

'Toledo brown' is really from Iowa

They're calling it the "Toledo brown" variety of the 29¢ Flag over Mt. Rushmore and its price has soared to \$150 for a numbered strip of five from Plate 7 and is at \$400 to \$600 for a numbered strip from Plate 1. It should be called the "Des Moines brown" because it was first found there in January by Gary Davis.

Davis immediately sent a numbered strip of five (it was from Plate 7) to TPN and sent sample copies of numbered or unnumbered strips to various others in the PNC community.

TPN believed this to be a color variety, not an ink contamination. The color resembles the brown of the 7.6¢ Carreta, not the maroon of the Rushmores.



TPN sent its strip to BEP for an explanation even though, judging from past replies to such queries, the answer will be

less than satisfactory.

Kim Cuniberti, who makes his living as an artist, immediately recognized that the brown variety is not and cannot be the result of ink contamination.

As is known, the Rushmores are in a maroon color (George Amick says BEP called it PMS 497U, a dark brown); the variety is a light brown resembling the color of Nestlé's Quick cocoa mix, or as Wayne Youngblood termed it, like a paper bag.

"If the ink is contaminated," Cuniberti said, "you have added a color. But this brown is lacking in the kind of red that makes the normal stamp maroon. You cannot remove a constituent color from ink by contamination.

"The only explanation for this stamp is that they printed it in the wrong color."

The stamps from Plate 7 have not been found in quantity. To satisfy demand by *Please turn to Page 71*

18¢ Flag 6 in comedy of errors

The World Columbian Stamp Exposition was full of surprises.

The talk of the show was about the man who walked in with more than \$10,000 worth of face value in coil rolls of 500. He offered them at 80% to Jerry Koepp of Stamps 'n' Stuff. When Koepp went through the rolls of 15¢, 20¢, and 22¢, he asked: "Where are the 18s?"

The man said he had swapped those two rolls at face (\$180) to another dealer for stamps he wanted.

Koepp said to go and get them back, but when the man returned, he said the dealer had sold them. Koepp was off like

a shot to find them. As it turned out, both rolls were from Plate 6, yielding 20 strips of the rarest of all PNCs. But the second buyer had resold the rolls. When Koepp caught up to them, he got five strips at close to the usual wholesale price.

Koepp said he said he did not want a roll because some strips had cellophane tape marks and most were centered high. The other 15 or so strips went to New York where they will probably turn up in auctions.

Also in the find were two rolls (20 strips) of Plate 4 of the 20¢ Flag and two *Please turn to Page 83*

Plate reports show up, but BEP is late

By Stephen G. Esrati

An undenominated, horizontally perforated coil stamp, called a "Universal Vending Machine" stamp, is being printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

That was the big news in the March 1992 *Plate Activity Report*, which contained BEP data for June, July, and August 1991. It included activity of private printers through December.

The UVM stamp will also be printed by American Bank Note Co. in a slightly different shape and with vertical perforations.

It is not yet certain the UVM stamps will carry plate numbers.

[For more on these stamps, see Page 74.]

Also listed in the report is Plate 2 of the \$1 Scaplane. It is unlikely that we'll ever see the Plate 2 Scaplane because it

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GORDON, I APOLOGIZE

Plate-activity reports are the lifeblood of *TPN*. I tend to make a pest of myself when we cannot get them.

The June–July 1990 reports got “lost” in the Postal Service, and the August 1990–February 1991 reports were sent to me as a special favor to help me work up the 1991 *PNC Catalog*. Other stamp journalists never received it.

After obtaining permission from the Postal Service, BEP was able to supply me with the “lost” June–July data.

I kept pestering. USPS told me it did not have the data from the printers. I did not believe USPS because the Bureau had told me it was sending reports to USPS every month, a claim that Assistant Postmaster General Gordon Morison stoutly denied.

Eventually I wrote a letter to Rep. Francis X. McCloskey of Indiana, the chairman of the subcommittee investigating the conflicts between BEP and USPS. He never replied.

But in late May, I was able to obtain three newly named *Plate Activity Reports*. They came in after BEP had said it really had not been sending reports to USPS monthly because of personnel changes.

It now appears that it was BEP that was delaying the reports, as can be seen in this issue.

GORDON, New reports are snazzy, but printers need teaching

Dear Gordon,

When you kindly asked members of the PNC community for comment on how to design plate-activity reports for the private-sector printers when we met at STaMpsHOW '91 in Philadelphia, we tried to indicate our need for the date when every plate is put back on the press.

While this was particularly true of fractional precancels, which sometimes went back more than a dozen times, it becomes even more necessary now with the many stamps being printed by gravure using more than one color.

What we need in order to compute the quantities of each and every plate-number combination, is the precise date when the blue Cylinder called 1 was replaced by the cylinder called 2. That way, we are able to calculate how many stamps should exist with the numbers “11111” and how many with the numbers “21111.”

The first reports we have had using the new format are wonderful, but it appears that the printers are reporting only the first date any cylinder is put on the press.

Then, when the cylinder goes back to press, as for printing “15555,” we are still given the first date to press.

What this has meant, for example, is that we are unable to calculate quantities for the five sets of numbers appearing on the 23¢ Flag Presort stamps.

The problem became even greater when we attempted to

Letters to the editor

All letters are welcome. *TPN* reserves the right to edit and condense letters, to print them as bylined articles, or to reject them. For the sake of efficiency, readers are urged to write to P.O. Box 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. *TPN* will forward letters to the proper authorities for replies. Unsigned replies are by Steve Esrafi.

The Plate Number

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I owe an apology to Morison, a philatelist who has taken an awful lot of gaff from me.

Now it is up to BEP to get on the ball with the reports. It sent data for September 1991 to USPS in April 1992, a good six months after the fact. The private-sector printers were able to provide data only two months old.

We realize that BEP, which also prints money, is a lot busier, but surely it does not take six months to get out the information. ❖

tackle the 10¢ Eagle and Shield, on which we have a report that 23 plate-number combinations exist, even though only 22 of those have been found by collectors.

Meanwhile, we learn to our chagrin that BEP has not, as we were told, sent monthly plate-activity reports to your department.

It makes no sense that we are unable to complete our data for such stamps as the “E” coil and the “F” coil, both of which were printed in the distant past. Surely all those plates should have been canceled long ago and complete impression totals should be available.

Nor does it make any sense, long after the scrapping of the good, old, reliable B Press that we still have huge gaps in our knowledge about the output of that press.

To cite only one example, we are extremely puzzled about Sleeve 1 of the 25¢ Flag over Yosemite, which appeared with block tagging and on prephosphored paper. Both were printed on the B Press. The block-tagged stamp went to press on April 19, 1988. It must have been sent back to press after the introduction of prephosphored paper.

Isn't it possible to determine when it was sent back to press and how many impressions were made on the new paper?

Surely a security printer has such data. Why can it not be made available to collectors?

Strictly speaking, USPS is the customer of the printers. It should, therefore, not be so difficult to get full and complete information from the vendor for the product you are buying. After all, the customer is always right.

Any help you can give would be appreciated and most useful. ❖

LETTERS: *Canoe was no failure; it worked quite well*

Regarding the coil stamps for current discount rates (*TPN*, "Underpaid, unmarked," March 1992):

Of the two that were made available soon after the rates went into effect, the 5¢ *Canoe* has worked well. Although nonprofit mailers may resent the "message" that somehow understates their actual postage costs, they have the option of avoiding stamps altogether. The stamp does include the required service inscription/endorsement.

The 10¢ *Tractor Trailer* is the stamp that didn't work, because it lacks the subclass endorsement and because first-class mailers have a legitimate gripe about the discrepancy between actual rate and face value. It was in response to that concern that USPS issued the 23¢ *Flag*, which has proven satisfactory for first-class quantity mailers.

For third-class bulk mailers, the 11¢ *Caboose* was reissued as a stopgap measure, so that a stamp with a service inscription/endorsement would exist pending the arrival of a new stamp (the 10¢ *Eagle and Shield*) that would actually solve the problem.

In response to certain items in the May *TPN*:

- I once bought a 500-stamp coil of 9.3¢ *Mail Wagon* precancels that showed the actual way one-line and three-line overprints occurred. (I traded the stamps to Larry Haynes long ago.)

The roll began with the lines in their normal places, but spiraled very gradually through the roll, so that in the middle the lines were perfectly out of phase. This occurred not because the mats were misaligned, but because the paper web was slightly askew as it fed into the press, a problem that occurs when the web gets creased, sometimes when a new roll is spliced on. Usually the problem corrects itself, but if it worsens, the result is a break in the web. In that case the press has to be stopped and rethreaded.

- The 1/2¢ *Look* cover in *Linn's* was not from the *TPN* auction. I've had it for years. Richard Beecher obtained the one you auctioned, and I have not seen it. I'm not sure if it is similar to mine, or whether it is the return envelope addressed TO *Look*.

- I am now a member of the APS expert committee (for PNCs, among other things).

Recently I had an opportunity to expertize a 25¢ *Honeybee* used single from which the PMS yellow ink had been chemically removed.

After seeing this example, I think your analysis of the yellow-omitted "F" stamp (Page 59) is probably correct, though I wish I could have seen them side by side.

Ken Lawrence
Jackson, Miss.

Outrageous eye-opener

I've just received my first issue of *TPN*. All it has done is to show me where else I could spend my money. It opens up so many more avenues of collecting—it is outrageous.

Harald Singer
Hyde Park, Utah

Pedro's World of PNCs

by Pedro Ortegon, M.D.



"Why do dealers have a larger door?"
"Because they have more overhead."

'Torment' not 'torrent'

I can't resist this...

On Page 49 you mention "the torrent of recent stamps." Perhaps you should have intentionally misspelled the word "torrent" by replacing the second "r" with an "m."

"Torment" would be just as appropriate, if not more so.

Concerning the accelerating problem with assigning realistic catalog numbers to PNCs, I believe your present system of defining them by type (*Flag*, *Transportation*, etc.) should be continued, followed by your present numbering sequence, with the value as the key.

One addition might be helpful: where possible, you might add in parentheses the Scott number immediately after yours. Scott shouldn't object to that.

George E. Kuhn
Fruitland Park, Fla.

More on FDCs, please

I would like to see more information on first-day covers.
Louis Bartilotta
Elk Grove, Ill.

In reply: Larry Graf will write on FDCs for us soon.

Make *TPN* a monthly, please

Since you will no longer put out the *PNC Catalog*, how about *TPN* becoming a monthly?

Jeff W. Scherer
Jacksonville, Fla.

In reply: No way! I gave up the catalog to find time to enjoy retirement, to travel, to spend more time with my family. Also, many *TPN* articles get kicked back and forth for more than a month, sometimes even longer. Going monthly would mean less consultation with others in the study group and, probably, a less worthwhile magazine.

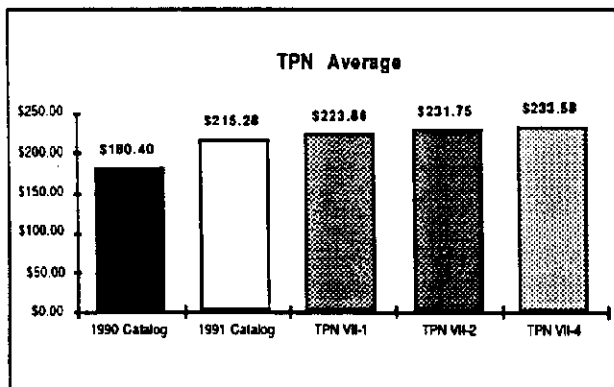
**Average dealers' prices on E&S stamps
Updated to June 7, 1992**

Number	PS/3	PS/5	Number	PS/3	PS/5
A11111	\$3.05	\$3.25	A34424	\$4.62	\$4.82
A11112	\$3.05	\$3.25	A34426	\$4.62	\$4.82
A12113	\$3.55	\$3.75	A43324	\$4.93	\$5.13
A12213	\$11.05	\$11.25	A43325	\$4.08	\$4.28
A21112	\$2.94	\$3.14	A43326	\$4.18	\$4.38
A21113	\$4.91	\$5.11	A43334	\$3.20	\$3.50
A22112	\$3.03	\$3.23	A43335	\$3.20	\$3.50
A22113	\$2.98	\$3.18	A43426	\$4.66	\$4.86
A32333	—	\$155.00	A53335	\$3.98	\$4.08
A33333	\$6.48	\$6.68	A54444	\$4.28	\$4.48
A33335	\$4.53	\$4.73	A54445	\$4.28	\$4.48

Note to this table: Prices are taken from dealers' price lists and advertisements. PS/3 prices are normally 20¢ less than PS/5 prices.

Prices have not been widely advertised for A32333.

Prices have not been adjusted for condition as they are for prices in the TPN Average.



Price changes of strips in TPN Average

CATALOG	SERIES	FACE	PLATE	TPN VII-3	TPN VII-4	% Change
18F1	FLAG	18	1	\$512.33	\$512.33	0.00
18F3	FLAG	18	3	1,132.75	1,149.36	1.47
20F4	FLAG	20	4	895.56	895.56	0.00
20F11	FLAG	20	11	13.54	13.64	0.73
22F1	FLAG	22	1	16.50	16.65	0.92
22F3	FLAG	22	3	59.06	59.89	1.41
25F5	FLAG	25	5 Block	5.60	5.57	-0.61
25F5i	FLAG	25	5 Phos	9.92	10.21	2.94
29F1	FLAG	29	1	6.07	6.00	-1.10
5.2T3	TRANS	5.2	3	190.72	192.53	0.95
5.2T4P	TRANS	5.2	4	16.70	16.70	-0.01
5.9T3P	TRANS	5.9	3	21.03	21.03	0.02
5.9T6P	TRANS	5.9	6	86.23	86.23	0.00
7.4T2	TRANS	7.4	2	13.43	13.56	0.96
8.4T3P	TRANS	8.4	3	16.36	16.36	0.03
9.3T1P	TRANS	9.3	1	18.94	18.94	0.00
9.3T6	TRANS	9.3	6	298.96	301.07	0.70
9.3T8P	TRANS	9.3	8	182.61	182.61	0.00
10.3T1P	TRANS	10.9	1	35.03	35.03	0.00
10.3T4P	TRANS	10.9	4	439.88	439.88	0.00
12T6	TRANS	17	6	22.25	22.21	-0.20
17T6P	TRANS	17	6	60.18	60.18	0.00
18T1	TRANS	18	1	103.72	105.43	1.65
18T3	TRANS	18	3	71.93	75.28	4.66
18T17	TRANS	18	17	7.54	7.58	0.51
20T1	TRANS	20	1	190.26	192.51	1.18
20T2	TRANS	20	2	1,098.25	1,098.25	0.00
20T7	TRANS	20	7	156.98	158.53	0.99
20T11	TRANS	20	11	93.66	94.93	1.36
20T12	TRANS	20	12	11.93	12.31	3.14
10U A33333P	E&S	10	33333	7.51	7.51	-0.01
19M A1112	FISH	19	1112	13.23	12.54	-5.25
29U 1211	F	29	1211	29.15	31.21	7.07
20M1	CONS	20	1	227.39	227.61	0.10
20M3	CONS	20	3	141.34	139.35	-1.41
20c1	OFFICIAL	20	1	58.94	58.82	-0.20
22c1	OFFICIAL	22	1	89.70	89.87	0.19

**Prices on some older issues
starting to creep upward**

While price volatility continues in several recent issues, there has been a slight upward shift in selected older issues as well. The trend reflects scarcity in wholesale stocks, with dealers finding it difficult to replenish.

In percentages, the most notable upward shifts are in the precancels of the 3.4¢ School Bus and of the 4¢ Stagecoach.

Also moving up have been Plate 2 of the 6¢ Bicycle, Plates 3 and 4 unprecanceled of the 9.3¢ Mail Wagon, Plates 3 and 4 of the precanceled 9.3¢ Mail Wagon, the precanceled Plate 8 of the 9.3¢ Mail Wagon, both precancels of the 12.5¢ Pushcart, and Plate 11 of the 20¢ Fire Pumper.

VF copies of Plates 1 and 2 of the precanceled 17¢ Electric Auto also moved upward. Most of these strips exist in less desirable condition, with the plate numbers often cut.

Among recent issues, the overall-tagged B Press version of the 4¢ Stagecoach continues its climb, with some dealers charging almost \$20.

Among recent issues, Michael Lipson and Al Haake have raised their wholesale price for A12213 of the Eagle and Shields to \$12. Those prices can be expected to climb further.

Haake's retail price for this number reached \$22 (for VF, \$24 for XF) in his ad in the June 1 *Linn's*. That was before TPN received the plate-activity report showing a small printing of the Green 2 plate, used only to print this number.

Haake is not offering Plate 14 of the 22¢ Flag at all wholesale; his retail VF price is at \$26. Lipson charges dealers \$18.

Haake is also out of wholesale stock of phosphored Plate 1 of the 25¢ Flag; Lipson offers it wholesale at \$25. Haake's retail price has climbed to \$35.

Jerry Koepp, is now charging \$32 for the untruncated Plate 1 of the 25¢ Honeybee.

"The price is going up," he said. "Al [Haake], Diane [Thompson], and Frank [Marrelli] are out. I only have 200 left."

Because this stamp is advertised by many dealers as "full ser-



THREE BEES—The original "1" at left always intrudes into the design, which is why it was chiseled down by hand to produce the truncated "1" (center). One row of the cut "1" shows a serif.

From the cover of the 1990 PNC Catalog

if," collectors appear confused over what is meant. The accompanying illustrations may clear that up.

The biggest question on prices continues to be A32333 of the Eagle and Shields. Dr. Robert Rabinowitz, who originally sold these at \$3 to his new-issues subscribers, calculates that the total supply is 1,875 numbered strips. When the scarcity of the number became clear, he offered them only as part of a complete set. The price for 21 numbers including A32333 recently was \$225, or almost triple what he originally charged for 19 strips including this elusive item.

Jerry Koepp offered A32333 at the World Columbian Stamp Exposition at \$160, but charged only \$75 on sales over \$25, giving a net price of \$120. (Koepp did 70% of his WCSE sales in PNCs.)

□

Why I quit the study group

By Ken Lawrence

When I resigned from the PNC Study Group a year ago, Richard Nazar asked me not to publish the fact, and I agreed.

Unfortunately, Steve Esrati published an incomplete report about it that was somewhat misleading, followed by a deliberately false and typically self-serving report by Bob Rabinowitz.

Not surprisingly, George Richards (Letters, May 1992), and probably many others, have drawn the conclusion that likens my resignation in the face of Bob's membership to the Hatfields and McCoy's.

There is no substance to these accounts, and in order to set the record straight, I shall now give my version.

It is true that I take a dim view of Bob Rabinowitz's business practices, but that wasn't my reason for resigning. He isn't the only sharp operator among PNC deal-

On two occasions, Steve wanted to recruit Rabinowitz. Both times I agreed to go along if Rabinowitz would agree to share information on the same basis as everyone else. When Rabinowitz declined those terms, Steve polled other members, and they agreed with me. Steve then withdrew the proposal.

ers, and there have always been members of the study group with whom I've had strong and chronic disputes.

I am also aware that some of Rabinowitz's customers like him and don't like me. (He sends me copies of their letters as taunts.) That doesn't bother me in the slightest. Much more interesting are the testimonials from his former customers.

The point is, this is just a hobby. People ought to be free to act as foolishly as they like. I have no quarrel with anyone on that score.

When I joined the study group, I did so on the basis that every member would share information on an equal basis. For me, that's a matter of principle, but it's also practical. If most members are reporting all their new discoveries while

one or two are keeping their finds secret and taking advantage, sooner or later everyone will be reluctant to disclose new information fully.

Steve is right in saying this wasn't a rule of the group, but it held sway informally. On two occasions, Steve wanted to recruit Rabinowitz. Both times I agreed to go along if Rabinowitz would agree to share information on the same basis as everyone else. When Rabinowitz declined those terms, Steve polled other members, and they agreed with me. Steve then withdrew the proposal.

Rich Nazar simply made Rabinowitz a member without discussing it beforehand, and then acted surprised and hurt when I resigned. I repeated the principle: If Rabinowitz agrees to full disclosure, I'll stay in. If not, I'm out. Rabinowitz insisted on his special status, and Rich decided he'd rather have Bob than me. So I resigned, quietly.

Rabinowitz, however, trumpeted the fact (*Coil Plate Number Exposé #15*, October 1991), along with a spurious account of my resignation. I did not, as he wrote, insist that he reveal everything he holds in stock. ("Does Macy's tell Gimbels?" is his favorite alibi.) I did insist that he disclose the quantities he knows exist of any item, my only condition. And contrary to what he wrote, I did so privately, not publicly, until now.

Why is this important?

Some PNCs are genuinely scarce. Sleeve 6 of the 18¢ Flag is an example. Others are not, but are expensive because existing quantities are tightly held. Plates 3 and 4 of the 10.9¢ Hansom Cab precancel are examples.

In today's market, the average buyer (or seller) may not notice the difference,

Even though some collectors paid \$70 per strip for Plates 17 and 18 of the 18¢ Surrey, \$250 for Sleeve 7 of the 18¢ Flag, \$400 or more for Plates 12 and 14 of the 20¢ Fire Pumper, and up to \$75 for plate number strips of the 20¢ Official coil, memories are short.

but if Diane Thompson gets hit by a bus tomorrow, the difference will become evident, to the dismay of many.

Because ours is a young specialty, these lessons have to be learned again and again—painfully. Even though some collectors paid \$70 per strip for Plates 17 and 18 of the 18¢ Surrey, \$250 for Sleeve 7 of the 18¢ Flag, \$400 or more

Some PNCs are genuinely scarce. Sleeve 6 of the 18¢ Flag is an example. Others are not, but are expensive because existing quantities are tightly held. Plates 3 and 4 of the 10.9¢ Hansom Cab precancel are examples.

In today's market, the average buyer (or seller) may not notice the difference, but if Diane Thompson gets hit by a bus tomorrow, the difference will become evident, to the dismay of many.

for Plates 12 and 14 of the 20¢ Fire Pumper, and up to \$75 for plate number strips of the 20¢ Official coil, memories are short.

Bob Rabinowitz won't lose any sleep if quantities of 10¢ Eagle and Shield A3233 cause the price to plummet, but a lot of worthy collectors will be permanently soured. Some, including myself, already are appalled at the greed that is spreading through our specialty, with this as its engine.

Thus, it is clear to me that the study group is already facing worse problems than I had anticipated when I resigned. Rich Nazar will bring a lot of good innovations to the *PNC Catalog*, but loss of the fellowship we used to have is a heavy price to pay. □

Editor's note: Dr. Robert Rabinowitz will be given equal space in our next issue to reply and the discussion will then be closed.

Linn's yearbook fills in many chinks in our font of knowledge

Throw away everything you thought you knew about the "F" stamp coils. The information that USPS has dribbled out to us in a few plate-activity reports is so incomplete as to be almost useless.

Even though *TPN* reported a few "F" stamp plates in September 1991 (which were repeated in the 1991 *PNC Catalog*), all were for Andreotti plates of 432 stamps (18 rows of 24 stamps). We now know differently, thanks to George Amick's *Linn's U.S. Stamp Yearbook 1991*.

Amick, who has his own way of digging up information that USPS will not reveal, reports that coils of 100, 500, and 3,000 were made from plates of 432, and that rolls of 100 were also made from plates of 480 (20 rows of 24).

[Amick quotes Ken Lawrence as follows: "Stephen G. Esrati, editor of *The Plate Number*, was the first reporter to learn from Postal Service sources that four sets of F coil cylinders were manufactured, even though only two sets of numbers, Nos. 1 and 2, are shown (one for each color of ink). Charles Yeager's sources at the Bureau confirmed Esrati's finding." The trouble is that while *TPN* reported eight plates, it reported them all the same size, based on the data provided by the Postal Service.

[In the catalog, we did report that Plate 181691-1 was assigned as a plate of 832, but was retired as a plate of 480.

[It is possible that the scarce combination 1211 was made with Plates 181144-1 and 181145-1, for which we calculated a maximum number of 167,400 PNCs. But we simply do not know until we get data for all plates.]

It is hardly likely that we shall ever be able to compute the total numbers of PNCs with each combination of "F" plate num-

bers in view of the fact that these stamps were printed in 1988 and 1989, but USPS withheld all plate-activity data at that time.

Amick, however gives these production figures:

2,746,800,000	in coils of 100
570,000,000	in coils of 500
<u>297,600,000</u>	in coils of 3,000
3,614,400,000	total stamps printed

Amick was also able to determine that the 29¢ Flag over Mt. Rushmore came in two plate sizes, although that information had not been made public by USPS except in the plate-activity report for August 1990–February 1991 which was never distributed to the philatelic community. *TPN* got those data from the only released report because of its need for publishing the 1991 catalog.

Amick did obtain the number of Rushmores printed in 1991, but since the stamps are still in production, those totals are not meaningful.

Amick does fill in a lot of other gaps:

- Guilford Gravure's plates for the gravured Rushmores are 19 rows of 24. The stamps were printed on an Andreotti press. (We had not known the plate size before we got the plate-activity reports published in this issue.)

- Stamp Venturers got its 29¢ Flower cylinders made by Armotek Industries. These were then shipped to J.W. Fergusson & Sons for printing on a Champlain press. Fergusson also did the rouletting. The stamps were then coiled and finished at KCS Industries.

- The plates for the gravured 5¢ Canoe were also made for Stamp Venturers by Armotek. Richard Sennett of Stamp Venturers got USPS permission to extend the gravured inscription to make the tiny dots of gravure printing more readable. (This directly contradicts the USPS claim that the typography was by Bradbury Thompson.)

- Amick illustrates two private overprints on the 10¢ Tractor Trailer that were authorized by USPS.



Privately applied 'First Class' (left) and 'Bulk Rate' overprints.

From the book

One of the handiest things in this year's book is a table of Transportation coils plate numbers listed in the order we are accustomed to, by denomination, and giving the Scott number. But this shows up a lack: There is no comparable table for other stamps, especially the Flags and Eagle and Shields. Such a table would be useful to those without a *PNC Catalog*.

[Hey, gang! When are people going to stop calling all PNCs "Transportation Coils"? Get with it!]

The book also updates its great table on the Great Americans.

The soft cover version, at \$18, is available from *Linn's*. It's definitely a must for any philatelic library.

Oh yes, it also discusses stamps issued in 1991 other than PNCs. □

BUYING ERRORS



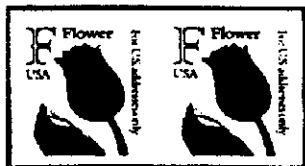
Imperforates Perf Shifts
Missing Colors
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The supplement for PNCs (1990 through Spring 1992) has been delayed by circumstances beyond our control. We ask your patience. We expect to ship the supplements in September.

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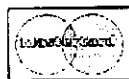
LP	PSS	PSS	LP	PSS	PSS	LP	PSS	PSS
1897 1g Bus 1, 2, 5, 6	20	30	2132a 12g PC 1, 2	2.50	2.75	1895 20g Flag 4	37.00	65.00
3, 4	1.20	1.30	2132b 12g B Press PC 1	22.00	23.00	5	90.00	95.00
2225 1g B Press 1, 2	40	50	2133 12.5g Pushcart 1, 2	2.65	2.80	5, 9, 10, 13, 14	2.75	4.00
2225a untagged 2	1.00	1.25	2133a PC 1, 2	3.90	4.00	8	5.45	5.60
1897A 2g Loco 3, 4, 8, 10	35	40	2258 13g Patrol Wagon 1	2.75	3.00	1895a 20g PC 14	60.00	60.00
2, 6	60	65	2259 13.2g Coal Car 1, 2	2.75	3.00	0135 20g Official 1	10.50	25.00
2225 3g Loco B Press 1	85	90	2134 14g Iceboat 1, 2, 3, 4	1.40	2.40	2263 20g Cable Car 1, 2	3.25	3.75
1898 3g Handcar 1, 2, 3, 4	55	80	2134b B Press 2	2.80	3.90	2263b Overall tagged 2	3.25	3.75
2252 3g Camanogon 1, 2	80	90	2260 15g Lugboat 1, 2	2.50	2.80	2254 20.5g Fire Engine 1	3.25	3.75
2123 3.4g School Bus 1, 2	70	1.00	2260a Overall tagged 2	3.50	3.80	2255 21g Rail Car 1, 2	3.25	3.75
2123a 3.4g PC 1, 2	6.00	6.50	2261 16.7g Popcorn 1, 2	4.00	4.40	2150 21.1g 111111	3.00	3.15
1898A 4g Coach 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1.25	1.70	1906 17g Auto 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1.80	3.10	111121	4.05	4.40
1898Ab 4g PC 3, 4	4.25	4.80	6	17.00	17.50	2150a 21.1g PC 111111, 111121	3.85	3.85
5, 6	5.00	7.50	7	4.90	5.00	215 21g 111111	5.45	14.50
2228 4g B Press 1	1.00	1.20	1906a 17g PC Type A 3, 4, 5	4.90	5.00	3	10.50	11.20
2228a overall tagged 1	13.00	13.50	Type A 6, 7	10.00	12.50	4	6.85	7.00
2451 4g Carriage 1	1.00	1.20	Type AB 5, 7 PS10 only	—	—	5	25.50	26.00
2451a same, untagged	2.00	2.25	Type B 3, 4	18.20	18.90	6	—	—
2124 4.9g Buckboard 3, 4	1.00	1.05	Type B 5, 6	10.00	13.50	2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 11	4.00	4.10
2124a PC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1.40	1.50	Type BA 5, 6	—	—	11, 13, 17, 18, 20	5.95	8.30
1899 5g Motorcycle 1, 2, 3, 4	.55	1.45	Type C 1, 2	9.50	9.85	2112 22g "D" Eagle 1, 2	4.75	5.10
2253 5g Milk Wagon 1	1.00	1.10	Type C 3, 4	10.00	10.75	0139 22g "D" Official 1	35.00	50.00
2452 5g Circus Wagon 1	1.00	1.10	Type C 5, 7	21.00	22.00	2464 23g Lunch Wagon 2, 3	3.25	3.75
2452a untagged 1	1.60	1.65	2135 17g Dog sled 2	2.75	3.00	2607 23g Flag A111, 212, 222	3.25	3.75
2453 5g Canoe 1	1.00	1.10	2262 17.5g Racer 1	3.00	3.50	A112, 122	4.50	5.00
2454 gravured S11	1.60	1.65	2262a 17.5g PC 1	3.00	3.50	2266 24.1g Tandem 1	3.90	4.20
1900 5.2g Steigh 1, 2	3.85	7.00	1907 18g Surrey 1	61.00	90.00	2136 25g Bread Wagon	2.65	2.80
3, 5	135.00	165.00	2, 5, 6, 8	2.65	4.00	1, 2, 3, 4	3.35	3.50
1900a PC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	11.00	13.00	3, 4	35.00	75.00	5	—	—
2254 5.3g Elevator 1	1.15	1.20	7	21.00	38.00	2280 25g Yosemite	7.00	8.00
2125 5.5g Star Truck 1	1.55	1.65	11, 12, 15, 16	9.30	16.00	Block 1, 7	7.00	8.00
2125a 5.5g PC 1	2.05	2.15	9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18	6.30	7.00	Block 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	3.80	4.20
PC 2	2.60	2.80	1891 18g Flag 1	120.00	140.00	Block 9	10.00	11.00
1901 5.9g Bicycle 3, 4	4.20	9.10	2	19.60	29.40	Phos 1	38.00	39.00
1901a 5.9g PC 3, 4	22.00	32.00	3	360.00	362.50	Phos 2-3, 7-11, 13-14	4.00	4.25
PC 5, 6	59.50	88.00	4	6.30	6.65	Phos 5, 15	6.00	7.00
2126 6g Tricycle 1	1.20	1.50	5	3.50	4.70	Phos 6	14.00	15.00
2126a PC 1	2.30	2.40	6	WANT	1700.00	2279 "E" Earth 1211	4.75	4.90
PC 2	7.55	8.65	7	38.00	38.55	2222	5.00	5.50
2127 7.1g Tractor 1	2.55	2.60	2149 18g Wash 1112, 3333	2.75	3.00	1111, 1222	2.10	2.30
2127a PC 1	2.55	2.60	2149a 18g PC 3333 & dull	4.00	4.50	2281 25g Honeybee 1, 2	2.10	2.45
2127a PC 1 "7P-4"	2.55	2.60	PC 11121, 43444	5.75	6.15	1 Orig. hull sent	30.00	31.50
1902 7.4g Baby Buggy 2	5.60	6.30	2529 19g Boat A1112, 1212	10.00	10.25	2518 "F" Tulip	3.50	4.00
1902a PC 2	3.25	3.50	A1111, 2424	3.25	3.75	1111, 1222, 2222	3.50	4.00
2255 7.6g Carrel 1, 2	1.75	2.50	1908 20g Pumper 1	6.30	39.50	1211	39.00	39.50
3	6.00	6.50	2	35.00	260.00	2211	8.00	8.50
2128 8.3g Ambulance 1, 2	1.25	1.40	3, 4, 13, 15, 16	3.35	3.50	2525 29g Flower S1111, 2222 S11	3.50	4.00
2128a 8.3g PC 1, 2	1.25	1.40	5, 9, 10	1.75	2.05	S2222 (Perf.)	4.00	4.50
PC 3, 4	3.35	3.50	7, 8	143.00	144.00	2523 29g Mt. Rushmore	3.50	4.00
2231 Amb. B Press 1, 2	3.50	3.75	12, 14 XF	14.00	15.40	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9	3.50	4.00
2256 8.4g Wheelchair 1, 2	2.50	2.75	6, 12, 14	5.60	5.60	7 Toledo brown	150.00	150.00
3	24.00	24.50	11	50.50	52.60	8	8.50	8.75
2129 8.5g Tow Truck 1	2.50	2.60	2005 20g Consumer Ed. 1, 2	4.55	37.50	2523A gravure A11111, A22211	3.50	4.00
2129a PC 1	3.50	3.60	3, 4	4.55	37.50	2690 29g White House	3.50	4.00
2	6.00	6.50	1895 20g Flag 1	5.60	8.00	1, 2, 3, 5, 4, 6, 7	5.00	6.00
1903 9.3g Mail Wagon 1, 2	6.30	7.00	3, 12	7.55	10.00	2468 31 Seaplane	5.00	6.00
3, 4	26.80	28.20	2111	3.35	3.50			
5, 6	154.00	270.00						
1903a PC 1, 2	16.00	17.00						
PC 3, 4	29.00	30.00						
PC 5, 6	3.00	3.20						
PC 8	160.00	170.00						
2257 10g Canal Boat 1	1.30	1.40						
2457 10g Tractor Trailer 1	1.30	1.40						
2694 (18g) Eagle, Shield								
A11111, 11112, 21112, 22112, 22113, 43334, 43335, 53335	3.30	3.40						
A21113, 33333, 33335, 34424, 34426, 43324, 43325, 43326	4.75	4.85						
43426, 54444, 54445	18.50	18.75						
A12213	160.00	160.00						
A32333	1.60	2.10						
2130 10.1g Oil Wagon 1	2.50	2.65						
2130a Black PC 1, 2	2.55	2.65						
2130a Red PC 2, 3	9.10	16.00						
1904 10.9g Hansom 1, 2	13.00	33.00						
1904a PC 1, 2	45.50	252.50						
3, 4	3.15	3.35						
190511g Caboose 1	3.80	4.00						
1905a Caboose PC 1	2.00	2.25						
NEW untagged 2	.55	1.40						
2131 11g Stutz 1, 2, 3, 4	1.90	2.00						
2132 12g Steamer 1, 2								

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Why plate reports are so vital

By Stephen G. Esrati

It may seem silly that I've been complaining so much about the unavailability of printing data from the Postal Service. To the Postal Service, I may even seem ungrateful since only I ever received the report for August 1990 through February 1991. (I also got special dispensation to let BEP give me of the reports for June and July 1990, which were "lost" at USPS.)

My frustration may become clear if I illustrate the things we hope to learn.

Even when we did receive full plate-activity reports on a regular basis, these were far from perfect. We found many errors in the reports as issued and needed to make many editorial adjustments to use the information in the PNC catalog.

The Flag stamps

In some cases, lacking information was unimportant except for the sake of completeness. Examples of this are that we lack dates to press for Plate 1 of the 18¢ Flag and Plates 3 and 11 of the 20¢ Flag.

On the 25¢ Flag stamps this lack becomes important because the stamps come with two tagging types. If we knew dates to press and all returns to press, we could understand quantities of each sort and would, perhaps, be able to figure out the printing history of both tagging types.

On the 29¢ Flag, where we have two types of tagging before printing—mottled prephosphored and solid-tagging prephosphored paper—dates to press would again help us to a better understanding.

In addition, we have found some mysteries on the Rushmores. One is that Plates 5 and 8 have relatively poor quality. Why? Were different presses used? Was the web unsuitable for the sleeve? Did BEP use narrow rolls that tended to wander up and down on the press?

And then there is the "Toledo brown." Since its color resembles that of the 7.6¢ Carreta, was there a printing of the Carreta just before Rushmore Plates 1 and 7 went to press? We have no data.

It is unconscionable that full information should be unavailable on Plates 1, 2, and 3 of the 25¢ Flag because they were printed on the scrapped B Press. We should have full data.

The Caboose mystery

The only press run ever reported for the 11¢ Caboose was on Nov. 29, 1983. Plate 1, made for the B Press, was never canceled.

When the usage troubles with the 10¢

Tractor Trailer became evident, Ken Lawrence attempted to learn if this plate (inscribed "Bulk Rate") could be used again to print a bulk-rate stamp.

He could not even determine whether the plate existed. Afterward, BEP did print the untagged 11¢ Caboose on a new C Press sleeve. The stamp was issued in September. It must have gone to press before the September BEP report, but we have no report of this fact nor on quantities for Sleeve 2, although it is believed that this was a small press run, made only to fill the gap until the 10¢ Eagle and Shield was available.

The Pushcart mystery

The intriguing 12.5¢ Pushcart comes in many paper types and in two colors. We have only one date to press, although it was the basic bulk-rate stamp for more than three years!

The changes in paper type indicate more than one date to press. Why did the "to press" data never indicate this?

Since all 12.5¢ Pushcarts were printed on the B Press, why do we not have final production figures for Sleeve 2?

The Tugboat mystery

When the Postal Service changed its policy on tagging from block to overall, the 15¢ Tugboat became the first stamp affected (along with the 20¢ Cable Car). On the Tugboat, however, we were dealing with the B Press.

We have no "to press" data for Sleeve 2

ABN's 'G' stamps

'I had a dream, a bad dream!'

Dr. Robert Rabinowitz had a nightmare in May when he learned that American Bank Note Co. was printing "G" stamps.

Dr. Rabinowitz, who dealt in U.S. plate blocks until the advent of huge plate blocks killed interest in those blocks, said, "Oh, that's terrible!"

As if to underline his fears, he asked: "Do you know what that means?"

Thinking back to 23 plate-number combinations while printing 922 million Eagle and Shield stamps, he said: "Can you imagine how many plate number combinations there would be if ABN is printing 'G' coils? These things are printed in the billions. If it's anything like the Eagle and Shields, this could kill off PNC collecting."

Dr. Rabinowitz, of course, is correct about the huge quantities printed of unde-

at all, nor do we have any quantities. This sleeve printed stamps on three paper types and with both tagging styles. A wealth of data should be available to help us on this B Press stamp. We have none.

We could not expect complete data on the 20¢ Cable Car, printed from the first on the C Press. But, to add to our frustration, we were given lovely statistics on the Cable Car. Why not on the Tugboat?

The multi-plate stamps

We had to pull teeth to obtain usable data on production of the 18¢ Washington Monument and 21.1¢ Letters stamps, even though our data on the former still includes some erroneous totals.

We were, however, able to calculate estimated totals for all these stamps after lengthy correspondence with BEP.

Doing these calculations is not easy since the reports give statistics about each printing plate or sleeve, not about the numbers we see on the stamps.

But we have been unable to do these calculations for either the "E" stamps, printed in 1987 and 1988, or the "F" stamps, printed in 1988 and 1990. Full printing data have not yet been released.

Since the press runs on these stamps are long since past, it makes no sense for the data to be withheld. Yet it is precisely on undenominated stamps that USPS has admitted censoring BEP's reports. The stated reason for doing so is that USPS wanted to withhold data on stamps not yet issued. Why? *(Continued on next page)*

nominated rate-change stamps. On the "F" coils, the total number produced was 3.614 billion. Five plate-number combinations were made, using just plates numbered "1" and "2."

Earlier, Dr. Rabinowitz had spoken with Don McDowell, director of the Office of Stamp and Philatelic Marketing, to request that USPS issue guidelines to its printers to minimize plate-number combinations. He had also asked that USPS ask printers to place labels on boxes to identify the plate numbers inside.

McDowell apparently assured Dr. Rabinowitz that both matters would be seen to, but ABN had received no instructions on either matter when questioned about them in late May, while production of "G" stamps was in progress. □

When undenominated stamps are released, some of the data are "lost" at USPS just as the entire plate-activity reports for June and July of 1990 were.

The result is that we cannot use the data to analyze the stamps.

If we had such data, we might have learned why the 1211 "F" stamp is so scarce. The PNC market has already determined that rarity for us, but there is no reason whatever why we should not have learned the complete printing history of these stamps within days of their issuance.

We now have almost complete production reports for the privately printed 23¢ Flag, 10¢ Eagle and Shield, 19¢ Fishing Boat, 29¢ Flower, 5¢ gravured Canoe, and even the first of the "G" stamps.

Some of these data were in the May 1992 *Plate Activity Report* sent out by USPS. But that very thick report brought BEP's activity up to only September 1991. Yet we were provided data by American Bank Note Co. on undenominated "G" stamps printed in March 1992.

We realize that the information does not tell us how many stamps were printed of each combination of numbers but only for how many impressions were made from each plate. Yet, if we are given accurate "to press" dates for each plate and the production totals, we might work out the quantities for each number combination. Alan Malakoff of the PNC Study Group is willing to tackle the job.

Alas, work on the E&S stamps cannot even start until we have data on plates that were not included in the released report.

A spokesman for American Bank Note Co. said the data on Yellow 2, for example, is already on its way to us in the next report, which should help us to get a better feel for the numbers.

Is BEP the culprit?

When I wrote my letter to Representative Francis X. McCloskey, I had just been given a chewing out by a Postal Service spokesman for asking yet again for plate-activity reports. Up to then, the most recent information I had from BEP was that its plate-activity reports were sent monthly to USPS.

In April, a spokesperson for BEP said such is no longer the case, that the reports are now sent quarterly and that the reports through September 1991 had just been sent to the Postal Service. Those data appeared in the May *Plate Activity Report*.

That means the August-to-September report went to USPS in April, six months after the fact. A BEP spokesman said that lag has now been cut to four months. □

Plate reports show up, but BEP is late

Continued from Page 63

was to have been printed on the defunct B Press.

The highlight of the March 1992 report is the data from American Bank Note Co. about the 23¢ Flag, the 19¢ Fishing Boat and the 10¢ Eagle and Shield.

These reports use the new form worked out by Assistant Postmaster General Gordon Morison after consulting PNC collectors at STAMPSHOW '91 in Philadelphia.

Among the new features are the names of subcontractors, quantities delivered, the width of the paper web, the name of the paper supplier, and the exact shape of the cylinders. Those features are included with the tables appearing in this issue. (BEP gives us only the number of subjects in a plate; not the size of the web. Thus, when it printed 25¢ Yosemite with 19 rows of 48, plate-activity data did not reflect this, listing only the 20x48 arrangement of the plates, not the narrower paper web that reduced production.)

Unfortunately, the reports still leave something to be desired. Dates to press may not reflect returns to press.

Additionally, ABN left out crucial data on the E&S stamps because it did not report on any yellow plates carrying a plate number 2.

Despite these handicaps, we may eventually be able to work out some quantities for the various plate-number combinations. The quantities (alas, only for the 19¢ Fishing Boat, 5¢ gravured Canoe, and 29¢ Flower) in the tables on the next two pages are tentative, meaning that they may be subject to revision as members of the PNC Study Group work over the numbers. The numbers may also change if more stamps are printed.

Neither Stamp Venturers nor ABN reports plate cancelations, so we do not know if the plates can be used again. Neither firm uses plate numbers.

A huge surprise is the finding that the costly A1112 Fishing Boat appears to have been printed in far greater quantity than A1212. It is not yet clear whether shortages of A1112 is caused by distribution, an error in the reported data or in the way we did the calculations.

Among E&S stamps, the combination with A12213 turns out to have had a very small printing, producing only 20,674 of the green 2 plate, for a maximum PNC figure of 392,806. A12213 is the only stamp bearing a green 2 plate number.

Plate Activity Reports now have a cover bearing the Postal Service logo. The March 1992 cover carries a notice to those who want to receive it.

Note: We are reconfirming our mailing list for the *Plate Activity Report*. To receive future issues, you must send your name and address to PLATE ACTIVITY REPORT, STAMP PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT BRANCH, US POSTAL SERVICE, ROOM 4485E, 475 L'ENFANT PLAZA SW, WASHINGTON DC 20260-6757.

The October 1991 report (containing BEP data for March to May 1991) included dozens of plate cancelations, including more than 30 on the 25¢ Honeybee. Curiously, there is almost no mention of the 29¢ Flag over Mt. Rushmore. (We shall postpone a detailed report on the Honeybee.)

The May 1992 *Plate Activity Report* brings BEP activity up to September 1991 and contains data from private printers as late as March 1992.

There's a story behind the three reports. I asked for them repeatedly since the fall of 1991. In December, I was told that the data had not been supplied by the printers. The existence of an October 1991 report belies that claim.

Shortly after I made another try in March of this year—in which I got my head chewed off—I wrote to Rep. Francis X. McCloskey, D-Ind., chairman of the House Subcommittee on Postal Operations and Services. This is the congressional body that has taken greatest interest in the controversies surrounding stamp procurement and philatelic marketing during the past two years.

McCloskey did not reply. But in May I happened to be talking to someone in the USPS Media Relations Department about another matter. When I mentioned the BEP reports, I was told:

"Right after your last call on this subject, we put one out. Didn't you get it?"

That was the same person who had chewed me out for trying to do my job.

Three reports—October 1991, March 1992, and May 1992—are included in this issue. It is apparent that I owe an apology to Gordon Morison, who said all along that the reports had not come in from the printers. The three reports make clear that it was data from BEP that was late.

Apparently BEP cleans out its vault in large batches. It canceled more than 300 plates in March 1991. Although we were waiting for many cancelations of now-useless B Press plates, there were almost none. Two 25¢ Yosemite plates printed on the B Press have yet to be canceled.

And we still lack complete data on the "E" and "F" stamps.

But we are making progress. □

BEP plate activity from March 1991 through September 1991

FACE	CAT	PLATE ASSIGNED	PRESS	SUBJ.	TO PRESS	CANCELED	IMPRESS.	MAX PNCs	NOTES
Transportation Series									
.050	5T1ZP	188274-1	03/19/91	C	432	04/20/91			Assigned, to press
.071	7.1T1P1	177509-1	11/26/86	B	468	01/05/87	04/30/91	978,701	8,808,300 Canceled
.084	8.4T2P	180790-2	08/18/88	C	432	08/25/88	04/24/91	572,500	5,152,500 Canceled
.11	11T2P	189228-2	07/26/91	C	432				Assigned
.20	20T2X	181150-2	10/26/88	C	432	11/04/88	04/18/91	1,021,400	9,192,600 Canceled
.20	20T2X	181150-2	10/26/88	C	432	04/05/89			4th date to press, overall tagging?
.21	21T2P	180844-2	08/31/88	C	432	09/09/88	04/24/91	2,955,504	26,599,536 Canceled
.23	23T2	187985-2	1/24/91	C	432	02/04/91	03/15/91	547,045	4,923,405 Canceled
1.00	5T12	188846-2	06/04/91	B	432				Assigned
Flag Series									
.25	25F9	181664-9	01/19/89	C	480	03/18/89	04/18/91	7,242,500	72,425,000 Canceled
.25	25F12	183813-12	07/31/89	C	480	Never	04/24/91	None	None Canceled
.25	25F14	184832-14		C	480	01/17/90	03/18/91	7,648,280	152,965,600 Canceled
.29	29F8	188153-8	03/04/91	C	432				Assigned
Miscellaneous Series									
.25	25M05	182731-5	05/03/89	D	480	Never	04/10/91	None	None Honeybee, canceled
?	?	189136-1	07/05/91	C	480				Vending, undenominated (see Page 74)

New data in bold type

American Bank Note plate activity from March 1991 through March 1992

10¢ Eagle and Shield				
NOTES	CERTIFIED	TO PRESS	IMPRESS.	
1 Blue	10/10/91	10/14/91	514,584	
1 Brown	10/10/91	10/14/91	580,574	
1 Green	10/10/91	10/14/91	1,340,951	
1 Red	10/10/91	10/14/91	820,866	
1 Yellow	10/10/91	10/14/91	1,361,625	
2 Blue	10/31/91	11/04/91	847,041	
2 Brown	10/30/91	11/01/91	580,574	
2 Green	11/01/91	12/13/91	20,674	
2 Red	10/30/91	11/04/91	555,998	
3 Blue	12/13/91	12/17/91	106,661	
3 Brown	11/21/91	11/27/91	495,584	
3 Green	12/13/91	12/17/91	766,860	
3 Red	12/13/91	12/17/91	751,621	
3 Yellow	12/13/91	12/17/91	766,860	
4 Blue	12/18/91	12/20/91	631,877	
4 Brown	12/17/91	12/18/91	370,998	
5 Blue	12/23/91	12/26/91	28,322	

19¢ Fishing Boat				
NOTES	CERTIFIED	TO PRESS	IMPRESS.	
1 Yellow	05/20/91	05/20/91	624,260	
1 Magenta	05/20/91	05/20/91	553,650	
1 Cyan	05/20/91	05/20/91	624,260	
2 Black	05/20/91	05/20/91	315,788	
1 Black	05/20/91	05/22/91	308,472	
2 Magenta	05/20/91	07/22/91	70,610	
2 Yellow	05/20/91	08/24/91	296,156	
4 Magenta	05/20/91	08/24/91	296,156	
2 Cyan	05/20/91	08/24/91	296,156	
4 Black	05/20/91	08/24/91	296,156	
Total impressions per combination				
	1111	1112	1212	2424
Yellow	308,472	245,178	70,610	296,156
Magenta	308,472	245,178	70,610	296,156
Cyan	308,472	245,178	70,610	296,156
Black	308,472	245,178	70,610	296,156
Maximum PNCs per combination				
	1111	1112	1212	2424
	5,860,968	4,658,382	1,341,590	5,626,964

'G' stamp coils				
NOTES	CERTIFIED	TO PRESS	IMPRESS.	
1 Blue	02/27/92	03/05/92	1,278,158	
1 Red	02/27/92	03/05/92	1,103,455	
1 Gray	02/27/92	03/05/92	1,278,158	
1 Black	02/27/92	03/05/92	928,333	
2 Red	03/25/92	03/30/92	174,703	
2 Black	03/12/92	03/12/92	349,825	

23¢ Flag				
NOTES	CERTIFIED	TO PRESS	IMPRESS.	
1 Blue	08/27/91	08/29/92	761,887	
1 Red	08/08/91	08/29/92	1,225,253	
1 Black	08/08/91	08/29/92	577,196	
2 Blue	09/06/91	09/09/91	672,893	
2 Red	09/11/91	09/12/91	209,347	
2 Black	09/06/91	09/09/91	857,583	

Eagle and Shield notes

The data for the 10¢ Eagle and Shield offer a surprise: What we have been calling the black plate is really brown. It is the fifth plate number on E&S stamps.

The report (revised by ABN on Jan. 16, 1992) does not list a yellow 2 plate, so no calculations can be made from the data presented.

Yellow 2, the fourth digit in the plate-number combination, was required for printing 43324, 43325, and 43326.

It is apparent that this report, which lists a total delivery to the Postal Service of 610,976,000 stamps through Jan. 6, 1992, is not the complete report on the printing of the Eagle and Shields.

A spokesman for ABN said the next report, possibly for the entire production run of E&S stamps, does include the data for Yellow 2.

While there are low totals for Blue 5 and Green 2, the total for Blue 5 is meaningless since this report does not reflect the whole printing. On Green 2, however, we now know that the maximum number of PNCs with the combination A12213 can be only 392,806, a very low total.

The stamps were printed on a five-color

Andreotti Press by Guilford Gravure of Guilford, Conn. The plates are made up of 19 rows of 24 stamps, or 456 stamps per revolution, and the stamps were printed on paper delivered by Paper Corp. of the United States that was 19 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide.

23¢ Flag notes

The data for the 23¢ Flag cannot be used to determine the number of stamps printed with each plate-number combination because all six cylinders were used to print more than one combination.

That means it is impossible to subtract a known impression total to arrive at other totals.

It also leaves a question about the shape of the red "2," which collectors have noticed comes in fat and thin forms. It is not known if this phenomenon is related to specific rows or to a change in the plates. It is, for example, possible that the shape changed during a repair or rechroming of the plate.

The stamps were printed on a five-color

Andreotti Press by Guilford Gravure. The plates are made up of 19 rows of 24 stamps, or 456 stamps per revolution, and the stamps were printed on paper delivered by Paper Corp. of the United States that was 19 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide.

ABN delivered 507 million of these stamps to the Postal Service.

19¢ Fishing Boat notes

On these stamps we were able to calculate impressions per plate-number combination and maximum PNCs for each set of plate numbers, but the calculated totals fly in the face of the market.

The order of printing of the colors was yellow, magenta, cyan, and black. Because the yellow ink would have been hard to see (obscuring both the "A" and the first digit), ABN chose to print the "A" in magenta.

Magenta 2 is the cylinder least used, with only 70,610 impressions. Only the A1212 combination was printed with Magenta 2, giving us a result that shows A1212 with the smallest number of possible PNCs.

This is contradicted by the market, which places the highest value on A1112,

Stamp Venturers plate activity from March 1991 through February 1992

29¢ Flower			
Rouletted S1111			
NOTES	CERTIFIED	TO PRESS	IMPRESS.
1 Black	04/16/91	04/16/91	1,841,702
1 Cyan	04/16/91	04/16/91	1,841,702
1 Magenta	04/16/91	04/16/91	1,841,702
1 Yellow	04/16/91	04/16/91	1,841,702
Rouletted S2222			
2 Black	10/02/91	10/02/91	1,231,630
2 Cyan	10/02/91	10/02/91	1,231,630
2 Magenta	10/02/91	10/02/91	1,231,630
2 Yellow	10/02/91	10/02/91	1,231,630
Perforated S2222			
2 Black	11/13/91	11/13/91	448,610
2 Cyan	11/13/91	11/13/91	448,610
2 Magenta	11/13/91	11/13/91	448,610
2 Yellow	11/13/91	11/13/91	448,610
Maximum PNCs per combination			
S1111	Slit S2222	Perforated S2222	
22,100,424	14,779,560	5,383,320	

5¢ Gravured Canoe			
NOTES	CERTIFIED	TO PRESS	IMPRESS.
1 Red	08/01/91	08/08/91	373,743
1 Black	08/01/91	08/08/91	373,743
Maximum PNCs of \$11: 4,484,916			

with 3.5 times as many PNCs. This may mean that large stocks of A1112 are still to be found, or it may show an error in our

Why we don't have E&S totals

Trying to figure out the maximum number of PNCs that could be printed from any one combination of numbers of the Eagle and Shields is going to prove difficult because so few of the combinations include a unique cylinder.

It is quite simple, for example to make the calculation for A11111 because Brown 1 was used only for this set of numbers. (The brown plate is the last digit of the plate number.)

The March 1992 *Plate Activity Report* contained two ABN reports, giving different impression totals. ABN told *TPN* that the one marked "Revised" is the correct one. It is possible, though, that the unrevised report was prepared earlier, which may give us insight into impression totals and dates to press.

But let's examine our first hurdle. More impressions were made with Brown 1 than with Blue 1 even though Brown 1 exists only in A11111 and Blue 1 also exists in A11112 and A12213.

Obviously then, Blue 1 should be the total of the quantity of A11111 (580,574), A11112, and A12213 (20,674, derived from Green 2).

We do have a clue or two in the press dates, but the entire body of data is still insufficient to allow a thorough computation.

Even the glimmer of hope that we see in the two low impression totals—Green 2 and Blue 5—allow us only to figure out that A12213 had a very low number of impressions because Green 2 provided the third digit and only A12213 used a Green 2. (The market does reflect the scarcity of A12213 with rising prices.)

calculations.

ABN delivered 629,564,544 Fishing Boat stamps. The stamps were printed by Multi-Color Corp. of Scottsburg, Ind., on a 19x36 Schiavi press. The coiling was done by Guilford Gravure. The paper was delivered by Paper Corp. of the United States and was on a DuPont base, 19½ inches wide.

'G' stamp notes

This very early report on the gravure-printed "G" stamp shows that the printers will use process colors: red, white, blue,

gray, and black.

An early rumor about the "G" stamp was that it would show the Flag, the "G" standing for "Old Glory." With these colors, it is possible to print a Flag stamp.

ABN delivered 212,400,000 stamps that were printed on Guilford Gravure's five-color Andreotti press, using 20¼-inch paper from Ivex Corp.

29¢ Flower notes

All the 29¢ Flower coils were printed by J.W. Fergusson & Sons of Richmond, Va., as subcontractor for Stamp Venturers. The coils were finished by KCS Industries of Milwaukee, also as a subcontractor.

The stamps were printed on Fergusson's Model A Champlain press. The paper was a DuPont product, size not stated.

Stamp Venturers delivered 50,000 rolls of 3,000 of the perforated stamp, a total of 150 million stamps, and 10 million rolls of 100 of the rouletted stamps (of both plate-number combinations) for a total of 1 billion stamps. That would mean that 669 million slit stamps carried S1111 while 331 million were slit S2222s.

The cylinders measured 33x12, or 396 stamps per revolution.

5¢ Canoe notes

All the gravured 5¢ Canoe coils were printed by J.W. Fergusson & Sons as subcontractor for Stamp Venturers. The coils were finished by KCS Industries, also as a subcontractor.

The stamps were printed on Fergusson's Model A Champlain press. The paper was a DuPont product, size not stated.

Stamp Venturers delivered 12,000 rolls of 10,000 of the stamp, a total of 120 million stamps.

The cylinders measured 33x12, or 396 stamps per revolution. □

Suggesting that this is not the case is the lack of a report on Brown 6, which was first printed as A43326 and was later used for A43426 and, still later, on A33426. The blue 5s were printed after A43326 and before A43426.

All this suggests that more information will be needed before we can come up with any dependable estimates.

An ABN spokesperson said the complete plate-activity report for the E&S stamps would include Yellow 2 and other plates.

A warning is needed, however: The printing data on the 19¢ Fishing Boat strongly suggest that A1212 is the combination with the least production, not the pricey A1112. The same phenomenon could have occurred with the E&S stamps among which only A12213 can be proven by the printing statistics to be scarcer than other combinations. (We cannot yet compute A32333, the most expensive of these strips.)

This could be a factor of distribution, a mistake in the reported data, or our error in interpreting the data. Meanwhile, we shall have to await more complete data.

Without dates of return to press or complete impression totals, we're still in the dark. □

1906a, 17¢ Electric Auto

Type A, #3, 4R, PS9 \$7.00

Type A, #4, 4R, PS9 7.00

Type A, #6, 1L, PS9 11.00

Type AB, #5, 5R, PS10 13.00

Type BA, #4, 4R, PS9 35.00

Vic Collinino
38 Crestview Terrace
Stratham, NH 03885

Make way for UVM

USPS to test 2 vending coils

The Postal Service will soon issue two undenominated universal vending machine (UVM) coil stamps that will combine elements of the unsuccessful Autopost experiment and Europe's vastly successful print-them-yourself stamps.

The new coil stamps will come in two formats and were first brought to public attention in the May 1992 *Plate Activity Report*.

[The publication and distribution of the *Report* with information on "G" stamps and the UVM stamps breaks new ground for openness on the part of USPS. In the past, stamps not yet issued were removed from plate-activity reports.]

The basic UVM concept is as follows. Vending machines at selected test sites will contain the UVM stamps. The mailer will place his or her letter on a scale and select the service (airmail, first class, certified, etc.) by punching a button. The machine will calculate the postage and, after payment, will imprint the UVM stamp with the denomination. It is likely that the service designator will also be imprinted, but it may not be.

The early announcement from the Postal Service in *Philatelic Release 92-043* did not specify whether there will be plate numbers on the UVM stamps. It is likely that there will be.

The stamps will come in two formats: one will be perforated horizontally (giving the stamp a vertical orientation and making strips vertical); the other will be perforated vertically to produce strips much like our current PNCS.

BEP is printing stamps for the system developed by ECA GARD in coils of 3,000. The BEP stamp is illustrated herewith.

American Bank Note Co. will print rolls of 3,000 for a system developed by Unisys. These stamps will have vertical perforations and will be narrower to fit the Unisys system.

The stamps will be red, white, and blue in the shield and red and white in the bunting. The denomination will be applied in black under the "USA."

The five test sites, called Postage and Mailing Centers (PMCs), will at first be in Southern Maryland (the northern suburbs of Washington, D.C.), Miami, Oklahoma City, Detroit, and Santa Ana, Calif.

The tests are to begin in late summer and continue for one year.

The Postal Service said the stamps will be imprinted in values from 1¢ to \$99.99,



but that is likely to be the case only for collector-ordered stamps since the machines will be computer programmed only for current rates. That means it would be impossible to place a mailpiece on the scale and select a service that costs only a penny.

If the stamps do, in fact, carry plate numbers, these would be collected in strips, but it is not yet clear how strips would be obtained.

In some European countries, the philatelic sales agencies offered short and long "sets" of the self-imprinted stamps using the most common rates, but because the customer could print any denomination he or she desired, the actual range of denominations was from 0.01 to 99.99.

Collectors usually selected the short set that contained one of each of the following:

Local post card, local letter, domestic post card, domestic letter, double-weight domestic letter, foreign letter to Europe, overseas letter. It was not usual to collect

the rates for special services such as registry or express.

The long sets contained stamps with some of these rates.

In Germany, the gummed side of the stamps carries an accounting number on every fifth stamp. Collectors did make efforts to obtain singles with and without such accounting numbers.

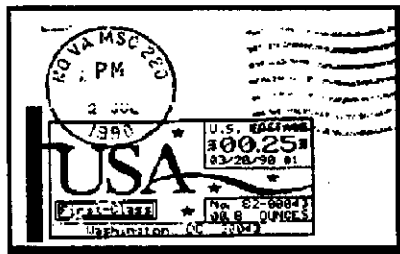
It is probable that the UVM stamps will be tagged, since they do not carry the phosphorescent orange stripe that the Autopost stamps did to activate postal machinery.

The Autopost self-adhesives, which also carried the place where the machine was situated and the machine's number, were used briefly in 1989-90 in conjunction with the Postal Service's World Stamp Expo and the congress of the Universal Postal Union. Machines were set up at World Stamp Expo in Washington and at Kensington, Md.

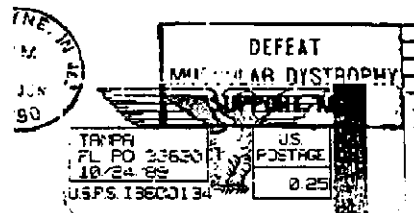
3,000 sets of five different stamps, each for a different service, were sent to the Philatelic Agency. All had the first day of issue (Aug. 23, 1989) inscribed by the machines and all carried the same last three digits. An additional 3,000 sets of two 25¢ first-class stamps were also sent to the agency.

But, unlisted in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps* there was a later experiment in which labels similar to the Autopost stamps were imprinted by meter. The following sample was made for Tampa, Fla., and used in Fort Wayne, Ind. It is believed that the second group of labels were made by postage meters.

They, too, had a phosphor stripe, this time on the right. □



AUTOPOST—Stamp shows it was bought from Machine 82 in Washington after the first day. Scott calls this CVP1, but does not price it. The stripe on the left is the tagging and is orange. Note that the stamp was sold for a letter weighing 0.8 ounces.



METER TEST—Self-adhesive label bought in Tampa and used in Fort Wayne, Ind. These did not indicate the type of service, but did have a serial number similar to the Autopost's. The orange tagging stripe is at right.

Data Bank of official information (Changes and additions by TPN shown by brackets)

New and improved *Philatelic Catalog* debuts as *Stamps Etc.*

The best kept secret of the Postal Service is going public in May 1992. The *Stamps etc. Catalog*, previously known as the *Philatelic Catalog*, is a bi-monthly publication that has taken a new design format that will make ordering stamps and stamp products easy and convenient. Currently, 1.3 million copies of the *Philatelic Catalog* are mailed to postal facilities and philatelic subscribers. As the updated *Stamps etc. Catalog* comes off the press in May, increased public awareness of the catalog will occur through advertisements in philatelic publications, inserts in periodicals, and direct mail pieces.

In the 1970s, the *Philatelic Catalog's* design consisted of a single, black and white printed and folded sheet of paper. By 1980, it evolved into a small booklet, and a color format was introduced in 1985. The present day, 12-page, color promotional piece will expand into an attractive 20-page, saddle-stitched catalog printed on glossy recyclable paper....

Special feature pages highlighting new stamps and products have been added, along with technical information, including the name of the stamp designer, date of issuance, and other facts of interest. All items are clearly marked and categorized by stamp types (commemorative, definitive, coil) and topics (Black Heritage, Great Americans, souvenir pages). Ordering instructions have been simplified, and to make it easier to place an order, the improved form now lists separately all new items as well as those going off sale.

Philatelic Release 92-020

Testing of new coil stamp packaging focuses on customer convenience

The results of the Postal Service's initial nationwide testing of an innovative packaging process for coil stamps in 1991 provided an information base for developing a more customer- and employee-friendly stamp coil in the future.

"Our current and ongoing research is directed at designing the optimum coil stamp to serve the needs of the public," says Assistant Postmaster General Gordon C. Morrison, Philatelic and Retail Services Department. "We are focusing on the size, shape, format, and packaging of the coil stamp. We are taking into consideration such possibilities as a commemorative-size coil stamp, including the popular LOVE and Christmas subjects in coils, and producing a smaller, more personal sized coil."

The stamp stick and slit perforation concepts are two ways that make coil stamps easier to use for customers and easier to dispense for sales clerks. The stamp "stick" is comprised of ten 100-stamp coils of 29¢ Flower stamps sealed in a transparent wrapper (diagram included in 1991 Stamp news release #68). The stamp stick's outer wrapping is biodegradable, and its shipping container is made of recyclable cardboard.

More than 800 consumers and window clerks were randomly selected and interviewed in 10 post office lobbies across the United States. Respondents were asked to compare this new product with the conventional round hole perforated coil stamp contained in the plastic "egg carton" type packages currently used by the Postal Service.

The overall results demonstrated a favorable reaction to the slit perforated stamp stick coils. When asked why they preferred the new product, the responses were that the coil was "easier to open and separate the stamps," and the packaging was "more compact and doesn't unravel." The environmentally friendly packaging was also commended.

While the initial survey indicates public acceptance, employees did indicate areas of concern that will be addressed and corrected in the future. Further testing involving window clerks and postal su-

perators will be conducted.

A copy of the specific results may be obtained by writing: ATTN Stamp Stick Marketing Results, Stamp Market Development Branch, USPS Headquarters Room 4472E, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington DC 20260-6756.

Philatelic Release 92-022

Flag over White House stamp to honor 200th anniversary of nation's official residence



Stamp design
as of 1991



Stamp design
as released

A 29¢ regular-issue coil stamp will be issued by the U.S. Postal Service in recognition of the 200th anniversary of the White House. The stamp will be issued in Washington, D.C., on April 23. There will be no first-day-of-issue ceremony.

... The design features a traditional northeast view of the White House with the American flag waving above. [This is the element that was added after the original design was made public in December 1991.] The words, "The White House/1792/1992" appear in the upper right hand corner while, "29 USA" is displayed in the lower left hand corner of the stamp. ...

The White House, officially known as the President's House until 1901, is more than just a fine example of 18th-century stone craftsmanship. It is the President's home and office, a historic site viewed by more than one million visitors annually and, more importantly, a familiar symbol of American democracy.

Following a national competition for the design of the President's House in the spring of 1772, architect and builder James Hoban (Scout 1935-36) was awarded the prize. Two centuries have passed since our nation laid the foundation for this, the first of its public buildings in the city of Washington and the District of Columbia.

Issue:	29¢ Flag over White House stamp
Format:	Coils of 500 and 3,000 [Reprints to TPN indicate Plates 1, 3, 6, and 7 printed only from rolls of 100. The <i>Philatelic Catalog</i> lists only coils of 100. Plates 2, 4, and 5 were printed in rolls of 500 and 3,000]
Issue date:	April 23, 1992
First-day city:	Washington, D.C.
Process:	Intaglio (two color)
Colors:	Red and blue (PMS colors not stated)
Size:	
Image:	0.71x0.82 inches or 18.0x20.8mm
Overall:	0.87x0.96 inches or 221.1x24.4mm
Plate numbers:	One intaglio [interval 48]
[Press:	C or D]
[Paper:	Prephosphored, mottled tagging]
[PNC Catalog Numbers:	
	29F1X, 29F2X, 29F3X, 29F4X, 29F5X, 29F6X, 29F7X]

[Scott Catalogue Number: 2609]

Marginal markings:

© 1991 USPS [Postal Service did not say where these markings could be located on a coil stamp]

Philatelic Release 92-025

New vending machine to dispense variable-amount postage stamp



The Postal Service ... will test a new vending machine called the Postage and Mailing Center (PMC) which will weigh an item, determine the postage necessary for the desired level of service, and print a stamp with the appropriate amount of postage.

The PMC vending machines will be deployed to five test sites (the Southern Maryland, Miami, Oklahoma City, Detroit, and Santa Ana divisions), and are scheduled to begin service in mid to late summer. The machines will be tested for one year.

The PMCs are being manufactured by two companies, Unisys and ECA GARD. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) produced the coil of 3,000-stamp stock for the ECA GARD PMC and American Bank Note Company (ABN) produced the coil of 3,000-stamp stock for the Unisys PMC. The BEP coil will dispense the stamp design printed vertically, with perforations at the top and bottom of the design.... The ABN coil will dispense the stamp printed horizontally, with perforations at the side of the design.

The stamp's design features a blue and white stars-and-stripes shield in the upper center portion with red and white bunting draped on either side. "USA," in red, appears below the shield inside a field of small, engraved red lines rippling down underneath the shield. The stamp's denomination will be printed by the PMC in black below "USA." The ABN version of the design is slightly compressed horizontally to accommodate the Unisys machine specifications. The PMCs will print stamps with any denomination ranging from one cent to \$99.99.

Philatelic Release 92-043

Are you having fun? Are you into tagging?

Lighthouse has a battery-powered, portable shortwave lamp that lets you check for tagging at the post office or at a stamp show for untagged, overall tagged, and prephosphored PNCs. It now comes with an adapter to block out visible and longwave light. It works! I use it myself.

Lamp with adapter: \$60 postpaid
Adapter only: \$33.50 postpaid

I also carry all Lighthouse supplements and supplies at a 15% discount from list.

Stephen G. Esrati
P.O. Box 20130
Shaker Heights, OH 44120
(216) 561-9393

End of an era!

I no longer publish the PNC Catalog, therefore, I can now advertise my own retail list. This list (List 1) is good through Labor Day.

25% off on orders over \$100

15% off on orders over \$50

5% off on orders over \$25; 5% additional off for members of PNC3.

Prices are for VF. Deduct 10% for Fine; add 25% for XF.

	P53	P55
1g Omnibus 1, 2, 5, 6	55	60
3, 4	1.10	1.25
B Press 1, 2	80	90
Unlugged 2	70	75
2g Locomotive 2, 3, 4, 6,		
8, 10	50	70
B Press 1	85	95
3g Handcar 1, 2, 3, 4	1.00	1.10
3g Conestoga Wagon 1, 2	1.00	1.05
3.4g School Bus 1, 2	1.50	1.65
PC 1, 2 (1R, No Gap)	6.50	7.00
4g Steamboat 1, 2, 3, 4,		
5, 6	1.80	2.00
PC 3, 4 (1L, 2L)	4.90	5.00
PC 3, 4 (Line Gap)	8.40	8.50
PC 5, 6 (1L)	7.75	8.25
PC 5, 6 (2L)	8.25	8.75
PC 5, 6 (Line Gap)	8.75	9.00
Same, B Press 1	1.50	1.75
Overall tagged 1	15.90	16.00
4g Steam Carriage 1	2.00	2.25
Unlugged	1.75	2.00
4.5g Buckboard 3, 4	1.05	1.80
PC 1, 2 (1R, No Gap)	1.40	1.75
PC 3, 4 (2L, 1L)	1.30	1.60
PC 3, 4 (No Gap)	—	13.75
PC 3, 4 (Line Gap)	2.50	3.00
PC 5, 6 (2R, PS/7)	—	2.00
PC 5, 6 (Line Gap)	1.50	1.75
PC 5, 6 (1R)	—	7.50
PC 5, 6 (3L, PS/7)	—	6.00
PC 5, 6 (2L)	—	2.60
5g Motorcycle 1, 2, 3, 4	1.45	1.55
5g Milk Wagon 1	1.10	1.25
5g Circus Wagon 1	1.10	1.25
Same, unlugged 1	1.65	1.75
5g Canoe 1	1.10	1.25
Gravured S11	1.65	1.75
5.2g Sleigh 1, 2	10.75	15.00
3	195.00	200.00
5	185.00	190.00
PC 1, 2 (No Gap)	12.00	12.75
PC 3, 5 (No Gap)	9.75	10.00
PC 4, 6 (2L)	—	16.00
PC 4, 6 (No Gap)	15.00	16.00
5.3g Elevator 1	1.50	1.65
5.5g Star Route Truck 1	1.75	2.00
PC 1	2.15	2.25
PC 2	4.75	5.00
5.9g Bicycle 3, 4	13.50	16.00
PC 3, 4 (No Gap)	36.00	37.00
PC 5, 6 (Line Gap)	90.00	95.00
6g Tricycle 1	1.65	1.80
PC 1	2.20	2.50
PC 2	8.50	9.00
7.1g Tractor 1	2.65	2.75
PC 1	2.50	2.75
PC 1 "ZIP-4"	2.50	2.75
7.4g Baby Buggy 2	12.00	14.25
PC 2	3.70	4.20
2255 7.6g Carrel 1, 2	2.75	2.90
3	8.50	9.00
8.3g Ambulance 1, 2	2.00	2.25
PC 1, 2 (2L, Line Gap)	2.10	2.25
PC 1, 2 (1L, Line Gap)	2.25	2.80
PC 3, 4 (No Gap, PSB)	—	11.50
PC 3, 4 (1R)	4.00	4.30
B Press, 1	4.15	4.50
2	4.60	5.00
8.4g Wheelchair 1, 2	2.75	3.00
3	27.00	27.50
8.5g Tow Truck 1	3.00	3.30

	P53	P55
8.5g PC 1	3.60	4.00
PC 2	10.50	11.00
9.3g Mail Wagon 1, 2	12.75	15.00
3, 4	42.50	45.00
5, 6	290.00	300.00
PC 1, 2 (2L, No Gap)	17.00	18.00
PC 3 (2R, No Gap)	41.00	46.00
PC 4 (1R)	—	46.00
PC 4 (2L)	—	30.00
PC 4 (Line Gap)	20.00	20.50
PC 5, 6 (2L, No Gap)	4.00	4.50
PC 8	215.00	220.00
10e Canal Boat 1	1.60	1.75
10e Tractor Trailer 1	2.75	3.00
(10g) Eagle, Shield		
11111, 11112, 21112, 22112, 22113, 43334,		
43335, 53335	3.30	3.50
21113, 33333, 33335, 43324, 43325, 43326,		
43426, 54444, 54445	4.80	5.00
34424, 34426	5.80	6.00
12213	15.30	15.50
32333	150.00	150.00
10.1e Oil Wagon 1	2.75	3.15
PC 1, 2 (No Gap)	3.30	3.50
Red PC 2, 3	3.10	3.40
10.9e Hansom Cab 1, 2	24.00	41.00
PC 1, 2 (No Gap)	30.00	32.00
PC 2 (1R)	—	50.00
3, 4 (Line Gap)	350.00	—
11g Caboose 1	5.00	5.50
PC 1	4.50	4.75
Unlugged PC 2	2.25	2.50
11g Stutz 1, 2, 3, 4	3.00	3.50
12g Steamer 1, 2	2.35	2.70
PC 1, 2 (No Gap, Line Gap)	2.50	2.75
B Press PC 1	19.00	20.00
12.5e Pushcart 1	3.00	3.40
2	4.50	5.00
PC 1	3.50	4.00
PC 2	4.00	4.50
13e Patrol Wagon 1	3.20	3.50
13.2e Coal Car 1, 2	3.00	3.25
14e Iceboat 1, 2, 3, 4	2.25	2.50
B Press 2	4.00	4.30

	P53	P55
15e Tugboat 1, 2(Block)	3.15	3.35
Overall tagged 2	4.70	5.00
16.7g Popcorn 1, 2	4.40	4.75
17g Auto 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3.50	4.00
6	20.75	22.00
7	5.50	6.00
PC 1C, 2C (F only)	9.00	9.50
PC 3A, 4A (2L, 1L)	4.75	5.00
PC 3A, 4A (Line Gap)	11.00	12.00
PC 3A, 4A (No Gap)	—	4.50
PC 3B, 4B (No Gap)	27.00	28.50
PC 3C, 4C (No Gap)	—	9.00
PC 3C, 4C (1R, Line Gap)	9.75	10.00
PC 3BA, 4BA (PS/10)	—	35.00
PC 5A (1L, 2L, No Gap)	5.00	6.00
PC 5B, 6B (1L, Line Gap)	15.50	15.75
PC 5AB, 7AB (PS/9) (SR)	—	17.00
PC 6A (1L, 2L)	12.00	13.00
PC 5C, 7C (No Gap)	25.00	25.50
PC 7A (No Gap)	—	12.50
17g Dog sled 2	3.20	3.60
17.5g Racer 1	3.15	3.50
PC 1	4.50	5.00
18g Surrey 1	100.00	110.00
2, 5, 6, 8	4.50	5.50
3, 4	75.00	78.00
7	44.75	50.00
11, 12, 15, 16	13.00	15.00
9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18	6.30	7.00
18g Flag 1	155.00	—
2	29.00	50.00
3	—	1,100.00
4	10.25	12.25
5	5.75	7.00
7	37.50	40.00
18g Wash, 1112, 3333	3.50	4.00
PC 11121	6.00	6.50
PC 33333	3.75	4.25
PC 33333 (dull gum, tagged)	6.75	7.25
PC 43444	8.50	9.25
19g Fishing Boat		
A1112, A1212	12.50	13.00
A1111, 2424	3.25	3.50
20g Fire Pumper 1	80.00	195.00
3, 4, 13, 15, 16	5.50	6.00

	P53	P55
20g Fire Pumper 5, 9, 10		
7, 8	100.00	170.00
12, 14 XF	14.00	15.00
6	13.75	15.25
11	60.00	87.50
20g Consumer Ed. 1, 2	47.50	225.00
3, 4	45.00	145.00
20g Flag 1	9.50	—
2, 11	5.00	13.00
3, 12	5.00	7.00
4	65.00	—
6	110.00	160.00
5, 9, 10, 13, 14	5.00	6.00
8	5.00	16.00
PC 14	60.00	60.00
20g Official 1	22.50	57.50
20g Cable Car 1, 2 (block)	4.00	4.50
Overall tagged 2	6.00	7.00
20.5g Fire Engine 1	4.30	4.70
21g Rail Car 1, 2	4.30	4.70
21.1g 111111	4.00	4.75
111121	5.00	6.00
PC 111111	4.25	4.75
PC111121	5.00	6.00
22g Flag 1, 7, 13	16.00	18.00
2, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 16,		
19, 21, 22, 11	5.50	6.00
3	25.00	60.00
4, 6, 11, 17, 18, 20, 21	8.50	9.00
14	27.00	28.00
(22g) "D" Eagle 1	6.00	7.50
2	5.75	7.00
(22g) "D" Official 1	50.00	80.00
23g Lunch Wagon 2, 3	4.00	4.50
23g Flag A111, 212	4.00	4.50
A222 1st middle 2	4.00	4.50
A222 2nd middle 2	4.00	4.50
A112, 122	5.00	5.50
24.1g Tandem 1	4.85	5.30
25g Bread Wagon 1, 2, 3, 4	4.50	5.00
5	5.50	6.00
25g Yosemite		
Block 1, 7	7.50	8.00
Block 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	4.00	4.50
Block 9	11.50	12.00
Phos 1	39.50	40.00
Phos 2-3, 7-11, 13-14	4.00	4.50
Phos 5	11.50	12.00
Phos 6	15.50	17.00
Phos 15	7.50	8.00
(25g) "E" Earth 1211, 2222	6.50	7.00
1111, 1222	4.00	4.50
25g Honeytree 1, 2	4.00	4.50
1 Orig. full serif	26.50	27.00
(29g) "F" Tulip		
1111, 1222, 2222	4.00	4.50
1211	34.50	35.00
2211	6.50	7.00
29g Flower S1111, 2222		
S111	4.00	4.50
S2222 (Perforated)	4.50	5.00
29g Mt. Rushmore Flag		
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9	4.00	4.50
7 Toledo brown F	145.00	145.00
7 Toledo brown VF	170.00	170.00
8	8.50	9.25
Gravured A11111, A22211	4.00	4.50
29g White House Flag		
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	4.00	4.50
S1 Seaplane	7.00	9.00

All stamps are guaranteed genuine and (unless otherwise noted) in VF condition. All stamps may be returned for a complete refund, no questions asked. Some strips may be in limited supply. For XF, please add 25%.

TERMS: Cash with order, please. Ohio purchasers, please add 7% Cuyahoga County sales tax. Sorry, I do not accept credit cards.

STEPHEN G. ESRATI

P.O. Box 20130, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

Telephone: (216) 561-9393

FAX: (216) 752-5900



CATALOGUED VARIETIES ADD SPICE TO YOUR PNCs

Cat	Description	Length	Price	Cat	Description	Length	Price	Cat	Description	Length	Price
FLAG SERIES											
20F2V	Flying Footprints	5, No #	23.00	8.3T1PV1	Whole low plate number, Gap 1R	5	18.50	17T2	Tagging break 2L	5	7.50
20F14V1	Q Line, not PC	5	15.00	8.3T1PV1	same, number cut, Ln gap	5	7.50	17T3	Tagging break 3L, Type II paper, tagging appears as tiny flecks of phosphor	5	12.50
20F14PV1	Q line, PC	3	60.00	8.3T1PV1	same, number cut, Gap 1L	5	7.50	17T3Pba	Se-tenant precancel, Gap 4R, hole in D (Row 16) at 1R	10	35.00
	same	5	62.50	8.3T1PV2	No plate number, from top row, Line Gap	5	70.00	17T3Pba	Se-tenant precancel, Gap 4R, 3-dot (Row 13)	10	35.00
22F2V	Comet 6L, NEW	8	5.00	8.3T1PV3	Double number, whole at bottom, cut at top, Ln gap	5	5.00	17T4	Tagging break 3L, Type II paper, tagging appears as tiny flecks of phosphor	5	12.50
22F6	Flying Saucer	5	15.00	8.3T1PV3	Double number, whole at bottom, cut at top, Gap 2L	5	5.00	17T4Pa	Not a variety, Gap 6L	10	19.50
TRANSPORTATION SERIES											
1T4V1	Chipped plate, F	5	3.50	8.5T2PV1	Flying Flashlight	5	10.00	17T4Pba	Se-tenant precancel, Gap 4R, hole in D (Row 16) at 1R	10	35.00
	same, VF	5	4.50	9.3T1V1	Weeping W	5	28.75	17T4Pba	Se-tenant precancel, Gap 4R, hole in D (Row 16) at 1R	10	35.00
1T5	Paper II	5	3.25	9.3T2V1	U crack	5	22.00	17T4Pba	Se-tenant precancel, Gap 4R, Dot over top bar (Row 10) at 1L	10	35.00
1T6V1	Crack 1R, poor	5	1.50		same, line does not touch	5	12.00	17T4Pba	Se-tenant precancel, Gap 4R, 3-dot (Row 13)	10	35.00
	same, VF	5	7.50	9.3T3PV1	Smoking g, Ln gap, Superb	5	45.00	17T5V1	Reclining Comma	5	10.00
1T6	Paper II	5	3.25		same, with continuation, VF	10	75.00	17T6V1	Dot over "E." F only	5	25.00
2T2	Tag break 4L, Screwhead	6	2.50	9.3T6P	Hash mark 3R, gap 3L	10	45.00		same, VF	5	35.00
2T3V2	Smoking T	3	12.00	9.3T6P	Hash mark 3R, gap 3L	10	45.00	17T7V1	Oil Drop	5	15.00
	same	5	15.00		same, in long strips, showing both plate numbers and both hash marks	48+	100.00	17T7PaV1	Dot over "E." line misses perfs, No Gap	5	17.50
2T3V2c	Smoking T cont. (faint)	5	15.00	10.1T1V1	Artillery Shell I, 3R	6	15.00	18T1V1	Lightning bolt, XF	5	145.00
2T3V3	Tail on T, F	5	6.00	10.1T1V2	Artillery Shell II, 3R	5, no #	15.00		same, VF	5	125.00
	same, VF	5	11.00	10.1T1V3	Flying Hyphen 2R	5	15.00		same, PS/G, VF	5	90.00
	same, F	3	7.50	10.1T1V4	Bursting shell	5, no #	7.00	18T1V1c	Lightning bolt continuation, pair, poor	2	35.00
	same, pair	2	6.00	10.1T1V5	Dot over "L" of "OIL" 4R	8	7.00	18T9V1	Lightning bolt	5	25.00
2T6	Tag break 4L, Screwhead	6	2.50	10.1T1	Sprouting 1 in "10.1" NEW	5, no #	5.00	18T10V1	Lightning bolt	5	25.00
2T6	Tag break 3L	6	2.50	10.1T1PV1	Artillery Shell I, 3R	6	8.50		same, F	5	15.00
2T10	Tag break 3L	6	2.50	10.1T1V3	Flying Hyphen 2R	5	8.50	20T2V2	Crack over "e," pair	2	100.00
2T1RV1	Spike	5, No #	10.00	10.1T1V7	Artillery Shell III	5, no #	7.00	20T15V1	Wounded P	5	15.00
3T1XV1	Flaming Wagon	5	20.00	10.1T1V8	Perched Parrot	5, no #	7.00	21T1PV1c	RR tracks, continuation	5	27.50
3T1XV1ci	1st continuation	5	20.00	10.9T2V2	Low entry 2L	5	85.00	23T2	"A" of USA with filled-in top, constant, NEW	5	5.00
3T1XV1cii	2nd continuation	5	20.00	10.9T2PV2	Low entry 2L, Gap 3L, XF	10	85.00	MISCELLANEOUS SERIES			
	SPECIAL: Set of 3 wagons		55.00	10.9T2PV2	Low entry 2L, Gap 3L, VF	10	75.00	21.1M2V1	Line, very faint	5	1000
4T1V	Diag. slashes 1R, NEW	2	4.50	11T1V1	Brake shoe	5, no #	13.50	21.1MP2V1	Line	5	15.00
	same	3	5.50	11T1PV1	Brake shoe	5, no #	11.00	21.1MP2V1	Line, 1st extension down	5	15.00
	same	5	6.50	11T1PV2	Brake shoe	5, no #	11.00	25M1V3	Phantom yellow image	5, no #	15.00
4T2V1	Chill roller damage 3L	8	12.50	11T1PV3	Hose line II, strip of 3 with variety on R stamp	3, no #	30.00		same, singles	1, no #	5.00
4T2V2	Quotrs	5	7.00	11T1PV4	Hose line I	5, no #	10.00	I also carry a complete stock of ordinary (no variety) PNCs, priced according to the 1991 PNC Catalog. With any discounts, the more you buy, the more you save!			
	same, with chill roller damage at 2L, 3L	8	12.50	11T1PV3	Sitting Duck precursor	5, no #	17.50	Prices in this ad are good through May 1992.			
	Matching strips of 8 with severe chill roller damage and Quotrs from Plate 1 and 2	8	22.50	11T3V1	Polishing cloth	5	16.00	FREE: One strip of Hose line I on the 11c Caboose with every order over \$25.			
4T2V3	Diag. slashes 2L	5	9.75	11T3V2	Fender crack and broken #	5	11.50				
4T1RV1	Blob	5, No #	7.50	11T3	Severe chill roller doubling of "ar" in "Bearcat" 1L	5	10.00				
4.9T4V1	Whip (long), Not PC	5	15.00	12T?P	No plate number but joint line	5	10.00				
4.9T4PV1	Same, PC, Gap 2L	5	11.60	15T2V2	Anchor Line	5, no #	10.00				
	Same, PC, Gap 1L	5	11.60	15T2V2c	Anchor Line continuation	5, no #	10.00				
	Same, PC, Line Gap	5	13.00		Matched set	5, no #	22.50				
	Same, PC, No Gap	5	23.75	16.7T1PV1	Spilled Popcorn	5, no #	7.50				
4.9T3PV1	Rain crack, # cut	5	27.50	17T1V1	Broken Axle, pair	2	30.00				
4.9T5PV1c	Continuation	5	27.50	17T1V1	Broken Axle, PS/3	3	45.00				
	Matching set	5	50.00	17T1	Tagging break 2L	5	7.50				
4.9T6PV1	Whip, Gap 2L	5	18.50								
4.9T6PV3	Buggy rain	5	50.00								
5T3	Long strip showing 2 tagging breaks	35	5.00								
5T3 and 4	Clip Tagging break 2L in folded long strip showing both plate numbers	49	10.00								
5T4	Long strip showing 2 tagging breaks	36	5.00								
5.2T1	Horizontal (4) tag break	5	20.00								
5.2T2	Horizontal (4) tag break	5	20.00								
5.2T2PV3	Sleigh whip, No gap	5	85.00								
5.2T4PM1	Hash mark, gap 2L, XF	10	50.00								
5.2T4P	Gap 3 1/2 L, XF	10	25.00								
	same, VF	10	16.00								
	same, F	10	13.00								
5.2T6P	Gap 3 1/2 L, XF	10	25.00								
	same, VF	10	16.00								
	same, F	10	13.00								
5.5T1V1	Burned rubber	5	9.00								
6T1PV1	Blob 1R	5	8.00								
6T1P	Dirt clod (2L) NEW	5	7.50								
7.1T1P	Dot under "1" of "1920s"	5	5.00								
7.4T2V1	Blown tire	5	75.00								
8.3T1V1	Whole low plate number	5	25.00								
8.3T1V3	Double number, whole at bottom, cut at top	5	18.50								



TEST COIL—Stamp Venturers' test coil, printed in black, shows an eagle flying over a forest with the flag at upper left. The firm gave away samples at WCSE, perforated and rouletted. Vertical lines are for aligning perforator.

WCSE:

Show a smashing success but outlets for UV lamps are hard to find, except at Jerry Koepp's booth

By Harry Muegenburg

An unanticipated business trip allowed me to arrange my return flight through Chicago to attend the World Columbian Stamp Exposition one weekend.

In my opinion the show was a smashing success. I've never seen anything like it on the West Coast.

If I have one complaint it is that there were no convenience outlets available for me to plug in my UV light. Several dealers allowed me to plug in my light at their booths. They were well rewarded for their cooperation as I found lots of goodies and spent more money than I had planned to spend. A few dealers could not be bothered, but their loss is my gain.

One dealer, Jerry Koepp of Stamps 'n' Stuff, had his own light plugged in and ready to use by the public. We need more dealers like Jerry.

The \$16.34 set of Columbus souvenir sheets were snapped up by eager collectors. [Ed. note: USPS had to order a resupply.]

On my first day I discovered that both the \$3.14 and \$4.05 sheets were printed on fluorescent paper, whereas the other four sheets were printed on non-responsive paper. However, I noticed that the \$2 stamp on the American Bank Note souvenir first-day postal cards I had purchased was also a hibrite. Sure enough, the next day when I purchased additional Columbus sheets, I found the \$2.25 sheetlet printed on fluorescent paper.

The easiest way to check for fluorescence in these sheets is to inspect the gum side with a longwave UV light.

I am sure that all six sheets will eventually turn up in both hibrite and non-fluorescent varieties.

The 1¢ to 10¢ stamps in these sheets are not tagged. The 15¢ through \$5 stamps are block tagged. Mine were all

in perfect register. I would like to be informed if any tag shifts are found.

[Ed. note: American Bank Note said its Los Angeles plant had never had a job like the Columbus souvenir sheets and found the tagging or non-tagging on the sheets difficult.]

Stamp Venturers exhibited some of their wares and handed out undenominated, non-postage sample coils. The design is an eagle in flight over a forest with the Stars and Stripes of our flag in the upper left corner.

Plate numbers were not used on these coil stamps. Anyone sending me a SASE will receive a free strip of three from me in both roulette and perforated format—until I run out.

Write me at 3525 Bluff Ct., Carmichael, CA 95608. □

When 'untagged' is really tagged

When Al Cibulskas found Plates 1 and 2 of the unprecanceled 17¢ Electric Auto untagged, Gene Ernst acquired a set in strips of five.

Ernst's review gave pause to be wary.

There's no problem with his find of an untagged Plate 1, which he says is on Paper I. But his Plate 2 is suspect.

Here is how Ernst describes it:

Plate 2 is on Paper II. The copy of Plate 2 has some tagging on it—at the top edge of the outside stamps in the strip of five. The numbered stamp, however, does not show any tagging.

It is a known phenomenon of Plates 3 and 4 of the 17¢ Auto that strips on Paper II appear almost untagged, showing only occasional tiny dots of taggant.

It is possible that some stamps printed from Plates 1 and 2 on this seemingly untagged paper can be the same.

The rule for "color missing" errors: If even a fleck of the color is present, the stamp is not a "color missing variety."

If there is the tiniest spot of tagging anywhere in the strip, therefore, the strip is not untagged. (Since tagging is applied by the press, taggant is just another "color.")

So, what is to stop someone from simply removing the stamps that show the tiny specks of taggant to leave only the pristine "untagged" stamp? Nothing at all.

The word to the wise, therefore, is this: In examining 17¢ Auto stamps on Paper II, be aware that some appear untagged, but are really not untagged. □

Untagged Conestoga Wagon rolls in

Plate 2 of the 3¢ Conestoga Wagon was turned up. The stamp is untagged and printed on the C or D Press with a plate-number interval of 48.

The first reported find was on April 28, in rolls of 3,000, by Dr. Robert Rabinowitz.



An untagged version of this stamp has been awaited since the Postal Service adopted a policy of leaving values of 8¢ or less untagged.

When that policy was first put into effect with the printing of untagged 4¢ Steam Carriage stamps, the B Press was still in service and it was expected that a B Press

version of the Conestoga Wagon would be printed.

It was also known that the stamp would need a new plate number because the original plate had been canceled.

Scrapping of the B Press led to the change to another press.

An untagged version of the 2¢ Locomotive is still awaited. It, too, will have to be printed on the C or D Press.

A false report stating that the 2¢ Locomotive had already been found by collectors made its way into the 1991 *Plate Number Coil Catalog*.

Use of tagged 2¢ stamps continues on return envelopes sent out by the Disabled American Veterans, which uses two of them to activate postal machinery along with five untagged 5¢ Circus Wagon stamps. □

Toledo brown is really from Des Moines, Iowa

Continued from Page 63

the PNC community, it is now believed that at least 5,000 strips are needed of any PNC, as shown by A32333 of the 10¢ Eagle and Shield, of which less than 1,875 strips are known.

Tom Maeder, writing in *Coil Line*, reports a find of 250 rolls of 100, a quantity that could yield 500 strips but is still too small to meet demand.

After Davis's, the next find was made by a collector in the Toledo area and was obtained by Al Haake. Haake gave the stamp its erroneous name, although Haake had previously read about Davis's variety in *Linn's*, which ran its first report on Jan. 27.

Later, the Rev. William M. Means found some 50 rolls of 100 in Missouri, most of which were acquired by Haake.

Haake and Dr. Robert Rabinowitz point out that no large finds have been made. There have been no cases full of the brown stamp.

A collector in Indiana found the stamps from Plate 1 and, as far as can be determined, was able to obtain 38 numbered strips from his find.

[Dr. Rabinowitz wrote in his May price

list that his buy ad brought a contact from a man who had found 38 strips and he obtained half. Most have been sold.]

Interestingly, those rolls of Plate 1 in the brown color were on a flat with rolls from Plate 7, also in the brown color. This could be interpreted to indicate that the Carreta ink was apparently used during a period when the press was changed from printing Plate 1 to Plate 7, or vice versa.

[This is not necessarily so because strips from different plates are often being found on the same flat of 50 rolls. Recently, Plates 3 and Plate 6 of the 29¢ Flag over the White House were found in the same flat.]

Youngblood's original story in *Linn's* was updated with more finds on Feb. 10 and again on March 2.

Youngblood reported an earliest use on Nov. 27.

According to Youngblood, finds have been made in many areas of the country, he wrote, "indicating [that] the new color variety exists in fairly large numbers."

After ads began to appear in *Linn's*, first offering to buy the variety at a very modest markup over face, \$40 for a roll

of 100, readers of *TPN* began sending in suspected "Toledo browns."

Most of the submitted examples were simply light printings of the normal maroon color.

Neither *Linn's* nor *TPN* has received a reply from BEP as to why the Carreta color appeared on the Rushmore. □

And how about this?

'Seattle blue' awes all

PNC³ member Tony Curtis, a Seattle mailman, wowed PNC collectors at the World Columbian Stamp Exposition with a commercial cover in which the Mt. Rushmore monument was in the blue of the flag.

Curtis noticed the variety on a letter he was delivering and simply knocked on the door to ask if he could have the envelope before it was thrown out. An attempt to find the rest of the roll failed.

The stamp on the cover showed no plate number.

Curtis's cover awed the PNC collectors who hung out at the booth of Stamps 'n' Stuff, right near the entry to the show. □

CONTEMPORARY COILS

KIM CUNIBERTI, APS, PNC³

My three current price lists

- Cottrell gaps (dated Feb. 1, 1992)
- B Press gaps (dated Dec. 15, 1991)
- Paper types (dated Dec. 15, 1991)

Honeybee seam lines
4.9¢ double gaps
Number on top
Tag breaks/varieties

} (Can be quoted. Please send a want list.)

My current customers have benefitted by receiving my offerings of the "Toledo brown" Flag #7. If you have any of my current price lists now or send for them today and place a first-time order, you will also receive my offering. It is a golden opportunity if you wish to take advantage of it.

(203) 431-4703

PO Box 3654, Danbury, Connecticut 06813-3654

ADLETS

Classified ads are 15 cents a word. There is no charge for your address. Members of PNC³ are entitled to one FREE 25-word adlet each year.

ENTIRE PNC collection on the block, including errors, varieties, covers, duplicates and used; like new SAFE album with garant pages. Trade for type coins and U.S. coppers. SASE for details. Joe Boland, RR12 Box 356, Brazil IN 47834. (4-92)

AT FACE, your extra mint postage same as cash. Use full face when ordering from my competitive PNC-5 pricelist. Precancel OK. SASE. Brian McPherran, PO Box 1786, Tacoma, WA 98401-1786. (4-92)

WANTED: Untagged pair 20¢ Flag; untagged Honeybee pair with seam line; imperforate Honeybee pair with screened tagging; PS/5 of 25¢ Yosemite with "ski slope"; same, PS/3; 29¢ Rushmore with untagged "Lenz" tagging. Make offers to Luigi Argine, 5 Via Zuretti, I-20125 Milano, Italy. (APS, BCC, BIA, RPSC) (4-92)

ULTRA VIEW MOUNTS: The only stamp mounts on the market that allow transmission of UV light, plus having acid-free paper inserts for facilitating stamp insertion and stamp retention. Coil strip package \$6.00. H. Harry Mueggenburg, 3525 Bluff Ct., Carmichael, CA 95608. (6-92)

WANTED PS 18s: Regular Perfed XF-s, impart, misperft, miscut. John Tison (PNC3 473, APS, ASDA) B&J Sales, 3012 S. Croddy Way, Santa Ana, CA 92704. 1-800-854-4487. (6-92)

JOIN THE CLUB, join PNC3. Monthly newsletter, auctions, regional meetings. For details, write Gene C. Trinks, 3603 Bellows Ct., Troy, MI 48083. (4-92)

TAGGING BREAKS! I have put together a buying-selling list of tagging breaks on the Cottrell, B, and C press. For a copy, please send a SASE to Contemporary Coils (Kim Cumberb), PO Box 3654, Danbury, CT (4-92)

SEND 10 different used Transportation PNCs, no common Flags please; will receive 200 used Canadian commemoratives in return. Randy Manuel, 3340 Sandy Lane, Burlington, Ont., Canada, L7M 3T2. (PNC3 4-92)

ALL BACK ISSUES of TPN are available. Send SASE for list showing prices and list of articles in each issue. TPN, POB 20130, Shaker Hts, OH 44120. (4-92)

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Specializing in Plate Number Coils on FDCs, classic FDCs, handpainted FDCs, first cachets, and joint issues.

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UPDATE

(New stamps, corrections, withdrawals from sale)

New stamps

3T2X—Plate 2 of the 3¢ Conestoga Wagon untagged. Rolls of 3,000. April 28. (Rabinowitz) EKU May 9. (Schulman)

17T1—Plate 1 of the 17¢ Electric Auto, untagged. (Found by Cibulskas in his own stock. Ernst reports that his untagged Plate 1 is on Paper I and what he believed to be an untagged Plate 2 on Paper II. See article in this issue. Reports of any find of an untagged Plate 1 on Paper I are requested.)

18T13—Plate 13 of the 18¢ Surrey. Imperforate strip of 4. Plate number split. Mathew Bennett NAPEX auction. Previously unknown imperforate.

20F9—Plate 9 of the 20¢ Flag over the Supreme Court. Blue union of flag printed in gray (using black ink). Reported by Youngblood in *Linn's*. Confirmed by BEP.

29F1V—"Toledo brown" on Plate 1 of the 29¢ Flag over Mt. Rushmore. Rolls of 100. Indians in April. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

29F2i—Plate 2 of the 29¢ Flag over Mt. Rushmore on solid-tagging prephosphored (Lenz) paper. Roll of 3,000. April 21. [Previously known only from used stamps on commercial cover (TPN March 1992, Page 42)] (Leduc)

29F6i—Plate 6 of the 29¢ Flag over Mt. Rush-

more on solid-tagging prephosphored (Lenz) paper. Roll of 500. (Previously known only in rolls of 3,000) Salt Lake City. (Clark)

29F7V—"Toledo brown" on Plate 7 of the 29¢ Flag over Mt. Rushmore. Rolls of 100. Des Moines, Iowa, in April. (Davis)

29F1X—Plate 1 of the 29¢ Flag Over the White House. Rolls of 100. April 14. (Rabinowitz)

29F2X—Plate 2 of the 29¢ Flag Over the White House. Rolls of 500. April 22. (Haake) Rolls of 3,000. April 25. (Haake)

29F3X—Plate 3 of the 29¢ Flag Over the White House. Rolls of 100. April 20. (Rabinowitz)

29F4X—Plate 4 of the 29¢ Flag Over the White House. Rolls of 500. April 21. (Karen via Haake)

29F5X—Plate 5 of the 29¢ Flag Over the White House. Rolls of 3,000. May 18. (Rabinowitz)

29F6X—Plate 6 of the 29¢ Flag Over the White House. Rolls of 100. April 14. (Rabinowitz)

29F7X—Plate 7 of the 29¢ Flag Over the White House. Rolls of 100. April 20. (Rabinowitz)

Withdrawals (all June 30, 1992.)

5T1X—5¢ Milk Wagon, rolls of 100.

17T2X—17¢ Dog Sled, rolls of 100.

29U—29¢ undenominated "F" stamp, rolls of 100 and 500.

Withdrawal correction

25F—25¢ Flag over Yosemite, phosphored, C Press, rolls of 100. Oct. 31, 1991. (Reported erroneously as block tagged on that day by TPN.)

Corrections to TPN

Page 54—On Plate 3 of the 29¢ Flag over Mt. Rushmore the roll size was 100, not 500.

Dealer Ed Denson loses in primary, returns to PNCs

PNC dealer Ed Denson, who ran in the California primary for supervisor of Humboldt County, came in fourth. Only the two top candidates went on to the November election.

Denson said he was cleaning up campaign material and getting his stamp business back in shape to fill orders and resume trading. □

MORE ADLETS**GREAT AMERICANS**

MARGIN COPY overall tagged 15¢ Cody (to show untagged area), \$1.00 each, blocks of 4, \$4.50. Non-margin singles, 20¢ each. Prephosphored or block tagged 23¢ Cassatt, 40 cents each. Prephosphored \$1 Hopkins, \$1.50 each. Prephosphored \$5 Bret Harte, \$6 each. Looking for untagged and overall tagged Great Americans. Make offer. Esrati, POB 21030, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (4-92)

LAST-CHANCE SALE

All but 40 copies of the 1991 PNC Catalog have been sold. I'd like to get rid of these last few copies, so I am offering TPN readers a deal:

\$12.50 postpaid
(\$13.38 in Ohio)

Get them while they last!

STEVE ESRATI

PO Box 20130
Shaker Heights, OH 44120



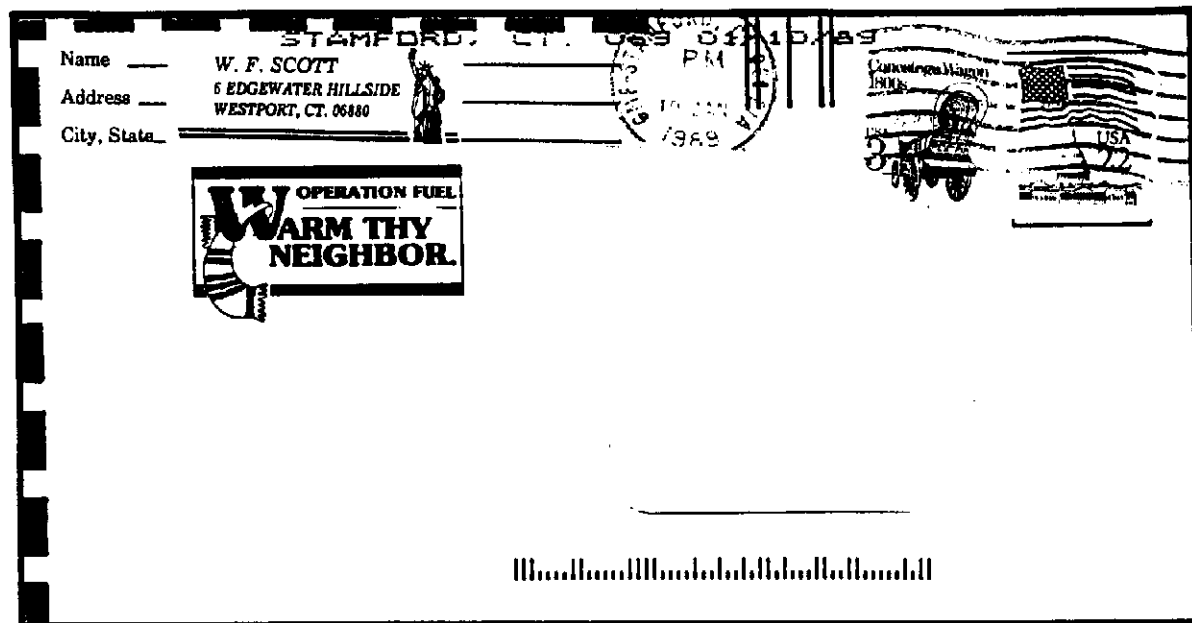
29c Mt. Rushmore Plate #2 Solid Phosphor (Lenz) Paper

PS7 S (4 only)..... \$125.
PS7 XF (5 only)..... \$115.
PS7 VF \$100.
PS7 F/VF (4 only) .. \$ 90.

From one small find!

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Northwood NH 03261
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ROB'S COVER OF THE BI-MONTH



EXPERIMENTAL USE—This cover featuring a 3¢ Conestoga Wagon from Plate 1 is tied by the earliest known Stamford, Conn., ink-jet spray cancel. This forerunner ink-jet was used experimentally for two days, Jan. 10 and 11, 1989, seven months before Stamford became a

regular user of such cancels. (Cover courtesy of Ed. Brown)

If you have a candidate for cover of the bi-month, please send a photocopy of your cover against a black background to Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, Maine 04976.

Eagle and Shield miscellany

A distinct difference in the color of the paper used for printing A43326 Eagle and Shield stamps has been found. One paper is white (in daylight), the other is cream colored.

The find was made at the Houston ASDA show by Eugene Ernst while he was examining the stock of Michael Jaffe, a Vancouver, Wash., dealer. Jaffe said he bought rolls of 500 and 3,000 in Portland, Ore., but could not remember which paper came from which roll.

Alex Rogolsky of Anagram Hand Colored Cachets also made one complete set of 19 E&S first-day covers. Rogolsky's covers all have the same cachet and the lot was consigned to Jim McCucker.

This indicates that FDCs bearing the scarce A32333 were created by at least five PNCers: Ed Denson (10 covers); Bill Norton (3), Conrad Keydel (4), Jerry Koepp (10), and Rogolsky (1).

The total number of covers bearing A32333 is estimated at no more than 100 by Larry Graf.

Rogolsky is considering a service in which he will prepare his hand-colored covers with all available plate numbers.

Koepp received some damaged FDCs he had prepared when they came back to him from Kansas City. He replaced them by submitting covers bearing A34424 and A34426, both of which had not been found when the deadline for submitting FDCs expired.

Koepp sold some of those covers at \$150 at the World Columbian Stamp Exposition. □

Plate and mat varieties—Part XL

By A.S. Cibulskas

20¢ Fire Pumper

a. Plate 2. An additional crack running upward from the "u" of "Pumper." This one starts from the middle of horizontal cap (as opposed to the left edge of previous reports) of the left leg of the "u." (SAdams)

23¢ Lunch Wagon

a. Plate 2. White triangle at top of "A" in "USA" almost filled by a circular blue blob centered on the crossbar. Constant. Position not reported. (Marrelli)

25¢ Honeybee

a. Plate 2. An apparently unintended black wavy line in the top right corner of the clover leaf at bottom of stamp. Perhaps caused by extraneous matter on intaglio plate, but multiple examples from about 10 rolls, all identical, argue against this. Constant at 2R. (Keller)



BLACK WAVE—Computer-enhanced drawing of black line on green leaf.

Gravured Circus Wagon due in '93

Sometimes tracking down a rumor pays off.

F. Joseph Coveney heard that the Postal Service had alerted post offices about a gravured 5¢ Circus Wagon to be printed in rolls of 12,000.

When the Media Relations Office of USPS was questioned about this, the roll size and the design were confirmed, but, said Art Shealy, the stamp will probably not be issued until next year.

Robin Menard of the same office told *TPN* that USPS had never asked BEP to print the stamp. A published report had said that BEP had refused to print it, but under the agreement between USPS and BEP, BEP was to print no rolls larger than 3,000.

Since the most probable user of a 5¢ unprecanceled coil in such large rolls is the Disabled American Veterans, and since DAV uses the stamps in multiples on franked return envelopes, chances are that the stamp will be tagged. This would be an exception to the policy of leaving stamps of 8¢ or less untagged.

Dr. Robert Rabinowitz reports that DAV has been splicing rolls of 3,000 together to make rolls of 12,000 for its machinery. Such splices have not been found by collectors.

In the past, the Postal Service has not announced DAV special issues. (For a listing, see *TPN*, November 1991, Page 112.) It is to be hoped that the new stamp will be made available to collectors when issued. Collectors have never found the 2¢ Locomotive from rolls of 10,000 and it took more than six months to find the untagged 5¢ Circus Wagon.

Untagged 10¢ stamps

Conrad Keydel was preparing first-day covers at the World Columbian Stamp Exposition (WCSE) when a UV lamp was being passed around. He noticed that the 10¢ value in the Columbus souvenir sheets had been left untagged along with all other values below 10¢.

Earlier, Ken Moreau had found a sheet of untagged 10¢ Red Cloud stamps.

The 10¢ Columbus was intentionally untagged, according to its printer, American Bank Note.

But according to the Stamp Manufacturing Division of USPS, the Red Cloud stamp has been issued on prephosphored paper since last year and was never intentionally issued untagged. That makes Moreau's find an untagged error.

Asked whether there had been a change in the policy on leaving stamps with a

face value up to 8¢ untagged, Valerie Welch of the USPS Media Relations Office, said: "What does 'tagging' mean?"

All the PNC news that fits we print

Thompson consigns her stock

When Al Haake advertised his special on Plates 3 and 4 of the precanceled 10.9¢ Hansom Cab in *Linn's*, he revealed that he had been given another dealer's retail stock on consignment.

The dealer was Edith Diane Thompson, who ventured into retailing only two years ago after a long and fruitful stint as a digger-upper of scarce plate numbers, which she wholesaled to dealers.

Thompson told Haake she was too busy in her full-time job (she is a lawyer for the U.S. Treasury) to be able to devote the necessary time to the selling of PNCs.

E&S hunt (continued)

The hunt for the two missing numbers (A12113 and A33334) and the scarce number (A32333) of the 10¢ Eagle and Shield brought back some of the pioneering spirit we saw in the early days of PNCs.

Dealers Jerry Koepp and Hank Karen and collector James Perry appear to have written to every philatelic counter in the country in their search for these elusive stamps. Meanwhile, Dr. Rabinowitz went one step further. He wrote to accountable paper offices.

Meanwhile, Dr. Rabinowitz has seen the unopened letter from American Express found in a Texas post office waste basket with A33334 on it.

In his attempts to track down the stamp, Dr. Rabinowitz went to extensive efforts with American Express and with the mailer who sent out the letters. He struck out.

Quake shakes up Denson

Dealer Ed Denson was broadcasting his regular Saturday radio show on April 25 when the northern California earthquake struck. It moved the studio walls six inches, but the program stayed on the air. Denson said the first quake did little

damage at his spread in Alderpoint, about 50 miles from the epicenter of the quake, which registered 6.9 on the Richter scale.

But the first aftershock, which struck in the middle of the night, shook up his

house, doing considerable damage and waking up Denson and his wife, Mary Alice. They were unhurt.

Plate 2 Rushmores found

mint on Lenz paper

George Leduc found about 55 numbered strips from Sleeve 2 of the 29¢ Flag over Mt. Rushmore in a post office vending machine that were printed on the unmottled prephosphored paper we have been calling Lenz paper, after its original finder, Joann Lenz.

Lenz also found her strips in a vending machine and fed it quarters until the machine ran out.

Leduc and Alan Thomson scoured the area around the New England post office where Leduc made his find, but could find no more such strips.

At the PNC³ meeting at WCSE, a collector reported finding Plate 6 Lenz-paper stamps in a Chicago post office's vending machine and offered maps on how to reach the spot.

The existence of stamps from Sleeve 2 on such paper had been confirmed previously only on commercial covers (by Lenz herself).

Freebies for PNC³ers

Thomson and Leduc gave everyone attending the New England regional meeting of PNC³ unnumbered pairs of 29¢ Rushmores showing Lenz tagging.

Kim Cuniberti spoke on "How I got started collecting PNCs" and Rob Washburn, president of PNC³, spoke on commercial covers and EKUs.

Nonstamps for sale at USPS

Stamps etc. catalog, the redesigned *Philatelic Catalog* that first appeared in May, still lists two precanceled 23¢ Flag stamps that do not exist.

The items are not the 23¢ stamps the catalog calls "23¢ USA Presort."

As reported here in the last issue, the

stamps will not be released until 1993 and are not the 23¢ Flag stamps issued in 1992.

USPS catalog terms are wrong

Don't be fooled by the description of Item T1043, the 23¢ Mary K, in the May-June issue of *Stamps, etc.*, the new catalog from USPS. The description says "overall tagged," but the stamp is prephosphored and unmottled.

On the \$1 Johns Hopkins (Item N1090), the paper is prephosphored and mottled. The description says "Prephosphorus paper." Item 1090, the block-tagged Hopkins, is described as "Panels of 20."

The descriptions for the \$5 Bret Harte also leaves something to be desired. The block-tagged stamp (Item 0094) is described as "Panels of 20." The new solidly prephosphored version (Item N094) is described as "L-Perf." The prephosphored Harte, however, shows that it was run through the Eureka stroke perforator and has a lovely narrow perforation.

To test the Kansas City cave, an order was placed for 2¢ Mary Lyon, 4¢ Father Flanagan, and 5¢ Luis Muñoz Marin, in the hope of obtaining the untagged versions. No such luck! All were block tagged.

There are overall-tagged Muñoz Marins, but they were not shipped by the cave. Neither were the 10¢ Red Clouds. All were block tagged.

The 15¢ Buffalo Bill Cody, however, arrived with overall tagging, clearly shown by untagged margins.

The bill for the Flanagans said "phos."

Items 7925A and 7926A, "23¢ USA Presort" coils were not sent. A note said issuance was deferred until 1993.

The 52¢ Hubert Humphrey has solid prephosphoring, while the 29¢ Earl Warren and 35¢ Dennis Chavez have mottling.

Dr. Bob's crystal ball

In the 1970s and 1980s, Dr. Rabinowitz put out a stamp investment newsletter. An old subscriber recently sent back a May 1981 newsletter (written before Dr. Rabinowitz had ever seen a PNC) in which laying aside plate number coil strips was recommended as a good investment.

Dr. Rabinowitz did not know then what the best way to save these would be, so he urged subscribers to lay away strips of three with the number on the middle stamp.

No new USPS order

American Bank Note had not received an order to reprint Eagle and Shields or to print the gravured Circus Wagon when

...and news from the WCSE

Continued from Page 63

rolls (20 strips of each number) with Plates 3 and 4 of the 20¢ Consumer.

The question raised as to why anyone would save such a hoard and not know how to dispose of it to better advantage (the wholesale buying price of the entire lot should have topped \$40,000) was answered by Frank Marrelli.

"My theory is that the guy ran a small business or professional office that bought and used stamps and deducted them from taxes as costs. He put aside a few rolls each year for himself. His intent was to sell them when he retired, or something, thereby taking some money out of the business on which he wouldn't pay taxes."

Dr. Robert Rabinowitz noted that the seller would have done better taking the money out each year, paying taxes on it, and then investing the funds (for more than 10 years) in a tax-free municipal-bond mutual fund.

It was left unsaid that he would have done still better by looking up the stamps in a catalog.

Two numbers per PNC

Stamp Venturers had a display of the coil stamps of the future: its test stamps with an accounting number on the gum of every 10th stamp.

Untagged, unnumbered test stamps were distributed free to all comers and came with what looked like a joint line between each stamp. The coils were used to align perforating and rouletting equipment. (Stamp Venturers uses a proprietary stroke perforator.)

The accounting numbers allow a postal clerk to determine quickly how many stamps are left on a roll. They would run sequentially from 10 to 11,990.

West German coils have used such numbers since 1954, but on every fifth stamp.

If such numbers end up on PNCs, they would move across the roll in relation to the plate numbers and it would probably be most desirable to obtain a strip of 10 with the PNC strip at one end and the accounting number at the other. One would then fold the last two stamps over to show the accounting number together with the PNC strip.

Lighthouse blinks quickly

Lighthouse Publications acts fast. At least that's what we would like to think. In our last issue, the shortwave UV lamp from Lighthouse was criticized for leak-

ing too much longwave UV. At the show, Lighthouse was offering an adapter that absolutely prevented the problem.

Tested by a group of PNC tagging specialists, the Lighthouse lamp fitted with the adapter easily distinguished between the two types of prephosphored paper.

(An advantage of the battery-operated Lighthouse lamp over the similar and equally effective Scott lamp is that one can run the Lighthouse lamp across a table covered with stamps and pick out the ones one is looking for. The Scott lamp requires that one place it on the stamp and look through, slowing searches.)

The filter in the adapter was made by Schott und Genossen, a highly respected German optical company.

According to Werner Tinnemeier of Lighthouse, the complete Lighthouse lamp will sell at a price that is competitive with that of the Scott lamp. The adapter alone lists at about \$37.

Quick takes from WCSE

It has become an unwritten tradition, but the victims don't really like it. At the shows over the past few years, PNC collectors tend to congregate around the booth of a PNC dealer. At WCSE, Koepf had to ask the PNC fans to make room for customers. But how do you meet your friends at a show with so many visitors?

At a regional meeting of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club (PNC³), several collectors showed that the Plate 3 strips of the 29¢ Flag over the White House had incomplete plate numbers. Because Chicago has no active PNC³ core, the Detroit crew ran the meeting—Detroit-style, with lots of door prizes.

Ken Lawrence's updated PNC slide show was shown at that meeting and at a prior seminar hosted by the Bureau Issues Association. It is now an APS slide show and includes new photos taken by Richard Nazar.

Stu Kusinitz of Fall River Stamp & Coin Co. (PO Box 1650, Fall River, MA 02722) has a price list ("U.S. Oddball") that includes some of the perforation varieties of the Great Americans Series.

William S. Langs had a booth at the show where he was selling imperforate PNCs in strips of six. Some sample prices: 5¢ Canoe, \$2,750; 8.4¢ Wheel Chair, \$4,500. His May-July price list is yours for a SASE from PO Box 46, New Milford, NJ 07646.

In writing dealers, please mention the fact that you got their addresses from *The Plate Number*, the bimonthly journal of PNCs. □

Tagging types

Block tagging

Covers only a **portion** of the stamp design, usually leaving the perforated areas untagged.

Derived from Wayne Youngblood's article in Linn's, Jan. 6, 1992.

Arranged by Eugene Kiehlmeier, 1832 W. 29th St., Erie, PA 16508
(814) 864-6437

Edited and revised by Joann Lenz and the PNC Study Group: Alan Thomson, Eugene Ernst, Stephen Esrati, Ken Lawrence, and Wayne Youngblood

Overall tagging

1. Applied to stamps **after** image is printed.
2. Under UV light, when held at a slight angle from the lamp, stamps have a **tagging glare** somewhat obscuring the printing. Selvage is untagged.
3. Tagging stops short of selvage (in sheets) but covers the **entire** stamp, including perforations.

—
Taggant is laid down over the printed image.

Prephosphored (Mottled tagging)

1. Tagging is applied **before** paper reaches printer.
2. Under UV light, image appears dark and without tagging glare, no matter how paper is held or turned. Sheet selvage is tagged.
3. Finished paper is coated with zinc orthosilicate **before** printing.
4. Under UV light, tagging is mottled and splotchy in appearance and surface is slightly rough.
5. Stamps have a **brighter** appearance. Used on 25¢, and 29¢ **Flags** and some **Great Americans**.

—
Printed image is laid down over the tagging.

Prephosphored (Solid tagging)

1. Tagging applied **before** paper reaches printer.
2. Under UV light, image appears dark and without tagging glare, no matter how paper is held or turned. Sheet selvage is tagged.
3. Finished paper is coated with zinc orthosilicate **before** printing.
4. Under UV light, tagging is crisp, uniform, and bright. Paper is smooth and appears to have a coated surface similar to that used for offset-intaglio stamps.
5. Known so far only on Sleeves 2 and 6 of the 29¢ **Rushmore** (Lenz paper), 23¢ **Lunch Wagon**, and some **Great Americans**.

—
Printed image is laid down over the tagging.

Tagging and perforation varieties of Great Americans Series (updated through June 15, 1992)

Scott	Stamp	L/block	L/Overall	Harrow/block	Harrow/overall	Harrow/phosphored	Harrow/untagged
1844	1¢ Dix	L		A			
2169	2¢ Mary Lyon			X			X†
2171	4¢ Flanagan			X	X		X
2173	5¢ Muñoz Marin				X	X	X
2176	10¢ Red Cloud			X	E	E	
2178	15¢ Cody			X	X		
1862	20¢ Truman	L		E	E		
1863	22¢ Audubon	L		E			
2182	23¢ Cassatt			X	X	X	
2183	25¢ London			E			
2183a	25¢ London ☆			E			
1864	30¢ Laubach	L		E	E		
1867	39¢ Clark	L		E			
1868	40¢ Gilbreth	L		E			
2186	40¢ Chennault				E	E†	
2188	45¢ Cushing			X	X		
1869	50¢ Nimitz		L*	E	E		
2194A	\$1 Hopkins			X	X	E†	
2196	\$ Harte			X		X	

Symbols used in this chart:

L = L-perforator 10.9 x 10.9

A = A Press in-line bull's-eye 11.2 x 11.2

E = Eureka off-press bull's-eye 11.2 x 11.2

X = Stamp exists, exact details still unavailable

☆ \$5 booklet only. The \$1.50 and \$3 booklets are block tagged and perforated in-line on Goebel booklet-making equipment 10.0 x 9.75

* Printed on the I-8 currency press. Tagged off press.

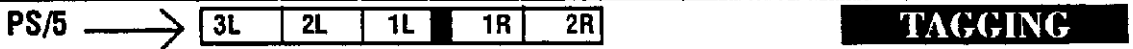
† Not confirmed by mint copy.

Reports are urgently needed on appearance of prephosphored stamps (mottled or solid)

Data first compiled for *Linn's World Stamp Almanac* by Wayne L. Youngblood. Updated by Youngblood and Alan Thomson.

Tagging breaks on Cottrell Press PNCs (updated but unchanged through May 8, 1992)

Cat. No.	6L	5L	4L	3L	2L	1L	1R	2R	3R	4R	5R	6R	Symbols, abbreviations B = only a bar break has been seen. Clips and screw heads also show bar breaks. Clip and screw locations: l=left; b=bottom; c=complete fastener J = a junction of four mats has been found at this location. This is seen as a horizontal break PLUS a vertical break. % = exists with Sb, but not in a numbered strip.	
2T2 2T6 2T8 2T10		B Sib B Sib B Sib B Sib	B Sib J B Sib J	B Cib Sib B Cib Sib B Cibc J B Cibc J	B Cib J B Cib J B Cibc J B Cibc J	B Cib J B Cib J B Cibc J B Cibc J	JOINT LINE							
5T1 5T2 5T3 5T4		B Sb B Sb	B Sib J B Sib J	B Cib J B Cib J	B Cib B Cib	B Cib J B Cib J					B Sib B Sib	B Sib J B Sib J	Sib Sib	
5.2T3 5.2T5			B SI % B SI %											
17T1 17T2 17T3 17T4				B Cib B Cib B Cibc J B Cibc J	B Cib J B Cib J B Cibc J B Cibc J									
	B Cb J B Cb J													



Notes to above chart

17T4, 3R found used as a PS/4.
All positions are given by stamp, not by perforation. 1L is the stamp with the plate number.
This chart developed and updated by Eugene R. Ernst. Please report new finds to him at 15522 Windy Cove, Houston, TX 77095. Please include a diagram showing how you count position.

Overall tagging

(only on rolls where the tagging break is constant and does not "walk")
4T1Ri (W) 2L, 9R
4T1X (on stamps) (W) 11L7, 8L, 7L, 6L, 2L7, 1L, 3R, 5R, 7R, 9R7, 10R7
4T1X (on perfs) 12L, 11L, 10L, 8L, 7L, 6L, 5L, 4L, 3L, 2L, 1L, Line, 1R, 2R, 3R, 6R, 8R, 9R, 10R, 11R, 12R
5T1Y # 13L, 10L, 8L, 7L, 6L, 5L, 4L7, 2L, 1L, 5R, 12R
15T2i (W) 12L, 11L, 10L, 9L, 8L, 7L, 6L, 5L, 4L, 3L, 2L, 1L, Line, 1R, 2R, 3R, 4R, 5R, 6R, 8R, 11R
20T2Xi 12L/R
\$1T1 12L, 11L
5T1Y Circus Wagon is confirmed with only one break in 52 stamps.
"W" indicates that a "walking" tagging break has also been reported. This means a break can be found on all positions.
A question mark indicates that the reported position has not been confirmed.

Untagged stripe across top or bottom

4T1Ri Top
5T1Y Top, bottom
15T2i Top, bottom
\$1T1 Top, bottom
Ernst welcomes new reports.

Questions raised on phosphored papers

In view of Eugene Kiehlmeier's table on the opposite page, there are questions that still need to be resolved.

Originally, the right two columns of Gene's chart called these papers "phosphor coated" and "prephosphored."

Alan Thomson took exception to that terminology:

Calling only the Lenz paper prephosphored doesn't make any sense at all. All the papers that are tagged before they reach the printer are "prephosphored" in the eyes of USPS and BEP, and that label doesn't really tell us anything from a philatelic viewpoint. Calling one type "prephosphored" and not calling the others "pre" ignores the simple fact that the paper makers/processors are doing the tagging before the product reaches the printer. Both (all) these papers are "pre," or none is.

As you can see, we have gone to "Prephosphored—mottled tagging" and "Prephosphored—solid tagging" instead.

Thus, we are going by what we see, not by what we are told.

But we have also been told, by a spokesperson for Stamp Venturers who has been at the paper mill and seen the process that all prephosphored papers are coated with tagging.

Incidentally, it is no longer accurate to call the mottled tagging the result of a process in which the tagging is shaved off after the tagging is laid on the paper as a coating. Ac-

ording to Wayne Youngblood, all tagging gets a shave.

Youngblood also believes now that the coating is not in the paper sizing of the paper in which we see it as solid.

At a PNC³ meeting at the World Columbian Stamp Exposition, Ken Lawrence objected to the "shaving" idea and said mottling is probably the result of colandering.

Another concern is expressed by Eugene Ernst. He has examples of Lenz paper on Plates 2 and 6 of the 29¢ Flag over Mt. Rushmore as well as a strip from Plate 6 which he was given by Joann Lenz at STAMpsHOW in Philadelphia.

"Comparing the three strips side-by-side, I can see no difference in paper or tagging," he said. "Comparing the Rushmores to the 23¢ Lunch Wagon (the only other solid tagging), I see differences in the paper color, thickness, gum, and tagging (using a Scout UV lamp).

"Question: What other issue was the Lenz paper used for? I have looked through my collection—coils, regulars, commemoratives—and I cannot find a match."

That's the problem. Nobody else has found Lenz paper used for anything else, either (Although the 52¢ Hubert Humphrey appears to be on Lenz paper, too.)

So, Ernst asks, "Was this

some sort of test paper?" We don't know.

Which raises two points:

- These references to the uniqueness of Lenz paper are based on the color of the tagging in UV, which is greenish yellow. The Lunch Wagon tagging is bluish. Youngblood believes the differences may be in the taggant, not the paper.

- Rich Nazar has been told by the paper companies that when they bid for contracts, they supply 10 rolls of sample paper, which BEP is free to use. That would put Ernst's "test paper" into the category of a sample.

Nobody has yet volunteered to do the sort of work on Flag papers that Nazar did with the Transportation Series. His method was to get the information from all sources, including the paper manufacturers. Anyone desiring to start this line of research would enrich all of us.

But Ernst makes another point, also as a question: "Could the Lenz paper be a variety of the Lunch Wagon paper?"

Youngblood believes it is.

Our theories on the two papers now are as follows:

- Lenz paper may be samples supplied to BEP.
- Lenz paper may have been colandered differently.
- The two papers may be from different vendors and meet the same specs. □

1	100	6	3,000
2	100, 500, 3,000	7	100
21	3,000	8	500
3	100	9	100
4	100	A11111	10,000
5	500, 3,000	A22211	10,000
6	500, 3,000	21, 81 on Lenz paper	

1	100	5	3,000
2	100, 500	6	100
3	100, 500, 3,000	7	100
4	500		

1B	500, 3,000	8B	100, 500
1P	500*, 3,000*		3,000*
2B	500, 3,000	9B	100
2P	500*, 3,000*, 10,000	9P	100
		10P	100
3B	100, 500, 3,000	11P	100
4B	100, 500, 3,000	13P	100
5B	100	14P	100
5P	100	15P	100
6P	100	B=Block	
7B	100	P=Phosphor	
7P	100	*="P" on label	

1	100	10	100
2	100, 500, 3,000	11	500
3	100, 500	12	100
4	100, 500	13	500
5	500	14	100, 500
6	500	14P	500, 3,000
8	100	P=Precancel	
9	100		

1	100	13	500, 3,000
2	100, 500, 3,000	14	500, 3,000
3	100	15	500, 3,000
4	500, 3,000	16	500, 3,000
5	100	17	100
6	500, 3,000	18	100
7	100	19	100
8	100	20	100
10	100, 500, 3,000	21	500, 3,000
11	100	22	100
12	100	1T	100, 3,000

1		5	100, 500, 3,000
2	100, 500, 3,000	6	100, 500
3	100	7	100
4	100, 500		

Notes to roll-size tables

The accompanying tables are largely compiled by Alan Thomson. New information comes from the large lot of rolls of 500 sold at the World Columbian Stamp Exposition (See Page 63).

Additional data has been supplied by Dr. Robert Rabinowitz, who said that in his experience most rolls of 500 also existed as rolls of 3,000. Such rolls of 3,000, however, have not been entered unless he specifically recalled having such rolls. □

Rushmore is out; White House is in

Printing has stopped on the 29¢ Flag Over Mt. Rushmore, according to a spokesperson at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

When *TPN* learned of this, only Plates 1 through 9 were known by collectors.

According to BEP, the 29¢ Flag Over the White House replaces the Rushmore as the definitive coil.

American Bank Note Co., which made a Rushmore coil of 10,000 by gravure, has not yet been asked to make a large coil of the White House.

BEP also reported that it is still testing the new F Press, which was first reported in *TPN* in July 1991.

If no new Rushmore numbers are found, the stamp will have the second fewest plate numbers among Flag stamps.

The 18¢ Flag had seven plates; the 20¢ Flag, 13; the 22¢ Flag, 21, and the 25¢ Flag, 14. Because of the two tagging styles used on the Yosemitees, there are 22 collectible plate numbers.

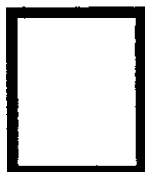
Seven plates of the White House are known. □

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