

# Coil Line

Journal of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club PNC<sup>3</sup>

<http://www.pnc3.org>

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## 10 attend East Pittsburgh meeting

A casual atmosphere opened the April 13 Regional Meeting of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club at WILPEX 2002 in East Pittsburgh, PA, according to Janet Gillis, who was in charge of the event.

It was if we had been friends for year. The fun we had doesn't translate to words. All strangers but speaking the same language.

We read two letters sent to me before the show and discussed them at length. One man needed help understanding different types of tagging. I had a light and we all chipped in to explain the differences. After the show I mailed him some examples of the block tag of the Red Cloud stamp.

Since we recruited no new members, we at the PNC3 specialty cookies we had made, but not before we gauged and check them for tagging properties. The cookies did glow.

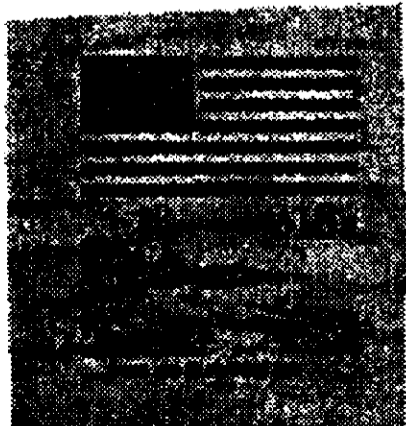
The Wilkinsburg Stamp Club donated door prizes, a set of souvenir sheets with an \$18 value and a current souvenir sheet for each person. There were also an Eagle and Shield strips and a coil pair for everyone.

We liked the slide show hosted by my husband, Mark, a non-collector but with a great voice. The group talked about their collecting highlights, ranging from Lenz paper to an inverted plate. We closed around 3 p.m. and rushed to the USPS with had some withdrawn Flower coils on sale, along with other current coils.

The dealers brought some coils and seem to do OK. We had a great time and I'm anxious for the next PNC3 meeting.

## Another Flag #6 and 13231A VP surface

Charles McMullen of Venice, FL, found an 18c Flag #6 with a purple machine cancel in a 10 lb. mix in December. He also found a FoP 13231A VP last in a mixture last June.



## Message from the President:

### Make Voting a Priority be sure your vote counts!

With this issue you will find the ballot to cast your vote for the people who will set the direction and priorities for your club for the next two years. Please take a few moments and review the biographical profiles that were published last month and make your choices now, putting the ballot in the mail before you forget.

It is important that your voice be heard. I realize that many members do not know the candidates personally, and may feel that they have no basis on making a judgment. That is why we publish the biographical sketches. You can get a feeling for the people and their qualifications by reviewing these statements, and it is important that you state your preferences.

**There are a couple of things you need to do to have your vote count.** Let's not have any issues of questionable voting to deal with. There are no punch holes on the ballots, or any electronic hi-jinks to be played, but we do want to be sure these rules are observed.

The first is return it to Richard Beecher (his address is at the bottom of the ballot), postmarked by June 30, 2002. The second is to include your membership number and return address on the outside envelope. If you do not have your membership card handy, you can find your membership number next to your name on the address label of the envelope that this issue of *Coil Line* was mailed in. Having the identifying information on the outside of the envelope preserves the anonymity of your ballot, at the same time as assuring that each member casts a single ballot.

The ballots will be counted and verified during July, and we should be able to announce the results in the August issue. The Annual Meeting will take place in Atlantic City in mid-August. Hopefully, most of the new

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## Ballot (from page 60)

Board will be able to be present so that those in attendance can meet them.

Your new Officers and Members-at-Large will officially assume their duties on September 1, 2002. That does not mean, however, that you must wait until then to contact them and make your voices heard. If you would like to be considered for a committee position or Chair, let Frank Covey (running unopposed, and therefore your incoming President) know of your interest as soon as you would like. He is in the process of interviewing the existing committee chairs now, and would be able to give you details of what he hopes to accomplish with the committees. His appointments will not take effect until September 1, but he wants to have everyone ready to go.

The next few years promise to be an exciting time in PNC collecting. There are many things your club can do to improve your fun and knowledge. Take the time now to put the people in place that will help you get the most from your club and your hobby.

## Letters

### Round and Square Shoulder Die Cuts

To the Editor:

The May *Coil Line* had a very useful discussion of the origins of these different die cuts as well as a table presenting all known varieties.

Rich Nazar speculated that these differences may be due to row to row die cut differences on a specific cutting mats. I've just handled for myself and several others 6 rolls of 10,000 of the 25c Diner 5555. Three were tops and three were bottoms with respect to the back numbers. Every one of them was square.

On the other hand, my rolls of the 10c Bike were 3,000s. I handled quite a few of them. Checking the stock I have left, every one of them is round.

Here again, no mixture of round and square. Thus, while my proof is not unambiguous, it seems likely that round and squares are produced separately.

Could it be something as simple as roll size? Perhaps some the more active philatelic clerks can review their stock.

Robert Rabinowitz

RABINCOILS@aol.com

### Kauffman remains club historian

To the Editor:

As Lincoln once said, "The world will little note, nor long remember what..." And the same seems to hold true in PNC3 circles.

As was noted in last month's *Coil Line*, there seems to be a lack of certain items for completion of the on-line back issues availability.

As Club Historian, I have, and have always had, all copies of CL and TPN; and have offered to provide

(Continued on page 64)

# PNC<sup>3</sup> Election

**I recommend a vote for any two  
of the following candidates for Member At-Large ...**

**Scott Adams  
Ken Cherry  
Burt Robbins**

**Please vote in this election; it's important to the future of our club.**

**Paid advertisement**

**Joann Lenz  
PNC3 120L**

**Paid advertisement**

# SNIPPETS

by Alan Thomson

## New Numbers

Cylinder combination #55555 from the self adhesive Diner is new this month.

## Seaplane #3 Perf Holes

Scott Adams has pointed out what appears to be a consistent third difference between the two printings of the #3 \$1 Seaplane coil. This new aspect is, of course, a result of processing and not printing per se. While both the gum and the tagging differences were reported years ago, none of us apparently noticed that the perf holes are different sizes too. The early printing with the shiny gum (the top strip below) has large holes and the later one with gloss gum has small holes. Check your strips to see if anyone has stamps that vary from this.



## Some Untagged Transportations

I can find no previous report of any untagged stamps of the collector version 4.9¢ Buckboard #3, or the 5¢ Motorcycle #1 and #2 that Rob Washburn has found. The unprecanceled Buckboard was supposed to be tagged and all the Motorcycles were intended to be tagged. These 15 to 20 year old stamps keep appearing with newly found errors and other features.

## Bison Coils Soon to Disappear

The Bison production number contest is going to come to an end very soon. With the 21¢ value no longer needed after June it won't be long before they are withdrawn from sale. Post offices are scurrying to get rid of inventories now. If you have a number lower than 19117 or higher than 1849139 on V1111, send in your report. These numbers, along with the lone report of a number (2779407) on V2222, stand to be the winners.

## Information Request to BEP

After reading Rich Nazar's article last month many have noticed the difference in the back numbers on the two SOL WAG papers. British paper has true dot matrix digits and the American made paper has solid line digits that may be flooded dots. On 3 May I FAXed an information request to BEP to get an explanation. In a second part of the request I also asked for a full explanation of the different shoulder shapes we have found on large roll SA coils from the Bureau. I'll let you know what the reply contains.

## More on Square/Round Die Cuts

Even as we are seeking the answer to why they exist, more large roll self adhesive coils from BEP are turning up with both square shoulder and rounded shoulder die cuts. Ken Moreau has found the (5¢) Mountain coil with a square cut and Rob Washburn has found the (10¢) Green Bike #444 with a square cut, and they have been added to the chart that appears elsewhere in this issue. Of 36 possible plate numbers from the 13 issues, 23 have been reported to have both types. I have a feeling that the list will continue to grow. Refer to this month's chart for the details.

## Different FOP Double Dies Appear

The original two or three rolls of the double die cut Flag Over Porch had the interior serpentine line almost perfectly centered on the stamps. Some new examples that must have come from another place in the printed web have hit the market and have the interior cuts displaced much farther to the left. Both Rich Nazar and Doug Iams have reported this new form of the error. The original error was reported in Coil Line in February of 1998.

## FOC with Plate Number on Number

Those Andreotti printings from BEP keep on skipping around like the Energizer Bunny. John Himes has found a used copy of the City Flag SA #4444A with a color shift of the red that places the red 4 on top of the green 4. This coupled with the fact the yellow number is all but unreadable gives the stamp two cylinder digits rather than four. The red shift and the almost nonexistent yellow in the image change the color of the buildings and also reveal something interesting about this stamp. The "process printing" used on it appeared to "construct" the buildings out of red and yellow, but the red shift shows that the combination also included blue dots just like the shading in the flag's white stripes. John's stamp is shown below.



## Bison Colors Vary

Recently a rather dramatic color variation of the sheetlet version of the 21¢ Bison appeared on the internet. Instead of the animal and the frame appearing in purple, they are yellow-brown. A similar but less pronounced color change has been reported by Conrad Keydel on rolls of V2222. The lighter version appears to have a very heavy yellow inking and that, possibly coupled with a light application of purple ink during "process printing", may have caused the overall color change. Conrad is interested in finding out how prevalent this variation is.

**CURRENT ISSUE NUMBERS & ROLL SIZES**

05/10/02

AHT

**KEY:** A-100, B-500, C-3000, D-10000

EP - EMBEDDED PHOS      UT - UNTAGGED  
 SP - SURFACE PHOS      [xx] - NUMBER INTERVAL  
 BK - BLOCK TAG          (NL) - LINERLESS  
 OA - OVERALL TAG        \* **NEW NUMBER**

Plate number intervals are shown in brackets following the stamp name. If more than one is indicated, the order is that in which the different printer's plate numbers are listed.

Example: Juke Box [24] for BEP, [14] for Sennett Security.

**PRINTER PLATE NUMBER PREFIX LETTERS:**

A - American Bank Note      S - Sennett Security Prod.  
 B - Banknote Corp of Am.    V - Avery-Dennison  
 G - Guilford Gravure        None - BEP  
 M - MMM

**(34c) LIBERTY [24]**

#1111 C

**(34c) LIBERTY (SA) [24]**

#1111 A (SM DATE)  
 #1111 A (LG DATE)

**(34c) FLOWER (SA) [12]**

#B1111 A

**34c LIBERTY [24]**

#1111 A, C, D

**34c LIBERTY (SA) [24]**

#1111 A  
 #2222 A  
 #3333 A  
 #4444 A  
 #5555 A  
 #6666 A  
 #7777 A

**34c LIBERTY (SA) [21]**

#1111 C, D  
 #2222 D

**34c UNITED (SA) [24]**

#1111 A  
 #2222 A  
 #3333 A

**34c UNITED (SA) [21]**

#1111 D

**34c FLOWERS (SA) [12]**

#B1111 A  
 #B2111 A  
 #B2122 A  
 #B2211 A  
 #B2222 A

**20c COG RAILWAY [48]**

#1 A, B, C  
 #2 A, B

**10c CANAL BOAT [48]**

#1 A, C (BK) [52]  
 #1 B, C (OA) [52]  
 #1 C (EP) [52]  
 #2 B, C  
 #3 C  
 #4 D (OA)  
 #4 C (EP)  
 #5 D

**5c CIRCUS [48][24][14]**

#1 B, C (OA) [52]  
 #1 B, C (UT) [52]  
 #2 C  
 #A1 D  
 #A2 D  
 #A3 D  
 #S1 D  
 #S2 D (GLOSS)  
 #S2 D (SHINY)  
 #S3 D

**3c CONESTOGA [48]**

#1 A, B, C [52]  
 #2 C  
 #3 C (DULL)  
 #3 B, C (SHINY)  
 #5 C (LARGE #)  
 #5 C, D (SMALL #)  
 #6 C, D

**23c G. WASH'N (SA) [12]**

#B11 A

**22c U. SAM (SA) [24]**

#1111 A

**22c UNCLE SAM [24]**

#1111 C

**21c BISON (SA) [5]**

#V1111 A  
 #V2222 A

**20c PHEASANT (SA) [24]**

#1111 A  
 #2222 A

**2c WOODPECKER [24]**

#11111 C, D  
 #22222 D

**1c KESTREL [24]**

#1111 B, C (TYPE I)  
 #1111 B (TYPE II)  
 #1111 C (TYPE III)  
 #2222 C  
 #3333 C  
 #4444 C

**(5c) MOUNTAIN[24][14]**

#11111 B, C  
 #S111 D

**(5c) MTN (SA) [21][15]**

#1111 C  
 #V222222 D  
 #V333323 D  
 #V333333 D  
 #V333342 D  
 #V333343 D

**(5c) WETLANDS [14]**

S1111 C, D

**(5c) WETLND (SA) [21]**

#1111 C (light color)  
 #1111 D (dark color)  
 #2222 C, D  
 #3333 C, D  
 #4444 D  
 #5555 D

**(10c) ATLAS (SA) [20]**

#B1111 D

**(10c) LION (SA) [21]**

#S11111 D  
 #S22222 D

**(10c) E&S STD [24]**

#11111 D  
 #22222 D

**(10c) E&S STD (SA) [21]**

#11111 C, D  
 #22222 D  
 #33333 D

**(10c) GREEN BIKE [14]**

#S111 B, C, D

**(10c) G. BIKE (SA) [21]**

#111 D  
 #221 D  
 #222 D  
 #333 C, D  
 #344 C  
 #444 C, D  
 #555 C, D  
 #666 C, D  
 #777 C, D  
 #888 D  
 #999 D

**(15c) TAIL FIN [24][14]**

#11111 C  
 #S11111 D

**(15c) TAIL FIN (SA)[21]**

#S11111 D

**(15c) WOODY (SA) [21]**

#S11111 D

**(25c) JUKE BOX [24][14]**

#111111 B, C  
 #212222 B, C  
 #222222 C  
 #332222 C  
 #S11111 D  
 #S22222 D

**(25c) JUKE (SA) [21][21][7]**

#111111 C  
 #222222 D  
 #S11111 D  
 #S22222 D  
 #M11111 D (NL)

**(25c) DINER [14]**

#S11111 D

**(25c) DINER (SA) [21]**

#11111 D  
 #22211 D  
 #22222 D  
 #33333 D  
 #44444 D  
 #55555\* D

■ The Wetlands color differences are in the stamp background. The #2222 background color does not match either of the #1111 colors.

■ The Kestrels differ in the order of color laydown. Colors are black, yellow, cyan and magenta. Type I sequence is BYCM. Type II is BCYM. Type III is YM CB. The color order shows in the plate number.

## Letters

(Continued from page 61)

such upon request. Likewise, these facts have been known and re-uttered frequently in the past. Older members should recall.

If there has been a change in "archivist," "historian," or by any other name, I was unaware of such.

Charlie has offered to provide requested copies of past issues, and I commend him for it (saves my copy machine). Goodness knows, any assistance in any aspect is welcome. I also have all copies of "Expose," and other stuff; like Denson's" (Does Dr. Bob wish to forget?)

However, when push comes to shove, it's good to know all of the resources!

Dan Kauffman, Historian (I think)  
dwkman@inreach.com

## Thoughts on the election of club officers

To the Editor:

With the PNC3 election of new officers and board members coming up in June I was particularly interested in reading the Candidate Information statements that were submitted by the various candidates. These are the folks we will be giving the responsibility for guiding and directing the course of our organization for the next two years. I was particularly interested to see how these candidates had assessed the progress of our organization over the last period and what issues and concerns they felt were necessary to address. In this regard, I am sorry to say I was greatly disappointed. The information, which the candidates have supplied, provides lots of expressions of good will but has little or nothing about specific programs or issues that the candidates feel need to be pursued.

I don't think I am over stating the case when I say that the issue of producing an up dated PNC Catalog has been one of the dominant, if not the dominant, issue that has confronted our organization over the last period. In the April 1, 2001 issue of *Coil Line*, our current president, Gene Trinks, reporting on the results of a member's survey stated, "The most pressing need expressed by our members in the survey was for a Catalog." As I understand it, the efforts the present PNC3 board has made to answer this need and facilitate the publishing of an updated PNC Catalog are essentially dead in the water. In other words, we are no further ahead in meeting this need than we were two years ago, when the PNC3 membership was notified in a letter from Nazar Publications Inc. that the catalog would be "...available in October 2000." (Letter attachment, *Coil Line*, July 2000). It is hard for me to believe that the candidates in this election do not have opinions or proposals about how to deal with this issue and have not used this forum to share their thoughts with the membership.

Please do not misunderstand me, I am not looking for expressions of blame or fault finding for why find our-

selves in the present mess. I am looking for some evidence that the candidates recognize that this remains a major need of our membership. Where do the candidates stand on this issue?

Another area of great importance to our membership, which is singularly lacking of any mention in the Candidate Information Statements, is the PNC3 Web site. The development and growth of the Web site is surely one of the most positive and exciting developments that has taken place in our club over the last period. Its potential for serving our memberships needs for information and communication has clearly been demonstrated. I suspect it is an area in which we will be called upon to direct a larger portion of our attention and resources, if we wish to fully exploit its potential. For example, I can envision the development of a real time messaging capability, which is not presently an integral part of the PNC3 Web site that would greatly improve our ability to communicate new information in a more timely fashion. What do the candidates envision for the Web site?

I hope that my comments, although critical, will be seen as constructive and be viewed in the positive light they are intended. I certainly hope that the membership will give serious consideration to some of the issues I have raised before casting their ballots.

Conrad Keydel  
ckkeydel@ameritech.net

## Candidate encourages sharing of ideas

To the Editor:

I recognize the need of a PNC3 catalog. I want one also. Our PNC3 Web site is amazing and I feel sure it will continue to improve. I commend those responsible for it. Others like Conrad Keydel who want a catalog can share their thoughts and/or volunteer their time by using one of the methods below to contact me:

Email: [cquail@macomb.com](mailto:cquail@macomb.com)

Frank Covey  
16 Grandview Dr  
Macomb IL 61455-9705

PNC3 Candidate for President

**YOUR VOTE ONLY  
COUNTS IF YOU CAST IT!**

**Ballots are attached to the  
front of this issue of Coil Line**

**Instructions are in the  
Message from the President on page 60.**

# COUNTING - WHAT and HOW

by Alan Thomson

We do a lot of counting in our PNC specialty, and we do it to identify the location of numerous special features and collectible oddities that appear on coil stamps.

Those of us who have been in the PNC specialty almost from its inception have used the methods and names involved with feature identification as a matter of course. In doing so we forget that these rules and the nomenclature that goes with them are unfamiliar to those just entering the specialty. Here I hope to clarify counting for the new kids on the block

There are three different systems of counting, each respectively used only with certain features. Two of systems, however, have the same root starting or reference point. They differ only in what is counted beyond the root.

The basic reference point in counting on the stamp faces is the old Cottrell press joint line, or in its absence an imaginary line where it would be if the press that printed the stamps produced a similar line. The line is located on the perforation row on the right side of the plate numbered stamp. The Cottrell joint line is illustrated in figure 1.

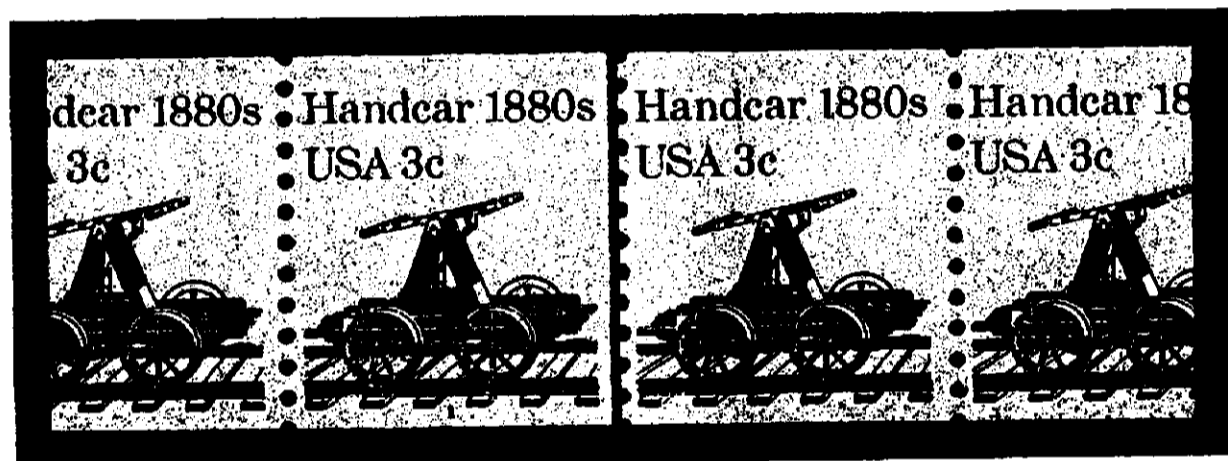


Fig. 1 Joint line reference point

Which of the common root counting systems one uses is dependent on what specific feature is being identified. The first is a simple left or right numbering of the perforation rows starting from the real or theoretical joint line, which is known as the "line" position. The perforation row on the left side of the plate numbered stamp is 1L (1 left) and the row on the right side of the stamp to the right of the numbered stamp is 1R (1 right). The counting continues outward in both directions in simple numeric progression.

This method is used only to identify precancel gaps and offset press seam lines. The perforation row counting is used for these two because the feature is nearly always found straddling a perforation row.

Precancel gaps are interruptions in both the top and bottom precanceling lines and are usually collected in strips of five. If there is no gap visible anywhere on the five stamps, the strip is known as a "no gap" strip. Keep in mind that if one side of a gap shows on either torn end of the strip, it is not a "no gap" strip. If the gap is at the left torn end, it is a 3L gap, and if it's on the right torn end, it's a 2R gap.

Gaps can exist all the way out to 6L and 6R but require a strip longer than five. Although it's a controversial aspect of gap collecting, 1/2 gaps exist. The controversy stems from what the half-way point is. Some say it's the midpoint between perforation rows while others argue

it's the exact middle of the printed image.

The figure 2 strip below has no precancel gap.

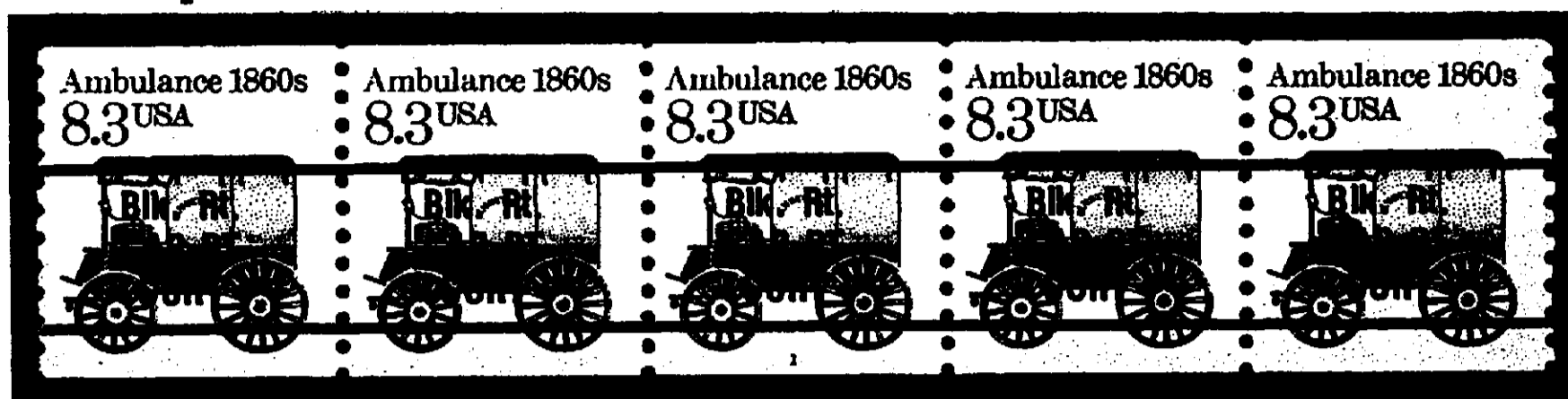


Fig. 2 Ambulance with no gap

Figures 3 shows a line gap and figure 4 illustrates a 1L gap.

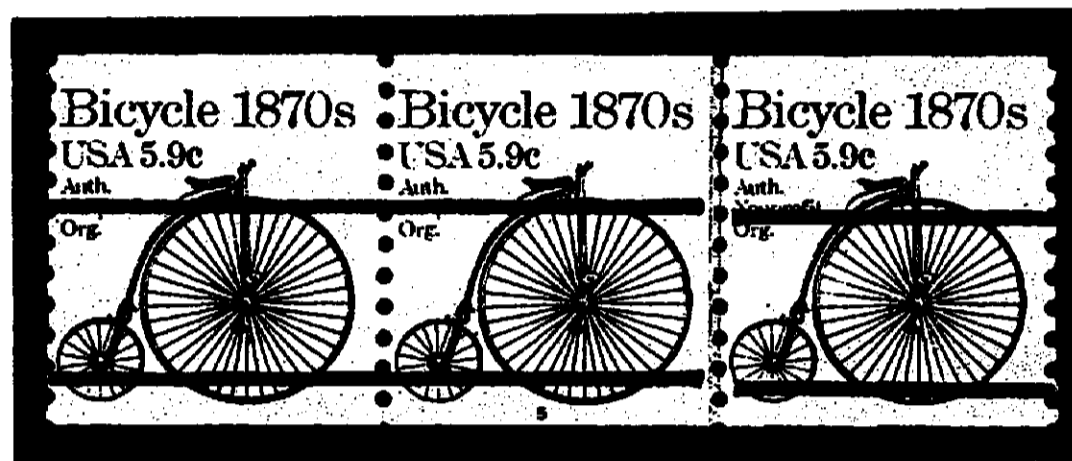


Fig. 3 Bicycle with line gap

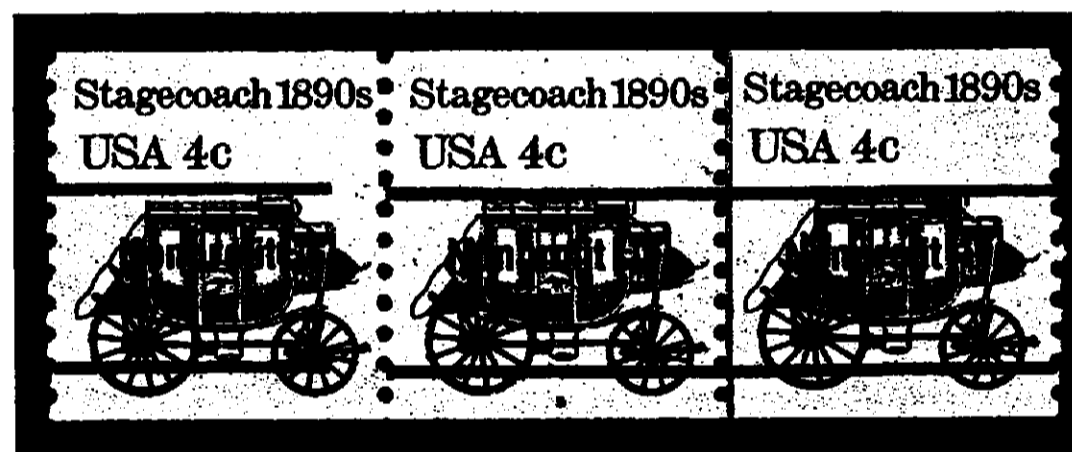


Fig. 4 Stagecoach with gap at 1L

A seam line is one or more vertical lines unintentionally left on the rows of printed stamps by ink buildup on the edges of the offset blanket. This condition is sometimes referred to as a dirty blanket. The stray colored lines usually appear on the perforation row on the right side of the numbered stamp and can vary in intensity from very light to dark enough to be mistaken for a Cottrell joint line. Figures 4 and 5 show seam lines in two different positions on Honeybee strips from plate 2. It needs to be mentioned here that frequently when a seam line is located in the line position it is said to be a "zero" position. The "zero" term is confined to seam line counting, and is never used on precancel gaps.



Fig. 5 Honeybee seam line at "zero" position



Fig. 6 Honeybee seam line at 1L

The second root system is a matter of counting stamps, not perforation rows. The plate numbered stamp is considered to be 1L (the first stamp to the left of the basic reference line) and the stamp immediately to the right of the line is 1R. Again the count progresses outward in either direction. There is no neutral (line or zero) position when counting by stamp.

The stamp counting method is used to identify the position of constant plate varieties (CPV) and tag breaks. We locate these this way because they most frequently appear on a specific stamp rather than on perforation rows.

The Ferryboat strip below has the constant plate variety (CPV) known as the "Canceled 9" on the 1R stamp. The stray markings can be seen as two diagonal lines through the 9 in the date 1900s.

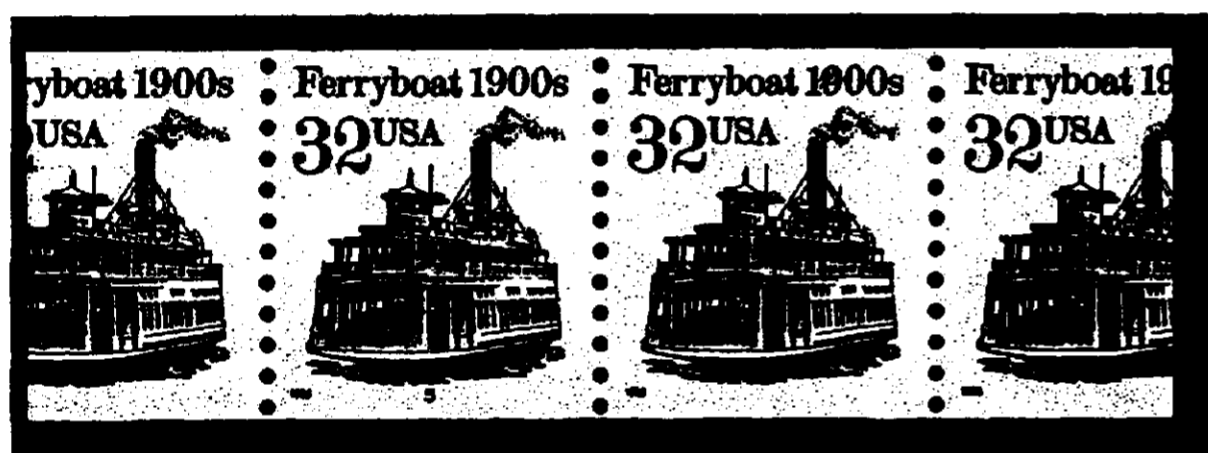


Fig. 7 CPV Canceled 9 at 1R

The Flag Over Porch strip 87888 with a CPV at 2L is known as the "Brown Top Dot" and is shown in figure 8. The variety is a small brown dot immediately above the "U" in USA and is in the top white margin. It illustrates the counting to the left of the imaginary line with the 1L position being the plate numbered stamp and the variety on the next stamp to the left, or 2L.

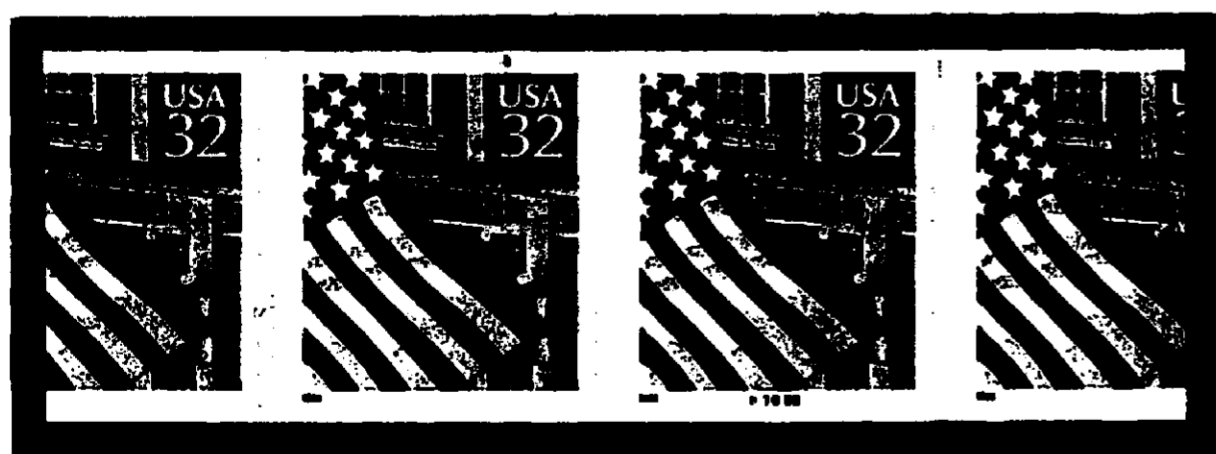


Fig. 8 CPV Brown Top Dot at 2L

Tagging breaks also use the stamp method but can be a little bit more confusing than counting constant plate varieties because of the possible variance in the the location of the break on the face of the stamp. It need not be because the position of the break on the stamp face does not affect the numbering. It doesn't matter whether the break is on the left side of the stamp, in the

center or on the right side, only the stamp itself is counted. The Motorcycle #4 strip below in figure 9 has a break at 1R that is in the center of the stamp. The Tugboat 2 strip in figure 10 has the break offset to the left on the 1L stamp but it is still designated as 1L with no other identification. There is no counting in fractions such as 1 1/2L, etc.

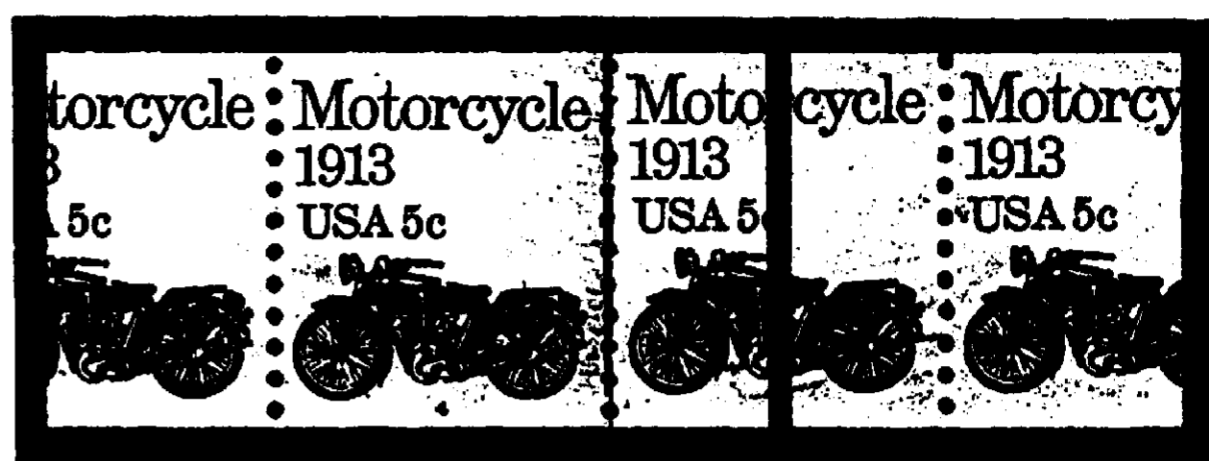


Fig. 9 Motorcycle tag break at 1R



Fig. 10 Tugboat tag break at 1L

The two tag breaks mentioned above are known as bar breaks because they consist of straight thick lines. Other types from the Cottrell presses exist and were explained in a Coil Line article that appeared in the August 2000 issue. Not matter what type of break we are dealing with the counting remains the same.

Sometimes tagging breaks do not fall completely on one stamp and touch the perforation row. If the break touches the perforation row the break is said to be on the stamp on which most of the break lies. If the break is absolutely centered on the holes, it is designated as being "on perf" and the stamps on either side of that row are included in the description. Such a case is shown in figure 11 and is indicated as 1L/2L on perf. This situation has not happened often except on one particular Transportation coil. For reasons unknown more tag breaks on the 4¢ Steam Carriage occur on the perforations than on the full stamp face. In fact a break on this coil that does not touch the perforations is rather scarce.

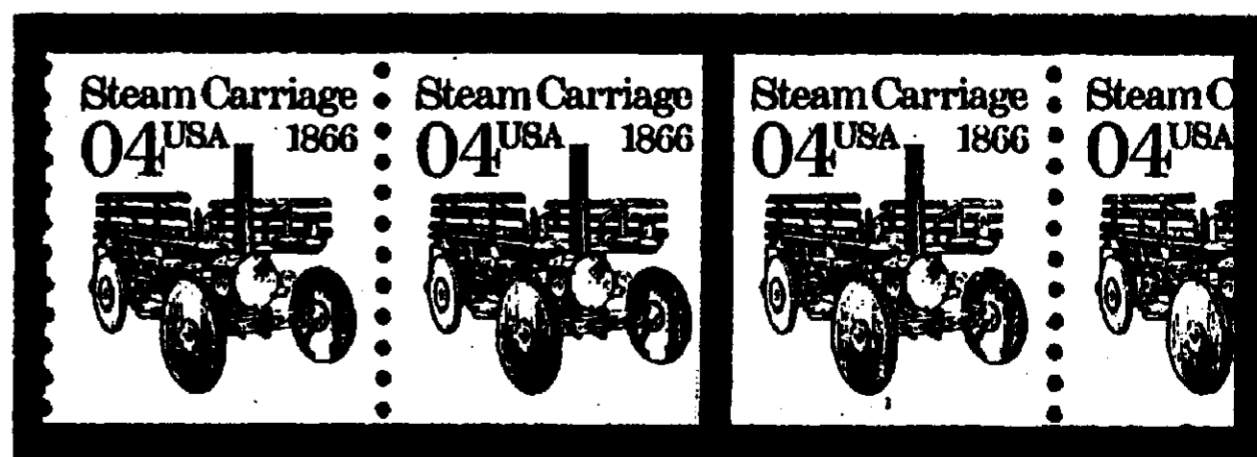


Fig. 11 Steam Carriage break at 1L/2L on perf

Determining the location of back counting numbers on large roll coils has a complicating factor simply because

the numbers are on the backs of the stamps rather than on the faces. We solve this little problem by turning the stamps over and starting the count from the far left stamp in a PS5. This process is obviously not based on the joint line.

Instead of trying to visualize a conversion of the stamp numbering on the face, such as 2L, position numbers are used. The far left stamp is position 1. Moving right the next stamp is position 2. We then come to the plate number stamp but rather than calling it position 3 it's called BN/PN, designating that the back number falls on the plate number stamp. The remaining two stamps are position 4 and position 5. Figure 12 illustrates the rear view of a BN/PN strip. Figure 13 has the back number in position 4. If a PS 7 is involved, position counting can be expanded. The far left stamp is still position 1, followed by 2, 3, BN/PN, 5, 6 and 7.

location. The color of the ink used for the number printing is also indicated but is usually spelled out as black, purple, pink, green or blue. To further complicate matters the number of digits in the back number is often listed and incorporated into a color/count/location phrase such as "pink 4T". Translated that's pink ink and a four digit number located at the top of the stamp's back.

Other nuances in describing back numbers include "double" (D) numbers where two sets of digits are present (for example one at the top and one on the bottom of the same stamp), and "upside-down" (U) when the back number is not right side up in relation to the image on the front.

Keep in mind that these added designations are refinements and don't bear on which stamp has the back number on it.

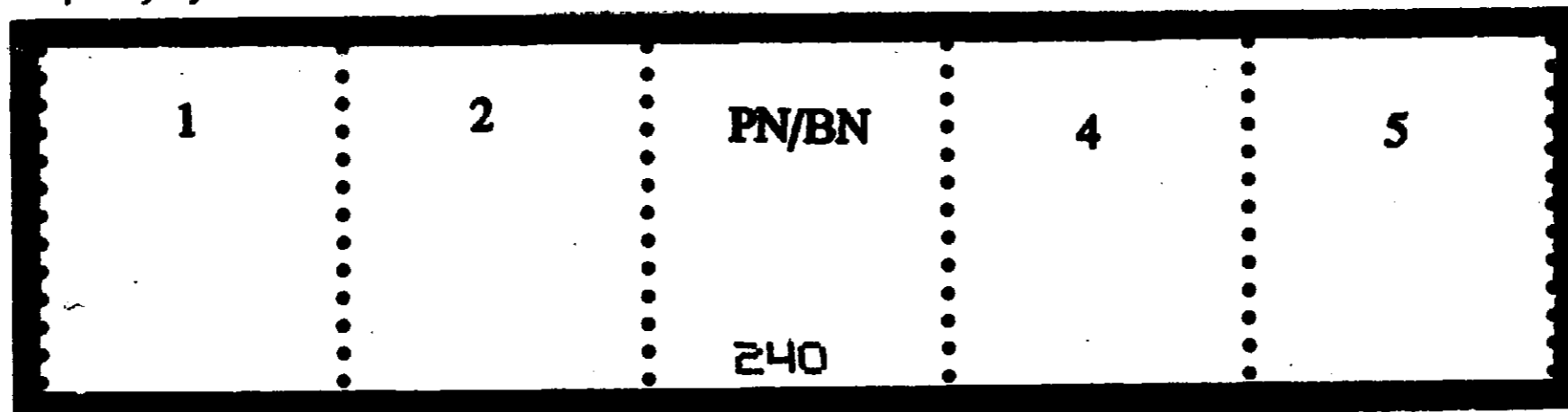


Fig. 12 BN/PN strip

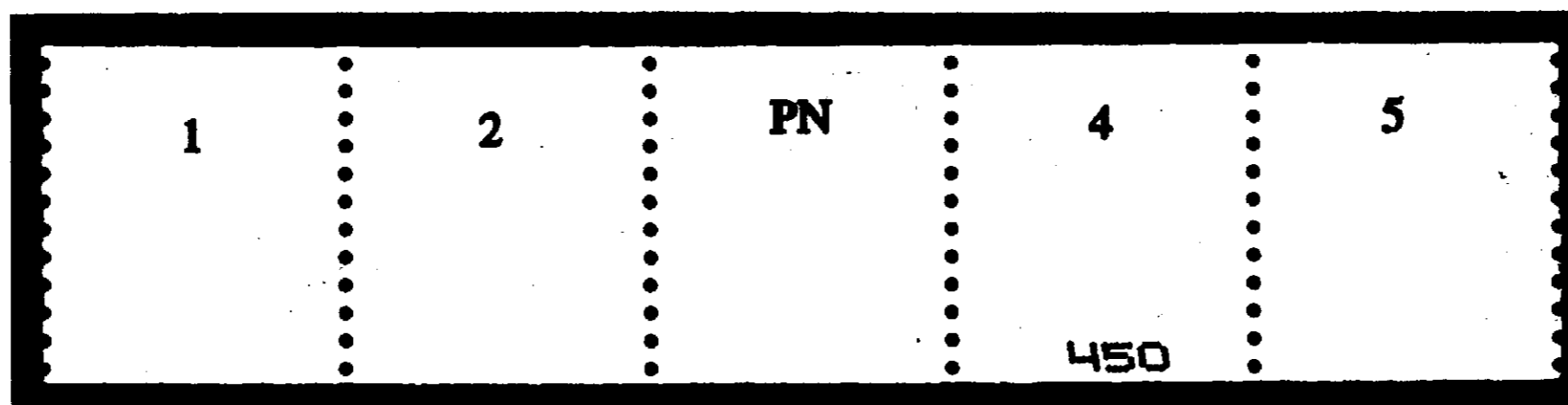


Fig. 13 Position 4 strip

Back number collectors also designate where on the stamp's reverse the printed number lies. They use top (T), middle (M) or bottom (B) to pinpoint the exact

Common language in locating special features can help both dealer and collector, and ensure everyone gets what he's expecting.

## American Toleware stamp issued

A unique 19th Century American craft design is featured on a new definitive postage stamp that will be issued by the United States Postal Service May 31 at the NAPEX 2002 Stamp Show, McLean Hilton in McLean, Va.

The American Toleware stamp will be available in coils of 10,000 in McLean at post offices across the country.

"This stamp is the first in a new series for us," said Terry McCaffrey, Manager of Stamp Development for the Postal Service, who will dedicate the stamp. "The American Design series will feature American arts and crafts. This stamp beautifully illustrates American toleware, a colorful type of unique American art."

The new 5-cent definitive stamp features a painted detail of a toleware coffeepot from the Winterthur Museum in Delaware.

Curators at Winterthur believe it was manufactured in Philadelphia between 1850 and 1875. Toleware is japanned

(varnished) or painted tinware fashioned into a variety of household objects, including teapots, coffeepots, cups, trays and candlesticks, which are decorated with motifs such as fruits and flowers.

Typically these designs, in colors such as deep red, green and pumpkin yellow, are either hand-painted or stenciled onto a black background of asphaltum mixed with varnish. Asphaltum is a naturally occurring tar-like substance. Produced primarily in New England and Pennsylvania, American Toleware was especially popular during the 19th century.

The American Toleware stamp features artist Lou Nolan's painted detail of a black toleware coffeepot decorated with red flowers, a purple forget-me-not, and yellow, green and orange leaves. Definitives are regular issues of postage stamps usually sold over long periods of time.

Nolan's previous projects for the Postal Service include

(Continued on page 74)

# **Production Varieties of Self-Adhesive Coil Stamps (Part I)**

**By Gene C. Trink**

Production varieties of the early high-production self-adhesive coil stamps abound. They include both die cut differences and incision style differences, first noted on issues with the Flag over Porch design. Die cut and incision style differences also exist on other self-adhesive coils produced by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. These differences are all worthy of catalog recognition. Assistance is sought to identify the relative abundance of all varieties in these issues. Part I of this article deals with incision style varieties, and Part II will treat reverse and inverted die cut varieties.

Many PNC collectors are interested in the collectable varieties of their PNCs. A variety can be defined as a difference in the appearance of certain stamps of the same design, constant and repetitive on a specific printing run or printing plate. In the past, when considering varieties as a field of study, PNCers have often focused on plate and mat varieties. Plate varieties can include cracks, scratches, chill roller doubling or other defects in the printed stamps as a result of unintentional production conditions. Some precancel mat varieties, such as breaks in precancel lines due to damage on the precancel mat, also qualify.

Production varieties, on the other hand, are the result of deliberate or accidental variations of normal production conditions. Paper varieties are an example of a production variety. Large and small hole perforations seen on perforated coil stamps of the Liberty series and subsequent modern coils would fall into this category. One could also include in this category the many definitives in the Washington - Franklin series that exist with different perforations. Some precancel mat varieties, including differences in the precancel type styles found on the 17c Electric Auto precancels also qualify as production varieties. Back number position variances among the recent large coil rolls are another example of a production variety.

Production varieties found on some issues of self-adhesive coil stamps are discussed in this article. These varieties are the result of differences in the design and manufacture of the die cutting mats used for separating adjacent stamps on rolls of 100.

Historically, production varieties of US stamps have received recognition in the major catalogs, such as the Scott Specialized, or the Minkus US catalog. All production varieties of modern PNCs should also receive this recognition. It may be easier to obtain this recognition if more is known about the relative abundance of each variety. Studies are needed to establish the facts.

Most self-adhesive coils, as we know, are printed using a backing paper to prevent stamps from sticking to each other when wound into a coil configuration. The larger rolls (3,000 and 10,000) have the stamps separated by a space to permit the use of automatic stamp affixing equipment by mass mailers. Rolls of 100, intended primarily for use by the general public, are produced with no space between the stamps.

To permit reasonable ease in removing the stamps from the smaller roll (of 100), the printing web is cut with a die cutting mat, to (at least partially) separate the stamps from each other. These mats are produced using a serpentine shape of the cutting dies to result in a perforation-like appearance (peaks and valleys) of stamps separated from each other. The self-adhesive FoP issue is distinguished by the use of many differently designed die cutting mats, resulting in numerous peak and valley configuration combinations for this stamp. These die cut varieties will be discussed in more detail in Part II of this article.

Incision style varieties were first discovered on the Flag over Porch (FoP) issue produced by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The same style of cutting die mats were also used in the production of other BEP-produced issues, including the 32c Yellow Rose, the (33c) Hat non-denominated self-adhesive, the 22c Uncle Sam self-adhesive, and the 20c Pheasant.

Incision styles of the cutting dies have previously been discussed by Richard Nazar, for both the 32c Flag over Porch coils of 100, and the Yellow Rose. He points out that there are minute differences to be found even within a single die cut configuration. These differences have been labeled incision styles. The excellent illustrations in the February 2000 issue of *Coil Line* (reprinted here) show differences in the incision styles on the finished stamps, resulting from differences in the construction of the die cutting mats.

With respect to the Flag over Porch issue, there were four different incision styles identified, dubbed A, B, C, and D by Nazar.

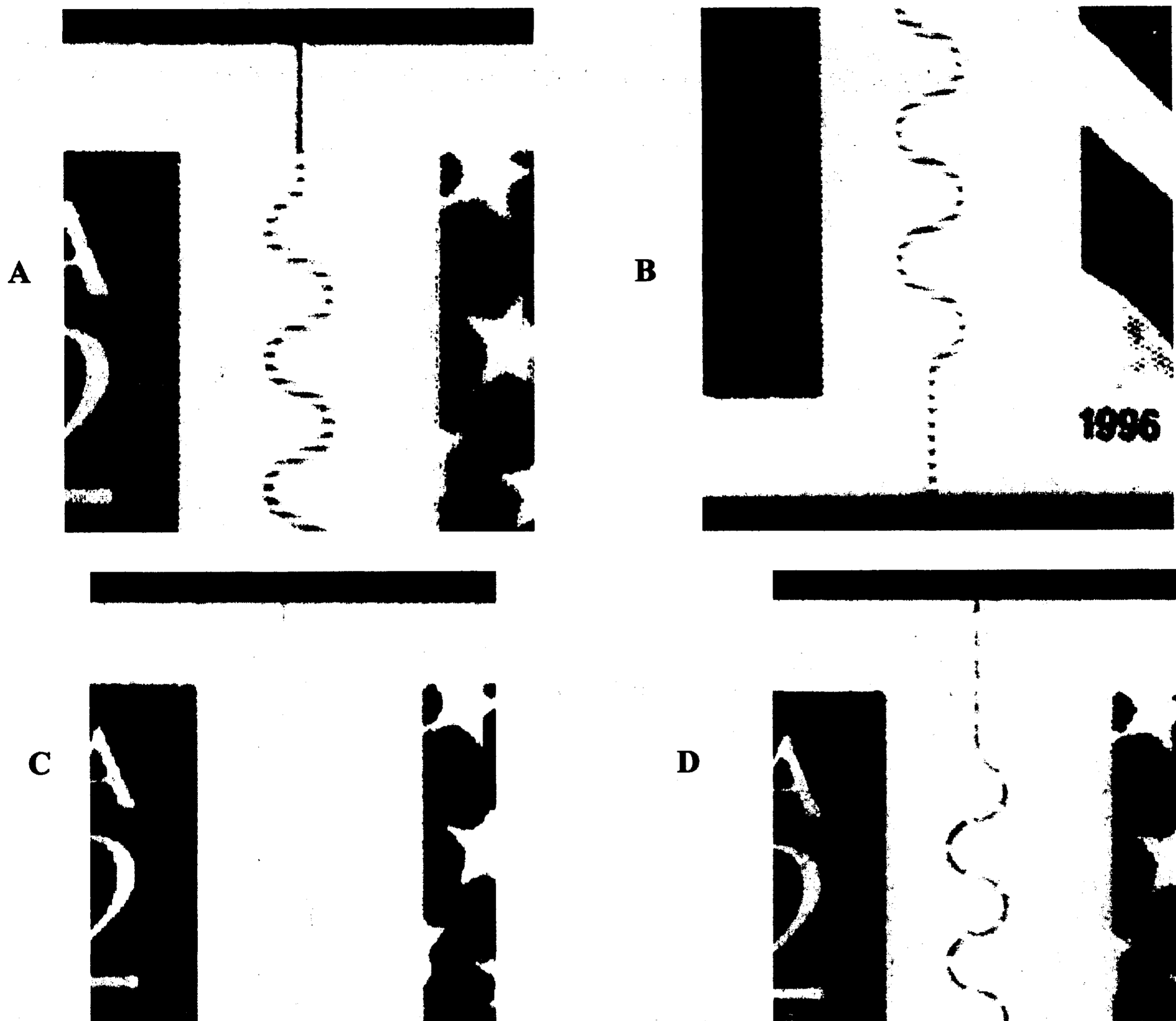


Fig. 1. Incision styles used by BEP on die cutting mats used for FoP and other issues.

Most of the plate numbers found on the FoPs have different incision styles in addition to the differences in die cut configuration. For example, plate numbers 11111 through 45444 are all known only in a 10PV/10VP die cut configuration<sup>1</sup>. Each of these plate numbers were also produced with A, B, and C incision styles.

Style D may be found on the later plate numbers of the FoP, and is known on many of the PNCs with the A-suffix in the plate number. In addition, all of the plate combinations of the A-suffix numbers are known with Style A and some also with B, C, and/or D.

Given that the first report of incision styles by Alan Thomson and Richard Nazar in the June 1998 *Coil Line* did not include some of the number/style combinations reported in Nazar's February 2000 update, it is arguable that at least some of these incision style varieties are relatively uncommon.

I have not seen a study on the relative abundance of the different incision styles of the FoP issue. Dan Kauffman had published comprehensive survey information on the relative abundance of the die cut varieties

for this issue in 1998. There has not been an update since November '98 however. A new census might be worthwhile, now that PNC collectors have had more time to sort through mixtures. I invite correspondence with others on this subject.

Yellow Rose and 'H' coils were produced only with serpentine die cuts in the 10PV/10VP configuration. The other peak/valley cutting mat configurations were retired with the FoP issue. In November 1998, the Yellow Rose was reported by Richard Nazar to have multiple incision styles, though at that time only styles A and B were known. I have seen no attempt to compile a census of their relative abundance. Likewise, I have not seen any reports on similar findings concerning the self-adhesive non-denominated H stamp.

I report my findings here and solicit others to review their holdings and correspond. Much of the following information is derived from review of a quantity of used singles. I do not have a large sample of mint stamps to inspect, and invite all to have a look at their mint and used holdings. I find that using a 10X magnifier makes the task much easier.

The earlier plate number combinations of YR have been found with only Style A incisions (plates #1111 and #1112, some #1122). Style B is found on the plate combinations in the middle of the sequence (some #1122 through #4455), and the later number combinations once again use mostly Style A incisions (some #4455 through #8888). The last two YR plate numbers, #7777 and #8888, are also found with Style C incisions, and #8888 is known with Style D as well.

In what I will call transition periods, some plate numbers of the YR were produced with more than one incision style. Plate #1122 has both Style A and Style B incisions, as does plate #4455. If the different incision styles are considered, there are 25 different known collectable varieties in an issue with 20 different plate numbers. It is possible that a diligent search through stocks of Yellow Rose PNCs will yield additional examples of numbers having more than one incision style. A study of the relative availability of the incision styles for the YR plate numbers having more than one style known is also needed.

H non-denominated self-adhesive stamps have been found with incision Styles A, B, and C. No Style 'D' incisions have been reported to date. A table showing these findings is found below.

I have included charts that summarize these findings.

### YELLOW ROSE INCISION STYLES

Incision Style	PLATE NUMBER																	6777	7777	8888			
	1111	1112	1122	2222	2223	2233	2333	3344	3444	4455	5455	5555	5556	5566	5666	6666	6677						
A	X	X	X							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
B			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X													
C																				X	X		
D																				X	X		

Table 1. Occurrence of incision style varieties on the 32c Yellow Rose. Known varieties are indicated by an X in the respective column. The Style D on #8888 has tie tips on the left (TTL).

### 'H' (33C) HAT INCISION STYLES

Incision Style	PLATE NUMBER				
	1111	1131	1141*	2222	3333
A	X	X		X	X
B				X	X
C	X		X*	X	X

\* NOTE - only one example of #1141 is known, on cover. It is reported to have incision Style 'C'. No other mint or used examples of #1141 have been found to date.

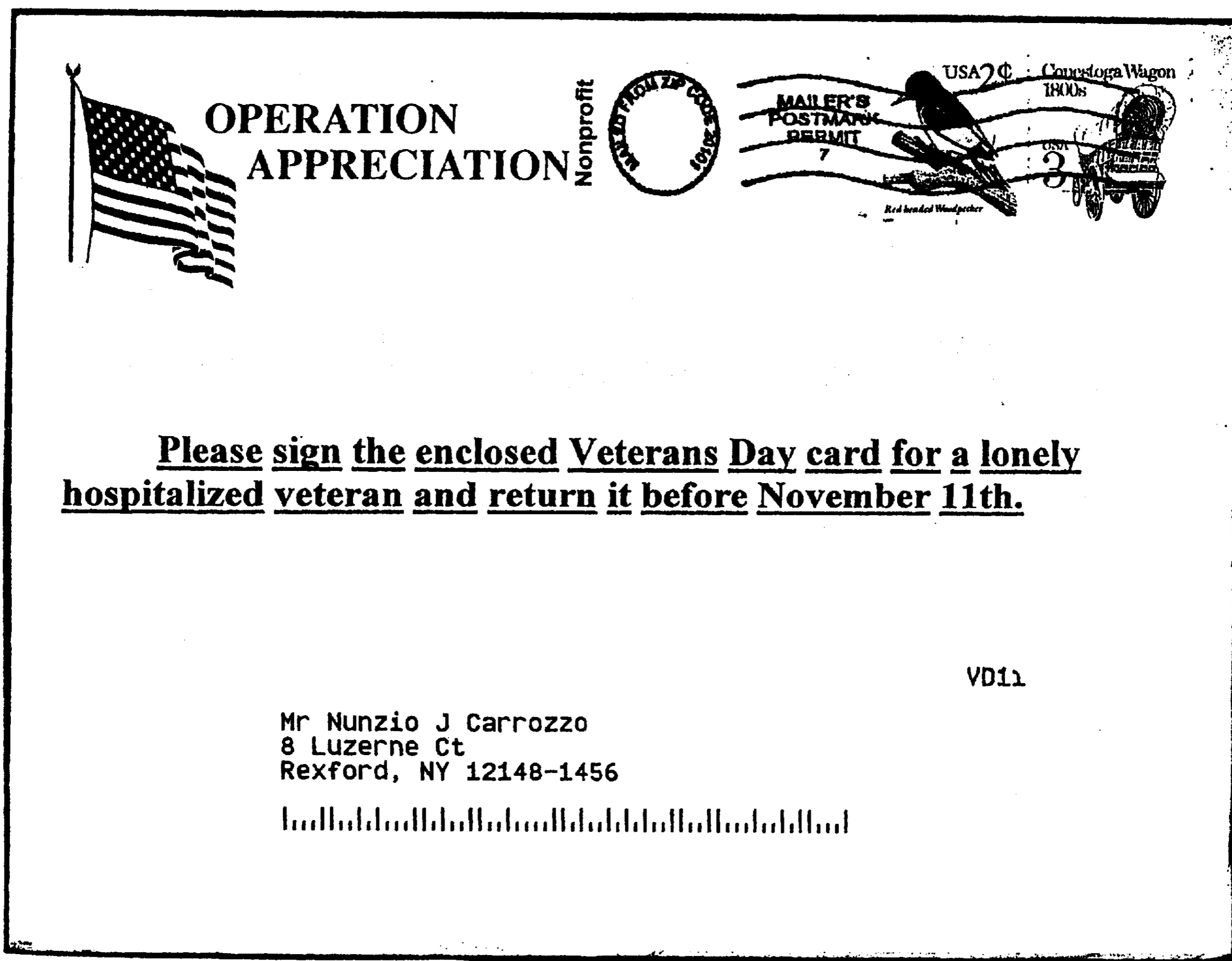
Table 2. Occurrence of incision style varieties on the non-denominated (33c) 'H' or 'Hat' stamp. Known varieties are indicated by an X in the respective column.

Since my sample is very limited, I solicit others to report examples of plate numbers with different incision styles than reported here.

Most dealers have not separated their stock for the H, YR, and FoP issues by incision style. A comprehensive census needs to be accomplished. If catalog status for these production varieties is to be obtained, there is a real need to be able to value each variety. This can only be done if we develop some idea of the relative abundance of each style/number combination.

<sup>1</sup> A full explanation of the nomenclature and shorthand description applied to the serpentine die cuts may be found in an article by Alan Thomson in the February 2000 issue of *Coil Line*.

## COVER OF THE MONTH



The above cover features an unusual nonprofit rate combination usage of the 2¢ Woodpecker #1111 PNC and the 3¢ Conestoga Wagon coil tied by a mailers permit postmark. (Cover courtesy of Scott Adams.) (If you have a candidate for *Cover of the Month*, please send a photocopy of your cover against a black background to Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, Maine 04976-0840.)

## **My answer to Richard Nazar, Re: Scott 1895g.**

*by Frank Nemeth*

I read Richard Nazar's article in the April issue of Coil Line with great interest, and since no one has replied to it in the May issue, please allow me to put in my two cents worth.

Hopefully my comments will offend no one, also change Richard's mind about his doubts being eliminated over the blue omitted error of the 20 cent Flag coil over the Supreme Court.

I too, as Richard, for all these years, (since 1983) was wondering about the existence of a true blue color omitted error on the 20 cent coil Flag Stamp.

For the pair certified by the Philatelic Foundation (Certificate No. 275060) in Figure 2, of Richard's article, - in my opinion - the genuineness should apply only to the stamps, rather than to the "Blue-omitted error". This pair is definitely not an error, but a freak. I can't tell looking at the copy, whether the blue field of stars is totally free of the ever so light trace of blue. Even if I give the benefit of the doubt to the Philatelic Foundation for almost all of the blue missing, these stamps do show a narrow strip of blue next to the flagpole. Hence my question: How can a stamp be certified by the Philatelic Foundation as "blue-omitted error" if some blue, - no matter how small a deposit of blue - is left on the stamp? As we all know, there is no such thing as an "almost error", therefore the certified pair qualifies only as a "bogus error", or just as a very interesting freak.

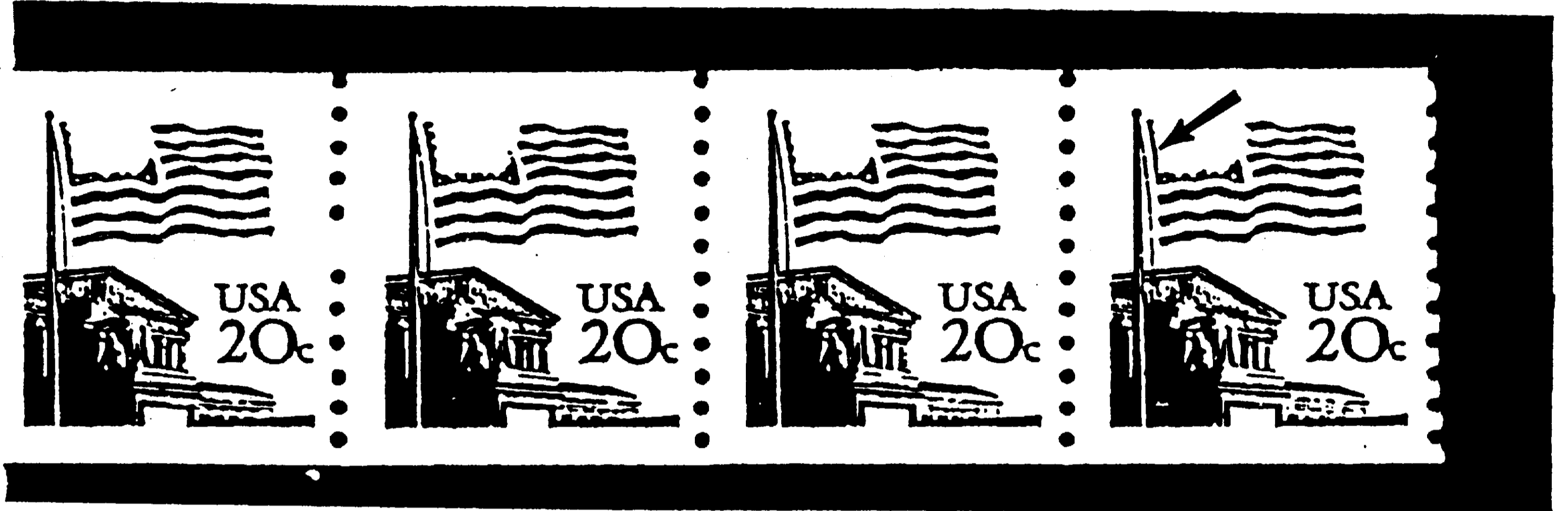
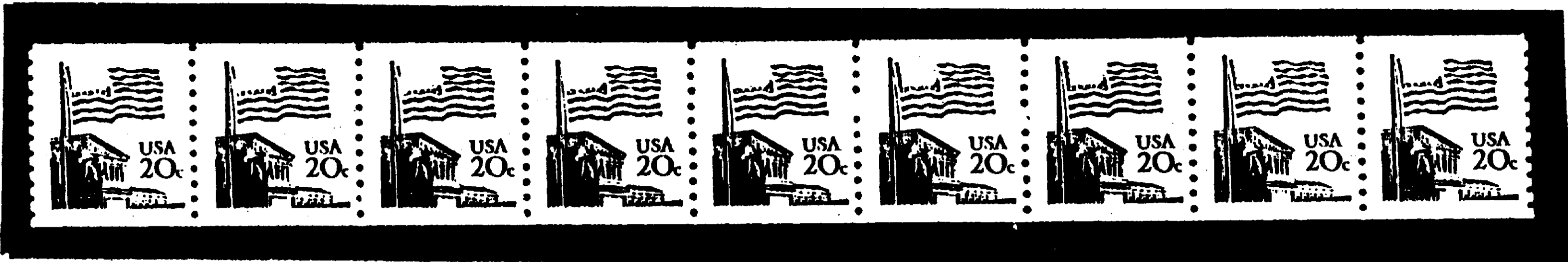
As far as I am concerned a blue-omitted error, Scott 1895g is still non-existent on the coil stamps of the Flag over the Supreme Court. Who knows, there might still be a true blue omitted coil Flag Stamp not yet reported in the Philatelic Press, however to be a believer, someone will have to show me a better example than the stamps certified as No.275060.

To back up my criticism, I am enclosing a photocopy of a coil strip of 9, having identical flaws as the Figure 2 pair. The bottom part of the blue field of stars that should be blue, shows a red ink bleed, and with the exception of 2 stamps, the rest of the 7 stamps, all have a narrow strip of blue next to the flagpole, just like the stamps that were certified as blue omitted errors.

Part of my coil strip was featured in the November 14, 1983 issue of Linn's Stamp News, in an article by Joe Brockert writing: "These 20 cent Flag coils seem to be plagued with problems", further he also states in regards to these coil stamps: "on these stamps the blue is terribly under-inked, and practically missing". The definitive word here is "practically", as opposed to "totally". Bluntly, but sadly said, all I have here is a bunch of freaks, rather than errors.

As other freaks showing defects in the blue field, I present a strip of 3, with 1/4 of the blue field missing, and the Plate #8 strip with the bottom left corner of the blue field missing.

If one is looking for a true blue-omitted error, there are some that exist on the 20 cent sheet Flag Stamps, as per William H. Hatton's article on page 6, in the September 10, 1984 issue of Linn's Stamp News, where in Figure 4, is a picture of a perfect example, (or a picture perfect stamp) of the "blue field omitted" error.



ARROW POINTING TO THE STRIP OF BLUE

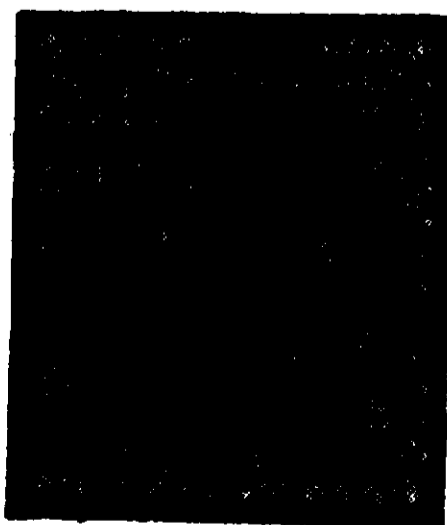
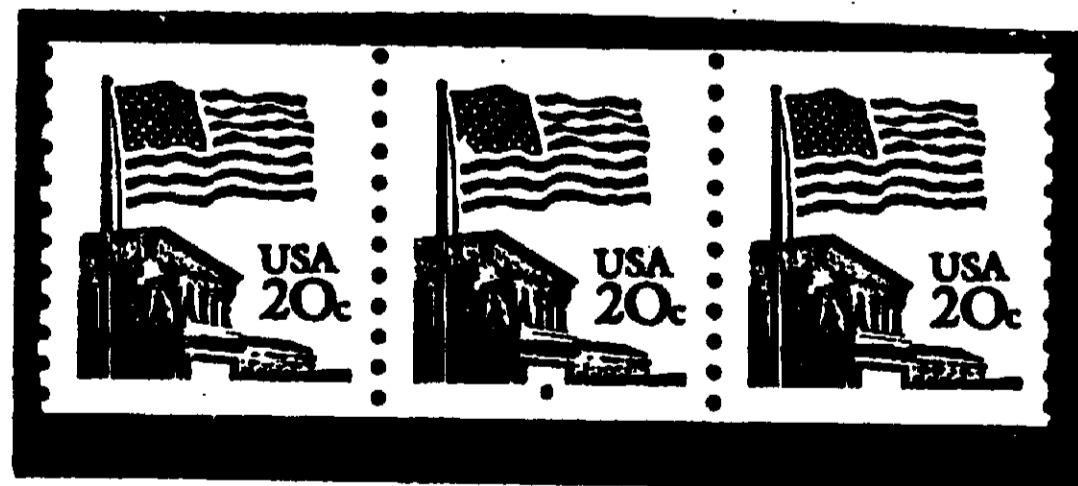
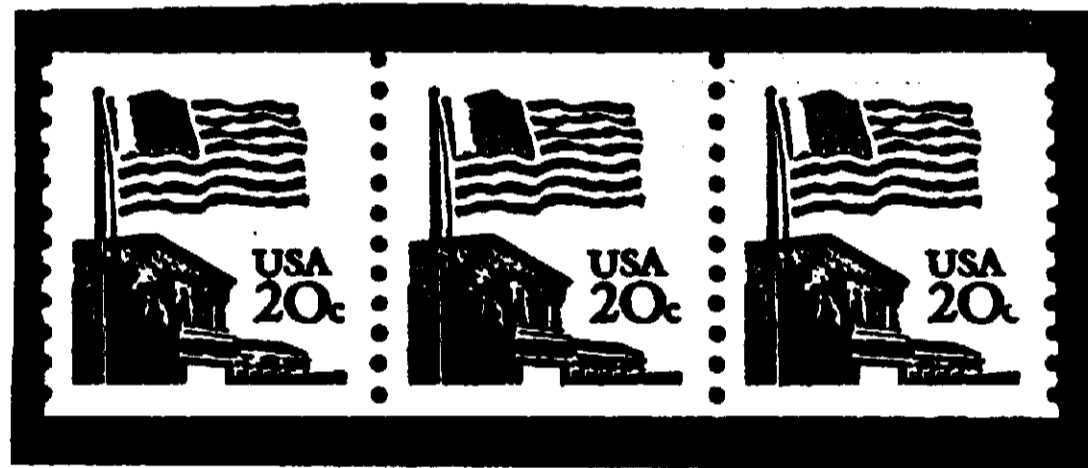


Figure 4. Blue field omitted.

**BEP LG ROLL SELF-ADHESIVE DIE CUT TYPE**

Round --->



Square --->



	Plate #	Round	Square
5c Mountain 2904B	1111	X	X
5c Wetlands 3207A	1111	X	X
	2222	X	X
	3333	X	X
	4444	X	X
	5555	X	X
10c Eagle/Shield 3271	11111	X	X
	22222	X	X
10c Eagle/Shield 3271a	33333		X
10c Bicycle 3228	111	X	X
	221	X	X
	222	X	X
	333		X
	344		X
	444	X	X
	555	X	X
10c Bicycle 3228a	666	X	X
	777		X
	888	X	X
	999	X	X
25c Juke Box 2912B	111111	X	
	222222	X	
25c Diner 3208A	11111	X	X
	22211	X	X
	22222	X	X
	33333	X	X
	44444	X	X
	55555		X
32c Porch Flag 2915D	1111 9/10	X	
	1111 10/10	X	
33c H Hat 3266	1111	X	
33c City Flag 3282	1111	X	X
	2222	X	X
34c Liberty 3466	1111		X
	2222		X
34c UWS 3550A	1111		X

05/01/02

**Toleware**

(Continued from page 67)

four stamps in the Transportation series (School Bus, Dog Sled, Milk Wagon and Popcorn Wagon); the Certified Public Accountants stamp (1987); the Bill of Rights stamp (1989); the Christmas Pull Toys stamp (1992) and the Christmas Stocking stamp (1994).

Nolan is a native of Washington, D.C., and studied fine art at the Corcoran School of Art. He graduated from Parsons School of Design in 1952. After working as a book designer and illustrator in New York, he returned to his hometown and began a freelance career. Before retiring in 1995, Nolan had created designs for NASA, the Smithsonian Institution, each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, and many federal agencies. His work has been honored by the Art Directors Club of New York and "Print" magazine. He won gold and silver medals from the Art Directors Club of Metropolitan Washington.

Derry Noyes, of Washington, D.C., was the designer and art director for this stamp.

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# Membership

Names of applicants are published for members to review. Any member who questions the suitability of a prospective member should contact the chairperson of the Membership Committee, James Markley, 100 Sparrow Drive #14, Royal Palm Beach, Fla. 33411 with the objection. The committee will recommend for or against membership.

## *New applicants:*

Robert W. Lord  
P.O. Box 600  
Eagle River, AK 99577

David Mahon  
P.O. Box 284  
Libertyville, IL 60048-0284

Alan Cohen  
2870 NE Hogan Dr. #458  
Gresham, OR 97030

Burton Miller  
P.O. Box 911  
Pacifica, CA 94044

David E. Aresenault  
80 Middle St.  
Gloucester, MA 01930

*Change of address:*  
Robert B. Jones  
341 Sleepy Hollow Road  
Ellijay, GA 30540-2657

Carl Shaff  
P.O. Box 20433  
Los Angeles, CA 90008-0433

Thomas L. Mizak  
3731 E. Terrace  
Las Vegas, NV 89102

## *Reinstated:*

Terry L. Fleshman #1403  
Lawrence E. Mertens #974

(Continued on next page)

(Continued on next page)

## Slide shows available

Members interested in obtaining PNC slide shows for use at local club meetings and stamp shows should contact John Peterson, 6987 Coleshill Dr., San Diego, CA 92119-1953 or call 619-466-3443.  
jkpete@pacbell.net

## PNC<sup>3</sup> meetings

A monthly listing of scheduled Regional and Annual Meetings will be published in *Coil Line*. Regional Meetings are to be arranged through John Peterson, Regional Meeting Committee Chairperson, 6987 Coleshill Dr., San Diego, CA 92119-1953. 619-466-3443.

John will make sure the editor is notified so that ample notice can be included in *Coil Line*. The local organizer can also submit additional information.

## Annual meeting details announced

**August 2002** – Annual Meeting in conjunction with the APS Stampshow in Atlantic City, NJ Aug. 15-18.

The Board meeting will be Saturday, Aug. 17 at 9 a.m. in room 309.

The Annual Meeting will be held the same day from 1 to 3 p.m. in room 306.

Both meetings have traditionally been open to any member.

New officers will be announced.

Anyone with items for consideration can submit such to President Gene Trinks. The address is on the front page.

## COIL LINE

Published monthly as the journal of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club, also known as PNC<sup>3</sup>. Copy must be in the hands of the editor no later than the 15th of the month. The May issue was mailed April 24..

**President:** Gene Trinks, 3603 Bellows Ct., Troy, MI 48083.  
gctrinks@sprynet.com

**Distribution:** Alan Thomson, P.O. Box 91, Northwood, NH 03261 or mrsnips@tds.net Mailed under Bulk Rate permit No. 1, Northwood, NH 03261. Contact Alan first about which back issues he has in stock. He may refer you to Charles Still at 15826 N.E. 184th St., Holt, MO 64048 for older issues. Please include an SASE. There is a modest charge to cover expenses.

**Changes of address:** Should be sent to and membership applications are available from Don Eastman, Secretary, 24 Bemis St., Berlin, NH 03570. east@landmarknet.net

**Mailing list:** Rental of the club mailing list is available. A one-time usage of labels costs \$50. Contact the secretary (above).

**Dues:** Are \$12 per year (\$15 for First Class mailing of *Coil Line*, \$17 for Canada and Mexico and \$22 for all others) and should be sent to Tom McFarland, Treasurer, P.O. Box 756 Princeton Jct., NJ 08550  
pnc3treasurer@home.com

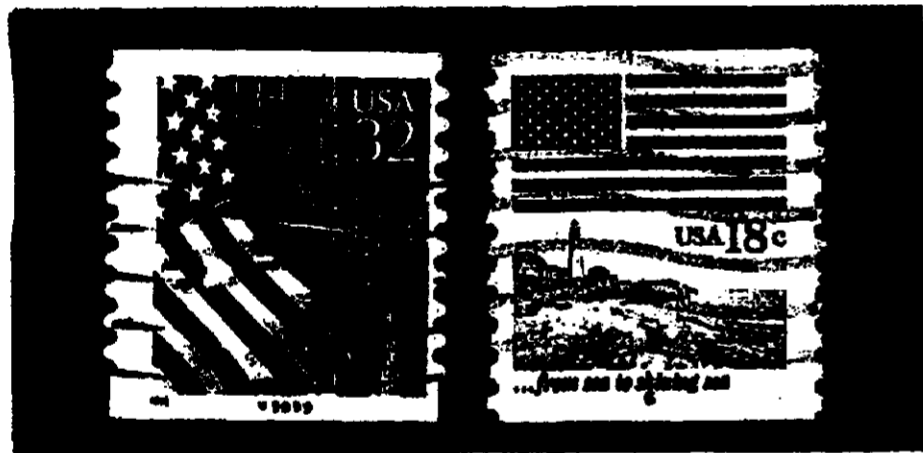
**Advertising rates:** Are \$42 for a full page, \$24 for 1/2 page and \$12 for 1/4 page per issue. A check or money order made payable to PNC<sup>3</sup> must be submitted with the advertising copy. All copy should be sent to the Editor, 909 Parker St., Bowling Green, OH 43402-2107.  
**E-mail** - halallen@wcnet.org  
Members are entitled to two free, 40-word ads per year. Word ads are available at 6 cents per word per issue to nonmembers and those members who have used their free ads.

## Ads

ATTENDING THE APS Stampshow in Atlantic City? Stop by and visit Brian R. Engler, Sr. I have mint PS3, PS5, PS7s, errors, imperfs, misperfs, computer vended, used and covers. Bring your list. Many key strips available. Discount offered for PNC3 members.

UNTAGGED ERROR 1898A 4c Stagecoach Plate #3 and #4. PNC strips of 6, MNH, F/VF+. Sold only as a set, \$400.00. Michael Mules, P. O. Box 270252, Milwaukee, WI 53227 or pnc5@webtv.net.

I HAVE FOR SALE off paper PNCs. Lot A: 30 pcs different singles in perfect condition for \$6 a lot. I have 4 complete different of A, B, C, D. For every lot, I include a free 1 pair, strips of 3 or 1 strip of 5. Also, I have available Scott 1891, 18c Flag #6 and Scott 2915A 32c #89899. I am waiting for offers. John Nistoran, 4831W. Elm St., Phoenix, AZ 85031. (illustrated)



RECENTLY RETIRED with plenty of time to trade. Have many common strips of 5, need many common strips of 5. Send a want list and I'll see what I have to trade. Frank Beck, 415 E. Wis. Ave., Appleton, WI 54911.

PNCs: A Guide to Collecting Purple Cancels (Copyright 2000). Contains dial types, slogan types, earliest and latest known usages, flats, machine types and more. Illustrated. Spiralbound. Special offer to PNC members: \$15.00 postpaid. Rob Washburn, Box 840, Skowhegan, ME 04976.

PNC USED SINGLES, used strips and MNH PS5s. Great prices! Visit <http://www.angelfire.com/ca5/HimesPNCs> or send SASE for details. John Himes, P.O. Box 453 Cypress, CA 90630-0453.

All members are entitled to two free 40-word ads per year. Copy should be mailed or e-mailed to the editor and be in his hands no later than the 15th of the month before publication is desired. Additional ads may be purchased at a cost of six cents per word per month. All checks should be made payable to PNC3.

## Membership

(Continued from previous page)

*E-mail addresses:*

William Crispens –  
W483c@aol.com

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Ida (Betty) Kujala –  
iekuj@webtv.net

David St. Maurice –  
davestm@eznet.net

Burt Robbins – burtr@attbi.com

## Exhibiting

Bill McMurray reports the Tomorrow's Classics Part II (1982-83) Transportation Coil Issues) was entered at two shows in April.

At SONEX 2002 April 6 in New haven, CT, the exhibit won the SONEX Reserve Grand Award, SONEX Gold Medal and American First Day Cover Award.

At MANPEX 2002 April 27-28 in Manchester, CT, the exhibit won the MANPEX Gold Medal and PNC3 Achievement Award.

Bill reports his exhibiting plans for the rest of the year are uncertain.

## PNC HANDBOOK

I am delighted to note that I have been kept very busy making photocopies of the PNC files from the Club's Web site in making a 186 sheet, double sided page, PNC Handbook for Club Members. Hopefully this effort will greatly expand their collecting pleasure.

Since the USPO recently allowed us a substantially lower cost for mailing, \$ 16. has covered all basic costs quite well and has permitted a small rebate to each Club Member. No one seems to know what the new rate will be, but \$ 16.00 should still cover it.

Arthur Westneat  
15 Davis Ave.  
Durham, N.H. 03824  
603 868-6480 (Voice or FAX)  
a.westneat@verizon.net

## Committee chairpersons

As a regular monthly feature, some of the PNC3 Committee Chairpersons will be listed in *Coil Line*.

Publicity: Randy Fisher PO Box 2072 Northlake, IL 60612.

Regional Meetings: John Peterson 6987 Coleshill Dr San Diego, CA 92119.

Estate Advisory: Dave Bize 16055 W. Wildflower Dr. Surprise, AZ 85374-5056.

Awards & Exhibits: Gary Davis 6005 Crown Ln. Des Moines, IA 50311.

Ethics: Joann Lenz PO Box 296, Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0296.

# Pre-Publication Order Form

## Deadline for pre-orders June 15th, 2002

Philatelic Arts is pleased to announce the coming publication of the 2002-03 Guide To Collecting Plate Number Coil Stamps on July 1, 2002

The Guide contains full color pictures of all U.S. plate number coil stamps through the year 2001.

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