

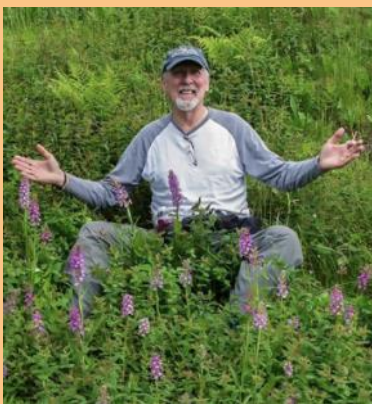
JOURNAL OF THE
PLATE NUMBER
COIL COLLECTORS
CLUB — PNC³

COIL LINE

Wild Orchids Coil Stamps Photo- grapher & Nat- uralist dies at 74

Jim Fowler was a re-nowned authority on orchids who spent decades researching, documenting, studying, and photographing the delicate flowers.

He died of a heart attack at Mt. Mitchell State Park, South Carolina, on June 25, 2021, while photographing Purple Fringed Orchids for the Smithsonian Institution. The time stamp on his last photograph showed 3:00 p.m. on that Friday afternoon.



Jim's husband, Walter Ezell, said that his dedication was a source of inspiration to many. Jim was a PNC³ member and wrote an article on the Wild Orchids Stamps in the April 2020 *Coil Line*.

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The Red, White, & Blue Flag Stamps with Bright Yellow-Green Tagging

By John Himes

In the July 2020 edition of *Coil Line*, I challenged our readers to help with a census of the Scott 4894-4897 Red, White, & Blue Flag strip with plate number C11 or C12 that glowed bright yellow-green under short wave UV light. The census also applied to the Scott 4896 used PS1 with those same plate numbers. I noted that these stamps normally glow a bright white color under short wave UV light and that those are fairly common. I also noted that the ones that glow bright yellow-green appear to be quite rare and some had been listed on eBay for upwards of \$500. I asked for members to send Dan Forgues and me scans of any copies they might have in order to prepare a census. The response was excellent.

The first thing we determined was that there is a third type of tagging on these stamps. I want to thank Rudy de Mordaigle for helping me understand what's going on with these three tagging types. The bright white tagging is indeed the most common and is an unknown tagging compound, probably applied over high bright paper. But there is a second type of fairly common tagging that glows a soft greenish color under short wave. It is quite a muted green color – nothing like the bright, solid, yellow-green tagging that we were looking for in our survey. Rudy believes this is the result of zinc orthosilicate being applied over stamps that are printed on a high bright paper, muting the normal bright yellow-green glow that is common from the application of zinc orthosilicate taggant. Our target stamp, with the bright yellow-green glow, is the third type, and it's most likely the result of zinc orthosilicate taggant being applied to stamps printed on dead paper. So far, the bright white tagging (*continued on page 99*)



Figure 1 - Scott 4896, Red, White, & Blue Flag with Bright Yellow-Green Tagging



Beyond the Numbers

Lynnette Wood

Start and End



Figure 1 - Scott 3829A, 37¢ Egret roll start & end (top), Scott 3981 roll start & 3970 roll end (bottom)

I spent a good part of last year going through boxes of stamps donated to our local senior center and sorting them into packets for sale on eBay to generate a little bit of revenue for the center. In the process, I pulled out anything that looked particularly interesting or unusual. Among these were coil stamps that start or end a roll. They are easy to spot, as the normal die cuts are replaced by a very different cut pattern. I was thrilled to find several that were PNCs (see **Figure 1**) but I also kept many that were not (some are shown in **Figure 2**). I just thought I'd share this with you as something

else fun to look for and add to your collection. My first Beyond the Numbers article was published in April 2017. Since then, I have written about phosphorescent tagging, incision types, peak/valley varieties, round and square shoulders and corners, back numbers, and hole sizes, among many other topics. I have learned a lot in the process, but now I feel like I am running out of topics!

If you have a topic that you would be interested in reading about, please let me know. Please send me a message at PNCsAreCool@gmail.com with your thoughts and ideas.



Figure 2 - Scott 4389, 28¢ Polar Bear roll end; Scott 4854, 49¢ Fort McHenry Flag and Fireworks roll start; Scott 4170, 41¢ Coneflower roll start; and Scott 2686, 23¢ George Washington roll end.

The Red, White, & Blue Flag Stamps with Bright Yellow-Green Tagging

(continued from page 97) has been found on both plate #C11 and #C12 stamps. The muted greenish tagging has been found only on plate #C12 stamps. The bright yellow-green tagging has been found only on plate #C11 stamps. This may change as more reports come in on the various combinations of tagging and plate numbers.

Here's a summary of the findings to date ...

- Type 1 - unknown compound taggant, probably high bright paper - bright white response – found on plate #C11 and #C12 stamps – common
- Type 2 – zinc orthosilicate taggant, probably high bright paper - muted greenish response – found on plate #C12 – less common
- Type 3 – zinc orthosilicate taggant, probably on dead paper - bright yellow-green response – found on plate #C11 – rare

As you can see above, I believe the whitish tagging is the most common and the muted greenish tagging is somewhat harder to find, but still not rare. So, what about the bright yellow-green tagging? Just how rare is that tagging?

First, absolutely no one had a mint strip with this tagging! We were unable to uncover a single strip with this bright yellow-green tagging. A few with the muted greenish tagging were reported, but none with the rarer bright yellow-green tagging. Our conclusion? It is unknown mint currently! So, what about the used single of Scott 4896? Our census found exactly 16 copies. Of those 16 copies, 4 are in the hands of PNC³ members; the other 12 are held by a dealer who is possibly willing to sell some of them but seems in no hurry to let them go.

So, what is a mint strip worth? Given the fact that none has yet been found, we may never know. What is a used single worth? Again, they had been priced for more than \$500.00 when they were listed on eBay (by the dealer who has the 12 copies), but I don't have any knowledge of one selling there. Now that we have a better idea of the rarity, would \$1,000.00 per copy be reasonable? Frankly, I think it would be very reasonable!

At this point, I hope some of our members will be motivated to go through their stashes of mint and used PNCs again looking for this rare stamp. Keep in mind that the tagging is a very bright yellow-green under short wave UV light. If you have any questions about identification, I will be more than happy to review any high-resolution photos taken under short wave to validate what you have. Please feel to contact me via the information in the officers' section of this issue.

Auctioneer Joe Sedivy is taking auction lots for the PNC3 Fall Auction #65 until August 21. The auction consignment sheet can be found on this month's wrapper and on the PNC3 website. Consignments will only be accepted from members in good standing.

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Scott 3053 plate # S1111 (issued August 2, 1996, 25 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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Coil Line reserves the right to edit copy as necessary.

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All content, letters to the editor, advertising questions should be addressed to the editor. For mail delivery problems, contact the mailer below.

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Mailed from Zip Code 87185 on or near February 20, 2021.



Meeting times have been confirmed for our club's annual Board and General Membership meetings at The Great American Stamp Show. The show will be held August 12-15 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont IL. As in the past, both of our meetings will be on the Saturday of the show. The board meeting will be at 9:00 AM, followed by the General Membership meeting at noon. See the announcement elsewhere in this issue for more details. Reports on the meetings will appear in a future *Coil Line*. We will also have our usual booth at the show and have been assigned booth number 308. I hope to see you at the show, either at the meetings or visiting our booth.

There will be two PNC exhibits at the show. Past President Robert Thompson will be showing his "25c Honeybee – From Design to Postal Usage" exhibit and webmaster and *Coil Line* editor Scott Walker will be showing "The 32 cent Flag Over Porch Plate Number Coil Stamps". If you do attend the show, try to set aside some time to view them. I'm sure they'll be interesting and informative.

Over the past several years, Robert Thompson has reported several times in both *Coil Line* and Linn's Stamps News on counterfeit United States stamps being sold openly on eBay. Despite his many reports to the United States Postal Service, the practice continues unabated with reports of counterfeits regularly appearing on stamp collecting message boards. It's generally accepted that the counterfeits originate in China. In a recent thread on The Stamp Community Family (<https://www.stampcommunity.org>), a member posted a link to a seller on the China-based Alibaba e-commerce site from whom you could order counterfeit stamps directly from the printer. There were a number of choices of United States and Great Britain stamps available and volume discounts were offered. I won't provide the link here but it amazes me how brazen these purveyors have become. There are apparently no consequences for this illegal activity.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

as of July 6, 2021

Deceased (-1)

Jim Fowler (1111)
Greenville, SC

Reinstated

Conrad Keydel (116)
Mitchell Edelstein (1044)
William Caudle (2051)
Steven Chapp (2082)

Membership at Beginning of Month.....	408
Deceased.....	- 1
Reinstated.....	+4
Membership at End of Month.....	411

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
12/21

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

Cheap U.S. Postage

By Robert E. Thompson

Normally when I look at the new items that have been listed for sale in the “Postage” section on eBay, I would find about 200 items. Beginning in mid-June, that all changed. There were as many as 600 new listings on eBay, predominately from California, and two specific locations there, La Puente and Rancho Cucamonga. There were hundreds of new listings offering rolls, sheets and booklets for about \$30 per 100 stamps. That price dropped drastically to about \$7 per 100 stamps, and included shipping. You could easily buy 50 rolls of stamps for less than \$400, and free shipping.

The stamps that they were selling were all counterfeit stamps, and they included new fakes of the 2015 Forever Hearts, 2016 Patriotic Spiral booklet, 2017 Celebration Boutonniere, 2018 APU Flag coil, 2019 Love Hearts Blossom, 2019 Star Ribbon, 2020 Made of Hearts and the 2020 Boutonniere.

The low prices did not last very long, and some listings started to disappear. During this time, I purchased stamps from nineteen different sellers. Of those, two of them are no longer registered on eBay, and fourteen others have the following message. “*We removed this listing from the site. For more information and next steps go to Messages. For information about delivery, view your order details.*” Although the above message was placed on some of my purchases, it did not prevent the sellers from listing other items, and there were brand new users selling these stamps every day. The prices have started to come back up, but no telling how long that will last.

During this same period, Andy Jakes forwarded an email to me from Peter Tukker about some stamps that he found on Alibaba. There was a link in the message and it took you to a site that shows stamps for sale, including: 2017 BCA Flag coil and the 2019 Flag booklet. You had to buy a minimum of 1,000 pieces, or ten rolls of stamps. If you bought between 1,000-9,999 pieces, the price was \$0.03 apiece, from 10,000-99,999, they were \$0.02 apiece and if you bought greater than 99,999, they were \$0.01 apiece.

I placed an order with them for ten rolls of stamps. It came to a total of \$75 for the rolls and that included the shipping by UPS, and it arrived less that a week later. Since then I have found that they also have for sale the 2016 Patriotic Spiral booklet, 2018 US Flag coil, 2019 Star Ribbon, 2019 Love Hearts Blossom, 2020 Boutonniere, 2020 Made of Hearts. I plan to place an order to determine which fakes they are, or to determine if these are something new.

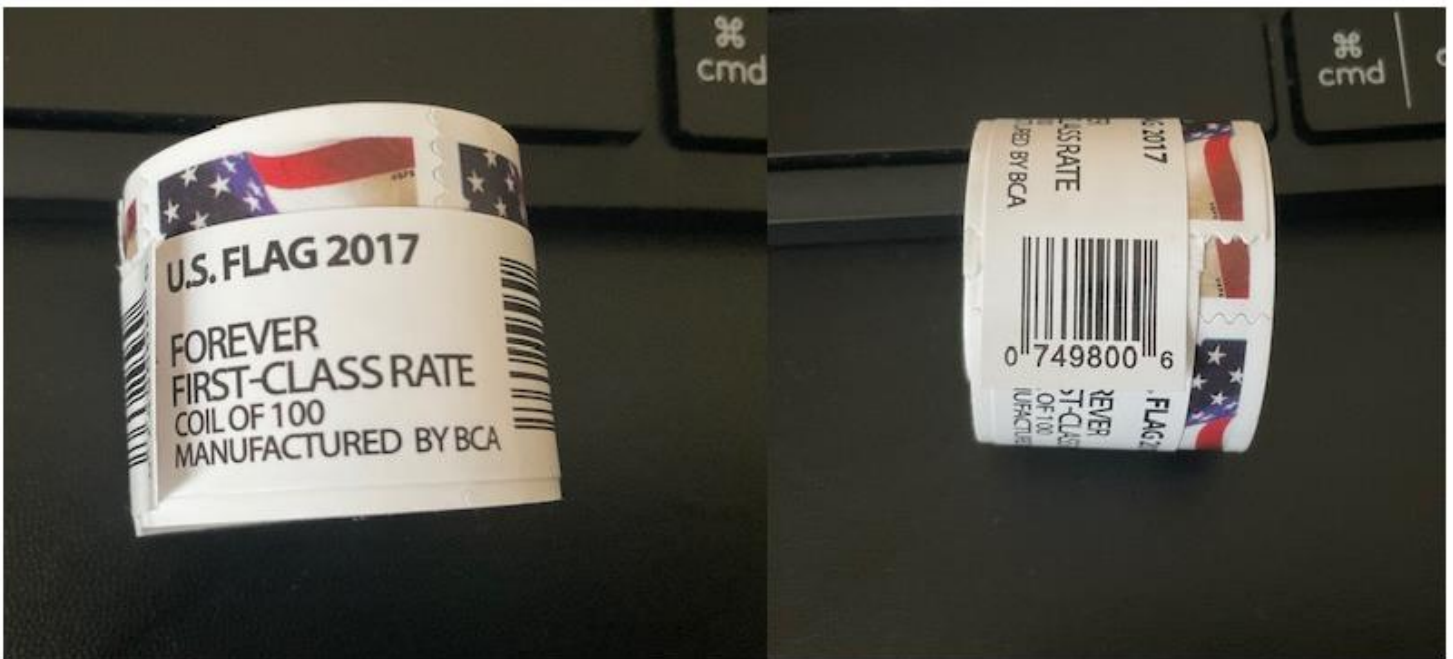


Figure 1 - Examples of suspected counterfeit stamps purchased on Alibaba.

Designing Your Own Stamp Pages

By Scott Walker

There are many different stamp albums available on the commercial market, but what do you do when you can't find pages that are set up for specifically what you want to collect? I was faced with this dilemma many years ago when I began to expand my PNC collection beyond plate strips of 5 and found the ideal solution by designing and creating my own album pages. It was not an easy thing to do, but through an iterative trial-and-error process I eventually created pages that I'm happy with. In this article, I'll describe how I create my pages in the hope that other PNC collectors will find it useful and they won't have to go through the pain and suffering of the prolonged design process.

Several different skills come together when designing and printing your own stamp album pages. Considerations must be made as to the overall design of the pages themselves (which can vary widely depending on what you want to collect) which includes page borders, descriptions, fonts, and boxes to show where the stamps will go on the album page. Some collectors choose to use fancy page borders and fonts while others choose simplicity. I've seen some amazingly beautiful pages that were aesthetically pleasing in design, arrangement, color, descriptions, and stamp details. I'm a more utilitarian collector when it comes to stamp pages, so I chose to use simple borders and fonts. The beauty of designing your own pages is that you can choose whatever you like.

My pages (**figure 1**) are designed to include relevant information on the bottom part of the space for the stamp such as printer, press type, watermark, tagging, issue city, and issue date. By keeping the information on the bottom half of the space, I can lift the bottom of the mount to view the information for the issue if a stamp is mounted over it.

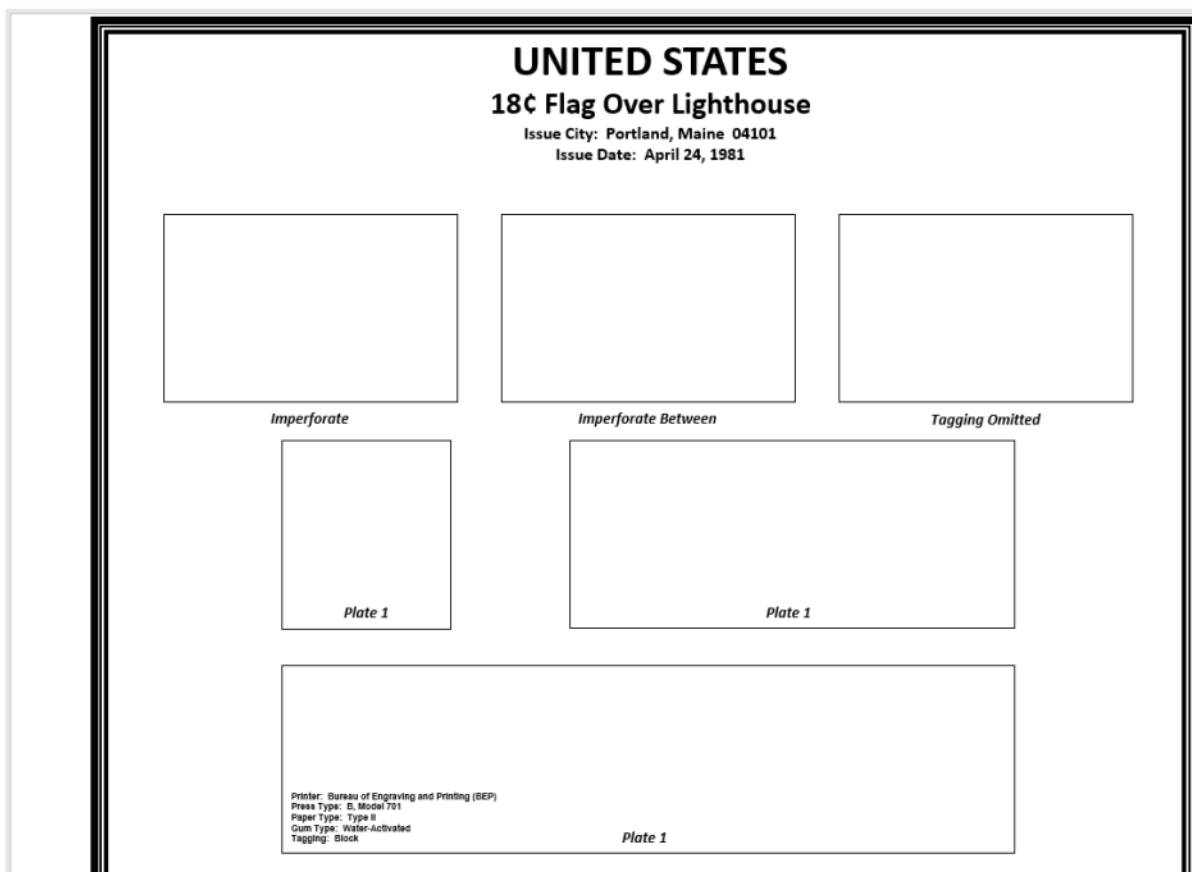


Figure 1 - Simple page layout with border, header, and stamp boxes.

Designing Your Own Stamp Pages (continued)

Although pages can be drawn and lettered by hand, I chose to use computer software for my pages. There are many wonderful commercial software applications that can be used to design pages and each has their pros and cons. There isn't a wrong program to use if you end up with printed stamp pages you're happy with. I use Microsoft Powerpoint (**figure 2**) for my pages but could have easily gone with Microsoft Word or Publisher, Adobe InDesign, Scribus, or LucidPress. There are also websites that allow you to create your own pages online and download the finished pages. I chose Powerpoint as it was readily available as part of Microsoft Office, I had a lot of experience using the program, and once a page is designed it is easy to copy elements from the page to use on new pages. Each element on a page is an object that can be easily sized, moved, and adjusted until you achieve your perfect design.

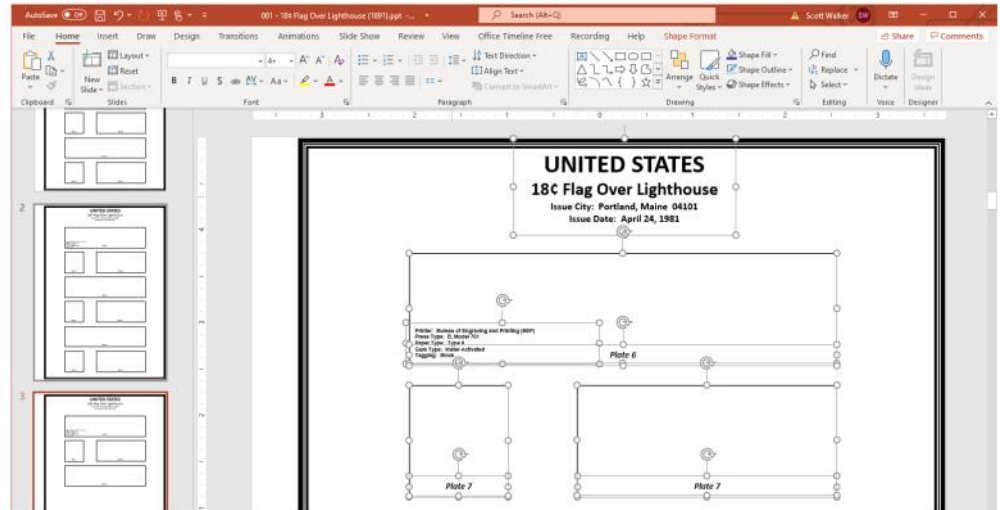


Figure 2 - Page layout in Microsoft Powerpoint.

Finally, printing pages is as critical as design and software selection. Choosing the right paper or cardstock for your pages is important. The paper you choose should be "archival" and be both acid and lignin free. Lignin is formed in the support tissues of most plants and over time can degrade and discolor stamps. Acid is produced by the decomposition of lignin over time and can transfer to stamps causing further damage. The thickness of papers can vary widely from regular sheets of office paper, special papers made for other hobbies like scrapbooking, or cardstock. For stamp album pages, I use various colors of 110 lb cardstock as I've found it to be sturdy and can handle a lot of wear and tear. My pages are printed on a Canon MG7720 inkjet printer, which I prefer to laser printers as I've had toner flake off pages in the past. I mount my pages in Lighthouse Grande 3-ring binders and use paper reinforcements on the front and back of each page. I use paper rather than plastic reinforcements as I've found that the plastic tends to shed sticky adhesive to the posts of the binders.



Figure 3 - Pages from my collection showing different layout designs