

# PNC<sup>3</sup>



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# Coil Line

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

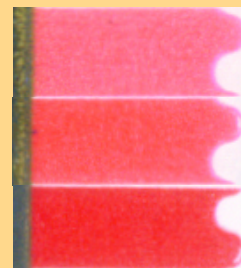
American Philatelic Society Affiliate # 185

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## Selected Images from this Issue



◀  
Color shades  
of the (10¢)  
Banner...  
page 9



▲  
An actual example of  
mis-slit row cutting (not  
a mis-aligned die cut)...  
page 5

▶  
Why was this  
(25¢) Eagle  
sliced apart?...  
page 11



**PNC3 Auction  
Coming!**

Consignment deadline soon,  
*January 20<sup>th</sup>*

(use consignment sheet on  
inside wrapper)



**Happy New Year!**



# Coil Line

*Journal of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club*

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## President's Message

## Regional Meeting Report

by Andy Jakes

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .**

#### **Short and Sweet**

I suppose that it has been a combination of travel, fatigue, laziness, procrastination, and perhaps a senior moment leading up to now, but I do not have a lot to say at this particular time. Frankly, I did not have the time to work up anything that would have required some research. So, the result is a very short message this month.

#### **PNC<sup>3</sup> Elections This Year**

As of mid-December, I still have not heard from anyone expressing an interest in being an officer this year, so on behalf of our entire PNC club, I am going to repeat the following challenge from last month's message:

Past President and club founder Gene Trinks has been appointed to chair the nomination committee for the club elections in 2010. Please consider running for an office and let Gene know of your intentions. None of the present officers, except one, can run for reelection to their present position because of term limits. Thus, the club offices really need some fresh faces from among our members. Gene can be reached at 16415 W. Desert Wren Ct., Surprise, AZ 85374, 623-322-4619, or by email at [gctrinks@cox.net](mailto:gctrinks@cox.net).

#### **2010 Dues are now Past Due**

If you have not yet sent in your 2010 dues when you read this, you are late and will have to pay a late-fee penalty. Please renew your membership as soon as possible. Thanks!!

– Ron Maifeld

### **From CHICAGOPEX...**

Fourteen PNC<sup>3</sup> members gathered for a lively regional meeting during CHICAGOPEX on November 21, 2009. Members came from Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin; Jim Haislet from Spirit Lake, Idaho, also attended.

Two major topics were the most-discussed: non-soakable stamps and phosphor tagging. Some members observed that the so-called non-soakable stamps could be removed from paper by dipping in naphtha (e.g., lighter fluid) for ten seconds, then rinsing the stamp in vinegar afterwards to remove the chemicals so they would not bleed onto mounts or album pages.

Others reported they are choosing to just cut the paper around the stamp instead of soaking it off. Attendees also reported varying success trying to soak coils from the third set of Flags of our Nation. (In a recent issue, *Linn's Stamp News* listed these 44¢ Flag stamps as soakable.) In a related matter, some members mentioned using baby powder on the back of mint stamps to overcome the self-adhesive gum.

Kurt Albrecht ([kurt2412@hotmail.com](mailto:kurt2412@hotmail.com)) of Waukesha, Wisconsin initiated a discussion of plate number and unnumbered coil stamp tagging varieties. He is assembling material about tagging anomalies for an exhibit at MILCOPEX in September 2010.

Kurt described nine categories of differential tagging errors from his research. In some instances, a tagging error could be a printing process contamination, or the uneven tagging could result from the taggant reservoir on the printing press starting to run dry. Several members stated they use a Raytech dual short wave/long wave UV light to detect and study tagging.

The meeting closed with the distribution of door prizes provided by John Himes, Jerry Koepp of Stamps N Stuff, Bill Castle, and Ron Maifeld.

**Consider auctioning your duplicate PNCs ... the club's next Auction Consignment deadline is January 20<sup>th</sup>.  
(Consignment sheet is on inside wrapper of this issue.)**

# Regional Meetings

## *Upcoming regional meetings ...*

### Sarasota, FL February 6

Welcome to warm, sunny Florida! A PNC<sup>3</sup> Regional Meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday February 6, 2010 in the North Balcony of the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, 801 N Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL during the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition, February 5-7, 2010. For more details, contact Sy Bricker, Chairman (941) 907-6604 or Fred Sener by e-mail at [FSEN213@aol.com](mailto:FSEN213@aol.com).

### Aripex, Mesa AZ February 13

A Regional Meeting of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club will be held at the Aripex 2010 show on Saturday, February 13, 2010. The show is held in at the Mesa Convention Center, 201 N. Center St, Mesa, AZ (10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday). The meeting is scheduled to take place at 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., in a room to be announced at the show. The club will have a table in the lobby to welcome members and supply club information to interested persons.

Information on the show and directions to the convention center are available online at <http://www.aripexonline.com>, the show website. Further information is also available from Gene Trinks, who is hosting the event. Contact Gene at 16415 W Desert Wren Ct, Surprise, AZ 85374.

### APS AmeriStamp Expo Riverside, CA February 20

John Himes and Jewell Meyer are planning a PNC<sup>3</sup> meeting at the APS 3-day Winter expo in Riverside, California (Friday – Sunday, February 19-21). The meeting is planned for Saturday, February 20, 2010 at 1 p.m. at the Riverside Convention Center. Please use the downtown exit off freeway Hwy # 91. A table with free stamp packets donated by the Riverside Stamp Club will be available for youth collectors. Both youth and adult collectors are welcome. There will be a drawing

for PNC door prizes. Parking is free and the APS show is also free.

### Cleveland, OH March 19-21

You are invited to make plans to attend the PNC<sup>3</sup> Regional meeting during the 121st “March Party”, sponsored by the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, which will be held March 19-21, 2010 at the Masonic Auditorium in Cleveland, Ohio.

(Date, time, room number and further information will be announced at a later date.) The meeting will be hosted by Frank Nemeth and officers of Garfield-Perry. This will be a great time to socialize with fellow PNC<sup>3</sup>ers in Cleveland, “The best location in the Nation.”

### Plymouth, MI April 24

A Great Lakes-area Regional Meeting of the PNC<sup>3</sup> is planned for Saturday, April 24, 2010, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. It will be held at the Central Middle School, 650 Church St, Plymouth, Michigan 48170. This is the site for the Plymouth Stamp Show, to be held April 24 and 25 (hours not yet posted). President Ron Maifeld will host this meeting, which will include time for sharing new finds, trading and selling. For more information, reach Ron Maifeld via contact information on page 2.

### Want to Sponsor a Regional Meeting?

Contact Tony Bruno for suggestions. He can put you in contact with others who have taken on the task. Several members have made it a regular habit of promoting meetings in their area.

### Regional Meeting Chairman

Tony Bruno, PO Box 624, East Lyme, CT  
06333-0624; email, [tbbee@aol.com](mailto:tbbee@aol.com)

There is no charge for announcements in this column. Please submit to the Editor three months prior to the meeting date. Thank you.

## Readers' Forum . . .

Several readers of "Will Our Self-Adhesive PNCs Degrade Over Time?" by John Himes, page 160 in November's issue, asked John for specifics in using naphtha to remove self-adhesive gum from stamps. He shared his method, also printed in this issue on page 8. Two members share their results, below. – Editor

**For what it's worth**, here's my experience with John Himes' lighter fluid methodology. Naptha works! It brings joy to the eye and warmth to the heart. Following John Himes' guidelines, I was almost gleeful. First, he's correct that naptha releases the stamp from its imprisonment, in about the same amount of time it took to soak off old-style adhesives. Unfortunately, they come free with the glue mostly still on the stamp.

It's necessary to carefully and repetitively stroke this gunk off the back, using a straight-edge tool such as a dull knife, a finger, and incredible patience. It helps too, if the household menagerie and one's soulmate can tolerate the odor. But work it does. I would enjoy hearing from other lighter-fluid testers about their efforts. – "Buck" Jordan #1742

**The naptha method** worked GREAT! But, I'm still not going to try my 32¢ Flags; I'll leave them on cut-close paper. I used a sharp paring knife to scrap off the glue. Really an easy process! Thanks!  
– Bob Novak #205

**John Himes' reply:** You should experiment with some of the less-expensive 32¢ Flag over Porches (FOPs) and see how easily you can remove them from the backing paper using naptha. Then, if that goes well, you might want to reconsider trying the removal method on some of the more expensive ones. I have removed probably 500 FOPs from the backing paper with naptha, and I have never messed up a single one.

On the other hand, I've thinned (and permanently damaged) probably 50 of them (not real expensive ones, of course) by water soaking. I feel that the naptha method for removing the FOPs is probably the best thing we can do to assure the hardening adhesive does not damage the stamps. I think that getting the adhesive off of them can only be a good thing, over time.

**I was wondering** if someone has compiled a list of PNCs that cannot be soaked off paper in water. I know there are some 32¢ FOPs that can't be soaked. I have not seen any FOPs listed on the "unsoakable list" published in *Linn's Stamp News*, so I thought there might be other PNCs that are not soakable. I have about 3000 PNCs I just pulled out of mixtures and want to start soaking. One of my finds was a very scarce (10¢) Atlas PNC #V13222. I don't want to ruin any because of not knowing they were unsoakable.  
– Joe Lenahan #2127

(please see page 7)



PNC3 member Jeff Fiszbein recently acquired this item from eBay and wanted to share it. This 42¢ Flags 24/7 plate strip of 4 (Scott 4236-9, PNC ID 2008-1 #S1111) resulted from row-cutting shifted enough to show 100% of the plate number on top (note how the die cutting was aligned correctly in regard to the stamp images). It is a nice example of mis-slit row cutting, to which I erroneously referred at times last year (mixing up the terms "mis-slit" with "mis-align"; see Editor's Message next page for more). – Editor

# Editor's Message

## FROM THE EDITOR . . .

I'm always learning interesting things from our readers. Sometimes, even when the *Coil Line* team catches grammar errors and the like before printing and items appear as we planned, reader reaction is not what we expected. Last month's (December) issue has several cases-in-point.

A reader looked at the two images of the 37¢ Flag affixer coil (2004 date, from Sennett) shown with "Attention Phosphor Tagging Enthusiasts" (page 174) and wondered how they showed the two tagging types mentioned in that brief. This was my first attempt at an illustrative "call for research" and I intended to show which of the many 37¢ Flag coil formats and suppliers was the target. (It showed a mint pair spaced apart on liner paper, and a Mailer's Permit Postmark-canceled used single off-paper, all in normal light. I hope to provide the reason for the research call in next month's *Coil Line*.)

Also, the sub-heading "Our 'New' *Coil Line* Editor" in the President's Message last month took at least one reader by surprise. He told me he had to read those paragraphs to realize the "new" *Coil Line* editor to which the heading referred was me.

(The single quotes were used in the actual heading, so perhaps we should ban them as harder to read?) As far as I know, the *Coil Line* team still wants me as editor and I plan to serve for the foreseeable future.

Then there are errors that keep creeping into text (usually from the keyboard of yours truly) that go unnoticed (or readers have decided to wait and see how long before I notice.) The one I address here is my tendency since at least summer to mix up "mis-slit" (referring to cutting apart the printed web rows of stamps into strips) and "mis-align" (referring to die-cutting).

In several back issues I referred to stamp row mis-slitting in reference to odd die-cut corner shapes – all should have referred to mis-aligned die cutting. In December's *Coil Line*, I purposely tried to avoid this mistake (and should have used a text search – on page 178 in Readers' Forum, one mention of "row slicing" should state "die cutting").

Ironically, among self-adhesive coils we've seen few mis-slit rows in comparison to the many die-cut shapes from mis-aligned mats found. Now that I stated that, of course, in Readers' Forum this month we show an interesting example of actual "mis-slit row cutting".

– Ron Blanks

## Coil Line

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## ... Readers' Forum

(from page 5)

**Editor's reply:** The idea of a list of PNCs unsoakable in water seems like a good one, yet I could not find any reference to one in *Coil Line*, at least in the past five years. Among a handful of brief discussions about difficulty in water-soaking used PNCs off paper (before John Himes' article) is "Soaking Modern Day PSA" by Dan Kauffman (April 2008, page 82), but no list was included.

Andy Jakes of the PNC<sup>3</sup> Catalog Committee took the initiative in 2008 to test coils from contract supplier Ashton Potter to see if paper they used for 41¢ coils lacked the silicone layer previously added to allow separation in water. The USPS had recently dropped its requirement that suppliers use such paper, calling its action an economy move. Andy reported in "Are PNCs Soakers?" (June 2008, page 115), that the three AP coils soaked fine: (41¢) nondenominated Flag (Scott 4132, PNC 2007-3), 41¢ Flag (4186, 2007-15), and 41¢ Blossoms (4166-75, 2007-12).

Complicating making a list is the fact that some coils present examples that soak OK and others that do not; these might be indicated by a third label, such as "portion unsoakable". This in turn is complicated by the varied patience among collectors: If a coil will soak free but only after two hours or more in water, is it "unsoakable"?



Some "unsoakable" PNCs

What I learned from my mixtures soaking doesn't necessarily match others' experiences, but I want to start the ball rolling. I found the PNCs shown at bottom left did not soak OK after over an hour in water. However, even this group had variations. The 39¢ Liberty is the affixer version (Scott 3980), #V1111 with a subtle Avery die cut that includes a more "angled" shape transition from the lower-left corner up to the first peak. Based on also soaking many non-PNC examples, these "angled" transition types evidently were printed on paper without a separation layer, so no amount of soaking removes the gum. (This example is fully and moderately thinned.) The same PNC was first known with a more "rounded" transition, and these 39¢ affixer coils soaked fine. (A few months back, *Coil Line* shared a reader's letter stating the same results.)

The other "unsoakable" PNCs shown were made by Sennett [(10¢) Lion (Scott 3447a) #S55555, (25¢) Eagle (Scott 3796) #S3333333, 37¢ Flag affixer version (Scott 3632C) #S1111]. All have minor thins from my attempts to remove the paper and gum. I also soaked other plate numbers of these issues and did not cause thins, although their backs are not as smooth as those of problem-free soakers.

I could go on, but one gets an idea of variables involved. I do not mind serving as a clearinghouse for members to report their findings so an "unsoakables" list with notes can be kept. (See page 2 for my contact information.) Perhaps after a reviewed list is established, problem PNCs can be flagged in the PNC<sup>3</sup> catalog, too. — Ron Blanks

### Donating postage...

Early in December, member Dennis Ladd had already reached some "end of year" clean-up, and found excess postage he wanted to donate. He also noticed this topic was missing in December's *Coil Line* (the editor regrets this lapse).

If you want to donate mint postage for the club's use, Brian Snippen (of The Incredible Bulk Mailing Co.) accepts postage donations on behalf of PNC<sup>3</sup>. Be sure to let him know if you do not want to be acknowledged. His contact information (as are all of PNC<sup>3</sup>'s contacts) is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> page of every issue.

## Removing Adhesive with Naptha

by John Himes

Since my article about removing the newer non-soaking stamps from envelope paper appeared in November 2009's *Coil Line*, I've gotten e-mail responses from PNC<sup>3</sup> members asking me to give them instructions on how to perform this process. I believe it will be helpful to share my time-tested method with readers.

Although many collectors will want to leave their stamps on-piece, others are inclined to remove them and prevent future potential damage from the possible migration of the gum into the stamp paper. At this point in time, the jury is still out on how to best collect these non-soakable stamps.

I'm providing this information only to tell you how it has worked for me, and hopefully help others decide if this will be the best way for them to collect. So here's how I've learned to best do this stamp removal after much trial and error:

- ◆ Purchase the naptha solvent. I recommend the Ronsonol brand of lighter fluid. It's commercially available, inexpensive, and works like a charm. Read the label and use the product responsibly. Start in a well-ventilated room or outdoors area, away from any open flame, and consider using latex medical gloves to protect your skin, as well as any other protection you deem necessary.

- ◆ I usually use a shallow dish such as a small bread plate. Simply place the piece in the dish and soak it in naptha for up to a minute or two. Then take a dull knife (I use a very dull, rounded-tip X-ACTO knife) and slide it between the stamp and the backing paper. The stamp will easily come off

of the backing paper.

- ◆ There will almost always be a lot of sticky gum residue remaining on the back of the stamp. I toss away the backing paper, place the stamp face down in the naptha, then use the dull blade to gently scrape off and discard as much of the remaining gum as I can.

- ◆ The tiny amount of remaining gum needs to come off, as well. At this point, I generally take a clean piece of white paper, take the naptha-soaked stamp, and place it face up (gum-side down) on the paper, and move the stamp back and forth a few times, migrating as much of the remaining gum to the clean paper as possible. Place the stamp in the naptha again for a few seconds, then repeat this step. You may need to re-wet and then rub the stamp on the clean white paper several times to transfer all of the remaining gum from the back of the stamp to the paper. Usually after three or four repetitions of this step, the stamp will be totally gum-free.

- ◆ Once the naptha evaporates from the stamp (about 60 seconds), I take the added precaution of tossing it in warm water for 10 minutes, and gently agitate the water once or twice to remove any remaining naptha, and then dry the stamp as you would after a normal water soaking.

I hope your experience will be as positive as mine has been. I've been using this method since I found some of the 32¢ Flag over Porch coils (that came out in the mid-1990s) to be non-soakable. To-date, I've had great success with this method.

## PNC<sup>3</sup> Catalog Committee Notice

New orders for PNC<sup>3</sup> Catalog items will *not* be accepted and processed in January and February. The Committee plans to make a new order page available in the March or April issue of *Coil Line* for new publications, as well as previously available chapters.

# Some “Pink” Banners Observed by Ron Blanks



Figure 1. Advertising mail from October 2009 franked with a Sennett-version (10¢) Banner with pinkish stripes.

Recently, PNC<sup>3</sup> member Al Light sent a picture of an interesting mailing his wife received October 13, 2009 (Figure 1). It is franked with a (10¢) Banner self-adhesive coil (Scott 4158, supplied by Sennett Security Products [SSP]). What is unusual is that the normal reddish ink appears on this stamp as a shade of pink. I asked Al if he would re-scan the cover along with a normal-appearing (10¢) Banner example in the same scan (Figure 2) so we could have a better reference to the color difference being discussed.

(Many readers will only be seeing this article in the grayscale print edition, so we apologize for the inconvenience of not seeing the images in color here. Cropped color images of the stamp areas are shown on the front cover. Those receiving *Coil Line* by email have the “best seats in the house”, since they can adjust color controls as needed.)

What might this apparent color variant indicate? Is it an actual difference in the color of ink used in printing, a difference in color perception from simple ink misregistration, or just a result of fading from exposure or manipulation (also known as a “color changeling”)? Since red pigments (along with other light-color inks like oranges and yellows) are notoriously subject to fading, such oddities are best viewed with suspicion until post-printing factors that alter ink can be ruled out.

(Note: For this stamp, the reddish stripes are printed using only “one” reddish ink, so any apparent color variation in them across stamps with the “same” ink would be due to uneven or diluted coverage, or contamination from other printed inks. For all examples discussed here, none of these events occurred besides the normal overlay of inks along the gold border.)

In the case of this cover, without a dated cancel the first question to arise is, What is its provenance? Specifically, what is known about its history to allow for the possibility that it sat exposed long enough to fluorescent lighting or sunlight to cause fading?

Al Light confirmed his household received the mailing this past October *(please see next page)*

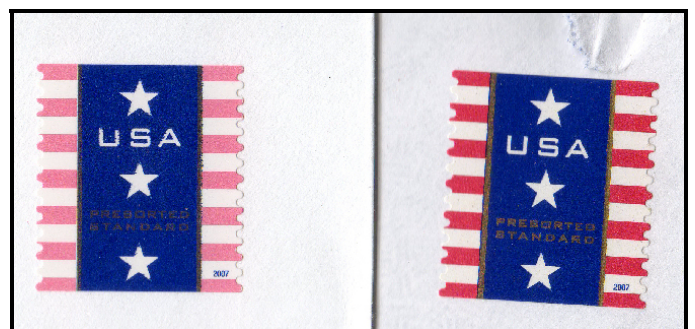


Figure 2. Single cropped image from upper right of two covers, made while “pink” Banner’s envelope was placed adjacent to a normal Banner.

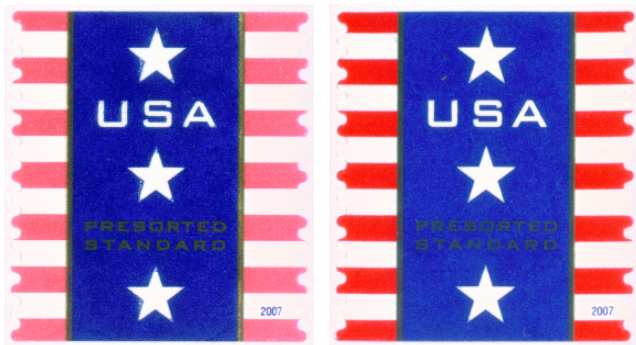
(from page 10)

and he immediately noticed the pinkish color. He also related that he contacted the mailer hoping to retrieve more examples and perhaps a PNC, but that effort came up empty-handed.

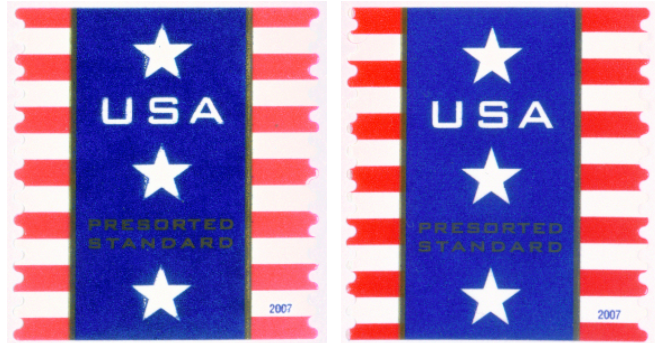
I showed the comparison picture to some specialists for comment. They had not seen or heard of anything like it among (10¢) Banners and also wondered if it was a color changeling. I also noted that even if a cover like this is not exposed during or after mailing to fading effects, it is possible that its franked stamp might be part of a supply that got exposed to office lighting or even sunlight through a window if it happened to sit in a lettershop or USPS office undisturbed for some time. This might typically occur for an unused portion left over from an earlier mailing or sale, although in this age of tight budgets and inventory control, I think that scenario is highly remote.

Without knowing about such stamps' exposure prior to mail use, the next best thing is to test the stamps themselves for evidence of how quickly the reddish ink might fade from light (if at all in a timeframe less than, say, a month). I set up some stamps on-paper for immediate testing using direct sunlight, for whatever that might reveal.

Meanwhile, a surprising discovery occurred: On another project, I happened to review my cache of direct-mail covers using non-PNC stamps and found among the SSP (10¢) Banner uses my own pink example (Figure 3). In addition to this one



**Figure 3. A second pink Banner coil found (image cropped from a cover, left; at right is a normal Banner image cropped from a second cover scanned with the first one in same picture.)**



**Figure 4. A pinkish-red Banner coil found (image cropped from a cover, left; at right is a normal Banner image cropped from a second cover scanned with the first one in same picture.)**

apparently matching the pink of Al Light's find, I also found one that appears as an “intermediate” case, not as much pink but still not as reddish as typical stamps (Figure 4). (I scanned my coil covers with my own scanner, which is not the same as Al's; hence, I am not showing his pink and my pink examples together.)

The covers I found date to November 2007 and May 2008, which I received from a collector shortly afterwards. I recall thinking that because I received the intermediate pink-red case along with the pinkish one at the same time, they reflected but two examples of a range of shades to be known for the issue, so they were unremarkable (until now).

Uncovering the “intermediate” example brings one back around to the possibility that these pink-related Banner coils are color changelings, subject to some fading from light along the way. In order to test that theory, since mid-November I have been exposing several Banner coils (as well as a [5¢] Sea Coast) to direct sunlight outside for the strongest rays as many hours as possible (this is more a challenge this time of year with the shorter daylight hours of the season). After one month the coils' inks show no fading, but perhaps they lack enough exposure. I will continue the test to see what happens

Have any readers found pink-related Banners? Finding mint strips would be especially significant, since the longer the strip, the more difficult it is to artificially cause a color change without detection.

# Testing “Tagged” Eagles on Mail

by Ron Blanks

(this page) Four frankings processed by the Hampton Roads, VA postal plant



RON BLANKS  
2112 PEAKEWYCK LAKE  
CHESAPEAKE VA 23321

Last month’s *Coil Line* article “Are (25¢) Eagles Tagged?” (December 2009, page 182) relayed the result of mail tests I tried with certain recently found mint stamps of these coils (Scott 3792-3801). They are ones showing some form of smooth glow under shortwave-ultraviolet light (SW-UV), first known on political mailings that appeared in the summer of 2008 and now available in mint rolls from several sources (first of these noted in December’s issue; see page 15 for others). Some had begun labeling this variety (with PNC #S3333333) as simply “tagged”, with no indication of the luminescent nature.

My chief interest was finding out if these smooth-glow Eagles had sufficient phosphor tagging to activate automated postal cancelers. (For some background on presort coils and phosphor tagging, see sidebar item on page 13.) It was evident that whatever phosphor was present was in the paper and not in the inks or in an overcoating. But the (25¢) Eagles’ inks fill the design area, which could suppress most of any afterglow reaction from SW-UV use. And even if the paper was prephosphored at “full strength”, the four uninked yet spread-out paper margins might be insufficient surface area for cancelers to detect afterglow.

To test the coils’ ability to trigger postal equipment, I designed two types of franking (in addition to a control franking of a 44¢ commemorative stamp.) The first type has a subject (25¢) Eagle affixed in the ordinary upper-right corner position, surrounded by 44¢ in untagged postage to pay the current one-ounce letter rate.

The second franking type is more unusual: Next to 44¢ in untagged stamps, in the corner I affixed four strips of uninked paper I cut from an Eagle’s four margins. I lined up the strips in a block shape (marked by arrows in the two examples at left). This block of stamp-paper margins is almost twice as large as the small bar of phosphor tagging typically applied to recent USPS postal cards and postal stationery envelopes. (please see next page)



## ... Testing “Tagged” Eagles on Mail ... by Ron Blanks

(from previous page)

So if the subject Eagles’ paper was normal phosphored paper, the block of coil-margin strips should activate cancelation just as an ordinary phosphor-tagged stamp.

Besides franking types, the testing also involved two identical sets of envelopes to find out how two different postal plants handled these. It is important to keep in mind that postal plants around the country do not necessarily have identical mailstream processes and handling. In fact, mail handling within the same postal plant can also differ, depending on equipment in service, the number and training of workers, and the volume and makeup of mail. Fortuitously, at the time of testing at the December *Coil Line*’s deadline, I had easy access to a mail drop-off for the Richmond, VA plant. As a more robust test, it would be interesting to see how Richmond’s handling might differ from a neighboring plant, my local one in Hampton Roads.

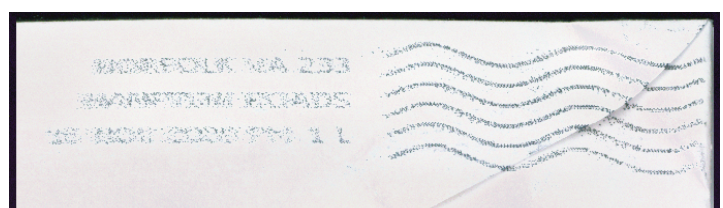
Not surprisingly, the plants’ processing did differ, even with both sets of envelopes mailed on the same day and delivered the next. All four of the Richmond “Eagle” covers (two using a whole coil, two using a block of margin-paper strips) received postal-plant handstamps via exception handling (shown on the frankings at right). The two 44¢ commemorative covers received the expected Richmond inkjet machine cancel.

In Hampton Roads, all four “Eagle” covers received an inkjet machine cancel, but only one (a whole-coil test) was on the stamps; three were canceled on the back (a cancel on back shown at right, bottom; see previous page for the four frankings). Normally one finds machine cancels on untagged mail as a result of feeding the “reject stack” (mail which the canceler initially kicked out) back through the canceler in “cancel only” mode enroute to sorting.

However, sometimes a worker also first positions (faces) mis-oriented mail when rifting through the reject stack in review. Time might not have allowed this, or the facer-canceler system might be upgraded with a video-image capture unit for address recognition (please see next page)



(above) The four Richmond, VA handstamps  
(below) One of the Hampton Roads back cancels



(from previous page)

that doesn't need facing (an upgrade I'm not certain was completed, but some design was in USPS plans). Since the covers appear canceled unfaced-as-arrived, it's also possible they traveled just once through a system set in “cancel anyway” mode (still facing any phosphor-tagged stamped mail; the plant also machine-canceled the two 44¢ commemoratives).

Interestingly, as seen on the full cover shown on page 11 at top, the cover passed through initial address recognition processing unfaced. The fluorescent orange national-ID barcode is on the front instead of the back (shown in higher contrast).

In any event, the testing indicates the phosphors in the paper of the recent “smooth-tagged” (25¢) Eagles are diluted in comparison to paper normally used when a phosphor-tagged stamp is required.

### Some Background on Presort Coils and Phosphor Tagging

The self-adhesive (25¢) Eagle stamps are one of many nondenominated “presort” coils available from the USPS for authorized mailers to use on business mail. A mailer obtains postage discounts based on the extent they prepare a mailing to save some post office work. The presort coils have an assigned “face” (nominal) value based on their service class, which is 25¢ for first-class presort stamps such as this American Eagle issue.

To qualify for discount rates, mailers are required to save the post office from having to face and cancel their mailings (tasks which ordinary collected mail requires the post office to perform). For this reason, presort coils that discount mailers can choose to use do not need phosphor tagging normally used for first-class stamps such as 44¢ stamps or “Forever” stamps.

Collectors of coils or PNCs do not expect to find phosphor on presort coils, since they are not supposed to be issued with any (actually, two issues have been released to-date with their entire supply fully phosphor-tagged unnecessarily; can you recall them? *Answer on page 15.*) Since the mid-

1980's, however, a few presort coil issues have been discovered with part of their supply containing phosphor, usually in a diluted strength compared to normally tagged first-class stamps.

On the other side of the coin, since 1991 the USPS has a policy of also not tagging low-denomination stamps (below 10¢), but a few exceptions have cropped up in this area as well.

Supplied by Sennett Security Products (SSP), the recently found mint (25¢) Eagles' smooth glow under SW-UV differs from the glow seen on a few earlier coils first found in 2005. The earlier Eagles show weak streaks of paper glow, as do a small number of other SSP presort coils [(5¢) Seacoasts, (10¢) Lions] also found in 2005. Contributing writer Doug Iams learned from SSP in 2006 that they printed the earlier “uneven” weak luminescent coils on contaminated paper, too weak to be a concern to SSP or the USPS.

In contrast, to some collectors the newer smooth-glow Eagles appear strong enough under SW-UV to warrant listing in the Scott catalog, as did earlier stamps found with “full-spread” but diluted contamination. These show a fine- or medium-grain weak paper glow and include the 1¢ Kestrel sheet stamp (Scott 2477a), and presort coils (10¢) Eagle (2603b), 23c USA (2607a), (5¢) Mountain (2903a), and self-stick (10¢) Eagle (3271b).

One might take note that the Scott U.S. specialized catalog does not list numbers but instead uses footnotes for the streaky, weak contaminated examples of SSP presort coils. Scott's eventual decision about the newer full-spread (25¢) Eagles listing might be of academic interest only (although some hobbyists believe having a Scott number increases collector interest). Meanwhile, some stamp sellers (notably in online auction sites) confuse the matter of footnote-only coils by offering unlisted PNCs as “tagged errors”. (I would think such sellers, especially PNC3 members, would bring to the club's and Scott's attention such “errors” for proper confirmation and listing as other errors, but they do not. These and related issues are large enough to fill one or more new articles which I hope to write in the future.)

# Coil Line Index

by Steven McCollum

## Coil Line Volume 22, Numbers 1 thru 12

1¢ Tiffany Lamp Comparison, p 128  
10¢ Banner V333, Gary Wulfsberg, p 177  
22¢ Flag Presses, Alan Thomson, p 59  
22¢ Flag Phosphor Tagging Blocks, Ron Blanks, p 59  
22¢ Flag Tagging Sizes Updated, Ron Blanks,  
p 62-63, 66  
29¢ "Blackish" White House, Ron Blanks, p 19  
32¢ Flag over Porch Split 5s, Bob Rabinowitz, p 175  
37¢ Egret without Black Ink, p 20  
39¢ Liberty-Flag Affixer Tagging, Ron Blanks, p 76  
41¢ Flag (Avery) die cut shapes, Thomas Hertley,  
Sr., p 177  
42¢ Flag Affixer Coil Die Cuts, Ron Blanks, p 165  
44¢ Flag on Two Papers?, Frank Covey, p 132

Another 1¢ Tiffany Lamb Contrast, Frank Covey,  
p 140  
AP Flag 24/7 with Gray Date, Frank Covey, p 23  
A Return to the [18¢] Surrey, Ron Archer, p 77-81  
Are (25¢) Eagles "Tagged?", Ron Blanks, p 182, 186  
A Show-&-Tell Item from StampShow 2009  
(39¢ Liberty and Flag), Frank Covey, p 137  
Back Numbers on Star Flag, Frank Covey, p 121  
Catalog Offerings, Frank Covey, p 41  
Checking 32¢ FOP 78777 10x10s, Ron Blanks, p 168  
Combo Perfs on Flag 24/7, Frank Covey, p 38  
Commercial Covers, Rob Washburn,  
Big Rolls with Spaces - First-Class Rate PNCs  
on Cover, p 94-96, 110-113  
Cover of the Month, Rob Washburn,  
10¢ Patriotic Banner, p 60  
29¢ Flag over White House (printing freak), p 97  
32¢ Flag over Porch #99999 with purple  
machine cancel, p 125  
42¢ U.S. Flag #S111111111, p 11  
Eagle Presort S11111 with 10¢ Banner, p 39  
Current Plate Number, Roll Sizes, Tagging &  
Die Cuts, p 14, 30, 45, 65, 82, 98, 107, 126, 138,  
149, 184  
The First Self-Adhesive PNCs, Ron Blanks, p 89  
Jay Bigalke Interviews USPS Stamp Manager,  
Ron Blanks, p 35  
New Finds: 32¢ FOP Split 5s, Todd Uebele, Sr.,  
p 167, 169

New First Class Rates May 11, Ron Blanks, p 42  
New PNC for 22¢ Flag D Press, Ron Blanks, p 40  
New Plate Number Combination from Avery  
Dennison, Ron Maifeld, p 3  
New Untagged Trans Coil Errors, Ron Blanks, p 44  
Patriotic Banner Freaks, Doug Iams, p 164

## PNC3

Auction #40, p 47-53, 114  
Auction #41, p 152, 183  
President's Message, Ron Maifeld, p 5, 21, 57,  
73, 90, 105, 119, 131, 143, 159, 173  
Editor's Message, Ron Blanks, p 6, 22, 37, 58,  
75, 90, 106, 122, 134, 146, 162, 176  
Regional Meetings, p 19-20,  
ARIPEX, Tucson, AZ, Gene Trinks, p 4, 36, 174  
Arlington, TX, p 4, p 56  
CHARPEX, Charlotte, NC, p 72, 87, 88, 104,  
135  
Chicagopex, Andy Jakes, p 3, 104, 120, 132,  
144, 160,  
Cleveland, OH, 144, 160  
Pittsburgh, 104, 120  
Plymouth, MI, p 56, 104, 174  
Sarasota, FL, p 4, 56, 160, 174  
Southern California (SESCAL), p 4, 104, 120, 132  
Tucson, AZ, p 4  
Reporting the Rarities, Gene Trinks, p 12, 64, 123, 179  
Research Report (Scott values and pricing),  
Ron Archer, p 25-28  
Rounded vs. Angled: Subtle Avery Die Cuts  
Illustrated, Ron Blanks, p 88, 92, 100  
Skirting Correct Postage, Ron Blanks, p 93  
Someone owes me a penny!, Frank Covey, p 139  
Stamp Processing at Unique Binders, Doug Iams,  
p 147, 150  
The Shallow Valley Returns [41¢ Flag on Pole],  
Frank Covey, p 103  
This and That, Doug Iams, p 7-8, 24, 115-116,  
180-181  
UV Differences on Bighorn Sheep, Frank Covey, p 137  
You Tube Opportunity, Ron Maifeld, p 75  
Will Our Self-Adhesive PNCs Degrade Over  
Time?, John Himes, p 160  
*(compiled by Steven McCollum)*

## Classified Ads

**PNC USED SINGLES**, used strips, MNH PS5s. Great prices! Guaranteed quality! No hassles! Visit <http://www.angelfire.com/ca5/HimesPNCs> or send LSASE for lists to John Himes, PO Box 453, Cypress, CA 90630 - 0453. Member 957

**LOOKING FOR PLATE # 100%** on top of strip from Transportation issues, MNH PS5s or longer. Please contact me if you have any of them for sale or trade. Also attempting to put together a list, so information is always good. Mark Schultz. [mschultz@jomarpress.com](mailto:mschultz@jomarpress.com). Member 2114

**NEW E-BOOK**, "Field Guide to Postal Uses of the Americana Series", 304 8-1/2x11 pages, color throughout, 185 figures, 19 indepth stories, \$18 postpaid (USA) on CD. Inquire for table contents, online demo. Ron Blanks, PO Box 9282, Chesapeake VA 23321. [rblanks\\_stamps@yahoo.com](mailto:rblanks_stamps@yahoo.com). Member 2119

**CLASSIFIED AD** rates are 6¢ per word, with a minimum cost of \$3.00 per insertion.

**PNC<sup>3</sup> members** are entitled to two free 50-word ads per year. (There is a 10¢ charge for each word over 50 with free ads.) Contact the editor to place an ad.

### Display Advertising Rates

#### PNC<sup>3</sup> Coil Line

- Full Page \$ 100.00
- Half Page \$ 80.00
- Third Page \$ 65.00
- Quarter Page \$ 45.00
- Sixth Page \$ 35.00
- Eighth Page \$ 20.00
- Back Cover Add \$ 50.00
- Inside Cover Add \$ 25.00
- Color Ad Add \$ 100.00
- Color Ad - Electronic Version Add \$ 25.00

(Discounts available for multiple insertions.)

*Answer (from page 13): The "G" Flag inscribed "first-class presort" coil (Scott 2888), and the first (5¢) Sea Coast coil with blue "2002" date (Scott 3693) were issued with phosphor tagging.*

## Sources for "Smooth-Glow" (25¢) Eagles

### Additional PNC<sup>3</sup> Member-Dealers

For the benefit of those who do not use the Internet, here are additional PNC<sup>3</sup> member-dealer sources who advised us by press time that they have the mint (25¢) Eagle coils discussed in this issue (page 11). Postal addresses and provided phone numbers are included. Interested readers should contact these suppliers for more details.

Victor Bove, PO Box 534,  
New Monmouth, NJ 07748 Ph: 732-495-9491  
[vicbove@avbstamps.com](mailto:vicbove@avbstamps.com)

Victor Collinino, 38 Crestview Ter,  
Stratham, NH 03885-2203 Ph: 603-772-3510  
[vimco@myfairpoint.net](mailto:vimco@myfairpoint.net)

Engler Stamps (Brian Engler, Sr.), PO Box 21952,  
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002  
[info@englerstamps.com](mailto:info@englerstamps.com)

Michael B Lipson  
19365 Cypress Ridge Ter, Apt 612,  
Lansdowne VA 20176-5161  
[mblipson@smartneighborhood.net](mailto:mblipson@smartneighborhood.net)

Craig Selig, PO Box 11725,  
Fort Wayne, IN 46860-1725  
[www.pnc3.com](http://www.pnc3.com)

PNCs Unlimited (Teresa Wajek), 16085 54th Ave,  
Chippewa Falls WI 54729 Ph: 715-723-6808  
[swajek@sbcglobal.net](mailto:swajek@sbcglobal.net)

Dealers who are PNC<sup>3</sup> members are reminded that the PNC<sup>3</sup> website maintains a "member-dealers" list for you, whether or not you have a website. You can let members know exactly what hobby items you offer, in addition to your preferred contact information for business. My review of this list to inquire about the (25¢) Eagles showed some information that appeared outdated, as well as some website addresses that do not work. Dealers are welcome to submit their current profiles to the PNC<sup>3</sup> webmaster, Ron Maifeld using his contact information given inside the front cover of every Coil Line issue. Thank you for your contributions to and participation in the club!

– Editor

# Membership Update

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, Robert E Thompson, 12431 Golden Thistle, Houston, TX 77058-1225 with the objection.

## New Applicants

Vicki Perry (2150)  
359 Tanglewood Dr  
Biloxi, MS 39531  
(228) 388-6319 (day & evening)  
[doc11@msn.com](mailto:doc11@msn.com)

Stephane Chevette (2151)  
3 Avenue Labrie  
Laval, Quebec H7N 3E4  
Canada  
(514) 499-7999 (day)  
(450) 682-1621 (evening)  
[stephane\\_chevette@sympatico.ca](mailto:stephane_chevette@sympatico.ca)

Steve Schenbeckler (2152)  
DBA P&S Stamp Express  
P O Box 306  
Westerville, OH 43086  
(614) 899-1983 (day & evening)  
[sesatpands@aol.com](mailto:sesatpands@aol.com)

**(The committee will recommend for or against membership.)**

## Mailing List Available

Rental of the club mailing list is available upon request. A one-time usage fee of \$50.00 includes preprinted address labels. Contact Dan Farrar, Secretary by email: [farrard2@sssnet.com](mailto:farrard2@sssnet.com)

## Reinstated

Mario Chevette (600)  
3821 Hampton Ave  
Montreal, Quebec H4A 2K7  
Canada  
[Mario.chevette@mcgill.ca](mailto:Mario.chevette@mcgill.ca)

David Cunningham (1479)  
P O Box 370364  
Milwaukee, WI 53237-0364  
[cleverbacon222@yahoo.com](mailto:cleverbacon222@yahoo.com)  
(414) 744-7265 (day & evening)

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Previous Membership Count | 806 |
| New Members               | 3   |
| Reinstated                | 2   |
| New Membership Count      | 811 |

## Address Changes

Don Mackintosh (1772)  
[donmack81@verizon.net](mailto:donmack81@verizon.net)



## Address Changing?



Change of Address forms and membership applications are available from Daniel Farrar, Secretary, 3386 Excalibur Cir NW, Canton OH 44708-1143. Email: [farrard2@sssnet.com](mailto:farrard2@sssnet.com). Both forms are also on our website at: [www.pnc3.org](http://www.pnc3.org).

## *Coil Topics Index this issue...*

42¢ Flags 24/7 (S1111) missliced..... 5  
Naptha for unsoakable PNCs.....5, 8  
(10¢) Lion (S55555),  
(25¢) Eagle (S3333333),  
37¢ Flag (Sennett 2004), 39c Flag (affixer)  
unsoakable..... 7  
(10¢) Banner (Sennett) "pink"..... 9  
(25¢) Eagles "tagged", mailing tests.....11

**(Note: No changes to "Roll Sizes" Chart this month.)**

## *Thank you...*

**for renewing your PNC<sup>3</sup> membership for 2010.**  
(If you forgot, please use form after page 170 in November issue.)

Attach lot here

## Auction #42 -- Plate Number Coil Collectors Club Consignment Sheet

(Photocopy this page. A separate sheet is required for each lot.)



▶ **January 20, 2010 is Auction Consignment Deadline** ◀



**Please Note:** Auction Lot fee is 10% of hammer price (minimum 50¢ per lot), and a 50¢ lotting fee for each UNSOLD lot (all fees deducted from the sale proceeds).

- 1) Keep this entire page intact and attach only one lot in its own glassine with tape on the top half (*do not use staples*). I understand that this might not be possible for longer strips.
- 2) **LIMIT YOUR CONSIGNMENT TO 25 LOTS**, please.
- 3) As I find that there is no totally acceptable definition of a commercial cover, all covers will be listed as either "First Day Covers" or "Other Covers". There will be no exceptions.
- 4) If you do not state a minimum bid, your lot(s) will go to the highest bidder regardless of the price(s) realized.
- 5) Bidding increments are: \$0.01 to \$4.75 -- 25¢, \$5.00 to \$9.50 -- 50¢, \$10.00 to \$49.75 -- \$1.00, \$50.00 to \$97.50 -- \$2.50, \$100.00 to \$495.00 -- \$5.00, \$500.00+ -- \$10.00

**OWNER IDENTIFICATION** Preferred E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ PNC<sup>3</sup> Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

Scott # \_\_\_\_\_ Minimum Bid (see rules above) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Description of material:

It is assumed that all mint material is never hinged, with undisturbed gum, sound perfs, etc. If otherwise, please note under "Faults" below. Used materials are assumed to be unhinged with sound perfs, etc. If otherwise, please note under "Faults".

(For COTTRELL issues, please grade **both** design centering and line centering.)

Centering – Overall for non-Cottrell issues or Cottrell designs (see grading notes) (Circle one)

Ave F F/VF VF XF S

Centering (line) Cottrell issues only (Circle one)

Ave F F/VF VF XF S

Faults (describe below)

**If my lot does not sell...**

Please return it to me

Please hold it for the next auction

**SEND TO: PNC<sup>3</sup> Auctions, c/o Joe Sedivy, P. O. Box 410602, Chicago, IL 60641**

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