



JOURNAL OF THE
PLATE NUMBER
COIL COLLECTORS
CLUB — PNC³

COIL LINE

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22¢ Uncle Sam Die-Cut and Color Shift, Plate Number Misregistration Discovered

By John Greenwood, DDS

A roll of 100 of the 22¢ Uncle Sam (Scott 3263) stamps that was misaligned vertically, had an extreme color shift, had a plate number shift, and had the die cuts shifted to the left was found this month. It is a freak because it is neither imperf nor color missing. For comparison, please see the scan of the normal stamp and a pair of the freak (**Figure 1**). The freak was cut to show the image of two stamps. Please note the die cuts, which are in 1/3 of the way from the right. There is a whole stamp in the center and partial stamps on the right and left. This was done both for appearance and keeping the stamps on original backing paper.

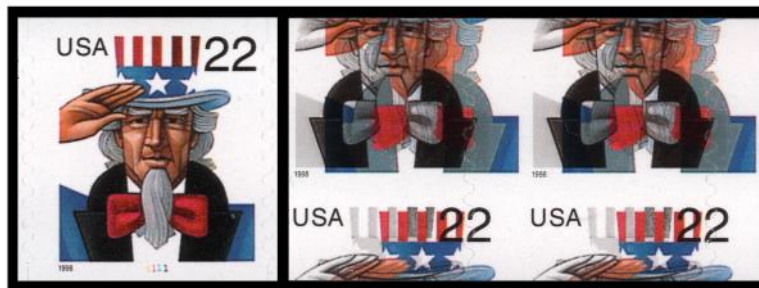


Figure 1

Scott 3263 22¢ Uncle Sam Normal (left) and Freak (right.)



Figure 2

Scott 3263 22¢ Uncle Sam with color shift, die-cut shift, and plate number misregistration.

This find was very interesting, but there is more. Looking closer at the plate strip (**Figure 2**) you'll notice, if you have a keen eye, there are only 3 ones, where there should be 4. The yellow one is always hard to see. Looking at the other stamps in the roll, you'll find the missing plate number shifted to the stamp two stamps to the left of the other 3 numbers. This is a very nice looking and exceptionally rare find.

Some Postal Rates Increase in 2021

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) rates for domestic postcards and a domestic first-class additional ounce will change on January 24, 2021. The new rate for domestic postcards will be 36¢, a 1¢ increase over the current rate of 35¢. The new rate for a domestic first-class additional ounce will be 20¢, a 5¢ increase over the current rate of 15¢. The cost of metered postage will also increase by 1¢ to 51¢ for the first ounce. The cost of mailing a domestic first-class letter will remain unchanged at 55¢.

The new rates, which were reviewed by the Postal Regulatory Commission and approved by the USPS board of governors, adjust for the rate of inflation as compared against the consumer price index. The governors believe the new rates will provide USPS with needed revenue and keep the agency competitive.

The new rates may prompt the issuance of new coil stamps for postcards (to replace the current Coral Reefs stamp) and additional ounce (replacing the current Uncle Sam's Hat) in the near future. Members should be on the lookout for announcements related to new coil stamps.

An Update on Scott 3980 vs. 3980a

By John Himes

In the October 2020 issue of *Coil Line* I had an article which talked about the difference between Scott 3980 and 3980a. I had researched the article well prior to publication, consulted with several knowledgeable collectors, and thought I had it right. Unfortunately, new information has come to light showing that I was wrong. So, let me set the record straight with this update.

To recap, the Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogue states that Scott 3980 has overall tagging and 3980a has prephosphored coated paper with surface tagging showing a solid appearance. As I said in the last article, this is not the clearest explanation. Scott lists a catalog value for a 3980 mint PS5 at \$5.25 and a used PS1 at \$2.50 but does not list a value for a mint PS5 or used PS1 of 3980a.

My previous conclusion was that stamps which glowed whitish under short-wave UV light were 3980; those that glowed greenish were 3980a. I included an illustration (**Figure 1**) showing the difference in the two stamps under short-wave.

Following publication of the October article, I first heard from Doug Iams that he thought I had it wrong. Doug said that he thought both of the stamps in my illustration were 3980, and that neither was 3980a. He pointed me to a post on the stampcommunity.org website entitled “Distinguishing Scott 3980 from 3980a.” In that post, users “mstocky2” and “eyeonwall” had engaged in a discussion about the difference in these two stamps and it was interesting to watch the discussion unfold. Initially, it seems that “mstocky2” thought the same thing I did about 3980 vs. 3980a. User “eyeonwall” took issue with that. Then, after mstocky2 got a scan of a true copy of 3980a from dealer Craig Selig, the truth finally emerged.



Figure 1
3980 with Whitish vs. Greenish Glow Under SW UV

It turns out that Scott 3980/3980a were printed on different types of paper, which we already knew, but that the first type of paper apparently came in at least two varieties.

- The first type of paper was used in producing Scott 3980. So far it appears that there were at least two varieties of this type of paper, perhaps more. For these 3980 printings, the stamps received an overall tagging after being printed. But because of variations in this paper type, sometimes the stamps glow bluish/white (or whitish) when viewed under short-wave UV light; sometimes they glow green (or greenish) when viewed under short-wave UV light. These are the two types of 3980 that I mistakenly thought were 3980 and 3980a in the October article. But they are **both** 3980!
- The second type of paper was used on Scott 3980a. This is the one with the prephosphored coated paper. It was **not** tagged after printing since the paper itself had the tagging agent coated on its surface. Scott calls this printing “prephosphored coated paper with surface tagging” but I would call it just “prephosphored coated paper” as tagging is not applied to the surface of the stamp after printing. When viewed under short-wave UV light, this one glows brightly around the edges (the non-printed area) of the stamp where the paper coating is visible, but since there is no tagging on top of the printing, the printed area itself is relatively dead under short-wave light.

There may still be more discoveries about the exact papers and coverage of taggant material that were used on Scott 3980, so that’s still an open book. But we now **can** be sure of whether (continued on page 148)

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Scott 3465a plate # B1111 (issued Dec. 15, 2000, 20 years ago this month)

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A check or money order, made out to PNC3, must accompany camera-ready ads. Advertising copy must be submitted by the 10th of the month prior to the month of publication. Please send all copy to Scott Walker, **Coil Line** editor, scott.walker.6482@gmail.com.

Classified ad rates are six cents a word per issue with a minimum of \$3.00 per ad. Members receive two 50-word ads per year per member at no charge. (There is a 10¢ per word cost for more than 50 words.)

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MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

as of November 1, 2020

New Members

Betty Kisbey (2422)
 1895 Fallen Leaf Lane
 Lincoln, CA 95648

Reinstated

Robert Rocque (1909)

Membership at Beginning of Month.....	414
New Members.....	+ 1
Reinstated.....	+ 1
Resigned.....	0
Deceased	0
Membership at End of Month.....	416

As this is the December issue, I would be remiss in not reminding everyone to send in their renewal dues payment as soon as possible.

I would like to wish all members and their families a happy, healthy and safe holiday season.



As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, many stamp clubs and organizations have begun to use Zoom and other video conferencing tools to conduct virtual meetings, show exhibits, and present lectures. So, at John Himes suggestion, we've decided to give it a try. See John's article on page 144 for the details and instructions.

Among the bylaws changes approved last year, was one to split the Awards and Exhibits committee into two separate committees. While the Exhibits part of the committee has been active, Awards has not. Gene Trinks has developed a list of awards to be considered and his article on page 141 describes the awards and the processes for nomination through presentation of awards. Thanks to Gene for his work on this project.

The results of the October auction are in this issue of *Coil Line*. Thanks to Joe Sedivy for his ongoing excellent work managing the club auctions.

Imperf 20¢ Fire Pumper with Rare Plate Number 2

By John Greenwood, DDS

Even though it has been relatively quiet in my search for different imperf plate numbers, I always keep my eyes open. This month, there was a very significant find. Fellow PNC³ member, Abe Beder, found an imperf pair of the 20¢ Fire Pumper, (Scott 1908a) with plate number 2 on eBay. Here's an explanation of why I think this is significant. First, it is no surprise that the transportation series is a very popular PNC collecting area and plate number 2 is the rarest number in the Fire Pumper set. Second, in the beginning, collecting PNC's was usually done in line pairs. This was a holdover from the traditional collecting of coils in line pairs. I bought a set of 5 imperf number pieces in 1983 that included a pair of the 18¢ Flag Over Lighthouse with plate number 3 and 20¢ Fire Pumper with plate number 2, and at that time, this was the only Pumper number 2 known. Third, the Fire Pumper was first available in rolls of 100 when the short-lived combination of plate numbers 1 and 2 were paired. Because the alternating plate numbers were 24 stamps apart, there were two of each number on each roll. Therefore, I had one of the possible two imperf pairs of plate number 2 to be found if it came from a completely imperf roll of 100. So, nearly 40 years later, the 2nd known plate number 2 pair has surfaced. Wow!! Congrats Abe.



Figure 1
 Scott 1908 20c Fire Pumper plate number 2 imperf pair

Awards Committee Reactivated

By Gene Trinks

In the early days of the club, one of the permanent Committees that was authorized was called the Awards and Exhibitions Committee. Since that time, few Awards were given out, and for the last 20 or more years there have been none.

Consequently, in the last Bylaws revision, we split the Committee into separate Committees, one for Awards, one for Exhibits. Richard Beecher has been the Chair of the Exhibits Committee and has been diligent in offering exhibit awards at shows in which there are competitive PNC exhibits.

Guidelines for the Awards Committee have been developed. Its purpose has been defined as to: "... select and/or consider candidates for awards to be given in recognition for meritorious service to the club or for outstanding contributions in furtherance of the hobby of Plate Number Coil collecting". Membership on the Committee shall consist of a Chair and such additional members as determined by the Chair in consultation with the President.

The Chair of the newly constituted Awards Committee has been chosen by President Thomas McFarland and will also be Richard Beecher. He may be contacted at PO Box 4790, Blaine, WA 98231 or richard-later@aol.com.

Various awards are established and may be given annually (and posthumously if needed). They are: Meritorious Service Award; Hall of Fame Award; Esrati Award; and Special Award, and are defined as follows:

Meritorious Service Award

To be given to a current club member in recognition of outstanding service to the club over an extended period or a singular action of great importance to the club or the hobby.

PNC Hall of Fame Award

To be given to a current or past member in recognition of outstanding contributions to the hobby of PNC collecting.

Esrati Award

Annual Award, consisting of a certificate, given for the best article or column published in *Coil Line* during the preceding year.

Special Award

Award for any activity that significantly furthers the advancement of the hobby of PNC collecting not covered in another award category.

The Committee may choose candidates for the above awards and present to the Board for ratification of the awardees by majority vote. Suggestions for awardees may be made to the Committee Chair by any club member in good standing. The Committee will consider each suggestion and will then decide whether to recommend that they move forward.

Presentation of Awards will normally be at the Annual Meeting of members.

It is hoped that the renewal of committee activities will spur membership interest in recognizing members who have made PNC collecting more interesting and more attractive to those who have not yet discovered the challenge and diversity of the PNC hobby.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!

Use the paper renewal form on this month's Coil Line Wrapper or renew on the club website:
Go to www.pnc3.org, click on PNC3 Membership, select Renew Your Membership Online.

PNC³ Auction #63 Results

By Joe Sedivy

We had 45 bidders in this auction with 40 bidders winning at least one lot. Of the 374 lots, 176 sold which is a decrease from the last auction. I waited until November 3rd to close the auction. If any late bids arrived after that, I was unable to accept the bids. I would like to thank all who make these club auctions work so you can buy and sell to help fill holes or move out duplicates. Please remember, most lots sell for under Scott Catalogue Value, so price them accordingly when sending in lots. We had several new bidders in this auction which is wonderful to see. In the future, if you are on the Internet please feel free to place your bids via e-mail. I do not need a formal bid sheet for you to bid.

Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid
5	\$ 1.75	78	\$ 7.00	137	\$ 6.00	188	\$ 55.00	246	\$ 17.00	326	\$ 110.00
7	\$ 7.00	79	\$ 4.00	139	\$ 6.00	189	\$ 55.00	249	\$ 20.00	328	\$ 8.00
8	\$ 28.00	80	\$ 3.00	140	\$ 7.00	190	\$ 77.50	251	\$ 100.00	332	\$ 12.00
9	\$ 18.00	81	\$ 2.00	141	\$ 5.00	191	\$ 125.00	256	\$ 20.00	338	\$ 18.00
13	\$ 21.00	82	\$ 25.00	142	\$ 3.00	192	\$ 87.50	257	\$ 10.00	365	\$ 22.00
16	\$ 200.00	83	\$ 3.00	143	\$ 2.00	193	\$ 75.00	259	\$ 5.00	368	\$ 15.00
17	\$ 3.00	85	\$ 15.00	144	\$ 5.00	194	\$ 250.00	260	\$ 8.00	369	\$ 19.00
18	\$ 4.00	90	\$ 4.00	145	\$ 6.00	195	\$ 100.00	261	\$ 12.00	373	\$ 10.00
19	\$ 40.00	91	\$ 3.00	146	\$ 6.00	196	\$ 9.00	262	\$ 8.00	379	\$ 3.00
20	\$ 135.00	92	\$ 57.50	147	\$ 6.00	197	\$ 40.00	263	\$ 8.00	380	\$ 80.00
21	\$ 70.00	94	\$ 5.50	148	\$ 6.50	198	\$ 40.00	264	\$ 18.00	381	\$ 17.00
24	\$ 1,070.00	95	\$ 2.00	149	\$ 6.00	199	\$ 70.00	265	\$ 11.00	382	\$ 22.00
25	\$ 5.50	97	\$ 35.00	150	\$ 7.00	200	\$ 200.00	266	\$ 3.00	383	\$ 26.00
32	\$ 30.00	99	\$ 2.00	151	\$ 6.00	203	\$ 12.00	267	\$ 23.00	384	\$ 27.00
33	\$ 36.00	100	\$ 8.00	152	\$ 7.00	204	\$ 18.00	268	\$ 41.00	388	\$ 40.00
36	\$ 3.00	102	\$ 52.50	153	\$ 8.00	205	\$ 170.00	269	\$ 5.00	389	\$ 47.00
37	\$ 3.00	103	\$ 3.00	155	\$ 5.00	206	\$ 7.00	271	\$ 46.00	396	\$ 180.00
39	\$ 4.00	104	\$ 150.00	156	\$ 5.00	207	\$ 7.00	272	\$ 115.00	397	\$ 2.00
41	\$ 85.00	105	\$ 5.00	157	\$ 4.00	208	\$ 200.00	273	\$ 60.00	398	\$ 47.00
42	\$ 42.00	106	\$ 2.00	158	\$ 4.50	209	\$ 4.00	275	\$ 10.00	399	\$ 45.00
43	\$ 70.00	107	\$ 5.00	159	\$ 31.00	210	\$ 3.00	276	\$ 15.00	401	\$ 4.00
44	\$ 7.00	108	\$ 3.50	161	\$ 2.50	211	\$ 41.00	277	\$ 20.00	402	\$ 17.00
45	\$ 9.00	110	\$ 5.00	162	\$ 4.50	213	\$ 4.00	278	\$ 18.00	403	\$ 100.00
47	\$ 21.00	111	\$ 21.00	164	\$ 7.50	214	\$ 105.00	279	\$ 1,100.00	407	\$ 1.00
48	\$ 7.00	112	\$ 5.00	165	\$ 3.25	216	\$ 70.00	280	\$ 4.00	408	\$ 1.50
50	\$ 18.00	113	\$ 46.00	166	\$ 4.25	217	\$ 30.00	281	\$ 18.00	409	\$ 2.00
51	\$ 105.00	114	\$ 45.00	167	\$ 5.00	222	\$ 8.00	282	\$ 25.00	410	\$ 1.50
52	\$ 9.00	115	\$ 4.00	169	\$ 5.00	224	\$ 8.00	283	\$ 23.00	411	\$ 2.00
53	\$ 8.00	116	\$ 20.00	170	\$ 6.50	225	\$ 7.00	284	\$ 45.00	412	\$ 8.00
54	\$ 65.00	117	\$ 8.00	171	\$ 6.50	228	\$ 8.00	285	\$ 6.00	413	\$ 3.00
55	\$ 65.00	119	\$ 40.00	172	\$ 10.00	230	\$ 14.00	286	\$ 5.00	414	\$ 3.25
56	\$ 8.00	120	\$ 40.00	173	\$ 6.00	231	\$ 12.00	287	\$ 50.00	416	\$ 1.50
57	\$ 13.00	121	\$ 5.00	174	\$ 6.00	232	\$ 8.00	288	\$ 22.00	417	\$ 1.50
58	\$ 8.00	122	\$ 7.00	175	\$ 7.00	233	\$ 8.00	290	\$ 5.00	418	\$ 1.50
59	\$ 18.00	123	\$ 3.00	176	\$ 5.00	234	\$ 5.00	291	\$ 5.00	419	\$ 15.00
60	\$ 8.00	124	\$ 4.00	177	\$ 5.00	235	\$ 7.00	292	\$ 4.00	420	\$ 5.00
61	\$ 35.00	125	\$ 6.00	178	\$ 6.00	236	\$ 10.00	293	\$ 95.00	422	\$ 2.50
62	\$ 13.00	126	\$ 6.00	179	\$ 6.00	237	\$ 13.00	294	\$ 5.00	424	\$ 4.00
65	\$ 60.00	128	\$ 6.00	180	\$ 7.00	238	\$ 50.00	295	\$ 7.50	425	\$ 1.25
67	\$ 24.00	129	\$ 6.50	181	\$ 15.00	239	\$ 30.00	297	\$ 45.00	427	\$ 2.00
68	\$ 38.00	130	\$ 6.50	182	\$ 16.00	240	\$ 180.00	298	\$ 70.00	429	\$ 0.75
71	\$ 22.00	131	\$ 6.50	183	\$ 13.00	241	\$ 33.00	300	\$ 20.00		
72	\$ 4.00	133	\$ 2.50	184	\$ 17.00	242	\$ 30.00	301	\$ 12.00		
74	\$ 12.00	134	\$ 5.00	185	\$ 10.00	243	\$ 70.00	302	\$ 6.00		
76	\$ 1.25	135	\$ 5.00	186	\$ 16.00	244	\$ 15.00	304	\$ 8.00		
77	\$ 3.00	136	\$ 7.00	187	\$ 25.00	245	\$ 15.00	307	\$ 12.00		

PNC³ All-Members Virtual Meeting

Saturday, December 12, 2020

The Board Members of PNC³ decided it would be an interesting idea to hold a general membership meeting of the club in December via the virtual Zoom platform. Just about anyone with a computer, tablet, or smart phone can participate. It will give us an opportunity to meet face-to-face during the COVID-19 pandemic without adversely impacting anyone's health. For those without one of these devices, you can also join by telephone although, obviously, without the visual portion of the meeting.

During the meeting, we intend to have a short agenda, talking about recent topics of interest to the PNC community. We will then have an extended question and answer session to answer any questions that might be on the minds of our members. Most of the Board Members plan to attend, and we also invite our dealer members (with their vast store of knowledge) to participate, as well.

The meeting will be hosted on Zoom by At-Large Board Member Lynnette Wood and will commence at **4:00 PM EST (1:00 PM PST)**. Keep in mind that, although using Zoom is free, your local data charges may apply. Following is the information needed to join the meeting:

Topic: Plate Number Coil Collectors Clubs (PNC³)
Time: Dec 12, 2020 01:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://orcasseniors-org.zoom.us/j/82652435803?pwd=L3c5Z3l0cEpQYnJEWXhLMmtMVjhWUT09>

Meeting ID: 826 5243 5803

Passcode: 930113

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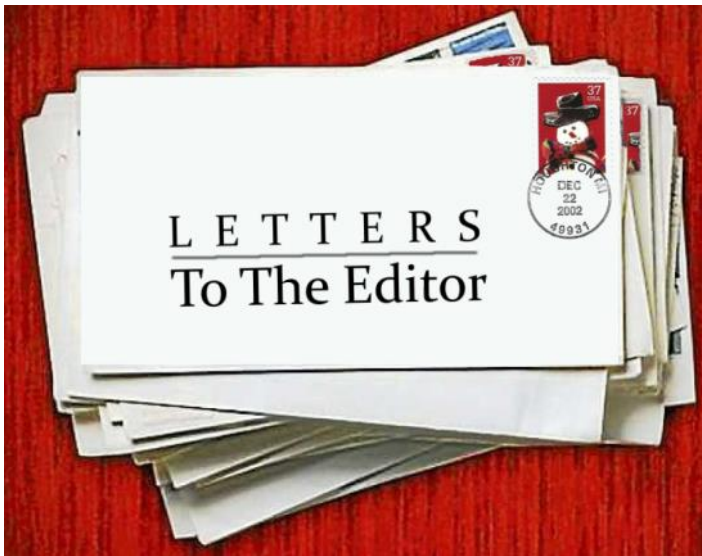
Passcode: 930113

Find your local number: <https://orcasseniors-org.zoom.us/u/krum14JnP>

The Board members are very excited to try this new way of communicating with our general membership. We hope that all our members who are interested will be able to join.

John Himes, At-Large Board Member

Auctioneer Joe Sedivy is taking auction lots for the Spring Fling 2021 auction until Saturday, January 23. The auction consignment sheet can be found on this month's wrapper. Consignments will only be accepted from members in good standing.



In his Woody Wagon Response article, Frank Covey wrote "rows one and two were printed by the same print head with row one having the top back number and row two having the bottom back number." I am pretty sure that the pairing was bottom over top (right next to each other), not top over bottom (very wide spacing).

Later he writes "The print head on the last row could be placed anywhere as long as it hit the intended row. This print head created the middle back numbers seen on SSP coils. I am confident that the top row of the web had the middle back number.", which is contradictory, and he apparently meant to say the middle number was on the bottom row. I do not recall whether they ever told us it was the top or bottom row.

Doug Iams #625

Coil Line Classifieds

PNC USED singles, used strips, MNH PS5s, purple machine cancels. 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 12/20

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WANTED 2915A FLAG OVER PORCH FDCs with PS3 or PS5 with plate numbers 55555 and 87898. Also, 2913 FDCs with PS3 or PS5 with plate numbers 22221, 45444, and 66646. scott.walker.6482@gmail.com

All members are entitled to two, 50-word ads per year at no charge. Additional words or ads are charged at 10¢ per word. Please send ad copy via email to the Coil Line Editor (see page 139.)

Invisible Joint Line on 9.3¢ Mail Wagon

By Frank Covey

The early transportation issues were printed on the Cottrell Press. There were two curved plates mounted on the cylinder with a small space between the plates that would fill with ink and be transferred to the stamps. This is referred to as a joint line and is always to the right of the plate number and is either on or near the first row of perforations to the right of the plate numbered stamp.

I have often thought that when new plates were put on the press that there would be little or no ink build up between the plates leaving no joint line showing. I believe I have found an example of that on a 9.3 cent Mail Wagon plate number 4 precancel. I have also included an example of a 9.3 cent Mail Wagon precancel with a normal joint line (Figure 1.)

Under magnification traces of the joint line can be seen, but to the naked eye no joint line seems to be present. I challenge others to look at their transportation coils and find similar examples on other transportation issues. Later some of the transportation coils were printed on the B Press which created no joint line, but the 9.3 cent Mail Wagon was only printed on the Cottrell Presses.



Figure 1
Scott 1903 9.3¢ Mail Wagon Invisible Joint Line (L)
and Normal Line (R)

PNC First Day Covers in My Collection

Scott Walker

The USPS began issuing Official Souvenir Pages in 1970 (unofficial Souvenir Pages began in 1960) using post office new-issue announcement bulletins that include an illustration of the new stamp design and informative text about the stamp. The page also bears an example of the stamp tied by a First Day of Issue cancellation.

This Souvenir Page First Day (Figure 1) was issued in December, 1981, the first year that plate number coil stamps were sold by the USPS. It features the bulk rate 9.3¢ Mail Wagon (Scott 1903) with a strip of 3 stamps bearing plate number 4 in position 3 (the third stamp from the left.)

Although plate numbers 1 through 4 can be found on regular FDC envelopes, only plates 3 and 4 are found on USPS Souvenir Pages. Plate numbers 1 and 2 are relatively common on FDCs and catalogue for about \$40 each for a cover with a strip of 3. Plate numbers 3 and 4 are much rarer and incredibly difficult to find on FDCs or on USPS Souvenir Pages. According to Scott/Mellone's 2009 U.S. First Day Cover Catalogue & Checklist, plate numbers 3 and 4 have a value of \$2,000 each.

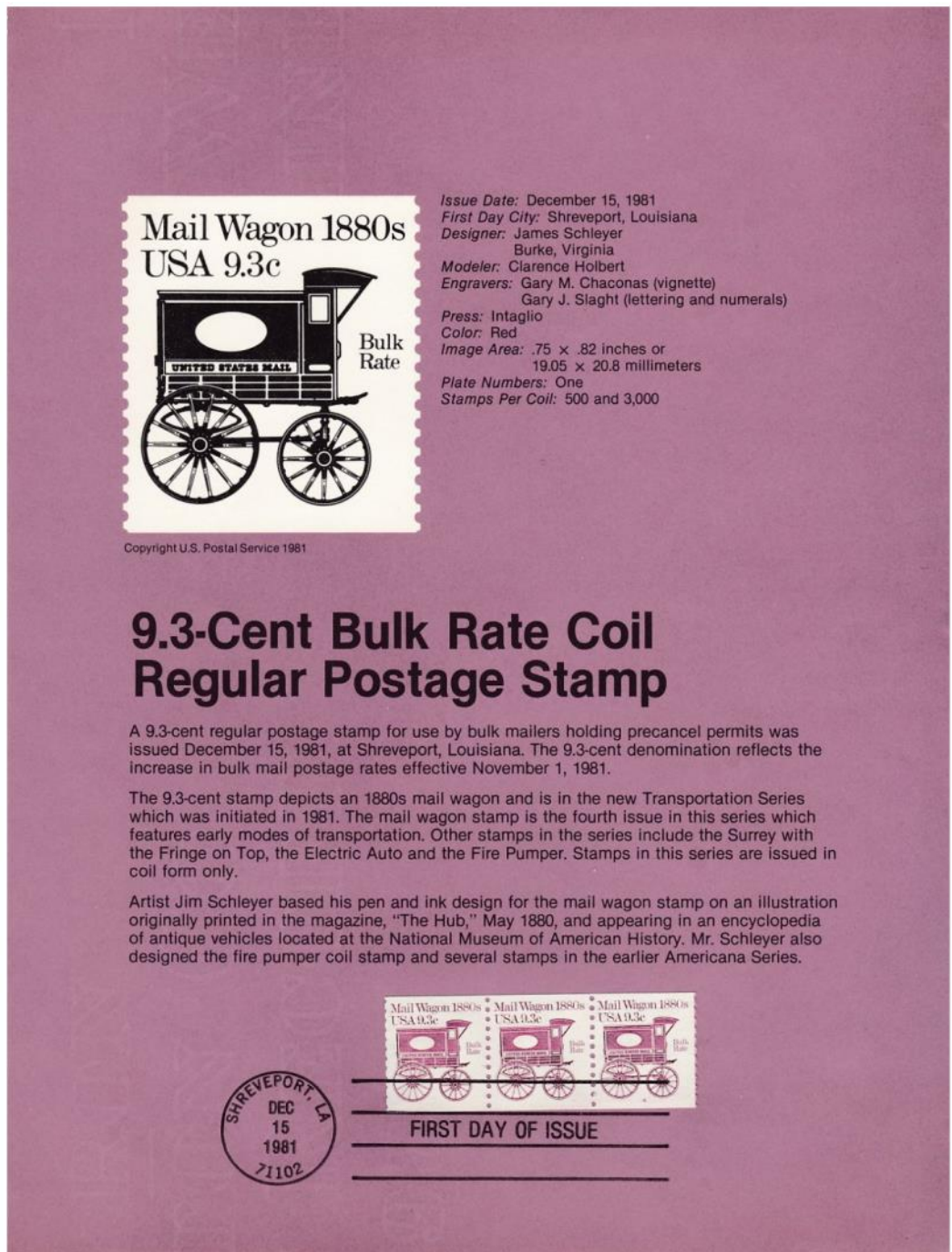


Figure 1
Scott 1903 9.3¢ Mail Wagon USPS Souvenir Page with plate number 4.

According to Scott/Mellone's 2009 U.S. First Day Cover Catalogue & Checklist, plate numbers 3 and 4 have a value of \$2,000 each.

Next time, email your auction bids...it's fast, easy, and saves you postage.



Beyond the Numbers

Lynnette Wood

Wetlands - Part 2

Last month, we looked at Scott #3207, the gummed (“lick-and-stick”) version of the “Wetlands” coil stamp printed by Sennet Security Printers and issued in 1998. You will recall that this stamp has one plate number - S1111 - but can be found with two different sizes of perforation holes. I mentioned that it can also be found with two background colors, as can its cousin, Scott #3207A, printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP). My intent in this article was to write about the BEP version, but that was before receiving some additional information from member Hans van Gils about this stamp, which I would like to share here. This will leave the discussion of Scott #3207A for next month, in Wetlands - Part 3.

Mr. van Gils provides an explanation for the color difference. He explains that there were two print runs. The darker stamps are from the first printing and the slightly lighter colored ones are from the reprint. Van Gils notes two additional ways to distinguish the two print runs: by looking at the structure of the gum or the characteristics of the paper. He notes that stamps from the first printing have shiny, smooth gum; while those from the second have shiny, horizontal wavy gum. The paper used for the first printing has fibers, while the paper used for re-print does not. Finally, stamps from the two print runs show a different appearance when viewed under long wavelength ultraviolet (LWUV) light. The first print run has two paper varieties, low-brite or dead paper on front or back; while the second printing shows only one paper variety, low-brite on the front and dead on the back (**Figure 1**.)

Mr. van Gils had made quite a study of this issue, and notes that he has only found the two (large and small) hole sizes in stamps from the first printing. He does note that there is some variation in the hole sizes for the second printing, but none that would be considered “large” when compared to the variation present in the first printing. Finally, he notes variations in the back numbers, as well.

He has compiled all of this information with excellent images (two of which are reproduced in Figure 1) in his specialized “American Scenes” checklist which can be found at <http://www.usca.nl/usa-canada-2/usa/new-generation-definitive-issues/>.

Wow. Who would have guessed all this variation from a single stamp, from a single printer, with just one plate number! It just goes to show what you can discover when you really go beyond the numbers.

I am grateful to Mr. van Gils for bringing this wealth of additional information to my attention, so that I could, in turn, share it with you. I welcome your comments and feedback at PNCsAreCool@gmail.com.



Figure 1
Scott 3207 5c NDN Wetlands varieties under LW UV light.
(Photo courtesy of member Hans van Gils)

An Update on Scott 3980 vs. 3980a

(continued from page 138) the copy we're looking at is 3980 or 3980a. To simplify things, here's the best test to distinguish Scott 3980 vs. 3980a.

- 3980 will appear to be either bluish-white (whitish) or green (greenish) overall tagged under short-wave UV light. The printed image will appear somewhat hazy or cloudy since there is taggant over the image. It's this "haziness" or "cloudiness" of the printed image that will immediately tip you off that you have a 3980.
- 3980a will appear bright solid green (or solid greenish) around the edges (the non-printed area) of the stamp. The printed image itself will appear crisp and clear since there is no taggant on top of the ink. It's this "crispness" or "clearness" of the printed image that will immediately tip you off that you have a 3980a.

Courtesy of member Hans Van Gils, **Figure 2** shows an image of the two types of Scott 3980 vs. the one type of Scott 3980a. Note how clear the printed image of 3980a is in comparison to the 3980 images.



Figure 2
Scott 3980 (first two stamps) vs. 3980a (last stamp) under SW UV light.

Between myself, with 88 used copies of these stamps, and one of the major dealers who has more than 1000 used copies of this stamp, we both have come up with the same percentages of 3980 vs. 3980a – it's 92% vs. 8%. So based on these samples, used PS1s of 3980a are more than 11 times as scarce as 3980. I would encourage others who have quantities of this stamp to also check their copies and report their findings to me so we can gather more information on the relative scarcity of 3980a.

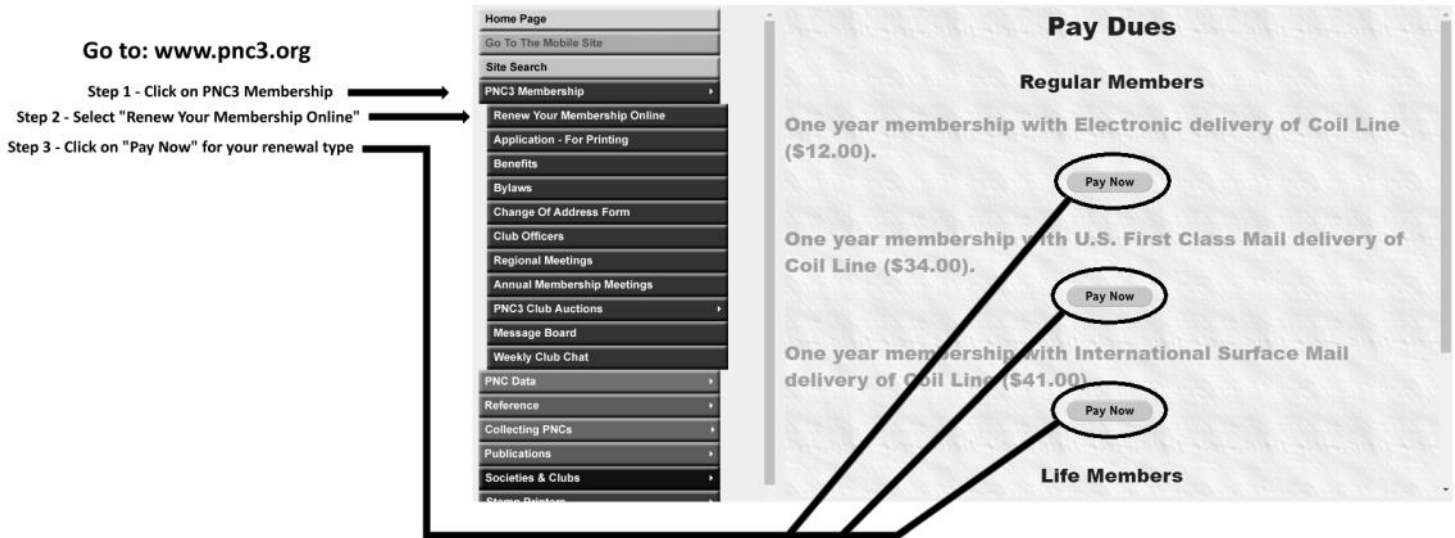
Also, every MINT strip that I have seen or has been reported to me, so far, is Scott 3980, and most of those have the whitish tagging, although some with greenish tagging have also been reported. So far, I have not been able to verify that a mint strip of 3980a is extant, and I suspect that if one or more were saved by a dealer or collector, they will be exceptionally rare. Does anyone have one or more mint strips they can report? Please send me your findings at the e-mail or physical address found on the officer's page in this issue.

Many thanks to all those who contributed to this discussion. In particular, Doug Iams, Mark Stockburger, Rudy de Mordaigle, Bob Murrin, and Hans Van Gils all provided invaluable input for this article.

Annual Membership Dues are Due!

Now is the time to renew your PNC³ membership for another year. You can opt to use the proper renewal form located on the wrapper of this month's *Coil Line*. Those of you with the electronic version of *Coil Line* will need to print out the paper form.

You can also pay your dues via PayPal. Go to the club's website: www.pnc3.org. On the left side of the screen, click on PNC3 MEMBERSHIP then select RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE, or go to <https://pnc3.org/club/RenewMembership.php>



If you choose to renew via PayPal and your personal information has changed, please notify us via the Change of Address form on the PNC³ website www.pnc3.org. Again, go to PNC3 MEMBERSHIP and then select CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM. You may provide this information directly to the Club Secretary, Dan Farrar, whose contact information is located in the Elected Officers area of *Coil Line*.

Whatever format you use, please do this while it's fresh on your mind.

Life members who opt to receive *Coil Line* electronically don't owe additional fees, but please send in the renewal form to keep us apprised of any changes in your status. This helps make sure we can make contact when needed.

Most members do a good job of remembering their membership number and placing it on the paper form. (This speeds the renewal process.) If you choose to use PayPal you can add your membership number in the comment section. If you don't remember your number, send in the payment anyway and remember to look on your check when it is returned, I will add your number to your check. If you would like a membership card with your number imprinted, please indicate "send membership card" on the paper form and I will make sure you receive one via return mail. You can also request a membership card on the comment section of your PayPal payment.

Thanks in advance for keeping your membership current and helping us keep PNC³ a strong and viable part of the philatelic community. We look forward to serving you in the coming year.

ALL MEMBERS: Please fill out and return this form before December 31, 2020.

2021 PNC³ Membership Update Form

Name: _____ PNC3 Number: _____

Address: _____ Check if new address

City: _____ State: _____ Zip/Postal Code : _____

Country: _____ Email Address _____

Day Phone (____) _____ Evening Phone (____) _____

	Regular Member	Life Member
USA - Annual Dues with Electronic Full Color <i>Coil Line</i>	_____ \$12.00	_____ Included
USA - Annual Dues with First Class Mailing <i>Coil Line</i>	_____ \$34.00	_____ \$22.00
Worldwide - Annual Dues with Electronic Full Color <i>Coil Line</i>	_____ \$12.00	_____ Included
Worldwide - Annual Dues with Surface Mailing <i>Coil Line</i>	_____ \$41.00	_____ \$29.00

Membership Pin with PNC³ Logo (postpaid) _____ Add \$7 USA, \$9 Worldwide

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

Mail renewal form and remittance to: Melvyn A. Borofsky, PNC³ Treasurer
101 West Sterling Way
Leesburg FL 34788

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

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

In accordance with the PNC³ bylaws (ARTICLE II, SECTION 3c), Life Membership may be requested by an individual member in good standing who has been a member for 10 continuous years and who submits a fee equal to 10 times the current annual dues. Any member whose membership is 2179 or lower has the necessary 10 years as of December 31, 2020.

This Life Membership fee pays for membership and includes electronic delivery of *Coil Line*. Life members desiring first class mailing AND those with foreign mailing addresses will have to annually remit to the Club Treasurer the additional amount then in effect for mailing. See chart above. Life Membership fees are not refundable.

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

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

Attach Lot Here

Auction #64 -- Plate Number Coil Collectors Club Consignment Sheet

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

***** January 23, 2021 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/Postal Code : _____

Day Phone (____) _____ Evening Phone (____) _____

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...
<input type="checkbox"/> Please return it to me
<input type="checkbox"/> 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