

Our 29th Year

PNC³



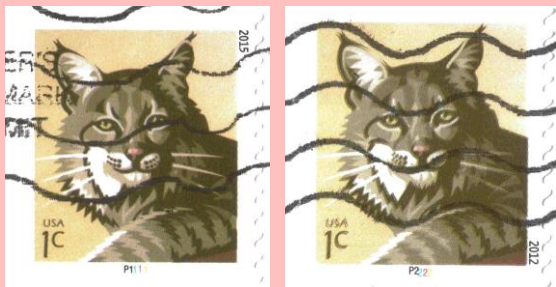
Coil Line

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

July 2016
Vol. 29, No. 7
Whole No. 337



PNCs tied to covers...
page 89



▲ **Coil Line 25 years ago, excerpts...** page 87



New incision type for PNC... page 85



▲ **Coin+PNC = PNC-PNC?...** page 87



▲ **New presort coils also phosphor-tagged?...** page 84

Also...

- PNC³ annual meeting **August 6**
at APS StampShow... page 83
- SESCAL regional meeting **September 24**... page 84
- Catalog Corner: (5¢) USA Star P111... page 86
- Pair of (15¢) Tailfin postcards... page 92
- Die-cut-omitted PNC strips... page 92

PNC³ Autumn Auction

Call for Auction Consignments!

Deadline August 27
(see wrapper for Consignment sheet)

Auction #55 -- Plate Number Coil Collectors Club Consignment Sheet

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

 **Saturday August 27, 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

Coil Line

Journal of the Plate Number
Coil Collectors Club (PNC³)

Published by: PNC³
ISSN: 1931-5112



Editor: Ronald Blanks
coilineditor@yahoo.com

Print Edition Mailings: Brian and Cory Snippen
snippenb@gmail.com

Digital Edition Emails: Frank Covey
ecoilline@comcast.net

Scott #2523A (issued July 4, 1991, 35
years ago this month) plate # A11111

PNC³ Contacts

PNC³ Website www.pnc3.org
Allan Clapp, Webmaster
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
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).

All material is copyright 2016. All rights reserved. Material in this publication may be copied or reproduced with acknowledgment to **Coil Line**. Opinions expressed by the authors and writers are their own, and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, publisher, or membership of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club.

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 July 1, 2016.

Elected Officers

Robert Thompson, **President**, 12431 Golden Thistle, Houston, TX 77058. email: rthompson@pncvarieties.com 713-397-1772

Michael Mules, **Vice President**, PO Box 6, Salem, WI 53168. email: pnc5dealer@wi.rr.com 414-234-9867

Richard L. Beecher, **Secretary**, PO Box 4790, Blaine, WA 98231-4790. email: richardlater@aol.com 604-467-8700

John Himes, **Treasurer**, PO Box 453, Cypress, CA 90630-0453. email: johnwhimes@yahoo.com 714-826-8552

Gene Trinks, **Past President**, 16415 W. Desert Wren Ct, Surprise, AZ 85374. email: gctrinks@cox.net 623-322-4619

Jill Ambrose, **At Large**, PO Box 54622, Cincinnati, OH 45254-0622. email: jillambrose@zoomtown.com 513-231-4208

Melvyn Borofsky, **At Large**, 101 West Sterling Way, Leesburg, FL 34788-2781. email: melborofsky@comcast.net 352-483-1408

PNC³ Catalog Committee: Jill Ambrose, Frank Covey, Andy Jakes, Tom McFarland, Gene Trinks, Peter Tukker

PNC³ auctioneer: Joe Sedivy

Coil Line Production

editor: Ronald Blanks

digital edition producer: Jill Ambrose

senior consultant: Gene Trinks

technical consultant: Alan Thomson

writers:

Frank Covey, Doug Iams, Gene Trinks

contributing writers:

John Himes, Robert E. Thompson,

Bob Rabinowitz, Rob Washburn

proofreaders: John Himes, Michael Mules

printing: State Wide Printing - Albuquerque NM

printed mailings: Brian and Cory Snippen

digital edition emails: Frank Covey

subscriptions: Richard L. Beecher

President's Message



Welcome!



from the PNC³ president ...

During this past month we had some problems with our website. I'm happy to say that with the help of Allan Clapp, our Webmaster and Jill Ambrose, our Webmistress, everything is back up and running again. If you are experiencing any problems, please feel free to contact Allan. He has always made himself available whenever there is a problem.

On a happy note, the International Stamp Show NY2016 has just ended. We had a wonderful turnout of members. Members ranged from some from the very beginning of PNC³ to brand new members that signed up at the show. It was good to see some old friends and great to meet some new ones. I also give a special thanks to Mary Goeller for helping at the show.

Over 55 club members signed in at our booth, with many more at the show. We signed up five new members, with an additional member as I was writing this column. We gave out over 75 applications with hopes that more will sign up over the next month.

We also had a PNC³ club meeting on Sunday afternoon, with over 25 people in attendance. I gave a presentation put together by Dan Forgues titled "PNC Singles, Rarities and EFOs" which sparked a lively discussion from John Greenwood, Rich Nazar and others. All and all, it was a very good show for PNC³. I welcome this opportunity to thank all of those that helped out at the show and Tom McFarland for helping to organize the schedule at the club booth.

Two new coil-related errors of note were presented at the show. The first was a die-cut omitted strip from Ashton Potter for the Star-Spangled Banner with plate number P2222 from one of the dealers at the show. The following day, a collector (but not of PNCs) walked up to the booth with a strip of seven also die-cut omitted of the 34¢ Hummingbird, plate number P22222 on the leftmost stamp. Scans of both can be found elsewhere in this issue.

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!

Notice of Annual Meeting

APS Show, Portland OR – August 6

The Annual Meeting of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club will be held at the Oregon Convention Center, site of the APS StampShow in Portland, on Saturday, August 6. Also, the PNC³ Board will meet that same day (rooms and times not yet known). Interested members are invited to attend. The Club will have a table on the exhibition floor all four days (booth to be assigned). Members are encouraged to help staff the booth, especially on Thursday, Aug. 4. APS info stamps.org/STAMPSHOW-SS

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.)

Tim Lindemuth showed his exhibit on the 20¢ Flag issue of 1981, which won a gold ribbon.

Now that the show has ended, we need to start planning for our annual meeting that will be held in Portland, Oregon, the first week of August. I hope that many of you can make it.

– Robert E. Thompson



PNC³ Regional Meetings

SESCAL – Los Angeles September 24, 2016

PNC³ club members and guests will be meeting at 12:00 noon on Saturday, September 24, 2016 at the SESCAL 2016 Stamp Exhibition. This is a wonderful get-together for those of us who live in the Los Angeles area or for those who will be traveling to the show. SESCAL will be taking place at The Hilton Los Angeles Airport Hotel, 5711 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045, phone (310) 410-4000. The Exhibition will be held from Friday through Sunday, September 23-25.

The PNC³ meeting will be hosted by club members Dan Forgues and John Himes. Door prizes will be given, and we should have enough to assure that everyone attending goes home with a nice item. Donations of door prizes by PNC³ club members and dealers are appreciated and will be duly acknowledged.

Several informative talks are being prepared for the meeting. Dan, in particular, is preparing another one of his great talks. This time he'll be concentrating on tagging varieties on PNCs, and the little bit that he's shared, so far, is amazing. You won't want to miss this informative session.

There will also be plenty of time for club members to ask questions about their PNCs, as well as time for trading material at the end of the meeting.

The meeting location has not yet been finalized, but we hope to publish the precise meeting room details in an upcoming issue of *Coil Line*. Visitors to the meeting are always welcome. Admission is free, and a special parking rate of \$9.00 is available to show attendees. Full information on the show is available at www.sescal.org.

New (25¢) Star Quilts Coils to be Issued July 6th

The *Postal Bulletin* of June 9, 2016 released details of a new self-adhesive postage stamp issue in rolls of 3,000 and 10,000 for qualified presorted first-class mail. Featuring two designs of "Star Quilts" that alternate along a roll, it is scheduled to go on sale nationwide on July 6th.

The stamps are service-inscribed "Presorted First-Class" and priced at 25¢, with plate number "B11111" expected to be printed on every 28th stamp. "B" denotes the production firm, Banknote Corporation of America ("BCA").

The technical details also note an initial print quantity of 150 million stamps in 3K rolls and half a billion in 10K rolls. They are offset-printed, with microprinting in use (not evident in the U.S. Postal Service media image above). Unlike the pair shown above, the actual self-stick coils are spaced apart on liner paper for use in affixing equipment.

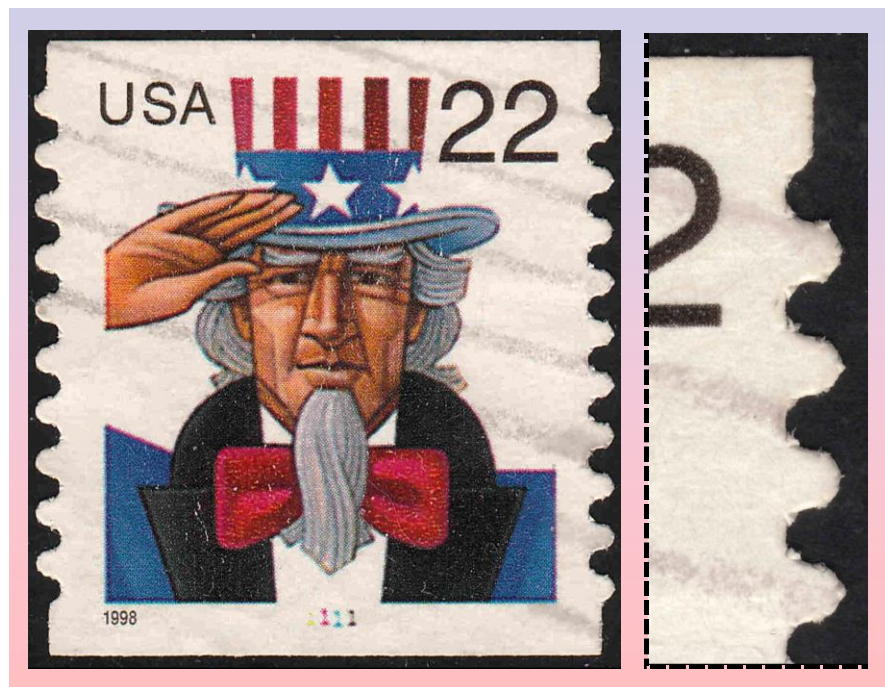
The service inscription denotes the category of discounted rates for First-Class mail, also called First-Class commercial mail rates. Mailings at these rates must be prepared under rules that reduce the postal service work required to deliver them.

The more work reduced, the greater the postage discount. As of the first one issued in December 1994 (the "G" Old Glory design with pale blue background), undenominated coils in this category are priced at 25¢. This allows easier accounting of trayed mail on which they are used; a mailer pays the difference between the actual postage due and the value of stamps affixed.

The PB details give the paper type as "Phosphor Tagged Paper, Overall." If this is proven accurate, it will mark the second producer and the second time in two years that a presort coil issue has been printed with phosphor tagging. The first case is the Ashton Potter-supplied (25¢) Spectrum Eagle printed in mid-2015, also a Presorted First-Class category coil and also with a phosphor overcoating.

Phosphor tagging is wholly unnecessary for presort coils, as the USPS categorizes the stamps as precancels and they are used on mail that does not require post-office detection for canceling. Why Ashton Potter went to the trouble of applying the overcoating remains a mystery, as the USPS has yet to respond to inquiries dating back to this January.

Readers' Forum



One of the last illustrations of die-cut incision styles in Coil Line is found in the September 2005 issue, page 116, with a chart of those found for varieties of 32¢ Flag over Porch PNCs. Close-ups of four styles are shown, A, B, C, and D.

The last line of the chart of known 32¢ FoP PNCs by plate # has only the cryptic entry, "88888A (ttr)" with one mark in the "D" column. "ttr" (tie tip **right**) is explained in the July 2002 Coil Line article, "Production varieties of self-adhesive coil stamps (part II)" by Gene Trinks, an excellent tutorial on die cutting mat differences. In contrast, almost all D cases are "tie tip left," ties on the tips of peaks on **left** side of coil.

Dan's past two reports are in the April 2016 (page 48) and May 2016 (page 61) issues.

New incision find. Recent *Coil Line* issues reported my finds of new "B" incisions among "H" coils (Scott 3265). That got me to look at all of my 22¢ Uncle Sam extras (plate #1111, Scott 3263); it's only known with A and C incisions. I was hoping also some of that issue might have B incisions. I found no B incisions, but I did find two copies with "D ttr" [tie tip right] incisions. I think this might be the first report of this 22¢ coil variety (shown above).

— Dan Forgues #1037L

Past reports, 32¢ Flag over Porch "hoppers." The 32¢ FOP color shift with the number 78898 shown on page 73 of June's *Coil Line* is not new at all. That cylinder misalignment stamp is part of a list of "hopping" plate numbers in my FOP article that appeared in the February 2000 issue of *Coil Line*. (See page 17 of that edition.)

After the article went to press, two other hopping numbers came to light. Plate #99999 was found with the light blue number hopping over the tan digit (reported in April of 2000). The other example has the two blue cylinders switching places on 88888. The blue color swap was found in

November of 2004. Sometimes it pays to read the old stuff.

— Alan Thomson #180L

Phosphor versus optical brighteners. Ashton Potter had a booth at the big international show in NYC, but CCL/BCA did not. I asked the AP folks about why the change a number of years ago from dead paper to mostly hi-brite paper (paper with optical brighteners). They said it was not something that they requested, nor was it something that the USPS requested; rather, it is just what their paper supplier(s) send them. They also confirmed that they are still using the same yellow-green glowing taggant compound as always (which we almost can't see because it is being overwhelmed by the glow of the optical brighteners).

All of this still begs several questions. Is USPS even aware that the printers are using hi-brite paper, since it used to be banned? And is USPS aware that stamps that lack the taggant but are on hi-brite paper (like the Presorted Standard snowflakes) apparently can trigger the canceling machines?

— Doug Iams #625
(more Readers' Forum, back page)



(5¢) USA Star nonprofit org.
 Plate **P111**
 PNC ID **2016-5**

The (5¢) USA Star Nonprofit Organization coil of 10,000 went on sale April 28, 2016 in Dulles, VA. It was available nationwide the same day. This stamp will be used by nonprofit organizations for mass mailings. It will eventually replace the Art-Deco Bird nonprofit stamp (2011-1).

This Ashton Potter-produced issue features a large USA with a five-pointed red star spread over two lines.

There is a **P111** plate number every 27th stamp. Most will collect this as a plate strip of 5 (PS5) as there is only one design in the issue. This issue is untagged and was printed on nonphosphored Type III paper.

“USPS” is microprinted on top of the bottom curve of the letter “S” just before it intersects the red star. (See illustration below.) A 2016 date is printed in the lower right corner. The stamp is affixed to a liner that is larger than the stamp itself with spaces between stamps.

Both top and bottom back numbers are possible. Ashton Potter rolls have 5-digit, 4-digit, 3-digit and 2-digit back numbers on a single 10K roll. They drop the leading digit(s) in a number when it is a zero.

At least two different font sizes are known for the back numbers. (See the illustrations below.) Both font sizes can be found top and bottom.

While this issue is not listed in the latest *USA Philatelic* catalog (volume 21, 2016, quarter 2), plate number coil dealers already have this issue in hand.

Collectors can now purchase a strip of 25 (5¢) USA Star coil stamps for \$1.25 using USPS item No. 777503.



USPS microprinting



Large top
 Back Number



Smaller bottom
 Back Number

When “PNC” Means “Philatelic-Numismatic Cover”

Once upon a time (starting about nine years before the first Plate-Numbered Coils were issued in 1981), “PNC” in the stamp hobby generally stood for “philatelic-numismatic cover.” In particular, these PNCs were U.S. first-day covers with a twist: Each one featured a U.S. Mint-produced bronze medal insert. (Cover cutouts on both sides allow viewing the medal’s obverse or reverse without disturbing the envelope, as shown in an image at right from a randomly chosen marketplace offering.)

The U.S. Mint produced an annual edition from 1972 through 1976 as part of its USA Bicentennial commemorative program. The bronze medals in this series featured presidents, usually not tied to the subjects of the accompanying Bicentennial-themed stamps on the first-day covers.

(I don’t have chapter and verse on the U.S. Mint’s marketing details, or what the pricing was. I vaguely recall, if correctly, that the USPS also offered these PNCs through its Philatelic Sales Division sales pamphlets. Over the years since, the U.S. Mint occasionally marketed coins in covers with some postmark tie-in; e.g., the State Quarters.)

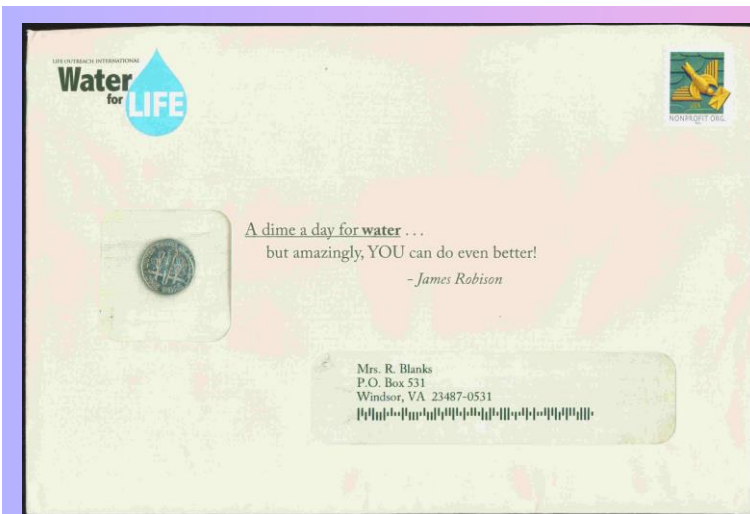
When U.S. coil stamps started being issued with plate numbers printed at intervals through a roll, the stamp hobby soon had a brief conundrum: What name or shorthand to call the new collectible. “Plate numbered coil” was preferred by some, even though others noted that “PNC” was already taken (although its use was sparse, given the stamp hobby’s apathy by 1981 towards philatelic-numismatic covers.)



4 of 5 philatelic-numismatic covers, U.S. Mint’s 1972-1976 Bicentennial set (not shown: 1973’s)

Interestingly, the last first-day cover in the U.S. Mint’s Bicentennial “PNC” set is dated July 4, 1976, forty years ago this month. This alone would not suffice to include this feature in this *Coil Line* issue, but the following encounter encouraged the timing.

About a year ago at this writing, on June 24, 2015 I received a donation appeal in the mail (shown below, at left). While this in itself is not unusual, the mailing prominently shows a dime insert seen through a custom window on the front, separate from the address window. That again would not be so unusual, given that my “dumpster diving” history has turned up coins used as attention-getters on an almost regular basis. What is interesting is that the mailing is franked with a plate-numbered coil, the only time I can recall receiving such a “PNC-PNC.” – *Ron Blanks*



A PNC-PNC?
(see text for history of term “PNC”)



July 1991: 25 Years Ago in *Coil Line*

“**Mt. Rushmore coils of 10,000 due**” is the cover story of the July 1991 issue of *Coil Line*, published twenty-five years ago this month. The gravure version of the previously released intaglio coil went on sale July 4th in rolls of 10,000 only. The intaglio (engraved) version came in rolls of 100, 500, and 3,000. The story noted post office ordering details from the USPS *Postal Bulletin* of May 30, 1991, since they differed from the norm. That was because private supplier American Bank Note Company produced the gravure version, not the BEP.

In “**Purple cancels return?**” (page 2), “PNC3 Treasurer Richard Beecher reports purple machine cancels appear to be back in at least one city. He has one from San Francisco dated March 23, 1991.”

Among the Letters printed was one from Ed Denson, “**Scarcity of ‘F’ stamps.**” Of the “F” Flower (Tulip) coils, Ed wrote, “So far I have been offered no used copies of No. 1211 or No. 2211. I have a note from a customer who says he went through 100,000 envelopes since the rate change [Feb. 3, 1991], ... from all over the U.S. and he has many copies of No. 1111, 1211, 2211 and 2222 but no copies of 1211. ... It’s possible that there is a source for them which has not yet emerged, if not it could be scarcer than the” 25¢ Yosemite Flag #6.

In “**Listings yes but no stamps**” (page 3), it is noted, “The May-June issue of the USPS Philatelic Catalog continues to list as available coil stamps that have been announced but do not exist...”



Middle 17¢ Auto is PNC #3, # on top, postmarked Jul 26, 1987. Besides 18¢ and 20¢ letter eras discussed in text, extra ounces cost 17¢ also in 22¢ letter era.

(cropped from cover image shown in July 2012’s Coil Line, courtesy Dennis Ladd)



18¢ Surrey #2 with purple machine cancel, May 20, 1981

(cropped from cover image, courtesy Rob Washburn)

In “**Commercial Covers**” (pages 4, 5), Rob Washburn shared a sampling of questions he had received from PNC cover collectors, along with his responses. These included:

“Are purple machine canceled PNC covers scarcer than black machine canceled PNC covers?” “Yes... This is true of all PNC numbers known using both types of cancels... That list includes 18¢ Flag #1-7, 18¢ Surrey #1-16, 20¢ Flag #1-9, all 20¢ Consumer Education, and 20¢ Pumper #1-16. Generally speaking, black machine canceled PNC covers of any particular PNC outnumber purple ... by a 10 to 1 ratio. ... Purple machine cancels were phased out in late 1983 and early 1984, and the latest usage ... I have ever seen is the 20¢ Flag #9 cover, pictured [in that issue], dated 1/23/84.”

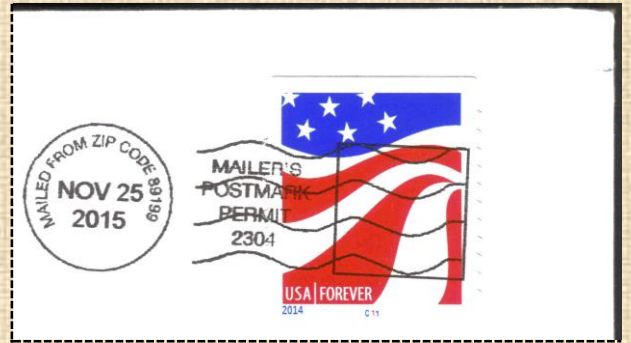
“Why can’t 17¢ Electric Auto PNC covers be found used during 1981?” “That’s a tough one to figure since they were available for use for the last six months of 1981 (issued 6/25/81) and paid the second ounce for first-class mail for both the 18¢ and 20¢ [letter] rates. Incredibly, the earliest known usage cover of any 17¢ ... is 7/8/82 (on plate number 2), over a year after it was issued. I am aware of only handful of no-number 17c ... covers used during 1981. I suspect that Electric Auto coils were not widely distributed in 1981, and that during the 18¢ first-class rate period the savings of a mere one penny apparently wasn’t considered such big deal. The only other possible answer is that multiple ounce rate covers have, to date, never been found in quantity.

(please see page 90)

They All Have Numbered PNCs



<49¢> Red-White-Blue #C11, tied by mailer's postmark Nov 25, 2015 (overall phosphor tagging)



Direct Mail Sightings

In reporting the past few years of coils used on U.S. fund-raising mail, we've noted the very low odds of finding numbered PNCs, the frequent lack of postmarks on retail-priced first-class frankings, and the increased use of mailer-postmarked frankings. We've pointed out that for some PNC varieties, it will likely take some down-the-road trading with others to acquire a given cover. Those are the ones that failed to cross our path in contemporaneous use before being replaced.

These trends continue in this year of U.S. national elections for the executive branch as well as much of Congress. With more time passed, a bit more progress is made in finding 2014- and 2015-issued coils (with new designs issued meanwhile for some categories). We catch up with recent finds.

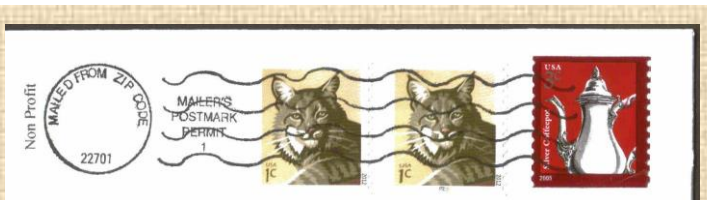
A Salvation Army mailing from last Thanksgiving is shown at top. It is our only report so far of a <49¢> Red-White-Blue plate number postmarked on cover. Given that this issue on mass mailings appears most often without cancelation, it is ironic that the mailer applied the postmark.

Many of you have received USO mailings, so the cover shown in-part at right doesn't appear unusual. Yet I was surprised to find we've never yet shown the P2222 numbered 1¢ Bobcat self-stick (2012) used as franking and tied by mailer's postmark.

With good reason, it turns out. It is apparently

the *only* P2222 we've ever seen on a mailed cover (courtesy of member Cerel Fritz, Jr.), canceled or not. And it comes with a bonus: A slight misregistration of print inks here shows a better inside peek at the design of the "USA 1c" lettering. (See Sept. 2015 issue's back page for more on this.)

Note that the USO sometimes uses a conventional (5¢) Nonprofit Org. precancel coil, as well as frequently using instead this method of substitution for the five cents. (please see next page)



Two self-adhesive 1¢ Bobcats (2012, second with P2222) and 3¢ Coffeepot on USO mailing received March 22, 2016 (cropped from cover image, cover courtesy Cerel Fritz, Jr.)

(from page 88, 25 years ago in Coil Line)

“Another reader wrote saying he had paid a sizeable premium to obtain an EKU cover of a particular 18¢ Surrey number only to have that usage date beaten by another EKU find soon after. He asked, Haven’t there been enough finds of hoards of PNC covers to pretty much establish such usage dates which will meet the test of time?”

“I’m sorry, but there are a lot of pitfalls in buying EKU covers. I have, on several occasions, had that same experience, and I’m afraid I will continue to do so in the future. I get new EKU reports every month. In the past year, approximately 50 such dates have been beaten. I note that in the last Stamps ‘n’ Stuff auction, EKU PNC prices fetched prices up to five times the price realized for non-EKU covers of the same plate number. ... Buyers ... will end up being quite disappointed one of these days when an earlier usage cover is found. ... I feel that EKU PNC covers should be valued no more than 50% more than regular PNC covers.”

A final question: “I have been searching for precanceled PNC covers, but no dealer seems to stock them, especially the Cottrell [-press printed coils]... are they really as scarce as they seem to be?”

“Yes, virtually all precanceled PNC covers are scarce, and this is especially so for the old Cottrell issues like the 9.3¢, 10.9¢, 5.9¢, 5.2¢, etc. [Transportation series]. Unlike first-class mail where huge finds of sweepstakes or utility mail have been made, there has, to date, never been a big find of precanceled PNC covers. ... I mean that less than 100 covers are known [per number]. In fact, several precanceled PNC numbers are known on cover in quantities of less than 10!”

[Rob last wrote about commercial covers in the April 2016 issue, and he still welcomes questions. Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, ME 04976. Email: stamps@beeline-online.net]

First of five 1¢ Bobcats in nonprofit org. franking, with #P1111 (cropped from cover image at far right)



(from page 89, They all have PNCs)



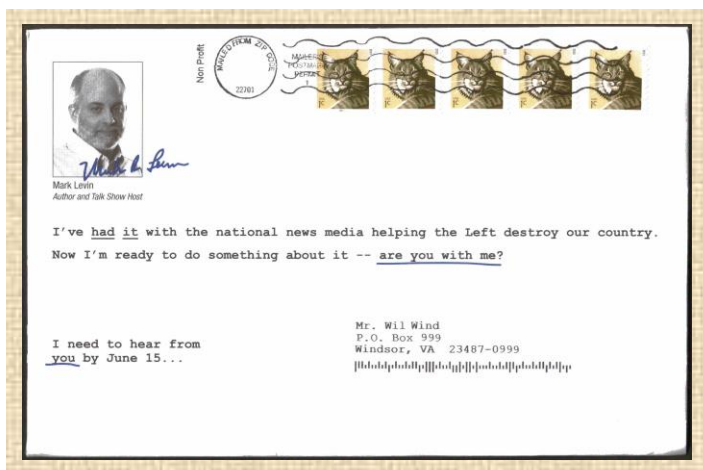
Numbered 5¢ Toleware joins newly issued 10¢ Pears pair, mailer postmarked March 8, 2016
(cropped from cover image, courtesy Todd Ronnei)

We’ve shown many times a mailer’s likewise substitution of self-postmarked ordinary postage adding up to ten cents for a (10¢) Presort Standard coil. But seldom do we see mailers do the same thing at the first-class level, using ordinary stamps that add up to the minimum 25¢ franking in that category.

Yet this past mid-March, an online poster shared a cover showing just that (shown in-part above). He was reporting the first cover seen with the new 10¢ Pears coil, but didn’t note the 5¢ Toleware numbered S1111111. The mailer made a mistake, though. Nowhere on the mailpiece is “first-class” printed, so at least part of the mailing could have received lesser “standard class” service.

We started this story with the not-shown-before 1¢ Bobcat P2222 on a mailed cover. It seems the 10K roll’s P1111 (2015) has also not been reported postmarked (although it has been seen on several courtesy-reply and business-reply envelopes).

Along comes the political mailing shown below, found in a post office on June 10. The first of the five Bobcats is P1111. I would have to research if this is the longest cancel portion of a mailer’s postmark we’ve ever encountered. — Ron Blanks



Classified Ads

PNC used singles, used strips, MNH PS5s. Great prices! Guaranteed quality! No hassles! Visit <http://www.angelfire.com/ca5/HimesPNCs> or send LSASE for lists to John Himes, PO Box 453, Cypress, CA 90630-0453. Please specify what you collect. Or e-mail johnwhimes@yahoo.com. Member 957L

* * *

USED 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

* * *

Got duplicates you don't need? Want a nice tax deduction? Donate stamps, covers, philatelic supplies to Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. SCCFK is dedicated to helping beginners, and starting children (and adults) in stamp collecting. See website www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org. Our 14th year. Member 2242

Call for Auction Lots

August 27th Consignment Deadline

PNC³'s next auction is our annual Autumn auction in October. This is one of two annual auctions PNC³ conducts as a membership benefit. 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.

Coil Topics Index this issue...

(25¢) Star Quilts, technical details.....	84
22¢ Uncle Sam s/a, new incision type.....	85
(5¢) USA Star, P111 Catalog Corner.....	86
<49¢> RWB, #C11 tied by MPP.....	89
1¢ Bobcat s/a, P1111, P2222 tied by MPP.....	89
34¢ Hummingbird, <49¢> SSB, no die cuts.....	92

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 (<i>for full page</i>)	Add \$ 100.00
• Color Ad - Electronic Version	Add \$ 25.00

(Discounts available for multiple insertions.)

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 82.)

Membership Update

Reinstated

Milton L. Maas (498)
Larry J. Ackerman (1687)

Deceased

Gerald Blankenship (587-L)
Donald Siivola (1079)

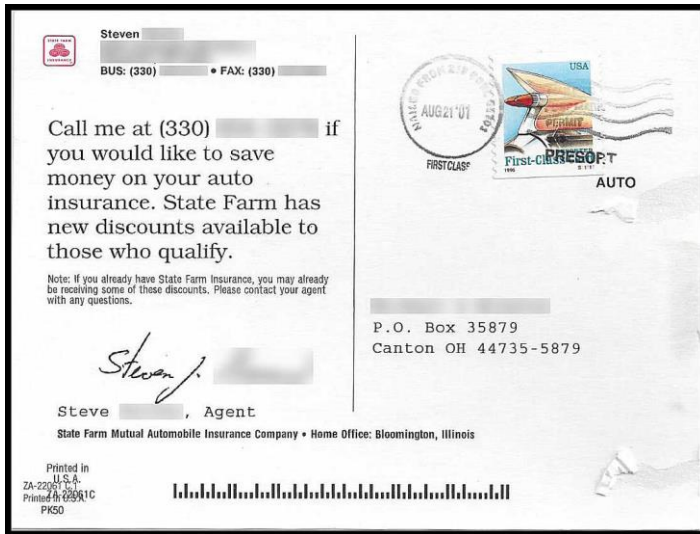
PNC³ Members Count

Previous Members	512
Reinstated	2
Deceased	-2
PNC³ Members	512

Stamp Withdrawals Missing from *USA Philatelic*

Last month's *Coil Line* criticized the current *USA Philatelic* (2016 Quarter 2) for its paltry offering of coil issues (only three listed). But it deprived all collectors in general of another important list: Issues scheduled to be withdrawn from sale at June's end. Such a list showed up in the June 9th *Postal Bulletin*; it did not include any coils.

(from page 85, Readers' Forum)



1996's (15¢) Tailfin self-adhesive #S11111 PNC tied by mailer's "Aug 21'01" cancel on one of two postcards from post office trash can. (close-up of second card's PNC shown below)

A rare pair of postcards. Since your April *Coil Line* (15¢) Woody Wagon postcards article had me digging into my 15 cent covers, how about this lucky post office trash find!

Two (15¢) Tailfin PNCs, each tied with an 8/21/2001 postmark, were found in the same trash can. – Dan Farrar # 743



Show and Tell at the NY2016 Stamp Show

As Robert Thompson mentioned in his President's Message (page 83), two die-cut-omitted error strips were shown at the NY2016 international stamp show that closed June 5. Above, images of a strip of 2014's Star-Spangled Banner, #P2222. Below, images of a 34¢ Hummingbird strip of 7, #P22222.

