

(for Spring 2016 auction planned in March)

Attach lot here

Auction #54 -- Plate Number Coil Collectors Club Consignment Sheet

(Photocopy this page. A separate sheet is required for each lot.)

 **Saturday January 17, 2016 is Auction Consignment Deadline** 

Please Note: Auction Lot fee is 10% of hammer price (minimum 50¢ per lot), and a 50¢ lotting fee for each UNSOLD lot (all fees deducted from the sale proceeds).

- 1) Keep this entire page intact and attach only one lot in its own glassine with tape on the top half (*do not use staples*). I understand that this might not be possible for longer strips.
- 2) LIMIT CONSIGNMENT TO ~~25~~ **30** LOTS, please. **New - Limit of TWO non-PNC/non-Coil lots.**
- 3) As I find that there is no totally acceptable definition of a commercial cover, all covers will be listed as either "First Day Covers" or "Other Covers". There will be no exceptions.
- 4) If you do not state a minimum bid, your lot(s) will go to the highest bidder regardless of the price(s) realized.
- 5) Bidding increments are: \$0.25 to \$4.75 -- 25¢, \$5.00 to \$9.50 -- 50¢, \$10.00 to \$49.75 -- \$1.00, \$50.00 to \$97.50 -- \$2.50, \$100.00 to \$495.00 -- \$5.00, \$500.00+ -- \$10.00

OWNER IDENTIFICATION Preferred E-mail address: _____

Name _____ PNC³ Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: Day _____ Evening _____

Scott # _____ Minimum Bid (see rules above) \$ _____ Is this One of Your 2 *Non-PNC* Lots? _____

Description of material:

Note! It is assumed that all mint material is never hinged, with undisturbed gum, sound perfs, etc. If otherwise, please note under "Faults" below. Used materials are assumed to be unhinged with sound perfs, etc. If otherwise, please note under "Faults".

(For COTTRELL press issues, please grade **both** design centering and line centering.)

Centering – Overall for non-Cottrell issues or Cottrell designs (see grading notes) (Circle one)

Ave F F/VF VF XF S

Centering (line) Cottrell issues only (Circle one)

Ave F F/VF VF XF S

Faults (describe below)

If my lot does not sell...

Please return it to me

Please hold it for the next auction

SEND TO: PNC³ Auctions, c/o Joe Sedivy, P. O. Box 410602, Chicago, IL 60641

EMAIL: PNC3auctions@aol.com

Our 28th Year

PNC³



Coil Line

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

January 2016
Vol. 29, No. 1
Whole No. 331

“V7 V4” Tie
type on 37¢
Egret P44444
example



(7th valley on
left, 4th valley
on right;
tied to peaks on
adjacent coils)



Is there
more
to new
printing?
...page 6



(10¢)
Snowflakes
mail test...
page 8



Where are the
Snowflakes?
... page 7

▲ AP tie types
update: New
Type found...
page 6

Not a ‘black 1’
after all...
page 12 ▼

Early uses of
new printing...
page 5 ▶



Also...

- Apple-product users, please see... page 3
- OrcoExpo (Fullerton, Calif.) PNC³ meeting, **Jan. 9**... page 3
- APS AmeriStamp (Atlanta) PNC³ meeting, **Jan. 30**... page 4
- Sarasota, Florida PNC³ meeting, **Feb. 6**... page 4
- Mesa, Arizona Aripex '16 PNC³ meeting, **Feb. 20**... page 4
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PNC³ Spring Auction

**Call for Auction
Consignments!**

Deadline January 17
(see wrapper for
Consignment sheet)

Coil Line

Journal of the Plate Number
Coil Collectors Club (PNC³)

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ISSN: 1931-5112



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Scott #2451 plate # 1 (issued
January 25, 1991, 25 years ago)

PNC³ Contacts

PNC³ Website www.pnc3.org
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email: webmaster@pnc3.org

(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 |
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(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 December 30, 2015.

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President's Message

from the PNC³ president ...

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Now it is time to get back to work. We have several things happening this year, including elections, the World Stamp Show in New York and the annual APS show. We will be looking to see if there is anyone interested in running for a position on the board. I'm also looking for someone to head the Elections committee. The NY 2016 show will be held from May 28 to June 4. I hope to see a lot of you there. If you plan to go and you might be able to help at our booth, please contact Tom McFarland at philatomic@verizon.net. The APS show will be held in Portland, Oregon this year from August 4 to 7.

Last month I wrote in my column about some of the issues members were having accessing our website from portable devices, and especially from Apple products. I received comments from two members that said that it hasn't been much of an issue for them. I did not hear from anyone else. So if you are still having problems, please let me hear from you. That way we can determine how much of a problem this really is for our members.

Allan Clapp, our Webmaster, wanted me to remind everyone that he is available for any technical issues that you might be having with our website, or just trying to login at our website. His email address is allan.clapp@gmail.com. Allan also wanted me to remind everyone that you can find a change of address form under the "PNC3 Membership" tab on our homepage.

This year Bob Rabinowitz plans to start writing some articles for upcoming issues of *Coil Line* regarding some of the various hard-to-find issues, plate numbers and varieties that he has found over the years and how he tracked them down. They should be very interesting. Bob also suggested that maybe some of the other members could write about some of the older issues, such as the Cottrell issues. With joint lines, tagging, precancel gaps and a numerous other varieties, there should be a lot of material available.

Finally, I just want to remind everyone that it is that time of year to send in your dues for 2016. Do that now, so that you don't miss any issues.

– 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

ORCOEXPO – January 9 Fullerton, Calif.

John Himes, Dan Forgues, and Jeff Haas plan 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.

Are you confused about bells, knolls, thimbles, and cobras? These are the weird die-cut shapes that often occur when row slitting between coil rolls is not as precise as expected. Dan Forgues is preparing a simple but informative talk on how to tell the differences, and how to identify valley/peak vs. peak/valley varieties. He'll also explain what an "embedded" bell, knoll, or thimble looks like, and propose a sensible rule for determining if a stamp qualifies for that designation.

As usual, we'll try to make sure there are some great door prizes for everyone (*please see next page*)

Want to Sponsor a Regional Meeting?

Contact Tony Bruno for suggestions. He can put you in contact with others who have taken on the task. Several members have made it a regular habit of promoting meetings in their area.

Regional Meeting Chairman

Tony Bruno, PO Box 624, East Lyme, CT 06333-0624; email, tbbee@aol.com
(PNC³ meeting notices in this column are free. Please submit details to the Editor 3 months before the meeting.)

APS AmeriStamp / Southeastern Stamp Expo Atlanta, Georgia – January 30 Regional Meeting

A Regional meeting of the PNC³ will be held at AmeriStamp / Southeastern Stamp Expo 2016 to be held January 29-31, 2016 in the Hilton Atlanta Downtown. (The address is 255 Courtland Street, Atlanta, GA. Expo hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free.)

The regional meeting will be held Saturday, January 30 at 4 p.m. in Crystal Ballroom B. Past President and current At-Large board member Jill R. Ambrose will host the meeting.

All club members and guests are welcome to attend. We hope to have a good supply of door prizes available. We will have time to discuss current coils and ensure there is sufficient time for trading, buying and “Show ‘n Tell.”

In addition to the regional meeting, PNC³ will also have a booth on the bourse floor. We will be in booth “F” which is located to the left as you get off the Entrance Escalator.

To volunteer to help at the booth, or for more information, please contact Jill Ambrose by email at JillAmbrose@zoomtown.com or by phone at 513-231-4208.

Sarasota, Florida – February 6 Regional Meeting

Welcome to sunny Florida! A PNC³ Regional Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Saturday, February 6, 2016 during the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition, February 5 – 7, 2016. The PNC³ meeting place is in the North Balcony of the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium (same as the show location).

There will be time for you to address any PNC questions you might have. For this year, let’s try something different: please bring something to “show and tell.” Also bring stamps to trade and sell.

The auditorium address is 801 N Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL. The exhibition hours are Friday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For further details on the PNC³ meeting, contact Al Light at al.light@verizon.net. For more information about the exhibition, contact this year’s chairperson, Liz Hisey, at lizhisey@comcast.net.

ARIPEX 2016 – February 20 Mesa, Arizona

There will be a Regional Meeting of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club at the Aripex 2016 show on Saturday, February 20, 2016. The show is held at the Mesa Centennial Hall, 263 N. Center St., Mesa, AZ (same venue as last year). The meeting is scheduled to be held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., in a room to be announced at the show. The club will have a table on the show floor to welcome members and offer club information to visitors.

Information on the show and directions to the Centennial Hall are available online at the show website www.aripex.org. Please note that there is a \$5 admission charge to the show (good for three days, Feb 19 – 21), but the meeting room is accessible without a charge. Further information is available from Gene Trinks, who is hosting the event. Contact Gene at 16415 W. Desert Wren Ct., Surprise, AZ 85374 or gctrinks@cox.net. –Gene Trinks

.....
(from previous page, OrcoExpo January 9)

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. Exhibition hours are Friday and Saturday, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm, and Sunday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

More information is available at the website, http://www.stampshows.com/fullerton_sp.html.

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

John Himes, email johnwhimes@yahoo.com, 714.826.8552 (H),

Jeff Haas, email at 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



Garfield-Perry March Party Regional Meeting – March 12

A PNC³ Regional Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Saturday, March 12, 2016 during the Garfield-Perry March Party, March 10 – 12, 2016. Ohio's largest stamp show will be held at La Villa Conference & Banquet Center, 11500 Brookpark Road, Cleveland OH. (The location is near routes I-480 and West 130th.)

The PNC³ meeting room and time is still to be decided, pending plans to avoid conflicting with other societies' meetings. The meeting agenda includes discussion of more recent PNCs, die cutting varieties and marginal markings. Door prizes will be given and time set aside for trading and conversation. Non-members are certainly welcome also to attend.

The Garfield-Perry show hours are Thursday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For further details on the PNC³ meeting, contact Ray Beer at rbeerdds@roadrunner.com. For more information about the show, visit its website at www.garfieldperry.org.

PNC³ Catalog Committee NOTICE

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



*1st-in-pair images:
original SSP version;
2nd-in-pair, new type.*

Readers' Forum



Comparing two SSB coil types from SSP. I was interested in reports in last month's issue of the new <49¢>Star-Spangled Banner (SSB) roll packaging from Sennett Security Products (SSP), and the differences noted between stamps from the two roll types. (*Close-ups are shown here for your inspection.*)

Curious about what the average collector might notice from covers or used singles, I reviewed the two-dozen-plus covers I've received so far. Of course, under longwave UV light the difference is striking (due to the solid black inked background of this issue): the original coil is "dead as a doorknob" but the new version's paper luminesces with moderate brightness through the white stripes of the flag.

I hesitate to bring up any distinctions under normal light since detection requires examples side-by-side. But with common issues like this we usually have a handful at hand to compare (one of the benefits of mixture sorting). But before that, here are the pre-November 2015 dates and cities of covers I found with the new version:

- May 6, 2015 (Raleigh, NC)
- May 8, 2015 (St. Louis, MO)
- June 5, 2015 (St. Louis, MO)
- July 6, 2015 (St. Louis, MO)
- August 4, 2015 (Richmond, VA).

I've yet to find a numbered PNC of the new type, but have two cases of the original.

I found the following when observing stamps held in front of me, with *incandescent* light behind (over my shoulder), (*please see page 8*)

Noted in Passing....

Coils Withdrawn from Sale

The December 10, 2015 Postal Bulletin announced a long list of stamp items that were withdrawn from sale at the end of the year, including these coils:

1¢ Tiffany Lamp coil/10,000 (item 786400)

21¢ Abraham Lincoln Memorial Statue coil/100 (item 774400).

Earlier in the year (Sept. 3, 2015 Postal Bulletin), these coil issues were withdrawn from all stock inventories and no longer sold after Sept. 30:

20¢ George Washington coil/100 (item 771800)

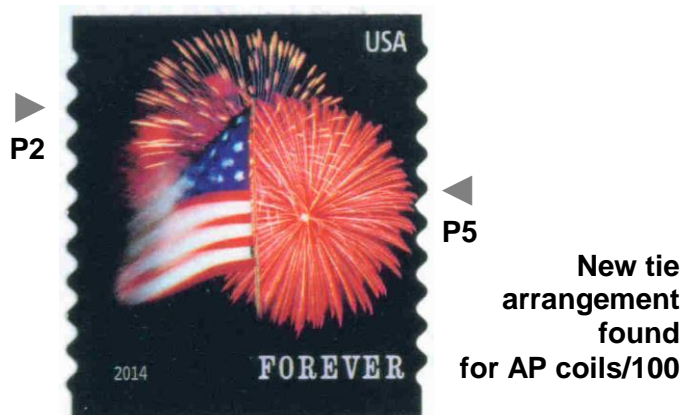
34¢ Hummingbird coil/100 (item 774600)

\$1 Seaplane coil/500 (item 770300).

(We use the “✖” symbol in the Current Plate #s, Roll Sizes chart to mark PNCs that are no longer available from Stamp Fulfillment Services [for USPS retail orders by mail order, phone, or Internet]. However, in the chart published just last issue we forgot to flag the 20¢ and 34¢ PNCs accordingly, if you want to annotate your copy.)

Ashton Potter Tie Types Update

Richard Cole recently provided updates to his AP die-cut ties list first printed in January 2012's *Coil Line* (pp. 6-7). (These include new coils issued after 2011.) AP had made all of its 37¢ Egret P1111 rolls and very few P2222 rolls with tiny ties still attached between every peak and valley in the die cuts between stamps. But for most of the P2222 rolls and all higher Egret numbers, and all of its later coils/100, AP uses only one tie



between two stamps. But the location of that tie varies among coils in a roll, and Richard has made a study of these tie locations.

For example, his latest find is about the <49¢> Star Spangled Banner (“SSB”, shown at bottom in column at left). Richard found a used P2222 single that had a tie at its second peak on left and a tie at its fifth peak on right; this is abbreviated “P2 P5.” (This means the stamp to its left has its right-side tie at its second valley, or “V2”; the stamp to its right has its left-side tie at “V5”.) Not only is this a new tie type for the P2222, *it is new for all AP coils/100.*

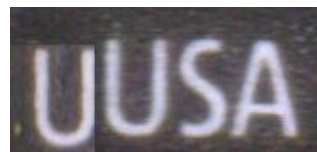
As it turns out, the ties at different spots, even for one stamp's two sides, do not necessarily repeat in pairs (e.g., V5 V2, P2 P5, V5 V2...). So more than two types have been found in strips (e.g., plate strips of 5). Richard can't possibly own or even check all such possible strips out there, so he solicits help to identify these sequences.

If you are interested in his updated list and/or reporting AP tie type sequences in strips (especially rolls need to be researched), contact Richard Cole at conwool@charter.net. If you do not use email but are interested, contact the editor by phone or postal address (on page 2) about receiving a printed list.

More on SSP's New SSB Coil

Sennett Security Product's new SSB coil type is a subject in this issue's Readers' Forum, but due to space constraints that discussion was limited. We've little room here also but alert you to intriguing possibilities that need more research. The dates enlargement (pg. 5) hints at a size difference. But I didn't want to mention it until someone finds that it is a *material* difference and consistent across many coils.

Now reviewer Michael Mules raced ahead of me to the next step, checking more of the design. There might be a height difference between the new SSB coil and the previous version. But whether or not this is likewise materially different (i.e., not an *infinitesimal* millimeter fraction) requires more research. The front cover has a stamp-height overlay image to show what a scanner captured.



Detail from front cover image (“USA” higher on new type)
– Ron Blanks

Where are the 'Snowflakes'?

Some of us experienced not one, but two long warm spells of temperatures up to 20+ degrees above normal for this past December in some mid-Atlantic states. And not one snowflake (yet) this season.

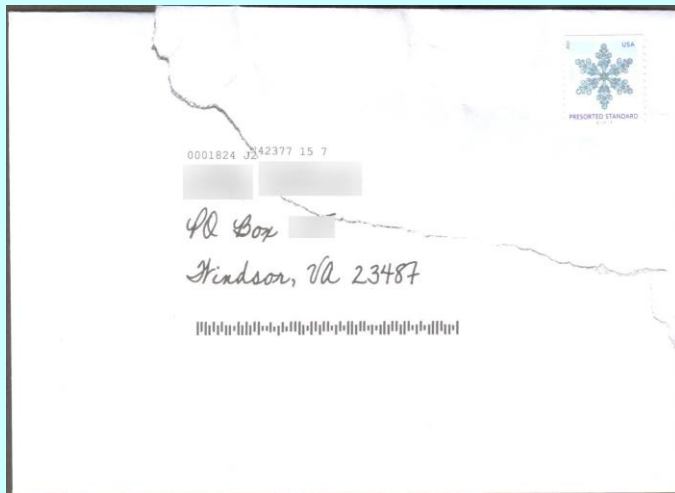
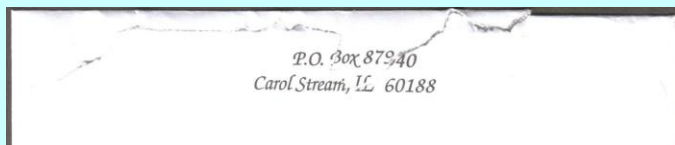
But you realize the heading refers to our “seasonal stamp” choice of presort standard coils, the (10¢) Snowflakes issue (Scott 4808-12). On October 1, 2013 the U.S. Postal Service inaugurated this alternative to its patriotic-themed stamp offering, the previously lone (and coincidentally named) Patriotic Banner, in the category for advertising mailers’ bulk use. But are they using them?

It has taken just over two years to see the first numbered one of these on-cover – and that’s the one I fished out of a post office trash can pictured nearby. Naturally, it’s a “Murphy’s Law” example: the cover is nicely torn (and while these images don’t show it, the portion upper-right of the visible tear is extensively crinkled as well, extending through the stamp).

A fancy graphic of these coils’ on-cover market values by condition would show this cover barely above the bottom tier. (Instead, a relative-value table is easier to draw to offer trading guidance, but even that will have to wait for more space at another time.)

With five designs comprising this issue, I’ve yet to even acquire an entire set minus the plate #. In fact, since seeing 201 total covers franked with either a Patriotic Banner or 2015’s Stars & Stripes as of October 1, 2013, I’ve acquired only three (10¢) Snowflakes and received reports of two more. (The table at left shows the relative frequency of occurrence for the Snowflakes compared to the patriotic designs, from this unscientific two-year-long census.)

Various factors are possibly at-play to explain why only five Snowflakes are known alongside 201 patriotic-themed coils on standard-rate mailings in the previous two years. Interviewing clerks at some of the largest post offices serving bulk mailers could explain the disparity. Supply-wise, note that 500 million Snowflakes were printed (50,000 rolls of 10K). This seems a sizeable stock, even when compared to the Stars & Stripes at just twice that (100,000 10K rolls). Perhaps the seasonal design, plus mailers’ unfamiliarity of its availability, combine to explain the Snowflakes shortage. – *Ron Blanks*



PNC C11111111 found on cover, discarded at post office on Nov. 24, 2015. (Only such cover reported to Coil Line in 25 months since stamp issued.)

Reported-Use Counts: (10¢) Presort Standard Coils

| patriotic vs. “seasonal” designs | w/ # | No-# |
|----------------------------------|------|------|
| Oct. 1, 2013 – Jan. 31, 2014 | 1 | 26 |
| January 2014 (a) | -- | 1 |
| Feb. 1, 2014 – Feb. 19, 2015 | 12 | 107 |
| Feb. 19, 2015 | -- | 1 |
| 1 st Quarter 2015 (b) | -- | 1 |
| Feb. 20, 2015 – Nov. 24, 2015 | 3 | 46 |
| Nov. 24, 2015 | 1 | -- |
| Nov. 25, 2015 – Dec. 9, 2015 | -- | 6 |
| Nov. 30, 2015 (a) | -- | 1 |

(= both Patriotic Banner self-sticks and the 2015 Stars & Stripes trio of three designs.)

(a) – reported by one club member

(b) – acquired from a stamp dealer.



(from page 5, Readers' Forum)

held at an angle to maximize the glare centered on the stamps:

Original version (dead under LW-UV)

Highly glossy, under low magnification the year date "2014" disappears completely in glare (also occurs in fluorescent light), and inkjet cancel on black ink almost disappears. (Under magnification, in fluorescent light, the parts of inkjet cancel on black ink can barely be seen.)

Second version (bright under LW-UV)

Duller gloss, under low magnification the "2014" does not disappear in glare. The inkjet cancel remains evident, taking on a brownish-orangeish hue. (Under fluorescent light, cancel dots on black ink remain clearly seen, an orangeish red color.)

Note that one of the December-issue reports noted an evident line of taggant overlap for the new type (previously, a typical darker "gap" line has been noted for the original SSP version [noticeable in ordinary light], as well as for other suppliers' SSB coils). However, on one of my new-type cases, I saw the typical darker-line gap.

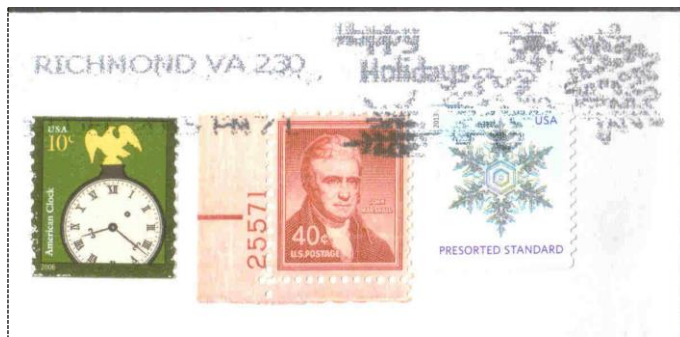
– Ron Blanks #2119



Mail tests with (10¢) Snowflakes. I've waited over a year for more support of the assertion in the April, 2014 Readers' Forum that the (10¢) Snowflakes issue (2013-8, Scott 4808-12) was printed on prephosphored paper (normally used only on non-presort stamps priced near first-class rates). Minus such a report, it seems logic, and evidence so far, fail to support the claim.

In that Forum's letter, Rudy de Mordaigle shared his findings of using shortwave and longwave ultraviolet light, some after ink or paper scrapings. All pointed as much to modern paper coating(s), including optical brighteners, as to any phosphor taggant.

The letter jumps to, "This blue-white taggant clearly triggers the USPS facer-cancellers," followed only by showing a #10 envelope franked with a Snowflake coil that received a machine inkjet cancel. Yet untagged stamps as sole postage are machine canceled all the time. (Folks often get away with re-using a presort coil on mail; the June 2009 *Coil Line* shows one.) (please see page 10)



Mailings made on December 12, 2015 and received on Monday, Dec. 14. (All stamps are untagged.) (A solo Snowflake is shown on front page.)



With this report, I am introducing another rarity to this list. The Ashton-Potter 37¢ Egret number P22222 with multiple ties has been elusive to date, and has had only 2 used singles and 2 mint strips of 5 reported. This scarce item is pictured in the PNC³ Catalog in the 2004 New Issues section, page 3. Use a 5X glass to see the ties. This was reported in mint strips in 2005, but only 2 used, just recently, so there must be more out there. *[Close-up images and details about the ties are given in the Jan. 2013 issue, pp. 5-6.]*

After our last report in May, a couple of things have come to light. It seems that there have been several transactions in the last few months, and it's been difficult to keep things straight with this census. In two cases, purported new finds had, in fact, been previously reported. This is the reason we ask that scans be sent when reporting a new find. In the case of FOPs and Egrets, the cancellations can be compared to previously reported items. In the case of service inscribed stamps, the alignment and position of the plate numbers provide evidence that can be compared against previous reports.

Added to the list this month is another copy of the elusive FOP #66666 12/11, the fifth used single reported. It was purchased on eBay in late October. Since buyers are not identified by name, I'm hoping that the buyer is a PNC³ member and will step forward to identify him (or her) self. If we're to keep an accurate count of these rarities, it's important that the sellers (and buyers) of items on the list notify me of the facts of the exchange. Sellers should advise to whom the sale was made (and the price, so that we can list in the next edition of the Values List), and buyers should report the source of the item so that we can avoid a duplicate listing. Buyers of listed items on **eBay**, please report. If you are reporting the purchase of an item from a seller on eBay, please send a scan or enlarged photo of the item to avoid duplicate reports.

With all this in mind, I have adjusted some of the totals from the previous report of May 2015.

The counts now stand at:

| PNC Issue | PNC ID | Scott No. | Mint Single | Mint P/S 5 | Used Single | On Cover |
|--|--------------|-----------|-------------|------------|-------------|----------|
| 32¢ Flag over Porch ("Famous Five") | | | | | | |
| 66666 10/11 die | 1996-8.221 | 2915A | -- | -- | 22 | 2 |
| 66666 12/11 die | 1996-8.241 | 2915C | -- | -- | 6 | 2 |
| 78777 10/10 die | 1996-8.211 | 2915A | -- | 9 | 72 | 5 |
| 88888 11/12 die | 1996-8.252 | 2915C | -- | -- | 4 | -- |
| 13231A 10/10 VP die | 1996-8.212 | 2915A | 7 | 9 | 59 | 15 |
| (5¢) Avery Mountain V333342 13L/12R die | 1996-10.211 | 2904A | -- | -- | 25 | 3 |
| V333343 round corner die | 1996-10.211 | 2904A | -- | -- | 6 | -- |
| (5¢) BEP Mountain #1111 9/10 die | 1997-1.22 | 2904B | 2 | 5 | 16 | 2 |
| (25¢) Diner #22211 round shoulder die | 1998-7.21 | 3208A | -- | -- | 104 | 9 |
| (10¢) Green Bike #444 square shoulder die | 1998-4.22 | 3228 | -- | -- | 33 | 4 |
| (10¢) Eagle&Shield STD #11111 round shoulder die | 1998-15.1111 | 3271 | 1 | 6 | 12 | 4 |
| (10¢) Atlas V13222 | 2003-9.11 | 3770 | -- | -- | 70 | 2 |
| V21113 | 2003-9.11 | 3770 | -- | -- | 7 | -- |
| V21211 tagged | 2003-9.12 | 3770a | -- | -- | 6 | 1 |
| 37¢ Snowy Egret V2121 VP die | 2003-8.22 | 3829 | -- | -- | 32 | 1 |
| V2121 PV die | 2003-8.21 | 3829 | -- | -- | 2 | -- |
| V3211 VP die | 2003-8.22 | 3829 | -- | -- | 49 | 4 |
| V3211 PV die | 2003-8.21 | 3829 | -- | -- | 9 | 2 |
| 37¢ Snowy Egret P2222 multi-tie | 2004-2.21 | 3829A | -- | 2 | 2 | -- |
| (10¢) Lion #S666666 fully tagged | 2000-2.12 | 3447b | -- | -- | 1 | -- |
| (25¢) Jukebox #22222 Tagged | 1996-13.12 | 2912Bc | -- | -- | -- | 2 |

I hope everyone had a healthy and happy holiday season. Best wishes for great PNC collecting in 2016.

(from page 8, *Snowflakes mail test*)

And conversely, most of the mail I've received over the past two years bearing a <49¢> Red-White-Blue coil wasn't canceled; it doesn't follow that the RWBs are untagged. Several *Coil Line* issues have discussed machine canceling of untagged postage ("lightly tagged" (25¢) American Eagles, Jan. 2010; 5¢ Circus Wagon, June and Sept. 2015).

It's near impossible from mail tests (short of observing it in a postal plant) to know how a mailpiece was machine-canceled. We can design a robust test to find what will occur, but there's no guarantee when a worker can riff through a reject mail stack and act in one of several ways. Any test that does not include sufficient control pieces just leaves suspect the result.

A (10¢) *Snowflakes* test should at least include "alongside" pieces (a) with an untagged (10¢) presort standard coil; and (b) with proper first-class postage all composed of untagged, non-precancel stamps. (All cases need franking within an inch of the upper-right corner and be deposited for loose-mail collection. (please see page 11)

(from back page, *Spectrum Eagle inks*)

Where part of that cyan 1 overlays the white dropout space, you will see only the cyan color. It's that simple. These colored inks (cyan, magenta, yellow, and gray) are not opaque, but translucent. If they were opaque, overlaying cyan over your putative black '1' would work, but your black '1' is actually the result of ink misregistration.

"It would not make sense to make dropouts where black ink would be laid, since black ink would completely cover any of the other colors anyway. ...In figure C, there is a very slight misregistration upward of the black V and last 1 in the second-from-the-top example. ... [They] are on the same cylinder. If they were overlaying a dropout (white) 'V' and '1'..., we would see part of the dropout below the black letter and number. I believe the white 'halo' effect you are seeing around the V and last number on Jeff's scans are probably an artifact of his scanning [or editing tasks] and are not portions of a dropout. They don't seem to show up on either Frank's or Jim's scans nor can I see them on copies of my stamps."

Mr. Fowler also saw it confusing to have "magenta" in the list of inked digits provided dropouts. He rightly noted, "To me, it just looks to be a plain dropout (white) with no overlay." We assumed readers were familiar with that "self" method of denoting a background ink's digit, since coils have a long history of some with strong color extending to margins. (These include the present Flag coils, American Design coils, and the various 41¢-priced Flag coils.) The *Spectrum Eagle* dropouts list was meant to be all-encompassing (though terse) in that context.

By coincidence, while editing this issue I started using another scanner for the first time and found it has its own pros and cons apart from my older one. It can scan at higher resolutions, so I wondered what new PNC close-ups might show compared to the earlier images sent in. I tracked down four PNCs spanning two years on cover to test (**D** images on back page). As Mr. Fowler explained, in the two less-aligned cases (**D**, right side) we can see a very, very dark purple where most of us previously saw black. (This might not be so evident in the printed *Coil Line* but is apparent in the digital edition.) And there is no halo effect of the black V and last digit. – Ron Blanks (Thanks to Jim Fowler, and also Doug Iams for his review.)

Call for Nominations

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.

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.

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

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

* * *

Attention Exhibitors: Ohio's largest stamp show, the Garfield-Perry March Party (a National World Series of Philately Show), is holding its 126th annual show on March 10-12 2016 and is accepting applications for exhibits. Go to garfieldperry.org, click on the "March Party" tab and select "Prospectus 2016" from the drop-down menu.

* * *

Used PNC collection. Includes over 700 DIFFERENT used US plate number coils, both on and off paper. Includes different diecuts/perf varieties (VP, PV, 11/10, 10/10, etc). From 1 to 3 of each number/variety. Cat. \$2000+-. Email for more details. fiszbein@sbcglobal.net. Jeff Fiszbein #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 2.)

Coil Topics Index this issue...

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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.)

(from page 10, *Snowflakes* mail test)

Each should use a #10 envelope properly addressed, with a letter sheet neatly folded to maintain the machinable "letter shape" criteria.)

Ideally, each franking type should be mailed not only in the same postal plant service area for the address, but also as far away as practical to go through a separate plant. More robust testing might add these cases: (c) a solo *untagged* non-precancel postage stamp below 10¢; (d) a solo *tagged* non-precancel postage stamp below 10¢; (e) proper first-class postage that includes a normal phosphor-tagged stamp in the upper-right corner.

On a last-minute whim, I hastily assembled six #10 envelopes to try a mix of frankings, mailed Dec. 12th. Three used (10¢) *Snowflakes* that Frank Covey sent me in late winter 2014 from the same strips involved in the April 2014 letter. The other three used (10¢) *Lion* coils from a S77777 strip. Only one of the six received the holiday inkjet cancel used at Richmond, VA when processed Dec. 12th. (Some of the frankings are shown on page 8 and the front cover.)

– Ron Blanks #2119

Membership Update

Reinstated

Joseph G. Leadon, M.D. (2259)

| | |
|---|------------|
| Previous Membership Count | 532 |
| New Applicants | 0 |
| Reinstated | 1 |
| Resigned | 0 |
| PNC³ Membership Count | 533 |

No Extra 1s: (25¢) Spectrum Eagle PNC “V” #s Explained

Or, When “Black” 1s are not Black

Or, on back page of November 2015 issue this editor based some discussion on a faulty premise, raised an unnecessary question, and garbled a technical detail. The matter at hand:

How many digits are used in the plate numbers of the original (25¢) Spectrum Eagle from Avery/CCL? (These PNCs use “V” with 2012 date, not to be confused with the new 2015 dated #P1111 Ashton Potter issue.)

The August back page says, “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 then sent the image of his V11112 (closeup B) to still ask, But isn’t there an extra 1? (November’s answer was “Yes,” but see text below.)



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

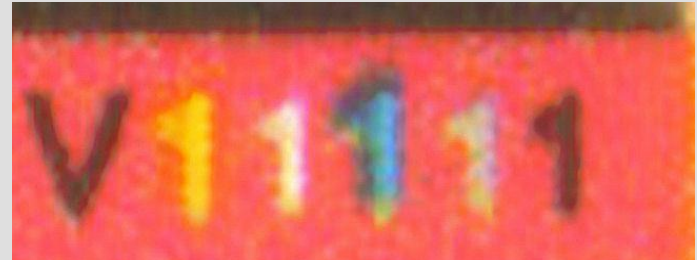
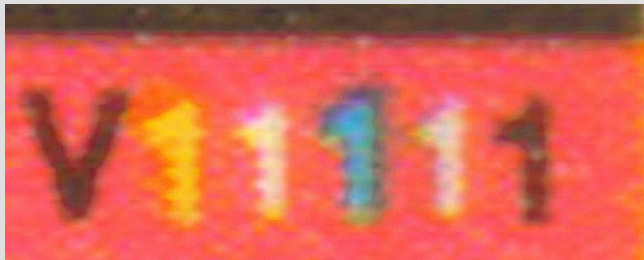
Member Jim Fowler kindly criticized our response to Jim Lowry’s extra [black?] “1”. Here are excerpts of Mr. Fowler’s better answer (*emphasis added is ours*):

“I have a few disagreements with the assumptions ... about the printing process of these.... What I know about overlaying translucent pigment colors is that they will normally result in a different (often times darker) color when overlaid. What you are seeing is not a [second] black “1” or even parts of a black “1”, but rather a cyan 1 overlaying the magenta background, *resulting in a dark purple “1”*. (please see page 10)

D (from covers dated... Jan. 7, 2013) ▼

▼ (Oct. 2014)

[bottom-right larger for detail]



▼ (Oct. 2014)

(May 5, 2015) ►



Call for Auction Lots

January 17th Consignment Deadline

PNC³'s next auction is our annual Spring auction in March. This is one of two annual auctions PNC³ conducts as a membership benefit. (The Autumn auction is held every October.) The consignment sheet is repeated on this issue's wrapper for your convenience.

Joe Sedivy reminds members who sent unsold lots that you can contact him about minimum bids, if you haven't done so. Without a member's input, Joe's policy is to lower the start bid by 10% (rounding to the nearest bidding increment). Contact Joe (*see consignment sheet on other wrapper*) if you want a different bid revision.

If you didn't renew your membership for 2016, this is your last issue...

(Please see either November's or December's issue of *Coil Line* for the membership renewal form on the outer wrapper... *if you mail it in after Dec. 31, please note the \$4 late-renewal fee that needs to be included in the dues.*)