

Our 28th Year

PNC³



Coil Line

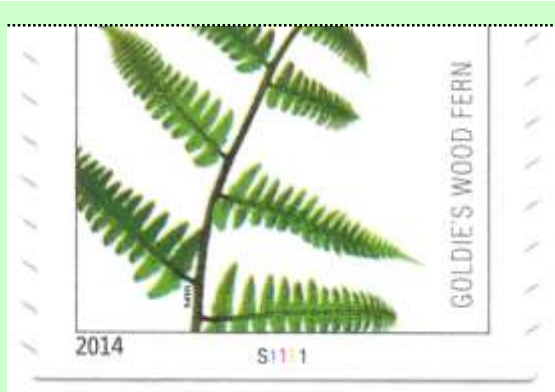
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Plate Number Coil Collectors Club
American Philatelic Society Affiliate # 185

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Whole No. 324

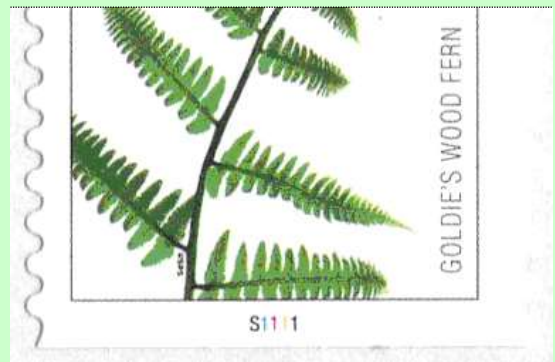
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(Coil Line renderings
from USPS media images)

Coil Line

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Coil Collectors Club (PNC³)

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Scott #2131 plate # 4 (issued
June 11, 1985, 30 years ago)

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(For *Coil Line*-related matters, please
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For mail delivery problems, contact the mailer below.

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President's Message

from the PNC³ president ...

I'm starting off this month's issue on a sad note. Mark Schultz, a friend, a fellow PNC collector and a frequent contributor to *Coil Line* ("100%" plate number on top articles) was found by his wife in early May unconscious and not breathing. They got him to the hospital, but he never regained consciousness. He passed a short time later. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

In mid-May we started the process of converting our website over to a more secure one. If everything went as planned, you shouldn't have noticed any interruption from our webpage. For a short period of time we had two sites operating at the same time. This was, hopefully, to allow us to get everything up and running with a minimum of problems.

If you have any questions, concerns, comments or issues, please contact me or our Webmaster, Allan Clapp. As I stated last month, Allan has offered his contact information so that he can help out anyone that is still having a problem during this process.

As a result of the changes, our website will become more secure. This in turn will permit offering our "members only" area access to more information that is not available to the general public. Another item that will change as a result will be a more secure login for members.

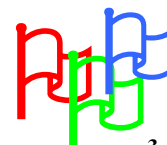
I have heard from some of you indicating your interest in helping to staff our PNC³ table for the World Stamp Show-NY 2016. Tom McFarland has volunteered to help with the schedule for the stamp exhibition. We want to make sure that we have people available to staff the booth for the full eight days from Saturday May 28 through Saturday June 4, 2016.

As you know, *Coil Line* is published on a monthly basis, so we are always looking for articles. Regardless of whether it is a single article or a series, send them in.

And finally, I am still looking for an Awards Chairperson. This is a good way to get recognition for the club. If you are interested in helping out, please get in touch with me. – Robert E. Thompson



Welcome!



If you are a new reader to *Coil Line*, PNC³ is in our 28th 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!

PNC³ Regional Meetings

(no meeting notices received to publish this month)

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.)

New Postal Rates as of May 31

"Forever" Stamp Categories Expand

By mid-May, the U.S. Postal Service's Board of Governors had set May 31 as the date on which new postal rates became effective. This followed on the heels of the Postal Regulatory Commission's approval of a USPS revised rate structure filing.

Also, in April the USPS obtained approval to add new rate categories of "Forever" valued stamps, including a "postcard rate" type and an "additional ounce" type. Both of these traditionally have been supported by coil formats.

As we went to press, member Doug Iams relayed informal reports on these new coils.

The new <35¢> postcard rate stamps will feature four different Coastal Bird designs, and the new <22¢> additional-ounce stamps will feature a pair of Emperor Penguins. (please see page 72)

First-Class Rates as of May 31

from the editor ...

The first ounce for domestic letters remains the same at 49¢*, and for large envelopes (“flats”) the first ounce is also unchanged at 98¢. The letters, flats cost for each extra ounce or fraction thereof, and for the nonmachinable surcharge, were each increased 1¢ to 22¢. The postcard rate also rose 1¢ to 35¢. A first-class 1, 2, or 3 ounce parcel (prior cost, \$2.32), now costs \$2.54. Heavier parcels over three ounces (maximum 13) are now 20¢/oz. each (2¢/oz. hike).

*—metered mail, which used to cost 1¢ less as of Jan. 26, 2014, is now 48.5¢, or discounted only ½¢.

Letters,
(1st ounce)

49¢

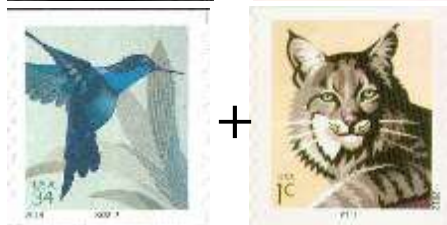
[unchanged]*
(flats, 98¢)



Add'l oz,
22¢ each
(letters,
3½ oz max.)



Postcards,
35¢



*—metered mail

(from page 71, new-rate stamps)

The <22¢> Emperor Penguins and <35¢> Coastal Birds will be available in panes of 20 as well as coils of 100, which is typical for these rate categories. [See the front page for color mock-ups.]

While Doug’s source gave June 1 as the issue date for the panes, information on the coils was not as definite. Reportedly, the coil rolls will first be available only from the USPS Kansas City fulfillment center via online, mail and phone orders before sufficient quantities are pushed out to post offices.

The name of the rate category serves as the “forever” rate designation to be used for postcard and additional ounce-rate stamps going forward.

This issue was a somewhat difficult one for me to complete. During much of its preparation, our fellow member Mark Schultz was unconscious in a Texas hospital with a grim prognosis. He passed away on May 13, and *Coil Line* will have more in memoriam in the next issue. We can imagine only some of the grief his family and friends are experiencing in this time of bereavement.

While editing some story text with multiple-digit plate numbers, I noticed that some earlier published reference to the same PNCs lacked a digit (e.g., “P1111” was typed for the correct “P11111”, a digit for each plate or cylinder). This reminded me of a shortcut I adopted a few years ago and use privately, in emails, and in naming image files.

In 2006, a USPS policy instructed stamp suppliers to stop using higher digits for replacements of worn plates. Instead, digits could only be changed in unison for some other production change for a given issue and format (a seldom occurrence).

So since then we have seen mostly “V1111”, “S1111”, “P1111” and the like with fewer or more digits when fewer or more inks are involved. Every so often a printer did change the paper type or the phosphor tagging method, giving rise to a string of 2s after the printer’s letter for a new PNC. For example, you might recall in 2011 the 20¢ Washington coil came out with P11111, supplied only by Ashton Potter. It seemed in no time at all that finds of P22222 followed. A recent example was reported in the April issue, with P2222 now known on the <49¢> Star Spangled Banner rolls.

Rarely are the number of digits involved in a plate number the subject of discussion. So as alternative to memorizing all of the new 1s on PNCs every year that new designs are issued, or constantly looking up the actual number of digits in each, I just started abbreviating like this: V1s, S1s, P1s; V2s, S2s, P2s and so on.

Who was it that first said, “Rules are made to be broken?”

When CCL got permission from the USPS to replace only one of the 1s for an existing PNC with a “2”, the pattern of all 1s or 2s or 3s broke down after eight years. This occurred for the 25¢ Spectrum Eagle, found late last summer with V11112 as its second plate #. (And the second and only other exception known to date was *(please see page 78)*)

Readers' Forum



Embedded knoll (close-up) of PNC at right, <49¢> 2014 Flag (from CCL Label)

Last valley of left side, "row above"

First valley of "normal" left side, present row

"-----" denotes downward extent of die cutting misaligned to design



Embedded "knoll" on 2014 Flag PNC. You are almost seeing double, based on a prior report in the December 2014 *Coil Line*. That report showed member Richard Matta's CCL-made <49¢> Star Spangled Banner coil with an embedded knoll – but that coil was not plate-numbered. Now member Jeff Fiszbein shares his recent find of a PNC #C11111 example, the first one to be shown in these pages. It likewise shows vertical diecutting mis-aligned with the design (practically to the same extent as before).

The area of row separation (normally sliced in half by horizontal row slitting) is moved down to reveal its whole "knoll" shape, as shown by the white dashes between the arrows in images above. The knoll shape is used in transition from a Peak-Valley* run of serpentine shapes to a Valley-Peak run.

Jeff also found a second #C11111 example of another die-cut shift, an "embedded bell" at top from a PV die-cut row. The August 2014 *Coil Line* shows his first numbered <49¢> PNC find of this variety.

*–starts with peak, ends with valley, "PV" for short.

8-headed Mount Rushmore. In the February issue of *Coil Line* I noticed a picture of Scott 2523A with a blurred image. While searching mixtures in the early 1990s I came across a very dramatic color shift on this issue. I nicknamed it "The Eight Heads of Mount Rushmore." – David Rankin #1218



(Readers' Forum continues - please see page 78)



Close-up of 29¢ Flag over Rushmore coil, gravure edition (cropped from above image, digitally copied from a small photocopy of coil still on paper)



<49¢> Ferns Forever "2014"
(SSP) (SA)
Plate S1111
PNC ID 2015-3

The self-adhesive (SA) Forever "Ferns" issue from a second supplier was released March 27, 2015 in Kansas City, MO in coil rolls of 10,000 and 3,000. (Because the stamps differ materially between the roll sizes, the 10K format is described here. See page 75 for the 3K format.) Sennett Security Products produced these rolls, but the same designs were used earlier by CCL in both a "49¢" type (2014-2) and a Forever type (2014-8). The new release differs in that the plate number is on Goldie's Wood Fern instead of the Autumn Fern and the SSP version has microprinting in each design as shown below.

The **S1111** plate number repeats **every 25th** stamp.

Five-digit back numbers occur every 10 stamps on the back of the liner with the highest back numbers on the outside of the roll. Both top and bottom back numbers exist. A top back number is shown on the PS5 strip below behind the stamp which is one position left of the plate numbered stamp (abbreviated "1L"). On any given roll, back numbers appear in two locations relative to the plate number. This is because the backnumbered stamp interval (10) is a multiple of the number of designs (five). For example, rolls with a strip as shown below will have back numbers at the 1L and 4R positions. To get all top and bottom positions, ten different rolls would be needed.

(From Stamp Fulfillment Services in Kansas City, one can order an "unfolded strip of 500" from SSP's 10K Ferns rolls by using item number 777315.)



Soft Shield



Autumn



Goldie's Wood



Painted



Fortune's Holly





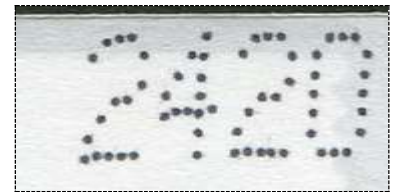
The self-adhesive (SA) Forever “Ferns” with a 2015 date in the upper right corner was released March 27, 2015 in Kansas City, MO in rolls of 3,000. Sennett Security Products (SSP) produced this version, as well as a Ferns format in 10K rolls that has a 2014 year date. (See page 74 for details.) The same Fern designs were used earlier by CCL in both a 49¢ type (2014-2) and a Forever type (2014-8). Both of the SSP Ferns have microprinting (shown below), but those issued by CCL do not.

The **S1111** plate number repeats **every 25th** stamp.

Four-digit back numbers occur every 10 stamps on the back of the liner with the highest back numbers on the outside of the roll. Both top and bottom back numbers exist. The 10K Ferns issue (2015-3) has a 2014 date in the lower left corner and five-digit back numbers. The four-digit back numbers on 2015-4 (3K roll) are unusual, as normally SSP uses five-digit back numbers on both 3K and 10K rolls.

<49¢> Ferns Forever “2015”
(SSP) (SA)
Plate S1111
PNC ID 2015-4

Four-digit back numbers help distinguish this format from the 10K Fern format (2015-3) which has five-digit back numbers.



Soft Shield



Autumn



Goldie's Wood



Painted



Fortune's Holly



Inconsistent PNC Reporting, Testing Preceded Re-test of Mail Using 5¢ Circus Wagons

[In another installment of our series of occasional transcriptions of early Coil Line and The Plate Number (TPN) articles on-file only as photocopies, we bring more to text-searchable digital life. In the July 1994 TPN, member Joann Lenz described her mailing test using the then-novel "05" Circus Wagon coils found with luminescent ink, and also using other types with and without phosphor tagging. That story was transcribed in last month's Coil Line.

In the preceding two TPNs of March and May 1994, reporting and comments on the "05" Circus Wagon PNC #A3 did not start out with the best writing, as seen below. But an initial test of only the #A3 PNC and resulting criticism was also reported, in the lead-up to the later re-testing above.]

"Ink is phosphored on new Wagon"

(from TPN, March 1994, page 36; unattributed, but most likely by Stephen Esrati, editor and publisher)

The red ink on the newly found 4¢ [sic] Circus Wagon with the plate number A3 is phosphorescent in both long- and short-wave UV light.

The ink glows a bright orange under both types of lamp. Previous printings of the stamps by ABN had ordinary, nonphosphorescent ink.

It is not believed that the ink on the new stamp will activate the sensors on the facer-canceler.

[The incorrect use of terms above referring to phosphorescence was not continued in the May issue.]



A 3

For this ink, no one has ever reported an afterglow seen upon turning off either UV light, nor any detection by instrument (in case, if ever, an afterglow was too brief for human eyes to see). The most that could be stated is that the ink is luminescent. To convey the fact that no afterglow occurs, one states that the ink is fluorescent. – Editor]

"DAV using all-untagged stamps in 16-million piece mailing"

(from TPN, May 1994, page 56; unattributed, but most likely by Stephen Esrati, editor and publisher)

Joann Lenz is trying to find out what sort of woe may befall the mails when the Disabled American Veterans run out of tagged stamps for its return envelopes.

Until now, DAV has sent out its return envelopes with a bunch of tagged and untagged low-denomination coil stamps. The tagged stamps activated postal facer-cancelers. But no new tagged definitives have been produced with a face value of 9¢ or less. In recent DAV mailings, five untagged 5¢ Circus Wagon and two tagged 2¢ Locomotive stamps had been used.

But in one of its two big annual drives, DAV has now gone to all untagged stamps. Lenz got a return envelope bearing the recent printing of the Circus Wagon, showing the plate number "A3".

That stamp was printed with an ink that glows in UV. The Postal Service said this was not done to activate the facer-cancelers.

Dr. Al Fatah of Stamp Distribution said there were no tagging and no phosphors in the stamps submitted by TPN. He said the stamps do not emit enough phosphor meter units to activate postal machinery.

Dr. Fatah said the fluorescence found by collectors had been added to the ink by the printer to improve the appearance of the red, not for any postal purpose.

Lenz sent out 31 covers bearing two of those stamps, together with an untagged error of the 19¢ Fishing Boat to see whether *(please see page 77)*

(from page 76, DAV using all-untagged stamps)

facer-cancelers would recognize the Circus Wagons. She also sent out return envelopes with the same combination of stamps, just to make sure that her test would avail itself of facer-cancelers in the 31 destinations of her mailing, not just in her hometown.

Of 27 Lenz [-mailed] covers reported so far, 19 had proper machine cancels, three had only a spray cancel [sic], and one had no cancel at all. Six covers were reported as “???”

Of the return covers, 21 had proper machine cancels, three had no cancels, one had a spray cancel, and one was daubed by a carrier.

USPS to DAV: “Drop dead!”

But there may be more to the story than meets the eye. According to a rumor reaching *TPN*, DAV specifically asked the Postal Service to continue supplying it with low-denomination tagged stamps.

TPN was told at Postal Headquarters that the Postal Service would attempt to meet DAV’s mailing needs with an emphasis on the Postal Service’s own concerns that nothing be done to reverse progress in mechanizing mail handling.

But DAV got the impression that what *TPN* was told and what the Postal Service wanted DAV to do were not the same thing.

The Postal Service, according to the rumor, told DAV to use envelopes bearing a tagged bar that would activate the postal machinery. It could then use any stamps.

But the cost of doing that turned out to be prohibitive, and would gain DAV nothing, because the return envelopes would still get back to Cincinnati eventually, whether they were machine



canceled or not.

Someone at the DAV reportedly felt that the problem was the Postal Service’s not the DAV’s, and adding to the DAV’s cost of mailing was not the same as meeting the DAV’s need for tagged stamps.

Flaw in the Lenz test

Lenz’s experiment is somewhat unscientific in that, according to Dr. Robert Rabinowitz of the PNC Study Group, it really required mailing out 30 more letters bearing the old 5¢ Circus Wagon (without fluorescent ink) as a control.

He suggested that it might also be fun to try a combination of the untagged 19¢ Fishing Boat and the tagged error version of the 10¢ Eagle and Shield, in which the tagging level is also supposedly too low to activate facer-cancelers.

Kurt and Joann Lenz agree. They want to set up another test, using three different combinations of 5¢ Circus Wagons, tagged, untagged, and with fluorescent ink.

They need volunteers to help. Write (then-current address).

[The re-test was conducted, and reported in the July 1994 TPN (see this past May’s Coil Line). Next time: Alan Thomson visits a postal plant.]



Close-up of DAV-supplied reply envelope (shown at top of page), received April 22, 1994. (The “05” Circus Wagon coils are not phosphor-tagged, and have luminescent ink [from rolls with plate #A3]. The pair of 2¢ Locomotives are block-tagged [the right one has plate #1]).



(from page 73, Readers' forum)

“Biggie” plate strips too much. Yes, the (10¢) Stars and Stripes Presort Standard should be a PS7 [plate strip of 7] based on the “convention” that the PNC should include an example of the unnumbered stamp. I sent out PS9s so that the triple designs on each side remain intact. But that’s not the point. I am challenging the “convention.” Where did it come from and why? I bet if the PNC collecting world was put to a vote as to whether issues with 5 designs be collected as PS5s or PS11s, PS5s would win. The longer strips are cumbersome, more costly, and much more difficult to mount.

The only winner on the multi-design strips is the USPS. Is the USPS dreaming up issues that might require multi-designs like “Insects of the deserts,” “Species of the Great Lakes,” and so on, with the objective of a large setenant issue and the philatelic revenue increase from such stamps? I think so. Why would we see a bulk rate presort first-class issue like the Spectrum Eagle?. Who really gets to see that on a regular basis? Most households get 23 a year, at most. The multi-design serves no purpose except for USPS philatelic revenue.

I propose that major philatelic organizations, writers, etc. put their heads together and decide to limit PNCs to 5 stamps where the designs are 5 and less and 6 or 7 when they go beyond that. I have heard more than rumbling regarding these “biggies” and want to remind everyone that when the USPS, with their short memory now, tried to foist “biggies” on plate block collectors in the 1970s, they killed plate block collecting. Let’s not have history repeated.
– Bob Rabinowitz #265

Next time, for the color back page: Is it a print “freak,” or something else?



Plate Number Coil Collectors Club

May 9, 2015

World Stamp Show-NY 2016
22 East 35th Street
New York, NY 10016

Dear sirs:

The Plate Number Coil Collectors Club (PNC³) (an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society) is pleased to make the fourth and fifth of five annual donations in the amount of \$100.00 per year to the World Stamp Show-NY 2016. At our annual meeting in August, 2012, the membership voted to make this annual donation.

Enclosed, please find our check #1110 dated 5/9/15 in the amount of \$200.00.

Fraternally,
(signed)
John W. Himes
Treasurer, PNC³

(from page 72, Editor's message)

reported in this past February’s *Coil Line*, “C12” for the <49¢> Red, White & Blue.) Well, for now my shortcut works by still ignoring how many 1s are there, and just adding the new “2”; thus, the 25¢ Spectrum Eagle has V1s and V12s; the Red, White & Blue has only two digits so no shortcut applies. The two “ending with ‘12’” numbers are exceptions, anyway, so we’ll just have to see how many more years my shortcut can be used. (I can see someone would want to write “V1s2” instead for the second Spectrum PNC.) I intend to continue to use full plate #s within *Coil Line*, at risk of leading to an occasional mistake. Meanwhile, enjoy this issue! – Ron Blanks

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

* * *

Used rarities fine+ half price. Egrets V3221 PV \$700, V2121 VP \$375, V3211 VP \$250, V3221 VP \$60. Atlas V12111 \$75, Hansom Cab #4 PC \$30, Hansom Cab #3 PC \$30, Flag over Porch 89899 \$90. Eugene B Paul, 7017 York Rd, Abbottstown PA 17301. Member 2133.

* * *

I have extra used V333342 13/12 diecut, need FOP 66666 10/11 & 12/11, and 88888 11/12. Also have extra Egret V2121 VP & V3211 VP; need Egret V2121 PV, V3211 PV, V3221 PV. Jeff Fiszbain, email at fiszbain@sbcglobal.net. Member 1148

CLASSIFIED AD rates are 6¢ per word, with a minimum cost of \$3.00 per insertion. (Only members may advertise in *Coil Line*.)

PNC³ 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 70.)

Upcoming in a future issue –



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• 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.)

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 Richard Beecher, Secretary. Email: richardlater@aol.com or see page 70 for more contact methods.

Membership Update

New Applicant

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Names of applicants are published for review. A member who questions the suitability of a prospective member should contact the Membership Committee Chair Michael Conway with the objection (mjconway@hotmail.com or (203)268-5896.) Applicants are accepted as members one month following notice in *Coil Line* if no objection is made.

Previous Membership Count	514
New Applicants	1
Reinstated	0
Deceased	0
PNC³ Membership Count	515

“Torn Leaf” Joins 25¢ Honeybee Clipped Leaves



“Torn leaf” variety of 25¢ Honeybee PNC #2

Member Dick Zallen mailed in color photocopies from which the images nearby were made. He reports: “In line with the January, February and April issues of *Coil Line*, please note two examples of PNC Honeybee #2 clipped leaf varieties. The top example shows a ‘gapped leaf’ variety with the leaf split with yellow and the green tip at the frame line [A,B,C]. “The lower example shows the ‘clipped leaf’ variety [D, like the original report of January]. Neither shows a color shift. Both strips also show a blue line [at the right side of the numbered coil].”

[This new information suggests that some damage occurred at the edge of the blue plate.]

D clipped-leaf oddity (close-up from second #2 strip, not shown)



E

Member Bob Murrin reports finding another coil counterfeit of 2012’s <45¢> Four Flags issues [E]. The die cutting, rough in places (especially along right edge [F]) reminds one of the pattern on Ashton Potter’s coils of 100. (Bob used a Sennett Security Products coil as the genuine coil in the side-by-side image. In the May 2014 *Coil Line*, Robert Thompson illustrated parts of an unused counterfeit roll patterned after SSP’s roll; those stamps look just like Bob’s example here.)

Despite the uneven spacing of the peaks and valleys, it appears to gauge 10.8 [G]. Of note is that the “y” of “Equality” stretches left to approach over the “R” below it; on the real SSP, the “y” is not even close.



F



G