

PNC³ PNC Catalog Chapters Order Form (April 2016)

The Plate Number Coil (PNC³) Catalog Committee is accepting orders from PNC³ members for the new publications and re-offered publications listed below. These will be available as long as quantities last. Orders can be expected to be filled within 60 days.

	<u>Quantity Ordered</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
<u>A. New Publications</u>		
2015 New Issues: 24 pages		
Stamp Illustrations in Color	\$10.25	_____
Stamp Illustrations in Black & White	\$ 6.00	_____
2016 Cumulative PNC-ID Index, Cross Reference PNC ID and Scott Numbers Index, and Alphabetical Name Index (3 items), B&W, 65 pages	\$7.50	_____
<u>B. Re-Offered Publications</u>		
First Forever Flags 2010-13 (<44>, <45>, <46>), 29 pages, illustrations in color	\$11.00	_____
CCL Die Cut Varieties, illustrations in color, 10 pages	\$ 5.50	_____
Precancel Gaps Values List (29 pages), black & white	\$ 4.50	_____
PNC ³ Illustrated Glossary (26 pages including 1 page of color illustrations), 4th Edition	\$ 4.50	_____
Flags Of Our Nation (FOON), 20 pages, illustrations in color	\$ 7.65	_____
\$0.42 Flag 24/7 (15 pages, illustrations in color)	\$ 8.25	_____
\$0.41 Flag on Pole (27 pages, illustrations in color)	\$10.50	_____
\$0.39 Lady Liberty & Flag (28 pages, illus. in color)	\$12.75	_____
\$0.37 Flag Waving (26 pages, illustrations in color)	\$11.50	_____
\$0.32 Flag Over Porch (19 pages, illus. in color)	\$ 8.50	_____
<u>C. Postage & Handling</u>		
\$2.85 for first item ordered	\$ 2.85	
\$0.30 for <u>each</u> additional item ordered	\$ _____	
Total Postage & Handling		_____

TOTAL REMITTANCE (U.S. FUNDS ONLY), payable to **PNC³** \$ _____

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 _____

Our 29th Year

PNC³



Coil Line

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

April 2016
Vol. 29, No. 4
Whole No. 334

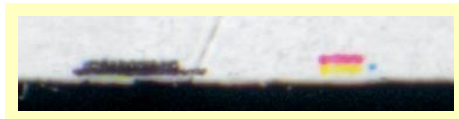
New earliest dates... *page 50*



A recent use... *page 49*



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Elusive incision style... *page 48*



Counterfeits found...

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Mystery line... *page 48*



Also...

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- Plymouth, Michigan PNC³ meeting, **April 16...** *page 43*
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Coil Line

Journal of the Plate Number
Coil Collectors Club (PNC³)

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Scott #1891 (issued April 24, 1981,
the first PNC 35 years ago) **plate # 6**

PNC³ Contacts

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

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, 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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All content matters, letters to the Editor, and advertising questions should be sent to **Coil Line**, c/o Ronald Blanks, PO Box 531, Windsor, VA 23487. Phone 757-478-8719; email: coilineditor@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: snippenb@gmail.com. Phone: 505-404-1624.

Mailed from Zip Code 87185 on or near March 30, 2016.

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President's Message

from the PNC³ president ...

Ron Blanks, the editor of our monthly newsletter *Coil Line*, has asked that he be replaced as soon as practical. Ron took over the job of editor January 2009 and has been the editor for over seven years. So I'm looking for anyone that has any interest in taking on this responsibility for the club. This is something that is needed as soon as possible. Please let me hear from you if you are interested.

On a positive note, we finally have a volunteer for Chairman of the Awards and Exhibits Committee. His name is Vince Jones and he is a relatively new member of the club. Vince plans to start with the shows coming up in May. If anyone knows of any shows that will include exhibits with PNC material or if anyone is planning on submitting their own exhibit, please let Vince know at vincekjones3@gmail.com and try to give him any support that he might need.

The World Stamp Show NY2016 will be held in New York City from Saturday, May 28 to Saturday, June 4. PNC³ will be in booth 876. Check the program or visit the stamp show's web page at <http://www.ny2016.org/>. There is a lot of information about the show, including the schedule of events, and airline and hotel information.

Something that I came across while looking for a place to stay was a website for Bed & Breakfast. I'm sure there are several available, so if you have not gotten a room yet, it might be worth checking out.

PNC³ will have a club meeting on Sunday, May 29 in room 1E20 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. I hope that many of you will be able to make it to the show, and either stop by our booth or make it to the club meeting, or both.

Several people have informed me they are planning to be at the show in New York. However, I've also been in touch with Tom McFarland, who has volunteered to set up a schedule for those members that might be able to help staff the booth during the show. He tells me that only a couple of people have been in touch with him. So please, if you might be able to help, contact Tom at philatomic@verizon.net so that he can put you on the schedule. Even if you don't know when you might be available, get in touch with Tom, so that at least we know that you plan to attend the show. — Robert E. Thompson



Welcome!



If you are a new reader to *Coil Line*, PNC³ is in our 29th 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

Plymouth, Michigan - April 16

A PNC³ Regional Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 16th at the annual Plymouth Stamp Show (sponsored by the West Suburban Stamp Club). For the fifth straight year the show location is at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, Westland, MI. Our Website Content Mistress, Jill R. Ambrose, will host the meeting. The agenda includes a time for socializing as well as trading, buying, and selling PNC material. As usual, door prizes will be awarded.

The planned meeting time is 11 a.m., which is a change from last year. For more details on the meeting, Jill can be reached via her contact choices on page 42. The Plymouth stamp show will be held Saturday April 16th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday April 17th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more show information, visit the website www.plymouthshow.com or contact Sandra Strzalkowski: myWSSC@msn.com; phone 313-533-7737.

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.)

More Regional Meetings

World Stamp Show NY2016 Regional Meeting – May 29

World Stamp Show NY2016 is scheduled for Saturday May 28 – Saturday June 4, 2016. It will be held at the Jacob Javits Convention Center, 655 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10001 on Level 3.

A PNC³ Regional Meeting is scheduled for 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. on the second day of the show, Sunday, May 29 in the show's convention center, room 1E20. Door prizes will be given and time set aside for trading and conversation. Non-members are welcome to attend.

The World Stamp Show hours are 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sat. May 28, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. the last day Sat. June 4, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for each day in between. www.ny2016.org is the show's website. For further details on the PNC³ meeting, contact President Robert E. Thompson at rthompson@pncvarieties.com or by phone, 713-397-1772.

Lower Postal Rates Effective April 10th

The U.S. Postal Service is lowering many postage rates effective Sunday, April 10th. By law, it could not maintain the “emergency” rate increases put in place in January 2014 (when the price of a first-class letter rose from 46¢ to 49¢) and May 2015, at this point in 2016 without congressional or court action to grant permanent status to the earlier rate increases. (Some rates, such as per additional ounce and postcards, were raised in 2015.)

As a result, the first-ounce rate for letters will be 47¢ (new value of Forever stamps), with one-ounce large envelopes set at twice that or 94¢. The additional-ounce rate will be lowered from 22¢ to 21¢ (as well as the non-machinable surcharge), and the domestic postcard rate will fall from 35¢ to 34¢.

In 2015, the USPS issued its first undenominated stamps for the Postcard rate and the Additional Ounce rate, respectively. Thus, no new stamps are required for the most common rate values as long as ample supplies of current stamps exist or the USPS orders more printings of the same.

Editor's Message

Welcome to the post-Spring-Auction edition of *Coil Line*. Due to the preponderance of auction-lot pages in the March issue (one of our largest auctions ever), we worked very hard since to provide a 16-page issue this month instead of the usual twelve. While a number of glitches crept into last month's issue (how many did you notice?), one should be mentioned for correction: On the Catalog Corner page for the 10¢ Pears, the Sennett Security Products' subsidiary should be “Banknote Corporation of America,” which used the prefix “B” in its plate numbers. (And it should be CCL Industries that has purchased Sennett and BCA.)

Please be sure to see the notices on the wrapper this issue. We've added a vital one. – *Ron Blanks*

PNC³ Catalog Offerings Updated for 2015

On the wrapper for this issue you will find an order form for the latest offerings by the Catalog Committee. The lead item on the form is the section containing “**New Offerings**,” followed by “**Re-Offered Publications**” and then “**Prior Publications**” available in limited quantities.

New publications include the annual update of PNCs issued in 2015, as well as the updated indices of all PNCs since 1981. Re-Offered Publications include a chapter of the permanent catalog added last year, titled “First Forever Flags 2010 – 2013,” covering the 44¢, 45¢, and 46¢ values with a flag theme. Also offered again is a chapter on the die varieties of contract printer CCL Label created in 2014. This is similar to the chapter “Avery Die Cut Varieties,” which is still available in limited quantities.

The order form is quite descriptive, and orders placed on this form can be expected to ship within 60 days. The reason for the long shipping time is that the new publications are not printed until the approximate demand is known (to minimize leftover inventory). Orders can trickle in for nearly a month before the print quantity is determined. Printing, collating and packaging can take another couple of weeks, and then time in the mailstream is needed.

If you need any of the Re-Offered or Prior Publications, please order early, as it will be “first come, first served” until the supply runs out.

Readers' Forum

“Four Freedoms” P1111, P2222 album vs. catalog. My Comprehensive Plate Number Coil supplement for the Scott’s National Album shows spaces for 4636b (2012’s Four Freedoms from Ashton Potter), overall tagged PNC for plate number P2222. It also provides spaces for 4636c Prephosphored coated tagging PNC for plate number P1111. The 2016 Scott Catalog does not list these, showing only P1111 for 4636b and P2222 for 4636c. Since I have been unable to find them for sale anywhere and since they are not listed in the catalog, I suspect that they do not exist. I would appreciate very much if one of our members could give me a definite answer as to whether these two varieties exist. Thanks. – *Steve Blair # 1329*

Penguins marginal markings. In the Oct. 2015 *Coil Line* (pg. 121), Frank Covey reported on some guide marks at the bottom of a <22¢> Penguins coil strip that he obtained from a dealer. I recently obtained a similar strip from a collector and can add some additional information to the original report. The marks are between the first and second stamps in a plate strip of 5 (PS5) (two diecut columns to left of plate #, or “2L”).

On mine, the right-side markings consist of a short magenta line above a short yellow line, plus a cyan dot off to the right. The magenta digit in the plate number is a bit higher than the yellow digit. If they were registered properly with each other, then the magenta and yellow lines would overlap.

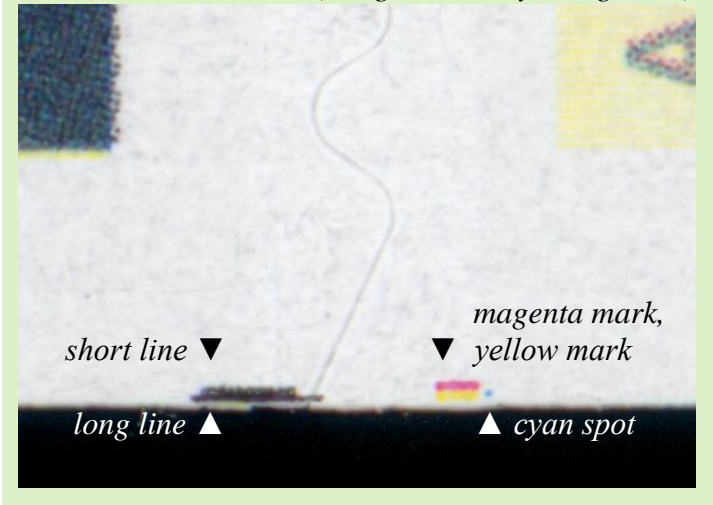
Now here is the part I can’t completely explain. In Frank’s image, the marking on the right looks very dark, as if it also includes cyan and/or black. Perhaps the cyan dot on mine is part of a line that wasn’t completely inked?

It is possible that the right-side markings are a color registration marking. But normally they use a + mark so that both horizontal and vertical misregistrations can easily be seen.

The markings on the left are more of mystery. Why a shorter line over a longer line? All I see on mine is black, but Frank’s image hints that other



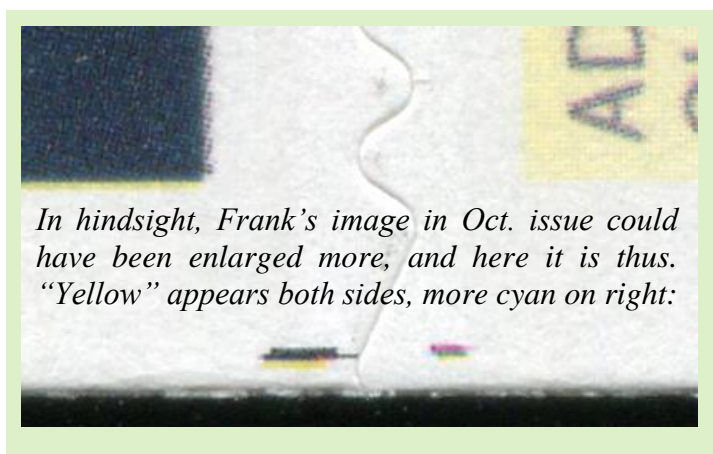
(images courtesy Doug Iams)



colors might be present. Anyway, the left and right markings together seem to be properly positioned so that they could be a die cutting guide mark (with the target being the middle of the space between), but it is odd that they are using horizontal marks instead of the more logical vertical die cutting guide marks we have seen on some earlier Sennett-made coils.

(The close-up image above has been darkened some to allow the yellow mark to show up better.)

– *Doug Iams #625* ([more Readers' Forum, page 48](#))



In hindsight, Frank’s image in Oct. issue could have been enlarged more, and here it is thus. “Yellow” appears both sides, more cyan on right:

Catalog Corner

Frank Covey



The <49¢> Forever **Flag & Clouds** coil of 100 went on sale January 29, 2016 in Washington DC 20090. No denomination appears on this stamp as it is intended to pay the current first class rate forever.

It was produced by Ashton Potter and has a **P11111** plate number **every 31st** stamp. Most will collect this as a PS5 as there is only one design in the issue. A phosphor tagging break is evident under shortwave ultraviolet light, just left of the plate numbered stamp as seen in the image below (C).

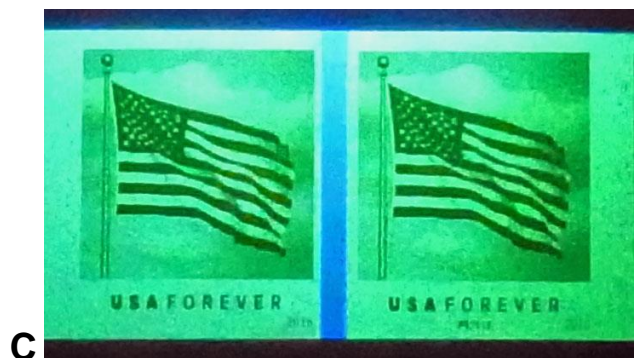
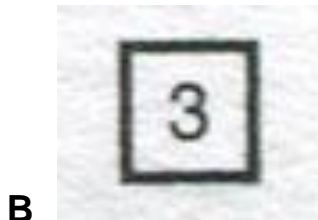
This design will make history as it will be the first coil design that will see its “face value” re-set to a reduced rate. On April 10, 2016, the value of this stamp will be reduced to 47 cents, in keeping with USPS across-the-board rate changes effective that date.

Wrappers like the one shown below (D) seal the coil. Each wrapper has a number inside either a triangle or square (A, B) that go as high as the number 12.

The centering of the design on the stamp on the initial rolls that came from Stamp Fulfillment Services in Kansas City was not good as seen in the image above.

The rolls of 100 come individually wrapped in clear cellophane.

<49¢> Flag & Clouds (s/a)
Plate **P11111**
PNC ID **2016-2**



A tagging break appears at left of the plate numbered stamp.



D

Acquiring Current PNCs by Dr. Robert Rabinowitz

It sounds simple enough. Order rolls from Kansas City, sit for hours cutting them up, organize the scrap, and you have all the marketable PNC strips you need. But there are problems.

Nowadays, with typically just one plate number assigned for each issue, searching for other numbers isn't a focus. But when varieties appear like Peak/Valley (P/V) and Valley/Peak (V/P), one of the two forms is common and the other always requires hard work. For many of us with post office contacts where we can visit with our magnifying glasses, the need can be met.

In other cases, friends will do the same thing and enough of the limited version will eventually be on-hand.

In the case of the recent forever Flag & Clouds from two suppliers, with a plate number interval of 27 coils, a total of about 70-75 rolls were needed to acquire 100 plate strips of 5 (PS5s) of each. Aside from the initial outlay near \$3,500, one is left with almost \$3,000 of postage.

It used to be easy to sell scrap at 90% of face. Today, many of those buyers have competitive offers and it's tough. In my case I sold some of these Flags at 85% but most of them went to another dealer at 80%! But at least I got rid of them and the discount cost was figured into the retail price.

The 10¢ Pears' 10,000-count roll is an interesting case. Rolls were acquired but the scrap was much less desirable. Yes, five of these would serve as postage for first-class mail but to buyers, that's an effort. My personal experience was frustration. No one wanted them and many of my colleagues had many more than they needed. The solution was to take a serious discount. I sold them at 45% of face!

On bulk-rate stamps, the scrap problem is magnified. Friends who otherwise buy small quantities

of Forever's don't want these at all. They don't have the permit allowing collectors to use these on regular mail. They don't want to bother to try and get them, even though with such a permit, pairs of the 25¢ers (for example) cover the first-class rate.

I get some mail from the intended users of these stamps, organizations that take advantage of bulk mailing discounts. In contacting these firms, they can't be bothered with scrap even discounted from "face" value. Their mail is prepared by mailing firms that buy large rolls and use equipment to affix the stamps quickly. These firms can't be bothered with peeling individual stamps from scrap liner, even if the stamps are cheaper, much cheaper. In my case I got rid of all of my (25¢) scrap at 50%. That, of course, added to the basic cost of the plate strips.

A new 5¢ Grapes coil in a 10K roll just appeared. Here again the plate number interval is 27. This means that for every PS5, 22 stamps (\$1.10) remain to get rid of. This will also be difficult. I recall when the last 1¢ large-roll type appeared, I never was able to sell most of the scrap, at any discount. I literally put it into the recycle bin!!! I hope I won't have to do that with the 5¢ers.

Why is regular postage so difficult to get rid of today? The problem is that a huge quantity of postage comes into the market regularly. Many thought that the extra quantities of PNCs, plate blocks and sheets that they assembled and stored away were going to be golden in the future. It turned out just the opposite.

Too many had the same idea. You now see ads in stamp publications offering quantities at major discounts. These come from such accumulators who have reached an age where they worried about what would become of their assembled hoards and are taking whatever they can get.

(please see page 48)



(from page 45, Readers' Forum)

Source of shorter strips. The postmaster of Oneco, CT has the **10¢ Pears** coil in strips of 30 stamps and welcomes mail orders.

The post office also has the following coils in strips of 30 stamps:

1¢ Bobcat self-adhesive **2012**, plate #s P1111, P2222; also **2015**, # P1111.

The post office has the following coils in strips of 20 stamps:

<49¢>* Red-White-Blue, plate #s C11, C12.

Checks are to be made payable to: Postmaster. The address is: Postmaster, 1104 Plainfield Pike, Oneco, CT 06373. (Phone 960.564.5601, ask for Maurice.)

– Andrew Barr, # 1844

*–priced 47¢ effective April 10th.



Long-time “H” Hat coil hunt ends. I found a stamp that I’ve been looking years for. I don’t know if this is a new find. It is die-cut incision style “B” for (33¢) Hat #2222 (normal # variety, Scott 3265).

I had found the #2222 variety with black line in plate # and incision style “B” a few years ago. To date it is the only one I have come across. After that find I’ve been on the lookout for the #2222 (no line) with incision style “B” ever since. Now it was uncovered in a stock book of used PNC singles from eBay.

(Shown above are close-up scans of the #2222 line variety and the “B” die-cut incision style.)

My collection now houses the following 12 different #3265 used PNC singles with indicated incision styles.

#1111 “A” and “C”

#1131 “A” and “C”

#2222 “A”, “B” and “C”

#2222 (with black line) “A”, “B” and “C”

#3333 “A” and “C”. – Dan Forgues #1037L

[The most-recent illustration of die-cut incision styles in *Coil Line* appears to be in the September 2005 issue, page 116, with a chart of those found for varieties of 32¢ Flag over Porch PNCs.]



Close-up of <49¢> SSB with raised ink line.

(Pileup of taggant at a tagging break?)

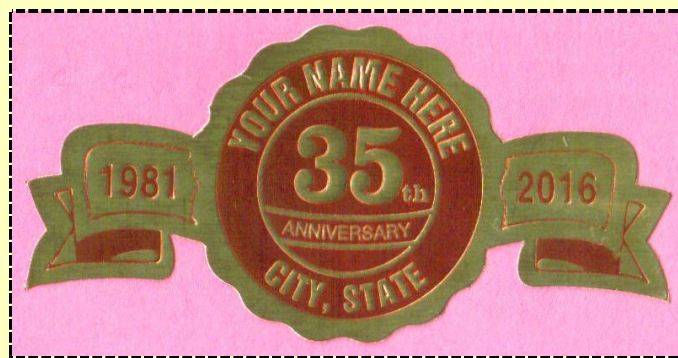
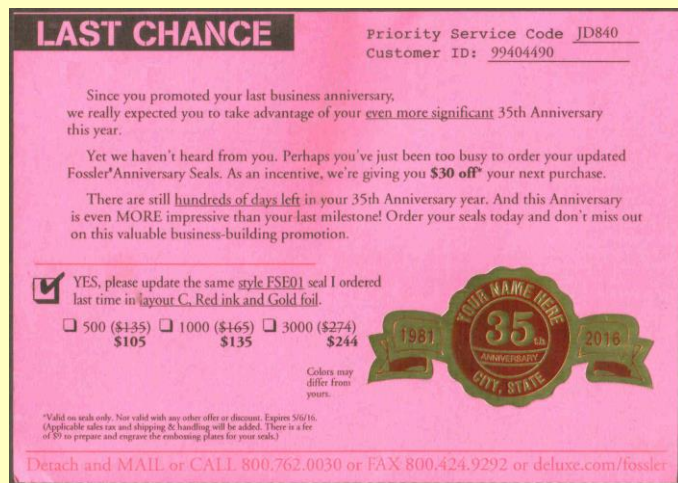
Raised “ink.” Here is a cropped scan of a Sennett <49¢> Star-Spangled Banner (Scott 4868) with a **raised** ink line down the entire left side of the coil. I thought you might like to see it. – Jim Lowery # 976

[An email discussion with six or so members ended when two independently surmised the same cause, summarized here: It appears phosphor taggant has piled up a bit on the edge of the applicator and transferred to the coil. Assuming it is transparent or nearly so, it can reflect nearby black ink and/or refract the black ink it covers. This is much like a transparent liquid’s droplets (or “rivulets” in this case) that refract the color of the surface they are on. (The “yellow” in the scan is considered a reflection of the scan’s light source.)]

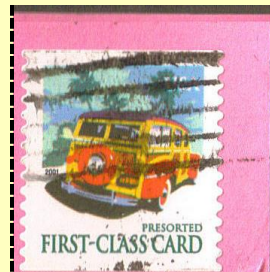
(from page 47, Acquiring PNCs)

And this goes for collectors as well. Someone who has dutifully collected plate blocks, matched sets, or complete matched sets, from about 1945 on are facing offers near 50% of face. Dealers who in turn market these have plenty and only will buy to fill in stock here or there, or assemble them for discount themselves.

So who wants to buy current definitive coil scrap at a decent discount anymore? The discount postage market has changed dramatically in the last five years as more and more lots are coming into the market. Even PNCs fall into this category. You might have seen Al Haake’s ads offering 50% of face for regular PNCs and 40% for precancels. He’s not crazy or unfair; that’s the market now.



(15¢) Woody Wagon used on a business-to-business postcard mailing, found discarded March 12, 2016.
(The text discusses why this rate-category coil is rarely used anymore.)



Every once in awhile a mailpiece comes along that ties into several aspects of PNCs, some not apparent at first glance. The postcard shown at right (with attached business-reply card) is such a case.

The first aspect of this card is that it was even found at all. Due to the mix of post-office box holders at the suburban “postal store” at which it was found, very little stamped mail has been seen in its trash bins in recent years. Add to that the fact that I only visit it at most once a week, and the find was quite surprising to me.

The second aspect of the card is its franking with an undenominated presort coil. That alone should not be so interesting (unless the coil is a numbered PNC, which alas, this one is not). However, this coil is on a postcard. Again, in recent years, another trend is that postcards with stamps usually have the current retail postcard-rate stamp affixed. These are usually hand-prepared by small offices, such as appointment reminder cards from healthcare or veterinary service providers. Bulk mailers in contrast usually forego stamps and have imprint, permit, or meter frankings on postcards.

The third and most interesting aspect about this postcard is that the franking is with an “obsolete” (15¢) Woody Wagon coil, service-inscribed “Presorted First-Class Card.” I say “obsolete” because this specific format was allowed to quietly wither away, with no replacement ever made for the 2001-dated design.

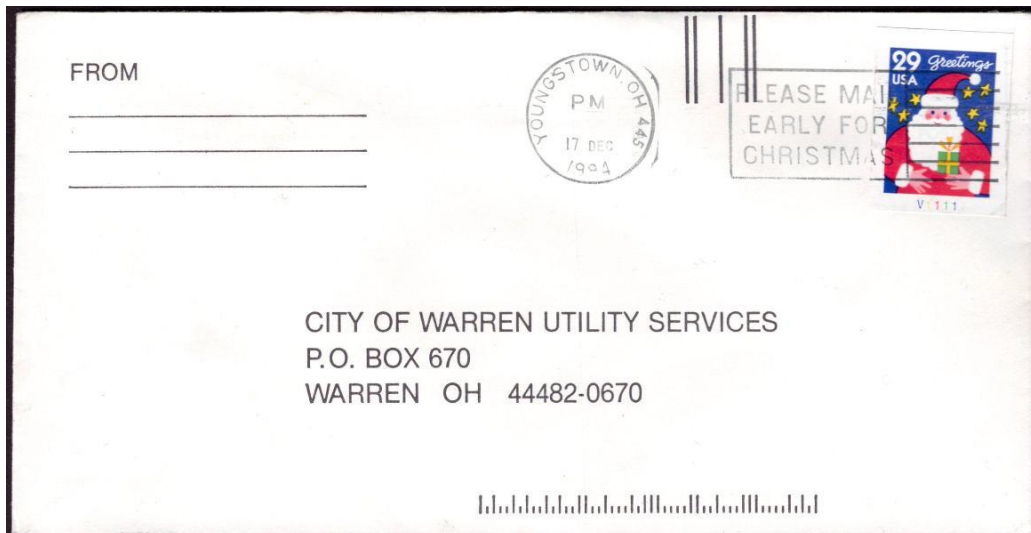
I surmised several years ago that demand for this format of coils had dramatically fallen due to the aforementioned mailing trends and one more trend: The discounted postage rates for the category had risen gradually over the years to the point where most if not all of the rates were no longer just above 15¢, but were above 25¢ – the “face” value of the more common “Presorted First-Class” rolls [e.g., (25¢) Spectrum Eagle]. Why should post offices, mailers, and lettershops track two separate coil types’ inventories when one will now do?

With limited time my rates review started with the current period (effective May 31, 2015 – April 9, 2016) and worked backwards. Before they are revised effective this April 10th, *(please see page 53)*

Installment # 132

New Finds

Happy New Year 2016! The past year has brought lots of new discoveries of interesting PNCs on cover. First, I have several new commercial-cover earliest documented usage (EDU) dates to report. Below are a couple of PNCs sent on what appear to be utility bill payment covers, a 29¢ Santa #V1111 (12/17/94; *previous EDU, 12/31/94*) and a 29¢ Love #B1 (7/19/94; *previous EDU, 8/29/94*). It is odd to see these two coils used on non-philatelic mail. [*The rolls were made for USPS first-day cover servicing, with strips made available to collectors. -- Editor*] But perhaps the Warren, Ohio post office had a philatelic window where non-collectors purchased stamps. On the other hand, these covers were purchased on eBay a couple months ago, and recently I saw the same eBay seller selling a few similar covers. So, they probably are philatelically contrived. (*please see next page*)



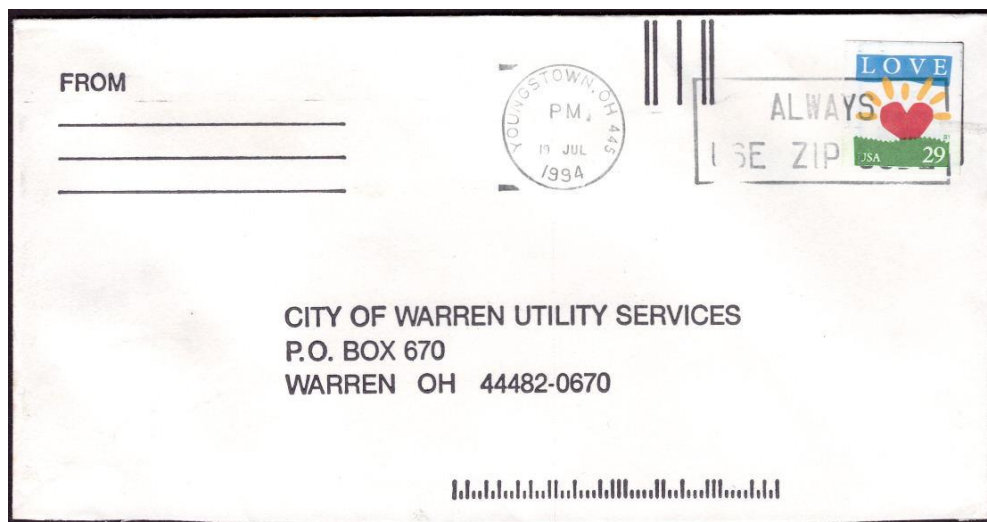
Close-up of PNC V1111

▲ Cover: 29¢ Santa PNC (EDU, December 17, 1994)

▼ Cover: 29¢ Love PNC (EDU, July 19, 1994)

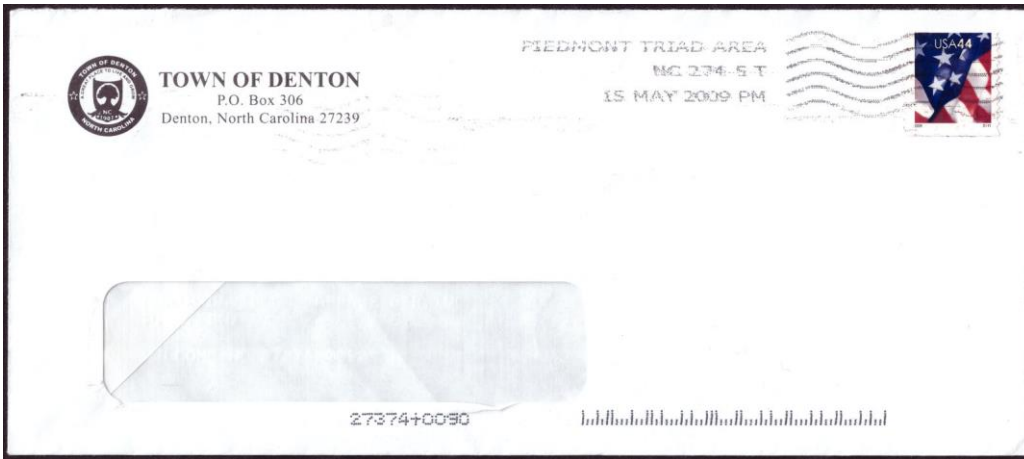


Close-up of PNC B1



(from previous page)

Next, we have a 44¢ Flag self-adhesive (SA) #S111 (valley/peak, or V/P) with a 5/15/09 cancel.
[This bests the previous EDU of 6/1/09.]

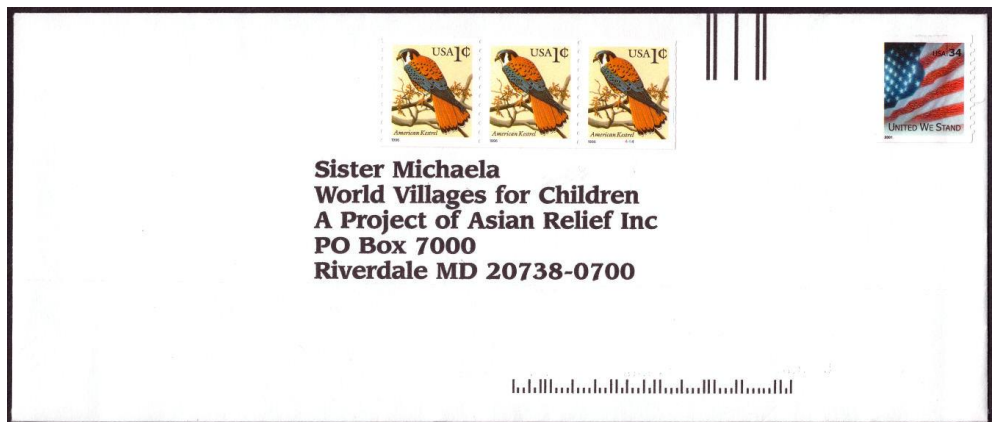


Close-up of PNC S111

Cover: 44¢ Flag SA PNC (EDU dated May 15, 2009)

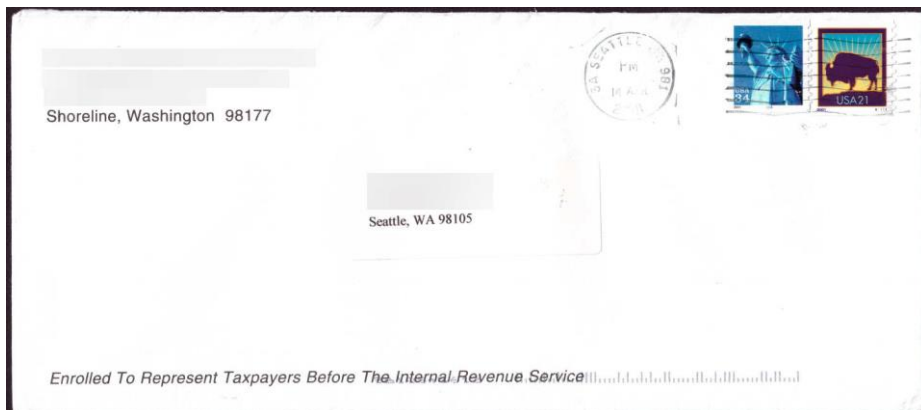
Other new finds include the following earliest documented usage commercial covers: 22¢ Flag #12 (7/21/86), 25¢ Flag/Yosemite block-tagged #5 (1/10/89), 33¢ Flag SA #7777A (9/6/00) and #2222B (11/3/00), and 41¢ Beautiful Blooms #P2222 (3/15/08).

Here's another recent find. Below is a self-addressed stamped envelope with 1¢ Kestrel #4444 plate strip of 3 (PS3) with a cyan vertical line along the right side of the PNC.



Close-up of PNC 4444
(with cyan streak at right)

▲ Courtesy reply envelope with 1¢ Kestrel PNC (last 1¢ stamp)

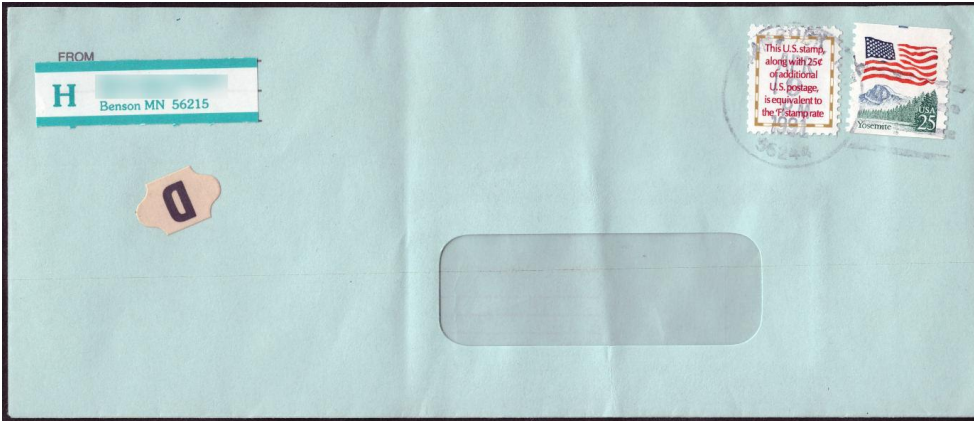


The odds are against finding a truly commercial usage where both of two different coil issues have plate numbers, but in this case a 33¢ Liberty SA #3333 and a 21¢ Bison #V1111 (V/P) are used on the same cover (at left; close-up on next page). (please see next page)

Cover: 34¢ Liberty SA PNC, 21¢ Bison PNC (dated April 14, 2001)

(from previous page)

The cover below has a 25¢ Flag/Yosemite #15 PS1 miscut so that part of the registration mark is at the top. [This marks the coil as coming from the top row of the printed paper web.]



Cover: 25¢ Flag PNC (dated April 9, 1991, not an earliest date for #15)

Close-up of PNC #15
(registration mark at top)

One more new earliest documented usage cover for this report is pictured below, with a scarce 32¢ Flag Over Porch SA #88898 (ten peaks at left, eleven at right, or “10/11”) tied by an 8/14/96 cancel.

Cover: 32¢ Flag over Porch PNC
(EDU, August 14, 1996)

(close-up shows 10/11 die-cut pattern for #88898)



Close-up of PNCs 3333, V1111
(from cover at bottom of previous page)



Last is a colorful, but unfortunately fuzzy, photocopy of a cover sold on eBay in 2015 with 23¢ Lunch Wagon and 3¢ Conestoga Wagon coils. It was sent to Zimbabwe, assessed postage due and Zimbabwe postage due stamps were affixed. The number of PNCs being produced might be going down, but there are still lots of discoveries to be made with PNCs on cover.

Please keep your reports coming in! Thanks to Dino Vardavas, Robert Thompson and Robert Hull, Jr. Report your earliest PNC usages of these or other issues on-cover to: Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, ME 04976. Email: stamps@beeline-online.net, phone: (207) 474-8021.

(from page 49, Direct mail sightings)

all of the discounted postcard postage rates are above 25¢. They range from 26¢ for automation-level preparation sorted to 5-digit ZIP codes, up to 29.5¢ for minimum prep (compared to a 35¢ retail cost). (These rates are given under “First-Class Mail, Commercial Letters & Cards” in USPS notice 123. An additional fraction of a cent has been granted for several rate eras now if “Full-Service Intelligent Mail option” qualification is met.)

Two rate periods prior (Jan. 27, 2013 – Jan. 25, 2014) is the last one in which some of the rates were *below* 25¢ (the lowest at 23.4¢). But I recall, hopefully correctly, that use of the (15¢) coil had already basically ceased, with the USPS not minding a very modest refund to users of (25¢) coils in this period, having no longer to stock and track (15¢) rolls separately.

The fourth aspect of this postcard is that the (15¢) coil was needlessly canceled (here, by a clerk’s dauber device of plain bars). However, with the unneeded cancel “tying” the stamp to the cover, we have a nice documented bonafide use so late in the coil’s history. (Only a “dated” postmark would make a better cover, outside of having a plate number, of course. Yet for presort-rate mailings that do not require facing or canceling, a “dated” mark is also unneeded but would be a welcome plus, which might occur in exception-handling like forwarding.)

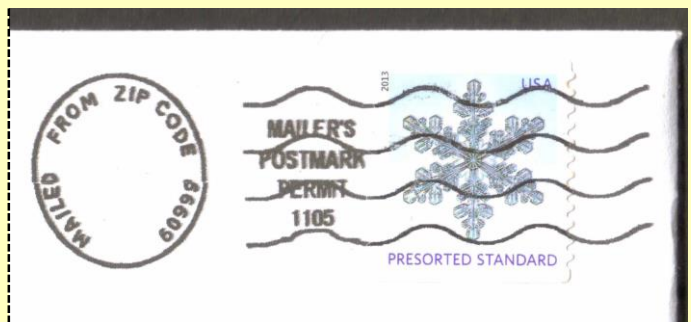
Careful reading of the advertising copy reveals a perfect stand-in for a dated mark, when the stamp is otherwise tied to cover: A dated reference.

The fifth aspect of this postcard comprises the question of why (15¢) rolls were used in the first place in 2016, given the rates history shared above. Coincidentally, we can point to an interesting article elsewhere in this *Coil Line* issue – “Acquiring Current PNCs” on page 47. It provides an answer beyond the happenstance of rolls still in stock in this mailer’s inventory or at the post office engaged for their acquisition.

The last aspect of the (15¢) coil-franked postcard we’ll mention is a corny one: The marketing is offering a business promotion material regarding the prospect’s 35th business anniversary, in the same timeframe as the 35th anniversary of plate number coils’ issuance in the United States as part of its stamp program, begun in April 1981.



(10¢) Snowflake tied to cover by Mailer’s Postmark Permit cancel (found January 27, 2016)



In this past January’s *Coil Line*, “Where are the ‘Snowflakes’?” described our known reader reports about business uses of this “seasonal” presorted-standard (10¢) coil. The first and so far only plate-numbered case on-cover was illustrated.

Now in the latter days of that month another cover with a novel use for this issue was recovered from a post office trash bin, pictured above. It bears the first one reportedly tied to cover by any legitimate postal marking (this one, a presort bureau’s cancelation as allowed by a Mailer’s Postmark Permit).

As might be expected in 2016, a major political elections year in the United States, the Snowflake franks a political fund-raising letter. Alas, the (10¢) coil is not one of the plate-numbered ones we would really like to “catch” under a postmark such as this.

That January article, due to limited space and time, only hints at a ranking possible for trading values of covers like these (and the postcard earlier in this article). And we hope to provide that in the future. Meanwhile, as a subset, consider this: Presort coils (otherwise known by the USPS as precanceled stamps) are not ordinarily privately canceled, as the USPS does not require it. However, this is a case where the mailer elected to do so “for show” as part of meeting *another* requirement: The ZIP code of mailing must be evident when it *differs* from the post office of any return address shown.

Comment: Recent Counterfeits

Bob Murrin has been busy going through pounds and pounds of used stamps on piece. He is always looking for PNCs, as well as counterfeits. The fakes are pretty easy to spot if you have a shortwave ultraviolet light to check them with. None that I've seen have been phosphor-tagged or on phosphored paper. Late last year he came across eight counterfeit coil stamps in the same day. He also found his first pair of fakes on the same piece of the <49¢> Star Spangled Banner, similar to the Ashton Potter version of the stamp. (*See related story, next column.*)

In his recent finds Bob came across the third fake numbered PNC of which I'm aware. It's marked P1111 and only the second counterfeit with a multi-colored plate number. It is also of the Star Spangled Banner, again similar to the Ashton Potter version.

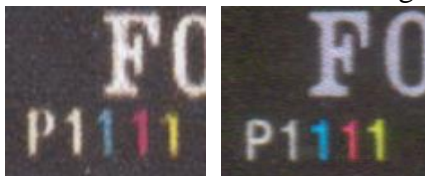
Another fake that he found is interesting. If you look closely (*below*), you can read on the paper to the left of the stamp an auxiliary marking "OSTAG" (shown below). This is presumably for "POSTAGE" for "RETURNED FOR POSTAGE" or "POSTAGE DUE." Since the background of the stamp is black, it is not possible to read the rest of the message. Apparently, the letter was initially mailed without postage. The post office returned the letter, and the fake stamp was affixed and the letter was remailed.

An observation that I made from all of Bob's recent counterfeit coil finds is that about 80% of them are canceled. A few are canceled by hand, but most of them are machine-canceled. Since they weren't tagged, I would have expected that number to be lower. – Robert E. Thompson



(at left) A counterfeit coil used for missed postage.

(below) Close-ups from two different coils with "P1111". One of the plate number images is a close-up of image



C on back page, part of a puzzle that asks, Which are genuine and which are not?

Membership Update

New Applicants

Paul A. Tripp (2314)
1844 Raleigh Ave Apt 4
Lapeer, MI 48446

James Helm (2315)
415 Marlboro Rd
Newport News, VA 23602
jhelm@cox.net

Edwin F. Schaeffer, III (2316)
PO Box 335
Flossmoor, IL 60422
bookswin@aol.com

(please see next page)

A Record Mixtures Haul by Bob Murrin

(Puzzle Alert: Before reading further for a clue, see images A – J and question on back page.)

On the evening of December 27, 2015 I searched a stamp clippings mix and found a counterfeit coil. Then the bottom of the box yielded three more fake coils. Instead of ending my night's work on that note, I opened another box and found four more. These included a rare pair, and my first plate numbered counterfeit. Eight of the scanned coils (shown on back page) are fakes; the [*answer upside-down below*] is the only genuine one. Eight counterfeit coils found in mixtures in one day. It's a record I'm sure that will never be broken.

M (die-cut close-ups are on back page) **N**



Answer: Only I, left-hand Statue of Liberty (2011), is genuine. (Of K – N, K and N are genuine.)

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

* * *

WANTED: 2281 25¢ Honeybee: Seam Line Strips, full rolls, single strips to complete collections. Michael Mules, Fox River Stamps, PO Box 6, Salem WI 53168 foxriverstamps@gmail.com Member 1289L

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 42.)

PNC³ Members Count

Previous Members	488
New Applicants	9
Reinstated	5
PNC³ Members	502

Coil Topics Index this issue...

2012 Four Flags, AP phosphor tagging types...	28
<22¢> Penguins, margin marks.....	45
<49¢> Flag & Clouds, #P11111 Cat. Corner...	45
(33¢) H Hat, #2222 types, incision style B.....	48
(15¢) Woody Wagon, late use.....	49
New EDUs, commercial covers #132.....	50 - 52
<49¢> SSB, P1111 counterfeit.....	54, 56

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.)

(from page 54, membership update)

Dennis R. Frank (2317)
10961 Harvest Rd

Little Falls, MN 56345

dennisrfrank@outlook.com

Robert A. Reisinger (2318)

7378 S. Hazelton Ln

Tempe, AZ 85283

reisinger.bob@gmail.com

Terry D. Knox (2319)

2050 W State Route 89A Lot 64

Cottonwood, AZ 86326

tdknox@netzero.net

David Fisher (2320)

1466 S Julia Ln.

Lakeside, AZ 85929

wmsb@cableone.net

Thomas Smith (2321)

P.O. Box 23149

Phoenix, AZ 85063

poolplayer2@hotmail.com

Warren Miller (2322)

1183 E. Geronimo Pl.

Chandler, AZ 85225

wlm4magic@cox.net

Reinstated

Charles Cook (1877)

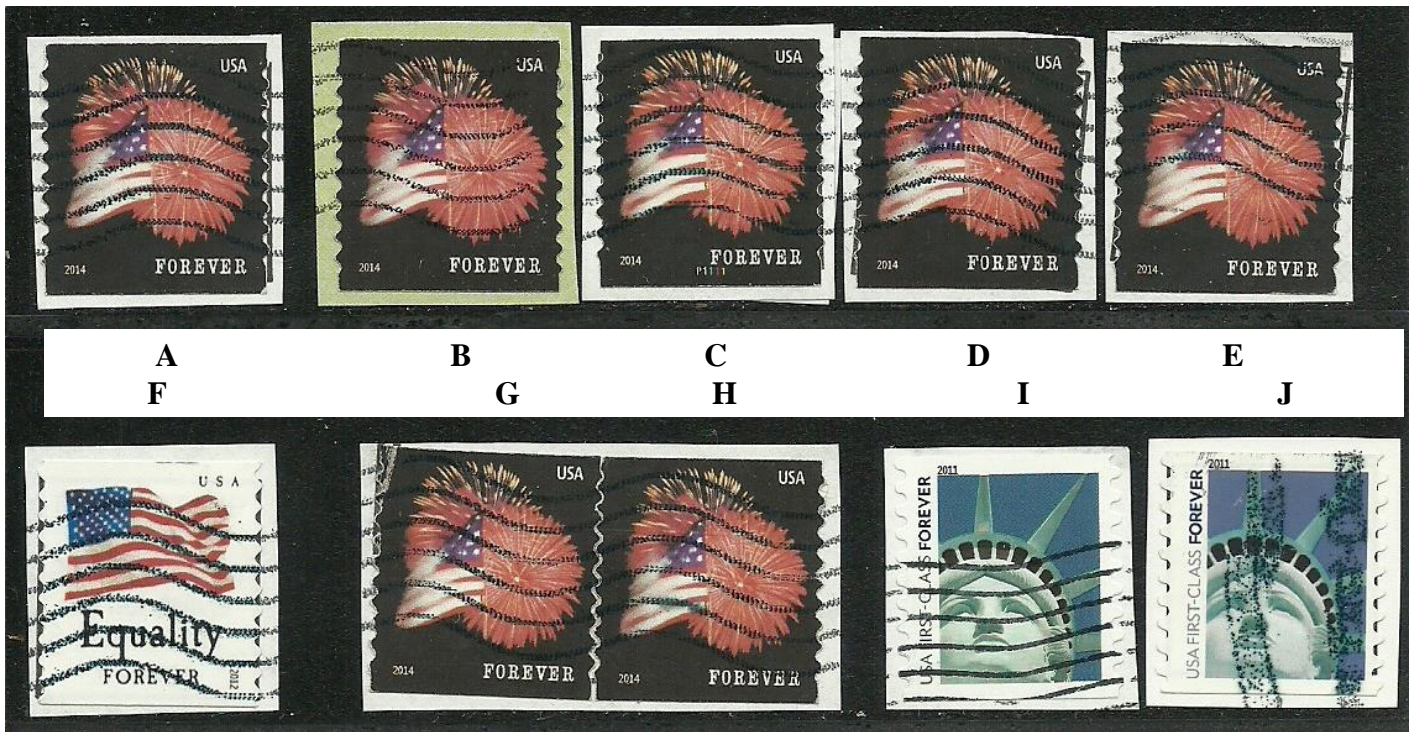
Norvan R. Fulton (1903)

Dave Cockrill (2193)

Don Palazzo (2249)

William L. Mayer, Sr. (2288)

Recent Counterfeit Finds



Can you tell which of the above coils are genuine, and which are counterfeit? PNC³ member and used-PNC dealer Bob Murrin shares his brief story of finding these (with a clue of which are which) on page 54.

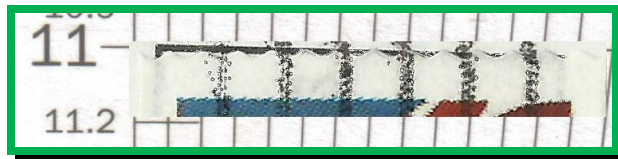
The coils above that are counterfeit all found good album homes after last December before Bob could make new scans better suited for print. (Digital-edition readers can enlarge this page to 200% or so for slightly closer inspection.) Later, he made larger scans of other acquired coils for scrutiny, presented below. Perforation gauge close-ups are added to some of these for study. Can you tell which of K - N are counterfeit?



K



◀ (left-side die cut detail from K)

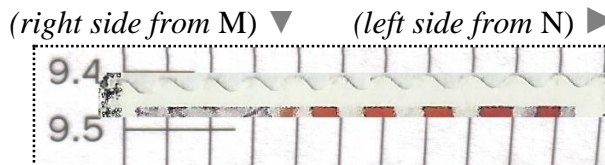


(right-side die cut detail from L) ▶

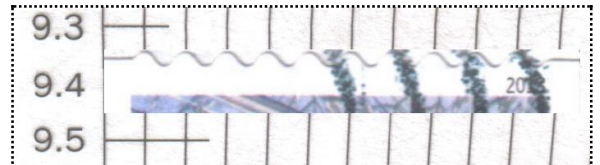


L

(please see page 54 for coil images M, N)



(right side from M) ▼



(left side from N) ▶

Last Call for Nominations – 2016 Board Elections

2016 is an election year for your club officers. Elections will be held in June, with ballot counting in July so that we can announce our new officers and Board at the Annual Meeting in August.

Biographical sketches of nominees must be readied in early April to run in the May issue of *Coil Line*.

Now is the time to consider how you can help the club by running for an office or a seat on the Board. Check the inside cover of your *Coil Line* or the website to see the officer and Board positions. It's important that we have more than one person running for each position so that members might have a choice in casting their vote. If you've recently retired and are looking for a way to use newly found time for a good cause, why not spend some of it in support of our hobby? Most of the positions don't require a lot of time.

Please contact the Nominations Committee chair, Gene Trinks, at 623-322-4619 or gctrinks@cox.net to discuss how you can help.

Two Volunteers Needed for Ballot Committee!

We need two club members to join the Ballot Committee for our 2016 Board elections in order to count the ballots.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact PNC³ President Robert E. Thompson at 713-397-1772 or rthompson@pncvarieties.com.

New Member Applicants

Club members are reminded that names of applicants are published for review (page 54 this issue). A member who questions the suitability of a prospective member should contact the Membership Committee Chair Michael Conway with the objection (mjcconway@hotmail.com or 203-268-5896.) Applicants are accepted as members one month following notice in *Coil Line* if no objection is made.