



JOURNAL OF THE
PLATE NUMBER
COIL COLLECTORS
CLUB — PNC³

COIL LINE

More Details on 2021 Coil Issues

The U.S. Postal Service has released details for the non-denominated Additional Ounce rate Brush Rabbit coil stamp and the non-denominated Postcard rate Barns coil stamps. Both stamps were issued on January 24, 2021 on opposite sides of the country. The Brush Rabbit stamp was issued in Sacramento, California while the Barns stamps were issued in Barnesville, Georgia.

The Brush Rabbit comes in coils of 100 and is printed by Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd. (APU) on the Muller A76 printing press. The plate number, a "P" followed by five (5) single digits, will occur every 32nd stamp. The stamps have a vertical orientation.

The Barns are also in coils of 100 and are printed by Banknote Corporation of America (BCA) on the Alprinta 74 printing press. The plate number, a "B" followed by four (4) digits, will also occur every 32nd stamp. The stamps have a horizontal orientation.

Both issues were also issued in panes of 20 stamps and have a 120-day window to obtain a First-Day-of-Issue cancellation through USPS Stamp Fulfillment Services.

In this issue... Beyond the Numbers: Invisible Zinc P.15 President's Message P.17 March Virtual PNC³ Membership Meeting P.18 PNC Commercial Covers P.19 PNC New Issue Information P.22 Letters to the Editor P.23 Coil Line Classifieds P.23 PNC FDCs P.24

Counterfeit 2019 U.S. Flag

By Robert E. Thompson

On July 16, 2020, I found a mint roll on eBay. It is untagged, with very crude die cuts, that repeats every stamp. The die cut is approximately 8.3. The microprinting is a solid blob. The field of stars is dotted with white dots. The shading covers 100% of the fold area. What is unusual about this roll is that the wrapper is for the 2019 US Flag, but the stamps are the 2018 US Flag (**Figure 1.**) On the wrapper, there is a 5 inside a square. The die cut shown on the wrapper is very similar to the die cut on the counterfeit stamps, as well. This is 5260 CF19. As far as I know, this is the first counterfeit for the 2019 US Flag wrapper.

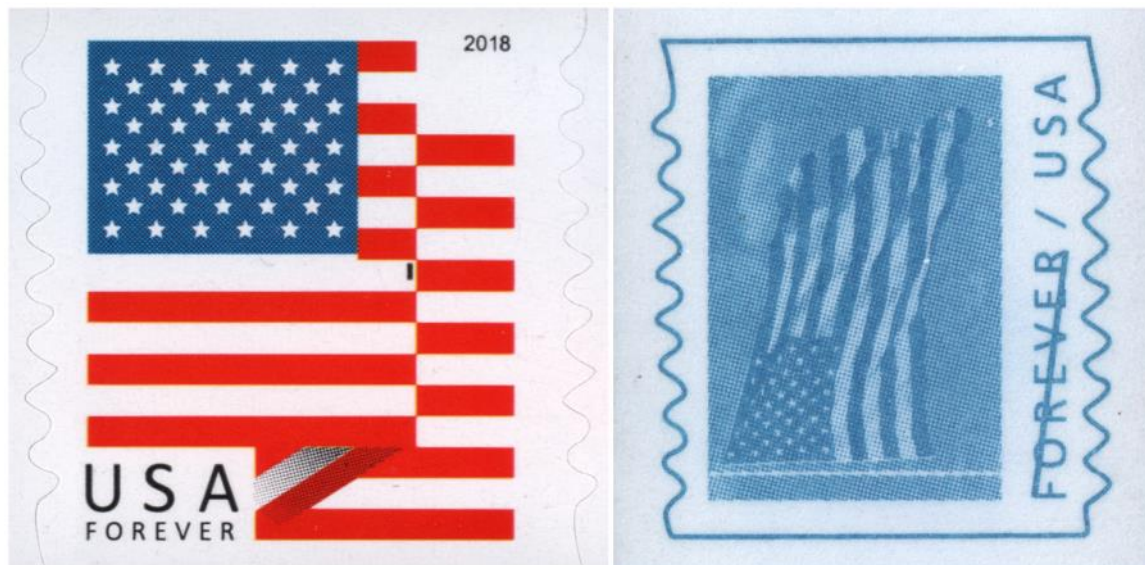


Figure 1 - 2018 U.S. Flag (Scott 5260) and 2019 U.S. Flag Wrapper

On August 20, 2020, Bob Murrin found a counterfeit coil stamp on piece for the 2019 US Flag. I believe this is the first counterfeit coil stamp for the 2019 US Flag. It is untagged, on porous paper, a poor-quality stamp, with crude printing and die cuts. The die cut measures 8.3, and stops before the edges of the stamp, so that you have to tear the stamp to remove it from the roll.

(continued on page 14)

Counterfeit 2019 U.S. Flag

(Continued from page 14)

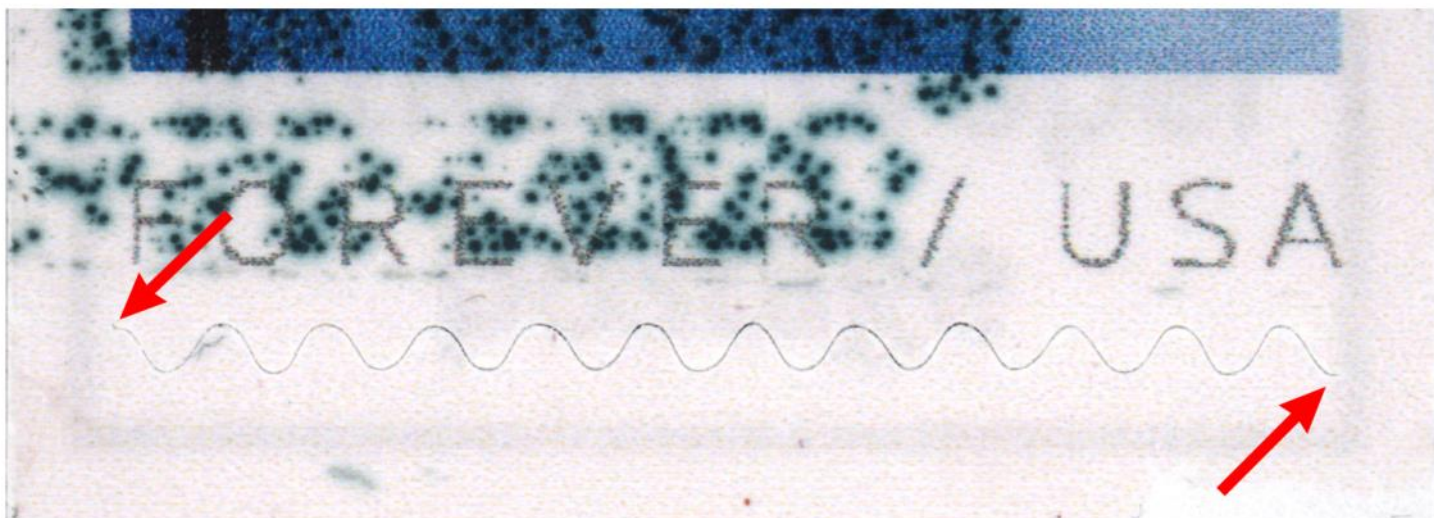


Figure 2 - Die cut beginning and ending are shorter than edge of the stamp

In the picture above (**Figure 2**) the arrows indicate the ends of the die cut, so you can see where it starts and stops. This style die cut is similar to some of the fakes found for both the 2017 and 2018 US Flag issues. So far, this stamp has only been found used. There is no indication of microprinting. This will be listed as 5343 CF1.



Figure 3 - Genuine APU "R" (top) and Counterfeit "R" (bottom)

On November 28, 2020, I found a counterfeit mint roll of the 2019 US Flag on eBay. It is similar to the APU version of this issue. It was wrapped with an APU style wrapper, with a 6 inside a circle. The stamps are untagged with no plate number. There is no indication of microprinting on these stamps. The lettering for the date is very crude. The "FOREVER" lettering is better, but still not close to the genuine issue. It appears that they attempted to duplicate the spiral on the diagonals for the letters. On the genuine APU version of this stamp (**Figure 3**) the diagonal line on the letter "R" shows a spiral, but not this fake. On this fake, they are on the right leg of "V," the left leg of the letter "A" and on the forward slash. The fake is on the bottom. The die cuts are also very crude, and measure 9.25. The die cuts overlap at the top of the stamps (**Figure 4**). This is 5342 CF1.

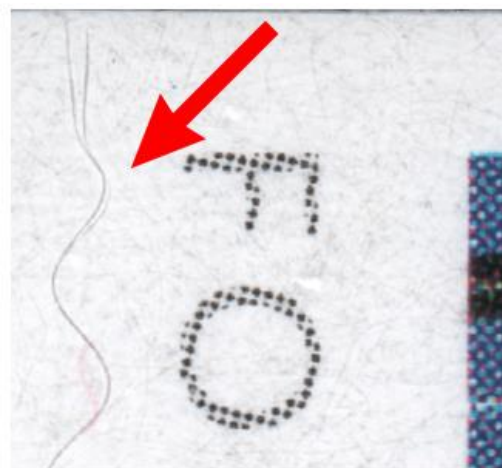


Figure 4 - Overlapping die cuts on Scott 5342 CF1

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.



Beyond the Numbers

Lynnette Wood

Invisible Zinc

I thought it might be fun to really go beyond the numbers this month, with an article about a phosphorescent mineral. Those of you who have been reading Coil Line for a few years might remember my January 2018 article in which I mentioned that, in addition to stamps, I also collect mineral specimens. In that article, I wrote about how the 22¢ Flag Over Capitol Dome (Scott #2115c, issued in 1987) was “designed primarily to test the compatibility of pre-phosphored paper with U.S. mail processing equipment” according to the U.S. Postal Service-issued Souvenir Page for the stamp. Often called a “taggant,” this phosphorescent compound glows under shortwave (SW) ultraviolet light, and is used to aid in the automated facing of mail pieces prior to sorting.

An additional purpose of the testing, according to the USPS Souvenir Page, was to determine “the extent of damage caused by pre-phosphored paper to stamp perforating equipment.” As I noted in the January 2018 article, phosphor has abrasive properties that can wear down the perforating pins, so it was expected that the production run of the #2115c test stamp would confirm whether or not the wear caused by the pre-phosphored stamps was significantly greater than that caused when the phosphor compound was present suspended in varnish.

Well, this sent me on a Google search to learn more about the source of the materials used for the phosphores-

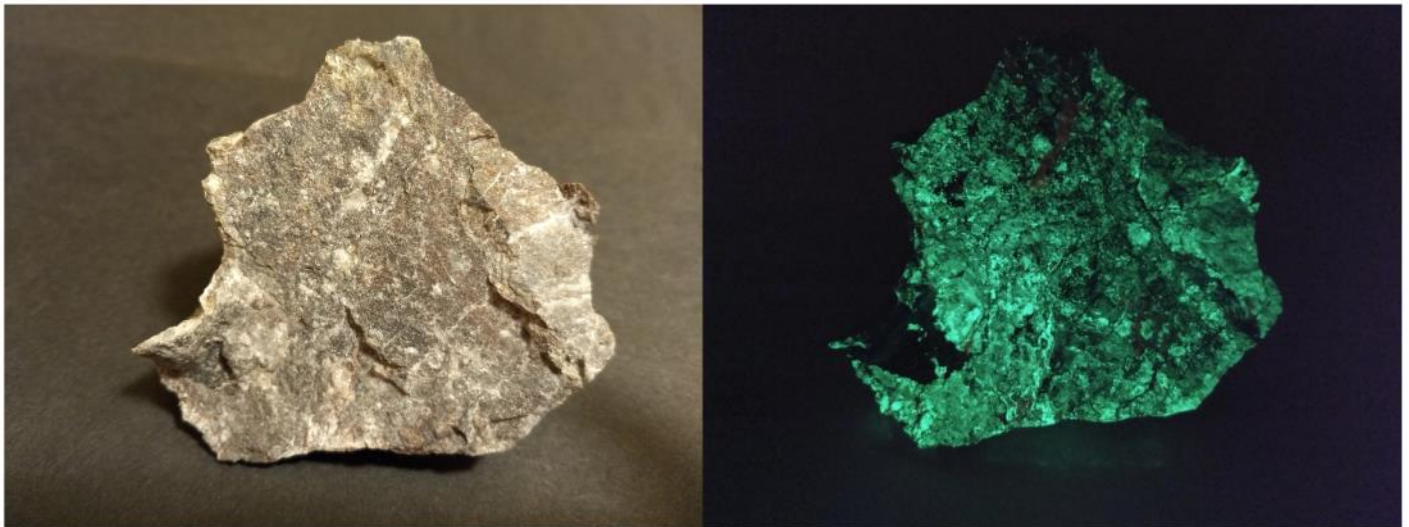


Figure 1 - Willemite in normal lighting (left) and under shortwave ultraviolet light (right)

cent tagging. What I found was that a mineral called zinc orthosilicate is one of the ones used in making taggant. Googling “zinc orthosilicate,” I learned that this mineral is also called Willemite, one of the most well-known of the fluorescent minerals. I immediately added “Willemite” to my Tucson Gem and Mineral Show “want” list, but it was another two years before I made it back down to the show.

In January 2020, I picked up the specimen of Willemite shown in Figure 1. With the chemical symbol Zn_2SiO_4 , Willemite crystals have a hexagonal form and can range in color from yellow-green to red. This mineral was first discovered in 1829 in a mine in Belgium and was named after William I of the Netherlands. During his life, he carried many titles including Duke, Grand Duke, and Prince, and was the self-proclaimed King of the Netherlands. He was exiled, returned, re-instated, and finally abdicated. He died in 1843.

(continued on page 17)

Coil Line

Journal of the Plate Number Coil
Collectors Club (PNC³)
Published by: PNC³
ISSN: 1931-5112



Scott 3477 plate # 5555 (issued Feb. 7 2001, 20 years ago
this month)

Editor: Scott Walker

scott.walker.6482@gmail.com

Print Edition Mailings: Brian and Cory Snippen

snippenb@gmail.com

Digital Edition Emails: Frank Covey

ecoilline@comcast.net

Advertising Rates (single insertion)

Full Page	\$75.00	Eighth Page	\$12.00
Half Page	\$40.00	Business Card	\$12.00
Third Page	\$30.00	Back Cover (Add)	\$37.50
Quarter Page	\$20.00	Inside Cover (Add)	\$20.00
Sixth Page	\$15.00	Color, full page (Add)	\$75.00

(For Color Ads, Digital Version only, Add \$20.00)

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.)

All submitted material, including articles, are edited for inclusion in **Coil Line** and must be received by the 10th of the month prior to the month of publication. Article submission guidelines are available upon request by emailing the editor at the email address above.

Coil Line reserves the right to edit copy as necessary.

Coil Line is published monthly and is available digitally with annual member dues of \$12.00. A printed version of **Coil Line** is also available. To U.S. addresses, to receive printed edition add \$22.00 for First Class Mailing. To Non-USA addresses, add \$27.00 for mailing. Past print issues of **Coil Line** are available at \$2.50 per copy (quantities limited).

All material is copyright 2020. 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, letters to the editor, advertising questions should be addressed to the editor. For mail delivery problems, contact the mailer below.

Postal mailings prepared by: Brian Snippen, 1010 Blue Sage Rd NE, Rio Rancho NM 87144. Send email to: snippenb@gmail.com. Phone: 505-404-1624.

Mailed from Zip Code 87185 on or near December 20, 2020.

PNC³ Contacts

PNC³ Website: www.pnc3.org

Scott Walker, Webmaster: email webmaster@pnc3.org

(For Coil Line-related matters, please see column at left for appropriate contact.)

Elected Officers

Tom McFarland, **President**, PO Box 756, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550. email: philatomic@verizon.net phone: 609-273-4103

Robert Martin, **Vice President**, PO Box 1809, Kihei, HI 96753-1809. email: mauistampcollector@pnc3.org phone 408-893-1040

Daniel Farrar, **Secretary**, 3386 Excalibur Circle NW, Canton, OH 44708. email: farrard2@gmail.com phone: 330-477-6913

Mel Borofsky, **Treasurer**, 101 W. Sterling Way, Leesburg, FL 34788-2781. email: melborofsky@comcast.net 352-483-1408

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

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

Lynette Wood, **At Large**, PO Box 183, Deer Harbor, WA 98243. email: PNCsAreCool@gmail.com

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

PNC³ Auctioneer: Joe Sedivy

Coil Line Production

Editor: Scott Walker

Digital Edition Producer: Scott Walker

Senior Consultant: Gene Trinks

Technical Consultant: Alan Thomson

Contributing Writers: John Himes, Robert E. Thompson, Bob Rabinowitz, Rob Washburn, Frank Covey, Doug Iams, Gene Trinks, Lynnette Wood, John Greenwood, Al Haake, Ron Blanks, Dan Forgues

Proofreaders: John Himes, Michael Mules

Printing: State Wide Printing, Albuquerque, NM

Printed Distribution: Frank Covey

Subscriptions: Daniel Farrar

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

as of January 1, 2021

New Members

Richard Herman (2424)
 1303 Northview Drive
 Luverne, MN 56156

Deceased

Richard Day (424)
 Apple Valley, MN

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

Technology Tip

You can engage in discussions with other stamp collectors through message boards, blogs, and email. There are also many websites that feature articles and videos about stamp collecting. For the technologically bold, you can create your own content and videos to share with others.




President's Message

Tom McFarland

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the first plate numbered coils and thus PNC collecting. The 18¢ Flag was issued April 24, 1981 and was quickly followed by the 18¢ Surrey and 17¢ Electric Auto in the then new Transportation series. Several more PNCs appeared before the end of 1981 and this new specialty collecting area was off and running.

As noted in the January Coil Line, we are planning a second general membership meeting via Zoom. The meeting will be on March 6. Details for joining the meeting are in the meeting announcement in this issue. We hope many members will be able to participate.

Technical details for the Barns Postcard Rate Forever Stamps were published in the USPS Postal Bulletin dated December 17, 2020. The artwork, which appeared in the January Coil Line, shows a horizontal design, suggesting a vertical coil. The plate number position is stated to be below the stamp image. If so, that will be different from the most recent horizontally oriented coil, the 2019 US Flag, on which the plate number is in the right margin. But previous horizontal design issues, like the 24c Common Buckeye and the 39c Crops, have had the plate number at the bottom of the image. By the time you receive this issue, the stamps will be out and we'll know for sure.

Based on numbers provided by Treasurer Mel Borofsky, it looks like most members have sent in their renewal dues as of late December. If you're one of those who hasn't, please do so as soon as possible before you're dropped from membership.

Beyond the Numbers: Invisible Zinc

(continued from page 15)

The specimen shown in **Figure 1** is nothing special, as far as mineral specimens go. Still, it is clear to see how the powdered form of it could certainly be abrasive. It is found in many places around the world, from Argentina to Zambia. This particular specimen was taken from the Huachuca Mountains of Arizona. Many other phosphorescent minerals may be used to make taggant, just as there are many other uses for phosphorescent minerals. Today, many of them, including Willemite, are also made artificially.

Well, we really went beyond the numbers this month! I hope you enjoyed this little side trip into history and mineralogy. As always, I invite you to please email me at PNCsAreCool@gmail.com if you have comments, observations, or suggestions for future articles.

March Virtual PNC³ Membership Meeting via Zoom

Saturday, March 6, 2021

Following our successful virtual general membership meeting in December, the PNC³ Board has decided to host another virtual meeting in early March. Once again, the meeting will be held via the Zoom platform. Just about anyone with a computer, tablet, or smart phone can participate. It will give us an opportunity once more to meet face-to-face during the on-going 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 PNC³ Treasurer Mel Borofsky on **Saturday, March 6**, 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:

To Join the Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84408092467?pwd=S0pYbXpUTUdQL1ZXd0pseVVIRG1TZz09>

Meeting ID: 844 0809 2467

Passcode: 215982

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,84408092467#,,,,*215982# US (New York)

+13017158592,,84408092467#,,,,*215982# US (Washington D.C)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 844 0809 2467

Passcode: 215982

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kLEqefxUk>

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

The Coil Line "Finished Copy" folder is running low and as I put February issue together, I find that 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. I can also provide photos or illustrations to enhance your article.

Deadlines and procedures are available upon request. Send any articles and/or questions to me via email to the address on page 16.

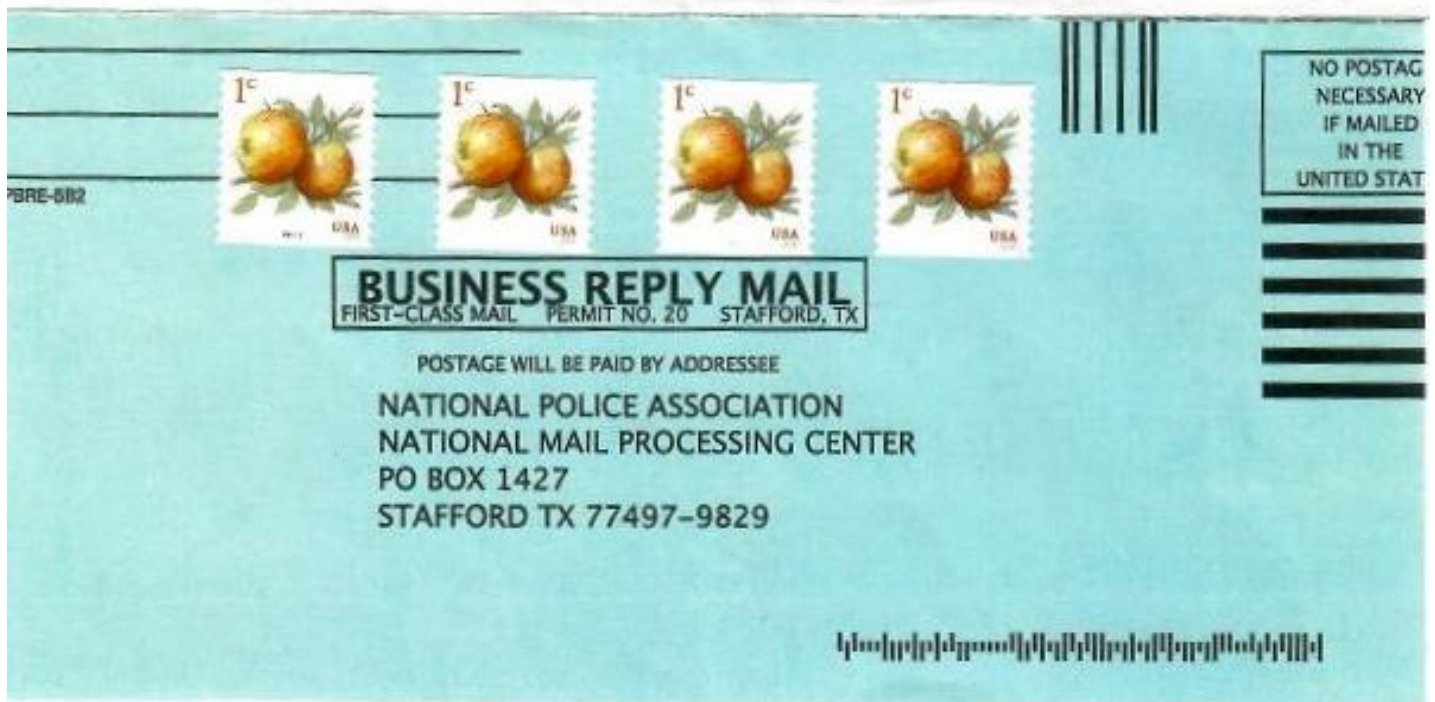
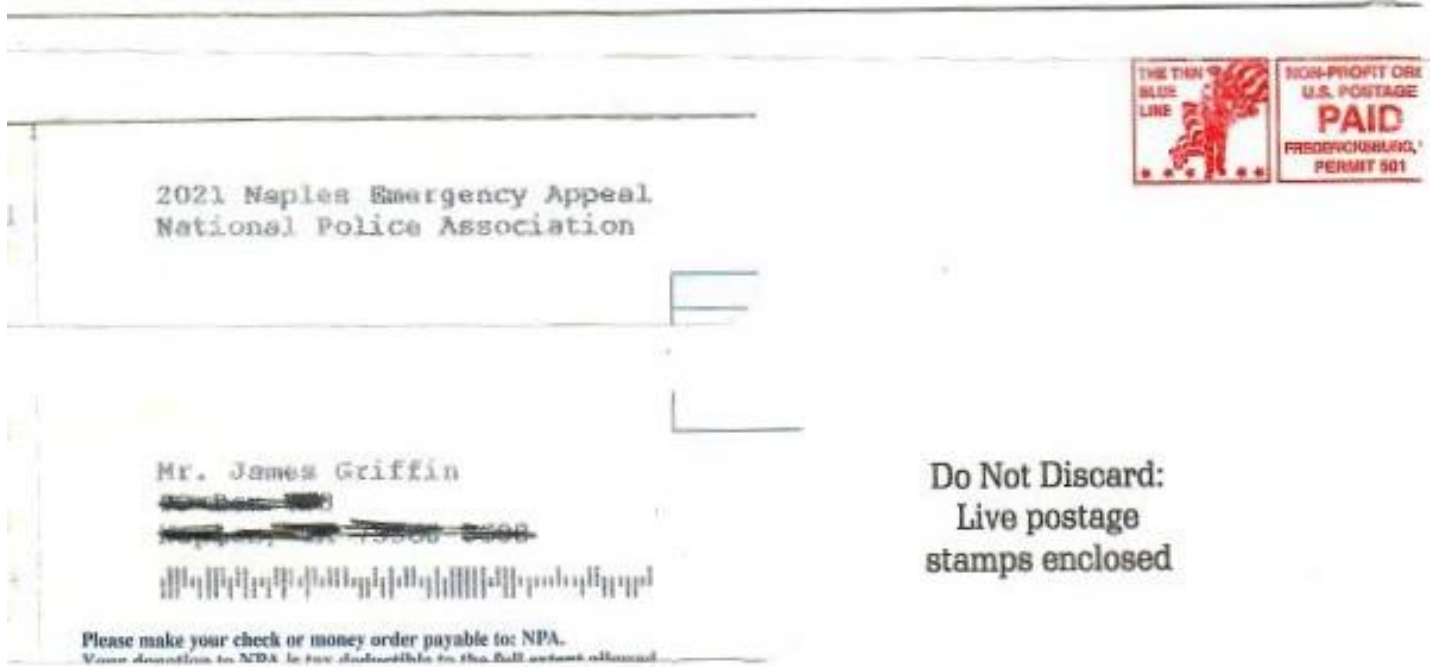


PNC Commercial Covers - Installment #142

By Rob Washburn

Happy New Year! In this month's installment, 5¢ PNC covers are featured, this being Part 1 of 2.

I love hearing from readers of my columns. In these trying times, I thought I'd share James Griffin's recent letter which gave me a chuckle. Mr. Griffin enclosed a copy of a business reply solicitation he received that included a SASE with four 1¢ Apples coils, including one with plate #P11111. The solicitation reads "Do Not Discard Live postage stamps enclosed". See below.



(continued on page 20)

PNC Commercial Covers - Installment #142

(continued from page 19)

Mr. Griffin mused that “live postage” is terminology he had never seen or heard of before but was glad that the recently issued T. Rex stamps weren’t the stamps that were used.

Here’s a list of the earliest documented usages of 5¢ PNCs that were carried through the mail system.

Scott #	Description	Plate #	Earliest
1899	5¢ Motorcycle	1	1/30/84
		2	2/25/84
		3	2/29/84
		4	2/22/84
2253	5¢ Milk Wagon	1	12/21/87
2452	5¢ Circus Wagon, tagged	1	9/1/90
2452a	5¢ Circus Wagon, untagged	1	8/13/91
		2	8/20/[99]
2452B	5¢ Circus Wagon	A1	4/12/93
		A2	12/4/92
		A3	5/2/94
2452D	5¢ Circus Wagon	S1	5/9/95
		S2	2/10/97
		(tagged) S2	4/30/99
		S3	2/3/03
2453	5¢ Canoe	1	6/4/91
		2	6/30/?
		3	5/28/93
2454	5¢ Canoe	S11	7/10/93
2893 (5¢)	G Flag	A11111	5/17/96
		A21111	3/10/95 PO label

(continued on page 21)

PNC Commercial Covers - Installment #142

(continued from page 20)

Scott #	Description	Plate #	Earliest
2902	(5¢) Butte WA	S111	5/22/95
		S222	5/8/96
		S333	11/6/95
2902B	(5¢) Butte SA	S111	12/23/97
2903	(5¢) Mountain WA	11111	3/16/96
2903a	(5¢) Mountain WA	(tagged) 11111	no date
2904	(5¢) Mountain WA	S111	3/16/96
2904A	(5¢) Mountain SA (13/12) (sq cnr)	V222222	no date
		V333323	12/14/97
		V333333	12/96
		V333343	2/21/97
	(12/13) (sq cnr)	V333342	no date
2904A	(5¢) Mountain SA (13/12)(rd cnr)	V333323	no date
		V333342	no date
		V333343	no reports so far
	(12/13)(rd cnr)	V333342	no date
2904B	(5¢) Mountain SA (10/10)	1111	4/30/98
	(9/10)	1111	no date

The toughest covers to find of these 5¢ PNCs are the (5¢) G #A11111 and #A21111, the (5¢) Mountain WA #11111 tagged, (5¢) Mountain SA V333342 and V333343 (all types) and especially the (5¢) Mountain SA #1111 9/10 (only 2 known covers). If you have any earlier usages, please let me know. My thanks to James Griffin and Robert Thompson for their reports.

Recent PNC New Issue Information

Denom	Issue Name	PNC-ID Number	Scott Number	Issue Date	Plate # Plate #	Roll Interval	USPS Item Size	WAG or SA	T, M, B Back Numbers
<.20>	Brush Rabbit	2021-2		1/24/2021	P11111	32	100 740300	Block SA	
<.36>	Barns (4)	2021-1		1/24/2021	B1111	32	100 740200	Block SA	
<.55>	Wild Orchids	2020-2	5444a	2/21/2020	B1111	27	3,000 750404	Overall SA	T, B
<.55>	from 3k roll	2020-2	5444a	2/21/2020	B1111	27	<i>500**</i> 750415	Overall SA	T, B
<.55>	from 3k roll	2020-2	5444a	2/21/2020	B1111	27	<i>25**</i> 750403	Overall SA	
<.55>	Wild Orchids	2020-2	5444a	2/21/2020	B1111	27	10,000 760704	Overall SA	T, B
<.55>	from 10k roll	2020-2	5444a	2/21/2020	B1111	27	<i>500**</i> 760715	Overall SA	T, B
<.55>	from 10k roll	2020-2	5444a	2/21/2020	B1111	27	<i>25**</i> 760703	Overall SA	
(0.10)	Presorted Star	2020-1	5433	2/3/2020	B1111	27	3,000 750504	Untagged SA	T
(0.10)	from 3k roll	2020-1	5433	2/3/2020	B1111	27	<i>25**</i> 750503	Untagged SA	T
(0.10)	Presorted Star	2020-1	5433	2/3/2020	B1111	27	10,000 760604	Untagged SA	B
(0.10)	from 10k roll	2020-1	5433	2/3/2020	B1111	27	<i>25**</i> 760603	Untagged SA	B
<.35>	Coral Reefs	2019-5	5370a	3/29/2019	P111111	32	100 745104	Block SA	None
<.55>	Star Ribbon	2019-4	5362	3/22/2019	B111	27	10,000 760504	Overall SA	T, B
<.55>	Star Ribbon	2019-4	5362	3/22/2019	B111	27	<i>25**</i> 760503	Overall SA	-
<.55>	Star Ribbon	2019-4	5362	3/22/2019	B111	27	3,000 759904	Overall SA	T, B
<.55>	Star Ribbon	2019-4	5362	3/22/2019	B111	27	<i>25**</i> 759903	Overall SA	

To Order These 4 3k & 500 rolls, call "800stamps24", speak with Patti at Philatelic Fulfillment 7:15 AM-3:15 PM CDT

0.02	Meyer Lemons	2018-1	5256	1/27/2019	B11111	28	3,000 750004	Untagged SA	T, B
0.02	from 3k roll	2018-1	5256	1/27/2019	B11111	28	<i>500**</i> 750015	Untagged SA	T, B
0.03	Strawberries	2017-6	5201	1/27/2019	P1111	27	3,000 750104	Untagged SA	M
0.03	from 3k roll	2017-6	5201	1/27/2019	P1111	27	<i>500**</i> 750115	Untagged SA	M
0.05	Grapes	2016-4	5038	1/27/2019	P111111	27	3,000 750204	Untagged SA	M
0.05	from 3k roll	2016-4	5038	1/27/2019	P111111	27	<i>500**</i> 750215	Untagged SA	M
0.10	Red Pears	2017-5	5039	1/27/2019	B111111	27	3,000 750304	Untagged SA	T, B
0.10	from 3k roll	2017-5	5039	1/27/2019	B111111	27	<i>500**</i> 750315	Untagged SA	T, B
<.15>	Uncle Sam's Hat	2019-3	5341	1/27/2019	B1111111	31	100 746904	Overall SA	None
<.55>	U.S. Flag 2019	2019-2	5343	1/27/2019	B1111	31	100 740102	Overall SA	None
<.55>	U.S. Flag 2019	2019-2	5343	Note 2	B2222	31	100 740102	Overall SA	None
<.55>	U.S. Flag 2019	2019-1	5342	1/27/2019	P1111	31	100 740104	Overall SA	None
<.50>	U.S. Flag 2018	2018-3	5261	2/9/2018	B111	31	100 749702	Overall SA	None
<.50>	U.S. Flag 2018	2018-2	5260	2/9/2018	P111	31	100 749704	Overall SA	None
0.02	Meyer Lemons	2018-1	5256	1/19/2018	B11111	28	10,000 760404	Untagged SA	T, B
0.02	Meyer Lemons	2018-1	5256	1/19/2018	B11111	28	<i>500**</i> 760415	Untagged SA	T, B

** NOTE 1: Roll sizes in Italics are quantities available from Stamp Fulfillment Services using adjacent USPS Item Number. These are partial rolls from 3K or 10K rolls.

Note 2: Discovered 1-15-2020 by Frank Covey in North Carolina.

Compiled by Andy Jakes

Updated 12/21/2020

Top
Middle
Bottom

Editor's Note: The 20¢ non-denominated Brush Rabbit additional ounce and 36¢ non-denominated Barns post-card rate stamps are currently the only coil stamps slated for 2021. As more information becomes available, and if more coil stamps are announced, we will include details on the new issues as they are released by USPS.



Letters to the Editor

Coil Line Classifieds

Marketing studies show that a response is more likely if you put stamps on the envelope or the return envelope.

But does the stamp have to be a real stamp? Apparently not. See the attached images [below].

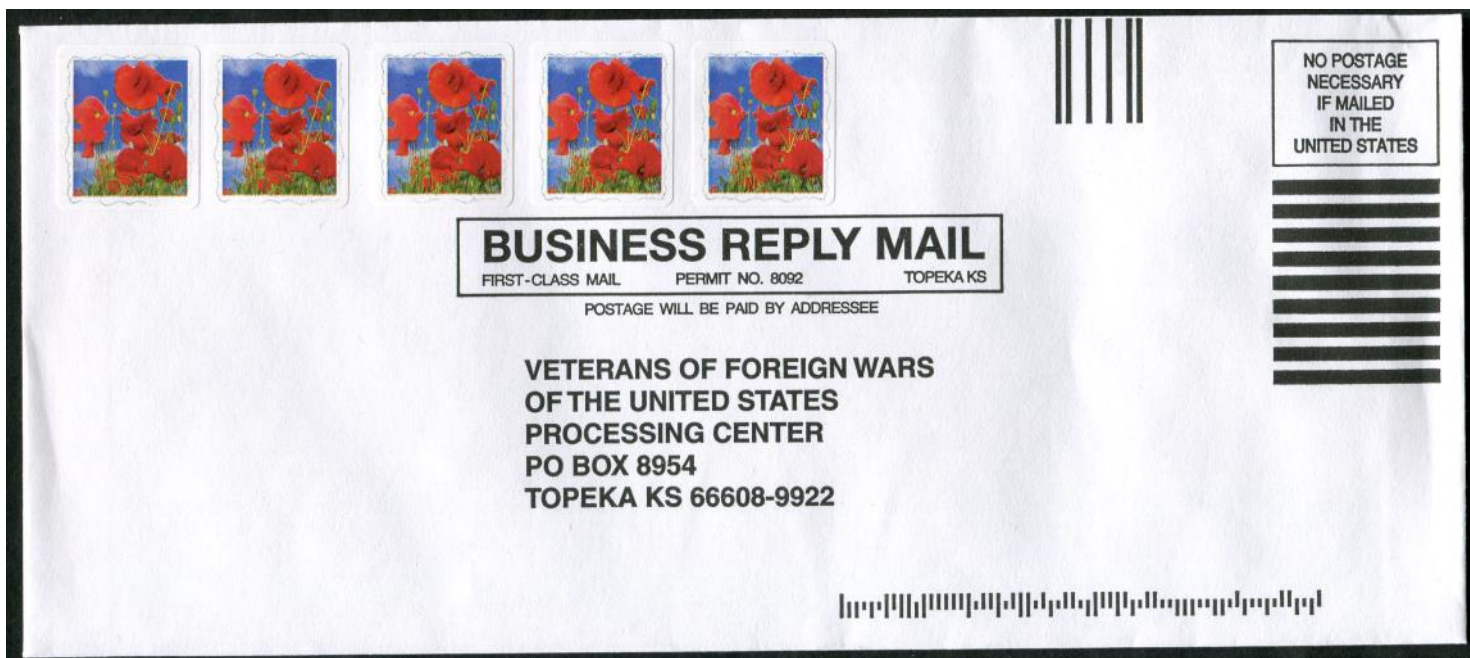
Frank Covey



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 4/21

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.)



PNC First Day Covers in My Collection

Scott Walker

The FDC shown below in **Figure 1** was issued when the USPS changed the postage rate to 25¢ on March 22, 1988 and the E Earth (Scott 2279) contingency stamp was sold for the rate change. While this FDC is not particularly valuable (2009 Mellone value of \$7.50), I found the cover interesting as it includes all of the previous contingency rate change coil stamps including the orange A (15¢ issued May 22, 1978, Scott 1735), purple B (18¢ issued March 15, 1981, Scott 1818), brown C (20¢ issued October 11, 1981, Scott 1946) and green D (22¢ issued February 1, 1985, Scott 2112) USPS Eagle stamps. The E stamp is a PNC plate strip of 3 (PS3) with plate number 1111.

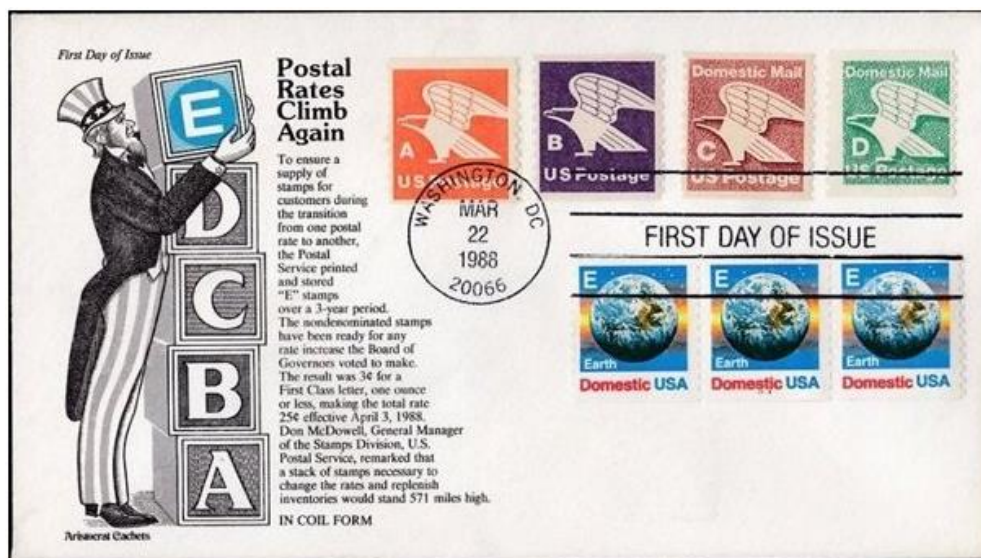


Figure 1 - FDC with Scott 2279 E contingency rate change PNC coil strip of 3 with all earlier contingency rate change coil stamps

I recently added a FDC with a plate strip of 3 of Scott 2602 10¢ Eagle & Shield (**Figure 2**) with plate number 22113. While it is a fairly common cover for this issue, what makes it special is that it has the "broken yellow 1" error. There are 7 plate numbers with this error and all 7 can be found on first day covers.



Figure 2 - Scott 2602 10¢ Eagle & Shield FDC with "broken yellow 1" error