

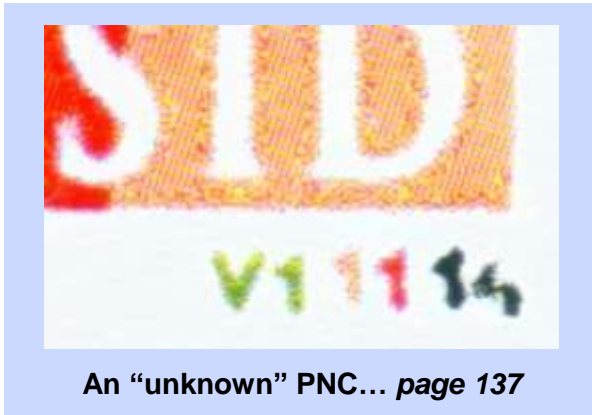
Our 28th Year



Coil Line

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

November 2015
Vol. 28, No. 11
Whole No. 329



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"V11112"?...

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ALL MEMBERS ... Please fill out and return this form before 12/31/15!!!
Membership renewals not postmarked by December 31, 2015 – add \$4.00 late fee to your payment.

2016 PNC³ MEMBERSHIP UPDATE FORM

Name _____ PNC³ Number: _____

Address: _____ () Check if new address

City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip/PostalCode: _____

Country: _____ e-mail address for *Coil Line* _____

Day Phone: (_____) _____ Evening Phone: (_____) _____

	<u>Regular Member</u>	<u>Life Member</u>
USA – Annual Dues with Electronic Full Color Coil Line	___ \$14.00	___ Included
USA – Annual Dues with Bulk Mailing of Coil Line	___ \$28.00	___ \$14.00
USA – Annual Dues with First Class Mailing of Coil Line	___ \$36.00	___ \$22.00
Worldwide: Annual Dues with Electronic Full Color Coil Line	___ \$14.00	___ Included
Worldwide: Annual Dues with Surface Mailing Coil Line	___ \$41.00	___ \$27.00
Membership Pins with PNC3 Logo available (postpaid)	___ add \$5 USA	\$8 Worldwide

Please remit by check or money order payable (in US funds) to: PNC3

Mail Renewal Form and Remittance to: John Himes, PNC³ Treasurer
 PO Box 453
 Cypress, CA 90630-0453

Please do NOT send payment for more than one year, as the dues structure may change next year.

For Club Use: Date Received: _____ Amount: _____ By: _____

In accordance with the PNC³ bylaws (ARTICLE II, SECTION 3c), **Life Membership** may be requested by any individual member in good standing who has been a member for ten continuous years and who submits a fee equal to ten times the current annual dues. Any member whose membership number is **1914 or lower** will have the necessary ten years of membership as of January 1, 2016.

This Life Membership fee pays for membership and includes Electronic delivery of COIL LINE. Life Members desiring Bulk or First Class mailing AND those with foreign mailing addresses will have to **annually** remit to the Club Treasurer the additional amount then in effect for mailing. See chart above. Life Membership fees are not refundable.

If you wish to apply for Life Membership, please complete the name and address information at the top of this form, along with the items below, and submit the form to the Treasurer along with the Life Membership fee which is 10 times a member's current annual dues.

Date of Birth: _____ Signature of Life Member Applicant: _____

Coil Line

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Scott #2149a plate # 33333 (issued
Nov. 6, '85, 30 years ago this month)

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see column at left for appropriate contact.)

Advertising Rates (one-time)

Full Page	\$ 100.00	Eighth Page	\$ 20.00
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Quarter Page	\$ 45.00	Inside Cover	Add \$ 25.00
Sixth Page	\$ 35.00	Color, full page	Add \$ 100.00

(For Color Ads, Digital 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 531, Windsor, VA 23487.

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¢ per word cost 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 available digitally with annual dues of \$14.00. Printed version of **Coil Line** is also available. To U.S. addresses, to receive printed edition add \$14.00 for Bulk Mailing; add \$22.00 for First Class Mailing. To Non-USA addresses, add \$27.00 for mailing. Past print issues of **Coil Line** available at \$2.50 per copy (quantities limited).

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For mail delivery problems, contact the mailer below.

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Mailed from Zip Code 87185 on or near October 28, 2015.

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President's Message

from the PNC³ president ...

By the time you receive this issue of *Coil Line*, our latest auction will have ended. If you get a chance, please thank our Auctioneer, Joe Sedivy for all of his fine work. Joe started conducting the auctions for the club with the fourth auction, and the 53rd auction was just completed. So Joe has run an incredible 50 auctions now for the club without interruption.

I didn't have room to mention it last month but Tim Lindemuth's exhibit on "20-cent U.S. Flag of 1981" won a gold medal and the American Philatelic Society Post-1980 Medal of Excellence. It is a very nice exhibit. I'm still looking for someone for the Awards Committee so that exhibits like Tim's can get the recognition that they deserve.

Regarding a hiccup to recent improvements on our website, I only had one additional member request that I send a copy of *Coil Line* electronically as a file. Please let me know if anyone is still having a problem. I will do what it takes to get the file to you. At the last board meeting, the board authorized the purchase of an iPad for the use of our Webmaster, Allan Clapp, so that he can work out the problems that members are having with using Apple products and mobile devices.

At the last membership meeting, Dan Forgues provided a presentation on "PNC Singles, Rarities and EFOs." It was very nicely done and Dan has made this program and a longer version available for anyone who is interested.

The treasurer's report from John Himes showed that the club's fiscal year-end account balance is higher by \$750 from where the balance stood last year.

The Catalog Committee announced that it is looking to hire someone to help with the writing of some upcoming catalog issues. Please contact Frank Covey if you have any interest.

Jill Ambrose announced that the club has sold over 30 copies on Amazon of the catalog chapter on the "Star Flag" issue. This is our first installment. Other issues are planned for items that are no longer available through the club, and to replace old stock as it runs out.

– Robert E. Thompson



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

Received at deadline: Confirmed details for OrcoExpo PNC³ meeting – please see wrapper.

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.)

SESCAL Meeting Report

On Saturday, October 3rd, John Himes and Dan Forgues hosted a local meeting of PNC³, in conjunction with the SESCAL stamp show at the Los Angeles Airport Hilton. The meeting kicked off at noon with twelve members and guests in attendance. The number of attendees was down a bit from prior years, but attendance at the show was also lighter than usual – perhaps because of the escalating parking fees at the hotel.

Following introductions, Dan kicked off the meeting by giving a presentation on the 17¢ Electric Auto of the Transportation coil series. He showed images of both the regular and precancel issues, and varieties of each.

These included color varieties, 100%-on-top plate numbers, and "no plate number" plate number singles (those from the top row of the web, where the row slitting (please see next page)

(from previous page, *SESCAL* meeting report)

was too high and the plate number was missing from the bottom of the stamp). They are only possible to detect on issues with joint lines, where the joint line is visible on the right edge of the stamp. In all these years, Dan has only found two copies of the 17¢ Auto with this anomaly.

Dan also demonstrated how to determine if a precancel is the A, B, or C type without using a millimeter gauge, and he spent time showing that there is a variant of the C type in which the overprint is measurably longer than most type Cs, and which many have termed a “D type.” (This is controversial. The Scott U.S. specialized catalog only recognizes the first three types because the same type of font is used on the C and the “D type.”) It was a thorough and very enjoyable presentation.

John then showed copies of the latest PNC strips, and explained the differences in the two different date types of the Sennett Forever Fern coils. He explained that the new 2nd ounce rate and postcard rate coils are the first to be issued for these classes of postage in a forever-type rate. Lastly, we examined the six new Spectrum Eagle stamps from Ashton Potter with their odd sequences of 6, 6, 6, 6, and 3 designs per cylinder rotation, allowing the plate number to be on a stamp of the same design every 27 stamps. [See pages 138-139 for more on the new coil.]

Next, Dan discussed what it takes to be a “mixture picker,” how to find mixtures with used PNCs, and the excitement of finding new and interesting varieties by sorting through mixtures. He showed a couple of actual mixtures, explained how he had obtained them, and offered tips for getting good deals.

Following this, a number of questions were posed by attendees, and a number of interesting stories and finds were discussed, as well. Printed copies of *Coil Line* were given to the guests, and door prizes were issued to everyone in attendance. Special thanks go to Dave Cobb of Newport Harbor Stamps and Ron Sobel of Oakmore Stamp Company for supplying some very nice door prizes. Before the meeting wrapped up, there was a round of trading and selling of duplicates. All in all, it was a very enjoyable meeting and a great day at the show.

Tentatively, the next Southern California PNC³ meeting will be held at the ORCOEXPO stamp show early in 2016. – *John Himes*

Annual Membership Renewal

Please Mail in Form on Wrapper

Believe it or not, it’s time for us all to renew our memberships in PNC³ for another year. Printed on the outer wrapper of this month’s *Coil Line* is the renewal form. We’re going to put it on the wrapper in both this issue and the next issue in order to give you two different reminders. We heartily encourage you to take a few minutes right now to fill out the form and send it in at your earliest convenience while it’s currently on your mind. (Those of you with the digital version will need to print out the form, of course.)

Dues Unchanged, Thanks to Your Help

Due to careful management of our finances, we are able to offer membership for the upcoming year at the same levels as before. Many thanks to those of you who have opted for Internet delivery of *Coil Line*, have donated your time in support of the club, have contributed scrap postage, provided material or had winning bids in the club auctions, purchased club pins, or purchased club publications. These individually small but overall significant sources of cost containment and revenue generation have made a difference. I’m happy to report that we are financially healthy, and this is keeping dues at a reasonable level.

We Don’t Want to Send Bills

In the past there has been some confusion on the part of a few of our members who thought we would bill them for their annual membership fees. Interestingly, PNC³ has never done that, as it’s expensive to send a letter to every member. We’d rather save those funds as part of our effort to keep the annual dues as low as possible. So please take note – it’s up to you to be proactive and send us the form along with your annual dues payment.

Life members who opt to receive *Coil Line* electronically don’t owe any additional fees, but we still encourage them to send in the form to keep us apprised of their status. This is important to the Club officers who try to keep track of everyone and assure they can be contacted when needed.

Thanks in advance for keeping your membership current and helping us keep PNC³ a strong and viable part of the philatelic community.

– *John Himes, PNC³ Treasurer*

Readers' Forum

⇒
This peak (⇒) is not the “first” that should be at upper-left; that one is part of the stamp in row above. Likewise, the peak seen as part of the “bell” here is normally on stamp below. →



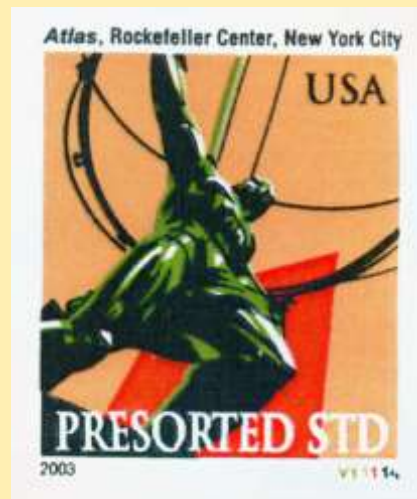
<49¢>Flag C11111 PNC with Bell at Lower-Left
(image: Jeff Fiszbein)

More Avery/CCL die cut shapes found with PNCs. Jeff Fiszbein, one of the club’s intrepid mixture sorters, recently reported finding three more C11111 PNCs of the CCL-produced <49¢> Star-Spangled Banner issue with mis-aligned die cutting. These exhibit some now-seen-intact sections of serpentine patterns normally bisected by row-slitting at top and bottom of coils (also called the “row separator” stretches of vertical die cutting).

CCL Label obtained the die-cutting mats used for the coils as part of its acquisition of Avery’s stamp production division. So the odd row-separator shapes previously found among Avery-made coils might be found on CCL rolls-of-100 issues, too. (However, we’ve likely seen the last coil issues from CCL. As of 2015, they no longer supply stamps to the U.S. Postal Service.)

Shown for the first time among 2014 coils is a “bell at lower-left” row separator (above). Jeff’s find also has plate number C11111.

With Jeff’s second PNC reported, a “knoll” is exposed at upper-left. (See the December 2014 *Coil Line* for image of an unnumbered one, found on-cover by Richard Matta.) Jeff’s third C11111 PNC reported is a “bell at upper-left,” similar to the bell above. But it’s not his first. The first one he found is shown in the August 2014 issue. (Frank Covey illustrates Avery/CCL die-cut shapes from the 2013 Flag for All Seasons coils in the August 2013 issue.)



(10¢) Atlas PNC “V1111?”, with “?” looking like a “4”
(Gene Trinks, club past president, passed along a color photocopy sent in by a member wondering if this PNC example shows an unreported new plate #. For a comment on Avery, who supplied this PNC, and related PNCs, see page 141.)



17¢ Electric Auto precancel types. I was very disappointed to read in *Coil Line* that a “Type D” of the Electric Auto coil precancel (1906a) is listed on the Club’s website. I checked it and it’s true; it’s listed. How many times are we going to resurrect this dead horse? There is no Type D. It took me a long time during my annual reviews for the Scott catalog to get them to correct this mistake. And they did correct it.

The types of precancels of this issue are not determined by the length of the lettering. They are defined by the font type. The manufacture of the mats used by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to overprint the Auto was sloppy at best and it has been shown that the lettering length over a short distance of a strip can vary by as much as .8 (8/10th) mm. People should read the footnote under Scott No. 1906 in the specialized catalog. A mm gauge is not the tool to use, it’s the font.

The false information about the existence of a Type D should be deleted from the website.

The Scott specialized catalog footnote for Scott 1906a reads as follows:

“Three different precancel styles exist with differences in the font used: (please see next page)

Catalog Corner

Frank Covey



(25¢) Spectrum Eagle (AP)
Plate P1111
PNC ID 2015-7

The (25¢) **Spectrum Eagle** from **Ashton Potter** was issued September 2, 2015 in Eagleville, MO in rolls of 10,000. No denomination appears as this is a Presorted First-Class stamp intended for use by mass mailers.

A **P1111** plate number occurs **every 27** stamps along the roll. There are six different color combinations used. In a strip of 27 three of the colors repeat four times while the other three colors repeat five times. Different repetition counts among designs in a roll has not happened before. The strip shown below indicates where the three colors repeat an extra time before the normal sequence of all six colors resumes. (See related article on next page about how these might be collected.)

These Spectrum Eagle designs were used before in a coil produced by Avery Dennison (2012-1). This new issue carries a 2015 date in the upper right corner and uses offset printing instead of gravure printing.

Back numbers (top or bottom) appear on the back of the liner at ten-stamp intervals to aid in counting. Ashton Potter chose to program its printing of the number of digits in the back number based on the number of digits needed, so far a practice unique among stamp suppliers. Shown below are 5-digit, 4-digit, 3-digit and 2-digit back numbers from this issue. The highest numbers are on the outer windings of the roll.



Before each run of all six designs (repeated four times), the first three are inserted an extra time.
(Only five designs are shown here; see next page for view of all six designs.)

Ashton Potter Spectrum Eagle: Collecting Suggestions

Frank Covey

Our newest coil stamp, the Ashton Potter (25¢) Spectrum Eagle (2015-7) issued in 10K rolls on September 2, 2015, is a challenge for plate number coil collectors of mint strips. Not only is it hard to get unfolded long strips, but the six combination colors used in the design do not always repeat within the 27-stamp plate number interval.

Below I offer three ways you might collect these.

Plate Strip of 7



This format makes for easier storage. It shows each of the color combinations with the green/blue appearing at each end of the strip. However, the red/orange stamp is only shown with a plate number. A red/orange stamp without a plate number is not shown. (For multi-design issues, some collectors desire strips long enough to include an unnumbered example of the design on which the plate number is found.)

Plate Strip of 13

This would be the traditional way to save the Spectrum Eagle with the plate numbered stamp in the middle and each of the six color combinations both to the right and left of the stamp. This is a long strip, so for storage you might use the 8-row SAFE™ album page “1028.” (The 1028 was designed to hold gummed coil strips of 18.)

Plate Strip of 16

This format has all of the advantages of a PS13 plus another: It shows the extra three designs that make the AP Spectrum Eagle coil unique. The “cropped” strip of six shown below illustrates how only the red/orange, orange/yellow and yellow/green eagles repeat for a fifth time between plate numbers. The extra three stamps are immediately followed by a plate strip of 13 that constitutes the traditional collecting format described above. A PS16 just fits in a SAFE 1028 album page. SAFE USA and Subway Stamp Shop, among several sources, sell the 8-row 1028 pages in packages of five.



CCL Label used at least two different tagging compounds on the Red, White and Blue <49¢> Forever coils, Scott 4894-97. Issued April 25, 2014, these initially appeared tagged with “compound x,” the stuff that responds to your shortwave lamp with a bluish-white glow. Sorting through piles of used stamps with his shortwave lamp, Robert Murrin has found examples of Red, White and Blue tagged with the traditional zinc orthosilicate. There might be a “compound y” involved with this as well.

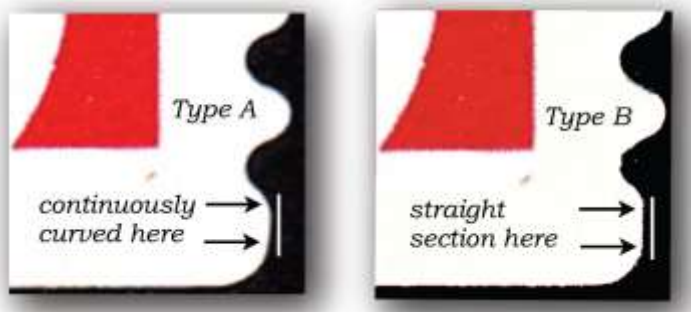
Coils with plate number C11 exhibit a bright bluish-white shortwave response. Coils with plate number C12 respond with a fainter blue-white glow that has a slight greenish tinge. This might be a different taggant yet, a compound y, or this response might result when the printer dumps compound x into a reservoir that previously was filled with zinc orthosilicate.

Bob’s recent finds exhibit the traditional yellow green glow. Some were unnumbered and others had plate number C11. It appears that CCL used whatever taggant it had on the shelf, indiscriminately, and that they might have mixed two taggant compounds at times. This doesn’t seem to violate any rules, since the USPS only specifies a level of phosphorescent response, and not its color.

If you only collect singles, you might want examples of both the yellow-green tagging and the blue-white stuff. You might add the somewhat intermediate tagging that appears at least on some C12 coils. Plate number coil collectors have two different C11 varieties to round up, along with the C12 version, but I wouldn’t be surprised to have C12 turn up with either the bright blue-white glow

or with the strong yellow-green zinc orthosilicate response as well. Both C11 and C12 with the blue-white tagging are on high-brite paper, fluorescing with a glow that is similar to the tagging response, only to different wavelengths of ultraviolet. The examples from plate C11 that have the traditional yellow-green glow are on paper that is dead to longwave u/v.

[Reprinted with permission from U.S. Stamp News, October 2015 pp.12-13. For more information, visit www.stampnewsnow.com.]



Red, White and Blue new diecut variety

Until recently, all of the 10,000-stamp coils that had surfaced had the Type A diecut that Avery Dennison, and more recently CCL Label, both used on bulk-mailer large coils. These stamps have rounded corners and are separated from each other on the backing paper to accommodate stamp-sticking machines. The Type A diecut has a continuously rounded corner that curved into the first peak or valley. This is best seen at the bottom right or top left corners, shown above. Now the Type B diecut has been reported. This version has a straight vertical section where the Type A is curved. Not many of these have appeared, but keep your eyes open, as sooner or later they will filter out of the USPS warehouses. [Reprinted with permission from U.S. Stamp News, November 2015, p.13.]

Red-White-Blue mint strip; used single with

yellow-green phosphor tagging (image under SW-UV courtesy Bob Murrin)



The “4s” of Avery’s PNCs



Precancel Type A

Type B

Type C

(from page 137, Readers’ Forum)

Type A has thin lines and the “T” in PRECANCELED is tall with a short cross bar.

Type B has thicker lines and the T is shorter with a longer cross bar.

Type C has thicker lines still and the “T” has a shorter stem with a cross bar longer than on Types A and B. Lengths of the precancel increase with the types and the wider spacing of the letters, though the imprecise manufacture of the precancel mats led to significant variations in length.

Combination pairs exist of Types A and B.”

Actually, these are my words, entered in the catalog by Jim Kloetzel when he was editor.

– Alan Thomson #180L

[Club President replies:

I’m very surprised about it as well. It is not listed in the PNC’s 2014 Values list, nor should it be. I have had the same understanding as Alan about this. Scott included it in their catalog several years back, without contacting anyone who was any kind of an authority on the subject. Alan and, as I remember, Richard Nazar spoke out against it specifically because there was no difference in the font style. There was only a variation in the width of “PRECANCEL” and that varies to some extent on all three types. Thanks for bringing this to our attention. – Robert Thompson #1415L]



Types A, B, and C (from top to bottom; overlays cropped from stamps shown at top.)



(10¢) Atlas PNC
“V1111?” compared
to other Avery
PNCs with a “4”

When I first saw the photocopy of the (10¢) Atlas PNC shown on page 137, it was uncanny how much the last digit looked like a “4”. One can’t help but think of the infamous “1141” of the (33¢) “H” coil produced by the BEP that at least one expertization has certified as genuine (even with obscurity of that “4” added by a cancel line). Only one example is known.

But I also thought of all of the (10¢) Atlas cylinder-set numbers (16 in total), ranging from V11111 through V33333 with an inbetween mix of changing digits involving 2s and 3s (but no 4s). Is there any clue to these numbers that would suggest this V1111? case ends with a “4” rather than a mangled “1”? I couldn’t tell. Only two other numbers involve four 1s, V21111 and V12111. Without a V11112 or V11113, it seems unlikely a V11114 could exist, but that is still speculation.

The next thought I had was to compare with any known Avery coil issue with a “4” in the PNC. Surprisingly, it seems there is only one: Avery’s 23¢ Washington coil. I have no mint example with a “4”, but have four used coils representing the three PNCs with 4s: V24, V45, and V46. Enlargements of these are shown at top. In my opinion, it is possible for a 1 to be mangled once in a blue moon to closely resemble a 4.
– Ron Blanks

Direct Mail Sightings

Ron Blanks

Developments new and old in direct-mail marketing have figuratively filled our mailbox recently. We need to make room for more, so some finds (and a puzzle) are presented below.

Member Cerel Fritz, Jr. mailed in a clipping (shown at right) he found while mixture-sorting. It's all that's left of some nonprofit mailing but features what we've been looking for since its water-activated gummed 1¢ Bobcat was issued in 2013: a pairing of it with a 4¢ Chippendale Chair, both with plate numbers and tied to cover by a mailer's postmark.

Cerel's mixture sorting also turned up something novel, at least as far as the current "Nonprofit Org." presort coil available to mailers is concerned. When we see the (5¢) Art Deco Bird, issued in 2011, used on nonprofit mailings, it is most often found "solo". But look at this next clipping.



pair of presort coils. (The August 2015 issue featured an extreme case from circa 2005. It had not only several presort coils, but they were a mix of rate category labels.) Barring a philatelic trickster at play, we can assume this #P3333 PNC has two 1¢ Bobcats added to set the appeal mailing apart from the others using only a presort coil. With the recent rise in two to five 1¢ stamps added to Business Reply Mail envelopes for effect, this novelty could almost be expected. However, the mailer failed to follow one rule in doing this; did you spot what it is? (A report of any example using an earlier-issued coil, but also following the rule ignored here, is welcome.)

Speaking of effect, below is an example from circa 1988, when the bulk rate at the 5-digit ZIP level rose from 10.1¢ to 13.2¢. Does anyone have a similar cover to authenticate it? More next time. ■



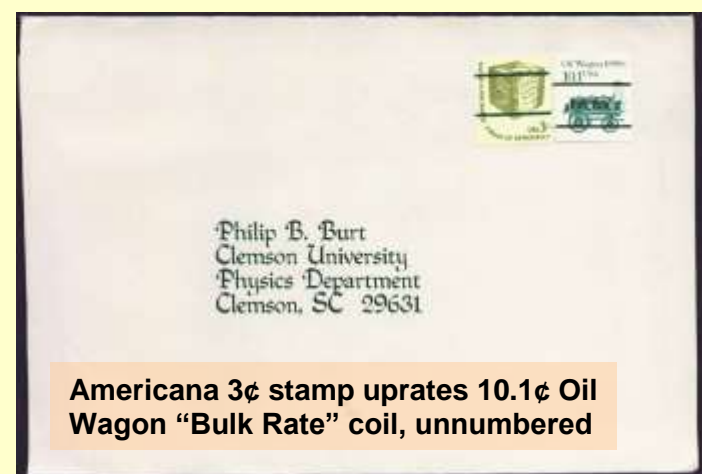
Authorized bulk mailers wanting to use stamps need only affix a minimum in franking, based on the rate category. Hence, nonprofit-org. coils have a postage value of 5¢ but a mailer maintains an account with the USPS to pay the difference between affixed postage and actual postage due.

However, nothing besides the extra effort prevents a mailer from applying additional postage. And on occasion over recent decades we've seen this done almost exclusively in the form of simply using a

PNC³ Catalog Committee

NOTICE

Orders for PNC³ Catalog items will **not** be accepted and processed between December 1, 2015 and February 29, 2016. (Look for new and updated offerings in the March 2016 issue of *Coil Line*.)



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 PNC'S on and off cover. Our new 8-page list #15-3 of Used PNC's is yours free. We also have a free new 33-page list of MNH PNC's, Booklets, Booklet Panes, many by plate number and position. Specify which list is wanted. Vic Collinino, PO Box 300-P, Stratham, NH 03885-0300 or email your name and address to vimco@comcast.net. Member 748

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

Facer-Canceler Clarification

In finishing the update notes to the facer-canceler/plant tour article in September's issue, I likely mis-stated a fact. On signaling "stamp versus meter," I transposed recall of some technical detail I read in a circa-1962 contractor paper for a detector's UV lamp "off" cycles. That bit was likely related to design factors of lamps and power supply. I should have written, "one photo cell at the UV lamp was to detect any glow and a second cell past the lamp was to sense any detectable afterglow." Note that today's systems are likely different. And they can detect two-dimensional barcodes of "non-stamp" indicia. Some apply a shortened cancel as a result. – Ron Blanks

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Display Advertising Rates *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.)

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 134.)

Membership Update

New Applicants

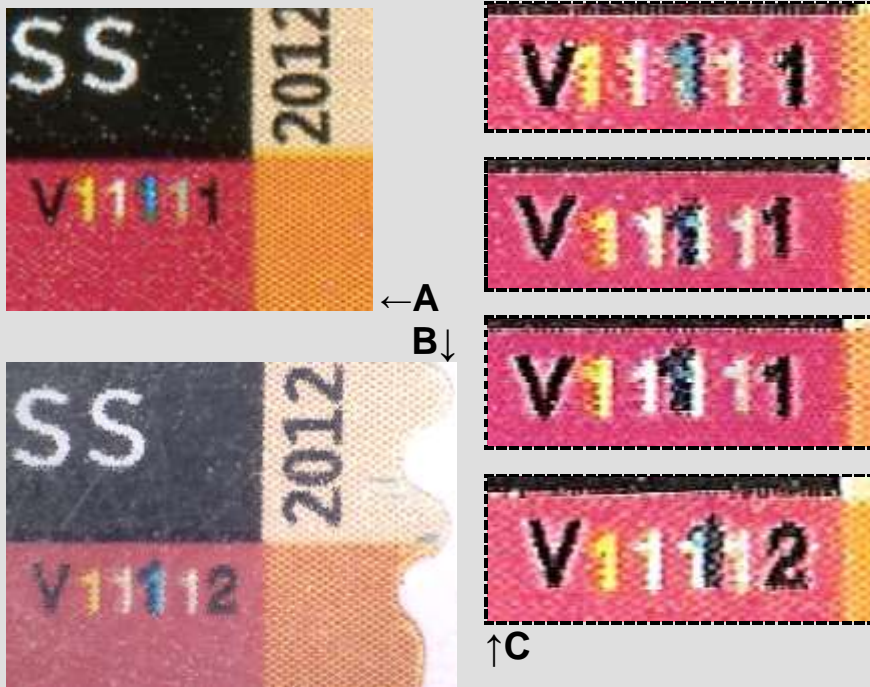
Peter A. Smith (2302)
1331 Okeeffe Ave #212
Sun Prairie, WI 53590-4358
pablacksmith@yahoo.com

Jeanne Hogan (2303)
2 Melrose St
Glastonbury, CT 06033
opals61@sbcglobal.net

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	529
New Applicants	2
Reinstated	0
Resigned	0
PNC³ Membership Count	531

More Shifting Digits of “V”# (25¢) Spectrum Eagle PNCs?



(25¢) Spectrum Eagle #V11111, #V11112 cylinder numbers
(image sources, A-Frank Covey, B-Jim Lowery, C-Jeff Fiszbein)

Or,
Readers Try to Tell Us Something

Just how many digits are used in the plate numbers of the original (25¢) Spectrum Eagle from Avery/CCL? (These PNCs use “V” and are dated 2012, not to be confused with the #P1111 new issue on pages 138-139.) It depends on “what” digits are counted...

The back page of the August issue states, “Mixture-sorter Jeff Fiszbein found four (25¢) Spectrum Eagle PNCs that pose challenges counting the digits. The cyan ink ‘1’ was prone to shifting out of its dropout ‘1’ spot.” [Closeups are repeated here, C.]

Member Jim Lowery read that page and submitted the image of his V11112 example (B, at left) to still ask, But isn’t there an extra 1? (“Yes.” See text below for explanation.)

Counting plate number “digits” among the original (25¢) Spectrum Eagle coils (Avery/CCL, 2012) isn’t as straightforward as one might suppose. We can thank Avery, the original supplier of this issue, for a “twist” that might have been adopted before but continues unnoticed.

Let’s first review what we (think we) know. As per the technical details in the *Postal Bulletin* of Dec. 11, 2011, five inks were used – the four standard process colors Yellow, Magenta, Cyan and Black, and the “self” color “Cool Gray.” This presumably means five gravure print cylinders were used, so one expects a five-digit plate number (preceded by the supplier ID, here “V” for Avery, not “A” as inexplicably stated in a recent hobby publication). Since the stamp area where the plate number goes is fully inked, the printer decided to use “dropout” lettering (an absence of ink) to match the shapes of the plate-number digits.

At this point, the discussion of dropout lettering for plate numbers can grow complex so certain aspects not related to counting digits are omitted. The next (easy) fact concerns what was done for the yellow, magenta, and cool gray inks. Their respective cylinders each apply a digit to “fit” in an uninked digit shape, surrounded by normal inking for that stamp area. By coincidence, with only two numbers known (V11111, V11112), these colors’ digits are always 1s. Why isn’t the black ink in the prior group? We cannot tell from the examples seen so far if the “V” and the last digit (either 1 or 2) were printed in respective dropout areas. The closeups of Jeff’s four PNCs hint that they were, but a substantial mis-shift case is needed to know. (In contrast, for the new version Ashton Potter did *not* use dropout lettering for any color; see page 138.)

This brings us to a digit’s color with most of our past attention: cyan. And we’re about to throw up our hands, so we need to hear back from those of you who can shed light, or offer opinion, on why the following was done. The cyan “1” in the plate numbers was not only to be nestled in its own dropout (“white paper”) spot between the magenta 1 at left and cool gray 1 at right, but to be printed over a black-1 base. Frank Covey captured a nearly perfect color registration case for his Catalog Corner page (March 2012 *Coil Line*). Some of the closeup images at top clearly show the cyan (light blue) 1 printed over a black 1, Frank’s (A), Jim’s (B), and the topmost of Jeff’s (C). In each of Jeff’s other three, only a speck of cyan is seen. Now for my question: How can “this” black 1 be aligned differently from the black V and last digit when Jeff’s four examples are compared? I have a guess, but welcome your answers to this riddle. — Ron Blanks

OrcoExpo – January 9th, 2016

Fullerton, Calif.

John Himes, Dan Forgues, and Jeff Haas are planning to host a PNC³ club meeting at the ORCOEXPO Stamp Show on Saturday, January 9th, 2016 from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM. ORCOEXPO will be in a new location this year – **The Hotel Fullerton** – so please take note of the directions below. All club members are invited to attend, and guests are welcome.

As usual, we'll try to make sure there are some great door prizes for everyone who attends, we'll discuss the latest news in the PNC world, and we'll make sure there's sufficient time for buying, selling, and trading amongst the club members at the end of the meeting.

The Hotel Fullerton is located at 1500 South Raymond Dr., Fullerton, California 92831. To get there, exit the CA-91 Freeway at Raymond Dr., go north one block, then turn right on E. Burton St. Show hours are Friday and Saturday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, and Sunday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. More information is available at http://www.stampshows.com/fullerton_sp.html.

If you need any additional information, feel free to contact John or Jeff:

John Himes	johnwhimes@yahoo.com	714.826.8552 (H)
Jeff Haas	jhconsult@yahoo.com	949.219.3179 (W)

VERY IMPORTANT: The OrcoExpo staff asks that we formally check in prior to coming to the meeting. They want to make sure they get registrations from all attendees. We promised them we would comply with this simple request.

We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
John, Dan, and Jeff

Late Breaking News!!

The Plate Number Coil Collectors Club will hold a regional meeting in conjunction with CHICAGOPEX 2015, on Saturday November 21st, 2015 and will begin at 11 a.m. The show will be held November 20-22 at the Westin Chicago Northwest, 400 Park Blvd., Itasca, IL. The meeting will be hosted by PNC3 member Kurt Albrecht. There will be a power point presentation of Dan Forgues's "Errors and Varieties on PNCs" as well as time for show and tell and trading.