



JOURNAL OF THE  
PLATE NUMBER  
COIL COLLECTORS  
CLUB — PNC<sup>3</sup>

# COIL LINE

## New Coil Stamps Announced for 2021

The U.S. Postal Service has announced the lineup of stamps planned for 2021 which includes at least 2 new coil issues. The official release of coil stamps slated for next year includes a non-denominated additional-ounce (20¢) stamp featuring the Brush Rabbit and a series of four postcard-rate (36¢) Barn stamps.

The Barn stamps will depict different barns in the four seasons: fall, spring, summer, and winter. Both

stamps were highlighted in the December 7, 2020 issue of Linn's Stamp News.

On December 17, 2020, the USPS Postal Bulletin announced that the Brush Rabbit and Barns coil stamps will be issued January 24th, 2021. The Brush Rabbit will be a horizontal pressure-sensitive coil of 100 stamps with plate number "P" followed by five digits. The Barns stamps will be issued in a pressure-sensitive coil of 100 stamps with plate number "B" followed by four digits.



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## Scott 2115 vs. 2115a vs. 2115b

By John Himes



Figure 1 - Scott 2115, Flag Over Capitol

During our first-ever virtual PNC<sup>3</sup> Club Meeting (via Zoom) on December 12, I gave a presentation on the differences between the three types of Scott #2115, the 22-cent Flag Over Capitol stamp. Several of the members in that meeting requested that I provide the content of that talk here in *Coil Line*, and I'm very glad to do so.

Most of these Flag Over Capitol stamps are either 2115 or 2115a. They can be identified, as follows:

- 2115 ... Plate #s 2, 4, 6, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21 (B Press, **wide** block tagging, 19mm x 21.5mm)
- 2115a ... #s 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22 (C Press, **narrow** block tagging, 17.5mm x 21.5mm)

But there is a much rarer third type, 2115b, which has the following properties:

- 2115b ... #s 2, 8, 18, 20, 22 (B or D Press, **tall & wide** block tagging, 19.5mm x 23mm)

It's important to note that #2 was printed on the B Press and the other four on the D Press. The D Press is the only one intended to have the tall & wide tagging. But Plate #2 B Press stamps can also display tall & wide tagging due to taggant being spread out by excessive anvil roller pressure. Identifying the D Press 2115b stamps is fairly easy when comparing them against a normal narrow tagged C Press 2115a. But identifying the B press 2115b #2 stamps can be difficult, because sometimes the taggant varies in width and/or height. To qualify as 2115b, #2 stamps must have tagging blocks that are truly 19.5mm x 23mm; otherwise, they are 2115.

Given the huge pricing difference in the 2115b stamps, beware of buying any stamp advertised as 2115b that does not have tagging blocks measuring 19.5mm x 23mm.

*Continued on page 150*



# Scott 2115 vs. 2115a vs. 2115b

(Continued from page 149)

In order to more easily identify the 2115b stamps, you can make a simple tool to help you with identification. Dan Forgues provided me with this idea. I made mine from a business card with the corners trimmed to the 19.5mm x 23mm measurements. My template is shown below in **Figure 2**.

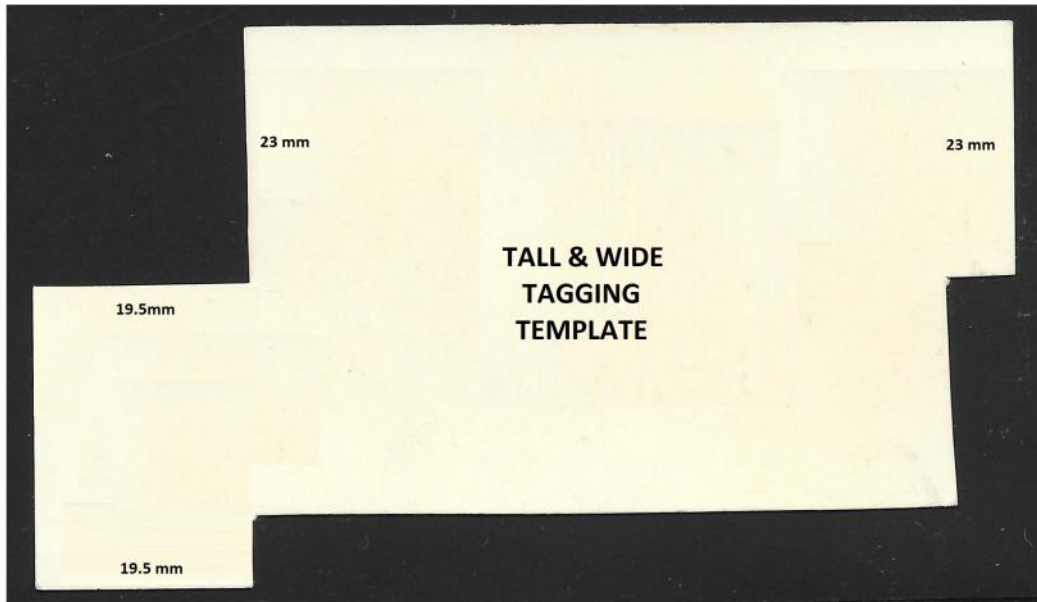


Figure 2 - Scott 2115 Tall & Wide Tagging Template Tool

By the way, there is also a fourth type of this stamp, Scott 2115c. It's the test stamp version with plate #1 [displayed as "T1" on the stamp.] It's overall tagged, so there should never be a problem identifying that variety.

During the meeting, there was quite a bit of discussion about what type of millimeter ruler to use to measure the tagging width and height. I use a Linn's Multi-Gauge perforation gauge which is available from Amos Press and has a very fine millimeter ruler along one edge. But others on the call suggested getting an electronic digital caliper (**Figure 3**) that measures in millimeters. They are available from multiple sources, but the one pictured here is available from Amazon.com, currently priced at \$29.95.

Regardless of how you do the measuring, be certain that your instrument is giving you an accurate reading. Again, the only truly problematic one is 2115b #2. Should you have any questions about this topic, please feel free to reach out to me via the information provided in the officers' section of this issue.

I hope this article makes you curious enough to measure all your 2115 stamps to see if you might have one of the elusive 2115b strips or singles hiding unidentified in your collection.



Figure 3 - EZ Cal Electronic Digital Caliper

**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.**

# Coil Line

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Scott 2518 plate # 1111 (issued Jan. 22 1991, 30 years ago  
this month)

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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.

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

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

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# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



as of December 1, 2020

## New Members

Thomas Tomaszek (2423)  
4601 Deer View Road  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52411

\*\*\*

## Deceased

John Pajor (2254)  
Berlin, CT

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

Happy New Year! As we conclude a year like no other in most of our memories, I hope you all were able to enjoy the holiday season with your families and friends as much as possible. Here's hoping for a much better 2021.

I would like to thank all of the Board members, committee chairs and members, other volunteers and appointed staff for their service in the past year. The club is always in need of more volunteers, so please consider offering your help in the coming year.

On Saturday, December 12, the club held a general membership meeting via Zoom, the first ever for us. By all accounts, the meeting was a success. There were 37 members online at the peak of attendance. I felt that those who attended welcomed the opportunity to talk to fellow collectors about stamps after so many months of isolation. The meeting began with introductions by the Board members followed by all other members introducing themselves. There were a number of scheduled presentations, in addition to which several attendees introduced other topics for discussion. Participation in all of the discussions was lively and produced information that was new for many of the attendees. Some of that information will lead to articles in *Coil Line* this month and in future issues. Thanks to John Himes, Frank Covey, Scott Walker, Mel Borofsky, and Robert Thompson for their prepared agenda items and to all other members who attended and contributed.

We plan on scheduling another Zoom meeting, probably in early March. Look for details in the February *Coil Line*.

If you haven't yet sent in your renewal dues, please do so as soon as possible and save the club the time and expense of sending reminders. Remember that PayPal can now be used to renew.

## No PNC<sup>3</sup> Meeting at ORCOEXPO 2021 in January

As of this writing (late November), the ORCOEXPO stamp show in Fullerton, California, scheduled for January 2021 has been postponed four months until May due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic situation. The organizers are hoping that most attendees will be vaccinated by May so that the show can resume at that time. We will decide, probably in the March timeframe, whether we feel it is safe for us to hold a regional PNC<sup>3</sup> meeting at the show. Stay tuned for an update as the situation develops. If we are unable to meet at ORCOEXPO, perhaps we can meet at the SESCAL show later in the year.

John Himes, Dan Forgues, and Jeff Haas

# Counterfeit 2018 U.S. Flag PNCs

By Robert E. Thompson

November was a busy month with counterfeit PNC's for the 2018 Flag coil issues. Bob Murrin found two different counterfeit PNCs for the Ashton Potter version of the 2018 Flag coil. The first is for Scott 5260 (CF8) that I have previously mentioned that were found in mint coils [February, 2020 *Coil Line*.] [The Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers lists counterfeit stamps in a separate section. In this example, 5260 refers to the Scott number of the genuine stamp and CF8 identifies it as the 8th listed counterfeit of that stamp.] This is the first one found used on piece. The second was also used on piece, but it is different from the earlier versions. It is untagged and is designated as Scott 5260 (CF31). This fake is similar to Scott 5260 (CF8), but the die cuts are Valley/Peak on the left edge, whereas CF8 has Peak/Valley. A scan of this fake is shown in **Figure 1**.



Figure 1 - Scott 5260 (CF31) 2018 U.S. Flag

The next two counterfeit PNC's are for the BCA version of the 2018 Flag coil.

The first (**Figure 2**) was found on November 6, 2020 from eBay. It was sealed, is untagged and is referred to as Scott 5261 (CF6). This is the first fake PNC that has been found for this issue. The roll was coiled and wrapped backwards in a BCA style wrapper. The roll was taped at both ends. It is on very high-gloss paper. It has an even die cut that measures 10.8. The first PNC was the 25th stamp from the right end. There were two more at 25 stamp intervals. There should have been one on the very end of the roll, but it was a regular stamp. There is a large "USPS" in the normal BCA location. The shading covers 100% of the fold area. The plate number is B111. When I looked closely at the PNC's, I noticed that all of them did not fit smoothly on the strip. Up close, it was obvious that the PNC did not fit where it was placed. The height of the stamp and the start and stop of the serpentine die cuts did not match its location. I believe this may be an attempt to make the fakes seem more real. Also, in thinking back, this might be the case for some of the other earlier fake PNC's for the 2017 and 2018 Flags.



Figure 2 - Scott 5260 (CF6) 2018 U.S. Flag

The next counterfeit PNC is also for the 2018 Flag BCA version. It was sealed, is untagged and is referred to as Scott 5261 (CF7). This counterfeit was found on eBay on November 20, 2020. It is very similar to Scott 5261 (CF6). The plate number is B111, but the colors (**Figure 3**) are off. The blue is a light blue, and the red is more of a rose color. Those colors are only shown on the plate number itself, not the rest of the stamps. There are diagonal red streaks running through the field of stars from lower left to upper right. The shading covers about 60% of the fold area, with the shading continuing to the left on the bottom diagonal red stripe. Shading is missing below the stripe. The plate numbers are every 25 stamps, except for the last plate number on the end of the roll. It is a normal stamp. It appears that the PNC stamps were printed in place.

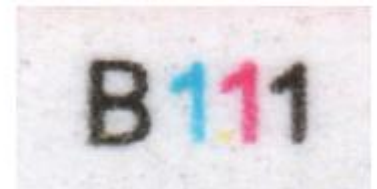


Figure 3 - Scott 5260 (CF7) 2018 U.S. Flag Plate Numbers

## PNC<sup>3</sup> Mentioned Again (and Again) in Linn's Stamp News

The Plate Number Coil Collectors Club (PNC<sup>3</sup>) has received positive press through several articles recently in Linn's Stamp News. The September 7<sup>th</sup> *Computers and Stamps* column by William F. Sharpe featured our club website. The October 12<sup>th</sup> issue had an article that mentioned an earlier the 2019 Flag plate B2222 report. The Uncle Sam freak PNC (the December 2020 *Coil Line* cover story by John Greenwood) was reported by Linn's in their December 14<sup>th</sup> issue. Other stories by PNC<sup>3</sup> members include the 2021 Scott Specialized Catalogue special feature on Flag Over Porch plate number coil varieties by John Himes and PNC<sup>3</sup> member Jim Fowler as photographer for the Wild Orchids stamps in the February 17<sup>th</sup> and March 23<sup>rd</sup> issues.

# From the Oversized Dept.: A 30-Year-Old PNC

By Ron Blanks

This is a complete coincidence. The masthead-page PNC mint strip of five this month has the “F” (29¢) Flower coil issued on January 22, 1991, and I just found a coil pair used on an oversized mailing within two weeks of issue.

Shown in **Figure 1** is an image of the manila envelope that measures a very large 10 by 13 inches. The address label is from Bridgewater State College in Bridgewater, MA and is addressed to Haverhill, MA.

The postage is paid by a pair of the “F” coils (Scott 2518) with assigned postage value of 29¢ each or 58¢ total. A classic 4-bar circular date stamp of Bridgewater faintly postmarked the stamps on Feb. 2, 1991. This is one day prior to the start of the 29¢ letter rate that began Sunday, Feb. 3.

The coil pair in **Figure 2** has plate number combination 2222 on the right-hand stamp. It is one of the most common numbers found for this issue from the five that were used: 1111, 1211, 1222, 2211, and 2222.

In the prior 25¢ letter era that started April 3, 1988, a two ounce envelope like this would require 45¢ postage: 25¢ for the first ounce and 20¢ for the second ounce or fraction. Effective Feb. 3, 1991 the rates became 29¢ for first ounce and 23¢ for each additional ounce, or 52¢ for this envelope.

In comparison, with rates that began Jan. 26, 2020, this cover would cost \$1.20: \$1 for a one ounce large envelope under the present shape-based pricing policy begun in 2007, and 20¢ for the second ounce.

The percentage change in a one-ounce letter from 1991 to 2020 is over 89%. The rise for a two-ounce large envelope is 130%, reflecting the extra cost for size. Before 2007, only lightweight (one ounce) large envelopes incurred a surcharge. That surcharge was 10¢ in the 29¢ letter era and slowly increased to 13¢ in the 39¢ era that ended in 2007, replaced by shape-based pricing.

*(continued on page 158)*

## Before Forever Stamps

Over fifteen years prior to the introduction of Forever first-class rate stamps in the U.S. in 2007, the “F” (29¢) Flower coils were part of a set of “F” stamps in various formats as contingency for new postage rates. In a series starting with “A” issued in 1978, they were printed and staged in regional inventories in advance of future use. This made them ready for sale at a moment’s notice at an assigned value when new rates were finalized.

This scheme mostly eliminated the delay in printing new stamps under pressure of insufficient lead time. Before Forever stamps, it was still somewhat risky to gauge how many makeup low-value stamps should be taking up space in inventories in advance, and in what values. One could only guess at how many “old rate” stamps the public held, to be used up first with makeup stamps.

In fact, in 1991 the U.S. Postal Service released its first undenominated makeup rate stamp, Scott 2521, ahead of the 29¢ rate. The design-challenged sheet stamp crammed 17 words of explanation into a regular-sized design with a border. Assigned a 4¢ value, it reads in part, “... along *(continued on page 155)*”



Figure 1 - Scott 2518 plate number 2222 on oversized envelope



Figure 2 - Scott 2518 coil pair of plate number 2222 on oversized envelope

## Before Forever Stamps

(continued from page 154) with 25¢ of additional...” (Figure 1)

PNCs, being coils, infrequently showed up as low-value makeup rate stamps compared to low-value sheet stamps. While the first letter-rate PNC rolls were issued in April and May 1981, the first low-value PNC arrived over a year later. The 2¢ Locomotive (Scott 1897A, Figure 2) was issued May 20, 1982.



Figure 2 - Scott 1897A Locomotive

By 2002, presumably with supply chain lead time advances in contract printing, the USPS changed tactics. For the rate hike from 34¢ to 37¢ of June 30, 2002, a new, simple 3¢ Star design (Figure 3) was ordered in sheets and rolls. Self-adhesive panes of 50 were issued June 7. Also released then were water-activated gummed coils with plate number S111 (Scott 3615). This is the only low-value PNC issued specifically for makeup use for a specific rate period.

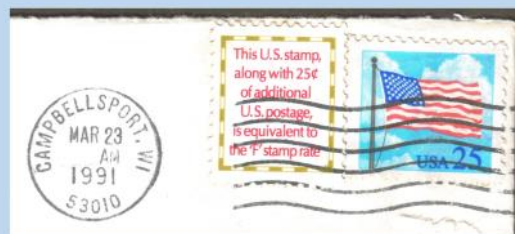


Figure 1 - Scott 2521 undenominated makeup stamp



Figure 4 - Scott 2112 "D" Eagle

In the “A”, “B” and so on letter-rate undenominated series, PNC rolls did not appear until the “D” (22¢) Eagle design (Figure 4) issued Feb. 1, 1985 (Scott 2112). Frequent rate changes were expected in the high-inflation period of the early 1980s. Advance printing of contingency “A” through “C” including rolls occurred before plate numbers on coils began.



Figure 3 - Scott 3615 Star

## Possible New Rarity?

By Gene Trink

Please refer to page 148 of the December 2020 issue to refresh your memory about Scott 3980a that John Himes so ably described. I’ve included the illustration from that issue below so you don’t have to seek it out, but the text is enlightening. This is a possible candidate for inclusion on the Rarities list that I have been keeping for the last ten years or so, and I’d like members, particularly dealers, to help decide whether this variety should be added to the Rarities List.

As you are probably aware, the Rarities census tracks the reported quantities of PNC varieties that have not been located in plate strips of 5 or more. Most of the items on the Rarities List (published periodically in *Coil Line*) show only used singles. A couple have, since originally listed, been reported in mint condition (singles or strips), and have been maintained on the list because they’re still very rare.



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

As of this writing, I’m not aware that any mint examples of this variety have been reported. I need to know how many examples of this (possible) rarity are in members’ collections if I’m going to create a new entry on the Rarities census and list it in the future.

So, I’m asking every member (particularly dealers) to check their holdings to see if a PS5 or used single of 3980a has been hiding in plain sight. If you don’t have a short wave blacklight, perhaps you could collaborate with someone who does. If there’s a question in your mind about whether you have a used single or mint copy, you could send it to John Himes for verification. Also, send to John for verification if you have either a single or mint strip to report. John Himes. PO Box 453, Cypress, CA 90630.

Thanks very much for your valued assistance in this important project.

# Paper Fold on Uncle Sam's Hat Leader Strip

By Frank Covey

John Hotchner in a recent Linn's Stamp News wrote about paper folds on early U.S. Stamps. Now there is a new category of paper folds -- paper folds on leader strips.

**Figure 1** is an illustration of a leader strip from an Uncle Sam's Hat coil. Observe from the closeup image of the paper crease that it bisects the "E" in RATE. Below that it affects the spacing in "100" and "MANUFACTURED".

The Uncle Sam's Hat is a good buy now as the Additional Ounce Rate is scheduled to go from 15 cents to 20 cents on January 24, 2021. Buy now and do 55¢ first-class mailings after January 24<sup>th</sup> for a net cost of 45¢ by putting two Uncle Sam's Hat stamps purchased at 15¢ each and another 15¢ stamp on your first-class envelope.

I like to save the Uncle Sam's Hat in stacks of two to illustrate the bridges that hold the Banknote Corporation of America (BCA) coils together before being sold. The leader strip on the stacked rolls with the paper crease also had a bridge (**Figure 2**) on the leader strip. Bridges on the Uncle Sam's Hat regularly occur about six stamps apart.

Another feature on these two stacked rolls was a small black mark (**Figure 3**) just before the adhesive space that holds the roll to itself before being opened. I assume this is a mark to tell the machinery where to start the adhesive space. Some adhesive spaces are wider than the one shown.

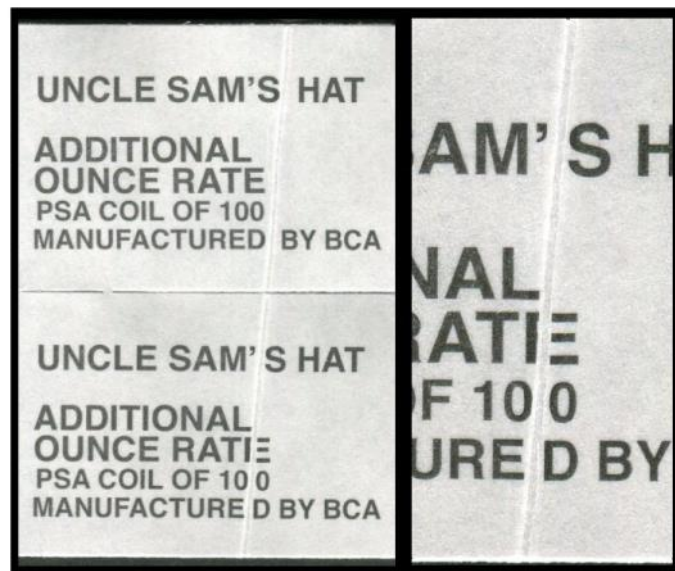


Figure 1 - Scott 5341 Uncle Sam's Hat leader strip with paper fold and closeup

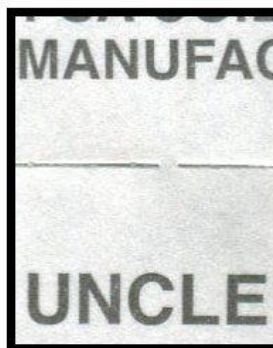


Figure 2 - Scott 5341 Uncle Sam's Hat leader strip showing coil bridges

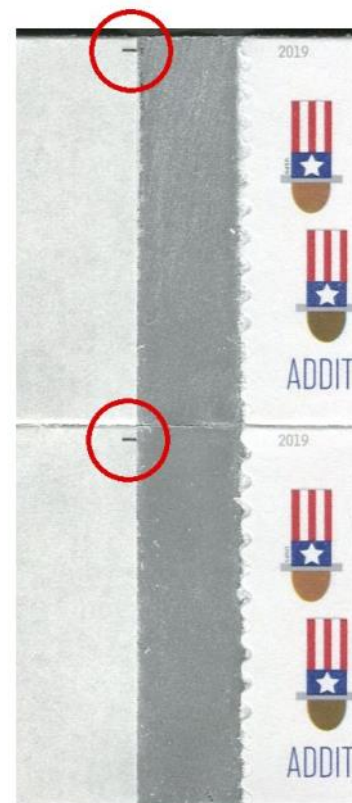


Figure 3 - Scott 5341 Uncle Sam's Hat with small black marks

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## Accessing the Members Area of the PNC<sup>3</sup> Website ([www.pnc3.org](http://www.pnc3.org))

New club members receive a welcome message inviting them to access the website. New members should follow the link in the email.

Existing members who have not yet accessed the website and have questions or are having access issues should send email to [webmaster@pnc3.org](mailto:webmaster@pnc3.org).

Provide a phone number and contact time and the webmaster will make contact to get access set up or resolve other issues.



# Letters to the Editor

*Coil Line* is finally looking decent. I'm impressed, thanks! I do have a comment on images. The Hat scans on page 1 should have been done at higher resolution so we could see the details he was talking about. I know it's hard to show die-cutting, but it's not impossible, though getting die-cuts to show can mess with the color. If someone is talking about the position of die-cuts, then it would be nice to see them, never mind the color. I also know you have to work with what you are sent. Aren't all editors bald already?



Cheers,

Rudy de Mordaigle

## UNSOLD PNC<sup>3</sup> AUCTION #63 LOTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

There are still some unsold lots available to purchase from PNC<sup>3</sup> Auction #63 for the minimum bid on a "first come, first wins" offer. The auction lots can be found in the October 2020 issue of *Coil Line* and compared against the auction results in the December 2020 issue. If you have any questions, contact PNC<sup>3</sup> Auctioneer Joe Sedivy via email at [pnc3auctions@aol.com](mailto:pnc3auctions@aol.com).

My mailing from Joe Sedivy, PNC<sup>3</sup> Auctioneer, for the lots I had won in Auction #63 had a \$0.00 label covering some nice postage stamps. None were cancelled. I assume the postal clerk thought that the label covering the stamps was enough to make them unusable again. Labels, like the one below, are used by postal clerks when the correct postage has already been applied to a package.

However, I was able to use the Air Freshener Pure Citrus Orange to soak the stamps off the packaging and save the \$0.00 label. I discovered Orange Citrus while attending the PNC<sup>3</sup> Regional meetings in California hosted by John Himes. Before discovering Pure Citrus Orange I used lighter fluid to soak self-adhesive stamps.

Below are some of the nice stamps I received on my package from Joe Sedivy. Thanks, Joe. Nice used stamps provide another unmentioned benefit from participating in PNC<sup>3</sup> Auctions.

Frank Covey



## From the Oversized Dept.: A 30-Year-Old PNC

(continued from page 154)

Large envelopes like this are unwieldy to collect and store, compared to letters and cards. But for postal history they are a distinct class of artifacts to document rates unique to them. In addition to their awkward size for collecting, it has been challenging to picture them. Today's smartphone cameras resolved that issue.

As an echo of the size awkwardness, correct postage applied as adhesive stamps is often difficult to find on large envelopes. Consider the case at hand. Given the facts above, we only know that postage was overpaid, but not what it was paying.

If the user planned to mail before rates rose on Feb. 3, a mailing weight of one ounce cost 35¢. If two ounces, the cost was 50¢. Starting Feb. 3, the costs rose to 39¢ and 52¢, respectively. Forming a collection of large envelopes with PNCs, with correct postage for successive weight steps from just one rate era is challenging, indeed.

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.)**

## What is an Advanced PNC Collection and Collector

By Scott Walker

A recent article by member John Hotchner in Linn's Stamp News (October 12, 2020) caused me to stop and think about how it applied to PNC collectors. A reader posed a question as to what constitutes an advanced collection. John defined an advanced collection as one where a collector has acquired all of the easy stamps with a cost of \$25 or less, then took the question a step further to address the advanced collector. While his definition of an advanced collection can be easily applied to PNCs, I believe an advanced PNC collector is much more focused on one or more specialty areas. Given that there are hundreds (or thousands) of PNCs when the many different varieties are included, building an advanced collection is no small feat.

In order to build an advanced PNC collection, the collector must become an advanced PNC collector. I hesitate to use the word "expert" in any field, but that is essentially what the collector must become. An advanced PNC collector is one that has researched and understands the different production methods used, how similar stamps are different, differences in color, perforations or die-cuts, imperforates, tagging and untagged varieties, errors, freaks, omissions, purple machine cancels (PMCs), flyspecks (constant plate varieties), pre-cancel gaps, and other varieties for each of the issues they collect. The significant difference when it comes to an advanced collector is the amount of time they devote to the hobby and their level of commitment in learning more about PNCs. The research and learning that comes from spending hundreds, sometimes thousands, of hours is what makes a PNC collector an expert. The proper identification of varieties only comes with time, knowledge, and experience. The differences between some varieties are so minute that it takes time learning how to tell them apart.

What do you think? Are you a casual or an advanced PNC collector? Are PNCs a hobby or a passion? If you'd like to share your thoughts, email me at [scott.walker.6482@gmail.com](mailto:scott.walker.6482@gmail.com).

## Wetlands - Part 3

The Wetlands coil stamp, Scott #3207A, was printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) and issued on December 14, 1998. This stamp can be found in a range of varieties. The Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers recognizes a small date variety (Scott #3207A) and a large date variety (#3207Ab). The catalog lists the first with plate numbers 1111, 2222 and 3333; the second with plate numbers 4444, 5555, and 6666.

However, collector Rudy de Mordaigle points out that three date sizes can actually be distinguished: Small, medium and large. In the December 2011 issue of *Coil Line*, he writes that the BEP used traditional methods to engrave plates 1111 and 2222 but digitally engraved plates 3333 and 4444. He further notes that Southern Graphic digitally engraved plates 5555 and 6666. The result are three subtly different date sizes: 1.4 mm 1.5 mm, and 1.6 mm in width, respectively.

We looked at square and round shoulders in a previous Beyond the Numbers article, “Birds of a Feather” in the May 2019 *Coil Line*. That article showed Flag Over City coils where the shoulder—the location where the peak of a wavy die cut meets the trough—can be either squared or rounded. The Wetlands coil stamp Scott #3207A can also be found with either squared or rounded shoulders. Square shoulders are common, but round shoulders have also been identified for plate numbers 1111, 2222 and 3333. Figure 1 shows the two types.

Hans van Gils’ specialized “American Scenes” checklist mentioned last month also shows excellent images with which to help identify these varieties. The checklist can be found at <http://www.usca.nl/usa-canada-2/usa/new-generation-definitive-issues/>.

Scott #3207A can also be found with back numbers. But back numbers will be a topic for a future article. As always, please send comments and feedback to me at [PNCsAreCool@gmail.com](mailto:PNCsAreCool@gmail.com).



Figure 1 - Scott 3207A (5c) Wetlands with squared and rounded shoulders

# PNC First Day Covers in My Collection

Scott Walker

The US Post Office Department issued Official stamps from 1873 to 1881 for each of the cabinet-level departments (**Figure 1**) and again from 1910-1911 as U.S. Postal Savings Official Mail (**Figure 2**). Although the stamps read “Postal Savings”, they were not Postal Savings stamps. They were official stamps used to track mailings between Postal Savings Banks established by Congress in 1910.



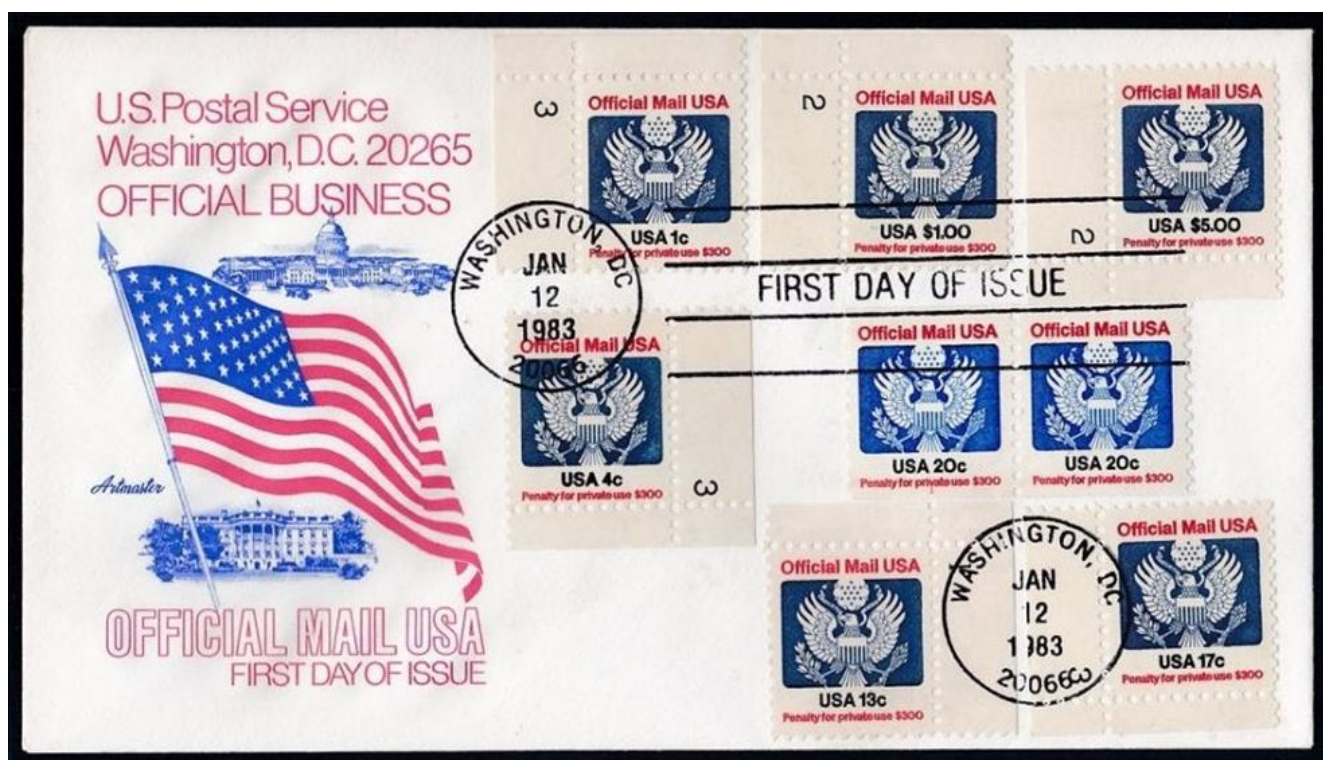
Figure 1 - Official Stamps Series of 1873



Figure 2 - Postal Savings Official Stamps Series of 1911

On January 12, 1983, the U.S. Postal Service issued Official Mail stamps for use by the federal government for official business. The official mail stamps use the same design, the Great Seal of the United States, with different denominations and a penalty message at the bottom of each stamp.

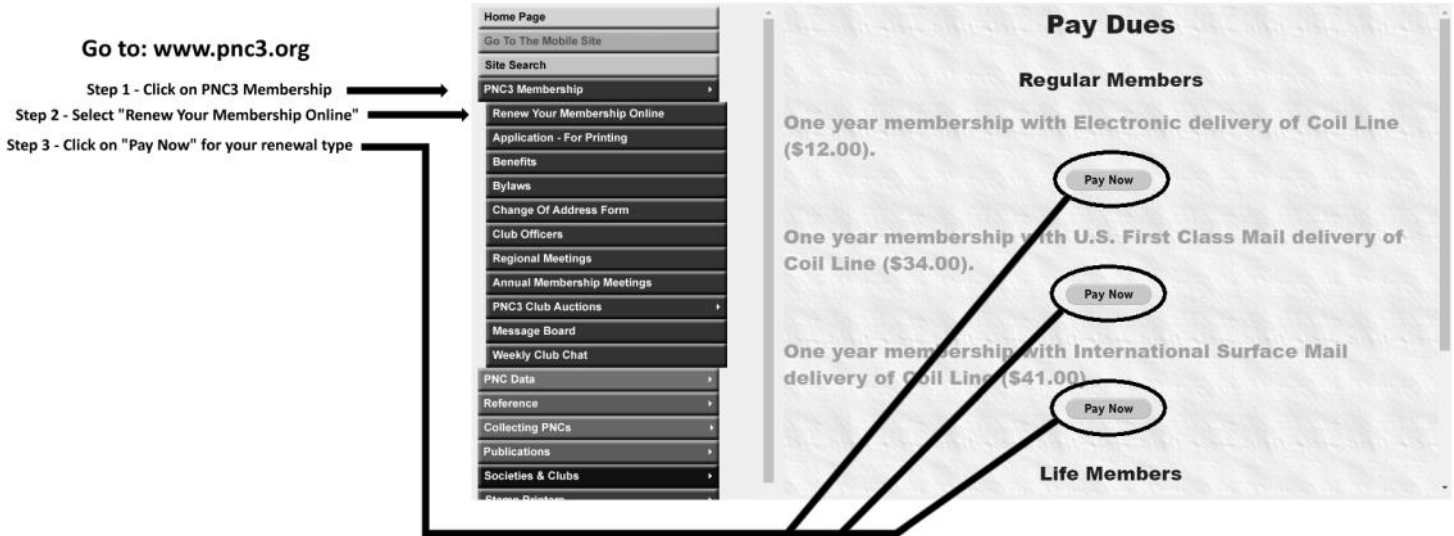
The first day cover (FDC) shown below is by Artmaster and features plate number singles of each 1983 sheet stamp including the 1¢ (Scott O127), 4¢ (Scott O128), 13¢ (Scott O129), 17¢ (Scott O130), \$1 (Scott O132), and \$5 (Scott O133) as well as a plate number coil pair of the 20¢ (Scott O135). It is not particularly valuable and although I normally try to collect PNC FDCs with at least a strip of 3 stamps, I added this to my collection as I found it interesting that all the initial issue Official series stamps had plate numbers on the selva.



# Annual Membership Dues are Due!

Now is the time to renew your PNC<sup>3</sup> 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](http://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 PNC<sup>3</sup> website [www.pnc3.org](http://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 PNC<sup>3</sup> 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 PNC<sup>3</sup> 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 PNC<sup>3</sup> 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, PNC<sup>3</sup> 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: _____
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In accordance with the PNC<sup>3</sup> 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...**

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