

COIL LINE

JOURNAL of PNC³

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As I have mentioned previously, I spend one month every summer escorting 30 to 40 high school students to Europe. My wife usually goes too, but this summer she stayed home with our 5 month old daughter. I figured I owed her, so I promised that I'd take her anywhere she wanted to go when I returned. Loving the theatre, she chose New York.

It didn't matter that New York was in the worst heat wave in half a century, or that "Les Miserables" and "Phantom of the Opera" will be in Los Angeles in the fall--a deal is a deal, and I agreed that it was a wonderful choice. I secretly called my philatelic clerk and asked for the addresses of all the philatelic windows on Manhattan Island.

"Let's go tour NBC." "That's a great idea, dear." (I knew there was a philatelic window in the lobby of Rockefeller Center.) Times Square? Of course; there's a window at the Times Square Station. Wall Street? "Anything you say, dear." (Church Street Station). United Nations? "We can walk; it would be good for us." I knew the FDR Station was on the way.

Collectively, these windows were the greatest disappointment of any I have ever visited. None of them had any coils besides the Breadwagon, 25¢ Flag, 15¢, 13.2¢, and 16.7¢--none of them.

I suggested to my wife that we go to Madison Square Garden. "What's going on there?" I decided to blow my cover. "Absolutely nothing; it's across the street from the NYC Main Post Office." It's a truly magnificent building, but its philatelic window had even fewer coils.

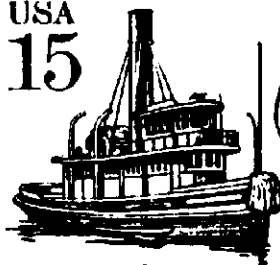
The last page of this newsletter has a questionnaire. I hope you will take the time to fill it out. Let's have a national evaluation of the individual philatelic windows. I will publish all the data in the November issue. Be honest. If your clerk ever sees the results, you can deny it was you. Blame it on a tourist.

It occurred to me that maybe the collectors in New York City don't know that they are getting a bum deal. If we can get a broad-based sampling of opinion, perhaps the results would be of interest to USPS Headquarters. And certainly the results could help those among us who travel. I, for one, would like to know what the windows in Hawaii are like before I ever consent to take my wife.

• Tugboat 1900s •

• USA

• 15



• Tugboat 1900s •

• USA

• 15



Here illustrated is a plate gouge at 1R on the 15¢ Tugboat. Its constancy has been verified. The example was submitted by Bob Novak.

Letters

There are two topics of discussion I feel are very important. The first is the matter of re-releasing stamps which were previously taken off sale by the USPS. As we all know of the #12/14 Pumper debacle, I will not address it again other than to say it severely upset an orderly market which had been established for those issues. It is obvious there is widespread panic, as witnessed the fall in prices of 18¢ flag #6, an issue which has not been re-released. We must insist they do not re-release any further issues. They obliged the collector by withdrawing the re-released 20 cent Official PNC's. They can do it with others whose release would upset the established market. Simply telling us which issues are in the hallowed vaults is not sufficient. We must ALL write the powers at USPS to halt this practice of re-releases.

The second issue is to suggest to Linn's to increase the PNC column to every two weeks as opposed to the current once a month. Michael Laurence needs to hear from all of us to accomplish this

Wade E. Saadi
New York, NY

The last issue of "Coil Line" contained a notice that PNC³ has been invited to submit a display frame of 16 pages highlighting the various aspects of the PNC hobby. I have volunteered to coordinate the effort, but have to report that I have not as yet received much of a response from PNC³ members.

This activity is an excellent way to promote our hobby and interest new members. Many PNC³'ers are quite expert in particular specialty areas within PNC collecting. Rather than have inaccurate or incomplete pages in our WSE exhibit, those with a particular interest should contact me now to help organize the exhibit into logical segments and develop ideas on how to display PNC collecting.

Please don't assume someone else will do it! If you don't come forward, it might not get done. Don't waste this opportunity to promote the PNC hobby. Please contact me with your ideas.

Gene Trinks
3603 Bellows Ct.
Troy, MI 48083

Well, we're finally off. After one year of organizing, the club has a permanent set of officers and board members.

I would like to take time to thank Gene Trinks for serving as temporary president, and for chairing the organizing committee. Without Gene and his group, we would not be in existence.

I would also like to thank Gene for running the first annual meeting in my absence. Work commitments at a new job made it impossible to attend.

At present the board members are going to put together a program and move forward. Items under discussion include a club auction, central sorting of information, and regionalization of the club. Articles would be centrally gathered from the specialists of these areas. Regionalizing of the club would be for greater attendance at large area shows, but would still have centralized membership with one set of officers.

It should be an exciting year, but remember it's your club, and comments (pro and con) are encouraged by officers and board members.

Don Eastman, President

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Advertising should be sent
to Editor together with
appropriate fees--check
payable to PNC³.

Letters

I would like to see a question-answer column in the journal. There are many things I am still unclear about. If you could answer this: What are "doctor blades" and where do they come from? How many stamps do they extend within a roll?

Tony Maves
Ames, IA

The presses have some rubber "wipers" meant to keep surplus ink removed. If some grit comes in contact, it is dragged along, trailing a line of ink in its wake. I have seen 22¢ Flags with a dirty wipe that have superfluous horizontal red, blue, and black lines. The line will continue as long as the foreign matter is present.
(Editor)

In TPN (Nov. 1987, p.73) Richard Nazar writes that "...there are now more than two dozen paper varieties on the Transportation Series..."; could someone please provide the distinguishing characteristics of those varieties?

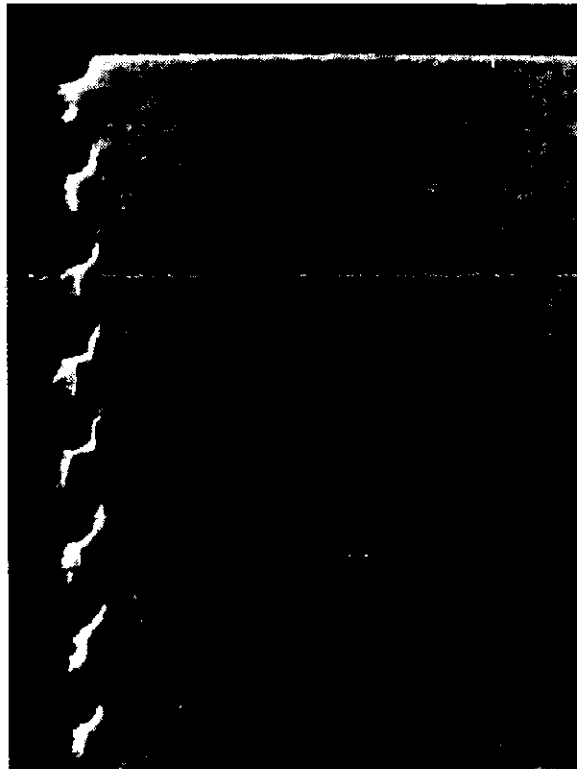
Ernest St. Laurent
Mansfield, MA

Nazar is a pioneer in classifying the paper types. There are three main types, illustrated below. Type I has diagonal ridges, and is the most common paper used on the Cottrell issues. Type II has more of a horizontal striation, the gum more easily picks up finger prints, and is the most common on the B-press issues. Type IIA is similar to type II, but the ridges are noticeably deeper. Beyond these basic classifications, I am ignorant. We will ask Rich if he would like to do a definitive article for us.
(Editor)

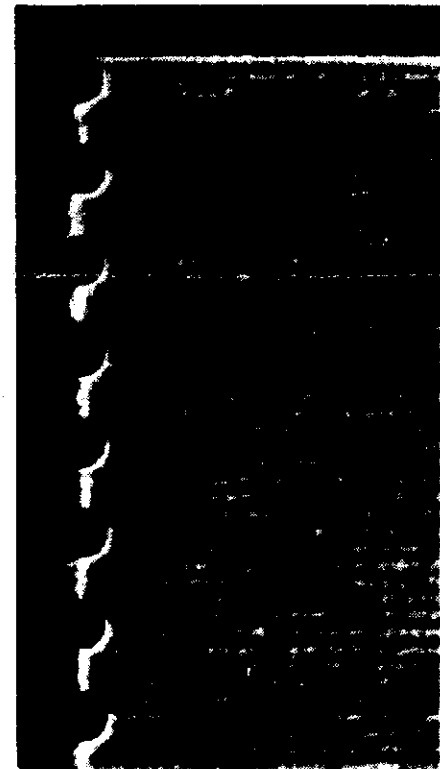
DETAIL OF GUM TEXTURES



TYPE I

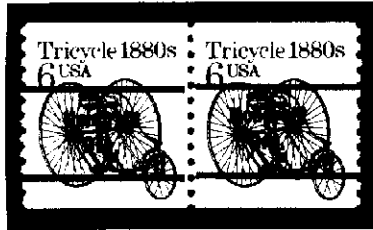
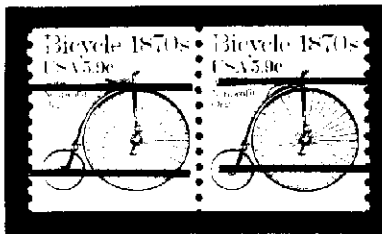


TYPE II



TYPE IIA

Gap collecting not dead

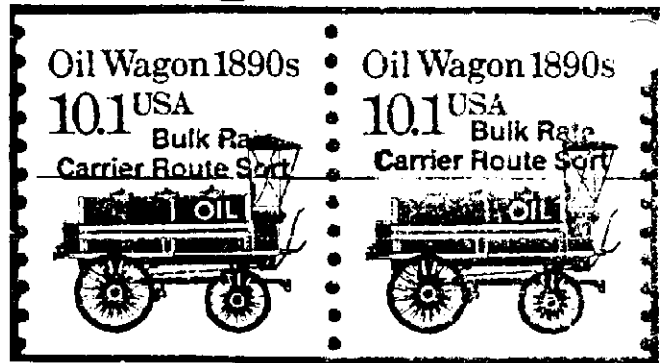


A sharp-eyed Linn's reader recently discovered a collectible variety on the newly overprinted 10.1¢ Oil Wagon stamp.

Since the new overprint does not have the familiar black double-line precancel overprint, many collectors thought that precancel gap collecting had died.

The stamps shown have a straight line drawn beneath the overprint on the left, showing the mismatched overprint heights. This is a type of gap.

So far, this variety has been reported on the fifth and sixth stamps to the right of the plate



These mismatched overprints are a type precancel gap.

number. It is not yet known how often this variety repeats on a coil.

Additional reports from collectors to Linn's of other positions would be appreciated.

Let's define some terms.

precancel: two horizontal black lines, with or without a printed designation of service.

service inscription: a printed description of the type of service provided by a particular denomination; e.g., "Nonprofit," "Bulk Rate, Carrier Route Sort," "Presorted First Class," etc.

Precanceling was done in a continuous process with the printed stamp passing through a second printing cylinder to receive the precancel.

Service inscriptions have been done in one of two ways.

- (1) The inscription is applied as in precanceling (one plate for the design, a second plate--or mat--for the service inscription.) (Examples are the 8.5¢, 10.1¢-red). In such a case, the service inscription can be in slightly different positions relative to the design from one roll to the next.
- (2) The inscription (even if it is a different color than the design) is part of the design-plate. Its position relative to the design is constant. The stamp only passes through one press. Some of the color of the inscription may wipe into the design, or vice versa. This is never true in process (1) described above. (7.1, 7.6, 8.4, etc.)

On Cottrell issues, such as the 5.9¢, the precanceling mat was 12 stamps wide. There was a gap, therefore, every 12th stamp. The illustration shows the gap slightly out of alignment.

The phenomenon described in the Linn's article would not occur in process (2), only in process (1). In process (2) there is no "service inscription" mat--the inscription is on the design plate.

On B-press precanceling, the mat was 26 stamps wide (a gap every 26th stamp). The 6¢ is an example, and the illustration shows a mat slightly out of alignment. The misalignment in the 10.1¢ (pictured) probably occurs every 26th stamp.

Briefly...

Imperfs exist on Breadwagon #2,3,4; 25¢ Flag #2,3.

25¢ Flag #4 is on sale.

Honeybee #2 exists on First Day Cover, as does an imperf pair! Some #2's have quite different tagging than #1--wider, with rounded corners. (Esra 1). Honeybee #1 has been found with the plate number buried up in the design. "E" stamps were used extensively on mail to Europe this summer (contrary to UPU regulations). A pair of "E's" was the most common design seen on hotel counters.

NOTICE:

_____ pages have not been included in this online issue because of privacy concerns dealing with members, their home addresses and collecting interests.

New Applicants (previously unpublished)

David Clark	Ft. Monmouth, NJ
Calvin Cohen	Randallstown, MD
Eugene Ernst	Houston, TX
John Grover	Winona, MN
Archibald McKee	Buskin, FL
Karen Weigt	Middleton, WI
Paul Arnold	Clearwater, FL
Robert Horan	Union Beach, NJ
Sheldon Gittleson	N. Miami Beach, FL
Lee Warzala	Springfield, IL
Evelyn Perkins	Sacramento, CA
Leonard Lack	Chippenham, Wilts, UK
Alan Malakoff	Houston, TX

Ads

Members are entitled to (2) free 40-word insertions per year. We encourage you to avail yourself of it. It would seem to be an especially good way to trade material you have in surplus for material you need.

Wanted: PS5 18¢ Surrey #11-18 XF, paying \$3; 5.2¢ Sleigh PC #3-6 XF, paying \$6; 5.9¢ Bicycle #5-6 XF, paying \$40. Other fractionals needed. Larry Thibodeau, 634 Derringer Dr., Bel Air, MD 21014-4815.

Wanted: Trading partners for all PNCs and PC gaps. Send for duplicate and want lists. Also, will sell numerous rolls of coils for face, plus Registration and postage, plus strips from my want list. Dick Koenig, P.O. Box 31872, Tucson, AZ, 85751.

Trade: Have excess PNC3 to trade for your mint U.S. postage. Send SASE for list. Richard L. Beecher, 10779 Woodbine St., #302, Los Angeles, CA 90034.

Book: First major text on the subject: "Transportation Coils and Other Plate Number Coil Issues" by Dr. Joe Agris, Hard Cover only. Color plates, 300+ photos: regular, precancelled, officials, errors, oddities, interesting anecdotes. Reg. \$49.95, members \$33.95 +2.55 postage. Eclectic Publishing, P.O. Box 20373, Houston, TX, 77225-0373.

Thanks: Special thanks to PNC3 members Don Eastman and Denny Williams for some great trades. Larry Thibodeau, Bel Air, MD 21014-4815.

Wanted: Trading partners. PNC's, Precancel gap positions (cottrell & B-press), constant plate and mat varieties, and #'s on top. I currently have many extra constant varieties for trade. Contact Tony Maves, 1228 Harding Ave., Ames, IA, 50010.

Ad Rates

Advertising for the Coil Line will be accepted at the following rates: full page, \$28; half page, \$15; quarter page \$8; classified ads, 6¢ per word. Deadline for ad copy: 4th Monday of the month. Ads of a quarter page and larger should be submitted in a "xerox-ready" format, and sent directly to the editor with a check made out to PNC3.

Members are entitled to (2) 40-word ads per year, free of charge.