

Our 26<sup>th</sup> Year

# PNC<sup>3</sup>



www.pnc3.org

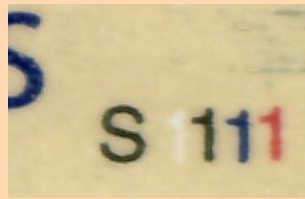
# Coil Line

Journal of the PNC<sup>3</sup>  
**Plate Number Coil Collectors Club**  
American Philatelic Society Affiliate # 185

Vol. 26, No. 2

February 2013

Whole No. 296

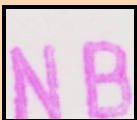
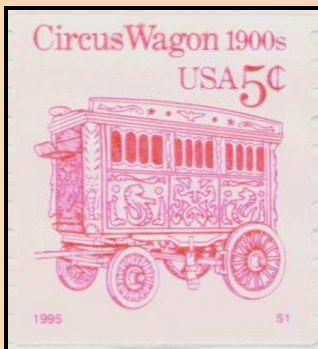


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# Coil Line

*Journal of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club*

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## President's Message

*from the PNC<sup>3</sup> president . . .*

This month's issue of *Coil Line* marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of PNC<sup>3</sup>. It was in February of 1988 that three founding members signed the original PNC<sup>3</sup> charter in Detroit, and the club began to accept members from among the enthusiastic PNC collectors in the wider collecting community.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find a reprint of a news report by PNC pioneer Steve Esrati at the time this club was formed. It was published in *The Plate Number*, Steve's bimonthly journal on PNCs (and later, the Great Americans series of definitives) that reported activities of the Plate Number Coil Study group. The study group numbered about 20 individuals who did much early research on the nascent PNC hobby. He was, in large measure, the inspiration for starting the club that is now known as the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club.

It was at his urging, first during meetings of the early Plate Number Coil Study Group at Ameripex '86 (held in Chicago), and then at StampShow '87 (held in Boston – of which Steve writes), that the need for a specific collectors' organization was expressed and ultimately brought forth.

The early days of PNC<sup>3</sup> were truly amazing in terms of its acceptance by collectors. Literally hundreds joined within the first three months of our opening the club to new members. By May of 1988 we had nearly 500 members!

The American Philatelic Society was scheduled to hold its annual StampShow in Detroit during August of that year. This national society's normal requirements for a club to become an affiliate of APS required a two-year waiting period after formation. The club petitioned for early acceptance because of its spectacular growth and was accepted as Affiliate 185 prior to its first Annual Meeting held in conjunction with that show.

The PNC hobby and this club have grown and changed in the ensuing years. Challenges have arisen and been met, and PNC<sup>3</sup> is now a much more mature and complex organization than had even been contemplated in those early days a quarter-century ago.

– Gene Trinks

## Welcome!

If you are a new reader, PNC<sup>3</sup> starts its 26<sup>th</sup> year this month. We are a community of stamp collectors specializing in plate numbered coil issues of the USA. The first PNCs were issued in 1981 and, in February 1988, a network of PNC specialists founded our club. *Coil Line* was launched in May, 1988 and serves (along with other club literature) to inform collectors on the many aspects of PNCs. Studies include scarce numbers, varieties, printing methods, market values, PNCs on mail, and more. Thank you for visiting, and we hope you'll join us!

## PNC<sup>3</sup> Regional Meetings

A regional meeting was scheduled February 2 at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition in Florida February 1-3, 2013, likely held before most printed copies of this month's issue reach members.

### SANDICAL, San Diego February 9

A Regional Meeting of the PNC<sup>3</sup> will be held *across the street* from the SANDICAL 2013 show on Saturday, February 9, 2012. The meeting time and location is set for 1 to 3 p.m. at the Hampton Inn, 5434 Kearney Mesa Rd in San Diego.

SANDICAL will be held February 8-10 at the Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearney Mesa Rd, San Diego, CA 92111. Show hours are 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Friday & Saturday, and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday.

Further information is available from Frank Covey, who is hosting the meeting. Contact Frank at [ecoilline@macomb.com](mailto:ecoilline@macomb.com).

### Connecticut Stamp Show February 10

The Connecticut Chapter of PNC<sup>3</sup> plans to meet at the Second Sunday Stamp Show, Feb. 10 at the Executive Suites (**formerly** Comfort Inn), 900 E Main St., Meriden, CT at 1 p.m. Postmaster Maurice Bessette will have an extensive array of stamps including the new coils. 8 to 10 dealers plan to attend as well. Plenty of free parking is provided, and free breakfast and lunch from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Contact Mike Conway at (203) 268-5896 or [mjconway@hotmail.com](mailto:mjconway@hotmail.com) if you have a question.

The CT Chapter of PNC<sup>3</sup> is also planning a regional meeting at Philatelic Show 2013, May 3-5, in Boxborough, MA. More details will be announced in a future *Coil Line*.

## A Good Time in Anaheim!

### Southern California / OrcoExpo PNC<sup>3</sup> Meeting Report

by John Himes

The PNC<sup>3</sup> regional club meeting was held at the OrcoExpo stamp show in Anaheim, California on Saturday, January 12, 2013. Even though we weren't able to book a meeting room until 4:00 PM, we still had 12 club members in attendance.

Following introductions and a discussion on what each member collects, information was shared about the upcoming new issues: the 46¢ Kaleidoscope Flowers, the 33¢ Apple postcard-rate stamps, and, in March, the 46¢ Patriotic Star issue. It was mentioned that the standard collecting format for the four-design issues (Kaleidoscope Flowers, Apples) will be plate strips of nine ("PS9s").

John Himes shared his new Lighthouse microscope and demonstrated how great it is for looking at plate numbers and "fly specks." It's especially helpful for viewing yellow plate numbers, which can be very hard to see with only a magnifying glass. John also demonstrated the removal of 29¢ Herbs and 44¢ Quill and Inkwell used PNC singles from envelope paper using Ronsonol-brand lighter fluid, a dull-bladed knife, and some facial tissue (for wiping off excess adhesive). Everyone agreed that it was quick and easy, but not all were convinced that it's necessary to remove stamps attached to paper.

A lively discussion ensued about PNC prices and whether or not to expect values to rise or fall in the next edition of the club's PNC values list. It was pointed out that quite a few of the older issues have been heavily discounted by dealers in the last two years, so a decline in value of those issues might be expected. But for the newer used singles, many are quite hard to find (except for the Forever definitives). Those might actually turn out to be more expensive than expected. We all agreed it will be fun to see how this turns out.

Door prizes were provided to all who attended. Thanks goes to Dave Cobb of Newport Harbor Stamps, Jerry Koepp of Stamps 'N' Stuff, Ron Sobel of Oakmore Stamp Company, and members Glenn Aichele, Tom Lipari, and John Himes who all donated door prizes for the meeting. *(please see page 18)*

## Editor's Message

Developments in postal use and collecting of postage stamps in coil format seem more interesting and exciting for a change recently. I hope most, if not all, of our PNC<sup>3</sup> members were able to renew their dues for 2013 and are reading this issue now.

As one can tell, we haven't made much of a "hoopla" this issue at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of PNC<sup>3</sup>'s founding, instead sharing more features and news on PNCs. And the horizon seems a little brighter, too.

As noted in the initial report of new coils (page 22), a new step was taken: the USPS is issuing almost simultaneously two different-themed 46¢ large-roll coils for large-mailing use. Some of the general public from time to time (and recently, online posters) have voiced to the USPS their preference for another choice of regular stamp design besides the ubiquitous "patriotic" themes. Ironically, during our recent 45¢ letter era the public was stuck with "Forever" rolls of 100 in yet another "Flag" design while the affixer-use offering in rolls of 3,000 and 10,000 featured four 45¢ Weather Vane designs.

Speaking of affixer-use offering, I was hoping with this issue to introduce a new occasional feature, "Where is a PNC Version?" An interesting effort in direct-mail marketing would be highlighted. Such mailpieces would be franked with machine-affixed coils of PNC issues but unnumbered, and we will invite readers to report if a PNC version is known.

That new feature has to wait for space to accommodate it, but it got me thinking – there's yet a related topic to which we also owe attention: the unreported use of a given coil for an expected purpose. Current case in point: Has anyone seen the 1¢ Bobcat affixed with a 44¢ large-roll coil on ad mail?

Meanwhile, enjoy the issue! – Ron Blanks

### 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)

(PNC<sup>3</sup> meeting notices in this column are free. Please submit details to the Editor 3 months before the meeting.)

## Readers' Forum

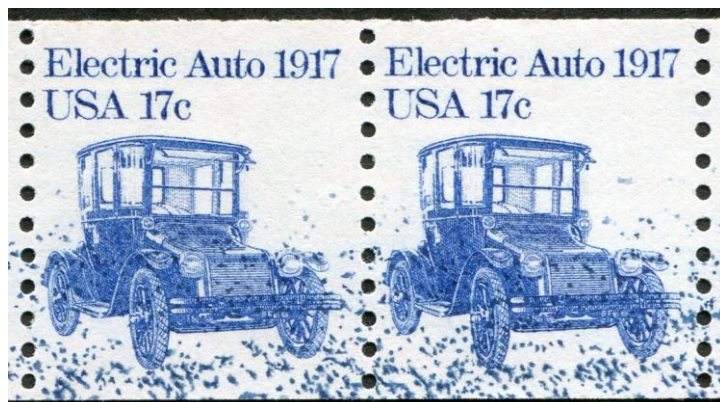
### "Aging Mint Strips" Warning

**This should be** a warning to mint strip collectors.

This morning (this past December 18th) I was putting postage on a Christmas package using 39¢ Flag coils and 34¢ Statue of Liberty coils. Both were self adhesives. *Both fell off the backing paper.*

The 39¢ Flag coils did stick onto the package, but the 34¢ would not adhere and I had to use a glue stick. I used up the entire remaining stamps I had so I cannot send a sample. Stamps have been stored in the house away from heat and sunlight.

I wonder if the same thing is happening to mint strips in collector albums. — Dan Forgues #1037L



**A 17¢ Electric Auto** mint pair (from a strip with plate 4, not shown here) I have shows what appears to be a blizzard of snow being driven through. Does anyone know of other reports? — Frank Covey #319L

*[Frank is on the PNC<sup>3</sup> Catalog Committee, and a fellow member offered the following initial reply.]*

The answer to the question: yes and no! In the 1995 catalog, Richard Nazar has a picture of a partial strip of four from Scott Adams' collection. The reason for "yes and no": Scott's strip has "snow" in the top half, while the above pair shows it in the bottom half.

I do not own a strip with this variety. As a matter of fact, Scott's strip and yours are the only two I know of. This brings up some questions that *Coil Line* readers might answer: Was this a band of "snow" on just two rows of the sleeve, or were more rows involved? Does anybody own a strip that has the "snow" from top to bottom? — Peter Tukker #1764L

**I always enjoy** Rob Washburn's "earliest documented usage" (EDU) installments of his Commercial Covers columns. I admit my partiality as a student of modern postal history, yet I seldom make the effort to research my PNC covers of recent years to compare dates with Rob's reports.

I've been guilty of "not getting to it," reacting to years past of searching my modest holdings when nothing turned up to show a mailing earlier than the ones Rob was reporting. I wonder how many of you have thought the same way, while a potential new find reposes unreported in a box or stack somewhere?

In a moment of taking initiative I decided to scrutinize the few PNCs of 41¢ coil covers onhand in comparison to Rob's list (November 2012 *Coil Line*, page 136). Of all 14 Flag design varieties listed, only two have "2" as the digit in the plate number. So it was rather easy to check the "V22222" 41¢ coils I found on cover, my earliest being March 23, 2007 (cropped closeup image shown above).

But the EDU list has Feb. 15, 2008 for the peak/valley type and Feb. 4, 2008 for valley/peak. More significantly, the earliest of any "41¢" PNC is in September 2007 and the earliest undenominated coil is April 26, 2007. Clearly something was amiss. The small post office of Waverly, Virginia that postmarked my cover obviously had the wrong year ("2007") slug in the handstamp, instead of the correct "2008" that March. — Ron Blanks

## News of Our Start, 25 Years Ago

### PNC society now has a nucleus, Trinks says

*The headline above introduced a news item written by Steve Esrati, published on page 5 of his journal The Plate Number, Jan-Feb 1988 issue. The text of that item is reprinted below.*

Gene Trinks, chairman of the founders' committee of a nationwide society for PNC collectors, is encouraged by the fact that he is now in contact with a nucleus of 17 persons indicating interest in forming such a society. By the time this appears, the group will have a constitution.

He said, "Our formation has begun."

He would like to hear [at Michigan address given] from others who have ideas or suggestions about the goals of the society or views on the following questions:

- Should the society have a journal?
- What should dues be?
- Should the group seek to become an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society?

The first of those dotted questions is spurred by the existence of *The Plate Number*, which is a for-profit publication of Steve Esrati, who has the help and assistance of the Plate Number Coil Study Group.

At the Boston [StampShow '87] meeting, Esrati offered to make TPN available to members as part of their dues. Michael Lawrence, publisher and editor of

---

*(from page 16, regional meeting report)*

Thanks also goes to member John Greenwood who saw that everyone who attended got a mint never-hinged strip of two or three of the 20¢ Flag coil imperforate and shifted down about 5mm. Everyone went home with a wonderful set of stamps to add to their collection.

At the end of the meeting, plenty of time was spent buying, selling, and trading amongst those in attendance. It was truly a great meeting! We hope to be able to meet again at the Yorba Linda Public Library in the near future. We'll be sure to announce the Southern California gathering in *Coil Line* once the meeting time and place are confirmed.

*Linn's*, noted then that it is somewhat irregular to make a for-profit journal a society organ.

Esrati has now informed Trinks that he would set aside space in TPN for society use that would be totally under the control of the society. Further, each member would be assured one free 25-word classified ad in TPN every year.

Meanwhile, Trinks said he expects the society to be underway early this year when recruiting begins "so that we can have an active group and our first annual meeting at STaMpsHOW 88" in Detroit.

Several readers have asked why it was not possible simply to open the existing study group to a wider membership. The answer comes from Esrati's comments at STaMpsHOW in Boston:

"The PNC Study Group is a working organization. Those who don't work don't stay in. Those who work are reimbursed – and even paid – for their services. The group simply is not structured to become a club for fans of PNCs. Another mechanism has to be found for them."

Further, several members of the study group object strongly to the idea of expanding it beyond its present size.

So, with all that said, TPN awaits the first news of the new society.

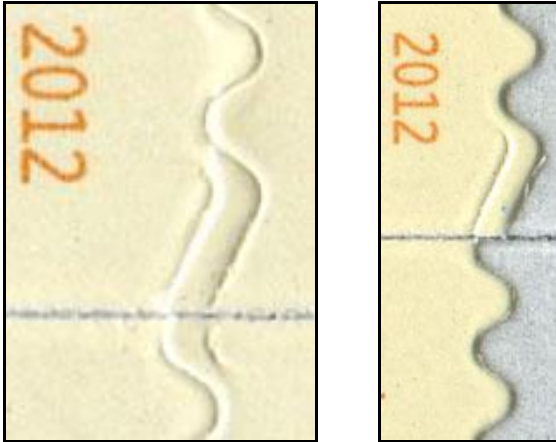


### Counterfeit Stamp has Plate #

PNC<sup>3</sup> member Dan Forgues shared what is evidently the first report of a plate number on a counterfeit U.S. coil stamp. Shown above is a fake (41¢) Flag stamp that Dan found, used and off-paper, with "S111" at lower-right (closeup of genuine PNC is shown above faked number). *(please see page 23)*

## Interesting 2012 Discoveries on Sennett Security Products

### ☞ Double Die Cut Aloha Shirts (PNC-ID 2012-2)

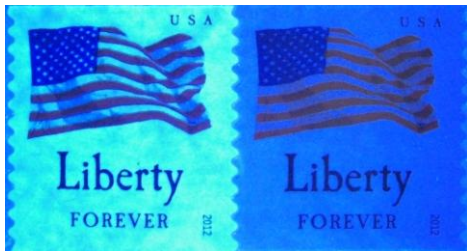


At left are enlargements of double die cutting on the 32¢ Aloha Shirts coils (PNC ID 2012-2) that goes across a row boundary. The right-side image shows you what the end of a coil strip looks like.

I am indebted to Robert Thompson and Michael Lipson for sharing this find.

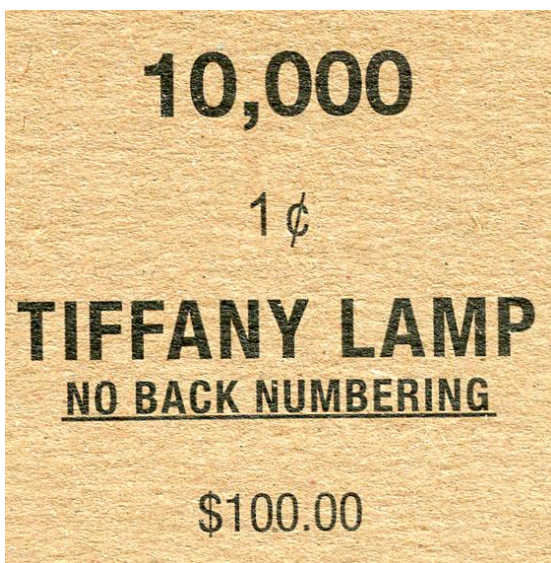
Sennett-made coil issues can be saved in a “stacked” fashion (as coil blocks). *[Rolls of 100 are not furnished to post offices as standalone units, but in 10-roll-high stacks with paper bridges in between.]* Before this find, I had not seen any double die cutting on the 32¢ Aloha Shirts.

### ☞ UV Varieties on Four Flags (2012-4)



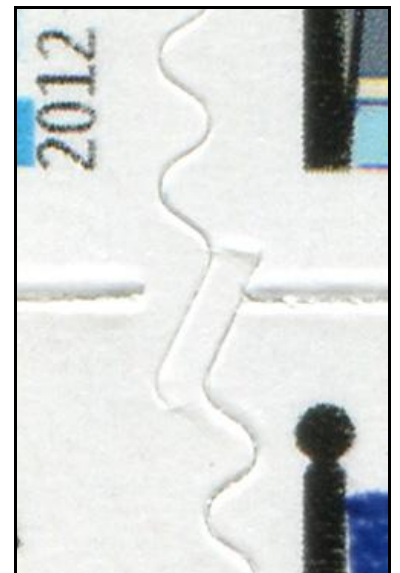
Shown at left are two stamps photographed under long-wave ultraviolet (LWUV) light by Robert Thompson. The darker, subdued-light stamp on the right side was known to me when these 2012 coils were first issued. The left stamp, shown reacting strongly to LWUV is a recent discovery.

### ☞ Latest 10K Tiffany Lamp Label (2008-7)



◀ Late in 2011 the USPS philatelic sales catalog announced a 1¢ Tiffany Lamp coil with no back numbering. According to *Linn's Stamp News* of May 7, 2012, a shortage of “food grade ink” was to blame. Here’s a version of the roll label noting the distinction.

Double die cutting between two Flags of our Nation Set 6 rolls ▶



## DAV Cover Jewel Overlooked for 15 Years



### A DAV-provided courtesy reply envelope with two PNCs and a surprise addition.

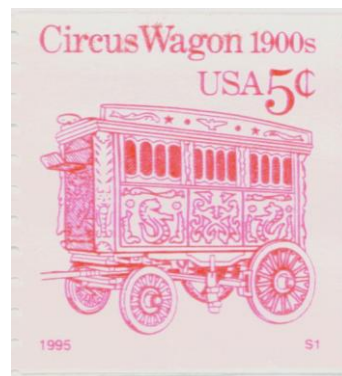
You have a slight advantage over what I had in recognizing what makes the reply envelope depicted above especially interesting. The page heading and the cover's prominently shown front side provide a strong expectation to spot something extraordinary. However, I possessed this cover for 15 years before noticing its special attribute only this past October.

Ever since reply envelopes started bearing different denominations of plate-number related coils affixed together, collectors have sought out those with PNCs for fun or serious study. Of particular interest are those that feature not just one PNC, but a PNC on each design that is part of a mixed-coil use cover.

This cover happens to feature such multiple PNCs. The left strip of four 5¢ Circus Wagon coil has plate number "S1" on the third stamp. The "S" signifies it was produced by Sennett Security Products, and is cataloged as Scott 2452D, first issued March 20, 1995. (Sennett produced later varieties of this issue, including additional plate numbers.)

The right-side strip of four 3¢ Conestoga Wagon coil has a PNC of plate 6 at the second stamp. This issue was printed by Bureau of Engraving and Printing (of the U.S. Treasury department, Washington

D.C.) and assigned Scott 2252a (the untagged 1995 version of the initial format, phosphor-tagged rolls bearing plate 1 issued February 29, 1988).



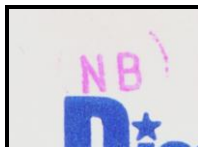
I acquired this cover in early 1996 while visiting in the home of a relative who has since passed away. Back then, my time and attention was more preoccupied with work and it would be years before I began asking relatives to save their daily stamped mail they otherwise would throw away. In any event, I had recorded the cover as likely sent (inside a Disabled American Veterans mailing) in January, 1996. *(please see next page)*

(from previous page, DAV cover)

This DAV-supplied reply envelope reposed with similar envelopes franked with PNCs in a small box, awaiting further organization “one day.” As a matter of postal history, some collectors likewise save these, if for nothing else than to track the usage over time of different stamps that mailers used to encourage responses. Ideally, we’d like to see postally used examples since dated cancels better show their history. But for privacy, solicitors later shred almost all such reply covers mailed back.

For some recent research only indirectly related to PNCs, I had reason to revisit my PNCs-on-replies cache. Now, I had similarly revisited this cover with the others occasionally over the years, if only to re-sort them when adding newly acquired ones. But this time what I’d overlooked for over 15 years finally stood out; perhaps you noticed it on the front as seen on the prior page (*enlarged, below:*)

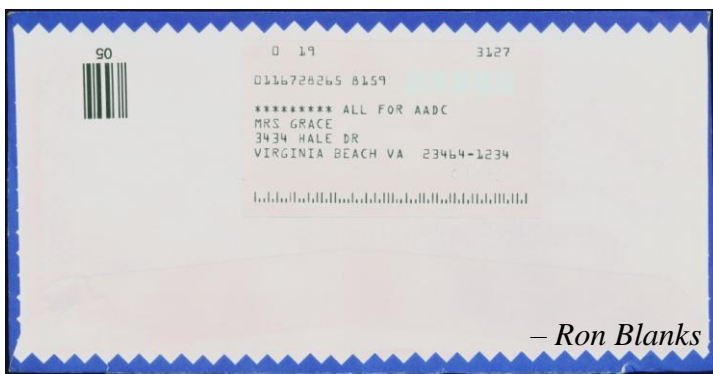
**“NB” operator code of a letter sorting machine**  
(closeup from envelope-front image on preceding page)



Above the “D” of Disabled in magenta ink is “NB”, the tell-tale operator code of a letter sorting machine (LSM). Upon noticing that, I took a closer look at the cover and realized that the envelope flap had been *sealed*. Further, that edge of the cover (at bottom, in flap-side image below) had been *slit open*.

Rather than being an unused DAV reply envelope like the ones many of us save, this one had actually been in the mailstream. It was mailed to the DAV (and not re-used as some recipients have done, covering up the DAV address to address it elsewhere such as to a billing-payment location).

With the coils lacking phosphor tagging, and the facing identification mark (FIM) covered by the 3¢ coils, mail processing found the “address” of my relative on the back and used it to “deliver” it to her.

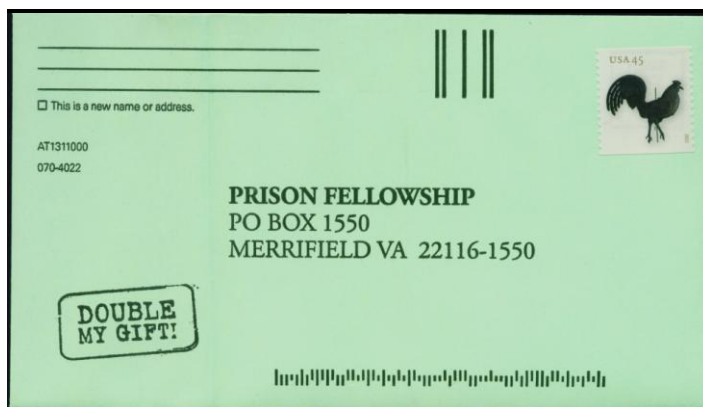


## Direct Mail Sightings

Precancels have long shown up on direct-mail pieces with scant evidence that they were legitimately applied to their respective covers (excluding the select cases with postmarks applied by mailers under permit, a practice that gathered steam in the late 1970s but is still in the minority).

While ordinary stamped mail has postmark cancelations to “tie” the stamp to the cover, precancels allow this step to be bypassed. Having a precancel tied to cover by a mailstream processing mark is a relatively rare occurrence and highly prized. (An exhibit showing the many ways possible would be very educational.) For any plain precancel franking, it remains to any trace evidence of machine affixing to verify authenticity, especially in cases of very desirable items such as rare PNCs.

Older water-activated gummed coils usually showed affixing-machine evidence: clipping, water/gum use, and sometimes pricking of the paper. But with self-adhesive coils, equipment “tips” the stamps off of the roll liner with nary a trace on the envelope or the stamp itself. Yet rare exceptions can arise.



While not an outer-envelope precancel, the 45¢ Weather Vane on the reply envelope shown above is a machine-affixed self-adhesive coil. An unusually prominent and long track of roller impressions clearly ties the stamp to the cover, evident in the closeup (*right*). The coil happens to be a non-PNC, so if any reader finds a PNC example, especially if used on an outer envelope, we would like to see it!

— Ron Blanks



## New Coil Issues Arriving

### USPS to Issue Coils for New Postal Rates

The U.S. Postal Service is releasing new coil issues to meet some of the raised postal rates effective January 27. Details from USPS press releases through mid-January follow. (Publicity images are shown in color on the back page.)

Issue: 46¢ Kaleidoscope Flowers (1 design in 4 color schemes).

Format: self-adhesive rolls of 3,000 and 10,000.

Issue Date: January 14, 2013.

Supplier: Sennett Security Products.

Plate Number, Interval: "S11111", every 28<sup>th</sup> stamp. (Offered for affixing-machine use by large mailers.)

Issue: 33¢ Apples (4 designs).

Format: self-adhesive rolls of 100.

Issue Date: January 17, 2013.

Supplier: Sennett Security Products.

Plate Number, Interval: "S11111", every 32<sup>nd</sup> stamp. (Offered for the new postcard rate. Also being issued as a pane of 20.)

Issue: 46¢ Patriotic Star (1 design).

Format: self-adhesive rolls of 3,000 and 10,000.

Issue Date: March 19, 2013.

Supplier: Sennett Security Products.

Plate Number, Interval: (*not yet disclosed*).

(Offered for affixing-machine use by large mailers.)



Some clues of gummed-coil affixing machine clipping:

Angle and spacing of cuts at sides, paper remnants (*arrows*) and their spacing. (See related story, page 21.)

### 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 Harvey Wales, Secretary by email: [Secretary@pnc3.org](mailto:Secretary@pnc3.org)

## Membership Update

### New Applicant

Lawrence C. Tropea (2218)  
3334 Marsden Pt  
Keswick, VA 22847-9132  
(434) 963-2633

Names of applicants are published for review. A member who questions the suitability of a prospective member should contact the Membership Committee c/o Robert Thompson with the objection (see page 14 for contact details). Applicants are accepted as members one month after publication if no objection is made.

### Reinstated

Mario Chevrette (600)  
James B. Doyle III (1064L)  
Paul Kaufman (2185)

### Resigned

Herbert Chamberlain (1372)  
Lenore A. Smith (1560)  
Dominick Cinti (1840)  
Marc Anthony (2031)  
John Nack (2199)

### New Life Members

Paul E. Brumley (233L)  
Joseph M. Perret (882L)  
Donald F. Mackintosh II (1772L)  
Ronald Tellier (2008L)  
Brian Snippen (2013L)  
David J. Reedy (2028L)

*"Thank you!" to the above PNC<sup>3</sup> members, who have made this long-term commitment to the club.*

Previous Membership Count	601
New Member	1
Reinstated	3
<u>Resigned</u>	<u>-5</u>
New Membership Count	600

# 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. Please specify what you collect. Or e-mail [johnwhimes@yahoo.com](mailto:johnwhimes@yahoo.com). Member 957L

\* \* \*

**BUYING** – The odd and unusual. Splices, misperfs, the unexplained. Especially wanted full and sealed coil rolls. What do you have? No pre-1981 issues please. Details to: Michael Mules, PO Box 267, Mukwonago, WI 53149 or email [pnc5dealer@gmail.com](mailto:pnc5dealer@gmail.com). PNC<sup>3</sup> Life Member 1291.

\* \* \*

**Very large PNC** collection for sale. If you want it all, you will have to come with a truck. But I will sell any part of it. Send Want List. I will send copy and what I want. Ken Moreau, 402 Coronation Dr, Franklin MA 02038. Member 447.

\* \* \*

**BEST OFFER** for intact roll of 100 imperf 29¢ Flag over White House (Sc2609a); plate # 4 at pos. 13 and 61. Tagged; superior centering of vignette and numbers. View by appt. at Western Philatelic Library, Sunnyvale, CA. J. H. Peters, [kjsp42me@cs.com](mailto:kjsp42me@cs.com) or 408-252-4534. Member 1501.

\* \* \*

**Announcing a new** website of modern mostly US postal history, especially tough to find PNC commercial covers **STARTING** January 25, 2013. Check out [www.modcoverguy.com](http://www.modcoverguy.com). Member 004L.

## 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 (for full page)	Add \$ 100.00
• Color Ad - Electronic Version	Add \$ 25.00
(Discounts available for multiple insertions.)	

**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 (see page 14).

## Address Changing?

Change of Address forms and membership applications are available from Harvey Wales, Secretary, 13 Birmingham Place, Vernon Hills, IL 60061. Email: [Secretary@pnc3.org](mailto:Secretary@pnc3.org). **Membership form is also on our website at:** [www.pnc3.org](http://www.pnc3.org).

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*(from page 18, Counterfeit PNC)*

Dan relayed the following details about his comparison of the counterfeit coil to the genuine, a Sennett Security Products product which the USPS issued April 12, 2007 (Scott 4133).

The counterfeit has a different die cut and its paper is very slick. The plate digits include only three 1s (omitted was the “white” 1, a printing dropout of the genuine background tan ink). Color dots populate the fake’s yellowish background. The microprinted “USPS” security device of the genuine coil is missing from the top of the fake flag pole. Note also how the cancel ink spreads out on the slick stamp surface. *[Note embedded “cobra” row-separator shape (copied?) in the die cut.]*

## (5¢) Art Deco Birds: Does “2011” Differ by Plate #?

In “This and That” of last November’s issue (page 137, 140) we presented a claim from an online forum poster who opined that one could tell whether unnumbered (5¢) Birds came from “P1111” or “P2222” rolls by differences in the “2011” year date appearance. (*An extraneous digit was typed for each number in that issue.*) The question is, is a reliable test possible? Six enlarged 2011 images were shown (repeated here), with two being from PNCs of one number, three from the other, and a sixth being from an unnumbered single. Readers were invited to submit their choices for grouping “like” dates together to see if this question could be answered. Four brave PNC<sup>3</sup> members ventured opinions, presented below in arrival sequence. (*Answer at end.*)

I do notice a few differences in the 2011 dates as follows:

- (1) Definitely **A** and **C** (and maybe **B**) seem to have the numerals tilted down and to the right from the “2” to the final “1”.
- (2) The numerals in **F** seem to be more compressed from left to right than the others.
- (3) **D** and **E** seem to be alike.

Just my two cents. – Jim Fowler

I looked at all the strips I have under 20X. Still inconclusive. The date is composed of dots of black. The background also has black dots along with cyan and magenta, and some of the background black dots merge with the black dots of the numerals. That causes slight variation in the outlines of the numerals, but to me, the font has not been changed for printings of the two coil sizes.

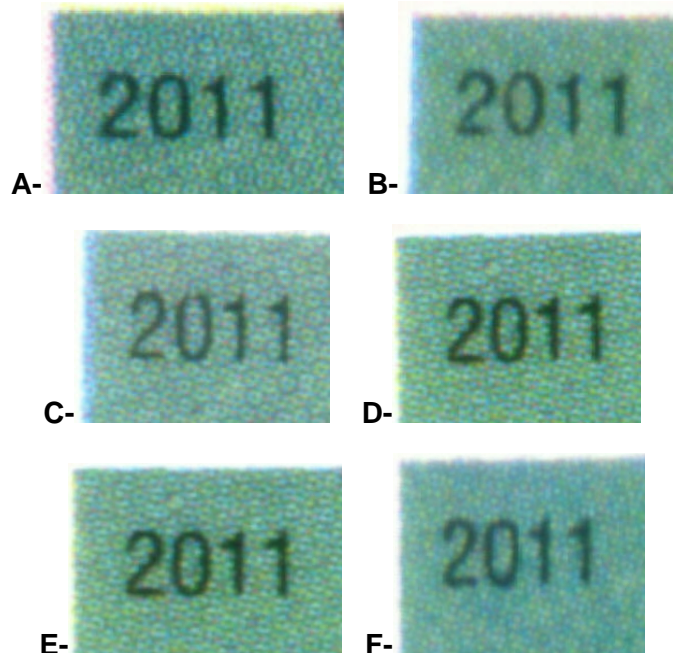
On a difference in the spacing of the “1”s, I see

no difference. I made a gauge by cutting a stamp so that the top serifs of the “1”s were trimmed off. The vertical stems are spaced the same distance apart on either plate number. – Rudy de Mordaigle

No contest. **A, B, D, E** have a wider “2” and “0”. **C, F** have a narrower “2” and “0”. The zero is the dead giveaway. – Cerel M. Fritz, Jr.

My two cents’ worth on Doug Iams’ November “This and That” regarding Art Deco Birds dates. In my opinion, groupings might be:

1 – **A, D & E**; 2 – **B, C & F**. – Mark Schultz



(Images A, C, and F are from P1111 while D and E are from P2222. B is from an unnumbered single.)



Images of new coil issues (see page 22)