

Our 32nd Year

Coil Line



Journal of the PNC³
Plate Number Coil Collectors Club

www.pnc3.org

American Philatelic Society Affiliate #185

August 2019

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Whole No. 374



**Lots of Flag Over
Porch this month!**

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Coil Line

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Coil Collectors Club (PNC³)

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Scott #2280a (issued February 2, 1989,) plate # 14

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President's Message

Tom McFarland



By the time you receive this issue of **Coil Line**, the club's annual board and general membership meetings are just days away. This is just a final reminder that both meetings will be held at the APS Stampshow on Saturday, August 3 in Omaha, Nebraska.

The board meeting is at 9 a.m. in room 215 and the general membership meeting is at 1 p.m. in room 211. I hope to see you at our booth at the show, even if you can't attend the meetings. I'll report on actions taken at the meetings in a future issue.

Awards and Exhibits chair Richard Beecher advises that there are two PNC-related exhibits at Stampshow, by members Tim Lindemuth and Robert Thompson. If you do attend the show, try to set aside some time to view them. I'm sure they'll be informative.

Some of you may have read a recent *Linn's Stamp News* story about the United States Stamp Society having been scammed out of a large sum of money. The scam involved emails supposedly from one club officer to another requesting one or more transfers of funds. The *Linn's* story also reported a similar unsuccessful attempt on the American First Day Cover Society.

Back in February, some PNC³ club officials received emails, supposedly from me, asking them to wire transfer almost \$4,000 for some unspecified club expense. Thanks to quick action by Vice President John Himes, it was determined to be a scam and no money was lost. It should also be noted that club operating procedures would not have al-

lowed a single board member to authorize such an extraordinary amount without the entire board having voted on it.

No doubt there were attempts made against additional organizations, not necessarily just stamp clubs. It's almost certain the scammer harvested the various club officials' email addresses from the contact information posted on their respective websites. We immediately notified all such PNC³ officials and posted a warning on the club website in the unlikely event that any other members received similar requests.

If you're planning to consign any items for the October auction, the deadline for submission is quickly approaching. Lots must be received by Auctioneer Joe Sedivy by August 17.



Letter to the Editor

Plate Number in Design

In Lynnette Wood's July 2019 **Coil Line** column "Beyond the Numbers," she states, regarding the B1 plate number on the Scott 2491 Pine Cone coil stamp, "Whether you consider ... [the plate number] to be embedded in the stamp design or located in the margin"

I'm not sure what the background is that caused Lynnette to incorporate this comment, but to me the plate number is clearly in the stamp design. There should be no doubt that USA 29 is in the design, so anything within the left and right margins of the design and lying above the bottom of the USA 29 elements, should also be considered to be part of the stamp design. The B1 plate number meets this criteria, so to me is clearly in the stamp's design.

Thanks for the column, Lynnette!

Vince Jones



Uh-Oh!
The editor
is running out
of articles!

The **Coil Line** "Finished Copy" folder is running low and as I put the August issue together, I find I don't have enough to fill another month.

Articles don't have to be long and they don't have to be perfectly written. Just send me a paragraph or two about a favorite or interesting item and I'll take it from there.

Need more info? Contact the editor.

Auctioneer Joe Sedivy is taking auction lots for the fall 2019 sale through Saturday, August 17.
The auction consignment sheet is found on this month's wrapper.
Consignments will only be accepted from members in good standing.

More Table Tops

John Himes

In the June 2019 issue of **Coil Line**, I introduced the “table top” die cut variety; it is quite rare and was previously unnamed. Since the publication of that article, I have heard from three collectors who have more information on this variety. There will be more about that in a minute.

Let me start by saying that the article in the June issue, and this article as well, are pretty “technical” and a bit hard to wade through. For those of you who don’t want to wade through the minutiae, just have a look at the scans attached to this article and look at Table 2. It’s a census of what’s been found and should give you enough information to get you started on your quest for your own table top die cuts. For the rest of you more technically minded folks, read on ...

Before I report these new finds, however, let me take a moment to recap the census of what I published in the June issue. Most of them came from Dan Forgues’ collection. The 10 items illustrated are categorized in Table 1.

Table 1

SCOTT	PLATE #	DESCRIPTION	TABLETOP AT	
			TOP	BOT
2915A	88888	32¢ FOP Peaks 10x10		1
2915A	99999	32¢ FOP Peaks 11x10		1
2915A	66666A	32¢ FOP PV		1
2915C	66666	32¢ FOP Peaks 11x12	1	
2915C	66666	32¢ FOP Peaks 11x12		1
3265	1111	(33¢) "H" Hat		1
3265	2222	(33¢) "H" Hat		1
3632	1111	37¢ Flag	1	
4393	P1111	44¢ Flag		1
4854	P1111	Forever SSB 2014		1

Note that one of the 2915C stamps could not be distinguished as having 12x12 or 11x12 peaks because not enough peaks were visible to determine the type. This really confused me and I initially listed it as a ?x12 stamp. But Dan Forgues told me to look at the other end of the stamp. Because of the “bend” in the other end, it could only be an 11x12, not a 12x12. He stacked two of them on top of each other to prove his point. See Figure 1 for Dan’s scan of the two stacked stamps. This made it clear that I was looking at an 11x12 with table top at top.

Now on to the new reports. The first bit of new information came from Jeff Fiszbein. Jeff sent a scan of a stock page bearing a number of the table top stamps, many of which were duplicates, but two of which are new finds. Here’s what the scan showed.

First up was a new find. It’s a 2915A Flag Over Porch #22222 with peaks 10x10 and the table top at top. Arguably, it’s an “embedded” table top at top, since a full peak can be seen beyond the table top. A scan of this stamp can be seen in Figure 2. This is the only one with that plate number reported, to date.



Figure 2



Figure 1

Next was another new find. It was a 2915A FOP #99999 with a table top at bottom, but unlike the one with peaks 11x10 illustrated in the June issue, this one had peaks 10x10. In fact, there were three of these in the scan. One of them is illustrated in Figure 3, and it, too, could be considered an “embedded” table top.



Figure 3

Besides these, Jeff had the following quantities of already known table tops:

- 5 “H” #1111 Bottom
- 2 “H” #2222 Bottom
- 3 FOP 2915C #66666 Peaks 11x12 Top
- 1 FOP 2915A #88888 Peaks 10x10 Bottom
- 12 FOP 2915A #99999 Peaks 11x10 Bottom

The second person reporting finds was Bob Murrin. He sent a scan of a 3475 Bison #V2222 VP with what appears to be a table top at bottom, still on paper. See Figure 4. However, this is an Avery coil, not a BEP or AP coil. As such, this is a great example of a “thimble” die cut, but it’s not a table top. (Keep this in mind as you’re searching through your coils.)

Bob also sent a scan of a 3970 (39¢) Lady Liberty and



Figure 4 - not a table top



Figure 5

Flag with Plate #P2222 and a table top at bottom. See Figure 5. It's the first and only one reported so far.

The third person I talked with was, once again, Dan Forgues. I asked Dan what else he had besides the ones he initially reported to me. He sent me scans of the following, besides what has already been published in the June article:

- 9 "H" #1111 Bottom
- 5 "H" #2222 Bottom
- 3 FOP 2915C #66666 Peaks 11x12 Top
- 1 FOP 2915A #88888 Peaks 10x10 Bottom
- 17 FOP 2915A #99999 Peaks 11x10 Bottom
- 1 44c Flag #P1111 Bottom

Finally, I can report that I have a second copy (other than the one pictured in the June issue) of the 44 cent Flag #P1111 with table top at bottom. That one has been added to the census. With all these new finds, I have now updated the census and you can see the results in Table 2.

Table 2

SCOTT	PLATE #	DESCRIPTION	TABLETOP AT	
			TOP	BOT
2915A	22222	32¢ FOP Peaks 10x10	1	
2915A	88888	32¢ FOP Peaks 10x10		3
2915A	99999	32¢ FOP Peaks 11x10		30
2915A	99999	32¢ FOP Peaks 10x10		3
2915A	66666A	32¢ FOP PV		1
2915C	66666	32¢ FOP Peaks 11x12	7	
2915C	66666	32¢ FOP Peaks 11x12		1
3264	1111	(33¢) "H" Hat		15
3264	2222	(33¢) "H" Hat		8
3632	1111	37¢ Flag	1	
3970	P2222	(39¢) Lady Lib. & Flag		1
4393	P1111	44¢ Flag		3
4854	P1111	Forever SSB 2014		1

So far, it appears that these table top die cuts appear at the bottom of the stamps much more frequently than at the top. It also appears that the Flag Over Porch series is responsible for most of the finds, so far, with the "H" stamps running a close second.

If anyone else has new finds or wishes to report duplicates, please send me high-resolution scans or photocopies and I'll try to report on them in a future issue of **Coil Line**. It would be wonderful to add quantities to the table or to report new finds. With enough input, we should be able to find out what's more common and what's more rare.

Membership Update

as of July 1, 2019

New Members

Elwood Gibson 2395
1359 Cedar Creek Drive
Thomson GA 30824

Charles Van Pelt 2396
6217 Chippewa Drive
Olive Branch MS 38654
* * *

Reinstated

Milton Maas 498

Membership at Beginning of Month	410
New Members	+2
Reinstated	+1
Membership at End of Month	413

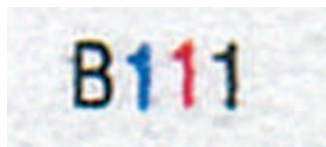
Coil Line Classifieds

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 email johnwhimes@yahoo.com 12/19
* * *

USED PNCs on and off cover. Our new eight-page list of Used PNCs is yours free. We also have a free new 33-page list of MNH PNCs, 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 4/20

The best things in life are **FREE**
and that includes PNC³ classified ads!
Members are entitled to two free 50-word ads
per year. Send yours to the editor today for
inclusion in the next *Coil Line!*

Catalog Corner with Frank Covey



<.55> Star Ribbon (SA) (BCA)
Plate **B111**
PNC ID **2019-4**



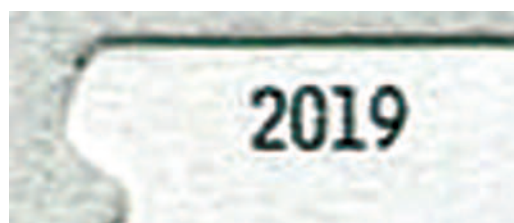
The <.55> Forever **Star Ribbon** was issued March 22, 2019, in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60181 and nationwide. No denomination appears on this stamp as it is intended to pay the first-class first-ounce rate forever. The stamp was issued in large rolls of 3,000 and 10,000.

Produced by Banknote Corporation of America (BCA), the coil has a B111 plate number every 27th stamp. Most will collect this as a PS5 as there is only one design in the issue. The stamps are mounted on a liner that is higher than the stamp itself. A 2019 date is printed in the upper left corner of the stamp.

All the rolls have back numbers as shown below. The 3K rolls have top or bottom 4-digit back numbers. The 10K rolls have either top or bottom 5-digit back numbers.

Since the plate number interval is an odd number (27), all possible back number positions in relation to the plate number can be had from either one top or bottom roll. Four rolls would be needed to get all possible back number positions of both 4-digit and 5-digit back numbers.

USPS is micro-printed in the lower left corner of the star point.





Beyond the Numbers

Lynnette Wood

Flag Over Porch, Part 1

As nerdy as it sounds, I have been looking forward to doing a multi-part series on the Flag Over Porch stamps since I began this column. Why? Because it was this stamp that got me started, well over a decade ago, looking beyond the numbers to enhance my own PNC collection.

I had just started buying and selling on eBay (this was back when people still sent personal checks and even the occasional postal money order to pay for their purchases) when I ran across a listing for a small assortment of Flag Over Porch stamps called "FOPs." The stamps were described in terms of "P/V" and "V/P." I was immediately intrigued. What made this run-of-the-mill looking stamp so special as to justify its own acronym? And what could "P/V" and "V/P" possibly mean?

Looking more closely at the listing, I learned that "P/V" meant "peak/valley" and "V/P" meant "valley/peak," but that didn't help me at all since I had no clue what those terms meant. An online search quickly produced the answer, and I immediately placed a bid on the stamps and won! This marked a major turning point in my collecting. It opened the door to a world of collecting PNCs beyond just looking at the plate numbers

It wasn't long after that I joined the Plate Number Coil Collectors' Club. From then on, new horizons opened in many directions. Today, what used to be, for me, just another (dare I say it?) boring flag stamp, has become one of my favorite PNC collecting areas.

In May 1995, the U.S. Postal Service issued the first Flag Over Porch coils (Scott #2913). These perforated stamps are found with 14 different plate numbers, from 11111 to 99969. They are easily distinguished by the red date in the lower left corner. Plate numbers 11111 and 22222 can be found with either low gloss or glossy gum, plate number 22221 is found only with glossy gum and all the rest are found only with low-gloss gum.

Shortly thereafter, another perforated FOP coil was issued with the single plate number S11111. This is Scott 2914 and has a blue date. This stamp can be found with a back number, a topic that will be covered in a future column. That was pretty much it for the perforated varieties.

It was with the die-cut varieties, like those in the eBay listings, where things got interesting, at least to me, as this is when the peak and valley varieties came into play.



Figure 1: PV/VP and VP/PV varieties of 2915A

Peaks are the portions of a die cut that protrude from the side of the stamp while valleys are the portions that make up the inward curve. The shapes present at the top left and bottom left corners of a vertically die-cut stamp, such as a FOP, are indicated with the abbreviations P/V (or PV) and V/P (or VP), respectively. The abbreviation PV/VP indicates a peak/valley configuration on the left side of the stamp (peak at the top, valley at the bottom), and a valley/peak configuration on the right side (valley at the top, peak at the bottom). Figure 1 is an example of PV/VP and VP/PV varieties.



Figure 2: PP/VV variety of 2915A

But it doesn't stop there! There are also PP/VV and VV/PP varieties; an example of the first is shown in Figure 2. A complete listing of all the peak and valley varieties for the 1996 32¢ FOP (Scott 2915A) can be found in the "Flag Over Porch" PNC³ Catalog, published March 2010. There are 48 different varieties!

So the mystery of the eBay listing was solved, but now the door was wide open and there would be no turning back. Not only did the door open on many other FOP varieties, which will be topics of the next several columns in this series, but also peak and valley varieties on other PNCs, a topic of a future column. These stories continue to unfold.

In the meantime, please share your thoughts and comments with me at PNCsAreCool@gmail.com.

Flag over Porch with Different Colored Building

Dan Forgues

I have found lots of varieties over the many years of sorting through Flag over Porch mixtures.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Two of the unusual items have been with the building being a different color. Both were on paper when found. One is a 2915A #89898 with peaks 10X10. A normal stamp is on the left and one with greenish tint is on the right (Figure 1).

The other is #89878 peaks 11X10 with a normal left and pinkish tint right (Figure 2).

There have to be more out there. Please report any you may have in your holdings. There have to be more out there. Please report any you may have in your holdings.

Looking to Recycle Coil Strips?

PNC³ welcomes donations of mint postage, including presort coils.

Send donations to:

Brian Snippen

1010 Blue Sage Rd NE, Rio Rancho NM 87144.



Happy Hunting
with
A1 Haake

Selling Your Collection

There always comes some point in one's life that a collection will be sold or handed down to someone. There are different ways to sell a collection as everyone knows. Everything today relates to technology and collectibles are losing favor in all areas, from antiques to coins. In a declining market for all collectibles I recommend a collector do the following to recoup the most from their investment. Remember, I say investment, but our collection, whatever it is, really gave us pleasure as we lived and if we make money great, but that is not why it was put together.

1. Consider that an auction house will exact a considerable fee for its services. If you decide to go with this method be sure to do the following: Don't sell the collection as an entire lot. Separate the very good items that have very high catalog value and have them listed individually. Auction houses do not really know the specialty items collectors cherish. I recommend grouping items if possible. Group all imperf PNCs together or special 2915A die-cuts scarcities, color errors or tagging errors. Not all collectors want everything, but they might specialize in a certain area for which they would pay a premium. Have a good idea of the face amount on the remainder of the collection. If you get 50 percent of face on it that would be a practical amount to expect.

2. You can send the material to a dealer. Realize, as I said, that this is not a hot market and the dealer does not want to get stuck with a lot of slow-moving inventory. He will offer what he thinks would also give him a profit. Most PNCs are like plate blocks. They are worth far less than face value today. Precancel types are worth less than the regular postage types.

3. If you never wish to sell in your lifetime, give a detailed description of the rarities you may have so the heirs will have an easier time in selling your collection. You can give them instructions as well on how to sell it.

4. Remember that time changes all our decisions. I remember in my will I had instructions for my holdings to be sold with Regency out of St. Louis. What a disaster that might have been! Collectors who had their stamps at the auction house when they declared bankruptcy received nothing, not even the return of their material

**Auction consignment sheet
located on wrapper**

Attach lot here

Auction # 61 -- Plate Number Coil Collectors Club Consignment Sheet

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

***** August 17, 2019 is the 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 YOUR CONSIGNMENT TO 25 LOTS, please.
- 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) \$ _____

Description of material:

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 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 60641-0602

PLEASE MARK ALL ENVELOPES "DO NOT BEND"

EMAIL: PNC3auctions@aol.com