

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

# COIL LINE

## Coil Line: The Early Years

There is much to commend the 19th (Jan. 1990) and 20th (Feb. 1990) issues of our *Coil Line* journal. Only some highlights can be shared here, due to space constraint.

The Jan. 1990 issue reported on PNC<sup>3</sup> at World Expo Stamp 1989. Topics include another counterfeit attempt at making an unreported “gap” position for the 5.9¢ Bicycle #3 precancel. “Tall strips” is the subject of a reader’s letter, and Dr. Bob Rabinowitz gave a detailed article on “Split Numbers, Numbers on Top, No Numbers” (please see page 2)



(image from Feb. 2016 issue)

### Would You Help PNC<sup>3</sup> as a Webmaster?

Your club’s webmaster position is open and needs to be filled. Please see page 5 for details.

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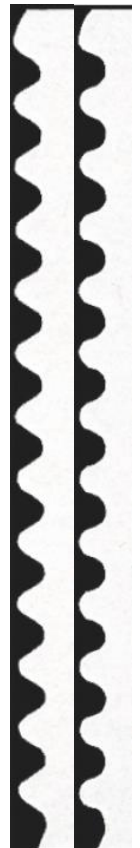
## BCA’s Die Cuts Subtly Differ on Forever Ferns

Banknote Corporation of America (BCA) was using two subtly different die cut patterns among large rolls of a single issue as far back as the 2014 Forever Ferns that it printed for Sennett Security Products (SSP). This is the third such coil known so far. Last month’s *Coil Line* reports the finding that BCA’s recent reprinting of the (25¢) Star Quilts involved two die cut shapes that are subtly different: One has peaks and valleys roughly “U” shaped, the other more “V” shaped.

More research before the April issue’s deadline led to news the presort standard 2020 (10¢) Star coil is also known with the two shapes, “V” of longstanding and “U” just discovered. A chart of a partial list of recent BCA coils showed that most BCA coils use the “V” shape.

Interestingly, the two subtle types have been hiding in plain sight, at least since Michael Baadke’s April 30th, 2015 online report on linns.com about then just-issued BCA Forever Ferns. The big news was that BCA used “2014” on its rolls of 10,000, but “2015” on its rolls of 3,000. In addition to showing strips of five with plate# “S1111” from each roll size (re-shown on page 2), the report had close-ups of each PNC single (re-shown below). Clearly evident is that the 2014 edition (10K rolls, Scott 4973-4977) has the V shape and 2015 (Scott 4973a-4977a) has the U shape. (The respective left edges are shown enlarged, at right.)

With minor-lettered Scott catalog numbers, collectors treat the five “2015” ferns as a separate issue. So, in which of the Fern issues listed above can we find both types of die cut shapes? (please see next



Scott 4975, 4975a PNCs# S1111 (Images credit Linn’s Stamp News)

► *Coil Line Early Years* (from front page)

that is partly related to “tall strips.”

The Feb. 1990 issue editorialized about the “Linn’s Trends” compilation of PNC market values found in *Linn’s* Dec. 25, 1989 edition. Of note today regarding 10,000- vs. 3,000-count rolls, “Briefly” quoted parts of *Postal Bulletin* 31752, Feb. 14, 1989, in regards to the new 10K roll format being issued. The top four mailers’ requests met were for 10.1¢ Oil Wagon, 13.2¢ Coal Car, 16.7¢ Popcorn Wagon and 25¢ Flag.

**Welcome!** If you are a new reader to *Coil Line*, PNC<sup>3</sup> is in our 35th year. We are a community of stamp collectors focusing on plate numbered coil issues of the USA. The first PNCs were issued in 1981 and, in Feb. 1988, a group of PNC specialists founded our club. *Coil Line* was launched in May, 1988 and serves (along with other club literature) to inform collectors on the many aspects of PNCs. Studies include scarce numbers, varieties, printing methods, market values, PNCs on mail and more. Thanks for visiting, and we hope you’ll join us!

► *BCA’s Subtle Die Cuts* (from front page)

Research into all the earlier saved covers that could be located with BCA coils turned up surprising results.

18 covers were found having 2014 coils, all on fundraising mail (mostly political). 12 have U-shaped die cuts, 6 have V-shaped. Frank Covey’s Catalog Corner columns in the June 2015 *Coil Line* for the BCA Ferns show the 2014 coil as “V” and 2015 as “U”, same as the *Linn’s* images. So it is surprising that in contrast twice as many 2014 U as V were found.

Regarding the 2015 coils (rolls of 3,000 only), that subject could fill another article. In fact, all Scott-listed Ferns of five designs, supplied as four issues (counting the two earlier issues of plate# C1111, one denominated 49¢ and the other as “Forever”), make a formidable 24-set cover exhibit challenge. (Four issues means four plate# examples to add to the 20 plain ones.)

And what would be the scarcest Ferns found used? Those with the lowest print quantity, and least likely to be used by mailers: 2015-dated Ferns. So no surprise I found only one cover. But surprisingly, in spite of the

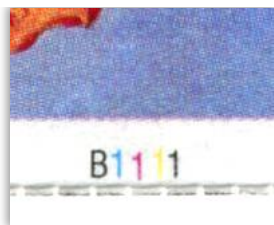
fact that the two sources cited show a U-shaped die-cut 2015, this lone 2015 Fern on cover has the V die cut.

Here’s what we know so far in this developing story. 2013’s 46¢ Kaleidoscope Flowers large-roll issue was the first to show a new die-cut pattern on coils that BCA printed for SSP. Specifically, the upper-left and lower-right corners have a peak-like shape (next to which is a full “valley”) while the other two corners have opposite shapes. (For traditionalists and general collectors out there, the new pattern is at a “perforation” gauge that Scott lists as “Serpentine Die Cut 11 Vert.”) Previous BCA-for-SSP affixer coils have (please see page 11)



The five Ferns designs as Scott 4973-77 (top), 4973a-77a (PNCs# S1111) (Image credit Linn’s Stamp News)

# CATALOG CORNER with Frank Covey



<58¢> U. S. Flag 2022  
(SA)(BCA)  
Plate **B1111**  
PNC ID **2022-3**



USPS  
Microprinting

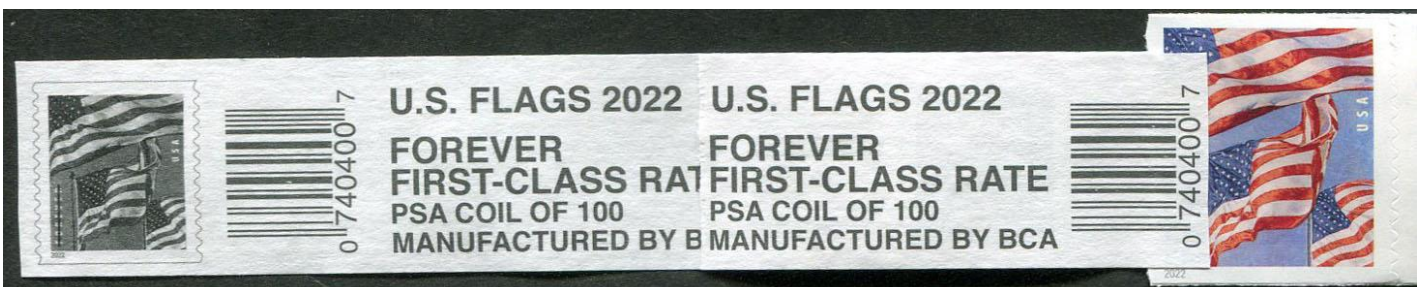
The <58¢> Forever **U.S. Flag 2022\*** (SA) (BCA) coil of 100 was issued January 9, 2022, in Findlay, OH 45840 and nationwide. No denomination appears on this stamp as it is intended to pay the current first-class 1-ounce rate forever.

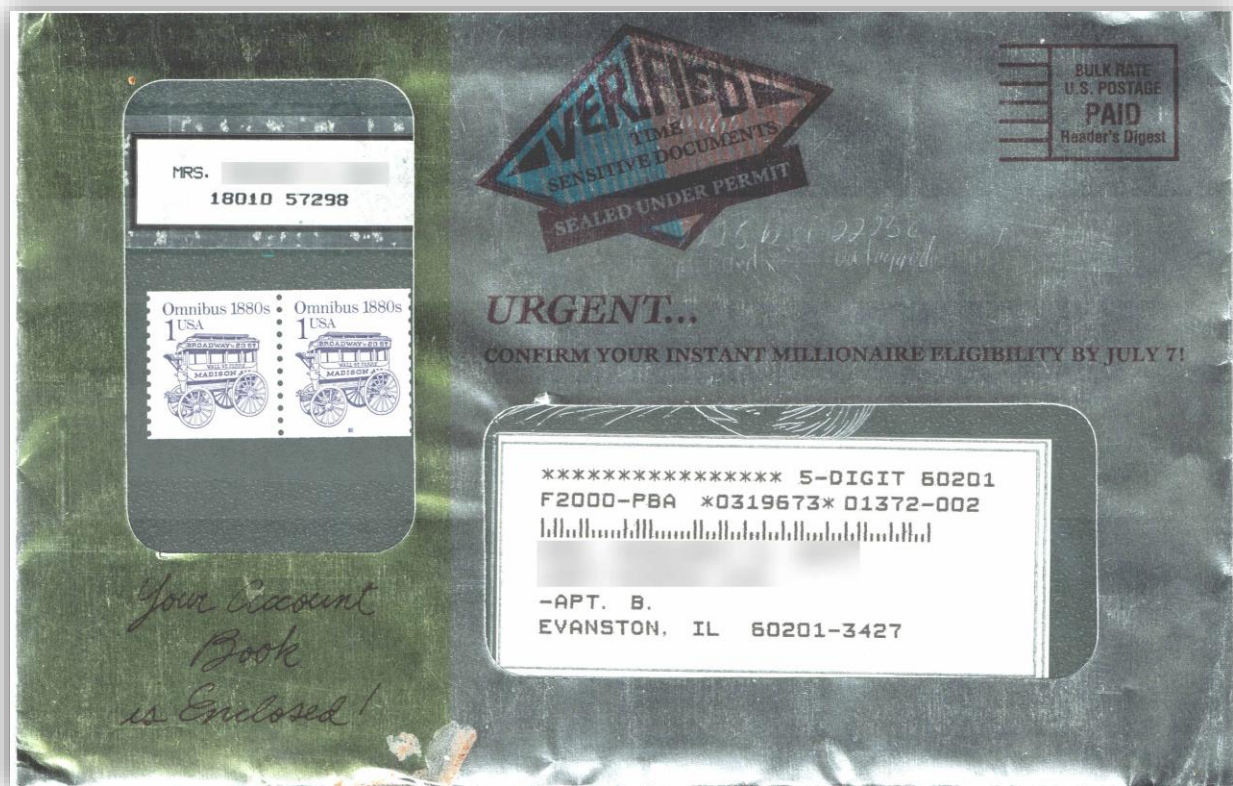
Produced by Banknote Corporation of America (BCA) the coil has a **B1111** plate number **every 31<sup>st</sup>** stamp. Most will collect this as a PS5 as there is only one design in the issue. A phosphor tagging break is evident under shortwave ultraviolet light, two stamps left (2L) of the plate numbered stamp as seen in the image below.

The rolls of 100 come in sticks several coils high. The plate-number close-up image at left shows the microbridges that keep the rolls attached until they are sold. The top and the bottom of the printed web have no microbridges, making for interesting collectable varieties.

This same design is used in a coil by Ashton Potter (AP) (2022-4, to be described in a future *Coil Line*) issued on the same date, and by BCA in 3K and 10K rolls (2022-2, in last month's *Coil Line*). On all BCA versions, USPS is microprinted near the bottom of the flagpole of the center flag. (See image to the left). Wrappers like the one shown at bottom seal the coil. The 2022 date is printed in the lower left corner.

\*—USPS name “U.S. Flags 2022”





Reader's Digest 1994 mailpiece, pair of 1¢ Omnibus coils (*Scott 2225B*) in front.

## 1994 Reader's Digest Mailing has "Reversed Ink" Plate #

Bill Castle shares this find from 1994, a *Reader's Digest* mailing with a Transportation coil pair in a front window (*above*) and 29¢ Flag over Rushmore coil in a back window (*at right*).

The unopened envelope measures 5-1/4 by 8". Two one-cent Omnibus coils (*Scott 2225b*) are seen through a window, placed on the inside of the cover. If you look closely at the stamp on the right, there is a spot in the middle bottom of the stamp. Close-ups of the coil (*below, at left and center*) shows plate# 3 in reverse.

The back of the cover has a window revealing a 29¢ Flag over Rushmore (*Scott 2523*) on a reply envelope.

Bill has four other covers (**no numbers**) from this mailing that he will give to the first four people who request them by email or regular mail. Bill Castle, 715 Monroe ST, Evanston IL 60202, bcastle90@gmail.com.



## Some Past Coil Line Coverage on Subtle Die Cut Corner Shapes

- Avery/CCL corners, Dec. 2015 (pg 151)
- <49¢> Red/White/Blue corners, Nov. 2015 (pg 140)
- Avery corners chart, Nov. 2011 (pg 173)
- Large-roll corners chart, Jul. 2011 (pg 112)
- 42¢ Flag (Avery) images, Nov. 2009 (pg 165)
- Avery corners images, June 2009 (pg 92)



# Wanted: Webmaster

PNC<sup>3</sup> is looking for a new Webmaster. We're hoping that among our members is a person (or persons) with extensive web development and maintenance expertise who can step up to this role.

The responsibility includes maintaining the website by posting relevant information for members, adding new code to improve functionality, and hunting down and correcting existing issues with the website such as dead links and other user-reported problems.

The person applying should have appropriate web development credentials and the flexibility to make changes quickly when needed. Basic remuneration is included on a monthly basis, but due to the club's budget, it is not what a professional web developer would normally be paid. Thus, we're hoping to find someone within our membership willing to help with this job and willing to accept a small stipend monthly to help cover their expenses.

If we are unable to recruit a member for this vital task, we will have to look elsewhere. So if you have a friend or family member who has the appropriate credentials and would consider accepting this role, we would appreciate having their information. We realize we might have to pay more for an outside developer but will consider this course if none other is available.

Please contact President Tom McFarland if you are interested in the role or can refer us to someone outside PNC<sup>3</sup> who could assume this responsibility. (Tom's contact information is on page 6.)

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

### Reinstated

Ray Benzinger #555

Jill Ambrose #425

Arthur W Schiefer III #1532

Rudy de Mordaigle #1830

David Kleinman #2182

Thomas M Thompson #2415

Robert Langdon #2448 (formerly 1957)

### Deceased

**James Carr** #1321

Oakwood, GA

Membership at Start of April.....	376
Reinstated.....	+ 6
<u>Deceased.....</u>	<u>- 1</u>
Membership at End of April.....	381

## Questions and Answers on BCA's Subtle Die Cuts

**Q1.** Why are these called "subtle" die cuts?

**A1.** While the die cuts themselves are not subtle, sometimes a self-adhesive stamp of a given Scott catalog number is found with slight die-cut pattern differences among its examples.

Some differences have direct analogy to hobby attention of gummed and perforated stamps. The "gauge" of perforations (number of holes in 2cm) is also the die cut gauge (number of peaks in 2cm) for stamps with a "serpentine" die cut. (See the Scott catalog's preface for method used to assign a discovered gauge difference to a new "major" number or a lettered variety for an existing number.)

Some die cut differences are unique to die cutting and garner much less general hobby interest. Almost none get assigned Scott numbers. A few can rise to the level of substantial trading. In these cases, the specialized Scott catalog will describe them and often offer market values. 32¢ Flag over Porch coils that are identical except for a different count of peaks at a given edge, are examples.

Now, to those die cuts that look identical right down to gauge and number of peaks and valleys. Among PNC'ers, closer looks can turn up smaller differences that often need enlargement to see. "Subtle die cuts" is shorthand for a set of these, usually among large-roll coils' corner shapes. (See list of past corner shapes coverage, page 4.)

Keep in mind that collectors should feel free to engage in the hobby to their own contentment.

**Q2.** Why do some care about "subtle" die cuts?

**A2.** Besides the usual "flyspecking" interest of some, specialists like to check if certain cases can reflect given printings, now that plates or cylinders are no longer uniquely numbered. This is the case for some past "corner shape" differences. In BCA's U vs. V shape duo, it might turn out that if a (25¢) Quilt has a U shape, it is a reprint (while V shape is known on both original and reprint coils).

**Q3.** Why didn't the "U-shaped" die cut images (in April issue) show coils' die cuts off-paper against a dark background to see patterns better?

**A3.** In research before the April issue, only lone covers of each respective coil issue were in-hand. It's not wise to disturb such covers unless plentiful quantities become known. Page 1 here shows both U and V shapes against dark backgrounds.

# Coil Line

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Scott 1897A plate # 10 (issued May 20, 1982, 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 month of publication. Please send all copy to Ronald Blanks, email at [rblanks\\_stamps@yahoo.com](mailto:rblanks_stamps@yahoo.com), text or call 757.478.8719 (if needed, ask for mailing address to mail items securely).

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 5th 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 offered. To U.S. addresses, to receive printed edition add \$26.00 for First Class Mailing. To Non-USA addresses, add \$34.00 for mailing. Past print issues of **Coil Line** are available at \$2.50 each (quantities limited).

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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.

**Postal mailings prepared by:** Brian Snippen, 1010 Blue Sage Rd NE, Rio Rancho NM 87144. Send email to: [snippenb@gmail.com](mailto:snippenb@gmail.com). Phone: 505-404-1624.  
Mailed from Zip Code 87185 on or near April 28, 2022.

## PNC<sup>3</sup> Contacts

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(open position), **Webmaster**  
email: [webmaster@pnc3.org](mailto:webmaster@pnc3.org)

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

## Elected Officers

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email: [mauistampcollectordude@gmail.com](mailto:mauistampcollectordude@gmail.com) 408-893-1040

Daniel Farrar, **Secretary**, 3386 Excalibur Circle NW, Canton, OH 44708.  
email: [farrard2@gmail.com](mailto:farrard2@gmail.com) 330-477-6913

Mel Borofsky, **Treasurer**, 101 W. Sterling Way, Leesburg FL 34788-2781.  
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email: [rthompson@pncvarieties.com](mailto:rthompson@pncvarieties.com) 713-397-1772

John Himes, **At Large**, PO Box 453, Cypress, CA 90630-0453.  
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Lynnette Wood, **At Large**, PO Box 183, Deer Harbor, WA 98243.  
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**PNC<sup>3</sup> Catalog Committee:** Frank Covey, Andy Jakes, Tom McFarland, Gene Trinks, Peter Tukker, Frank O'Brien.

**PNC<sup>3</sup> auctioneer:** Joe Sedivy

## Coil Line Production

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**senior consultant:** Gene Trinks

**technical consultant:** Alan Thomson

**contributing writers:**

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**proofreaders:** John Himes, Michael Mules

**printing:** State Wide Printing - Albuquerque NM

**subscriptions:** Daniel Farrar

# PNC<sup>3</sup> Board Elections in June

by Robert E. Thompson,  
Elections Committee Chair



Election of officers for our club will be held next month. The June *Coil Line* will have the ballot. The following members have volunteered to run:

Robert Martin, for President,  
John Himes, for Vice-President,  
Dan Farrar, for Secretary,  
Mel Borofsky, for Treasurer,  
Vince Jones, for one of two At-Large positions,  
Frank O'Brien, for one of two At-Large positions,  
Lynnette Wood, for one of two At-Large positions.

Terms are for two years, with most of the club's business conducted via emails.

(Tom McFarland is term limited, so he cannot run for president again. He will fill the past president office on the newly composed board.)

Candidates have provided biographical sketches for publication in *Coil Line* so members may understand some things about who will lead the club in the next two years. If there are any new candidates by May 9th or so, their biographies will be shown in the June issue. Current nominations are shown below.

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## Robert Martin, for President

Robert has been collecting stamps for 64 years. Starting at age 9, his initial interests were world-wide, United States, and first day covers. His interests in philately now run the gamut of almost every area, in order to help young or beginning stamp collectors.

He researches and writes articles every month on philatelic subjects from "dead" countries, to classics, exhibiting, perfins, precancels, covers, booklets, coils, modern issues, Cinderellas, philatelic definitions, topical stamp collecting and how stamp collecting is the most educational hobby.

Since 2002 he has operated stamp clubs for children in public schools in Hollister and San Jose, CA, Reno and Sparks, NV, and Kihei, Hawaii.

Robert is married and the couple have six children and 13 grandchildren. (*please see page 8*)

## President's Message

### Tom McFarland

Appearing in this issue of *Coil Line* are short-sketch biographies of the club member candidates running for office in the upcoming PNC<sup>3</sup> Board election. The election ballot will be included with the June issue of *Coil Line* and the deadline for returning the ballot will be July 1. Ed Wigger has again agreed to chair the Ballot Committee. The election results should be available for inclusion in the August *Coil Line*. They will also be posted on the club website as soon as the Ballot Committee work is complete.

Our search for a new webmaster from among the membership has not produced any results. I have also advertised the position on a couple of stamp collecting discussion sites, but also with no success. At this point, we will have to explore using a professional developer which will obviously be more expensive.

But I think the website is important for the club and needs to be kept up to date and relevant. Even if we do not have a member with the appropriate developer skill, we hope we can count on members to provide new content as an outside developer will not likely be a PNC collector.

This issue of *Coil Line* should be posted on the club website before the end of April, which means there's still time to place some last minute bids in the spring auction. If you have not already, please take a look to see if there is anything of interest. Bidding closes April 30. Auctioneer Joe Sedivy will accept email bids at his email address, PNC3auctions@aol.com.

---

## Thinking of Running for a PNC<sup>3</sup> Office?

It's not too late – provided you contact Robert Thompson (see Elected Officers, page 6) **by May 9**. Just type up at least a few lines of a biographical sketch to introduce yourself for the June issue and be on June ballot.

► Robert Martin, for President (from page 7)

He owned a small business that prepares income tax returns. No longer owner, he remains operator for the 53rd year. He is also very active in Freemasonry. He has served as an officer in Masonic lodges for over 42 years, including as Master (President) of four different lodges. He has been a 32nd Degree Mason for over 40 years.

Robert belongs to well over two dozen philatelic organizations, including the APS as a life member. He actively collects plate number singles, used PNC singles and mint PNC strips and would be honored to serve as PNC<sup>3</sup> President.

### John Himes, for Vice-President

John Himes is a Life Member of PNC<sup>3</sup>. He collects both PNC used singles and mint strips and drives his friends and family crazy hunting for plate numbers on incoming mail. He's also a long-time member of the American Philatelic Society, and besides PNCs, is working on collections of U.S. stamps, Canal Zone stamps, and postal cards of the U.S., U.S. possessions, and Canada, as well.

For the past two years John has served as a PNC<sup>3</sup> At-Large Board Member. During that time, he helped add important content to the PNC<sup>3</sup> website, was a proofreader for *Coil Line*, helped place PNC single album page updates on the website for download, helped recruit new members, and wrote a number of articles for *Coil Line*. He also co-hosted PNC<sup>3</sup> meetings at Southern California stamp shows. Prior to this role, he served as PNC<sup>3</sup> Treasurer for four years and PNC<sup>3</sup> Vice President for four years.

Professionally, John is a retired IT Delivery Executive who was managing an IT outsourcing account for a major Japanese automotive company's U.S. and Canadian businesses. In that role, he managed a budget of \$42M in FY17 and worked with the office of the automaker's CIO to assure the company was getting outstanding IT support. For a number of years he has served on the Board of SeaCoast Grace Church in Cypress, California where he also helps administer a \$6M annual budget.

John holds BA and MA degrees in mathematics and a certificate in Executive Leadership from Cornell University. He is a strong people person and concerned with finding solutions to problems

that provide win-win scenarios for all involved.

John would consider it an honor to receive your vote for the PNC<sup>3</sup> Vice President position for the coming term.

### Daniel Farrar, for Secretary

Daniel Farrar is a retired payroll professional from Canton, Ohio. He began collecting PNCs in 1981 and joined PNC<sup>3</sup> in 1992. His main collecting interest is PNCs on commercial covers.

He has served as the PNC<sup>3</sup> Secretary since September 2016 and previously served as Secretary from September 2006 through September 2010. He is also a member of two local stamp clubs, the Stark County Stamp Club and the McKinley Stamp Club.

### Mel Borofsky, for Treasurer

Mel has collected stamps off and on for 70 years. He has been an avid plate number coil collector for the past 12 years. He is the secretary and a director of the Central Florida Stamp Club. He is also the treasurer of the Mid Florida Lakes Homeowners Association, Inc. and provide accounting and book-keeping services to many companies.

Mel is a 1962 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania (BSEE). He is also a Vietnam era vet, having served six years in the USAF. (please see page 9)

## Coil Line Classifieds

**PNC USED singles, used strips, MNH PS5s,** purple machine cancels, gap strips, test coils, hi brite strips. Great prices! Guaranteed quality! No hassles! Visit <http://www.angelfire.com/ca5/HimesPNCs> (or just Google "Himes PNCs") or email [johnwhimes@yahoo.com](mailto:johnwhimes@yahoo.com).

**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).

► Mel Borofsky, for Treasurer *(from page 8)*

He is currently the Chief Financial Officer of the local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary flotilla and a USCGAUX National public affairs and boating safety staff officer.

He has served as the PNC<sup>3</sup> treasurer for the past six years and had converted our accounting system to modern computing. Mel pledges to continue serving the club by assuring that members' dues, payments and expenses are properly and promptly executed.

## Vince Jones, for Member At-Large

Vince Jones started collecting stamps when he sought the "Stamp Collecting" merit badge in Boy Scouts. His parents both collected stamps, so he had free-range access to their duplicates. He has no clue regarding what happened to the childhood collection!

As an adult his interests originally centered on coin collecting. But he became a co-owner of Pennies and Postage, a store on Mercer Island, WA meeting the needs of stamp and coin collectors.

Through working at the store, Vince's stamp collecting interest was reignited, and he started collecting se-tenant material as well as envelopes and postal cards. Over the years his taste changed as he became solely a collector of coil stamps of all types... early, PNCs, tests, savings, officials, air-mails, purple machine cancels, precancels, and more recently, perfins. He, like many of us, is using most of his se-tenant collection for postage!

As PNC<sup>3</sup> finance committee chair, Vince recently used his MBA education to complete the first in-depth audit of PNC<sup>3</sup> operating processes and finances. He is a member of APS, PNC<sup>3</sup>, Precancel Stamp Society, and Perfin Club.

Outside of the stamp world, Vince retired as a Boeing Company Sr. Mgr., has been on church boards, a Salvation Army board, Boy Scouting boards, and has over 30 years' experience on home-owners' association boards, many of those years as president. Vince looks forward to bringing a new face to the PNC<sup>3</sup> board.

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## Donating Postage to PNC<sup>3</sup>?

Donated postage over the years has helped lower club outlays for *Coil Line* mailing costs. Excess stamps in usable form (typically, strips of presort or denominated coils, 10¢ each in value or higher) are always welcome. Send to Brian Snippen at his address on page 6.

## Frank O'Brien, for Member At-Large

Frank O'Brien is a CPA, and spent 30 years as a partner with a Big 4 firm and 11 more years as CFO of a public medical device company and another two years as CFO of a privately held medical device company. He is active as a financial consultant.

Frank has been collecting stamps since he was 8 years old. For the past 20 years he has been collecting mostly US. He started collecting plate number coils seriously about 10 years ago, joined the PNC<sup>3</sup> Club six years ago, and has a comprehensive collection with depth in tagging varieties. In the last year, he became actively involved with the Catalog Committee. Frank has found that the Club is active, collegial, and is a great resource for PNC collectors.

## Lynnette Wood, for Member At-Large

Like many collectors, Lynnette Wood began collecting stamps as a child. Also like many collectors, her collection was set aside as she pursued college studies, which ultimately resulted in acquiring a Ph.D. in applied mathematics in 1986. It wasn't until 1996 that her interest in serious stamp collecting began to truly develop.

In that year, she inherited a great uncle's collection that included many worldwide classic-era stamps he had accumulated in his travels before and during World War I. Identifying these old stamps rekindled her interest in studying, cataloging, organizing and appreciating – not just accumulating – stamps. She has been a passionate collector ever since.

Lynnette's collecting specialties are U.S. and British stamps, with a particular interest in U.S. PNCs and British Machin varieties. She joined PNC<sup>3</sup> in 2006 and has been helping maintain the membership database for the last six years.

For five years, she has also enjoyed contributing to *Coil Line* as author of "Beyond the Numbers" and getting to know other club members through email correspondence and Zoom meetings. If elected, Lynnette looks forward to continuing to serve the club for another term.

*PNC<sup>3</sup> Board elections Ballot will be in the June issue.*

## Recent PNC New Issue Information by Andy Jakes

Denom	Issue Name (Designs Count)	PNC-ID Number	Scott Nbr	Issue Date	Plate #	Plate# Interval	Roll Size	USPS Item #	Tag	T, M, B Back #s
(0.10)	Flags on Barns (4)	2022-7		4/14/2022	P11111	24	3,000	751104	Untagged	M
	from 3k roll	2022-7			P11111		25**	751103		
(0.10)	Flags on Barns (4)	2022-7		4/14/2022	P11111	24	10,000	761204	Untagged	M
	from 10k roll	2022-7			P11111		25**	761203		
<.58>	Mountain Flora (4)	2022-6	5675a	3/14/2022	P1111	27	3,000	750904	Overall	M
	from 3k roll	2022-6	5675a		P1111	27	500**	750915		M
	from 3k roll	2022-6	5675a		P1111		25**	750903		
<.58>	Mountain Flora (4)	2022-6	5675a	3/14/2022	P1111	27	10,000	761104	Overall	M
	from 10k roll	2022-6	5675a		P1111	27	500**	761115		M
	from 10k roll	2022-6	5675a		P1111		25**	761103		
(0.05)	Butterfly Flowers(2)	2022-5	5665a	2/1/2022	B1111	24	3,000	750804	Untagged	
	from 3k roll	2022-5	5665a		B1111	24	500**	750815		
	from 3k roll	2022-5	5665a		B1111	24	25**	750803		T(I),B(I)
(0.05)	Butterfly Flowers(2)	2022-5	5665a	2/1/2022	B1111	24	10,000	761004	Untagged	
	from 10k roll	2022-5	5665a		B1111	24	500**	761015		
	from 10k roll	2022-5	5665a		B1111	24	25**	761003		B(I)
<.58>	U.S. Flags 2022	2022-4	5657	1/9/2022	P1111	31	100	740404	Block	None
<.58>	U.S. Flags 2022	2022-3	5656	1/9/2022	B1111	31	100	740402	Block	None
<.58>	U.S. Flags 2022	2022-2	5655	1/9/2022	B1111	27	3,000	750704	Overall	T, B
	from 3k roll	2022-2	5655		B1111	27	500**	750715		T, B
	from 3k roll	2022-2	5655		B1111		25**	750703		T, B
<.58>	U.S. Flags 2022	2022-2	5655	1/9/2022	B1111	27	10,000	760904	Overall	T,B(I)
	from 10k roll	2022-2	5655		B1111	27	500**	760915		T,B(I)
	from 10k roll	2022-2	5655		B1111		25**	760903		T(I)
0.04	Blueberries	2022-1	5653	1/9/2022	B111111	27	3,000	750604	Untagged	
	from 3k roll	2022-1	5653		B111111	27	500**	750615		B(I)
0.04	Blueberries	2022-1	5653	1/9/2022	B111111	27	10,000	760804	Untagged	
	from 10k roll	2022-1	5653		B111111	27	500**	760815		T
(0.25)	Star Quilts REPRINT(2)	2021-3	(none)	Late 2021	B11111	28	10,000	(dealers)	Overall	T, B(I)
<0.20>	Brush Rabbit	2021-2	5545	1/24/2021	P11111	31	100	740304	Block	None
<0.36>	Barns (4)	2021-1	5553a	1/24/2021	B1111	32	100	740204	Block	None
<.55>	Wild Orchids (10)	2020-2	5444a	2/21/2020	B1111	27	3,000	750404	Overall	T, B
	from 3k roll	2020-2	5444a		B1111	27	500**	750415		T, B
	from 3k roll	2020-2	5444a		B1111		25**	750403		
<.55>	Wild Orchids (10)	2020-2	5444a	2/21/2020	B1111	27	10,000	760704	Overall	T, B
	from 10k roll	2020-2	5444a		B1111	27	500**	760715		T, B
	from 10k roll	2020-2	5444a		B1111		25**	760703		
(0.10)	Presorted Star	2020-1	5433	2/3/2020	B1111	27	3,000	750504	Untagged	T
	from 3k roll	2020-1	5433		B1111		25**	750503		T
(0.10)	Presorted Star	2020-1	5433	2/3/2020	B1111	27	10,000	760604	Untagged	B
	from 10k roll	2020-1	5433		B1111		25**	760603		B

**\*\*NOTE 1:** Roll sizes in Italics are quantities available from Stamp Fulfillment Services **T=Top, M=Middle, B=Bottom,** using adjacent USPS Item #, partial rolls from 3K or 10K rolls. *Compiled by Andy Jakes, as of 4/14/2022.* **(I)=inverted**



# Readers Forum



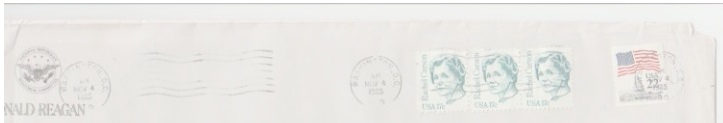
## Subtle Die Cut Types, BCA Affixer Coils

(“Gauge 11,” through 2021 issues)

BCA Affixer coil\*    Scott catalog    U shape    V shape

(25¢) Quilt Reprint	# on 5099	✓	✓
(25¢) Quilt original	# on 5098	??	✓
<55¢> Wild Orchids	5435-5444	?	✓
(10¢) Star 2020	5433	✓	✓
<55¢> Ribbon Star	5362	?	✓
2¢ Lemons	5256	?	✓
<49¢> Flowers/Garden	5233-36	?	✓
10¢ Pears	5039	?	✓
<49¢> Ferns 2014	4973-77	✓	✓
<49¢> Ferns 2015	4973a-77a	✓	✓
(10¢) Stars & Stripes	B# 4961-63	?#	✓
(10¢) Stars & Stripes	S# 4961-63	?#	✓
46¢ Patriotic Star	4749	?	✓
46¢ Kaleidoscopes	4722-25	?	✓

\* – coils of Ferns or earlier printed by BCA for contractor Sennett Security Products have “S” plate #s.  
 ?? – double “?” here, due to unique nature of Quilts’ original “plate # on 5098” vs. reprint’s # on 5099; the only way to know U shape was used is to discover one on a numbered #5098 (“mostly red” Star Quilt versus reprint’s # on “mostly blue.”)  
 ?# – any found must be on plate # coil to tell apart.



**About a 1980s Wall Street Journal Mailing.** In the March issue I asked how a 3¢ sheet precancel was neatly added with a 10.1¢ Oil Wagon coil. I overlooked one genuine case: A lettershop mishap or job end. Here’s a 9 x 11-3/4-inch political appeal post-office-canceled Nov 4, 1985.

A 22¢ Flag coil paid the first ounce, applied by coil affixing machine. Three 17¢ Carson sheet stamps paid three more ounces, applied by a labeling machine designed for address labels. For errant envelopes skipped between smooth runs, sometimes operators grab remnant stamps and affix them “by hand.” — *Ron Blanks #2119*



Sheet stamps applied by labeling machine

### ▶ BCA’s Subtle Die Cuts (from page 2)

only the same peak-like shape at all four corners. (For gauge users, Scott lists their gauge as 11-3/4.) The last two such coils are 2012’s 45¢ Weather Vanes [Scott 4613-4617] and 2011’s 44¢ Quill and Inkwell [Scott 4496].

As far as we know, this new gauge-11 die cut began with the “V” shape as shown on page 1. Next came the 46¢ Patriotic Star (Scott lists as “gauge 10-3/4”) and the (10¢) Stars & Stripes (gauge back to 11). Can any reader find a “U” shape among these?

That brings us to the 3K and 10K rolls of Ferns with plate# S1111. Initial media images show the 3K roll (2015) coil with U shape; my only example has the V shape. Media images show the 10K roll (2014) coil with V shape; I have six covers with those but twice as many with U shape. What can readers find?

After four more large-roll issues all known only with V shape, 2020’s presort standard (10¢) Star also came out with V shape, but a newly found U shape made news in April’s *Coil Line*.

Next comes the <55¢> Wild Orchids in ten designs. What do readers find with these? The very few covers I have show only the V shape. Which brings us to the (25¢) Star Quilts reprint, that brought awareness of the U and V die cuts as reported last month. Scrutiny of the reprints to tell no-plate-# coils apart from original coils led to finding U and V shapes among reprints.

After the April issue’s reporting, I finished sorting a five-pound clippings mixture advertised as “fractional coils.” There’s no telling the usage timeframes represented, but the mixture was mailed Feb. 5, 2022 and had 48 Transportation coils back to 1982. (Only one has a plate number, 3.4¢ School Bus precancel #2.)

The current presort-standard coil, before (10¢) Flags on Barns was issued April 14, was well represented. I found 37 #B1111 of 2020 (10¢) Star among 657 no-number clippings, with each one having the V shape. This is especially of note: With the new Flags on Barns now replacing the 2020 Star, where will any rolls of the U shape be found? Only the lone postcard use reported in April has the currently known U shape. Readers are urged to check their mint strips (and recent covers and used PNCs) to see if any more U shapes can be found.

Which brings us back to the (25¢) Quilts, the reason I was motivated to research a clippings mixture. 990 clippings have the V shape, (please see page 12)

## Interesting Finds in 5-pound “Fractional Coils” Clippings Mix



◀ mint Ribbon Star B111 on liner has paper clip impression.

*used Ribbon Star B111 ▶ was reused still on paper clipped from reply cover.*



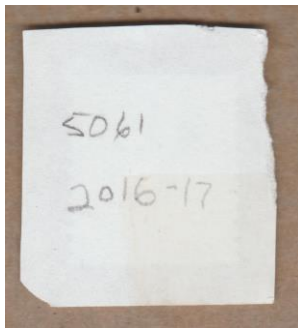
◀ mailpiece count 1492 on (10¢) Stars & Stripes, similar coils years ago caused big stir as speculative “new numbers on coils.”

*count 00909 of more obvious source (mailer) on (25¢) Quilt ▲*



◀ back of a (5¢) USA & Star with penciled catalog #; I guess mix was not “unpicked”.

*a count, & permit 1306, (10¢) Star pair ▼*



## ▶ BCA’s Subtle Die Cuts (from page 11)

including 36 plate# B1111 on Scott 5098). But seven (no-number) were also found with the U shape, the “new” find for this issue. Given these quantities and that the reprint occurred in July 2021, it is easy to speculate that the U shape on (25¢) Quilts occurs only on some of the reprinting. We can only buttress this theory (or discredit it) with any certainty if enough readers will check their mint holdings, and used PNCs and dated covers, for the U shape. Perhaps enough reporting will show that the U shape cannot be found on the original printing.

In conclusion, the chart on page 11 lists all the BCA-printed coils issued to 2021 that have the “gauge 11” die cut (with either V or U shapes or both). The U shape seems to be much scarcer. We need reader reports to learn how far this U extends into all these coils. – Ron Blanks

**Not shown before.** After almost five years since issuance, a 2017 <49¢> Flowers from the Garden plate numbered coil tied on-cover is known and pictured here. It is from the Humane Society of Boulder Valley in Colorado and the Mailer’s Postmark Permit cancel is dated “Nov-23-2018.” It was part of a cache sent to me from a friend in October 2020.

I came across it when researching older BCA coils for subtle die cut differences. This PNC was last mentioned in Rob Washburn’s Commercial Covers installment #136 (July 2018 *Coil Line*) as “no reports yet.” At deadline, Rob confirmed he knows of another cover dated Jan. 15, 2019, later than this cover. – Ed.



First pictured on-cover find, PNC# B1111 of <49¢> Flowers from the Garden (Scott 5235)

