

# COIL LINE

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

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Whole No. 21

March, 1990

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24 Bemis St.  
Berlin, NH 03570

Tom Maeder, Editor  
1604 Bardale Ave.  
San Pedro, CA 90731

### \$1 Sea Plane Coil Apr. 20?

A postal employee showed me an internal P.O. memo that indicated that a \$1 Sea Plane coil would be released on April 20. As of this writing, the Editor has seen no official release to that effect, nor has Linn's published it in their U.S. Stamp Program listing. I don't know if we have a "scoop" or not. Also on that memo was an indication that a \$2 Bobcat has been printed. It was not apparent whether that is a sheet stamp or a coil, or whether the subject is a construction vehicle or an animal. Beyond that, there is every indication that the next rate change will include a host of new transportation coils.

### Roster

Through the years of stamp collecting, the Editor has come to view fellow collectors as a fairly introspective, quiet, almost reclusive group. But nine years of PNC collecting has changed all of that. Over the last decade, an active network has developed coast-to-coast. The recluse does not go into neighbors' houses and start looking through the mail for PNCs on cover. And I'm sure that postal workers have fielded phone calls from PNC'ers, while never receiving phone calls from anyone else.

About twice a year, the Coil Line publishes a roster of PNC<sup>3</sup> members and their collecting specialties. It is hoped that this is a vehicle for members contacting each other. The last roster appeared in July, 1989. We'll publish it again next month. If I have your data on file, this mark (●) is colored red. If your information is not on file, please send it. We are all interested in you. Drop a postcard and list your collecting interests. For example: mint strips of 5 or 3, used singles, used strips, commercial covers, precancel gap positions, precancel mat varieties, constant plate varieties, PNC on first day cover, EFO, paper types, coil labels, numbers at top, tagging errors, souvenir pages, ceremony programs, others. Please send the information by March 10.

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Unlisted in the 1989 Esrati Catalog, this 10.1¢ #2 at top reported by James Courter II may be a new discovery.

# Letters

I have been working to set up a regional PNC3 meeting at the forthcoming Plymouth Show here in the southeastern part of Michigan. The show dates are April 28 & 29, but I don't yet have a meeting date or time. This is an APS World Series of Philately show. As I get more details firmed up concerning program, time, etc., I'll send them off. I hope those in the North Central states can attend.

**Gene Trinks**  
**3603 Bellows Ct.**  
**Troy, MI 48083**

I picked up 25F3 on pre-phosphored paper at the Northwood, NH post office. It comes in rolls of 500 from the B-press. I found it 1/24/90.

**Alan Thomson**  
**Northwood, NH**

Howard Foster mentioned finding a used Yosemite with all red trees. I also found one last week in a mixture, and also Yosemite face is in red. This mixture came from the St. Louis area.

Also found two honeybee coils with blue leaves instead of green--very easy to spot in among other stamps. Also found two honeybees with large yellow splotches outside of frame. Approximately 50% of the area outside of the frame is yellow.

**Carl R. Ditsch**  
**Leavenworth, KS**

I have a lot of used singles, pairs, PS3 and a few PS5s; also various PNC covers, most commercial size, I'd like to sell or trade for some things I need. I collect mint PS5s and used singles.

**Paul M. Dixon**  
**3346 Sunnyview N.E. #20**  
**Salem, OR 97303**

### Ad

SALE - CONSTANT PNC VARIETIES - SALE

Numbers are from "Plate Number Coil catalog 1989" by Stephen G. Esrati. Prices shown are for F-VF condition: for Avg. deduct 20%; for VF-XF add 20%; for XF-S add 40%. Also deduct 10% for orders over \$150.00.

NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	SALE PRICE
3.4T1V1	School Bus, Chill Roller, #1 or #2 PS6	F-VF \$ 8.00
4.9T1V1	Buckboard, Buggy Whip, #4 PS5	9.00
4.9T1P1V1	" Hand Brake, #1 (Gap 2R) PS10	35.00
"	" Strip of 5 no number	15.00
8.3T1V1	Ambulance, Low & Shifted #1 full and clear PS6	25.00
8.3T1V2	" No #s, XF vert. centering, PS6	50.00
8.3T1V3	" Double Full #1 Top & Bottom, PS6	85.00
10.1T1V1	Oil Wagon, Arty Shell I at 3R, PS8	15.00
10.1T1V2	" Arty Shell II, strip of 5 no #	12.00
10.1T1V3	" Flying Hyphen at 1R PS6	8.00
10.1T1V4	" Bursting Shell, Strip of 5, no #	5.00
10.1T1V5	" Dot over L of OIL at 4R, PS9	8.00
10.1T1V6	" Dot over I of Oil, strip of 5 no #	6.00
10.1T1P1V7	" Perched Parrot, strip of 5 no #	10.00
17T5V1	Electric Auto, Reclining comma, PS5	8.00
17T5V2	" Oil Drop, PS5	8.00
20T15V1	Fire Pumper, Wounded P, PS5	15.00
25M1	Honey Bee, Full Serif short #1, 9R, PS14	25.00
"	" Full Serif short #1, PS5	12.00

Bob Rowe, Box 150863, Nashville, TN 37215

# Briefly...

I know that some of us have difficulty getting window clerks to accept our pre-canceled stamps in payment of postage. One of you sly fellows paid your 1990 dues with a 2 Ft Hungarian stamp franking--handstamped, no less! Duck theme notwithstanding, it was not Bob Dumaine.



An interesting earliest known usage has appeared for the 20¢ Pumper #14 on commercial cover. The date is August 4, 1982, and is addressed from an attorney to his client in a state correctional facility. Also reported is a new EKU on the 18¢ Flag #2, dated May 15, 1981 in Fredericksburg, VA.

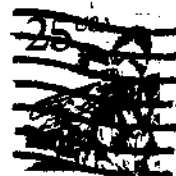
Thanks for contributions of postage: **Larry Anderson**, \$21.45; **Raymond Hahn**, \$13.50; and for cash contributions to the club, **Richard Sandford**, \$10.00; **Eugene Kiehmeier**, \$20.00.

**Conrad Keydel** reports finding an untagged Honeybee #1 on cover. #2 has been previously reported.

One dealer took the Editor to task for remarking in the February issue that some people suspected that a quantity of the 10.9¢ #3/4 were being "sandbagged." He wondered if I meant Diane Thompson; I did. The dealer is confident that Diane has no more, and claims that his own "buy" ads for #3/4 go unanswered.

Several rolls of the Honeybee without the bee have appeared in Texas. Dealer buy prices have dropped to \$25-30 per stamp, so a \$50-60 retail price seems warranted at this point.

**Don Eastman** submitted this single culled from a mixture. The bee and the plate number are printed from the same intaglio plate, so if the bee is low, so too is the number, with the number of the above row appearing at the top.



A catalog listing and bid sheets for the third PNC3 auction will appear in the April issue. **Dave Agrodnia** deserves a tremendous amount of credit for his conscientious attention to this task.

From time to time, members have written asking if I know of a collector who has an 18¢ Flag #3 strip to sell, or some other tougher number. The Editor as an individual is not an effective clearinghouse for this information, but perhaps the Coil Line is. If you have a desirable strip that you would like to sell, send the sharpest possible photocopy of it, along with your asking price. (Please do not send the strip.) Describe any faults not visible on the photocopy. Given the cost of printing the pages for the Coil Line, we would have to charge \$3 for a PS4 or longer, \$2.50 for a PS3 or shorter. Make any checks payable to "PNC3." Perhaps this would be a great service to all; perhaps not. I think it is worth a try.

The first reported splice has appeared from a roll of 10,000. It was found on a 13.2¢ #2. This splice had clear tape, and was quite unobtrusive. Those "in the know" theorize that on printings of 10,000 rolls, one splice should appear every 26 rolls.

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Des Moines, IA 50309	
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Rob Washburn, <u>Treasurer</u>	
P.O. Box 840	
Skowhegan, ME 04976	

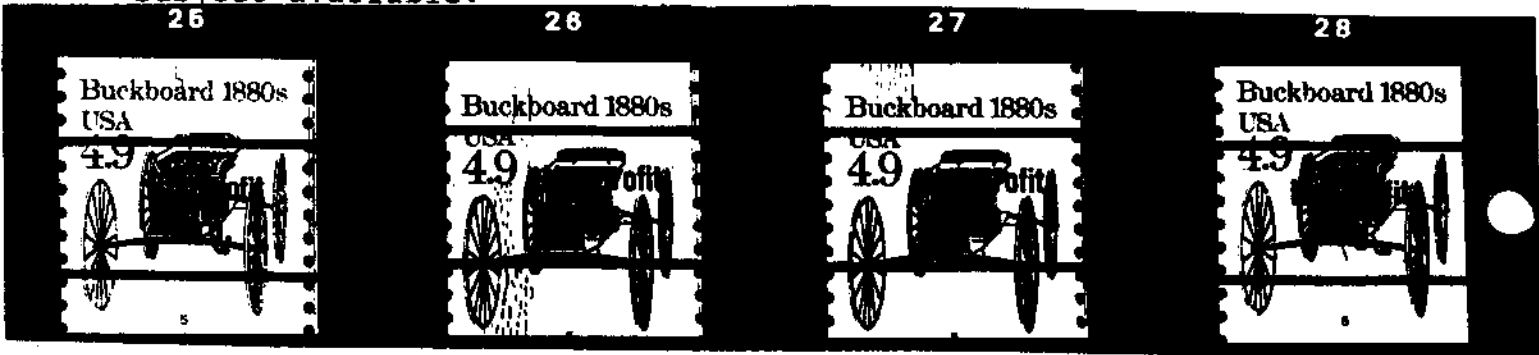
# Books . . .

(The author has submitted his books for review. He has not asked for, nor has he received, any special consideration. The opinions expressed are those of the Editor alone.)

## PNC Varieties, Robert M. Washburn, © 1990, \$12.50.

Washburn has updated his 1988 book of the same title. The work attempts to list every known variety which has been reported on plate number coils. The coils are listed in denomination order, and then by plate number. The listed varieties include imperforates, number at top, color and printing varieties, tagging varieties, chill roller doubling, low/high displaced transfers, plate varieties (gouges, cracks, chips, and scratches), layout markings, doctor blades, and precancel mat varieties.

The 1990 edition is an improvement on the previous work in that it is more comprehensive (1,500+ listings versus 1,100+) and this time includes photographic illustrations of over 100 varieties. Its layout makes it easy to use and to comprehend. There is no attempt to list catalog prices nor attribute value, but it is a catalog, nevertheless. It is professionally and lovingly done by a devoted collector. There is no more comprehensive work on the subject available.



## PNCs on Cover, Robert M. Washburn, © 1990, \$7.50.

This work is simply a listing, really, of earliest known uses by denomination and plate number of PNCs on commercial cover. The author defines "commercial cover" as "a cover which has been carried through the mailstream, except those with 'First Day of Issue' cancellations."

Rob's 1988 edition prompted many reports from collectors of earlier uses than the ones listed. As such, it was a vehicle for a much worthier edition this time. While there will always be changes, there are not likely to be as many new reports this time. But collectors who use the work love it for that very possibility--do I have, or can I find, an earlier use?

The author listened to suggestions. An appendix this time lists used singles and strips off cover which show an earlier date than the EKV on cover. Collectors of used material may not have considered that their strip may have an enhanced value because of the date on it.

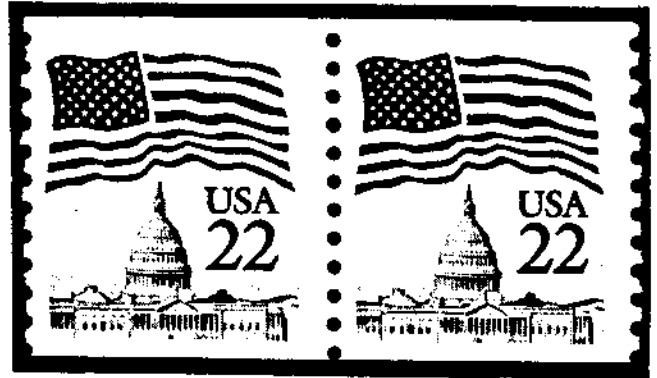
Washburn has amassed tens of thousands of covers, and is in constant touch with others who share the passion. Each plate number is listed with a scarcity rating, and I am convinced that he is in a position to know. For example, he believes that fewer than 10 covers of Surrey #15/16 exist with a "period of use" postmark, and that there are none at all for #17/18.

This edition includes photographs of some of his favorite covers, which might have been better placed in an appendix than interspersed. But this is small criticism for what I think is a very useful work.

# MORE on the "BLACK FIELD"

Several U.S. stamps have achieved Scott Catalog status as being color errors or varieties. Among them are #233a 4¢ Columbian (blue instead of ultramarine); #505 5¢ Washington (red error resulting from a 5¢ die being misplaced on a plate amidst 2¢ dies); #830 Roosevelt (deep blue instead of deep ultramarine); #834 \$5 Coolidge (red brown instead of carmine); and C23 6¢ Eagle (ultramarine instead of dark blue).

I don't claim to be an expert on color errors. Although ultramarine is different than blue, I still take it as a basic blue. But black is not blue, and that is why I think the 22¢ Flag with black field is special. It is admitted by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to be a true error (see accompanying letter), and not the result of wiping or contamination.



Some 22¢ Flag coil stamps, such as the pair shown here, were printed with a black flag field, rather than blue. The BEP has acknowledged that this is an error.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20225

APR 04 1969

REGISTERED RETURN  
RECEIPT REQUESTED

This is in response to your letter concerning the two enclosed 22¢ Flag stamps which you submitted for examination and a report of our findings.

The submitted stamps were examined visually and microscopically under ambient and ultra-violet illumination. All the requisite printing is present, and the phosphor taggant is intact. Further examination confirms your observation that the field of the flag has been printed with black intaglio ink rather than with the requisite blue ink. Furthermore, no evidence of discrete red and blue pigmentation is detectable with microscopic examination.

A spectrophotometric analysis was performed on the field of the flag, and the results support the observation that the ink in this area is black rather than blue (see enclosure). A spectrophotometric analysis of a normal, i.e., blue, field of the flag was also performed and indicates that when a normal blue ink is used for printing the field of the flag, that ink when illuminated by white light, will be reflecting radiation predominantly in the spectral region between 450 nm to 500 nm. The spectral trace of ink on the questioned stamps indicates that the ink contains no detectable blue component, since it shows no predominate peaks or absorbance regions in the visible spectral region from 400 nm to 700 nm.

Printing of 22¢ Flag stamp was performed on a three color intaglio press. Only one printing cylinder, containing the intaglio image of the Flag stamp is employed. The inks for the three colors (red, blue and black) are selectively applied to the printing cylinder by means of rollers having outlines of areas to be printed with the desired ink colors. For the 22¢ Flag stamp, a roller having an outline corresponding to the flag stripes will be inked with red ink, another roller having an outline of the field of the flag will be inked with blue ink, and finally black ink will be inked on an outline on a third roller corresponding to the Capitol and "USA 22."

The ink is supplied to these rollers from ink fountains, each of which contains the desired color for printing. The fountains have a vertical arrangement. The fountain for the red ink is at the top; blue ink is in the middle, and black ink is in the lowest fountain. Having been transferred to the rollers from the ink fountains, the ink is subsequently transferred to the printing cylinder. All excess ink is wiped from the cylinder except that remaining in the engraving. During wiping, there is a minor amount of one ink contaminating another ink, i.e., staining of the flag stripes by blue or black ink may be evident on some stamps.

It appears, from the examination of this stamp, that the black field of the flag was not due to leaking of ink from one fountain to another, since a red component would have been detected in the ink on the submitted stamp. Contamination caused by wiping is usually erratic, nonuniform staining which is easily detectable visually.

It is believed that the black field of the flag, on the submitted stamps was a result of having the wrong ink in the blue ink fountain of the press. Since this particular press is not used exclusively for printing Flag stamps, the error could have occurred as a result of a job change. Black ink and blue ink are difficult to differentiate visually by mass tone, or when they are thick films. However, the submitted stamps do not meet BEP quality standards and should have been detected during inspection.

A total of four hours were required to complete this examination. There is an initial two-hour charge of \$10, in addition to a \$3.65 postal fee to return the stamps by registered mail. Please remit a \$33.65 check or money order made payable to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, directed to my attention at the above address. The submitted stamps are herewith returned.

Sincerely,  
*Ira Yalikoff*  
Ira Yalikoff  
Acting Executive Assistant  
to the Director

Enclosures

As has been reported earlier, only one roll of 100 has surfaced. The Editor has seen copies. The error could have just as easily been a green or purple field. (The Bureau suggests that the error resulted

from ink left over from a previous printing.) But the wrong ink in the fountain was black, and since the correct color is dark blue, the error does not come jumping out at you. That makes it less glamorous as an error, but also would help account for its scarcity. A green field would probably have been detected and destroyed during production, but the black field was not spotted. In all likelihood, those sent to post offices have been used up. In artificial light, the error is not obvious, although in natural light it is.

And that is how it was spotted: by a carrier, on a letter, in sunlight. The error was discovered in Hollywood. The finder has requested anonymity, but one-on-one he is quite open about the details. As has been reported, the carrier went to the home post office of the return address and found one solitary roll. I asked him why he didn't knock on the door to see if he could obtain the used copy. He answered that the addressee is a Hollywood star who had previously served notice that he did not want the doorbell rung; he would send someone to the post office to pick up mail that required a signature. (He told me who the personality is, but I'll save the carrier from himself by not reporting it.)

He had the roll for almost a year before he obtained an opinion from BEP. In that time, he had given about half of the roll away to fellow collectors. Two pairs have been offered in Jacques Schiff's auctions with realizations of \$650 and \$675, plus 10% buyers' commission. One pair was donated to the APS reference collection. The finder retains a contiguous strip of 42, with one plate number 8. He is not driven to unload them, but does have the intention of putting more of them on the market.

Meanwhile, Scott's 1990 Specialized gives only footnote status to the error. This is seemingly inconsistent, since the above-mentioned varieties all have their own catalog number.

## Membership Report

### Reinstated

Lenard Abbott	(#412)
Noel Ahrens	(236)
James Booth	(442)
Allen Bush	(317)
Valery Countryman	(224)
Eugene Krieg	(435)
Alan Lavendier	(273)
Milton Mass	(498)
John Matthews	(167)
Debbie Pezzillo	(202)
George Richards	(200)
Richard Sandford	(204)
Robert Thiel	(494)
Michael Tilley	(104)
Lawrence Tropea	(289)

### New Applicants

Richard Sine	Sidney, OH
Alan Tossman	Santa Monica, CA
Stuart Parsons	Sebastian, FL
John Parry	Severna Park, MD
Thomas Thompson	Aiken, SC

### Changes of Address

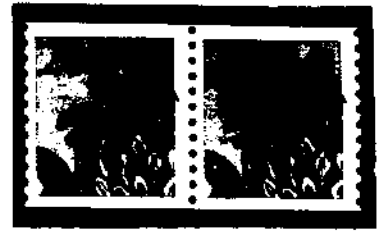
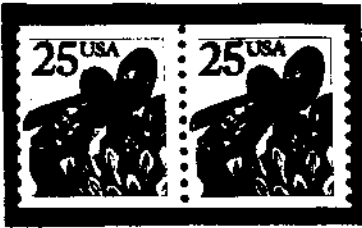
Alan Lavendier
P.O. Box 40812
New Bedford, MA 02744
Larry Thibodeau
P.O. Box 158
Hunt Valley, MD 21030

### Membership Summary

369	February Report
+15	Reinstated
+ 5	New Applicants
<u>389</u>	Currently Active

# Buzzline

Mac Johnson  
2509 No. Campbell, #291  
Tucson, AZ 85719



Red, green, yellow, and blue repetitive varieties have been presented in previous issues. Below are the black varieties; we will conclude in the April issue with the white.

BK-1



BLACK SCRATCH IN '2', GREY LINE AT LEFT.

BK-4



BLACK DOT NEXT TO FRAMELINE IN THE MID-RIGHT MARGIN.

BK-7



BLACK DOT IN LOWER LEFT MARGIN

BK-2



BLACK DOT IN THE YELLOW PORTION OF 2<sup>ND</sup> FLORET DOWN AT RIGHT FRAMELINE.

BK-5 IL/2/



LARGE BLACK SPOT TO THE LEFT OF AND BELOW PLATE # 2. (COPY OF INTAGLIO PLATE?)  
BK-8



BLACK DOT IN LOWER LEFT MARGIN, BLuish LINE AT THE RIGHT.

BK-3



TWO BLACK DOTS IN BOTTOM, CENTER MARGIN.

BK-6 IR/2/6L



BLACK SPOT IN THE BOTTOM MARGIN BETWEEN 2<sup>ND</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> FLORET FROM THE RIGHT.

BK-9



BLACK SPOT JUST R. OF VEIN IN L.L. LEAF.

black

BK-10



BLACK "BULLET" JUST TOUCHING U.R. LEAF, GREY LINE AT LEFT.

BK-11



OBLONG BLACK SPOT, 2/3 DOWN, ON BLUE LINE AT RIGHT.

BK-12

12L/2/7L



BLACK CHEVRON-SHAPED MARK IN MID-RIGHT MARGIN.

BK-13



BLACK CHEVRON-SHAPED MARK IN L.L. MARGIN, SMALL RED DOT TO ITS U.L., GREYISH LINE AT LEFT.

BK-14

2R/2/11R



BLACK DOT IN LOWER LEFT CORNER OF THE DESIGN.

BK-15



BLACK DOT IN UPPER RIGHT CORNER OF THE DESIGN.

BK-16

4L/2/6L



BLACK DOT IN BOTTOM LEFT MARGIN

BK-17

8L/2/6L



BLACK DOT IN UPPER LEFT MARGIN.

BK-18

10L/2/6L



BLACK DOT ABOVE '5'

# COMMERCIAL COVERS: 5.2¢ Sleigh

Rob Washburn

(14th in a Series)

The 5.2¢ Sleigh was released on March 21, 1983 in Memphis, Tennessee. The plate numbers appear every 24 stamps in a roll. Plate numbers 1, 2, 3, and 5 exist tagged and numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 exist precancelled. Numbers 1 and 2 tagged and 1 and 2 precancelled are known on first day covers.

The earliest known usages of the 5.2¢ Sleigh on covers which were carried through the mailstream and are tied by cancellations are as follows:

	<u>Plate Number</u>	<u>Earliest Known Usage Date On Cover</u>
Tagged:	1	6/14/84
	2	2/10/86
	3	2/20/86
	5	3/3/86
	Precancelled:	1
2		1/14/87
3		3/24/87
4		12/1/87
5		9/10/86
6		12/1/87

All of the EKU dates listed above are on philatelically contrived covers. I'm not aware of any truly commercial covers of the tagged 5.2¢ PNC coils. All tagged 5.2¢ PNC covers that I know about are from or to collectors. Such covers are probably worth a small premium over the price of a used single off-cover. Plate numbers 3 and 5 tagged are expensive stamps to start with, and will be expensive to purchase on cover, even if the cover is collector prepared. As for the precancelled versions, all plate numbers are known on actual commercial covers. One such cover of the 5.2¢ precancel #3 obviously pre-dates the date listed above because it contains contents dated 5/28/85. The precancelled covers are quite scarce with numbers 3 and 5 being the most plentiful and numbers 4 and 6 being the least plentiful. I would value 5.2¢ precancel PNC covers in the \$10-\$20 range each.

Varieties exist on some of the plate number coils of the 5.2¢, so you might want to check your covers. Numbers on top varieties exist on all the numbers. You should also be on the lookout for other varieties: on #1 (both tagged and precancelled) red dot over "h" of "Sleigh", on #2 (precancelled) dot over "e" of "Sleigh" and the two types of sleigh whips.

New reports this month include a find of the first and second covers with Surrey #3 tied by a purple machine cancel. Now every Surrey number from 1 through 16 are known on cover tied by a purple machine cancel. New cover EKU dates include: Pumper #14...8/4/82, 20¢ Flag #4...7/16/82, 20¢ Official #1...2/9/83 and 18¢ Flag #2...5/15/81. I've also just learned of two more covers with 18¢ Flag #7, bringing the total known of such covers to five. I hope to have confirmation details next month.

Next month's article will concern the scarcity and values of "Classic" PNC commercial covers.

# Ads

**Trade:** Enhance your used PNC collection by trading singles, 3s, and 5s for my used material. SASE for details! Carl B. Wicklund, 4812 No. 10th, Apt. 315, McAllen, TX 79504.

**Wanted:** Any cover with the slogan cancel "U.S. POSTAL SERVICE/OFFICIAL SPONSOR/1992 OLYMPIC GAMES." I will pay 15¢ for ordinary covers and \$1.00 for covers with a PNC. Help me combine my two collecting interests. G.A. Estus, P.O. Box 451, Westport, NY 12993-0451.

**Wanted:** New Issues PNCs. Trade or Buy, face +10% minimum. Write first. Send list to Red Raider Stamps, 4123 W. 18th, Lubbock, TX 79416-6008.

**Wanted:** TAG SHIFTS and other TAG varieties. Coil strips with and without plate numbers. Describe, send sample; prompt offer. TAG SHIFT HARRY MUEGGENBURG, 3525 Bluff Ct., Carmichael, CA 95608.

**For Sale:** F-VF PS5 2X Face: 1906/1,2; 2115/16,22,T1; 2130v; 2257; 2258; 2259/1,2; 2260/1,6; 2261; 2263/1,2; 2264; 2265/1,2; 2266; 2279/1,2; 2280/1,2,3,4,7,8; 2280b/8,9,10,11; 2281/1,2; Self Stick. 3X Face: 1895/12; 2115/11,17,20; 2123a/1,2; 2127v; 2225/2; 2252; 2253; 2254; 2255/1,2; 2256/1,2. Tom Lipari, P.O. Box 159, Corona, CA 91718--Add 50¢ Handling.

**For Sale:** I have acquired a large holding of full rolls of some of the older but mainly recently off sale coil stamps. Will sell at my cost, most at face, plus postage/insurance. Send SASE for list. Trades are also a possibility. Dick Koenig, P.O. Box 31872, Tucson, AZ 85751.

**Finally Found!** 7.6¢ Carreta Plate #3. Available now direct from the finder. PS5 VF \$2.90, FV/S \$3.75. (PS3 less 15¢). Orders filled in 24 hours. Shultz, 4129 Wimbledon Dr., Lawrence, KS 66047.

## **\*\*PNC BOOKLETS\*\***

### 1990 Editions

#### PNCs ON COVER

A compilation of all known earliest usage dates of PNCs on cover. Emphasis is on commercially used covers with scarcity ratings for each plate number. Also includes separate listings of plate numbers known on FDCs and unofficial FDCs and earliest usage dates of PNCs off-cover. Several covers are illustrated.

\$7.50 postpaid

#### PNC VARIETIES

A compilation of all known PNC varieties including plate flaws, imperfs, color, printing and inking varieties, mat varieties, numbers on top and tagging varieties. This booklet is an indispensable tool for checking varieties on used or mint strips or stamps on cover. With the price for PNC varieties being what they are, it just might be worth your while to know what to be looking for. Contains over 1,500 listings and over 100 illustrations.

\$12.50 postpaid

**\*\*Special\*\***

Both booklets for \$18.00

**new**

**new**

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