

PNC³ PNC Catalog Chapters Order Form (April-May 2013)

The Plate Number Coil (PNC³) Catalog Committee is accepting orders from PNC³ members for the new publication and re-offered publications listed below. These will be available as long as quantities last. Orders received in April and May can be expected be filled in 60 days; thereafter, mailing will be intermittent.

	<u>Quantity Ordered</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
<u>A. New Publications</u>		
2012 New Issues: 26 pages		
Stamp Illustrations in Color	\$12.40	_____
Stamp Illustrations in Black & White	\$ 4.25	_____
2013 Cumulative PNC-ID Index, Cross Reference PNC ID and Scott Numbers Index, and Alphabetical Name Index (3 items, B&W)	\$ 6.40	_____
Avery Die Cut Varieties, 5th edition , 29 pages, illustrations in color	\$10.50	_____
<u>B. Re-Offered Publications</u>		
\$0.44 Star Flag (15 pages, denominated, illustrations in color)	\$ 8.00	_____
\$0.41 Flag on Pole (27 pages, non-denominated and denominated, illustrations in color)	\$10.50	_____
\$0.37 Flag Waving (26 pages, non-denominated and denominated, illustrations in color)	\$12.50	_____
\$0.32 Flag over Porch (19 pages, non-denominated and denominated, illustrations in color)	\$ 8.50	_____
PNC ³ Illustrated Glossary (26 pages including 1 page of color illustrations), 2008 Edition	\$ 4.50	_____
<u>C. Postage & Handling</u>		
\$2.80 for first item ordered	\$ 2.80	
\$0.30 for <u>each</u> additional item ordered	\$ _____	
Total Postage & Handling		_____
TOTAL REMITTANCE (US Funds ONLY), payable to PNC ³		\$ _____

Mail Order and Remittance to:

Andrew M. Jakes
5203 Hayden Woods Ln
Hilliard, OH 43026-7473
pnctreasurer@aol.com

PNC³ Member Number _____

Your Name (PRINT) _____

Your Mailing Address (PRINT) _____

e-mail address or evening telephone number _____

(CL1305)

Our 26th Year

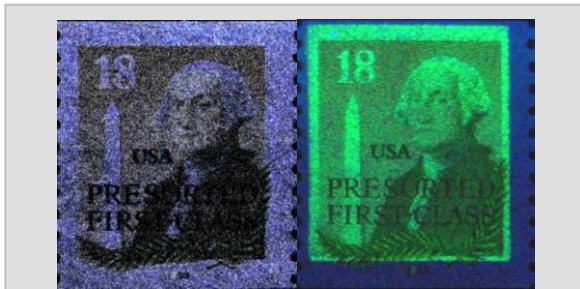
PNC³



Coil Line

Journal of the PNC³ www.pnc3.org
Plate Number Coil Collectors Club
American Philatelic Society Affiliate # 185

May 2013
Vol. 26, No. 5
Whole No. 299



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Coil Line

Journal of the Plate Number
Coil Collectors Club (PNC³)

Published by: PNC³
ISSN: 1931-5112



Scott #2280 plate # 1
(issued May 20, 1988)

Editor: Ronald Blanks
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Advertising Rates (one-time)

Full Page	\$ 100.00	Eighth Page	\$ 20.00
Half Page	\$ 80.00	Business Card	\$ 20.00
Third Page	\$ 65.00	Back Cover	Add \$ 50.00
Quarter Page	\$ 45.00	Inside Cover	Add \$ 25.00
Sixth Page	\$ 35.00	Color, full page	Add \$ 100.00

(For Color Ads, Electronic Version only, Add \$25.00)

A check or money order, made out to **PNC³**, must accompany camera ready ad. Advertising copy must be submitted by the 1st of the previous month prior to the publication date. Please send all copy to Ronald Blanks, Coil Line Editor, PO Box 9282, Chesapeake, VA 23321.

The Classified Ad rates are six cents a word per issue, with a minimum of \$3.00 per individual ad. (Two 50-word ads per year per member are available at no charge. There is a 10¢ a word charge for words over 50.)

All material, including articles submitted, will be edited and formatted for inclusion in **Coil Line**, and must be received by the 1st of the month prior to publication.

Coil Line reserves the right to edit copy as necessary.

Coil Line is published monthly and as a member benefit is sent electronically with annual dues of \$16.00. Printed version of **Coil Line** is also available. To U.S. addresses, to receive printed version add \$14.00 for Bulk Mailing; add \$22.00 for First Class Mailing. To Non-USA addresses, add \$27.00 for mailing. Past issues of **Coil Line** available at \$2.50 per copy (quantities limited).

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All content matters, letters to the Editor, and advertising questions should be sent to **Coil Line**, c/o Ronald Blanks, PO Box 9282, Chesapeake, VA 23321. Phone 757-478-8719; email: coillineeditor@yahoo.com. For mail delivery problems, contact the mailer below.

Postal mailings prepared by: Brian Snippen, PO Box 5542, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87185-5542. Email: bsnippen@comcast.net. Phone: 505-404-1624. Mailed from Zip Code 87185, on or near April 26, 2013.

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(For *Coil Line*-related matters, please
consult column at left for appropriate contact.)

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PNC³ auctioneer: Joe Sedivy

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President's Message

from the PNC³ president ...

I believe PNC collectors must be quite pleased by the recent appearance of new plate numbers on previously issued coils. The latest, plate number S2222 on the 3-cent Silver Coffeepot stamp, is reported to have been required because of a change in the engraving method used to make the printing cylinders. According to a report by Jay Bigalke in the March 25th issue of *Linn's Stamp News*, the latest 2012 Four Flags Forever stamps were given plate number P2222 because of a paper difference from the originally numbered P1111 variety. The P2222 is printed on phosphored paper, whereas P1111 was on non-phosphored paper that was overcoated with phosphorescent taggant.

The PNC hobby was negatively impacted when the powers-that-be in the Postal Service advised their contract printers that it was no longer necessary to assign and print incremental new numbers on coils when printing cylinders were changed. The 2006 policy only allowed plate numbers to be updated in case of substantial change in the paper or in the manufacturing process.

For a time thereafter, no plate-number revisions whatsoever were found. Many PNC collectors began to assume that we were forever doomed to have only one plate number on a given coil issue.

It is indeed refreshing to learn that the original directive to increment plate numbers is being observed if a change in the manufacturing process occurs. Frankly, I think that this mandate might have been ignored in the last few years, because far too much time passed during which no new plate numbers were produced. Surely, there must have been some changes that would have warranted assigning a revision plate number. In any case, it appears that our current postal administrators are aware of the original directive and are taking steps to call attention to production differences through the change of plate numbers. Bravo!

Don't forget to order your new chapter of the PNC³ Catalog using the order blank found on the inside of this issue's wrapper. – *Gene Trinks*

Welcome to the 25th Anniversary Issue of Coil Line!

If you are a new reader to *Coil Line*, PNC³ is in our 26th year. 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!

Kansas City Caves Tour

Frank Covey

On March 25, 2013 I was privileged to be included in an American Philatelic Society tour of the underground caves in Kansas City, Missouri. "The Caves," a large retail and business park in a converted mine complex, is where the Stamp Fulfillment Services of USPS fills collector orders for postal products offered through the print catalog *USA Philatelic* as well as the online "Postal Store" on the usps.com website.

Most tour participants took a chartered bus from a KC airport hotel to the underground site, but I drove my car because I wanted to stay afterwards and do some shopping at their new retail facility that opened within the last year.

From the lobby the tour group was carded into the secure facility and taken to a conference room where Khalid Hussain, the manager of Stamp Fulfillment Services, gave a short talk on the history of the facility and briefed us on the automated plant we were about to see. *(please see next page)*

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

(PNC³ meeting notices in this column are free. Please submit details to the Editor 3 months before the meeting.)

(from previous page)

Space doesn't permit relating all the operations that go on there, but I did see a stack of 46¢ Kaleidoscope Flower coils sitting as folded strips of 25 ready to go into the packaging machine.

After the tour, some of us returned to the conference room where we were able to speak with Khalid and Terri Basinger, Operations Manager, about better ways to service coil collectors.

I told them that for the 3K and 10K rolls, the strips need to be cut in the same length as the plate number interval with the plate number centered on a flat strip of 15 with the rest of the strip folded underneath. Also they should offer smaller sections of the 3K and 10K rolls that could be purchased as unfolded continuous partial rolls.

Better yet, I offered on behalf of PNC³ to give them both complimentary subscriptions to the electronic editions of *Coil Line*. As *Coil Line* readers, I am sure that they will be keen to hear what you have to say about how Stamp Fulfillment Services can improve its service to you. I felt that they were both eager to listen.

If you are in the Kansas City area and want to go three-fourths of a mile into the caves, their retail store is located at 8300 NE Underground Dr. Pillar 210. I believe their hours are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Before going, know the item numbers from the catalog of products you want. They have limited items on display, but can get anything you need from the vault. Following the same decades-long policy as the *USA Philatelic* sales catalog, they do not honor requests for specific plate numbers.

PNC³ Catalog Offerings Updated for 2013

On one of the inside wrapper pages of this issue you will find the new 2013 order form for your club's latest available catalog publications.

Please note that the Catalog Committee will decide on how many copies of the **2012 New Issues** to print in color before the fourth week *this past April*. Orders not received by then for the 2012 New Issues might have to settle for a black-and-white version, or do without, as we only can manage one color printing. (The cost per copy is too high to make a second printing.) Everything else should be available whenever your order reaches Andy Jakes for fulfillment. (See order form.)

Note: The Catalog Committee plans to publish an updated edition of the **Values List** in the latter part of 2013. We will advise when it is ready.

Editor's Message

I was saddened to learn of the passing of Wallace Cleland. Though I had never had the privilege of meeting him, I had the pleasure in the 1990s of reading some of his many scholarly articles in the pages of *The United States Specialist*.

Wallace was an avid, decades-long researcher of plate numbers, regardless of where they were found. Case-in-point, his latest article published in the March 2013 *USS* is titled, "Series 1898 Beer Stamps." You might recall he contributed to the *Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog* for many years and was editor of the 2008 and 2012 editions.

I will always remember how helpful he was to me when I began asking him research questions at the time I started writing for publication, circa 2004. We were still in contact by email this year on several subjects. I was surprised to learn he was a PNC³ member, for he never mentioned it. He will be sorely missed.

This issue of *Coil Line* marks the 25th anniversary of the publication of Volume 1, Number 1. That May 1988 issue consisted of only one sheet as the club was just getting on its feet. So we leaned on the generosity of Steve Esrati to find material from 25 years ago suitable for featuring in this issue. Steve was longtime editor and publisher of *The Plate Number* which chronicled the PNC hobby for a good two years prior to the start of *Coil Line*.

Some time ago Steve made available the first ten years of *TPN* issues (1986-1995) to PNC³. These can be accessed through the website, but they are images of the pages so are not text-searchable. On occasions such as this, I will transcribe selected articles of historical or useful interest for benefit of today's students.

By pure coincidence, the same issue of *TPN* (May 1988) that 25 years ago announced the formal start of PNC³ (see page 58) also included several articles of interest this year, the 50th anniversary of the start of the Luminescent Tagging Program. This Post Office Department initiative ushered in the use of phosphor tagging of postage in August 1963 to field-test methods derived after years of research to tackle faster ways to face, cancel and sort the mail.

I chose two of these articles to include with this issue, which I hope you will find both interesting and useful. We hope to perform a similar service, on occasion, in future issues.

— Ron Blanks

Readers' Forum



Attached is a scan of a Disabled American Veterans (DAV) return envelope that I received today [March 16]. It is the first 46¢ envelope that I have received from them. It has a strip of four of the 4¢ Chippendale Chair (Scott 3761), with plate number S1111 on the third stamp. It also has an unnumbered strip of three of the 10¢ American Clock (Scott 3762). – *Peter Hoffman #889*

The new 3¢ Coffeepot S2222 plate number was first observed on a DAV return envelope about four-to-six weeks ago. Soon thereafter, as I understand it, several rolls were purchased that were the basis for wholesaling them out to dealers who in turn distributed them to their customers or put them on their price lists. I bought 150 of them at \$2.50.

That's a very high price considering the plate number appears every 14 stamps and in a roll of 10,000, that's more than 700 strips of 5. I did it to ensure that my customers would have it. Since that time I acquired a roll of 10,000 myself – and there are more. Don't interpret this as a subtle way of soliciting business. Mine are only for sale to my subscribers who will get them automatically. The point of this message is that this number will be very plentiful and unlike what I did, collectors and dealers shouldn't extend themselves on this item.

– *Bob Rabinowitz #265*
(from an online posting
March 23)



I just tried to buy a PNC of the new plate 2s for the 3¢ Coffeepot and 10¢ Clock by phone from USPS Stamp Fulfillment Services. I had to talk to quite a few people but the gist of it is: We have to buy a 10,000-count roll of any future coil unless we subscribe to a philatelic program that will send out a strip of 25 including a plate number on a periodic basis. At the end of the year they will send a letter or notice or whatever to us indicating an order form for any PNC coils that we want and might have missed.

One person said that did not include the current first-class rate coils; the other said it included all coils. I first talked to someone named Scott Miller, and later talked to the person who will run this program, Lena. I'm not sure how this is going to work, and I asked if the USPS was going to announce this and got no definitive (no pun intended) answer. Talking to the both of them was like talking to a politician running for president or a senator caught with his hand in a cookie jar. They seemed very unsure of themselves, or they did not want to really tell me much about it (perhaps because it might be brand new).

If anyone gets the facts on this, please provide us the news with more details in the future. I signed up for it. Maybe you should pray for me?

– *Sherman Foote #2055*

Plate Number Coil Collectors Club (PNC³)

Stephen G. Esrati

(reprinted from *The Plate Number*, May 1988)

[Dateline: April, 1988] The Plate Number Coil Collectors Club is off and running. According to acting President Gene Trinks, more than 160 collectors have asked for membership applications.

The first newsletter was published in April [1988]. The main item was a call for nominations for officers to be elected by mail in June, for terms starting in August.

Previously, acting Secretary Eric Russow reported membership and membership numbers as follows (a star means the person is a member of the Plate Number Coils Study Group):

1. Gene Trinks, Troy, MI (acting president)
2. Eric Russow, Whitefish Bay, WI (acting secretary)
3. Don Eastman, Berlin NH (acting vice president)
4. Rob Washburn, Skowhegan, ME (acting treasurer)
5. Thomas Gift, Bronx, NY
6. Gary Davis, Des Moines, IA
7. *George Kuhn, Leesburg, VA
8. Richard Schulman, Smithtown, NY
9. *A.S. Cibulskas, Stamford, CT
10. Steven Rod, Boystown, NE
11. John Hotchner, Falls Church, VA
12. *Stephen G. Esrati, Shaker Heights, OH
13. Dr. Joseph Agris, Houston, TX
100. Thomas Leeder, Carthage, NY
101. *Al Haake, Germantown, IL

The following have requested membership applications:

- Michael Albert, Escanaba, MI
- Bruce Alves, Twain Harte, CA
- Larry Anderson, Longview, TX
- F. M. Arndt, Bellingham, WA
- Dick Bales, Geneva, IL
- Dr. Paul Bongiovanni, Fall River, MA
- H. I. Bridges, Jr., Sandersville, GA
- Jeff Channell, Vacaville, CA
- Dennis Cipollo, Columbus, OH
- Philip Cole, Traverse City, MI

- John Conkle, Seattle, VA
- Ed Denson, Alderpoint, CA
- Marguerita Doney, Allendale, NJ
- Bob Dumaine, Houston, TX
- W. W. Friend, Jr., Portsmouth, VA
- John Galvagni, Myrtle Beach, SC
- John Goudie, Birmingham, MI
- James Griffin, Naples, TX
- James Hartford, Jr., Athens, GA
- Wayne Hoffman, Dallas, TX
- Pat Insley, Baltimore, MD
- Pam Johnson, Houston, TX
- Conrad Keydel, Detroit, MI
- Joe Knight, New Bern, NC
- *Ken Lawrence, Jackson, MI
- Kurt Lenz, Sterling Heights, MI
- *Tom Meader, San Pedro, CA
- Richard McBride, Glendale CA
- S. L. McCollum, Boonville, MO
- Howard Medlock, Jr., Lubbock, TX
- Alan Nickel, Seaford, NY
- Jon Ragland, Aurora, CO
- Dick Raney, Elm Grove, WI
- Floyd Rehling, Santa Monica, CA
- Kenn Roman, Phoenix, AZ
- Ernest St. Laurent, Mansfield MA
- Bill Satterwhite, State Farm, VA
- *Wolfgang Schön, Aumühle, Germany
- Dr. Frank Shively, Dayton OH
- Alan Thomson, Northwood, NH
- Newell Thompson, Williamsport, PA
- Steve Tillett, Dayton, OH
- Michael Tilley, Canfield, OH
- Lee Warzala, Springfield, IL
- E. R. Wejrowski, Milwaukee, WI
- Mona White, Pioneer, CA
- Dennis Williams, Canton, OH

25-Year Followup: *Coil Line's* first issue was dated May, 1988 and consisted of one sheet. It introduced editor Tom Meader, who followed anecdotes about his early PNC collecting with an invitation for members to contribute articles to the newsletter.

PNC³ Auction #48 Results

Joe Sedivy,
auctioneer

Closing Date March 31, 2013 – We had 39 bidders in this auction, with 37 of them winning at least one lot. One lucky bidder won 25 lots all to himself! Of the 359 lots offered, only 212 sold this time. I thank all consignors and bidders, as they are the members that make these club auctions work! Also, a big thanks to all who donated lots for this and future auctions; only eight lots did not sell in this auction!

LOT	BID	LOT	BID	LOT	BID
5	\$2.00	72	\$7.00	130	\$6.25
6	\$11.00	75	\$6.50	131	\$6.50
11	\$6.00	77	\$6.50	132	\$6.50
12	\$2.00	79	\$6.50	133	\$14.00
14	\$3.00	80	\$6.50	134	\$5.00
15	\$60.00	83	\$5.50	135	\$1.50
19	\$46.00	84	\$2.50	136	\$3.00
21	\$20.00	85	\$6.00	137	\$6.00
23	\$140.00	86	\$3.00	139	\$3.00
24	\$8.50	88	\$2.00	142	\$3.00
25	\$10.00	89	\$7.00	143	\$2.75
26	\$2.00	91	\$6.50	144	\$6.50
27	\$9.00	94	\$5.50	145	\$2.50
28	\$70.00	95	\$6.50	146	\$2.50
29	\$6.00	96	\$90.00	147	\$2.00
30	\$155.00	97	\$4.50	149	\$5.50
32	\$6.00	99	\$6.00	150	\$52.50
33	\$25.00	102	\$33.00	151	\$4.00
34	\$11.00	103	\$5.50	152	\$19.00
35	\$20.00	104	\$7.00	153	\$38.00
36	\$4.00	105	\$2.00	155	\$3.50
37	\$3.00	106	\$2.50	156	\$48.00
38	\$4.00	107	\$11.00	158	\$42.00
41	\$6.00	108	\$5.00	166	\$50.00
42	\$5.00	109	\$6.00	167	\$26.00
43	\$7.00	110	\$6.50	169	\$16.00
45	\$2.00	111	\$6.50	170	\$12.00
46	\$3.00	112	\$3.00	171	\$110.00
47	\$7.00	113	\$5.50	173	\$26.00
48	\$3.75	114	\$5.00	176	\$3.00
49	\$5.00	115	\$6.50	178	\$4.00
50	\$5.50	116	\$6.50	179	\$6.00
56	\$3.00	117	\$2.00	181	\$6.00
57	\$6.00	118	\$7.00	182	\$4.00
59	\$10.00	122	\$3.50	183	\$105.00
60	\$5.00	125	\$2.00	184	\$105.00
61	\$5.00	126	\$5.00	188	\$115.00
66	\$4.00	127	\$6.00	189	\$80.00
69	\$7.00	128	\$5.50	193	\$19.00
70	\$7.00	129	\$6.00	197	\$17.00
67	\$8.00	134	\$7.00	232	\$7.00

LOT	BID	LOT	BID	LOT	BID
199	\$3.00	246	\$50.00	299	\$3.00
203	\$7.00	247	\$3.00	300	\$3.00
205	\$4.00	248	\$4.00	301	\$3.00
207	\$110.00	249	\$4.00	302	\$4.00
208	\$140.00	250	\$4.00	303	\$22.00
209	\$160.00	251	\$5.00	304	\$3.00
212	\$28.00	252	\$5.00	305	\$3.00
213	\$7.00	253	\$10.00	309	\$55.00
214	\$5.00	254	\$15.00	310	\$2.00
215	\$28.00	255	\$15.00	320	\$15.00
218	\$5.00	256	\$2.00	322	\$42.00
221	\$9.00	257	\$3.00	324	\$11.00
222	\$20.00	262	\$4.00	325	\$12.00
223	\$4.00	278	\$9.00	326	\$4.00
224	\$25.00	280	\$8.00	327	\$3.75
225	\$15.00	281	\$100.00	328	\$2.50
226	\$25.00	284	\$3.00	329	\$40.00
228	\$20.00	285	\$2.75	333	\$2.50
229	\$26.00	286	\$10.00	334	\$2.50
230	\$5.00	287	\$10.00	335	\$2.00
231	\$12.00	288	\$13.00	336	\$5.00
232	\$10.00	289	\$1.25	337	\$2.00
233	\$9.00	290	\$2.00	338	\$3.00
234	\$10.00	291	\$2.00	339	\$1.50
237	\$6.00	292	\$4.00	340	\$3.00
239	\$46.00	293	\$3.00	342	\$1.00
241	\$3.00	294	\$6.00	343	\$1.00
242	\$3.00	295	\$7.00	346	\$2.00
243	\$18.00	296	\$4.00	355	\$3.00
244	\$4.00	297	\$2.50	359	\$6.00
245	\$5.00	298	\$4.00		



◀ **Affixer-version**
(spaced apart on
liner in large rolls
for use in lettershop
equipment), **Avery
44¢ Star Flag**,
subject of research
reported on page 65.



The 46¢ Patriotic Star from Sennett Security Products went on sale in San Francisco, California and nationwide on March 19, 2013. It was issued only in large rolls of 10,000 for use by mass mailers who use machines to stamp their mail. Forty-six cents is the current First-Class mailing rate.

The S111 plate number shown to the left repeats every 27th stamp along the roll. Most collectors will save this as a PS5 (plate strip of 5) with the plate numbered stamp in the middle of the strip.

Each 10K roll has black five-digit back numbers near either the top or bottom on the back of the liner. On the rolls found so far, the back number does not align well with the stamp on the other side of it as shown in the examples below.

“USPS” is microprinted on each stamp. (See below.)



← USPS microprinted near the bottom left point of the star

**46c Patriotic Star
Plate S111
PNC ID 2013-3**

Shown below and to the right are top and bottom 5-digit back numbers found on the back of the Patriotic Star liner.



← Back number mostly on the stamp

More typical back number mis-alignment for this issue →



Current Plate Numbers, Roll Sizes, Die Cuts & Tagging

Issue	Plate#	Roll	Freq	Cut	Tag
1¢ Bobcat	P1111	3k	27	VP	
1¢ Tiffany Lamp 2008	S11111	3k	31	w	
		10k	"	w	
1¢ Tiffany Lamp 2003 ≠	S11111	3k	14	w	
2¢ Navajo Jewelry	S111111	10k	31	w	
3¢ Silver Coffeepot	S1111, S2222	10k	14	w	
4¢ Chippendale Chair	S1111	10k	14	w	
5¢ Toleware	S1111111	10k	14	w	
◊10¢ Clock 2008 ≠	S1111	10k	31	w	OA
10¢ Clock 2006	S1111	10k	31	w	
20¢ Washington	P11111, P22222	100	31	VP	OA
32¢ Aloha Shirts	S1111111	100	25	PV	S
◊33¢ Apples	S11111	100	32	PV	S
42¢ Flags of Our Nation Set 1, Set 2, 44¢ Flags of Our Nation Set 3, Set 4	S111111111	50	10	PV	S
44¢ Flag ≠	S111	3k	31	w	S
44¢ Flag (affixer) ≠	V1111	3k	16	VP	S
		10k	"	"	"
44¢ Quill & Inkwell ≠	S1111	3k	27	S	S
		10k	"	"	"
45¢ Weather Vanes	S1111111	3k	25	S	S
		10k	"	"	"
◊46¢ Kaleidoscope Flowers	S11111	3k	28	PV	S
		10k	"	"	"
►46¢ Patriotic Star	S111	10k	27	PV	S
(5¢) Art Deco Bird	P1111, P2222	3k	27	S	
		10k	"	"	
(5¢) Sea Coast	P7777, P9999	3k	27	S	
	P7777 ≠, P9999 ≠	10k	"	"	
(5¢) Sea Coast	B111	500	10	w	
		10k	"	w	
(with luminescent ink)	S1111	3k	14	w	
		10k	"	w	
	S11111	500	31	w	
(10¢) Banner	S111	10k	27	S	
	V111, V222, V333	3k	10	VP	
		10k	"	"	
	S111	500	31	w	
(25¢) Spectrum Eagle	V11111	3k	30	S	
		10k	"	"	
(25¢) Eagle 2003	S3333333	3k	20	S	
	S1111111, S2222222, S3333333	10k	"	"	
(weakly tagged)	S3333333	10k	"	"	S

Supplier IDs by Plate Number Prefix:
P = Ashton Potter
S = Sennett Security Products
V = Avery-Dennison

Issue	Plate#	Roll	Freq	Cut	Tag
(25¢) Spectrum 2005	S1111111	3k	25	S	
(25¢) Spectrum 2004	S1111111	3k	10	w	
(∞) 2012 Four Flags	P1111	100	32	VP	OA
	P2222	"	"	"	S
(∞) 2012 Four Flags	S11111, S22222	100	32	PV	S**
(∞) 2012 Four Flags	V1111	100	32	PV	S
	"	"	"	VP	"
(∞) 2011 Liberty & Flag ≠	P111111	100	32	VP	S
(∞) 2011 Liberty & Flag	S111111	100	32	PV	S
(∞) 2011 Liberty & Flag	V111111	100	40	PV	S
	"	"	"	VP	"
(∞) 2012 Flags of Our Nation Set 5, (∞) 2011 Flags of Our Nation Set 6	S111111111	50	20	PV	S

Key to Symbols

- new number or variety ◊ update or correction
- ≠ new "sold out" (strips of 25 with PNC) or no longer shown in USA Philatelic (USPS catalog)
- ?? unreported attribute (∞) Forever first-class value
- Freq** – frequency or interval of # appearing in roll
- Cut** – **w** = water-activated gum (perforated);
PV = peak/valley die cut; VP = valley/peak;
S = serpentine without corner variation.
- Tag** – phosphor tagging if not blank/white: S = surface phosphor with smooth appearance; U = surface phosphor with uneven or grainy look; OA = overall.

Notes to this Report

** – Until data are received to the contrary, it is assumed the new S22222 PNC version of Sennett's 2012 Four Flags coils has the same phosphor tagging as the S11111 version. In last month's chart, the new "P2222" Ashton Potter version was inadvertently flagged instead. In fact, it was known then that AP's new coils have phosphored paper, as Jay Bigalke reported in March 25th issue of *Linn's Stamp News*.

NEW this report: 46¢ Patriotic Star.

Update: Alan Thomson added missing data on some new coils: Both 33¢ Apples and 46¢ Kaleidoscope Flowers use phosphored paper with a smooth glow in shortwave UV light. He also saw April issue typo on 10¢ Clock (2008) tagging ("OA", not "S").

The *USA Philatelic* catalog for 1st quarter 2013 shows the remaining 10k rolls of (5¢) Sea Coast as sold out; only strips from 3k rolls remain available.

Note PNC interval change from 10 to 20 for Sets 5, 6 of Forever Flags of Our Nation.

Unraveling the Mystery of the Tagged Precancels

Stephen G. Esrati

(reprinted from The Plate Number, May 1988)

I had expected to be able to give a full report here on the tagged precancels found on the 18¢ Washington Monument stamps from Plate 33333 (18M3P [*Scott 2149e*]).

Unfortunately, requests for information to the Postal Service necessitated checking with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. That delays things.

This then is based on observations and theorizing, not on an official explanation.

When the stamps were first singled out, it was because they had dull gum instead of the shiny gum found on other Monument stamps.

That led to an examination by Kim Cuniberti, a collector-dealer who is interested in paper types. He found it to be Type I (diagonally ridged gum on paper containing brighteners).

Wolfgang Schön of Germany, a member of the Plate Number Coil Study Group, examines paper types in yet another way. He measures paper thickness. All Monument stamps were supposed to be printed on a thinner gravure paper that measures 0.10mm in thickness.

But only stamps bearing plate numbers 1112 and 11121 appeared on that paper. Plates 3333 and 33333 were on paper measuring 0.12mm.

The dull-gum stamps have thinner paper than previous 33333s. Schön, unfortunately, did not report the exact measurement.

Next came the study group's Wayne Youngblood, who works at *Linn's [Stamp News]*. Youngblood has taken on responsibility for reporting on U.S. stamp tagging. He put the dull-gum Monuments under his UV light and found them to be brightly tagged.

Early copies of the dull-gum stamp exhibited their tagging in an odd way because the stamps are block tagged, meaning that the tagging is supposed to be applied only to the design, not to the edges. This is done to protect BEP's perforator pins and knife blades.

If there was imperfect alignment of the



design and the tagging, the tagging was easy to see as a bright greenish glow at one edge of the design. With perfect alignment, however, the tagging was less obvious unless one placed a known untagged and a dull-gum stamp under the light at the same time.

In that case, the tagged stamp cast some glow from the design itself.

Schön also noticed something else. All over the face of the dull-gum stamp there was white speckling. Under mild magnification, white dots appeared irregularly all over the face of the stamp.

This was the first clue to an explanation of what might have happened.

As we well recall, the gravure paper for the Monument stamps came from two sources: Henry & Leigh Slater Paper Co. in England and Rolland Co. of Canada.

On Rolland paper, the design had a tendency to flake off if the stamps were soaked in water containing chlorine. Transparent sticky tape (such as Scotch brand tape) would also remove the design from a stamp printed on Rolland paper.

Neither problem occurred with Slater paper. When the flaking was brought to the attention of BEP, it reported that a lacquer was applied to all Monument stamps over the design to prevent removal of cancellations.

And this leads to the explanation of the tagged precancels.

The lacquer for the unprecanceled stamps was also used as the medium for adding the tagging. This would have put the lacquer (and the tagging) only over the design.

(please see next page)

This and That

Doug Iams

3¢ Coffeepot S2222: Initial Limitation from The Caves

One of our members, Frank Covey, recently took part of a tour of “the Caves,” the Kansas City, MO underground USPS facility that fills stamp orders for collectors. (See Frank’s report elsewhere in this issue.) One thing I know he learned was the Caves do have the 3¢ Coffeepot S2s on hand, although they were only selling them at that time in full rolls.

46¢ Patriotic Star: More Crazy Backnumbers

The backnumbers on the 46¢ Patriotic Star have turned out to be ginormous, and not well-behaved. (They echo similar findings reported here in April’s column on the 46¢ Kaleidoscope Flowers issue, also supplied by Sennett Security Products.) The ones I have seen so far were split horizontally between two stamps. (See also Catalog Corner, page 60.) Another person also described the backnumbers on this issue as “huge”, with some found split horizontally between two stamps and others found clipped off the bottom. I also received a report that some of the plate numbers were clipped at the bottom.

First Look: 2013’s Forever Coils

According to the April 4 *Postal Bulletin*, we are getting the 2013 Flag for all Seasons rolls of 100 from all three major USPS suppliers as expected. The Avery plate number interval is stated as 20, the Sennett interval as 32, and the Ashton Potter interval was not given. But the stated AP plate size of 768 suggests an interval of 32. As the deadline for this month’s *Coil Line* arrived, I learned that *Linn’s Stamp News* reported that the AP interval is indeed 32.



(from page 62) The apparent explanation of the tagged precancels, then, is that some lacquer containing tagging was inadvertently applied to the precancels.

To substantiate this theory, one notices that later finds of the dull-gum stamps showed ever-decreasing amounts of tagging. And, finally, there was none.

The first find of a totally untagged stamp on dull-gum paper was made by Richard J. Nazar, who found it on a commercial cover. This was all very appropriate since the study group’s Nazar is the person who first distinguished among the papers used to print plate number coils and gave them their designations.

If an official explanation is given, you will see it reported fully in a future issue of *The Plate Number*. [A search of later 1988-1991 issues did not find a BEP report.]



“3”

Is This Really Tagged? Or How to Use UV

Stephen G. Esrati

(reprinted from *The Plate Number*, May 1988)

Tagging on the 18¢ Washington Monument precancels caused some collectors some difficulty – because they did not know how to check for tagging.

They thought all they needed to do was to hold the stamp at a slant to an ordinary light and they'd see “the tagging.”

What they saw was the lacquer.

Several collectors reported all manner of tagging varieties after reading the “How to Exhibit” article about Gerald Clark's method of exhibiting what cannot be seen in daylight (*The Plate Number*, January 1988). Usually they were wrong.

Several collectors reported that all their precanceled [21.1¢] Letters and Monument stamps were tagged.

Whenever one of these “finds” was checked under shortwave ultraviolet, it turned out to be a dud. No tagging. Or no freak.

Several of the “discoverers” then went out and bought a UV lamp. It's the only way to tell.

There are two reasons to use UV in PNC collecting. One is to check the tagging; the other is to sort paper types more easily (Paper I includes brighteners and Paper II does not).

That means it is worthwhile to obtain a light that can do both jobs. One light will not do both unless it can be adjusted for two wave lengths.

To see fluorescence (like the brightener in Paper I) you need a long-wave UV lamp, often called a “black light.”

To see the phosphors used to tag stamps, you need a short-wave UV light. This also helps in spotting tagging on British stamps.

Fortunately, Raytech Industries makes a lamp that can do both jobs. The model is the LS-4 Ministar. It sells for about \$79 (list price [1988]) and is available from some discounters at about \$65. Raytech also makes several more expensive models.

One need have no fear of UV. Long-wave

UV cannot hurt you. Short-wave can cause sunburn, but glass stops it cold.

A safe and proper method for using shortwave-UV is to wear ordinary eyeglasses. Even plastic glasses will do.

In examining a stamp, you stand above the lamp and point the lamp down at the stamp. You don't ever have to look at the lamp directly, and shouldn't.

What you are looking for is the effect the light has on the stamp.

The phosphors in tagging on PNC coils generally glow a yellowish-green. Some U.S. airmail stamps of the 1960s were tagged with phosphors that glow red-orange.

An interesting note was raised recently by dealer Gene Paquette who said all Bureau of Engraving and Printing precancels are printed without tagging [*He wrote before the discovery of the 18¢ Monument**] “with the following exceptions: [Scott numbers] 1044A, 1384, 1394, 1414a, 1415-18a, 1596, 1606 and 1610.[#]

“These were multi-color stamps, with the exception of 1606, and were printed on one of the following presses: Giori, Huck and the early Andreotti press. None of these presses had the capability to apply precancel overprints.

“Therefore, normally printed, tagged stamps were set aside for later precanceling on a separate platen press.

“They will always be tagged as well as precanceled if the issues were normally tagged.”

That lasts comment refers to one of the undiscovered pleasures of U.S. collecting, the untagged error. Minkus listed and priced them; Scott ignores them.

On Scott 1044A, the tagged stamp was issued in 1967, the untagged in 1961. All the others were supposed to have tagging. Untagged errors are very desirable.

* – an interjection of Steve's.

– Neither Steve nor Mr. Paquette noticed the omission of Scott 1608, also precanceled.

Research Report: Soaking with Soap

Ron Blanks

A curious letter appeared in the March 2013 issue of *American Philatelist* (p. 205) titled, "Safe Soaking." It referred to an earlier AP item, "Soaking Technique" (June 2011 AP, p.525) that I could not recall reading, which touted the help of liquid soap to water-soak self-adhesives off paper. The present letter stated, "...this method works beautifully. Being a scientist, I experimented with the method and have a few suggestions for making the procedure faster and more reproducible." The letter wrapped up by stating the liquid soap in water method was much safer than using solvents like Bestine or lighter fluid, and was preferable to citronella-based cleaners that cause ink runs on some stamps. I wondered if this water-soak method worked, and tried to test it.

Bottom line, it does not work (in my experience). Perhaps the method wasn't fully or accurately explained in the letter, due to inadvertent error or editing. Perhaps I didn't follow it. Interestingly, the letter only refers to "self-adhesive" stamps throughout, with no mention of "soakable" versus "unsoakable" as per the 2006 change in USPS policy that allowed stamp producers to use stamp paper without a separation layer to allow water soaking. Yet the references to Bestine, et al implies the writer was familiar with "unsoakable" self-adhesives that led to this whole soaking dilemma to begin with.

Below I present the method and my test experience. Perhaps others will find that a mistake was made and they have a workable solution using liquid soap to share.

The liquid-soap method is to use warm water in which ½ teaspoon liquid soap per cup is well-mixed; then soak the stamps. To quote the letter, "All self-adhesive stamps soak off clean in 2 – 4 minutes, with no adhering adhesive. Transfer stamps to a large bowl of fresh water and let stamps soak 5 – 10 minutes to remove the soap. Press and dry the stamps using your favorite procedure." The large bowl is in reference to the suggested work volume of soapy water, 3 cups (and its suggested warming with microwave oven at high-power for 90 seconds). Both AP letters specified Softsoap brand. The last one states any brand works well but suggests avoiding scented ones.

I specifically used one rounded teaspoon Softsoap brand mixed into two cups of water warmed by microwaving for 77 seconds. I chose used coil stamps to represent at least these categories: (a) 32¢ Flag over Porch known to be either soakable or non-soakable in water, without a clue as to which without testing (Scott 2915, all with 10 peaks on both sides, P/V at left, V/P at right), (b) recent and older affixer-use coils, (c) recent rolls/100. I tried soaking a total of 28 small-sized stamps in this test batch.

Of course for me (Murphy's Law? Mistake made?), nothing happened before 8 minutes. At that time, I tried rubbing adhesive off the back of a sticky bare 1¢ Bobcat that was freed of paper in a prior water soak. At 12 minutes I failed to remove paper from a proven-unsoakable 32¢ FoP. At 20 minutes, an Ashton Potter (AP) 42¢ Flag wouldn't separate. At 22 minutes, a try to separate a 44¢ Star Flag affixer coil resulted in a 100% thinned version (positioned askew back on its paper for picture on page 59). An Avery roll/100 42¢ Flag would not separate at 24 minutes. One of the 32¢ FoPs turned out to be soakable and separated at 26 minutes. But another one found unsoakable before remained that way through 27 minutes, as did a (5¢) Art Deco Bird. After 30 minutes an Avery roll/100 (41¢) Flag peeled OK, but not the AP 42¢ Flag. It was as if I was only using water.



New Affixer Coils Break New Ground

Ron Blanks



A new puzzle: Take another look at the first affixer coil issued at the current 46¢ first-class rate (above, *left*). It was also shown in March *Coil Line's* Catalog Corner. Now compare it to the previous affixer coil (above, *right*) still on liner paper as shown a year ago in Catalog Corner. Here's another hint: The 46¢ shares something else (besides design elements) with the second affixer coil issued at 46¢, shown in this issue on page 60, that neither shares with the 45¢ Weather Vane (and Sennett made all three).

I can't recall when I first noticed that new ground was broken with the 46¢ affixer coils; either when I received one on mail or when editing page 60. In any event, I had no inkling at the time the Sennett 44¢ Star Flags' "puzzle" was added to April's issue in Readers' Forum, but they're all related now!

The six used Sennett 44¢ flags shown in last month's puzzle all came from rolls of 100. (Avery made the affixer-roll version of that design; later, Sennett made the 44¢ Quill & Inkwell affixer coil.) And all six 44¢ flags pictured (plus a seventh one on the cover) have this in common: *They were all confused for "peak/valley" die cut types, when they are all valley/peak.*

And until this year, all Sennett's affixer coils' die cutting looked like that of the 45¢ coil above. Now, the two 46¢ coils of 2013 have new distinctive die cuts at the four corners, necessitating the use of "P/V" or "V/P" types in the Current Plate Numbers, etc. chart (updated and corrected this issue, page 61).

Previously, Sennett's affixer-roll die cuts were typed on the chart with "S" for "serpentine without corner variation." However, the plainer pattern of older issues did not avoid interesting freaks or oddities, as die cutting mats were misaligned on occasion. The new pattern might later prove just as interesting.

(from last page [68])

Gil's long strip (that I now own) begins three stamps to the left of a plate #3 (page 63) and proceeds (page 65) to plate #4 (page 68), finishing a few stamps beyond a final #3. The *snow* (ink splattering) begins just prior to the first #3 at the bottom and proceeds on a diagonal course, becoming more intense so that it completely covers the #4 stamp and then diminishes at the top before it gets to the final #3.

A few days after this information came to me, Scott Adams called and we had a long chat about *snowstorms*. First and foremost, it was from Scott that Frank Covey purchased his strip and Scott still had the strip pictured in the *1995 Catalog*. Only it wasn't a short strip like Frank's or mine; rather, a strip of 27 Electric Autos with ink splattering all along it. He was certain that his long strip and the one he sold to Frank had come from West Covina, CA, but couldn't remember from whom.

(Gil has no specific memory, although there was another clerk at the PO.) And Scott's long strip is similar to the strip of 55 in that the ink splattering his strip, which contains one plate #4, moves at a diagonal tack, subsiding toward the top as it moves to the right.

When I asked Gil about the origin of the strips that we know about, he thought he had ordered five to ten rolls of 500 of the 17¢ Electric Autos for the West Covina Post Office around that time in the mid-1980s. This is what he would normally do and the ink-splattered areas surfaced somewhere in those rolls.

Of the five *snowy* plate numbers known (one #3 and four #4s, one of which is #-on-top), I think that it is safe to say that Gil Mattox deserves all the credit for the find. It is also apparent that the inclement-weather ink splattering was confined to just a short portion of the paper (web), affecting more than one roll due to the diagonal movement in the way the splatters were applied (and considering that there is only one #3 and only one #4-on-top known).

There might be a pattern in there, but it covered very little ground as the web moved along in the press. Gil offered that he thought a momentary jinx in the machinery – a hiccup if you will – might have jarred the web and caused the splattering. Insofar as to how exactly these *snowy* areas came about, I have a personal theory involving Jackson Pollock briefly getting loose at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

Keep 'em coming folks and please contact me with information, questions and scans at: Mark Schultz, 1002 Wisteria Trail, Austin, TX 78753, mschultz@jomarpress.com.

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. Member 957L

Accumulation of PNC mint stamps for sale. 500 plate number singles at face value. 500 plate number strips of five, face value plus 25%. From year 2004 or earlier. No more than five strips per number, no more than 10 singles per number (includes precancels). Contact bigfishman@aol.com. Member 1925

Extra fine roll of Rushmore Toledo brown #7 for sale intact. \$200 plus postage. Alan Thomson, PO Box 91, Northwood NH 03261. mr.snips@myfairpoint.net. Member 180L

Getting bored? Looking for a new collecting area? How about used PNCs with purple machine cancels? Only a few dozen are known, and the prices are generally very reasonable. Send LSASE for list to John Himes, PO Box 453, Cypress, CA 90630-0453 or check the PMC link on my website.

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Image source credits: 18¢ Monument samples under SW-UV (page 62, cover) – courtesy of Robert Thompson.

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 James E. Kloetzel (1444)
 Nello J. Cristiano (1880)
 Cerel M. Fritz, Jr. (2017)

Deceased

Wallace Cleland (1864)
 Madison, WI

Previous Membership Count	510
Reinstated	6
Deceased	(1)
PNC ³ Membership Count	515

on Top of Snowy 17¢ Auto

Mark Schultz

“3”

In the Readers’ Forum of the February 2013 issue of *Coil Line* (p.17), Frank Covey offered a scan of a 17¢ Electric Auto that looked as though it was being driven in a “blizzard of snow.” He asked if anyone knew of other similar reports. Pete Tukker replied to the question, stating that the 1995 *PNC Catalog* had one pictured (p. 2-138) that was owned by Scott Adams and captioned “in a snow storm.”

There was a caveat, though. Although both coils were apparently splattered with additional blue ink, Frank’s *blizzard* was on the bottom half of the strip while Scott’s *snowstorm* was toward the top half. The application process of the errant precipitation appeared to be similar, but the locations on the strips were different. Note these two are from plate #4.

Of course, I have a vested interest in the question because I have a similar plate #4 17¢ Electric Auto that is (what else) 100% -#-on-top (*below*). My strip is more like Scott’s with snow flurrying down from above, leaving the bottom part of the strip weather-free. After quick emails to both Frank and Pete asking for information and advice, I thought I would try to chase down the origin of these strips and perhaps figure out how they got the way they are.



Frank emailed from California that he had just spent part of the day at the SANDICAL PNC³ Regional meeting (Feb. 9) talking with member Gil Mattox. Gil was the long-time philatelic clerk for the West Covina, CA, Post Office. Gil is a good friend and a name I recognized as important to this story because I purchased my #4-on-top from him some years ago. Since Frank’s question was already published in *CL*, Gil had come to the meeting prepared and shared with Frank a remaining strip of 55 Electric Autos in various *snowy* conditions. *(please see page 66)*

Closeup of # 4 at top (3rd coil in strip of 6 shown above) ▶



Closeup of # 3 (4th coil in strip of 13 shown on page 63) ▶



Closeup of # 4 (2nd coil in first strip of 13 at left) ▶



◀ Last two strips-of-13 in 55-stamp ink-splotted roll remnant



“4”