that would accommodate almost all readers.

The historical development was excellent and included foreign forerunners as well as a brief description of the original five-digit plate numbers that were found on miscut rolls for over half-a-century. By the time a reader is finished with the first 40 pages, he or she has a relatively complete background on the factors that led the postal service to revise their plate number system in 1981 and thus "give birth" to the plate number coil (PNC). The only thing missing is Lawrence's failure to name the father and step-father of plate number coil philately. Perhaps he's leaving that for a second edition.

The format of the bulk of the rest of the book is rather interesting and clever. Thus, each year is treated separately with a chapter covering the issues of each year between 1981-1989. In between each yearly chapter is one "special topic chapter" which tells an interesting story or two. Thus, between 1981 and 1982 is a chapter entitled "The Key—18c Flag No. 6." And between the 1987 and 1988 chapters is one entitled "PNC's Come of Age."

A tremendous amount of information is presented in a story form rather than as a reference. Clearly, the author's personal collecting interests are focused on. Thus, first day covers and other cover material are presented in a manner and quantity that cover collectors will find exciting. Many will conclude however, that too much focus was placed on covers for a publication aimed at a general PNC audience.

Chill roller doubling was covered in an exhaustive manner. Thus eight separate references were made to the highly specialized area that we know the author has a special interest in. The handful of collectors who are also students of image doubling must have been thrilled to have had this sub-specialty highlighted. But for the bulk of PNC collectors, this couldn't have been the basis for ordering the hard cover edition as well. On the other hand, such popular sub-specialties as numbers on top and mat varieties, like the 4.9c double gaps, were essentially ignored.

The Glossary should be particularly useful to most collectors in that hundreds of terms are defined. The Appendix, which focused on methods of coil production, has to be considered illuminating for almost all readers, although some might find it a bit too technical, even though it is well written. A great deal of data is presented in the section before the well-organized name and general index but much of that has been available to the PNC fraternity through the ESRATI CATALOG. Of particular note is the "quantity shipped" data, which to my knowledge, hasn't been assembled in such

a format before.

Lawrence has done a fine job in assembling the book but some serious concerns exist. Thus, on page 53 he states that plate No. 7A of the 17c precancel "is a bit scarcer and more expensive than the others." While this might have been the case in 1987, by mid-1989, plate No. 6 and plate No. 7 had reached price parity and most dealers would readily trade their 7A for your 6A. Lawrence also stated on the same page that 17c 1,2C strips cost more and are less common than 3,4C. However, by no later than December 1988 enough finds of 1,2C had been made that these were being offered by dealers at below 3,4C.

On page 100, Lawrence illustrates a strip of 9 of the 10.9 No. 4 Gap 4R. He described it as "one of the scarcest positions of this issue." While this might have been the case in early 1987, by the time 1988 rolled in, the location of about two-thirds of a roll of 3,000 changed the scarcity situation completely. For at least the last 2½ years, Gap 4R has been almost as "common" as the line gap.

Why weren't the valuations updated? Are other conclusions in the book regarding relative valuations equally stale? Does this reflect Lawrence's lack of contact with the marketplace or can we just write them off to "mistakes"? There are numerous late additions to the book's main sections such as the "just before press time" updating of the Wayne Anmuth situation on page 150, the January 1990 update of the Earth stamp FDC's on page 229 and the recognition on page 240 that plate number 3 existed (found several months into 1990) on the 8.4c wheelchair.

Thus, where changes were defined, apparently they were accommodated.

Without any independent review having been published, this book is an unquestionable success, at least if you equate success with sales. Mike Laurence, publisher and editor of Linn's, has advised that in excess of 2,000 copies have already been sold, with more orders every day. Linn's has pumped \$20,000 worth of advertising space into promoting the book and is still going strong. While it costs Linn's only a tiny fraction of the \$20,000 in "real dollars," they effectively have spent over \$10 in space for each book they've sold. With the wholesale cost at \$8.97 each (retail \$14.95), it looks like a loss. But it's far from that. Linn's and Ken Lawrence have an unquestionable success here.

From the plate number coil point of view, the publication of the book, the tremendous publicity Linn's has given it and the reception it has received all have to be looked at as tremendous pluses. The book has given PNC collecting much greater visibility and even more credibility. Those skeptics who looked at PNC collecting as merely a "fad" will have to rethink their position. PNC collecting is here to stay with a very bright future.

Most PNC-3 members are "die-hard" PNC collectors and I'll bet were in the first contingent to order the book from Linn's. If you don't own one yet, I recommend it strongly.

One final point. Although Ken Lawrence is a controversial figure and never shuns an argument, I must compliment him (and/or his editor) for keeping personalities and personal vendettas off the pages.

# PNC Commercial Covers

By ROBERT WASHBURN    WHAT IS A COMMERCIAL COVER?  
P.O. Box 840  
Skowhegan, Me. 04976

I've received quite a bit of correspondence in recent months regarding what is the definition of a commercial cover. Opinions widely vary on this subject, and I doubt whether this article will answer the question once and for all. In any case, a good starting point is a definition recited in Kenneth A. Wood's This is Philately Volume One:

"A commercial cover is one that has seen normal use and has carried a message through a postal system, as opposed to one that was created for philatelic purposes.

Some definitions restrict the term to covers of a commercial nature with a business return address, but many collectors use the term to distinguish a nonphilatelic item from one created for a philatelic purpose, such as a cacheted first-day cover.

Covers with a postal history significance are usually commercial, and seldom does a contrived philatelic cover have any real postal history interest."

Mr. Wood's definition works pretty well in most cases, but what do you call a cover from a stamp collector or dealer which carries a message through a postal system? Is it commercial simply because it carried a message and went through the mailstream as Mr. Wood's definition suggests? Does it matter that the message carried is philatelic?

Terence Hines, editor of the Modern Postal History Journal, feels that any cover from or to a collector is philatelic. He does, however, acknowledge that a cover to a collector from a commercial firm, such as a bill from a local merchant, could be considered a commercial cover. The cover pictured below was sent to me by a publishing company in New Haven, Connecticut. It shows an early usage of the Flag Over Yosemite #2 prephosphered coil. It contained information on some legal books for sale. Despite being addressed to me, this cover is commercial, at least in my opinion.



MARKHAM PUBLISHING CORPORATION

211 ATLANTIC ST., BOX 950, STAMFORD, CT 06904

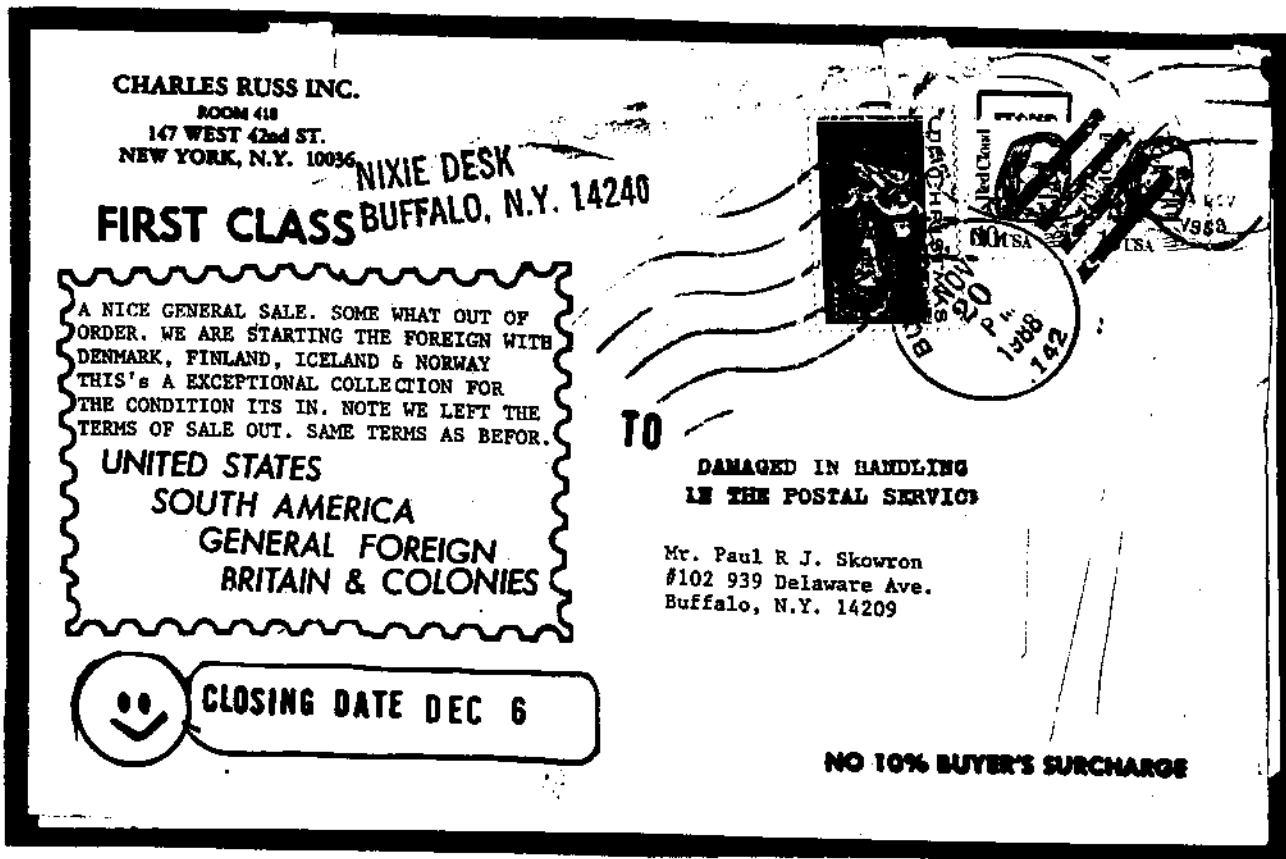


Robert M. Washburn, Attorney at Law  
Eames, Sterns & Washburn  
65 Cross Street  
Skowhegan, ME 04976



Obviously, the test of whether a cover is commercial or philatelic should not be decided solely on the basis of whether the sender or recipient of a cover is a stamp collector/dealer or not.

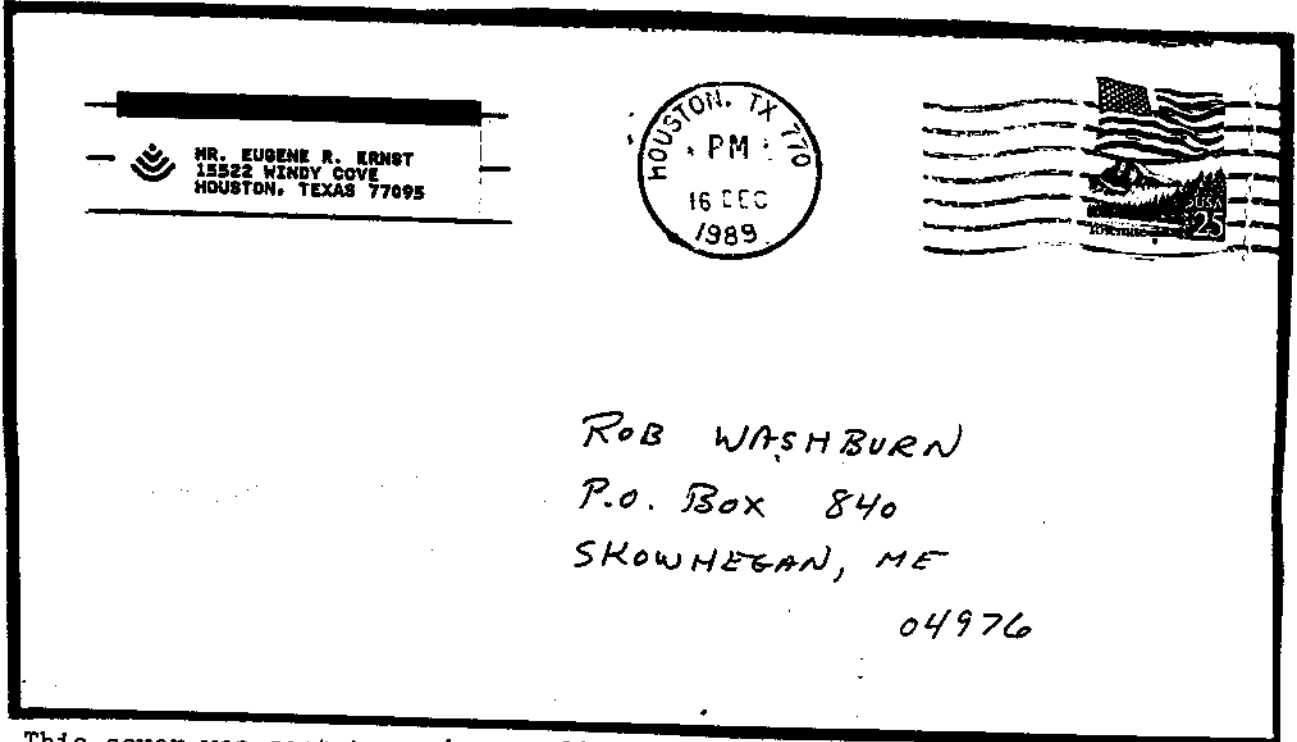
The cover illustrated below is from a stamp dealer to a collector. Note the "Nixie Desk/Buffalo, NY 14240" and "Damaged in Handling in the Postal Service" auxillary markings.



Is this cover philatelic? The answer could be yes or no depending on your definition. Rick Lancaster, proprietor of Mainly Modern Philatelics (who provided me with the above cover), feels that while this cover has an obsolete 5c Christmas stamp affixed to it and started out as a philatelic cover, he considers this to be a non-philatelic item because of the added auxillary markings. Mr. Lancaster focuses his definition on whether the cover was intentionally collector-prepared or not. Since the auxillary markings were not placed on the cover by the sender/dealer or the collector/recipient, then he feels that the cover is commercial.

Mr. Lancaster's definition works quite well when applied to PNCs on cover. If the PNC is intentionally placed on the cover, then the cover is philatelic. If the PNC is not intentionally placed on the cover, then it is a commercial cover. The drawback, of course, is trying to figure out what the intentions of the sender were.

Consider the cover pictured below.



This cover was sent to me by a collector paying his PNC<sup>3</sup> dues. He used a Flag Over Yosemite #8 single on the cover. I assume he did it intentionally, but I've never asked him. How will anyone know a hundred years from now?


The June 20, 1988 issue of Linn's showed a picture of a cover with a plate strip of five of the 18c Flag #6 cancelled August 19, 1982. This cover was touted as being perhaps the most valuable PNC item known. That cover was sent from a stamp dealer to a collector. It is not known whether the plate strip was intentionally or unintentionally placed on the cover. Is it a "commercial" cover? What do you think?

In discussing this article with Ken Lawrence recently, he mentioned that a gentlemen named Dan Mayo has coined the term "semi-philatelic" for some covers he sells in his auctions. Mr. Mayo defines a semi-philatelic cover as one in which the primary purpose is for carrying mail, but which uses stamps not normally used and only likely to be in stamp collector's hands. The 18c Flag #6 cover probably falls within Mr. Mayo's definition of a semi-philatelic cover.

Obviously, that 18c Flag #6 cover is very valuable and very much collectable no matter if it's a commercial cover or not. Collectability is a matter of preference. Purist PNC commercial cover collectors don't want philatelic or semi-philatelic covers in their collections. Others will be proud to have any and all PNC covers in their collections. Some PNCs are so scarce on cover that if one wants an example in his collection, he just might have to accept one that could be tainted by being labeled philatelic or semi-philatelic. For instance, virtually all known fractional tagged PNC covers are philatelic. They simply are not usually found otherwise. I believe that fifty years from now

collectors will be happy to have such contrived covers. In the 1930's, postmasters created fancy cancels for use on registered mail. Most of those fancy cancelled covers which have survived today were created by collectors back then, and despite being labeled philatelic, such covers are avidly sought and are quite expensive. The same is true of any of the dollar value Columbian issues on cover, virtually all of which are philatelic covers. Perhaps, we shouldn't scorn today's contrived, philatelic or semi-philatelic PNC covers after all. Would you turn down a fancy cancelled 1930's collector-prepared cover, or dollar value Columbian on cover, or the 18c Flag #6 cover mentioned earlier, just because they might not be strictly commercial? I know I wouldn't.

I want to acknowledge and thank the following people who sent comments and ideas for this article: Rick Lancaster, Tom Maeder, Ed Denson, Ken Lawrence, Bill McMurray and Terry Hines.

 <b>Lighthouse</b> ®		<b>1989 SUPPLEMENT</b> to „SF“ Hingeless <b>PNC STRIP ALBUM</b> available throughout the U.S. as from June 1990		
1989 Supplement for Album Part 2 (B. C/D & Andreotti Press (REGULARS and PRECANCELS))		Lighthouse Item	No. of Pages	Price
STRIPS (PS 3 or PS 5/PS 7) hingeless, with SF mounts		N 53 PNC SF/1989	9	US\$ 25.00
Note: No 1989 supplements issued this time for the ordinary and hingeless MINT or USED SINGLES albums. In view of relatively few new issues during 1989, plus the availability of quite a number of blank squares (with mounts), supplements will only be furnished again next year. It is the interest of both collectors and the publishers to get along with a sensible minimum of so-called „replacement pages“.				
Some time during July 1990, after the aforesaid supplements will have become available in North America, the complete sets of album PAGES, too, will be up-dated to include the new pages and will thereafter be supplied as follows:				
PNC Sets of Pages	Period	No. of Pages	Regular Pages without mounts	SF-Hingeless Pages with mounts
<b>PNC STRIPS PS 3/PS 5/PS 7 (Regulars &amp; Precancels)</b> Part 1: COTTRELL Press/Joint line/Reg. overall tagged Part 2: Other presses/No joint line/Reg. block tagged	1981/85	62	—	53 PNC/1 SF US \$ 170.00
	1981/89	40	—	53 PNC/2 SF US \$ 111.00
<b>PNC SINGLES (Regulars &amp; Precancels)</b> Part I: COTTRELL Press/Joint line/Reg. overall tagged Part II: Other presses/No joint line/Reg. block tagged	1981/85	13	53 CS/I US \$ 20.00	53 CS/I SF US \$ 39.00
	1981/88	14	53 CS/II US \$ 21.50	53 CS/II SF US \$ 42.00
PERFECT 2-post turn-bar Binder with „USA“ on spine EXCELLENT 13-ring Binder (without name of country on spine)			DP-53 US \$ 53.00 DE-red US \$ 54.00	
SLIP CASE			KA-red US \$ 24.00	
It's a matter of personal preference whether to choose a PERFECT or an EXCELLENT binder. In view of the lengths of particularly the PS 7 mounts, the editors feel inclined to recommend the DE-red binder for items No. 53 PNC/1 & 2 SF, since the pages are getting bent less when being turned over.				
Please place your order with your favorite dealer or else contact LIGHTHOUSE PUBLICATIONS, INC., P. O. Box 705, Hackensack, NJ 07602-0705. Canadian residents will request Canadian-Dollar-Prices from their Canadian dealer or contact LIGHTHOUSE PUBLICATIONS (CAN.) LTD. New Address: 255 Duke St., Montreal, Que. H3C 2M2, Canada.				

# Layout markings (part two)

By A. L. CIBULSKAS  
28 Westwood Drive  
Stamford, Conn. 06902

(Editor's note: This is the second of two articles dealing with layout markings on plate number coil strips).

20c Pumper, Plate No. 1, 1L  
Dot above the left side of the first p in pumper.

20c Pumper, Plate No. 1, 1L  
Dot at the six o'clock position and below the smaller wheel of the pumper.

20c Pumper, Plate No. 2, 1L  
Dot above and left of the midpoint of the first p of pumper.

20c Pumper, Plate No. 4, 2L and 1L  
Dot above and just left of the midpoint of the f of fire on 1L. A horizontal line starts above the midpoint of the e of pumper on 2L, continues to the right through the perfs, through the dot and ends above the midpoint of the pumper on 1L.

20c Pumper, Plate No. 5, 1L  
Dot above and to the left of the first p of pumper. A horizontal line starts above the f of fire, continues to the right through the dot and ends above and between the u and m of pumper.

20c Pumper, Plate No. 6, 1R  
Dot below and to the right of the large wheel of the pumper at about the five o'clock position. Horizontal line starts below the midpoint of the wheel, continues to the right, through the dot and ends in the perf area.

20c Pumper, Plate No. 7, 1L  
Dot above the f of fire.

20c Pumper, Plate No. 7, 1L  
Dot just below the midpoint of the front wheel.

20c Pumper, Plate No. 8, 1L  
Dot above and left of the f in fire. A horizontal line starting above the e of fire and proceeds to the right to above the left side of the second p in pumper.

20c Pumper, Plate No. 9, 1L and 1R  
Two dots on 1L: The first is above and slightly left of the first p in pumper and the second is above and between the u and m of pumper. There are also two horizontal lines: The first starts above the r of pumper at 2L, proceeds to the right through the perfs and end above the f of fire on 1L. The second line starts at the right side of the joint line, proceeds to the right to above the midpoint of the r and e of fire on 1R.

20c Pumper, Plate No. 10, 1L  
Dot above the first p of pumper. There are two horizontal lines: The first extends left from the dot and ends above and between the i and r of fire. The second line starts above the m of pumper and extends to the right to above the left side of the r in pumper.

20c Pumper, Plate No. 11, 1L  
Dot above the left side of r in fire.

20c Pumper, Plate No. 11, 1L  
Dot below the midpoint of the front wheel.

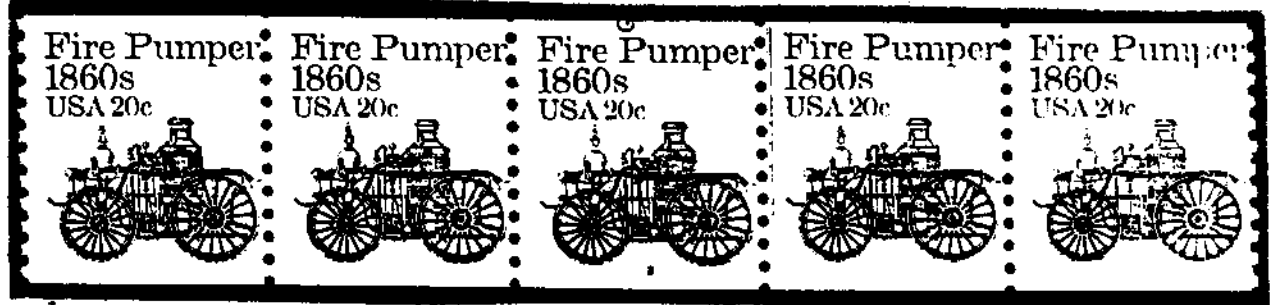
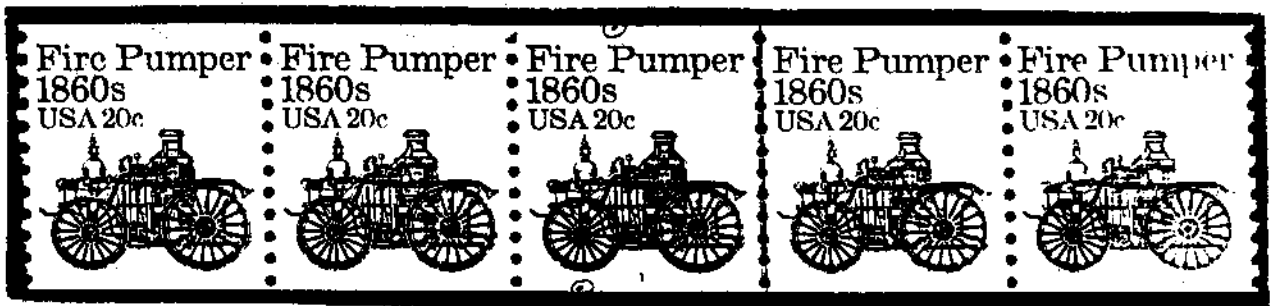
20c Pumper, Plate No. 12, 1L  
Dot above the right side of the first p in pumper.

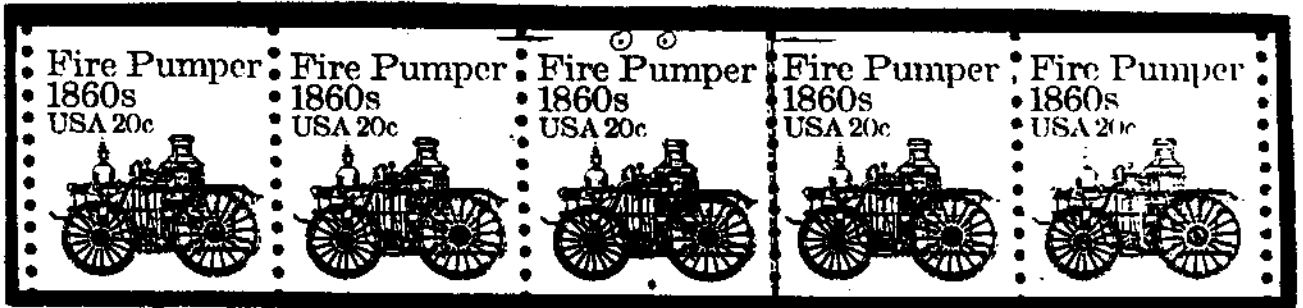
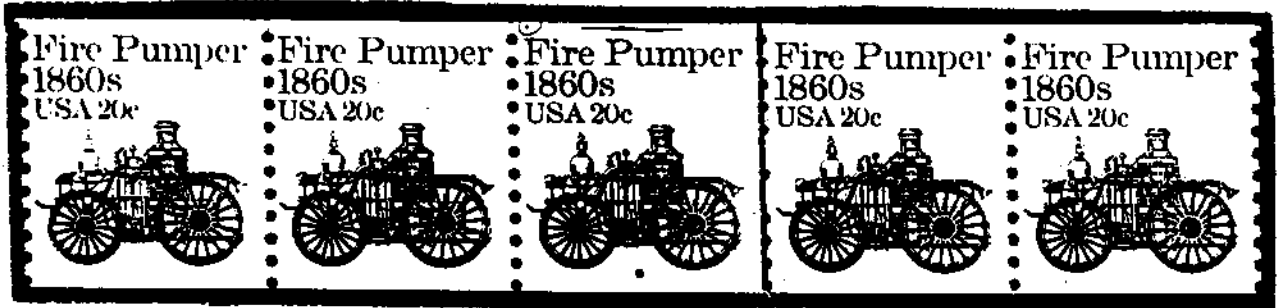
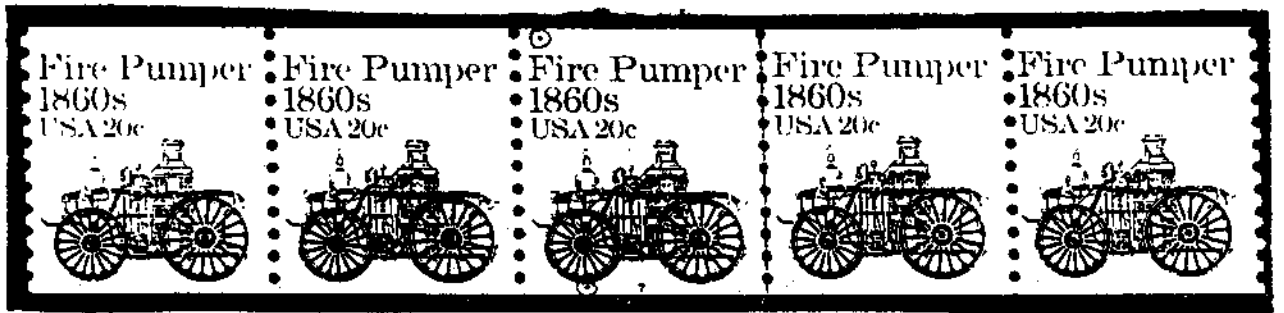
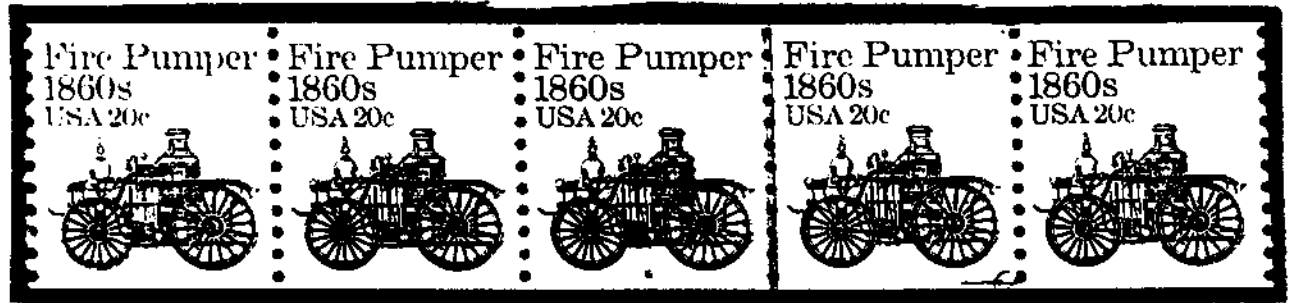
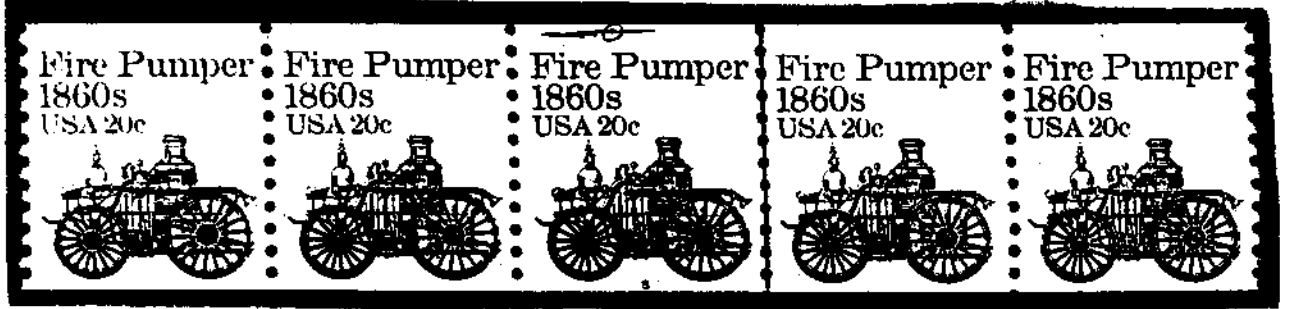
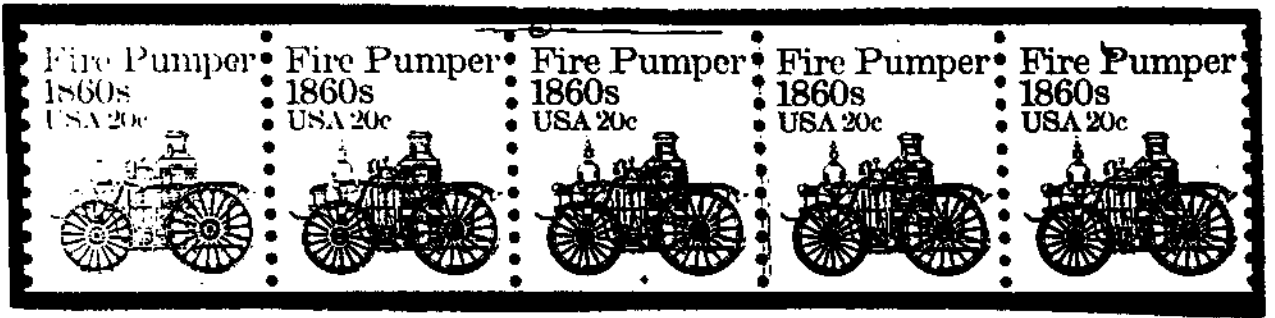
20c Pumper, Plate No. 13, 1L  
Dot above the right side of e in fire.

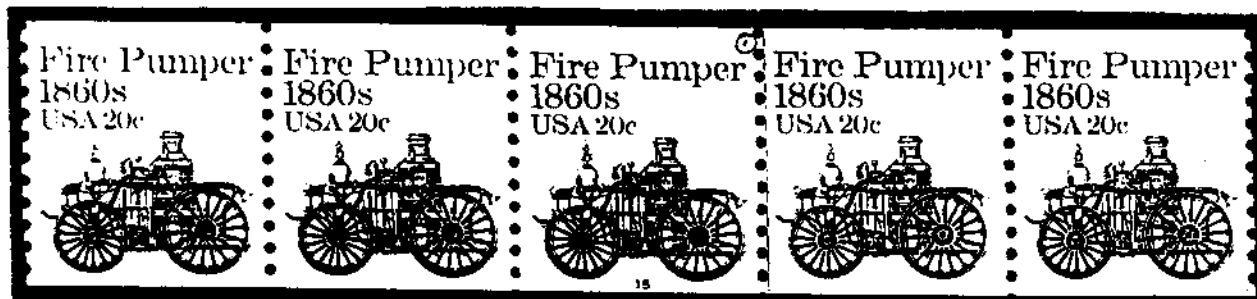
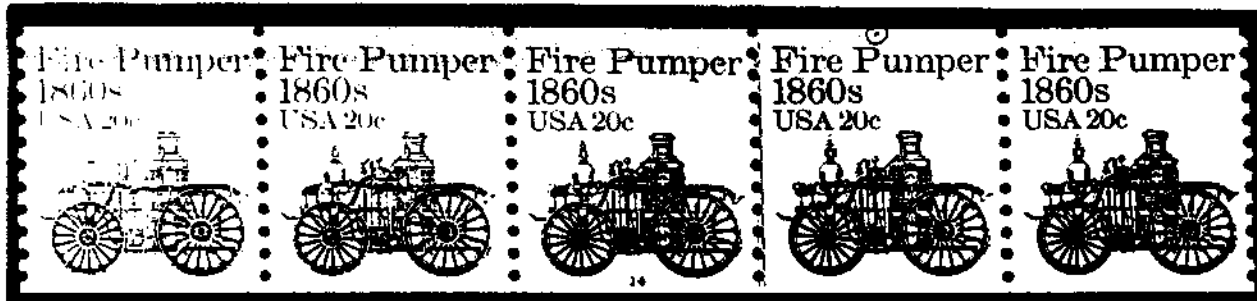
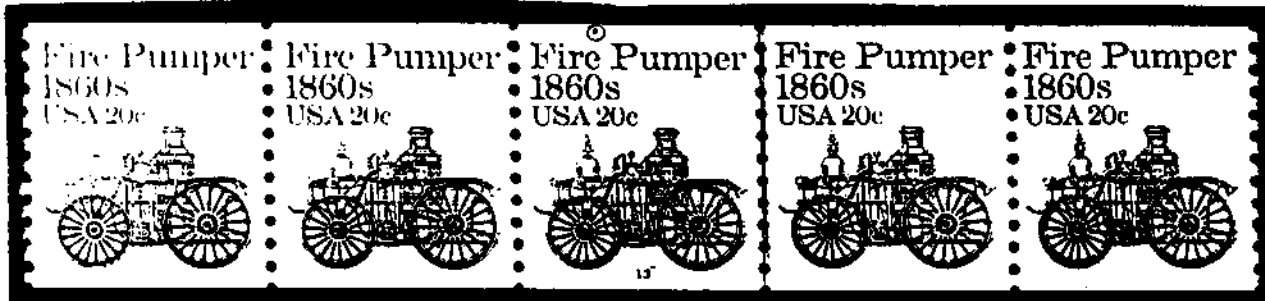
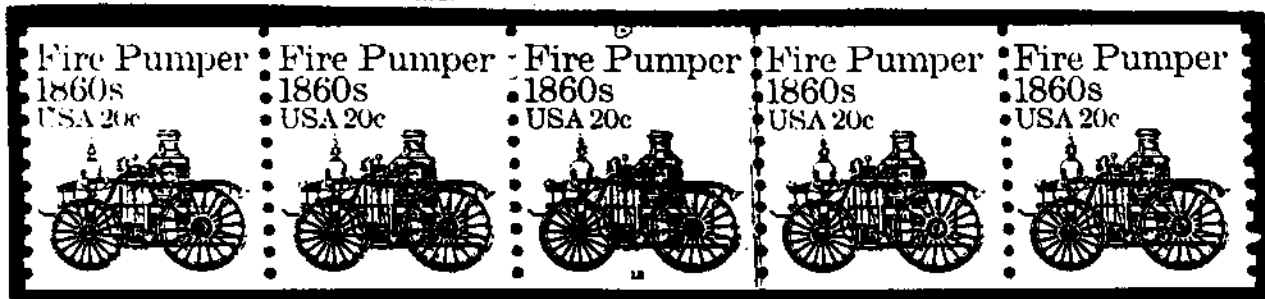
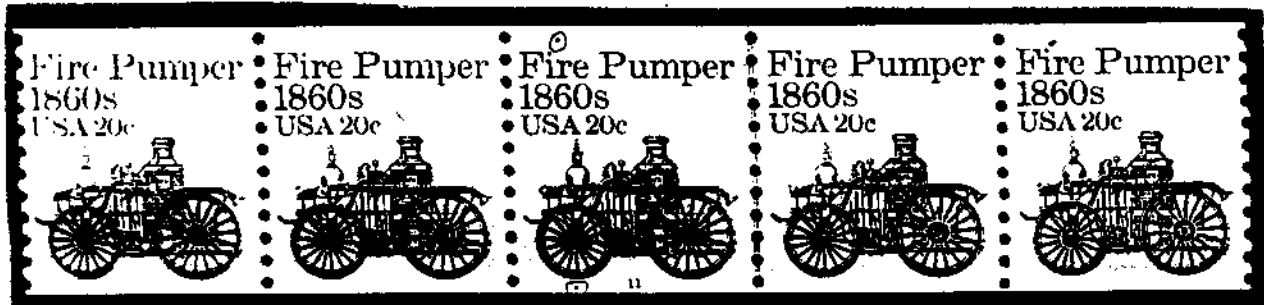
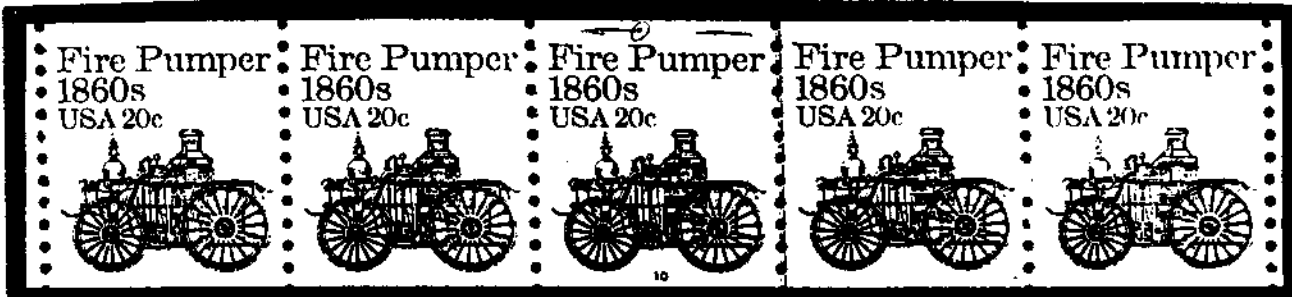
20c Pumper, Plate No. 14, 1R  
Dot above the right side of the first p in pumper.

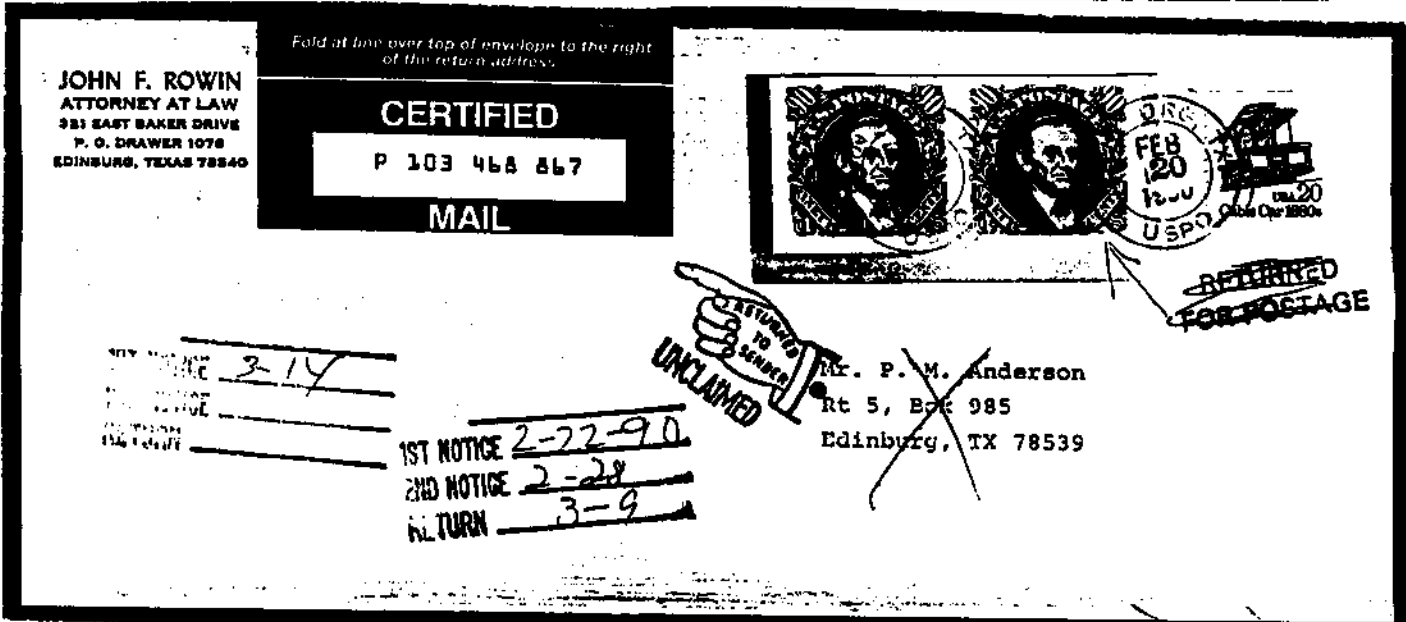
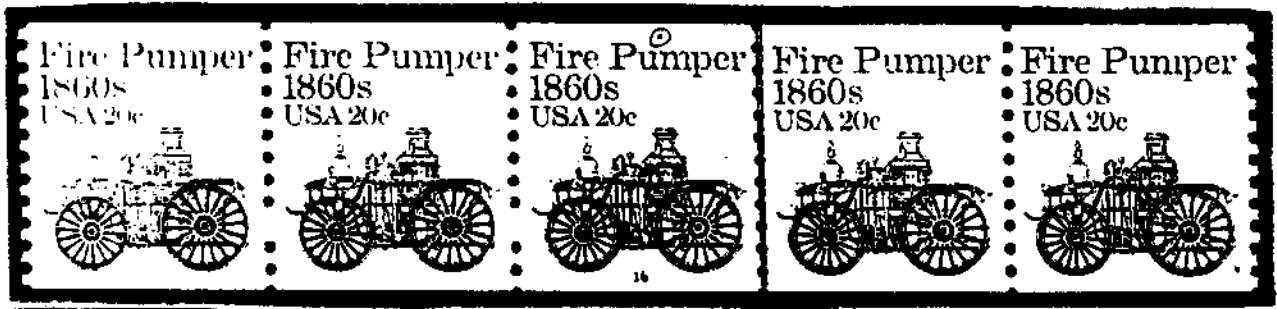
20c Pumper, Plate No. 15, 1L  
Dot above the right of r in pumper.

20c Pumper, Plate No. 16, 1L  
Dot above the left side m in pumper.









**Cover of the Month**

This PNC certified cover features a 20c Cable Car No. 1 coil, as well as a pair of 90c stamps from one of the World Stamp Expo Souvenir Sheets which were not originally recognized as stamps and a "Return for Postage" marking

was applied. Later, a postal employee, apparently, recognized that the stamps were, in fact, valid for postage and the "Return for Postage" marking was crossed out. Cover courtesy of John Rowin.

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# Used PNCs Part 1: Condition

Michael B. Lipson  
Box 2543  
Reston, VA 22091

A stamp grading system provides the collector with a standard for judging sight unseen the condition of merchandise offered for sale or trade. The standard should unambiguously capture the recognized value descriptors and be simple and convenient to apply.

Today, stamp dealers and collectors universally apply the same stamp grades to used stamps as they do to mint stamps (e.g., fine to very fine (F-VF) and extra fine (XF)). Although used and mint stamps share some condition descriptors, used stamps, PNCs in particular, have unique characteristics that are not readily captured by the mint stamp grading system. This article explores the topic of used PNC stamp condition. The three characteristics of used PNCs discussed here are imperfect perforations, centering, and the cancellation.

Stamp integrity is a characteristic assumed by most popular stamp grading systems. The stamp must be undamaged having no tears, cuts, folds or missing perforations. Perforation condition is not unique to used stamps but is more likely to be an issue for used stamps than for mint stamps. Used stamp sorters will tell you that the majority of used stamps have at least some perforation damage. Imperfect perforations can be characterized by the degree that the perfs are incomplete. Figure 1 illustrates five ratings for perforation condition as follows.

1. The stamp may have a straight edge or have some missing perfs.
2. All perfs are discernible but some may have severe indentations or be short.
3. All perfs are complete but some may have slight indentations or be short.
4. All perfs are complete with no indentations but some may be short.
5. Perforations are complete with no indentations and none are short.

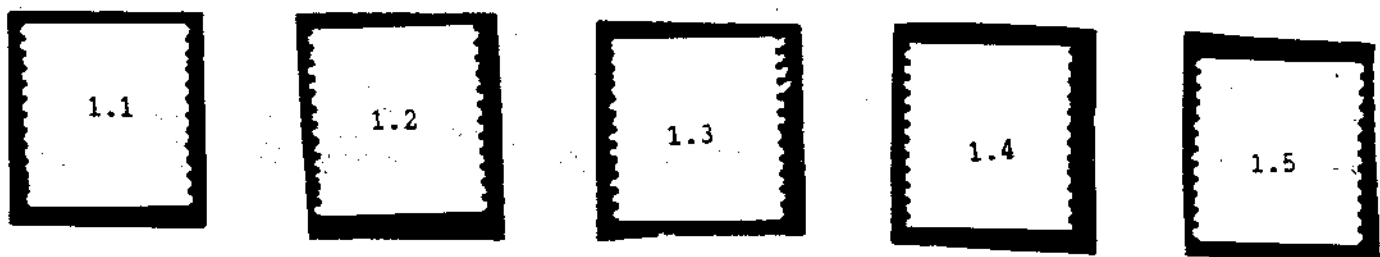


Figure 1 - Five ratings for Perforation Condition

Centering is another characteristic common to both mint and used stamps. Popular stamp grading systems for mint stamps describe horizontal centering. The percentage of the joint line within the perfs is a common quality measure of horizontal centering for issues that have a joint line. For used PNCs, the joint line loses its importance in judging stamp quality. With the focus on the plate number in PNCs, vertical centering also becomes important. Figure 2 illustrates five ratings for PNC centering as follows:

1. The plate number is cut and a partial plate number shows
2. The plate number is complete and it may touch the stamp edge or the stamp design may not be clear of the stamp edge. The stamp design may not be clear of the perfs.

3. The plate number and stamp design are clear of the stamp edge but they may be within 0.5 mm of the stamp edge. The stamp design may not be clear of the perfs.

4. The plate number and stamp design is more than 0.5 mm from the stamp edge and the stamp design is clear of the perfs.

5. The stamp centering is pleasing and well balanced with no stamp design dimension out of balance by more than 0.5 mm.

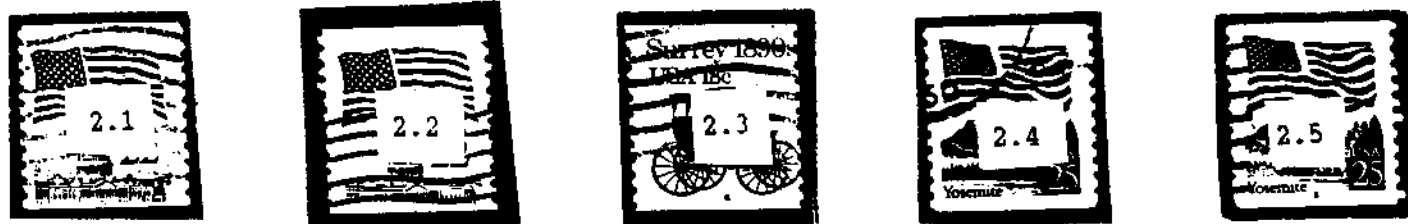


Figure 2 - Five ratings for Used PNC Centering

Used stamp condition is affected by the placement and darkness of the cancellation. Figure 3 illustrates five ratings for PNC cancellation as follows:

1. The plate number is legible through the cancellation or the cancellation is very heavy.
2. The cancellation is not heavy and it covers less than 50% of the plate number.
3. The cancellation is not heavy but it may touch the plate number.
4. The cancellation is not heavy and no part of it covers the plate number.
5. The cancellation is not heavy and it covers less than 50% of the stamp or it is light.



Figure 3 - Five ratings for PNC Cancellation

I describe various used stamp and used PNC characteristics, select characteristics that I feel are important, and finally suggest ratings for each of these characteristics. In future articles, I will combine these characteristics into a proposed standard for grading used PNCs. Special situations and their characteristics will also be discussed in future articles. Some of these are precancels, PNCs on cover, and used PNC strips.

I invite you to examine the characteristics chosen and the proposed ratings. Let me know what changes you recommend and what is personally important when you make the tough decisions. What is your opinion of the quantitative measures? How many grades should the grading system have? Should we use new names? I will respond to letters plus offer my analysis of your comments for publication in Coil Line. I hope that the discussion will promote a more usable used PNC grading system for use by dealers and collectors.

CONSIGNMENT SHEETS

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Lot #	Scott #	Description of material	Minimum Bid
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It is assumed that all mint material is never hinged, with undisturbed gum, sound perfs, etc.. If otherwise, please, note under Faults. Used materials are assumed to be unhinged, with sound perfs, etc.. If otherwise, please, note under Faults.

Centering (see grading notes)    Faults (describe)  
 (circle)

AVE F FVF VF XF S

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8. I close out the Auctions on a specified date that will appear in the COIL LINE. After I receive the checks from successful bidders, I return a check to you for your consignments.
9. I return any unsold lots for your final settlement.
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14. Insurance is strongly suggested in the sending of consignments.
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16. Please limit your consignments to 30 lots.

GRADING

- AVERAGE (AVE) NUMBER IS CUT AND/OR DESIGN TOUCHES THE PERFS.
- FINE (F) THE JOINT LINE, IF ANY, DOES NOT TOUCH THE PERFS AND/OR THE NUMBER TOUCHES THE BOTTOM EDGE. THE DESIGN IS CLEAR OF THE PERFS.
- FINE VERY FINE (FVF) THE JOINT LINE, IF ANY, TOUCHES THE PERFS AND THE PLATE NUMBER IS CLEAR OF THE BOTTOM EDGE. FOR ISSUES WITHOUT A JOINT LINE, THE NUMBER WILL BE CLEAR OF THE BOTTOM EDGE. IN BOTH INSTANCES, AT NO POINT IN THE STRIP WILL THE DESIGN BE CUT BY THE PERFS.
- VERY FINE (VF) THE JOINT LINE IS AT LEAST 50% ON THE PERFS, THE PLATE NUMBER IS WELL CLEAR OF THE BOTTOM EDGE. ON ISSUES WITH NO JOINT LINE THE NUMBERS WILL BE WELL CLEAR OF THE BOTTOM EDGE. THE ENTIRE DESIGN WILL BE WELL CLEAR OF THE PERFS.
- EXTRA FINE (XF) THE JOINT LINE IS WHOLLY WITHIN THE PERFS AND THE OVERALL CENTERING OF THE STAMPS WILL BE CLOSE TO PERFECT.
- SUPERB (S) ANY JOINT LINE WILL BE PERFECTLY CENTERED WITHIN THE PERFS AND THE STAMPS WILL BE PERFECTLY CENTERED.