

UVVMs:

*Stamps from both printers
have plate numbers, despite
USPS denial on BEP version*

By Stephen G. Esrati

Will they or won't they?

That question caused a flurry of activity in PNC circles in July and August.

The question was: Will BEP's Universal Vending Machine (UVM) coil have a plate number?

Finally, thanks to Dr. Robert Rabinowitz, whose sleuthing got someone to look at one, the answer came.

The BEP version has a red 1 on every 48th stamp.

That was the way the Postal Service originally announced the stamp in *Philatelic Release 92-060*. Later I was told the stamp would have no plate number.



The BEP version

of the Office of Stamp and Philatelic Marketing.

But on Aug. 6 Dr. Rabinowitz called to say McDowell's statement did not square with what had been reported to him by someone who had seen the stamps. Later that day, McDowell retracted to *TPN*, saying the numbers were on every 48th stamp.

Linn's reported that the stamp would have no plate number in its issue of Aug. 8, having confirmed this with Don McDowell, direc-

The chain of events that led to the confusion can be traced to the writing of Dr. Rabinowitz and to phone conversations he had with McDowell.

In an article published in the July 11 *Stamp Collector*, Dr. Rabinowitz, a member of the PNC Study Group, said: "It has been confirmed that the variable-rate coils to be sold in five U.S. cities and by the Philatelic Sales Division (PSD) will have plate numbers."

But McDowell told *TPN* on July 17 that although the BEP sleeve did have plate numbers, they could still be routed off the printing cylinder to produce unnumbered coils.

"But, as we speak," he said, "unless something happened I don't know about, the plate number is still on."

At that time, McDowell believed that printing had not yet begun. In fact, the stamps were printed last year.

When *Philatelic Release 92-060* arrived at *TPN* on July 24, I called the Office of Communications to learn where the plate number would be on the stamp.

It did not seem likely to me that the plate numbers would be at the bottom of the stamp in a vertical coil and I envisioned the stamp as having plate numbers on the side, probably the left side, which would have been their position if the stamps had been printed as a horizontal coil.

I spoke to Valerie Welch and told her what McDowell had indicated to me on July 17 and asked her not only to tell me where the number was, but also to confirm that the coil did, indeed, have numbers at all.

[Ms. Welch had trouble finding people, who were reported "on travel." It was the time when the Postal Service was sending scads of people to the Olympic Games in Barcelona to conduct "mailing seminars" for big mailers who were going to be rounded up between their free attendance at Olympic events and their free meals in super-expensive Barcelona to return to their free hotels to be told how to mail a letter.

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Why the 29¢ Flower was late

According to Stephen G. Esrati, the Postal Service isn't sure who was responsible for last year's delay in issuing the denominated 29¢ Flower coil stamps printed by Stamp Venturers.

That's odd. A year ago USPS wrote to me that postponement from April to August was "due to a delay from our supplier."

Ken Lawrence,
Linn's July 27, 1992

By Stephen G. Esrati

The blame for the delay is not as simple as Ken Lawrence would have one believe in the above quotation, which is based on

the label USPS put on paid orders for the denominated 29¢ Flower.

Let's try to set the record straight.

Stamp Venturers was awarded a contract to print stamps on Dec. 14, 1990. It had proposed printing coils of 50, 100, 500, 3,000, and 10,000 and said it could print either perforated or rouletted stamps.

That dispels one myth. Stamp Venturers had the capability to make round-hole perforations because such perforations

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PNC WATERGATE

We live in an untidy world in which it takes a long time for the truth to emerge. Often, the first news printed about an event—such as the burglary of Democratic National Headquarters in the Watergate complex—seems pretty innocuous, even if it eventually leads to the resignation of a President.

Stamp collecting is not that serious. Still, the sort of mind that conceals the truth also colors what we can report. Even worse, it blocks serious research into the stamps we collect.

After the 10¢ value of the Columbian souvenir sheets and the 10¢ Red Cloud stamp appeared untagged, I called the Office of Communications of the Postal Service to inquire whether the policy of leaving stamps untagged up to the value of 8¢ had been changed. The first person I spoke to was Valerie Welch. She asked: "What does tagging mean?"

When I explained, she switched my call to Joe Peng in the Office of Stamp Manufacturing. Peng assured me that the policy had not been changed and that 10¢ stamps were not being left untagged on purpose. The Red Cloud, he said, was printed on prephosphored paper.

I went to press telling *TPN* readers that the untagged 10¢ Red Cloud was an untagged error. I did not include the 10¢ Columbian because American Bank Note had assured me that they had been left untagged at USPS insistence.

Meanwhile, Wayne Youngblood of the PNC Study Group went to Washington and was told that the policy had, indeed, been changed to include 10¢ stamps and that there should now be four versions of the Red Cloud: block tagged, overall tagged, prephosphored, and untagged.

No statement had ever been distributed to "the media" to announce the change in policy.

Not only that, but Peng told Wayne that it was possible that in addition to the Red Cloud, the 10¢ Canal Boat may also have been printed untagged.

Later, a spokesperson at BEP called to say that the Red Cloud had not—please note the "not"—printed untagged. Told of the conflicting versions, she offered to check again. Despite what Youngblood had been told, which he published in *Linn's*, she said the Red Cloud was supposed to have been printed on LP-713, a prephosphored paper and that the untagged stamps were not because of a change in policy but because an untagged roll had been erroneously put on press. That makes the untagged Red Clouds an untagged error.

That is but one example of a case where one simply cannot track down the truth because of a lack of openness. The Postal Service looks upon stamps as a national secret.

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 Esrati.

The Plate Number

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Ken Lawrence wrote an article in *Linn's* in which he quoted Ira Polikoff of BEP as saying that BEP had refused to print rolls of 10,000 of the 5¢ Circus Wagon.

I was curious about the story because—under the agreement between BEP and USPS—BEP was not supposed to print any stamps in rolls larger than 3,000. I called the Office of Communications and got a flat statement from Robin Minard that "We never asked BEP to print them."

I wrote that for *TPN*, effectively calling Ken a liar. In this instance I had been more careful. Before my story appeared, I checked with BEP and was told that there had been no refusal to print.

Part of the confusion may have been because the terms used by me referred to a coil of 12,000 that USPS had confirmed to me for 1993 (Ken had written about a coil of 10,000).

Ken says the agreement between BEP and USPS came into effect after BEP had refused to print the big rolls of Circus Wagons.

On another matter, Ken was told by Richard Johnson, a partner in Stamp Venturers, that his firm was now printing an unidentified coil stamp on which the gummed side shows accounting numbers.

Just before I went to press with the July issue of *TPN*, I was told by Sandra Lane, a spokeswoman for the firm, that no stamps showing such numbers were in production. Fortunately, I forgot to include her denial in *TPN*, so, at least, I neither called Ken a liar nor denied what he had reported.

But I did call Stamp Venturers later to find out why there were two conflicting stories. On the record I was told that the company was under a gag order from the Postal Service and could not talk about any stamps that had not yet been issued.

I infer from this that Ken had been told the truth and I had been given the "It-was-only-a-two-bit-burglary" reply.

Finally, on a matter troubling many PNC collectors, I was told by Ms. Lane that the 29¢ Earl Warren and 35¢ Dennis Chavez stamps had been printed on the same type of prephosphored intaglio paper used by BEP. Because this paper was uncoated, she said, the phosphors are "impregnated in the paper itself."

If this were true, we would see tagging on the back of the stamp.

She said the phosphors are in the coating of prephosphored paper only in coated stamps.

Where does this leave us?

Even Richard Sennett, a partner in Stamp Venturers, could not help expressing some doubt about what is going on: "I think all this information should be made public."

So do I. ✽

STAMPS ETC. STRIKES OUT

When the Postal Service announced the switch from *The Philatelic Catalog* to *Stamps etc.*, it said:

Special feature pages highlighting new stamps and products have been added, along with technical information, including the name of the stamp designer, date of issue,

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).

It didn't happen quite that way. There is no word about designers of new stamps and practically no technical information. Where technical information would be most helpful (such as the tagging on the 5¢ Circus Wagon or 15¢ Tugboat) there is none. Issue dates are sporadic, at best.

What we got was a hooplah and a change for the worse.

What's even worse is that the July-August issue was published late (in August) in a limited edition and is not being widely distributed, probably because it contained too many errors. What we got in August may actually be a replacement. Improved indeed! ✽

LETTERS: *Why on earth would anyone overprint a 19¢ Fishing Boat?*



BULK RATE

I found an envelope in the trash bearing a 19¢ Fishing Boat, overprinted "BULK RATE." Enclosed was a wallet-sized tipping chart.

Can you explain the use of this stamp on bulk mail.

Wayne Meyers
Union, N.J.

In reply: The mailer of this item

needs a lot of tips. The *Domestic Mail Manual* permits the use only of precanceled, i.e., untagged stamps on bulk mail. Use of the Fishing Boat was in violation of this rule.

Otherwise, however, the piece is easy to explain. The basic bulk rate is 19.8 cents. The mailer used the Fishing Boat to pay part of that. The delivering clerk, however, was correct to use the five-bar killer to cancel it because the stamp arrived uncanceled.

The fault lies with the accepting bulk mail unit which should have required additional postage, but it is unclear what the rate should have been. Since it could not go under the quantity-mailing First Class rates either, it probably should have gone for 29 cents.

They figured out the plate reports

I'd like to comment on the plate-activity reports in the July issue.

Eagle and Shield: I agree with your analysis that there is an error in the data based on the A11111 combination. I would venture that the error is on the brown plate and not in blue as you propose. I believe this because Brown 2 is reported to have an identical number of impressions as Brown 1, an unlikely occurrence.

[In reply: American Bank Note submitted two reports for E&S stamps, both giving the same delivered quantity through Jan. 6, 1992. Unfortunately, the Postal Service removes the bottoms of the report forms which give the date of transmission to USPS, so we cannot easily compare them with the copy on file at ABN.

[One of the two reports carried the notation "Revised 1/16/92." We were told that it merely corrected mistakes in the earlier report.

[That's what we did.

[But a check on Brown 2 shows that the earlier report gave a total of 566,873, suggesting a copying error and basically confirming your suspicions.]

25¢ Flags: In calculating the maximum number of PNCs for Sleeve 9 and 14, you adjusted only one of them for plate size (in other words, multiplied the impression total by 10, not 20) Is this correct?

[In reply: No. The correct "maximum PNC" figure should have been 76,482,800.]

\$1T2: In the table and in the text, you indicated that this would be off the B Press, yet you showed 432 under subjects. If 432 is correct, it would be for the C Press. The B Press and 432 subjects don't go together.

[In reply: Quite right! You cannot divide 432 by 52 (the interval between plate numbers on the B Press). But BEP said both "B Press" and "432 subjects." If the plate was ever sent to press, we would get another report and this would be straightened out.]

23¢ Flag: By adding Blue 1 and Blue 2 we find 1,434,780 total impressions. But 180 red impressions are missing. Why?

[In reply: Good question. Why?]

You also did not note that it is possible to calculate a total on the A111 combination at 577,196 impressions.

Alan Malakoff
Highland Park, N.J.

I found the plate-activity information in the July issue quite interesting. I was surprised that a number of the reports appeared to be contradictory to the market on recent issues.

I noticed several facts from data on the Eagle and Shields. One I thought was interesting was that on green plate 2, it had gone to press about a month and half after it was certified. All of the other plates listed went to press within a

week.

You stated that the data on the 23¢ Flag "cannot be used to determine the number of stamps printed with each plate-number combination." I reviewed the information and discovered that the impression total for combination A111 could be determined exactly. Based on that as a starting point, it is possible to make a few assumptions as to the range of impressions.

Mike J. Stefun
Palmdale, Calif.

[*Ed note:* See the writer's article on this subject on Page 99 of this issue.]

All wet on PVI meters

The meter strip shown at the end of the Page 74 article on vending coils resulted from a USPS experiment before, not after, Autopost.

It is a Postal Validation Imprinter (PVI) meter strip, part of the Postal Service's 1984 window automation program. It is not vended postage, and the usage shown in the illustration is illegitimate (meter-printed in Tampa, used in Fort Wayne). As a meter imprint it is valid only at the place and date indicated. Scott does not list meter stamps.

The particular strip shown is a dot-matrix design introduced on Intermec machines in 1985. The 1984 Frieden-Alcatel design does not have an eagle. Intermec PVI meters were tested at a number of locations around the country, but the only ones still in service are in the Tampa Bay area of Florida.

These and similar experiments worldwide were discussed in my article "Modern Philately and the Frama Challenge" in the *1989 American Philatelic Congress Book*.

Up-to-date information on all these developments is carried in every issue of the *Meter Stamp Society Bulletin*.

P.S. In ordinary EFO parlance, if one stamp is normal and an attached stamp has one or more colors of ink (or tagging) omitted, the item is a certifiable error. Its se-tenant character often makes it more desirable than a detached copy. In instances of ink starvation, it is common to have a strip or block that goes from normal to freak to error. Thus, the presence of a tagged stamp in a strip that includes untagged stamps does not undermine the status of the untagged errors.

P.P.S. Paper is calendered, not colandered. Look it up.

Ken Lawrence
Jackson, Miss.

Lighthouse uses *TPN* terms

Lighthouse is inclined to make use of Eugene Kiehlmeier's descriptions for tagging types as outlined on Page 84.

I never believed in calling 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."

Correct spelling can be the result of luck: Ken Lawrence objected to the shaving idea and said mottling is probably the result of calendering (which you misspelled as "colandered").

Then, at the end of the article, the theories on the two papers are summed up as follows:

- Lenz paper may be samples supplied to BEP. (I strongly believe in this theory.)

- Lenz paper may have been calendered differently.

- The two papers may be from different vendors and meet the same specifications.

"Calendering," according to *The Encyclopædia Britannica* is a process of smoothing and compressing a material, notably paper, during production by passing a single continuous sheet through a number of pairs of heated rolls. The rolls, in combination, are called calenders. Calender rolls are made of steel with a hardened surface or steel covered with fiber.

In paper production they typically exert a pressure of 500 pounds per linear inch.

Coated papers are calendered to provide a smooth, glossy finish.

Wolfgang Schön
Aumühle, Germany

In reply: Wolfgang may have come up with something in mentioning that the calender rolls may be fiber-covered steel. If the tagging is put on before being put through the final fiber-covered roll, that could explain the mottling.

Calendering is questioned

Calendering is used in both the manufacture of cloth and paper, and is the very simple process of running the material between two rollers, with the purpose of imparting a sheen to the finished product. I am puzzled about how such a simple operation could affect the visual characteristics (mottled or solid) of dried taggant on the surface of the paper. This really needs some explanation.

[*In reply:* See comment after Wolfgang's letter.]

I'd also like to toss my two cents' worth about the catalog numbering system. Quite frankly, I don't see what the problem is. The system is holding up quite nicely with the adjustments you've made, and if long gravure plate numbers and prefixes confuse readers, just put them in parentheses. An example might be the 5¢ Canoe, which would look like this: 05T(S11)2P. Sure it's a couple more characters, but the clarity is worth the extra baggage. Perhaps it would be helpful to use the parentheses for all prefixed and all multi-plate numbers. The "E" stamp would appear as 25U(1211), even though its present form is not confusing.

Oh! And when you run out of XYZ, just use W and work backwards. We really don't need to reinvent the Catalog Number wheel.

There are always goodies in *TPN*. Keep publishing. I look forward to each time.

Alan Thomson
Northwood, N.H.

In reply (by Richard Nazar): I'll go along with the idea of the parentheses for all plate-number combinations with a letter prefix, but we'll stick to 25U1211.

Advice on Great Americans

I would suggest that we list (in a separate chart) all the other Great Americans in the only format we're aware of. This way we could alert readers to keep their eyes open for anything that does not fit what is now known.

Remember that we have one Eagle and Shield (A32333) that has been found at only one post office and an "F" stamp (1211) that was only found at a few post offices.

Would the Lenz paper be known today if Joann had not found it and made it known?

Eugene Ernst
Houston, Tex.

In reply: You're right. Now we've listed them all.

TPN so full of prurient information

Forget to renew my subscription? Never! Where else can one find the depth of information about PNCs in our specialized hobby?

I don't understand why anyone would take a chance on getting this prurient information by bulk rate, considering that timely information is essential to most investments.

Robert W. Lord
Seward, Alaska

In reply: My dictionary defines "prurient" as "tending to excite lust; lascivious; lewd." Thanks for the nice insult. I had always hoped that TPN was that exciting.

Doubling noted on E&S stamps

I have access to a microscope where I work, but the smallest magnification it has is 65x and the photos come out as mirror images.

The doubled "3" in Photo 1 is the brown 3 in the plate number A22113 of the Eagle and Shield. I found four such strips of five in a wholesale lot of five in a West Coast deal-

er's stock. A second, confirming copy, is shown in Photo 2.

In reply: TPN, unfortunately, could not reproduce the microphotographs submitted by the writer. The two photos, however, show a very clear doubling of the "3" that shows up to the left of the dark brown number like a shadow. Obviously, the writer was able to discern them with his naked eye before he put them under the microscope.

In the March TPN you reported on the broken yellow "1" on a group of different E&S numbers, and unless I missed it, there were no other numbers showing this in the May issue. I have seen A22112 with this variety.

Doug Iams
San Jose, Calif.

A note from the editor

In the July issue, Ken Lawrence wrote "Why I quit the study group" and I promised Dr. Robert Rabinowitz equal space to reply. When he did, it became apparent that I would have to give Lawrence space to reply to the answer, and so on and on and on. I felt that their statements did not belong here. I have given Dr. Rabinowitz the mailing labels for this issue so he can reply. I know this is unfair to Dr. Rabinowitz and I apologize to him. Several attempts to find a different solution came to naught.

The matter caused a great deal of anguish to all of us. I am taking myself out of the loop to protect my health.

Steve Esrati

I know it's crazy, but why not try?

As a collector, I've had difficulty finding the varieties of the Great Americans Series and 20¢ Flag sheet stamps. So I'm going into business. I'm acquiring a small stock of them and will buy what I can. Meanwhile, here's my first attempt to offer what I have and buy what I need:

For sale

Abbreviations used in descriptions:
Tagging: B=Block; O=Overall; P=Perforated; U=Untagged (or Untagged salvage)
Perforations: L=L Perforator; E=Eurasia bull's eye

Scott	Description	Single	Margin	Block	Block	ZIP	⊙	Plate
			Single	Block	Block	Block	Block	Block
2168	1c Mitch OE	.10	.15	—	.20	.25	.25	.30 (1)
2169	2c Lyon OE	.10	.15	—	.20	.25	.25	.30 (1,2)
2170	3c White OE	.10	.15	—	.20	.25	.25	.30 (3)
2171	4c Flan OE	.10	.15	—	.25	.30	.30	WANT
2171	4c Flan UE	.15	.20	—	.30	.35	.35	.40 (1)
2172	5c Mum OE	.15	20U	70U	.40U	—	.45U	.50U (1)
1851	8c Knox OE	.15	20T	—	.50T	.70T	.70T	.75T (w)
★ Plates 3, 4, 5, 6								
2176	10c Red BE	.18	.23	—	.70	.75	.75	WANT
2176	10c Red OE	.20	.30T	—	.85T	.90T	.90T	1.00T (1)
2176	10c Red PE	.20	.25	—	.75	.80	.80	.85(2)
2178	15c Cody OE	.25	.50U	—	1.10U	1.15U	1.15U	1.25T (1)
2178	15c Cody OE	.25	.60T	—	1.20T	1.25T	1.25T	WANT
1862	20c Truman BL	.35	WANT	—	WANT	WANT	WANT	WANT
1862	20c Truman BE	WANT	WANT	—	WANT	WANT	WANT	1.80 (2)
1862	20c Truman OE	.35	WANT	—	WANT	WANT	WANT	2.00(3)
2179	21c Clark BE	.30	.35	—	1.30	1.40	1.40	1.55 (1)
2182	23c Cas BE	.35	.40	—	1.40	1.50	1.50	WANT
2182	23c Cas PE	.35	.40	—	1.40	1.50	1.50	1.65 (2)
2183	25c Lond BE	.40	.45	—	1.70	1.80	1.80	1.90 (1)
2184	28c Bull BE	.45	.50	—	1.80	1.90	1.90	2.00 (1)
2184A	28c Warren	.45	.50	3.00	1.80	1.90	1.90	2.00 (\$1)
1864	30c Laus BE	.45	.50	—	2.05	2.15	2.15	2.25 (2)
1864	30c Laus OE	.45	.50T	—	2.05T	2.15T	2.15T	2.50 (2)
2185	35c Chan PL	.50	.60	3.50	2.25	2.35	2.35	2.45 (\$1)
2186	40c Chan BE	.55	.65	4.00	2.55	2.65	2.65	3.00 (1)
2188	45c Cush OE	.60	.70U	—	2.75U	2.85U	2.85U	WANT
1859	60c Nim OE	.70	.80T	—	3.20T	3.30T	3.30T	4.00T (3)
2190	82c Hum PE	.75	.80	4.50	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.45 (\$1)
2190	75c Walk PE	1.00	1.10	5.50	3.50	3.65	3.65	4.00 (1)
2194	31 Hopk PE	1.50	1.65	—	6.25	—	—	7.00 (1)
2198	36 Harie BE	6.00	6.25	—	26.00	—	—	27.00 (1)
2198	35 Harie PE	6.00	6.25	—	26.00	—	—	—

T = tagged salvage on overall tagging; U = untagged salvage on overall tagging

Wanted

1844	1c Dix BL
1844	1c Dix BE
2172	5c Mulzac PE
2172	5c Mulzac UE
2176	10c Red UE
1862	20c Truman BE
1862	20c Truman OE
1862	20c Truman BL
1894	20c Flag BE shiny
1894	20c Flag BL dull
1863	22c Audubon BL
1863	22c Audubon BE
2182	23c Cassatt OE
1864	30c Lautach BL
1864	30c Lautach OE
1867	39c Clark BL
1867	39c Clark BE
1868	40c Gilbrath BL
2186	40c Chamaut PE
2188	45c Cushing OE
1869	50c Nimtz BL
1869	50c Nimtz BE
2194A	\$1 Hopkins BE
2194A	\$1 Hopkins OE

This is new to me, so I don't know how to set buying prices. I suggest 50% of Scott price as a buying price, but you may make me an offer.

On sales, because of the low prices on this material, I urge you to combine your purchase with PNCs for free mailing. The Great Americans are not subject to discounts. All prices are net. On purchases of Great Americans alone, I must charge you postage.

I will pay Full Scott on the 20¢ Flags.

All stamps are guaranteed genuine and in VF condition. All stamps may be returned for a complete refund, no questions asked. Some items 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) 752-5002

Average dealers' prices on E&S stamps Updated to Aug. 7, 1992

Number	PS/3	PS/5	Number	PS/3	PS/5
11111	\$3.07	\$3.25	34424	\$4.91	\$4.95
11112	\$3.13	\$3.25	34426	\$4.91	\$4.95
12213	\$15.37	\$16.34	43324	\$4.97	\$4.98
21112	\$3.07	\$3.25	43325	\$4.06	\$4.18
21113	\$4.79	\$4.89	43326	\$4.06	\$4.25
22112	\$3.07	\$3.25	43334	\$3.45	\$3.58
22113	\$2.98	\$3.16	43335	\$3.45	\$3.58
32333	\$148.75	\$150.00	43426	\$4.88	\$4.91
33333	\$5.74	\$5.98	53335	\$4.10	\$4.15
33335	\$4.70	\$4.84	54444	\$4.33	\$4.46
			54445	\$4.33	\$4.46

Note to this table: Prices are taken from dealers' price lists and advertisements. PS/3 prices are normally 20¢ less than PS/5 price, but many dealers do not advertise them separately.

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

TPN Average declines this month as old dealer lists are counted out

The TPN Average, which is made up of the stamps listed in the table below the graph, went down this month to the levels at the start of the year.

But the average is destined for a very sharp rise in the next issue of TPN.

The average is always a laggard because not all dealers advertise their strips of five on a regular basis. Thus, only recent ads are worked into the data. But once a year, in time for pricing strips for the PNC Catalog, dealers are asked to send in their most recent lists.

The request was sent out a few days before the current average was compiled. But some less active dealers are being dropped from the average because their prices are statistically so far below the average as to give the average a discount.

In the November TPN, when we shall have all the latest prices and will have thrown out prices from inactive dealers, prices can be expected to leap.

You may wonder what this is all about. Here are a couple of examples from PNC history.

At one time, in the 1980s, Dennis Chamberlain was the only dealer to publish his prices. His prices, in effect, determined the price for all others. Then, Vern Kraus, Al Hagen (H&H), Ed Denson, Dr. Robert Rabinowitz, and Al Haake came into the picture, as did M&M Southwest, Bob Dumaine, Dale Enterprises, and others. But some of these later got out of the PNC business.

As the prices in the data base became more than a year old, these dealers' prices had to be taken out to keep the average current.

That leaves: A.S. Cibulskas, Dale Enterprises, Al Haake, Dr. Robert Rabinowitz, Stamps 'n' Stuff, Michael Lipson, Michael Karen, Linn's Trend of Stamp Prices, Jim Adams, Rasdale Stamp Co., Red Raider Stamps ("Skip" Medlock), and Craig Selig. Kim Cuniberti's limited stock is included for items he carries.

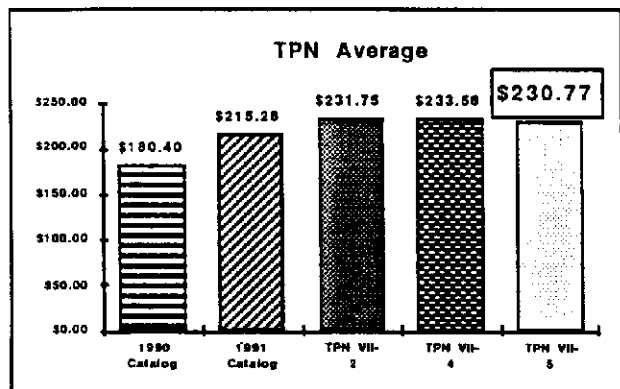
But we have two different kettles of fish in the average. Selig and Medlock, for example, do not discount. Their prices appear low, but are actually statistically in line with those of dealers who offer discounts for quantity purchases.

This has always been a very subjective decision. How does one compare a major dealer who advertises heavily in the weeklies, or a retail dealer who maintains a high-rent store and visits almost all stamp shows, with a homebody who sends out an occasional price list but incurs no overhead? The retail dealer will object that the latter's prices are way too low. The homebody will complain that if his prices are excluded, the big guys will be able to command the price level for everybody.

But there is a test of all this. If our homebody stops listing any of the items that are not currently available from wholesalers, we know he's just trying to unload his remaining stock below market. His prices have to be removed from the average. But if the homebody is seen to be replenishing his stock, even if his prices are lower than those of the big guys, it assures us that his prices will eventually reflect what he has to pay, and therefore are legitimate for use in the average.

Thus it was with great reluctance that we dropped the prices of Dennis Chamberlain a few years back. He was still in there pitching, but he had not been keeping up.

More recently, Ed Denson's long sabbatical to run for office and his realization that the retail PNC business was labor-intensive and costly, led to his being dropped from the average, despite the fact that Denson is still a PNC dealer. □



Price changes of strips in TPN Average

CATALOG	SERIES	FACE	PLATE	TPN VII-4	TPN VII-5	% Change
18F1	FLAG	18	1	\$512.33	\$508.28	-2.35%
18F3	FLAG	18	3	\$1,149.36	\$1,135.81	-1.18%
20F4	FLAG	20	4	\$895.56	\$880.23	-1.71%
20F11	FLAG	20	11	\$13.54	\$13.89	2.60%
22F1	FLAG	22	1	\$116.65	\$116.39	-1.56%
22F3	FLAG	22	3	\$59.89	\$61.47	2.63%
25F5	FLAG	25	5 Block	\$5.57	\$5.50	-1.31%
25F5i	FLAG	25	5 Pros	\$10.21	\$10.86	6.33%
29F1	FLAG	29	1	\$6.00	\$5.77	-3.78%
29F1X	WH FLAG	29	1	NEW	\$5.76	N/A
5.273	TRANS	5.2	3	\$192.53	\$193.33	0.41%
5.274P	TRANS	5.2	4	\$16.70	\$16.82	0.75%
5.973P	TRANS	5.9	3	\$21.03	\$25.78	22.60%
5.976P	TRANS	5.9	6	\$86.23	\$91.14	5.68%
7.472	TRANS	7.4	2	\$13.56	\$13.19	-2.72%
8.473P	TRANS	8.4	3	\$16.36	\$19.31	18.02%
9.371P	TRANS	9.3	1	\$18.94	\$18.19	-3.94%
9.376	TRANS	9.3	6	\$301.07	\$303.57	0.83%
9.378P	TRANS	9.3	8	\$182.61	\$191.71	4.98%
10.971P	TRANS	10.9	1	\$35.03	\$38.01	8.50%
10.974P	TRANS	10.9	4	\$439.88	\$412.88	-6.14%
1776	TRANS	17	6	\$22.21	\$20.93	-5.76%
1776P ^{2a}	TRANS	17	6	\$60.18	\$53.19	-11.62%
18T1	TRANS	18	1	\$105.43	\$105.68	0.38%
18T3	TRANS	18	3	\$75.28	\$79.64	5.79%
18T17	TRANS	18	17	\$7.58	\$7.35	-3.05%
20T1	TRANS	20	1	\$192.51	\$191.51	-0.52%
20T2	TRANS	20	2	\$1,088.25	\$1,075.61	-2.06%
20T7	TRANS	20	7	\$158.53	\$168.03	5.99%
20T11	TRANS	20	11	\$94.93	\$94.66	-0.30%
20T12	TRANS	20	12	\$12.31	\$12.64	2.67%
10U A33333P	E&S	10	33333	\$7.51	\$6.88	-8.43%
19M A1112	FISH	19	1112	\$12.54	\$12.74	1.61%
29U 1211	F	29	1211	\$31.21	\$32.15	3.02%
20M1	CONS	20	1	\$227.51	\$231.17	1.57%
20M3	CONS	20	3	\$139.35	\$139.79	-0.40%
20o1	OFFICIAL	20	1	\$58.94	\$61.57	4.46%
22o1	OFFICIAL	22	1	\$89.87	\$90.28	0.45%

Glossary of terms used for PNC FDCs

By Glenn A. Estus

As a member of the American First Day Cover Society I recently received the July 1992 issue of *First Days*, Journal of the AFDCS.

Incorporated in that issue was the "New Members Handbook." This included a "Glossary of FIRST DAY COVER Terms." It seems to me that perhaps those PNC collectors who are searching for FDCs might benefit from a listing of terms frequently found in auction catalogs. I have listed only those terms that a PNC FDC collector would ordinarily come in contact with.

AFDCS: American First Day Cover Society.

All-over cachet: A cachet design that covers most of or the entire face (front) of the envelope as compared to one that occupies just the left side.

All-purpose cachet: A cachet with a general design that can be used for any stamp subject. It has no specific theme.

Bullseye: (1) The dial or circular portion of a postmark used by itself as a can-

cel. (2) Any circular postmark struck directly on the center of a stamp.

Cachet: Any textual or graphic design that has been applied to a cover usually, but not always, on the left side of the envelope. A cachet may be produced by any means: printed, rubber-stamped, hand-drawn, etc. A first-day cachet should be related specifically to the stamp on the cover.

Ceremony program: The printed program usually distributed by the Postal Service or sponsoring organization at the first-day dedication of a new stamp. These are usually collected with the new stamp affixed and cancelled on the first day.

Combo: One or more thematically related stamps affixed to an FDC. Also, combination cover.

Dual Cancel: Two related or unrelated cancellations on a cover, each canceling a stamp. One or both cancels may be for a first day.

EKU: Earliest Known Use. A designation

for the earliest identified postmark on a stamp for which a first day of issued was not designated.

Favor Cancel: A postal marking applied to a cover as a favor to an individual and not available to the public at large.

FD: First day

FDC: First Day Cover

FDOI: First Day of Issue

Filler: A stiff piece of paper, cardboard, or plastic, slightly smaller than the cover in which it is placed. It provides necessary stiffness for a clearer cancellation. It also protects the cover from bending when it travels through the mail stream. Fillers, also termed stuffers, occasionally are imprinted with an advertising message or information pertaining to the stamp or cachet on the cover.

Hand Cancel (HC): A canceler that is applied to stamp individually and by hand. May be manufactured of plastic or rubber and is similar to a rubber-stamp.

Hand-drawn (H/D): A cachet applied to a cover by hand with pen, pencil, brush, chalk, or other art media. Each cachet is made individually and is an original.

Hand-made (H/M): A cachet applied to a cover by hand by adding seals, paste-ups, collage or similar materials. Each cachet is made individually and is an original.

Hand-painted (H/P) or Hand-colored (H/C): A printed, hand-drawn or hand-made cachet to which hand-painting or hand-coloring has been added.

OE: An abbreviation indicating that the cover has been opened at the end or side.

OT: An abbreviation indicating that the cover has been opened at the top.

Predate: A cover with a stamp canceled earlier than the officially designated first day of sale. Predates usually are created when stamps are sold prior to the official release date.

Slogan cancel: A cancellation with a message incorporated, such as "Mail Early Before Christmas" or "Fight Tuberculosis."

UA: Unaddressed. A cover that does not have an address.

Unofficial FDC(UO): An FDC canceled with other than the FDOI slogan cancel on the first day. Unofficial may be serviced in the city of issue or another location, but must have the correct issue date.

(The above definitions are used by permission of the AFDCS.)

Information about membership in the American First Day Cover Society is available from Monte Eiserman, 14359 Chadbourne, Houston TX 77070.

Q and A on FDC basics

By Glenn A. Estus

Q *What is the difference between hand-colored and hand-painted FDCs?*

A These terms are almost synonymous. Both have come to mean a painted cachet to which coloring (painting) has been added.

There are two reasons for a hand-colored/hand-painted cachet:

- To spice up a monotonous cachet printed only in black, such as ArtCraft.
- A cachet maker decides to print the basic design and then to color the cachet individually. Usually these type of covers sell for a small premium over ordinary PNC FDCs.

Hand-colored/hand-painted should not be confused with hand-drawn covers, which are covers with designs that are completely drawn by hand. Each cover, therefore, is a unique piece and, sometimes, a very ornate work of art. Such covers may sell for a great premium over ordinary PNC FDCs.

Q *What makes PNC FDCs rare?*

A I will assume that the questioner really means "What makes a PNC FDC valuable." There are many PNC

FDCs that are rare but not valuable.

I have in my collection a number of PNC FDCs which are also UOs (unofficial first-day covers). Rather than having the standard "FIRST DAY OF ISSUE" cancellation, each of these covers was canceled at another city on the day of issue. They are very rare in comparison to the number of FDCs canceled at the official first-day city. However, the price to buy one, when available, is not that steep. These are rare but not valuable.

I can't think of any PNC FDCs that are valuable but not rare.

Nonetheless, the answer to this question goes back to Economics 101: Supply vs. Demand. When there is a large supply with little demand, the price of an item is less than it would be when there is a small supply and a large demand.

It would be interesting to know how artificial the market for PNC FDCs is. How many PNC FDC collectors are there? Is the market driven by true supply and demand or is it driven by auction houses that will not sell a "scarce" number for less than a given amount?

Glenn A. Estus, a member of the PNC Study Group, writes frequently on Olympic philately and FDCs. He said he intends to write more often for TPN.

More than you care to know about the Honeybee

These charts are printed only for the record. They don't mean a thing!

When printing began on the Honeybee, offset plates measuring 18x25 were used on the Optiforma press and the five offset colors (black, cyan, magenta, PMS yellow, process yellow) were printed.

The printed rolls were then fed onto the C intaglio press for the intaglio black. It

was a nightmare of registration.

The plate numbers (off the intaglio sleeve) shot up into the black offset frame. A BEP printer cut down the "1"s, a process we have called truncating.

We believe that this first press run, which produced the untruncated 1, was the one that went to press on April 14, 1988. But we honestly do not know.

The April 14 press run produced 110,000 impressions. But because offset plates measuring 18x25 were used in conjunction with intaglio plates that measured 18x48, the plate number moved in relation to the offset plate. We know this from the seam lines—which moved across the roll—and from offset varieties that appear on every 25th stamp.

What this means is that each impression of the 18x25 offset plate produced 450 stamps for a total of 4.95 million stamps.

The intaglio plate, however, was 18x48 and placed a plate number on every 48th stamp. That means only 1,031,250 Honeybees with an untruncated 1 could have been printed.

Chances are, however, that the stamp is considerably rarer than that, since so few of these stamps have been found, and all in rolls of 3,000.

It is quite possible that many of the stamps from this run were scrapped.

After the repair, printing still did not go smoothly, and BEP started experimenting with other techniques.

First it changed the size of the Optiforma plate from 18x25 to 18x24 to match the size of the C Press plate.

Our charts show stamps printed from these press runs under the letter B. But our data are not certain. In many instances BEP reported different sizes for the Optiforma plates at different points in the production. We cannot, therefore, be certain if the B Group of Optiforma plates are what we say they are.

That also means we cannot calculate production totals.

But we can make an educated guess on some of these numbers because we do have the impression totals for the intaglio plates (although we worried for a long

A. Optiforma plates, 18 rows wide

COLOR	SUFFIX	PLATE	ASSIGNED	TO PRESS	CANCELED	IMPRESS.	NOTES
Black	01	179944-1	04/05/88				
Black	02	179979-2	04/11/88	04/14/88	11/15/88	110,000	
Black	03	180130-3	05/03/88	05/05/88	11/15/88	802,770	
Black	04	180311-4	05/31/88	06/06/88	10/18/88	17,950	
Black	05	180322-5	06/01/88	05/08/88	10/18/88	232,260	
Black	06	180361-6	06/09/88	05/10/88	10/18/88	511,090	
Black	07	180362-7	06/09/88	05/13/88	10/18/88	1,113,570	
Black	08	180393-8	06/14/88	06/20/88	11/15/88	278,970	
Black	08	180393-8		07/18/88			2d press date
Black	09	180394-9	06/14/88	07/20/88	06/22/89	461,980	
Black	10	180440-10	06/21/88	10/21/88	06/22/89	NONE	
Cyan	01	179943-1	04/05/88				
Cyan	02	179978-2	04/11/88	04/14/88	11/15/88	110,000	
Cyan	03	180126-3	05/03/88	05/05/88	11/15/88	802,770	
Cyan	04	180307-4	05/31/88	05/06/88	10/18/88	1,518,710	
Cyan	05	180318-5	06/01/88	05/17/88	10/18/88	835,870	
Cyan	06	180389-6	06/14/88	10/21/88	06/22/89	NONE	
Cyan	07	180436-7	06/20/88	06/24/88	06/22/89	52,810	
Cyan	08	180568-8	07/18/88	07/18/88	06/22/89	560,920	
Magenta	01	179940-1	04/05/88				
Magenta	02	179975-2	04/11/88	04/14/88	11/15/88	110,000	
Magenta	03	180127-3	05/03/88	05/05/88	11/15/88	802,770	
Magenta	04	180308-4	05/31/88	05/06/88	10/18/88	1,518,710	
Magenta	05	180319-5	06/01/88	06/17/88	03/08/91	560,420	
Magenta	05	180319-5		07/18/88			2d press date
Magenta	06	180390-6	06/14/88	10/21/88	06/22/89	NONE	
PMS Yellow	01	179942-1	04/05/88				
PMS Yellow	02	179977-2	04/11/88	04/14/88	11/15/88	110,000	
PMS Yellow	03	180129-3	05/03/88	05/05/88	11/15/88	802,770	
PMS Yellow	04	180310-4	05/31/88	05/06/88	10/18/88	1,135,590	
PMS Yellow	05	180321-5	06/01/88	05/15/88	10/18/88	758,110	
PMS Yellow	06	180392-6	06/14/88	06/21/88	11/15/88	459,020	
PMS Yellow	07	180438-7	06/20/88	07/11/88	06/22/89	NONE	
PMS Yellow	08	180446-8	06/22/88	10/21/88	06/22/89	NONE	
Pro. Yellow	01	179941-1	04/05/88				
Pro. Yellow	02	179976-2	04/11/88	04/14/88	11/15/88	110,000	
Pro. Yellow	03	180128-3	05/03/88	05/05/88	11/15/88	802,770	
Pro. Yellow	04	180309-4	05/31/88	05/06/88	10/18/88	1,874,870	
Pro. Yellow	05	180320-5	06/01/88	05/20/88	06/22/89	1,092,850	
Pro. Yellow	05	180320-5		07/18/88			2d press date
Pro. Yellow	06	180391-6	06/14/88	10/21/88	06/22/89	NONE	

B. Optiforma plates, 20 rows wide

Black	01	180537-1	07/08/88	07/11/88	11/15/88	506,970	Assigned as 500; canceled as 450
Black	03	180534-3	07/25/88	08/01/88	11/15/88	1,615,839	Assigned as 500; To press as 450
Black	05	180671-5	08/02/88	08/08/88	11/15/88	90,589	Assigned as 500; To press as 450; canceled as 450
Black	06	180702-6	08/08/88	08/17/88	11/15/88	650,980	Assigned as 500; To press as 450
Black	07	180784-7	08/17/88	08/23/88	6/22/89	650,900	Assigned as 500; To press as 450
Cyan	01	180533-1	07/08/88	07/11/88	11/15/88	506,970	Assigned as 500; canceled as 450
Cyan	03	180630-3	07/25/88	08/02/88	11/15/88	97,529	Assigned as 500; To press as 450
Cyan	04	180664-4	08/02/88	08/03/88	11/15/88	859,381	Assigned as 500; To press as 450; canceled as 450
Cyan	05	180668-5	08/02/88	08/10/88	11/15/88	398,780	Assigned as 500; To press as 450; canceled as Plate 9 in 450
Cyan	06	180683-6	08/04/88	09/19/88	6/22/89	43,450	
Cyan	07	180755-7	08/11/88	08/16/88	11/15/88	139,130	Assigned as 500; To press as 450; canceled as 450
Cyan	08	180783-8	08/16/88	08/18/88	6/22/89	962,010	Assigned as 500; To press as 450
Magenta	01	180534-1	07/08/88	07/11/88	6/22/89	710,800	
Magenta	03	180631-3	07/25/88	08/05/88	11/15/88	NONE	Assigned as 500; To press as 450
Magenta	04	180665-4	08/02/88	08/05/88	11/15/88	1,861,780	Assigned as 500; canceled as 450
Magenta	05	180669-5	08/02/88	08/15/88	6/22/89	1,261,780	Assigned as 500; To press as 450
PMS Yellow	01	180536-1	07/08/88	07/11/88	11/15/88	278,940	Assigned as 500; canceled as 450
PMS Yellow	02	180541-2	07/08/88	9/14/88	6/22/89	1,693,720	
PMS Yellow	03	180633-3	07/25/88	08/15/88	6/22/89	1,028,700	Assigned as 500; To press as 450
Pro. Yellow	01	180535-1	07/08/88	07/11/88	11/15/88	278,940	Assigned as 500; canceled as 450
Pro. Yellow	03	180632-3	07/25/88	07/26/88	6/22/89	1,693,720	
Pro. Yellow	05	180670-5	08/02/88	08/15/88	6/22/89	650,900	Assigned as 500; To press as 450

Please turn to Page 96

Offset plates never used

Optiforma Press, 18 rows

Color	Plate	Assigned	Canceled
Black	181109-11	10/20/88	06/22/89
Cyan	180594-9	07/18/88	06/22/89
Cyan	181110-10	10/20/88	06/22/89
Magenta	180437-7	05/20/88	06/22/89
Magenta	180589-8	07/11/88	06/22/89
PMS Yellow	180570-9	07/11/88	06/22/89
Pro. Yellow	180439-9	06/21/88	03/08/91

Optiforma Press, 20 rows

Black	180542-2	07/08/88	03/08/91
Black	180667-4	08/02/88	06/22/89
Black	180800-8	08/22/88	06/22/89
Black	180801-9	08/22/88	06/22/89
Cyan	180538-2	07/08/88	03/08/91
Cyan	180789-9	08/18/88	06/22/89
Cyan	180910-10	09/19/88	06/22/89
Magenta	180539-2	07/08/88	03/08/91
Magenta	180797-6	08/22/88	06/22/89
Magenta	180798-7	08/22/88	06/22/89
PMS Yellow	180796-4	08/22/88	06/22/89
PMS Yellow	180799-6	08/22/88	06/22/89
PMS Yellow	180893-5	09/14/88	06/22/89
Pro. Yellow	180540-2	07/08/88	03/08/91
Pro. Yellow	180666-4	08/02/88	06/22/89

D Press, 18 rows

Black	180945-5	09/24/88	03/08/91
Black	180867-6	09/29/88	10/14/89
Cyan	180765-2	08/12/88	10/14/89
Cyan	180930-3	09/23/88	10/14/89
Cyan	180941-4	09/24/88	03/08/91
Magenta	180766-2	08/12/88	10/14/89
Magenta	180931-3	09/23/88	10/14/89
Magenta	180942-4	09/24/88	03/08/91
PMS Yellow	180768-2	08/12/88	10/14/89
PMS Yellow	180944-4	09/24/88	03/08/91
Pro. Yellow	180943-4	09/24/88	03/08/91

D Press, 20 rows

Black	182407-8	03/27/89	03/08/91
Black	182452-11	03/31/89	03/08/91
Black	182643-17	04/25/89	03/08/91
Black	182691-20	04/28/89	03/08/91
Black	182811-24	05/11/89	10/14/89
Cyan	181079-2	10/14/88	11/01/89
Cyan	181219-4	11/14/88	03/08/91
Cyan	181220-5	11/14/88	11/01/89
Cyan	182408-8	03/27/89	03/08/91
Cyan	182436-9	03/28/89	11/01/89
Cyan	182668-10	04/27/89	03/08/91
Cyan	182798-14	05/10/89	10/14/89
Cyan	182810-15	05/11/89	10/14/89
Magenta	181225-7	11/14/88	03/08/91
Magenta	181454-8	12/16/88	03/08/91
Magenta	182409-10	03/27/89	11/01/89
Magenta	182437-11	03/28/89	11/01/89
Magenta	182786-15	05/10/89	10/14/89
Magenta	182797-16	05/10/89	10/14/89
PMS Yellow	181224-6	11/14/88	10/14/89
PMS yellow	182406-7	03/27/89	11/01/89
PMS yellow	182411-8	03/27/89	11/01/89
PMS yellow	182439-9	03/28/89	11/01/89
PMS yellow	182577-11	04/27/89	10/14/89
PMS Yellow	182781-14	05/09/89	10/19/89
PMS Yellow	182795-15	05/10/89	10/14/89
PMS Yellow	182806-16	05/11/89	03/08/91
PMS Yellow	182809-17	05/11/89	10/14/89
PMS Yellow	182812-18	05/11/89	10/14/89
Pro. Yellow	181139-4	10/26/88	10/14/89
Pro. yellow	182406-7	03/27/89	11/01/89
Pro. yellow	182410-8	03/27/89	11/01/89
Pro. yellow	182438-9	03/28/89	03/08/91
Pro. yellow	182676-11	04/27/89	10/14/89
Pro. Yellow	182796-13	05/10/89	10/14/89

C. D Press offset plates, 18 rows wide

COLOR	SUFFIX	PLATE	ASSIGNED	TO PRESS	CANCELED	IMPRESS.	NOTES
Black	01	180764-1	08/12/88	09/21/88	03/08/91	36,000	
Black	02	180769-2	08/12/88	09/22/88	11/01/89	48,000	
Black	03	180934-3	09/23/88	09/23/89	11/01/89	627,000	
Black	04	180935-4	09/23/88	09/29/88	03/08/91	116,000	
Black	07	180968-7	09/29/88	09/29/88	03/08/91	406,000	
Cyan	01	180760-1	08/12/88	09/21/88	03/08/91	1,247,000	
Magenta	01	180761-1	08/12/88	09/21/88	03/08/91	1,247,000	
PMS Yellow	01	180763-1	08/12/88	09/21/88	03/08/91	829,000	
PMS Yellow	03	180933-3	09/23/88	09/29/88	11/1/89	287,000	
Pro. Yellow	01	180762-1	08/12/88	09/21/88	03/08/91	761,000	
Pro. Yellow	02	180767-2	08/12/88				
Pro. Yellow	03	180932-3	09/23/88	09/29/88	11/1/89	478,000	Assigned as 180933-3

D. D Press offset plates, 20 rows wide

Black	01	181078-1	10/14/88	10/19/88	11/01/89	329,000	
Black	02	181083-2	10/14/88	10/22/88	11/01/89	704,500	
Black	03	181125-3	10/22/88	11/12/91	03/08/91	160,000	
Black	04	181127-4	10/22/88	11/12/88	11/01/89	160,000	
Black	05	181221-5	11/14/88				
Black	06	181223-6	11/14/88	11/13/88	11/01/89	NONE	To Press denied at cancellation
Black	07	181265-7	11/21/88	05/11/89	03/08/91	69,000	
Black	09	182412-9	03/27/89	03/31/89	03/08/91	56,000	
Black	10	182440-10	03/28/89	03/31/91	03/08/91	705,000	
Black	12	182453-12	03/31/89	04/06/89	10/14/89	132,500	
Black	13	182493-13	04/05/89	04/07/89	10/14/89	172,000	
Black	14	182494-14	04/05/89	04/08/89	10/19/89	176,000	
Black	15	182526-15	04/08/89	04/08/89	03/08/91	NONE	
Black	16	182642-16	04/25/89	05/01/89	03/08/91	379,000	
Black	18	182673-18	04/27/89	04/28/89	10/14/89	240,000	
Black	19	182678-19	04/27/89	04/29/89	10/14/89	226,000	
Black	21	182701-21	05/01/89	05/01/89	03/08/91	245,000	
Black	22	182702-22	05/01/89	05/10/89	03/08/91	12,000	
Black	23	182799-23	05/10/89				
Cyan	01	181074-1	10/14/88	10/19/88	11/10/89	1,145,500	
Cyan	03	181121-3	10/22/88	10/24/91	03/08/91	422,500	Earlier report gave later date to press
Cyan	06	181264-6	11/21/88	05/11/89	03/08/91	69,000	
Cyan	07	182403-7	03/27/89	04/03/89	10/14/89	808,500	
Cyan	11	182674-11	04/27/89	04/28/89	10/14/89	312,000	
Cyan	13	182703-13	05/01/89				
Magenta	01	181075-1	10/14/88	10/19/88	03/08/91	695,000	
Magenta	02	181080-2	10/14/88	10/25/88	11/01/89	176,500	
Magenta	03	181122-3	10/22/88	10/26/88	11/01/89	294,000	
Magenta	04	181140-4	10/26/88	11/01/88	06/22/89	107,500	
Magenta	05	181169-5	11/01/88	03/30/89	10/14/89	452,500	
Magenta	06	181170-6	11/01/88	11/12/88	03/08/91	1,284,000	To Press as Plate 1
Magenta	09	182404-9	03/27/89	04/03/89	10/14/89	808,500	
Magenta	12	182670-12	04/27/89				
Magenta	13	182675-13	04/27/89	05/11/89	03/08/91	69,000	
Magenta	17	182807-17	05/11/89				
PMS Yellow	01	181077-1	10/14/88	10/19/88	03/08/91	329,000	
PMS Yellow	02	181082-2	10/14/88	10/22/88	11/01/89	704,500	
PMS Yellow	03	181124-3	10/22/88	10/22/88	03/08/91	131,000	
PMS Yellow	04	181126-4	10/25/88	11/01/88	10/14/89	1,257,000	
PMS Yellow	05	181126-4	11/12/88				
PMS Yellow	04	181222-5	11/14/88	05/11/89	03/08/91	69,000	
PMS Yellow	06	181458-6	12/16/88	04/26/89	03/08/91	76,000	Assigned as 480; canceled as 432
PMS yellow	10	182672-10	04/27/89	04/27/89	10/14/89	627,000	
PMS Yellow	13	182780-13	05/09/89	05/10/89	03/08/91	12,000	
Pro. Yellow	01	181076-1	10/14/88	10/19/88	11/01/89	353,000	
Pro. Yellow	02	181081-2	10/14/88	10/22/88	03/08/91	256,000	
Pro. Yellow	03	181123-3	10/22/88	10/24/88	03/08/91	1,673,500	
Pro. Yellow	05	181141-5	10/26/88	N/A	06/22/89		Data unavailable on impressions; to press
Pro. Yellow	06	181455-6	12/16/88	04/26/89	10/14/89	75,000	Assigned as 480; canceled as 432
Pro. yellow	10	182671-10	04/27/89	04/27/89	10/14/89	627,000	
Pro. Yellow	12	182689-12	04/28/89	05/11/89	03/08/91	69,000	
Pro. Yellow	14	182808-14	05/11/89				

E. Intaglio plates, the only ones that count

PLATE	ASSIGNED	PRESS	SUBJ.	TO PRESS	CANCELED	IMPRESS.	Max. PNCs	NOTES
180014-1	04/14/88	C	864	05/13/88	06/21/89	3,085,769	55,543,842	C Press (Subjects from George Arnick)
180627-2	07/06/88	D	480	07/20/88	05/26/89	3,044,712	60,894,240	D Press
180935-3	09/23/88	D	432	09/29/88	11/01/88	N.A.	N.A.	Printing total not available
182479-4	04/04/89	D	480	N/A	03/02/90	0	0	D Press 20 rows
182731-5	05/03/89	D	480	Never	04/10/91	0	0	D Press 20 rows

More than you care to know about the Honeybee

Continued from Page 94

time about Plate 3, which BEP reported sending to press).

We had hoped, originally, to be able to figure out exact totals for each plate number by adding up totals from the various off-set plates. That, however, seems a useless endeavor in view of the poor statistics we have been given.

On Plate 1, the maximum number of PNCs that could exist, including a huge amount of printer's waste, is 55,543,842. If we subtract the 1,031,250 maximum PNCs of the untruncated 1, that gives us a maximum of 54,512,592 PNCs with truncated 1s.

On Plate 2, where waste is believed to have been less, the maximum PNC figure comes to 60,894,240.

So if this information is of no importance, why are we running it? Surely *TPN* has better things to fill up its space with. But we promised you that we would print everything there is to know about PNCs.

We do know that we do not have to worry about any Honeybees turning up with the plate number 3. Although BEP did not know how many stamps were printed from this plate, Ken Lawrence determined that the plate was unusable because of a low spot and that no stamps were ever printed from it.

We shall continue to publish any BEP reports about Honeybees that may still be missing from our charts, but we will not run the charts again. The additions will run as part of our regular BEP reports.

But a few things need to be said about this horrible printing experiment, which resulted from bullheadedness at the Postal Service to print stamps by offset because they're "prettier."

The first attempt to combine offset lithography with intaglio

engraving was on the 1984 Smokey the Bear stamp. Like the Honeybee, it was a disaster. There was a lot of waste and the registration problems were ghastly.

Apparently the 1985 Ameripex single was more successful, and later attempts to use the two printing methods appeared to work better.

But what the Postal Service gurus did not realize was the difficulty of printing a definitive stamp in the hundreds of millions by using the two methods together.

The D Press, which eventually saw service on the Plate 2 Honeybee, was in service when printing of the Honeybee began, but it was in use on other production. In effect, then, what BEP did was to do the best it could—and it wasn't quite good enough. That's why it printed the exclusive card which it gave to its employees. The card showed employees struggling to hold the honeybee on the stamp as others stood by, cheering.

It is altogether possible that the feud between BEP and the Postal Service could be traced to the difficulties BEP encountered with the Honeybee. □

17T1,2 show no trace of tagging

As reported in "Update" in the July issue of *TPN*, Plates 1 and 2 of the 17¢ Electric Auto exist untagged.

Several copies have now been examined by *TPN*. The stamps were dead under short-wave UV and showed no sign of any taggant. All were on Type I paper.

All copies were printed high, with the "E" of "Electric" just a hair under the top edge.

One collector noted that some flecks of taggant could be seen on the gum side, but this is probably due to the fact that these stamps had been stored together with tagged stamps for almost 10 years.

Copies that have recently been sold were priced at about \$100 a strip.

Another word about the weird 17¢ Autos from Plates 3 and 4 that appear almost untagged.

The stamps exhibit what looks almost like stars (the tagging dots across all five stamps in the strip), with the rest untagged. There is a heavier accumulation of taggant on the left stamp (3L) with a nice vertical cutoff at its right. The untagged area looks like an upside-down tagging break in that there is also a horizontally untagged area at the bottoms of 3L and 2L.

We have been calling these stamps examples of 3L tagging breaks.

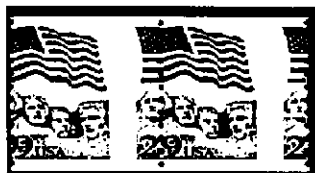
All stamps up to the face value of 10 cents have been left untagged intentionally since spring 1992. The new policy was not announced. It became apparent when the 10¢ value of the Columbian souvenir sheets was left untagged. The printer of those sheets, American Bank Note Co., said ABN had been ordered to leave that value untagged.

Wayne Youngblood of the PNC Study Group was told that it was likely that the 10¢ Canal Boat may also exist untagged. He confirmed the intentional printing of untagged 10¢ Red Cloud stamps in the Great American Series, making four varieties of that stamp: block tagged, overall tagged, prephosphored, and untagged.

Curiously, one day after Youngblood reported confirmation of an untagged 10¢ Red Cloud, a spokesperson for BEP said the Red Clouds had last been printed on prephosphored LP-713 paper. Told that Youngblood had been told otherwise, she said she would check.

When she did call back, she returned to the original story: That the Red Cloud had been printed on prephosphored paper and that if an untagged stamp had been found, it had to be from an untagged roll erroneously put on the press. □

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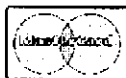
LP	PSJ	PSS	LP	PSJ	PSS	LP	PSJ	PSS
1897 1e Bus 1, 2, 5, 6	20	30	2132a 12e PC 1, 2	2.50	2.75	1895 20e Flag 6	90.00	95.00
3, 4	1.20	1.30	2132b 12e B Press PC 1	22.00	23.00	5, 9, 10, 13, 14	2.75	4.00
2225a 1e B Press 1, 2	40	50	2133 12.5e Pushcart 1, 2	2.65	2.80	8	5.45	5.60
untagged 2	1.00	1.25	2133a PC 1, 2	3.90	4.00	1895a 20e PC 14	60.00	60.00
1897A 2e Loco 3, 4, 8, 10	35	40	2258 13e Patrol Wagon 1	2.75	3.00	0135 20e Official 1	10.50	25.00
2, 6	60	65	2259 13.2e Coal Car 1, 2	2.75	3.00	2263 20e Cable Car 1, 2	3.25	3.75
2226 3e Loco B Press 1	85	90	2134 14e Iceboat 1, 2, 3, 4	1.40	2.40	2263b Overall tagged 2	3.25	3.75
1898 3e Handcar 1, 2, 3, 4	55	80	2134b B Press 2	2.80	3.90	2264 20.5e Fire Engine 1	3.25	3.75
2252 3e Conestoga 1, 2	80	90	2260 15e Tugboat 1, 2	2.50	2.90	2265 21e Rail Car 1, 2	3.25	3.75
2123 3.4e School Bus 1, 2	70	1.00	2260e Overall tagged 2	3.50	3.80	2150 21.1e 111111	3.00	3.15
2123a 3.4e PC 1, 2	6.00	6.50	2251 16.7e Popcorn 1, 2	4.00	4.40	111121	4.05	4.40
1898A 4e Coach 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1.25	1.70	1906 17e Auto 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1.80	3.10	2150a 21.1e PC 111111, 111121	3.85	3.85
1898Ab 4e PC 3, 4	4.25	4.80	6	17.00	17.50	2115 22e Flag 1, 7	5.45	14.50
5, 6	5.00	7.50	7	4.90	5.00	3	10.50	11.20
2228 4e B Press 1	1.00	1.20	1906a 17e PC Type A 3, 4, 5	4.90	5.00	6	6.85	7.00
2228a overall tagged 1	16.00	16.50	Type A 6, 7	10.00	12.50	14	25.50	27.00
2451 4e Carriage 1	1.00	1.20	Type AB 5, 7 PS10 only	—	—	2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, T1	4.00	4.10
2451a same, untagged	2.00	2.25	Type B 3, 4	18.20	18.90	11, 13, 17, 18, 20	5.95	8.30
2124 4.9e Buckboard 3, 4	1.00	1.05	Type B 5, 6	10.00	13.50	2112 22e "D" Eagle 1, 2	4.75	5.10
2124a PC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1.40	1.50	Type BA 5, 6	—	—	0139 22e "D" Official 1	35.00	50.00
1899 5e Bicycle 1, 2, 3, 4	55	1.45	Type C 1, 2	9.50	9.85	2464 23e Lunch Wagon 2, 3	3.25	3.75
2253 5e Milk Wagon 1	1.00	1.10	Type C 3, 4	10.00	10.75	2607 23e Flag A111, 212, 222	3.25	3.75
2452 5e Circus Wagon 1	1.00	1.10	Type C 5, 7	21.00	22.00	A112, 122	4.50	5.00
2452a untagged 1	1.60	1.65	2135 17e Dogstied 2	2.75	3.00	NEW 23e USA A111	3.25	3.75
2453 5e Canoe 1, 2	1.00	1.10	2262 17.5e Racer 1	3.00	3.50	2266 24.1e Tandem 1	3.90	4.20
2454 gravured S11	1.60	1.65	2262a 17.5e PC 1	3.00	3.50	2136 25e Bread Wagon	2.65	2.80
1900 5.2e Sleigh 1, 2	3.85	7.00	1907 18e Surrey 1	61.00	90.00	1, 2, 3, 4	3.35	3.50
3, 5	135.00	155.00	2, 5, 6, 8	2.65	4.00	5	7.00	8.00
1900a PC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	11.00	13.00	3, 4	35.00	75.00	2280 25e Yosemite	3.80	4.20
2254 5.3e Elevator 1	1.15	1.20	7	21.00	38.00	Block 1, 7	7.00	8.00
2125 5.5e Star Truck 1	1.55	1.65	11, 12, 15, 16	9.30	16.00	Block 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	3.80	4.20
2125a 5.5e PC 1	2.05	2.15	9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18	6.30	7.00	Block 9	10.00	11.00
PC 2	2.60	2.80	1891 18e Flag 1	120.00	140.00	Phos 1	49.00	49.50
1901 5.9e Bicycle 3, 4	4.20	9.10	2	19.60	29.40	Phos 2-3, 7-11, 13-14	4.00	4.25
1901a 5.9e PC 3, 4	22.00	32.00	3	360.00	362.50	Phos 5, 15	6.00	7.00
PC 5, 6	59.50	88.00	4	6.30	6.65	Phos 6	14.00	15.00
2126 6e Tricycle 1	1.20	1.50	5	3.50	4.70	2278 "E" Earth 1211	4.75	4.90
2126a PC 1	2.30	2.40	6	WANT	WANT	2222	5.00	5.50
PC 2	7.55	8.65	7	38.00	38.55	1111, 1222	2.10	2.30
2127 7.1e Tractor 1	2.55	2.60	2149 18e Wash 1112, 3333	2.75	3.00	2281 25e Honeycomb 1, 2	2.10	2.45
2127a PC 1	2.55	2.60	2149a 18e PC 33333 & dull	4.00	4.50	1 Orig. full serif	30.00	31.50
2127b PC 1 "ZIP" 4	2.55	2.60	PC 11121, 43444	5.75	6.15	2518 "F" (29e) Tulip	3.50	4.00
1902 7.4e Baby Buggy 2	5.80	6.30	2529 19e Boat A1112	10.00	10.25	1111, 1222, 2222	39.00	39.50
1902a PC 2	3.25	3.50	A1111, 1212, 2424	3.25	3.75	1211	8.00	8.50
2255 7.6e Carreta 1, 2	1.75	2.50	1908 20e Pumper 1	6.30	39.50	2211	8.00	8.50
3	6.00	6.50	3, 4, 13, 15, 16	3.35	3.50	2525 29e Flower S1111, 2222 S11	3.50	4.00
2128 8.3e Ambulance 1, 2	1.25	1.40	5, 9, 10	1.75	2.05	S2222 (Per.)	4.00	4.50
2128a 8.3e PC 1, 2	1.25	1.40	7, 8	143.00	144.00	2523 29e Mt. Rushmore	3.50	4.00
PC 3, 4	7.00	7.50	12, 14 XF	14.00	15.40	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9	83.00	84.00
2231 Amb. B Press 1, 2	3.50	3.75	6, 12, 14	5.60	5.60	6 on Lens Paper	150.00	150.00
2256 8.4e Wheelchair 1, 2	2.50	2.75	11	50.50	52.60	7 Toledo brown	8.50	8.75
3	24.00	24.50	2005 20e Consumer Ed. 1, 2	4.55	37.50	8	3.50	4.00
2129 8.5e Tow Truck 1	2.50	2.60	3, 4	4.55	37.50	2523A gravure A1111, A22211	3.50	4.00
2129a PC 1	3.50	3.60	1895 20e Flag 1	5.60	8.00	2690 29e White House	3.50	4.00
2	6.00	6.50	2, 11	7.55	10.00	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	5.00	6.00
1903 9.3e Mail Wagon 1, 2	6.30	7.00	3, 12	3.35	3.50	2468 \$1 Seaplane	5.00	6.00
3, 4	26.80	28.20	4	37.80	65.00			
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 10e Canal Boat 1	1.30	1.40						
2457 10e Tractor Trailer 1	1.30	1.40						
2604 (10e) 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	21.00	21.50						
A12213	160.00	160.00						
A32333	1.60	2.10						
2130 10.1e Oil Wagon 1	2.50	2.65						
2130a Black PC 1, 2	2.55	2.65						
2130e Red PC 2, 3	9.10	16.00						
1904 10.9e Hansom 1, 2	13.00	33.00						
1904a PC 1, 2	45.50	262.50						
3, 4	3.15	3.35						
190511e Caboose 1	3.80	4.00						
1905a Caboose PC 1	2.00	2.25						
NEW untagged 2	55	1.40						
2131 11e Stuz 1, 2, 3, 4	1.90	2.00						
2132 12e Steamer 1, 2	2.25	2.25						

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23¢ Flag plate data do allow comparisons for 4 combinations

By Mike J. Stefan

The plate-activity report for the 23¢ Flag allows some calculations.

Given that A111 is limited by Black 1 at 577,196 impressions, it can be determined

that A112 and A122 are limited to a total 184,691 impressions due to Blue 1 being used mostly for A111.

With this information one can plot assumed values for A112 and arrive at a range of impressions for the other combinations.

The attached charts are what I came up with.

A word of explanation: The bottom chart gives a range of impressions based on an assumption for A112. It should be noted that the market has found A112 and A122 harder to find than the first three combinations found.

Editor's note: Because of peculiarities in ABN's reports on the "G" and USA Presort stamps and using Stefan's method, we may be able to re-examine the reports on the E&S stamps and come up with some useful guesstimates on the maximum number of PNCs that could exist. Alas, the data are still incomplete. □

Plate #	Color	Impress	Combos used	Blue	Red	Black
1	Blue	761,887	3	1	1	1
1	Red	1,225,253	3	1	1	2
1	Black	577,196	1	1	2	2
2	Blue	672,893	2	2	1	2
2	Red	209,347	2	2	2	2
2	Black	857,583	4			

	111	112	122	212	222
761,887	X	X	X		
1,225,253	X	X		X	
577,196	X				
672,893				X	X
209,347			X		X
857,583		X	X	X	X

Combination A111 has a total of 577,196 impressions

Plate	Impress	Impress	Impress	Impress	Impress	Impress	Impress
112	70,000	80,000	90,000	100,000	110,000	120,000	130,000
122	114,691	104,691	94,691	84,691	74,691	64,691	54,691
212	578,057	568,057	558,057	548,057	538,057	528,057	518,057
222	94,836	104,836	114,836	124,836	134,836	144,836	154,836
Total:	857,584	857,584	857,584	857,584	857,584	857,584	857,584

FACE FLAG SERIES	CAT	PLATE ASSIGNED	PRESS	SUBJ. TO PRESS	CANCELED	IMPRESS.	Max. PNCs	NOTES
29¢	29F3	188045-3	02/01/91	C 480	02/03/91			
29¢	29F3	188045-3		C 480	02/20/91	10/14/91	638,657	12,778,140 Canceled 2d date to press
TRANSPORTATION SERIES								
3¢	3TX2	189711-2	11/16/91	C 432				Assigned

ABN plate activity through May 1992

PLATE	CERTIFIED	TO PRESS	IMPRESS.	NOTES
Magenta 1	04/08/92	04/14/92	402,232	
Magenta 1		05/13/92	98,534	2d to press
Yellow 1	04/08/92	04/14/92	402,232	
Yellow 1		05/13/92	98,534	2d to press
Cyan 1	04/08/92	04/14/92	402,232	
Cyan 1		05/13/92	98,534	2d to press
Black 1	04/08/92	04/14/92	402,232	
Black 1		05/13/92	98,534	2d to press

PLATE	CERTIFIED	TO PRESS	IMPRESS.	NOTES
1 Blue	02/27/92	03/05/92	1,278,158	
1 Blue		04/29/92	167,239	2d to press
1 Blue		04/29/92	147,145	3d to press (?)
1 Red	02/27/92	03/05/92	1,103,455	
1 Red		04/29/92	167,239	2d to press
1 Red		04/29/92	96,359	3d to press (?)
1 Gray	02/27/92	03/05/92	1,278,158	
1 Gray		04/29/92	167,239	2d to press
1 Gray		04/29/92	368,792	3d to press (?)
1 Black	02/27/92	03/05/92	928,333	
1 Black		04/29/92	167,239	2d to press
1 Black		04/29/92	172,135	3d to press (?)
2 Blue	03/25/92	05/04/92	221,647	
2 Red	03/25/92	03/30/92	174,703	
2 Red		05/01/92	272,433	2d to press
2 Black	03/12/92	03/12/92	348,825	
2 Black		05/05/92	196,657	2d to press

Good news: Just one set of numbers (A111) on ABN's USA Presort stamps

The good news on the 23¢ USA Presort coils is that American Bank Note Co. said all will have identical plate-number combinations: A1111.

The plate numbers appear on every 24th stamp in the rolls of 10,000 that were printed on the Andreotti press.

Like ABN's 23¢ Flag stamps, the stamps will be untagged because they are really precancels in that they pay only part of the first-class postage.

The USA stamps were produced to replace the 23¢ Flag stamps, which were considered a temporary stopgap.

Despite that, ABN received an order from USPS in July to print 15,000 more rolls of 3,000 of the 23¢ Flags. The 23¢ Flag stamps come in rolls of 500 and 3,000. The re-order could be for mailers who do not have machines that can handle rolls of 10,000.

ABN has not received an order to print 23¢ USA stamps in smaller sizes, although rolls of 500 and 3,000 are due before the year's end. USPS said these are being printed by BEP by photogravure.

To distinguish between the 23¢ stamps, the old one will continue to be called the "23¢ Flag," while the new one will be called "23¢ USA." Both will be listed in the *PNC Catalog* among the Flag stamps, with the new one adding an "X."

That would make it 23F(A1111)PX. The BEP version would be 23F1111PX. □

When is a photocopy reliable?

Ken Lawrence illustrated a photocopy of a second used copy of the A33334 Eagle and Shield in his *Linn's* column on July 27.

The first used copy, reported to *TPN* by Dr. Robert Rabinowitz on March 30, was on a solicitation from American Express and was found in the trash of a Texas post office. Lawrence was suspicious of that report because it was based on a photocopy.

But based on a photocopy of a second found in Nevada, Lawrence added the number to *Linn's* master list of known PNCs.

That's odd. The stamp was reported in the May *TPN* (Page 56). Lawrence continued to ignore the existence of A33334 even after Dr. Rabinowitz and others in the PNC Study Group had seen the original cover (July *TPN*, Page 82).

Does a stamp only exist when Lawrence has seen a photocopy of it but not when others have seen the actual stamp?

50-stamp coil of 3 designs likely on Columbus Day

Is a se-tenant coil of three designs showing the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria to be issued on Columbus Day?

A glance at "Data Bank" in this issue, where we publish a confidential memo to USPS licensees such as cachet-makers, will show that a 50-stamp commemorative coil of three designs will be issued that day.

If the information holds up, it will be the first coil of 50 and the first commemorative coil.

Disappearing 3 found on 25¢ Flag strips

Harry Muegenburg has found five strips from Plate 3 of the 25¢ Flag Over Yosemite, from the same partial roll, in which the plate number gets lighter on each "3" as one unwinds the roll.

His fifth strip had a number so faint as to be almost invisible.

"I wish I had the next strip in the roll," he said.

New outfit uses DAV idea

Col. Jim Hartford, who lives in Athens, Ga., received a solicitation from an anti-cancer campaign, which included a franked window envelope for his contribution.

The enclosure was addressed to "Cancer

Fund of America, Mail Processing, Topeka, Kansas."

It almost got away from Hartford, but he put the stamps under the UV light and found an untagged 1¢ Omnibus, two untagged 4¢ Steam Carriages, and a tagged 20¢ Fire Pumper.

"Shades of the DAV," he said. "From now on, I believe it will pay to check all such requests."

A few weeks later came the "same song, second verse."

This time the envelope was pre-

All the PNC news that fits we print!

addressed (not a window) and bore five 5¢ Circus Wagons and one 4¢ Steam Carriage, all untagged.

Said Hartford: "What is going to happen when people use this envelope to mail in donations and the facer-canceler at the post office rejects them?"

B Press dummies at hand

U.S. dummy coils inscribed "For Testing Purposes Only" were printed several years ago on the B Press, Wayne Youngblood reports after a recent visit to BEP.

Previously, the dummies were known only from the Cottrell presses and had joint lines. There were no plate numbers.

The no-number B Press dummies are untagged and have dull gum. Cottrell dummies are known with and without tagging.

Level of suspicion rises

Are PNC collectors getting more and more suspicious of the Postal Service? Here's an anecdote.

Steve Esrati sent a letter to A. S. Cibulskas. The envelope got jammed in the laser printer, so it had to be run through again. The jamming caused a vertical black line across the envelope.

"What is the vertical black line on your cover?" Cibulskas asked. "A new type of postal marking? Something totally extraneous? Or am I losing it?"

Castle was benefactor

It was William F. Castle of Evanston, Ill., who informed collectors at the World Columbian Stamp Exhibition that 29¢

Rushmores on Lenz paper could be found in a Chicago-area post office vending machine.

But it was Jerry Koepp of Stamps 'n' Stuff who spent more than two hours feeding the machine money (about \$400) until it ran out.

Koepp said he used dollar bills and kept putting the change back into the machine. He must have come back with a load of 1¢ stamps, as well.

The technician at the Oak Park post office, where all this happened, refused to open the machine for Koepp and sell him what was left on the roll of 3,000. He probably did not want to count it.

Neat Trick

Wayne Meyers has a neat way to establish an earliest known usage on an uncanceled precancel.

When he received a cover from People for the American Way Action Fund that carried a Plate 2 (BEP Version) of the 05 Canoe, he made a photocopy of the cover and then simply asked a window clerk to cancel the image of the stamp on the photocopy. That established June 30 as the EKV for Plate 2.

Dress-up-sale catalog

Tom Maeder printed up an impressive 32-page, illustrated catalog for his Fall 1992 mail sale of PNCs on cover. Included are items that will help dress up almost any collection, from an Erie Blue to early spray markings to purple machine cancels. One item that is not included are mailer overprints on the generic 10¢ Tractor Trailer stamp.

Machine dispenses rarity

Phillip Cole, who lives in rural Michigan noticed a few months back that he was getting mail with the rare F stamp, the one with the plate-number combination 1211.

So he checked around and found some post office vending machines that were dispensing the stamps.

On inquiry, he learned that the stamps had been in the machines since the rate change.

FDC by laser printer

Bill Norton's August FDC mail sale had something new. In addition to the usual cachets from ArtCraft and other cachet makers, Norton had an FDC laser-printed

by Ken Schoolmeester for the "F" stamp with the plate number 1222.

A laser print is made by doing the artwork on a computer and then printing it out on an envelope using a laser printer.

The handsome cover was illustrated on the cover of the mail sale catalog.

E&S paper now in 2 shades

Gene Ernst, who previously reported finding some A43326 Eagle and Shields on cream paper in a dealer's stock, has now obtained a roll of 500, also with the numbers A43326 from the Philatelic Sales Division. The entire roll was on cream paper.

Ernst also found one copy on cover in which the paper has a bluish tinge.

PNC³ meeting at Houplex

The Plate Number Coil Collectors Club (PNC³) plans to have a table at Houplex '92, being held the first week in October at Houston. There will be a regional meeting of the club on Oct. 3.

The club held its annual meeting at STAMPsHOW in Oakland in late August, too late for press time for this issue.

Lessons from a fiasco

Richard Collier publishes a newsletter on taxes for physicians and dentists. In his July 1 issue he reported on the man who sold two rolls of 18¢ Flags from Plate 6 at face in Chicago.

After quoting Frank Marrelli's theory that the seller was probably trying to avoid taxes, Collier said:

"If this theory is true, there are several lessons here:

"Financially the man would have been much better off paying his tax and investing the after-tax proceeds.

"Cheating on taxes is always wrong and illegal and usually unwise financially, no matter how attractive it might seem at the time."

Then he had this word for dentists: "The postage stamp story reminds us of the questions we occasionally get from dentists who wonder what the tax rules are for their accumulations of used dental gold. For example, we have heard stories of vendors offering 'free' travel instead of the traditional cash or a credit on purchases. The rule is simple—any money or other value offered is taxable income."

23¢ Flag on souvenir page

John Tison has found a souvenir page (91-60), issued Sept. 27, 1991, with three 23¢ Flag stamps. The rightmost stamp carries the plate number A212.

The #2 Canoe isn't

Advertising what you haven't got is a no-no!

But dealer Howard Grossman fell into that trap just the same in a recent *Linn's* ad. He offered 5¢ Canoes from Plate 2 at \$1.90 and \$2.25 for PS/3 and PS/5 in the Aug. 3 issue.

But after the paper was mailed out, he called other dealers trying to scrounge up supplies. They didn't have it, either.

In the Aug. 10 issue, the offer was no longer there.

The only known copy as we went to press was on Wayne Meyers' cover. Dealers, however, are looking for it. It shouldn't be long.

The case of the torn perfs

Dr. Watson: Eugene Liu made an interesting comment to me in a letter not long ago. He said he believed all Eagle and Shield rolls are hand-separated before being made into coil rolls. His reason for saying that is the fact that all rolls, regardless of size, exhibit torn, as opposed to cut, perforations.

His very astute observation is true of both the beginning and end of the roll, as it would have to be if the contention were true.

Sherlock Holmes: Is this true of all stamps printed by American Bank Note, Watson?

Watson: I haven't bothered...

Holmes: The devil I say!

Watson: I cannot believe that Guilford Gravure is doing something as labor intensive as this.

Holmes: It's elementary, my dear Watson. Go to Guilford and see how they do it.

Watson: *TPN* called American Bank Note and was told that they have some sort of instrument that causes the perforations to burst, leaving them with the appearance of having been torn. I suppose that would explain it.

Holmes: Rather!

Making it a bit easier

We have always had to struggle with the calculations on stamps with multiple plate numbers. This has been so ever since the 18¢ Washington Monument.

But apparently the Postal Service has heard our tale of woe. From now on, printers have been asked to report the quantities printed not only by plate, but also as a total for each combination of plate numbers.

American Bank Note said it probably will not be done retroactively, but will be in reports on future multiple-number stamps.

1992 catalog to be '1993'

Richard Nazar, publisher of *The Plate Number Coil Catalog*, has signed up with

a commercial printer to produce the eighth edition of the catalog, which will come in two versions.

The spiral-bound version will be the same size as previous editions. It will not, however, resemble the desktop publishing product formerly produced by Steve Esrati. This book will include some 200 photos, all printed with a 1,270-dots-per-inch, high-resolution photo-typesetting system.

The cover will have a full-color illustration and the book will run about 250 pages.

The second version will be a hard-cover book bound in a cloth cover, which will be printed as a limited edition.

The publication date has been determined by the printer's and the binder's requirements of about five to eight weeks from the time Nazar brings in the camera-ready work and completion of production. But before that, Nazar needs about a month to send the drafts out to the PNC Study Group.

That makes the tentative publication date Dec. 1, and will give the catalog this name: *The 1993 Plate Number Coil Catalog (eighth edition)*.

Nazar said the publication date was too late in the year to call it "1992."

Alan Malakoff, a member of the study group and a neighbor of Nazar, will lend major help in getting the manuscript out.

More information will appear in *TPN* as it becomes available.

Joanne Lenz a governor

The Bureau Issues Association has elected Joanne Lenz to its Board of Governors.

According to the *U.S. Specialist*, she will help broaden the work of the Transportation Coil Issue Committee to include all PNCs.

Lighthouse up to minute

When the supplement to the Lighthouse PNC album comes out this fall, it will be as up to date as possible. Included will be spaces for Plate 2 of the BEP version of the 5¢ Canoe and the new A1111 USA coil from American Bank Note.

That's as close to perfect as possible because a mint strip of the Canoes was not located by the PNC community until Dr. Robert Rabinowitz found some on Aug. 7.

The secret? Lighthouse's Wolfgang Schön was working on the new pages on Sunday, Aug. 9. He did not have the USA plate number yet, so he called.

As a result, the supplement will even have spaces for BEP's gravured version of the USA coils, which are due out in October. □

Try me, you'll like it!

You'll love my big discounts, my no-quibble return policy, my VF quality. This list (List 2) is good through Nov. 1. 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.



**The rarest "F" stamp goes on sale!!!
29U1211 PS/5 VF \$28; XF \$35.
10 strips VF \$250; XF \$315.**

	PS3	PS5
1e Omnibus 1, 2, 5, 6	55	60
3, 4	1.10	1.25
8 Press 1, 2	80	90
Untagged 2	70	75
2e Locomotive 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10	50	70
8 Press 1	85	95
3e Handcar 1, 2, 3, 4	1.00	1.10
2e Conestoga Wagon 1, 2	1.00	1.05
3, 4e School Bus 1, 2	1.50	1.65
PC 1, 2 (1R, No Gap)	6.50	7.00
4e Stagecoach 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
4e Steam Carriage 1	2.00	2.25
Untagged	1.75	2.00
4e Ducoboard 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 (No 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
5e Motorcycle 1, 2, 3, 4	1.45	1.55
5e Milk Wagon 1	1.10	1.25
5e Circus Wagon 1	1.10	1.25
Same, untagged 1	1.65	1.75
5e Canoe 1	1.10	1.25
Gravurec S11	1.65	1.75
5, 2e Sleigh 1, 2	10.75	15.00
3	195.00	200.00
5	185.00	190.00
PC 1, 2 (No Gap)	12.90	12.75
PC 1, 2 (No Gap)	9.75	10.00
PC 4, 6 (2L)	—	16.00
PC 4, 6 (No Gap)	15.00	16.00
5, 3e Elevator 1	1.50	1.65
5, 5e Star Route Truck 1	2.75	3.00
PC 1	2.15	2.25
PC 2	2.75	3.00
5, 9e 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
6e Tricycle 1	1.85	1.80
PC 1	2.20	2.50
PC 2	8.50	9.00
7, 1e Tractor 1	2.65	2.75
PC 1	2.50	2.75
PC 1 "ZP" 4	2.50	2.75
7, 4e Baby Buggy 2	12.00	14.25
PC 2	3.70	4.20
2, 2, 5, 7, 6e Carrel 1, 2	2.75	2.90
3	6.50	9.00
8, 3e 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)	5.00	5.50
B Press, 1	4.15	4.50
2	4.60	5.00
8, 4e Wheelchair 1, 2	2.75	3.00
3	27.00	27.50
8, 5e Tow Truck 1	3.00	3.30

	PS3	PS5
8, 5e PC 1	3.50	4.00
PC 2	10.50	11.00
9, 3e 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
(19e) Eagle, Shield	—	—
21111, 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
*2213	21.00	22.00
32233	150.00	160.00
10, 1e Oil Wagon 1	2.75	3.15
PC 1, 2 (No Gap)	3.30	3.50
PC 2 (Ln Gap)	4.70	5.00
Red PC 2, 3	3.10	3.40
10, 3e 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	—
11e Caboose 1	5.00	5.50
PC 1	4.50	4.75
Untagged PC 2	2.25	2.50
11e Stutz 1, 2, 3, 4	3.00	3.50
12e 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 Light olive, Illa	3.50	4.00
PC 1 Dark olive, Illa	3.75	4.25
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

	PS3	PS5
14e Iceboat B Press 2	4.00	4.30
15e Tugboat 1, 2 (Block)	3.15	3.35
Overall tagged 2	4.70	5.00
16, 7e Pocom 1, 2	4.40	4.75
17e 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) (5R)	—	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
17e Dogged 2	3.20	3.60
17, 5e Racer 1	3.15	3.50
PC 1	4.50	5.00
18e 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
18e Flag 1	155.00	450.00
3	29.00	50.00
3	—	WANT
4	10.25	12.25
5	5.75	7.00
7	37.50	40.00
18e 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
19e Fishing Boat	—	—
A1112	12.50	13.00
A1212	8.00	8.50
A1111, 2424	3.25	3.50

	PS3	PS5
20e Fire Pumper 1	80.00	195.00
3, 4, 13, 15, 16	5.50	6.00
5, 9, 10	4.50	5.00
7, 8	100.00	170.00
12, 14	3.00	13.50
2	—	WANT
6	13.75	15.25
11	60.00	87.50
20e Consumer Ed. 1, 2	47.50	225.00
3, 4	45.00	145.00
20e Flag 1	9.50	90.00
2, 11	5.00	13.00
3, 12	5.00	7.00
4	65.00	WANT
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
20e Official 1	22.50	65.00
20e Cable Car 1, 2 (block)	4.00	4.50
Overall tagged 2	6.00	7.00
20, 5e Fire Engine 1	4.30	4.70
21e Rail Car 1, 2	4.30	4.70
21, 1e 111111	4.00	4.75
111121	5.00	6.00
PC 111111	4.25	4.75
PC 111121	5.00	6.00
22e Flag 1, 7, 13	16.00	18.00
2, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, T1	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
(22e) "D" Eagle 1	6.00	7.50
2	5.75	7.00
(22e) "D" Official 1	50.00	80.00
23e Lunch Wagon 2, 3	4.00	4.50
23e Flag A111, 212	4.00	4.50
A222 fat middle 2	4.00	4.50
A222 thin middle 2	4.00	4.50
A112, 122	5.00	5.50
23e USA A1111	4.00	4.50
24, 1e Tandem 1	4.85	5.30
25e Bread Wagon 1, 2, 3, 4	4.50	5.00
5	5.50	6.00
25e Yosemite Block 1, 7, Phos 15	7.50	8.00
Block 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	4.00	4.50
Block 9, Phos 5	11.50	12.00
Phos 1	39.50	40.00
Phos 2-3, 7-11, 13-14	4.00	4.50
Phos 6	16.50	17.00
(25e) "E" Earth 1211, 2222	6.50	7.00
1111, 1222	4.00	4.50
25e Honeybee 1, 2	4.00	4.50
1 Orig. full serial	26.50	27.00
(29e) "F" Tulip 1111, 1222, 2222	4.00	4.50
1211	27.50	28.00
2211	6.50	7.00
29e Flower S1111, S2222 Silt S2222 (Perforated)	4.00	4.50
29e Mil. Rushmore Flag 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9	4.00	4.50
7 Toledo brown F	142.50	145.00
7 Toledo brown VF	170.00	—
8	8.50	9.25
Gravurec A1111, A2211	4.00	4.50
29e White House Flag 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	4.00	4.50
\$1 Sealane	7.00	9.00

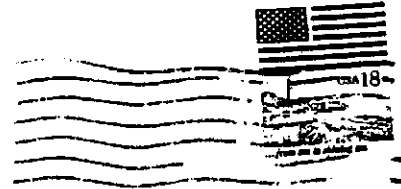
All stamps are guaranteed genuine and (unless otherwise noted) in VF condition. All stamps may be returned for a complete refund, no questions asked. Some strips may be in limited supply. For XF, please add 25%.

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) 752-5002



ROB'S COVER OF THE BI-MONTH



John Jameson Irish Sweepstakes
P.O. Box 8211
St. Paul, Minnesota

55182

EARLIEST BUT ILLEGAL USE—This cover canceled Sept. 26, 1981, is the earliest known use of Plate 6 of the 18¢ Flag. But it is illegal. The Postal Service tries to stop all mail going to operators of lotteries and regularly publishes lists of people and firms who act as intermediaries for

such things as the Irish Sweepstakes. The Postal Bulletin regularly carries lists of such addresses to hold up the mail. 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.

Universal measure of rarity proposed for all PNC fields

By Bill McMurray

How rare is it?

How much is it worth?

These are the most common questions asked in stamp collecting.

The tables in our current *Plate Number Coil Catalog* use such adjectives as "common," "less common," and "rare."

For FDCs, we say "A" = common (10,000 or more); "B" = available (2,000 to 9,999); "C" = difficult (500 to 1,999); "D" = scarce (50 to 499), "E" = very scarce (less than 50).

For precancel gaps we use "A" = common; "B" = less common; "C" = hard to find, "D" = scarce, "E" = rare.

For paper types we use the same legend as for gaps.

I propose the adoption of a Universal Rarity Scale (URS). one that will be mathematically sound in its progression and in the relationship among its divisions. Above all, it would be applicable to all PNC collectables.

Stated simply, it is the geometric progression of numbers, with each category containing about twice as many members

as the preceding category. The Universal Rarity Scale uses a simple geometric progression of numbers, as 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, etc.

The abbreviation for it would be R-1 means Rarity 1, R-8 means Rarity 8.

R-1	= 1 known, unique
R-2	= 2 known
R-3	= 3 to 4 known
R-4	= 5 to 8 known
R-5	= 9 to 16 known
R-6	= 17 to 32 known
R-7	= 33 to 64 known
R-8	= 65 to 128 known
R-9	= 129 to 256 known
R-10	= 257 to 512 known
R-11	= 513 to 1,024 known
R-12	= 1,025 to 2,048 known
R-13	= 2,049 to 4,096 known
R-14	= 4,097 to 8,192 known
R-15	= 8,193 to 16,384 known
R-16	= 16,385 to 32,768 known
R-17	= 32,769 to 65,536 known
R-18	= 65,537 to 131,072 known
R-19	= 131,073 to 262,144 known
R-20	= 262,145 to 524,288 known
R-20	= 524,289 to 1,048,576 known
R-21	= More than 1,048,577 known

This would allow the same legend to be applied to all tables. Consequently, a mint imperforate pair of the 17¢ Electric Auto

precancel would be R-7 (URS). The 17¢ Electric Auto precancel strip from Plates 5 and 7 with the gaps at 6R and 6L would be R-3 (URS). While the 9.3¢ Mail Wagon precancel from Plates 5 and 6 with the gap at 4R would be R-2 (URS).

This system was first proposed by Q. David Bowers and is available to us without license or credit line.

[*Editor's note:* The 10¢ Eagle and Shield A32333 would be R-12 because only 1,875 strips are known.] □

FREE ADLETS

These classified ads are free, but may run only one time. After that, they are 15 cents a word with no charge for your address. These ads are limited to wants and offers for the Great Americans Series. PB=plate block; UN=untagged; OV=overall; P=prephosphored; B=Block.

WANTED—2¢ Lyon, OV single and PB LR; 4¢ Flanagan, OV single, PB LR; 5¢ Muñoz P single, PB LR, PB UR; 5¢ Muñoz UN single, PB LR, PB UR; 10¢ Red Cloud, P single, PB LR; 15¢ Buffalo III, B PB LR. Luigi Argine, 5 Via Zuretti, I-20125 Milano, Italy.

FOR MY COLLECTION—Wanted: 20¢ sheet Flag, single and block of 4, dull tagging; 40¢ Gilbreth, L-Perforator, block of 4. Steve Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Hts. OH. 44120.

A Press caused untagged stripe on Mary Lyons

Harry Mueggenburg has found a pane of the 2¢ Mary Lyons in which the entire top row is untagged.

The pane is from the lower right of the four-pane arrangement in which the stamps were printed.

The explanation is in the odd way the panes were lined up on the A Press (for illustration see Page 287 of Ken Lawrence's *Linn's Plate Number Coil Handbook*).

The tagging roller had to be made to take care of that huge central gutter. If the roller was reversed, the top row got left out. That makes the untagged Mary Lyon a tagging error.

Mueggenburg also found other A Press Great Americans with the same anomaly. We hope to have a full report in the next issue.

The 39¢ Grenville Clark stamp was to go off sale Aug. 31, according to the July-August *Stamps*, etc.

But *TPN's* sharp-eyed Washington correspondent, Myron Hill, noticed that the block-tagged version of the \$5 Bret Harte had gone off sale without announcement in *Stamps*, etc.

The version still on sale is Item No. N094, described as being in panes of 20 and perforated by the "L" perforator. It's Plate 2, prephosphored and bull's eye perforated. *Stamps*, etc. is wrong.

The item previously described as Item No. 0094, which was block-tagged and had a bull's-eye perforation, was no longer in the July-August edition.

Hill learned that 0094 had been recalled earlier and that philatelic clerks who had stocks of it were required to turn the stamps in to accountable paper on their last audit. □

LAST-CHANCE SALE

All but 20 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:

\$10.00 postpaid
(\$10.70 in Ohio)

Get them while they last! Give one to a library! Use them as a door prize.

STEVE ESRATI
PO Box 20130
Shaker Heights, OH 44120

DATA BANK

Official USPS texts except for [bracketed] additions by TPN

Presorted coil stamp added to '92 program

The Postal Service will issue a new 23¢ presorted First-Class stamp in coils of 10,000 on July 21 in Kansas City, Mo. There will be no first-day ceremony.

The letters "USA" appear in the upper half of the stamp's design. Looking as if they were made of chrome, the letters reflect the red, white, and blue of a wind-blown American flag. The words "Presorted/First-Class/23" are printed in white against the blue background of the stamp, just below the "USA." The stamp is manufactured by American Bank Note Co.

Philatelic Release 92-047

Before the end of this calendar year, this stamp issue will be available in [BEP-printed] coils of 500 and 3,000 stamps and will replace the current 23¢ Flag Presort stamp coils.

*Philatelic and Retail Services Dept.
Postal Bulletin, 6/11/92*



The Postal Service will issue its new 23¢ USA Presorted First-Class stamp July 21 in Kansas City, Mo. There will be no first-day ceremony. However, first-day-of-issue cancellations will be available

at the Kansas City Main Post Office July 21, and by mail order through Sept. 19....

Issue: 23¢ USA Presorted First-Class Stamp
Issue Date: July 21, 1992
Issue City: Kansas City, Mo.
Format: Coils of 3,000
Process: Gravure (American Bank Note Co., contractor; Guilford Gravure, printer)
Colors: Yellow, magenta, cyan, black
Size:
Image: .71 x .82 inches/18.0 x 20.8mm
Overall: .87 x .965 inches/22.1 x 24.5mm
[Press: Androotti]
Plate numbers: Four preceded by the letter "a"
[A11A1111]

[PNC Catalog number: 23F(A111)PX]

The 23¢ USA Presorted First-Class stamp (*Stamp News* 92-058) in coils of 500 and 3,000, to be issued in October, will be gravure, not intaglio as previously announced. The coil of 10,000, issued July 21, was also gravure.

Philatelic Release 92-065

[It was *Philatelic Release* 92-059, not 92-058.]

Confidential memo

[Note: The following memo was sent to cachet-makers and other USPS licensees]

Dec. 19, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR: LICENSEES

Attached is a copy of the 1992 stamp and stationery issuance schedule and color reproductions of a number of these issues. The designs provided to the media at the Dec. 11 press conference are still subject to change during final production, and therefore are of no use for reproduction of products.

It should be noted that some dates and/or sites have not been determined (as indicated by a "?") at this time, and that many dates and/or sites still are subject to change. You will be notified when final decisions have been made concerning issues where

dates and/or sites are tentative and when changes are made.

Please note that references to most issues are preceded by the "@" symbol. This indicates information that has been publicly announced by the Postal Service. Also, some issues are preceded by the "#" symbol, indicating that the subject has been announced, but the date and/or sites have not been announced. If no symbol is shown, then no announcement has been made.

As always, it is imperative that unannounced information be kept in strict confidence until released by the Postal Service. Until a public announcement, this confidentiality applies to all postal personnel—other than those in the Philatelic and Retail Services Department at Headquarters—as well as to the general public. Under no circumstances should the information we provide to you be given to field post office representatives, sponsoring organizations, or community leaders prior to its public release, and no inquiries should be made of them in this regard.

Please feel free to contact this office at: (202) 268-6868 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

[signed]

W. L. Davidson, Jr.

Director

Office of Licensing

[In the attached list of coming issues, the following was found:

[Ships (Columbus)

[50-stamp coil of three designs

[10/12/92

[Columbus Series

[Commemorative coil]

ADLETS

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

IMPERF RUSHMORE: One plate strip of 7 from Plate 7, F-VF \$650. Imperf pairs \$45. Imperf pair on FDC \$250, 2 available. All items postpaid. Wayne Meyers, 14 Burwell St., Union NJ 07083-4123. (PNC3 5-92)

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 18a: Regular Perfed XF-s, imperf, misperf, 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 Ballows Ct., Troy, MI 48083. (5-92)

PNCs BY SUBSCRIPTION: My customers got A32333 of the Eagle & Shield cheap. It's quite simple. Subscribe to my new-issues service and get every new plate number as a PS/3 or PS/5, VF or XF. Send \$25 deposit to Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120.

FDCs by SUBSCRIPTION: House of Farnam FDCs are \$5, ArtCraft and ArtMaster are \$4. You also are informed when I get oddball numbers. Send \$25 deposit to Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (5-92)

THE 1993 PNC CATALOG will be published in December. I will send out notices for pre-publication orders. Richard J. Nazar, 34 Nottingham Way, Somerset, NJ 11720. (5-92)

PNC FDCs

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.

CAT	PS	Description	Cachet	Price	CAT	PS	Description	Cachet	Price	CAT	PS	Description	Cachet	Price
1T1R1	5	Omnibus B	Shue	\$14.00	10T1XP	3	Tractor Trailer	Farnam	\$5.00	25F5 + 25F1	3 + 3	Yosemite, block + phos	Farnam	\$55.00
2T1R1 + 2T2	5+5	Loco Colt+B	Artmaster	\$14.00	10T1XP	3	Tractor Trailer	Artmaster	\$4.00	Same	3 + 3	Same	Artmaster	\$30.00
2T1R1 + 2T3	5+5	Loco Colt+B	Artmaster	\$14.00	10T1XP	3	Tractor Trailer	ArtCraft	\$4.00	25F5i	3	Yosemite, phos	Farnam	\$25.00
2T1R1 + 2T4	5+5	Loco Colt+B	Artmaster	\$14.00	10U A22113P	3	Eagle & Shield	Farnam	\$5.00	25F5i	3	Yosemite, phos	Artmaster	\$15.00
2T1R1 + 2T6	5+5	Loco Colt+B	Artmaster	\$14.00	Same	3	Eagle & Shield	ArtCraft	\$4.00	25F6i	3	Yosemite, phos	Farnam	\$25.00
2T1R1 + 2T8	5+5	Loco Colt+B	Artmaster	\$14.00	10.1T2P1	3	Eagle & Shield	Artmaster	\$5.00	25F6i	3	Yosemite, phos	Artmaster	\$25.00
2T1R1 + 2T10	5+5	Loco Colt+B	Artmaster	\$14.00	10.1T2P1	3	Oil Wagon Red	Artmaster	\$4.00	25F7 + 25F7i	3 + 3	Yosemite, block + phos	Farnam	\$55.00
2T3	3	Locomotive	KMC	\$10.00	10.9T1	4	Hans Cab # left	Artmaster	\$20.00	Same	3 + 3	Same	Artmaster	\$25.00
3T1R	3	Conesoga	Farnam	\$5.00	10.9T1	4	Hansom Cab	Farnam	\$35.00	25F7i	3	Yosemite, phos	Farnam	\$25.00
3T1R	3	Conesoga	ArtCraft	\$4.00	10.9T2	2	Hansom Cab	ArtCraft poor	\$15.00	25F7i	3	Yosemite, phos	Artmaster	\$25.00
3T1R	3	Conesoga	Artmaster	\$4.00	10.9T2	2	Hansom Cab	Farnam	\$35.00	25F8 + 25F8i	3 + 3	Yosemite, block + phos	Farnam	\$15.00
4T1X	3	Tag Carriage	Farnam	\$5.00	11T1	2	Caboose # r/l	Benham	\$20.00	Same	3 + 3	Same	Artmaster	\$10.00
4T1X	3	Tag Carriage	Artmaster	\$4.00	11T1	3	Caboose	Artmaster	\$7.50	25F8i	3	Yosemite, phos	Farnam	\$5.00
4T1X	3	Tag Carriage	ArtCraft	\$4.00	11T1	3	Caboose	GillCraft	\$7.50	25M1	3	Honeybee	Farnam	\$5.00
4T3	5	Coach, # left	ArtCraft	\$12.50	11T1	3	Caboose	KMC	\$9.00	25M1	3	Honeybee	Artmaster	\$4.00
5T1	4	Motorcycle	ArtCraft	\$17.50	13.2T1P	3	Coal Car	Farnam	\$5.00	25M1	3	Honeybee	ArtCraft	\$4.00
5T2	4	Motorcycle	ArtCraft	\$17.50	13.2T1P	3	Coal Car	Artmaster	\$4.00	25M1	3	Honeybee	Rowe mini HP	\$5.00
5T1X	3	Milk Wagon	Farnam	\$5.00	13.2T1P	3	Coal Car	ArtCraft	\$4.00	25M1	2	Honeybee	Rowe HP	\$7.50
5T1X	3	Milk Wagon	ArtCraft	\$4.00	13T1P	3	Patrol Wagon	Farnam	\$5.00	25M1	3	Honeybee	Artmaster	\$9.00
5T1X	3	Milk Wagon	Artmaster	\$4.00	13T1P	3	Patrol Wagon	Artmaster	\$4.00	25T1	3	Bread Wagon	ArtCraft	\$7.50
5T1Y	5	Circus	Farnam	\$5.00	13T1P	3	Patrol Wagon	ArtCraft	\$4.00	25T1	3	Bread Wagon	KMC	\$7.50
5T1Y	5	Circus	ArtCraft	\$4.00	14T1	5	Ice Boat (mini)	Chamberlain	\$4.00	25U1222	3	"E" Earth	Farnam	\$5.00
5T1Y	5	Circus	Artmaster	\$4.00	15T1	3	Tugboat	Farnam	\$5.00	25U1222	5	"E" Earth	Artmaster	\$6.00
5T1ZP	3	Canoe Intaglio	Farnam	\$5.00	16.7T1P	3	Tugboat	Artmaster	\$4.00	29F2	3	Rushmore	Farnam	\$5.00
5T1ZP	3	Canoe Intaglio	ArtCraft	\$4.00	16.7T1P	3	Tugboat	ArtCraft	\$4.00	29F2	3	Rushmore	ArtCraft	\$4.00
5T1ZP	3	Canoe Intaglio	Artmaster	\$4.00	17T1	2	Auto	Americana	\$7.50	29F A1111	1	Rushmore gravure	Farnam	\$5.00
5T S11ZP	3	Canoe Gravure	Farnam	\$5.00	17T2	2	Auto	Americana poor, cul	\$1.00	Same	3	Same	Artmaster	\$4.00
5T S11ZP	3	Canoe Gravure	ArtCraft	\$4.00	17T2	4	Auto	ArtCraft poor	\$5.00	Same	3	Same	ArtCraft	\$4.00
5T S11ZP	3	Canoe Gravure	Artmaster	\$4.00	17T2R	3	Dog Sled	Artmaster	\$7.50	29F2X	3	White House	Farnam	\$5.00
5.2T1	3	Sleigh	Farnam	\$12.50	17.5T1	5	Racing Car	Farnam	\$5.00	29F2X	3	White House	ArtCraft	\$4.00
5.2T1	3	Sleigh	Artmaster	\$13.00	17.5T1	5	Racing Car	Artmaster	\$4.00	29F2X	3	White House	Artmaster	\$4.00
5.3T1P	5	Elevator	Farnam	\$7.50	18T1	2	Surrey	Fleewood fine	\$17.50	29M S1111	1	Silt Flower	Farnam	\$5.00
5.3T1P	5	Elevator	ArtCraft	\$5.00	19M A1212	3	Fishing Boat	Farnam	\$5.00	Same	3	Silt Flower	Artmaster	\$4.00
5.3T1P	5	Elevator	Artmaster	\$5.00	Same	3	Fishing Boat	Artmaster	\$4.00	29M S1111	1	Silt Flower	Farnam	\$10.00
5.5T1	4	Truck Rubber	Artmaster	\$7.50	A2424	3	Fishing Boat	ArtCraft	\$10.00	29M S1111	1	Silt Flower	Artmaster	\$9.00
5.5T1 + 5.5T1P	4 + 3	Truck Rubber	KMC	\$30.00	20.5T1P	3	Fishing Boat	ArtCraft	\$4.00	Same	3	Perforated Flower	Farnam	\$5.00
Same	4 + 4	Truck Rubber	Artmaster	\$20.00	20.5T1P	3	Fire Engine	Farnam	\$5.00	Same	3	Perf Flower	ArtCraft	\$4.00
5.9T3	2	Bicycle	Americana	\$15.00	20.5T1P	3	Fire Engine	Artmaster	\$4.00	Same	3	Perf Flower	Artmaster	\$4.00
5.9T4	2	Bicycle	Americana	\$15.00	20.5T1P	3	Fire Engine	ArtCraft	\$4.00	29U1111	3	"F" Flower	Farnam	\$5.00
7.1T1	3	Tractor	Artmaster	\$7.50	20M1	4	Consumer	Artmaster	\$40.00	29U1111	3	"F" Flower	ArtCraft	\$4.00
7.1T1P	3	Tractor	KMC	\$17.50	20M4	2	Consumer	ArtCraft	\$25.00	1T1	3	Seaplane	Farnam	\$10.00
7.1T1P	3	Tractor	Gill Craft	\$20.00	20J1	2	Official	Colorano	\$25.00	1T1	3	Seaplane	Artmaster	\$9.00
7.1T1P	3	Tractor	Artmaster	\$15.00	20T1X	3	Cable Car	Farnam	\$5.00	1T1	3	Seaplane	ArtCraft	\$9.00
7.1T1P1	5	Tractor ZIP+4	Farnam	\$10.00	20T1X	3	Cable Car	Artmaster	\$4.00	TERMS: Cash with order, please. I regret that I cannot accept credit cards.				
7.1T1P1	5	Tractor ZIP+4	Artmaster	\$7.50	20T1X	3	Cable Car	ArtCraft	\$4.00	CONDITION: Unless otherwise specified, all stamps are VF or better. Poor means line misses perf. Fine means line is not 50% in perms. Additional unnumbered stamps are ignored.				
7.1T1P1	5	Tractor ZIP+4	ArtCraft	\$7.50	21T1P	3	RR Mail Car	Farnam	\$5.00	ABBREVIATIONS:				
7.4T2	3	Buggy # right	KMC	\$7.50	21T1P	3	RR Mail Car	Artmaster	\$4.00	Rt = Right	PS = Length of numbered strip			
7.6T1P	5	Carrela	Farnam	\$5.00	21T1P	3	RR Mail Car	ArtCraft	\$4.00	FDCs by subscription: I can provide House of Farnam FDCs on subscription at \$5 each against a \$25 deposit. ArtCraft and Artmaster FDCs are \$4. Subscribers are informed when covers are available with unusual numbers and get first rights to order them at the subscription price.				
7.6T1P	5	Carrela	Artmaster	\$4.00	22FT1	3	Test coil	Artmaster	\$4.50					
7.6T1P	5	Carrela	ArtCraft	\$4.00	22FT1	3	Test coil	KMC	\$5.00					
8.4T1P	3	Wheel Chair	Farnam	\$5.00	22J1	1	D Official	Americana	\$10.00					
8.4T1P	3	Wheel Chair	Artmaster	\$4.00	22J1	3	D Official	Artmaster	\$15.00					
8.4T1P	3	Wheel Chair	ArtCraft	\$4.00	22J1	3	D Official	Farnam	\$20.00					
8.5T1	3	Tow Truck	Artmaster	\$4.00	22J2	2	D Eagle # r/l	ArtCraft poor	\$15.00					
8.5T1P	3	Tow Truck	Artmaster	\$15.00	23F A111P	3	Flag Present	Farnam	\$5.00					
8.5T1P	3	Tow Truck	GillCraft	\$15.00	A222P	3	Flag Present	Farnam	\$5.00					
8.5T1 + 8.5T1P	3 + 3	Tow Truck	KMC	\$30.00	A222P	3	Flag Present	ArtCraft	\$4.00					
Same	5 + 5	Tow Truck	H&H	\$40.00	23T2	3	Lunch Wagon	Farnam	\$5.00					
9.3T1	2	Mail Wagon	FleewoodVF	\$20.00	23T2	3	Lunch Wagon	ArtCraft	\$4.00					
9.3T1	2	Mail Wagon	Fleewood F	\$15.00	23T3	3	Lunch Wagon	Farnam	\$5.00					
9.3T1	4	Mail Wagon	ArtCraft	\$30.00	23T3	3	Lunch Wagon	Artmaster	\$4.00					
9.3T2	2	Mail Wagon	ArtCraftVF	\$7.50	23T3	3	Lunch Wagon	ArtCraft	\$4.00					
9.3T2	2	Mail Wagon	Fleewood	\$20.00	24.1T1P	3	Tandem Bike	Farnam	\$5.00					
9.3T2	4	Mail Wagon	ArtCraft poor	\$10.00	24.1T1P	3	Tandem Bike	Artmaster	\$4.00					
10T1	3	Canal Boat	Farnam	\$5.00	24.1T1P	3	Tandem Bike	ArtCraft	\$4.00					
10T1	3	Canal Boat	Artmaster	\$4.00	25F1	3	Yosemite	Artmaster	\$4.00					

Steve Esrati
 PO Box 20130
 Shaker Heights OH 44120
 (216) 561-9393
 FAX: (216) 752-5002

The other side of the story: Why the 29¢ Flower was late

Continued from Page 87

had been produced at J.W. Fergusson for years. The equipment to make so-called "slit" perfs could be easily adapted to make holes.

On Dec. 17, USPS scheduled a post-award meeting. It was then that Stamp Venturers was told what paper to use and was given the art work, although the denomination was still missing because the new rates had not yet been decided.

"We were advised that the first day of issue was scheduled for April 15, 1991," said Richard Sennett of Stamp Venturers.

The first delay

Printers cannot begin work until they receive a Delivery Order, which is an authorization to proceed. Any expenditures incurred before such an order is issued is at the printer's risk.

The Postal Rate Commission issued new rates on Jan. 4, 1991, but the USPS Board of Governors stalled, protesting some of the new rates. Not until Jan. 22 did the governors approve the 29¢ rate under protest. That put the new rates into effect on Feb. 3.

The Postal Service, however, did not issue a Delivery Order until Feb. 5, almost two weeks after the rates had been OK'd.

Stamp Venturers went into high gear. It ordered paper on Feb. 6 and began engraving cylinders, preparing perforation dies, and started testing four different perforation patterns; but it took the Postal Service until March 16 to select one of the perf patterns and give its approval.

The day of issue goes by

The paper arrived April 15, the day originally set for the day of issue. The stamps were sent to press on April 16.

But before that, in the two months from the issuance of the Delivery Order to the start of printing, paper samples were submitted and approved, a model was produced by Sennett himself, and cylinder proofs were made, submitted, and approved.

Test coils were also produced to prepare for production and for USPS approval. It is quite likely that these test coils are the ones that were distributed free by Stamp Venturers at the World Columbian Stamp Exposition.

Production continued. USPS ordered delivery of 100-stamp coils on July 11. Shipping began July 12 with a shipment of 49.4 million stamps in rolls of 100. 72.2 million more stamps were shipped between July 15 and July 25.

But something strange happened on the 25th. A verbal "hold" order was issued and deliveries stopped. Before the "hold," more than 120 million stamps had been shipped.

In August, the "hold" was lifted, and 75 million more stamps were delivered in August, with more deliveries later, all according to delivery instructions by USPS.

The last shipment under the Delivery Order went out in January 1992 with the delivery of



1,600 coils of 100 and 50,000 coils of 3,000. All of these stamps had been printed and processed in 1991 and had been held pending delivery instructions.

The second delay

One thing that may have contributed to the delay in issuing the Delivery Order was "our proposal to furnish 'coils on a stick,'" Sennett said.

"Stamp Venturers was aware that this type of packaging for coil stamps was being used by Canada Post and believed it to be a good concept," Sennett added.

While the bid was still being evaluated by USPS, Stamp Venturers conducted some tests.

"Immediately after the post-award meeting," Sennett said, "we prepared a proposal to furnish 'Stamps on a stick.'"

He proposed coils of 50 or 100 with rouletting, but added that the concept did not depend on the type of perforation and could be delivered with round holes, as well.

Postmaster General Anthony M. Frank ap-

proved the stamp stick on July 1 for a national test.

"This did not delay production in the least," said Sennett, "because we continued to produce individual coils and packaging in plastic while the proposal was being considered."

By the time a decision on the stamp stick was made, Stamp Venturers had more than a million coils in its finished goods inventory.

That notwithstanding, the proposal for the stamp stick may have delayed the Delivery Order.

Conclusions

BEP made Plate 1 of the 29¢ Flag Over Mt. Rushmore on Jan. 18, 1991, and sent it to press on Jan. 22, immediately after the Board of Governors grudgingly accepted that rate.

It made Plate 2 on the 22nd.

In the past, at rate-change times, BEP prepared plates or cylinders with various denominations, waiting for the word on which one to print.

But Stamp Venturers could do none of this. It did not receive the go-ahead until Feb. 5.

There was no way Stamp Venturers could have stamps ready for a first day on April 15.

BEP, on the other hand, delivered the Rushmores for an April 15 first day but the national enthusiasm over the "victory" in the Gulf War caused demand for a flag stamp, and the issue date was moved up to March 29, although many stamps were used long before that.

But all during that time, Stamp Venturers was still waiting for paper.

It seems ingenious of USPS to blame Stamp Venturers for the delay. □

UPDATE: New Stamps, Imperforates, Corrections

New stamps

5T22P—Plate 2, 05 Cent, used on mailing by People for the American Way Action Fund. Received June 30, 1992. (Meyers)

New imperforates

29F9—Plate 9, 29¢ Rushmore. (Tison)

29F3X—Plate 3, 29¢ White House. Entire roll. (Tison)

29F6X—Plate 6, 29¢ White House. Entire roll. (Tison)

23T3—Plate 3, 23¢ Lunch Wagon. (Tison)

25T1—Plate 1, 25¢ Bread Wagon. From an imperforate roll of 500 found in 1991 in Minnesota. One strip had a paper splice. (Tison)

29M(S1111)—29¢ Flower, imperforate, no-number pairs only. Rest are rouletted. (Tison)

29U2211—"T" stamp 2211. Imperforate strip, not miscut. Previously found only as a miscut. (Tison)

Corrections to TPN

Page 49—in a discussion of catalog numbers, we quoted Richard Nazar as saying the Eagle and Shield stamps would be listed in the Miscellaneous Series section. It was not intended that way. The E&S stamps will be listed in that section with other undesignated stamps as 10U(A1111) etc.

Page 63—The continuation lines on the articles about the Toledo brown and the BEP reports were reversed.

Page 68—The statement that Rushmores are still in production should have said "were still in production in 1992." Production has stopped.

Page 72—Because of time pressure to get the July issue to the printer, the BEP table was incomplete.

Plate 188183-1 was assigned to the 10¢ Tractor Trailer on March 11, 1991. It was sent to press April 1, 1991.

The Universal Vending Machine coil was sent to press Aug. 17, 1991. It was canceled Sept. 3, 1991. BEP made no impression totals public. TPN has since learned that there were 14,000 impressions and that the printing took place on Aug. 21, 1991.

The maximum number of PNCs printed from Plate 14 of the 25¢ Flag should have been 76,482,800, not 152,965,600.

Page 72—In reporting use of the Yellow 2 plate in printing E&S stamps, only three plate-number combinations were mentioned. Also printed with Yellow 2 were A34424 and A34426.

Page 73—The reference to E&S A33426 should have been A34426.

Page 75—Roll sizes given in Data Bank for the Flag Over the White House were out of date. The point here, however, was that USPS said there were no rolls of 100, although there are.

Pages 76-77—The ads on these pages carried an incorrect FAX number. The correct number is (216) 752-5002.

Page 82—We quoted Joe Peng of the Stamp Manufacturing Division of USPS to the effect that the 10¢ Red Cloud stamp was never intentionally issued tagged. He was wrong. It was.

Page 83—The item at the bottom of the first column was inadvertently chopped off. It should have said: "American Bank Note had not received an order to reprint Eagle and Shields or to print the gravure Circus Wagon when we went to press. Stamp Venturers also said it had not been asked to print the Circus Wagon."

Your interest is in PNCs, not the value from 1¢ to \$99.99

Continued from Page 87

[In Cleveland, postal clerks were abuzz about the fact that the five regional postmasters going to Barcelona would each be accompanied by three postal clerks.]

When Ms. Welch returned my call, she said simply: "There is no plate number."

McDowell later confirmed that her information had come from him.

On Aug. 6, McDowell blamed the confusion on a breakdown in communications between USPS and BEP.

McDowell had not wanted the numbers on the stamps because of the difficulties the stamp posed for the Philatelic Sales Division (PSD).

Pressed about whether the stamps had been printed after our July 17 conversation, he admitted that the stamps had, in fact, been printed last year.

The BEP sleeve is the one we reported on Page 72 (BEP plate 189136-1), which was sent to press Aug. 17, 1991, and canceled on Sept. 3, 1991. No impression total was publicly reported.

TPN has since learned from BEP that 14,000 impressions were made from it on Aug. 21, 1991, and that the stamps had a red plate number. This production (about 6.7 million stamps) apparently is sufficient for the one-year test of the system that uses these stamps.

How it all began

According to Dr. Rabinowitz, USPS was unaware of the problems it would face in sales to collectors if the stamps did carry plate numbers. Dr. Rabinowitz said he facetiously urged McDowell to throw away all stamps that had already been printed and start again without plate numbers, citing the unnumbered official coil stamps as a precedent.

But the American Bank Note (ABN) Co. version—which has vertical perforations—had already been delivered to USPS and carried an "A11" plate number on every 24th stamp.

Dr. Rabinowitz has learned that these stamps were wound incorrectly for the machines they were made for, somewhat resembling the "D" stamps printed on the photogravure portion of the A Press. When these "D" stamps were applied by stamp-affixing machines, they went on upside down.

On ABN's UVM stamps, the denomination would have come out upside down.

The reason for the mishap is that USPS gave improper drawings to Unisys, the manufacturer of the machines for ABN's stamps.

ABN was to take the stamps back and rewind them to correct the error. At press time, it had not yet been determined who would pay for the costs of the rewinding.

Why no numbers?

Dr. Rabinowitz's fears were based on several incorrect premises.

An article by him in *Stamp Collector* on July 1 foresaw sales to collectors of sets con-

taining the most common current postal rates.

...USPS will define the officially collectible mint stamps. It seems logical for the USPS to provide a 19¢ stamp for the postal card rate, a 29¢ stamp, a two-ounce (52¢) and a three-ounce (75¢), several different airmails including a 45¢ and 50¢, perhaps a few others—and at least one Express Mail stamp at \$9.95.

Dr. Rabinowitz apparently did not realize when he wrote that in June that a machine at the PSD would have to chum out all UVM stamps destined for collectors and dealers, no matter how slowly.

Sale of sets would have been a nightmare for USPS, even without reference to plate numbers. PSD decided to put only 29¢ stamps on sale.

McDowell said the one machine at the PSD in Kansas City would be able to turn out stamps imprinted with a denomination at about the speed of an office copier. *TPN* calculated that at about 10,000 stamps in an eight-hour day, or just a hair more than three rolls of 3,000.

That one machine is the only one available to USPS for imprinting values into UVM stamps for collectors. McDowell envisioned setting the machine at 29¢ and letting it run.

"Perhaps if we get enough orders, we might change it to a different rate for a day or two at a time," he said.

The PSD machine's daily output is not even enough to meet the requirements of several PNC dealers who order rolls by the case. For example, 15 found rolls of 3,000 of the A32333 Eagle and Shield were too few to meet collector needs. (Unfortunately, the case containing those rolls also included other plate-number combinations.)

On July 17, McDowell predicted long waits in filling PSD orders for UVM stamps, especially for dealers who order several rolls at a time.

But by the time the July 25 edition of *Stamp Collector* arrived, McDowell had changed his mind. This is what Dr. Rabinowitz reported:

Don McDowell ... says that roll sales of variable-rate coils ... will not occur.

Dr. Rabinowitz said this was because the PSD would have to rewind and wrap the stamps after the slow process of printing.

Later still, McDowell told *TPN* that the PSD may decide to sell numbered strips to collectors and use the scrap to meet other orders. A definitive decision on the method of sale was to be made just as *TPN* went to the printer.

Earlier, McDowell had told *TPN* it would not be any easier for collectors who live close to cities that are included in the one-year test of the system. He expected long lines in front of the machines there, too, if collectors started feeding the machines to get plate-numbered strips.

How to collect

TPN never tells you how to collect. You

are the king of your album (president if you prefer). The decisions are yours and yours alone.

But...

From the point of view of PNC collecting, only one thing counts: the plate number. You may want to mount the horizontal strip from ABN next to the vertical strip from BEP. The denomination doesn't matter.

Except for orientation (the perfs), both versions will be identical in design.

Ken Lawrence said he would prefer 1¢ values—if they can be made.

McDowell did not think that would be possible.

Stamps being put on sale at the PSD in Kansas City, Mo., will be sold at first only with a 29¢ denomination imprinted into them. They may be ordered in any quantity (although it is not clear how this will square with the ban on the sale of whole rolls) and carry the usual \$10 minimum ordering requirement and 50¢ service fee. The item number for the BEP-printed stamp is 7765.

If you order from a dealer, or have a standing order for new PNC strips with a dealer, you may have to be patient.

Several dealers had told *TPN* they feared the stamps. Informed during the period of confusion that the stamps would carry no plate numbers, dealer Al Haake heaved a sigh of relief. "You don't know what a weight you have taken off my mind. I dreaded those things."

On the other hand, Gerald Clark, a collector and member of the PNC Study Group, said he would complain to McDowell about removal of the numbers.

McDowell pleaded for suggestions from collectors as to how they want to collect UVM stamps. He particularly wants to hear from PNC collectors. Write him at Postal Headquarters, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington D.C. 20260.

How they'll be sold

When the stamps go on sale at a handful of post offices, the denomination will be different for each mailpiece.

BEP plate numbers have a 48-stamp interval, indicating that the stamps were printed on the C or D Press.

BEP stamps were made for use in machines manufactured by ECA GARD.

ECA GARD machines will be set up in: the main post offices in Oklahoma City and Norman, Okla., and in Detroit (Renaissance Center) and Ann Arbor, Mich.; Miami (main post office, airport, Norland and Olympia Heights branches); Washington, D.C. (the Old Main Post Office near Union Station, the Ben Franklin branch at 12th St. and Pennsylvania Ave., the Friendship branch at 4005 Wisconsin Ave. N.W., and Martin Luther King Jr. branch, 1400 L St. N.W.), and Monterey Park and Irvine, Calif.

A machine will be set up at the PSD in Kansas City for filling collector orders. That machine will not be for public use.

The Oklahoma City machine was to go into service on Aug. 20; the others a day later.

ABN printed a stamp perforated vertically for use in machines made by Unisys. These were printed by gravure at Guilford Gravure on an Andreotti press with A11 plate numbers on every 24th stamp.

USPS used the Unisys sites would be in the same USPS divisions as the ECA GARDs. Linn's said the Detroit sites would be Troy, Southfield, and Royal Oak and the Santa Ana sites would be Alhambra, Garden Grove, and Anaheim, Calif.

Linn's reported that the Unisys machines are expected to go into service this month. USPS was more cautious, saying they would go into service this year. A September start, however, seems unlikely now because of the need to rewind the ABN stamps.

What you will need

You as a collector of PNCs will require one strip (no matter what the denomination) of each plate number.

The denomination imprinted into the stamp will be of no concern to you, since there will be a penny-by-penny progression from 1¢ to \$99.99. From our viewpoint, one strip of 1¢ stamps showing a plate number in the middle would be all we need.

Thrifty people who can get to a machine, may want to print up 19¢ stamps (the post card rate). But even here, be prepared for long waits.

McDowell noted that the experiment with the two types of machines would run a year, giving you lots of time to get yours.

Since we are collectors of PNCs, Richard Nazar, editor of *The PNC Catalog* and coordinator of the PNC Study Group, said the catalog will set price estimates on UVMs as PNCs, not as mint postage. While everything is not yet decided, the prospect is that the pricing would be something like this:

	Cover	Used	Mint
Single	1.00	.50	2.00
Strip of 3			3.50
Strip of 5			4.50

Price estimates are for any denomination. Add face value of mint stamps to price estimate.

Don't order strips of 24 or 48

You don't want to buy a strip of 24 of the UVMs from Kansas City just to get one ABN plate number. Nor do you want a strip of 48 of the BEP version.

That could result in the plate number being the last stamp on the strip, so to be safe you should order a strip of 26 or 50, if such sales are permitted by the PSD. For all of us, sale of numbered strips, even if limited in quantity, would be a blessing.

Even collectors near machines will have to overcome great odds to obtain one numbered ABN strip. One could stand there a long time feeding money into the machine. If one is unlucky, the 24th ABN-printed stamp purchased would be the one with the plate number. (The odds of this happening are high because the last customer may have been looking for a plate number, too.) n

Postage and Mailing Center Stamp to be Issued in Oklahoma City

The first Postage and Mailing Center (PMC) machines manufactured by ECA GARD will begin service in Oklahoma City, Okla., on Aug. 20. PMCs weigh items for mailing, determine the postage necessary for the desired level of service, and print stamps with the appropriate amount of postage.

(USPS Editor's note: Stamp news 92-043 contained detailed information regarding PMCs and the stamps they will dispense.) (See TPN, July 1992, Page 75.)

First-day-of-issue postmarks will be available on a handback basis Aug. 20 at the Oklahoma City Main Post Office...., location of one of the PMCs, and for 60 days by mail order.

The Oklahoma City Division is one of five test sites (including Southern Maryland, Miami, Detroit, and Santa Ana Divisions) for the new PMCs manufactured by ECA GARD. Machines in the other four sites will begin service on Aug. 21. Another version of the PMC, manufactured by Unisys, will begin service in the same five test sites later this year.

Locations of post offices that will have ECA GARD PMCs appear below:

Oklahoma City Division: 320 S.W. 5th St., Oklahoma City; 129 W. Gray St., Norman.

Detroit Division: 2075 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor; 1401 W. Fort St., Detroit.

Miami Division: 2200 N.W. 72nd Ave., Miami; 18640 N.W. 2nd Ave., Miami; 3801 S.W. 117th Ave., Miami; Airport Mail Facility, Miami International Airport (lower level).

Santa Ana Division: 2206 Alton Pkwy., Irvine; 245 W. Garvey Ave., Monterey Park.

Southern Maryland Division: 2 Massachusetts Ave. N.E., Washington; 12th [St. N.W.] and Pennsylvania Ave., Washington; 4005 Wisconsin Ave., Washington; N.W.; 1400 L St. N.W., Washington.

Customers who do not have access to a test site may purchase ECA GARD-version PMC stamps with a 29¢ denomination (Item Number 7765) from the Philatelic Sales Division, PO Box 449997, Kansas City, MO 64144-9997. The usual \$10 minimum and 50¢ handling fee applies.

Issue: PMC Stamp (ECA GARD version)

Format: Coils of 3,000

Issue date: Aug. 20, 1992

First-day city: Oklahoma City, Okla.

Process: Intaglio, BEP

Colors: Blue, red

Size: Image: .71 x .82 inches/18.0 x 20.8mm

Overall: .84 x .99 inches/21.3 x 25.1mm

Plate numbers: One [Red 1 on every 48th stamp]

[Press: Not stated, probably C or D]

[PNC Catalog Number: BEP version: 29U1X. ABN version will be 29U(A11)Y.]

Philatelic Release 92-060

Runyon to ax top of USPS pyramid

Postmaster General Marvin T. Runyon had been in office less than a week when he axed the Postal Service's Olympic sponsorship, which has cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

A month after he took office, Runyon announced that he was reorganizing the top management levels, cutting 450 to 500 executives.

As recently as 15 years ago, the Stamps Division sent out timely news releases about new U.S. stamps. The people in the division knew stamps.

But one of the things that snowballed at Postal Headquarters, in addition to the marketing people who gave us cups, T-shirts, clocks, and other junk, was public relations. It simply wasn't good enough for what is now called the Office of Stamp and Philatelic Marketing to have a news staff. A Communications Division was set up, made up of people who knew nothing about stamps.

USPS had more than 35 assistant postmasters general. One of them is Gordon Morrison, a philatelist who heads the Philatelic and Retail Sales Department.

Back in the days of the Post Office Department, there were four assistants, and the one called "third assistant" was in charge of things philatelic. What do those other 31 current assistant postmasters do?

Runyon is going to strip these guys not only of their jobs, but also of their fancy titles. The ones not being axed will become vice presidents of the Postal Service.

From a stamp viewpoint, maybe Runyon can be persuaded to close down the Office of Communication, which has failed to communicate, communicated too late, communicated incorrect information, and couldn't even answer simple questions about stamps. Maybe they knew what those 35 assistant postmasters did; about stamps they were sadly uninformed.

Let's hope the responsibility for putting out news about stamps goes back to the people who work with stamps and that they will be people who know about stamps.

Rumor has it that when the Office of Communications was set up, people who knew anything about stamps were barred from employment. □

NOTICE

Steve Esrati will be on vacation most of October. The offices of TPN will be closed.

Great Americans pose problems in identification

By the PNC Study Group

The table on Great American tagging and perforation varieties takes on a new look this month as we add plate numbers.

Some questions have arisen since the July issue.

Doubts about paper

One question was raised by D. John Shultz who has what he believed to be pre-phosphored strips of 20 of the 10¢ Red Cloud (Plate 2) and the 50¢ Nimitz (Plate 3) that show a tiny untagged stripe at the bottom of the pane.

Both were submitted to Wayne Youngblood, who called both overall-tagged.

If this untagged stripe were in the side selvage, we would almost automatically say that Shultz is wrong. But since it is at the bottom, that means the untagged stripe runs across the web. That would militate against the assumption that the pane was on prephosphored paper, since it is hard to conceive of such a break across the web.

Terminology needs a fix

What we are dealing with here is a glitch in our terminology. Let's analyze overall

tagging, which comes in many types, from flexographic tagging mats to various types of rollers.

To understand it best, we must first analyze block tagging.

We all recognize block tagging when the tagging area is made to coincide with one stamp at a time. It is this type of stamp-sized tagging we have termed block tagging.

extends beyond the pane and into the selvage, we would see tagged selvage.

Printers, of course, attempt to align this pane tagging with the subject as they tried to align the smaller stamp-sized block tagging with each stamp.

Which brings us to the major types of overall tagging:

- Pane tagging for a whole pane. The tagging may or may not coincide exactly with the pane, so the selvage can determine overall tagging only when part of the selvage is left untagged.

Rule: If any part of the selvage of overall-tagged stamps is untagged, the stamp is overall-tagged, not prephosphored.

- Overall tagging applied by a flexographic mat (as was done on Cottrell-printed PNCs). All the selvage is tagged. It is possible that we may find tagging breaks similar to the ones we have found on Cottrell-printed PNCs. These would most probably be aligned at an interval of every two panes, or an interval (including all selvage) of 20.

Overall tagging applied by a tagging roller. There may be an untagged portion of side selvage when the roller does not entirely cover the web. But selvage that is totally tagged does not automatically mean that

Why the interest in Great Americans in a magazine dedicated to PNCs? At the World Columbian Exposition, Scott's William H. Hatton explained why the *Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps* is incomplete with its data on the Great Americans. Nobody had done the research, Hatton said. Scott Publishing, he said, does not have the personnel to do such research and is dependent on research done by collectors. So now we're doing it. And, just to show that this isn't just an Esrastian quirk, Richard Nazar hopes one day to publish a specialized catalog on the Great Americans to go along with his PNC catalog. In sending this article around the study group, we have made several new discoveries. The table on this page reflects all that we currently know about the varieties of the Great Americans. Stamps listed on Page 110, except for the obsolete stamps shown in boldface type, could still be found with new tagging. But it is likely that there will not be untagged 1¢ or 3¢ Great Americans because USPS may think it has met the need for those values with the 1¢ Kestrel, 3¢ Bluebird. A prephosphored 30¢ Laubach is similarly unlikely because of the existence of the 30¢ Cardinal. To the data previously published elsewhere, we have added an untagged 5¢ Muñoz from Plate 1, an overall-tagged 10¢ Red Cloud from Plate 2, and an overall-tagged 15¢ Cody from Plate 1, which was omitted from *Linn's Yearbook* in error.

But there is a second type. Here the "block" is not one stamp but an entire pane.

In pane tagging, when we look at a single stamp we call it overall tagging, but the selvage may or may not be untagged. It would be untagged if the tagging area coincided exactly with a pane. But if the tagging area

Tagging, plate numbers, and perforation varieties of Great Americans Series

Scott	Stamp	L/block	L/Overall	Harrow/block	Harrow/overall	Harrow/phosphored	Harrow/untagged
1844	1¢ Dix	L (1, 2)		A (1)			
2169	2¢ Mary Lyon			E (1, 2)			
2171	4¢ Flanagan			E (1)	<i>E (1)</i>		E (?) Error
2173	5¢ Muñoz Marin				E (1)†		E (1) Intentionally
2176	10¢ Red Cloud			E (1)	E (1, 2)†	E (2)‡	E (1, 2) Intentionally
2178	15¢ Cody			E (1, 3)	E (1, 2*†, 3)		E (2?) Intentionally
1862	20¢ Truman	L (1)		E (2)	E (3)†		
1863	22¢ Audubon	L (1)		E (3)			
2182	23¢ Cassatt			E (1)	E (1)*	E (2)‡	
2183a	25¢ London \$5 book			E (1, 2)☆			
2183a	25¢ London books ☆						
1864	30¢ Laubach	L (1)		E (2)	E (2)†		
1867	39¢ Clark	L (1)		E (2)			
1868	40¢ Gilbreth	L (1)		E (2)			
2186	40¢ Chennault				E (1)†	E (2)	
2188	45¢ Cushing			E (1)	E (1)†		
1869	50¢ Nimitz		L (1, 2, 3, 4)	E (1, 2)	E (2, 3*)		
2194A	\$1 Hopkins			E (1)	E (1)	E (1, 2)	E (?) Error
2196	\$5 Harte			E (1)		E (2)‡	

Symbols used in this chart:

L = L-perforator 10.9 x 10.9

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

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

☆ \$5 booklet only 11.2 x 11.2. The \$1.50 and \$3 (Plate 1) booklets are block tagged and perforated (10 x 9.8) in-line on Goebel booklet-making equipment

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

† Overall tagging in all selvage. ‡ Untagged area in selvage. ‡ Lenz paper (solid tagging). μ Mottled prephosphoring.

Entries printed in *italics* indicate that there is doubt about the existence of these stamps.

Data first compiled for *Linn's World Stamp Almanac* by Wayne L. Youngblood. Updated by the PNC Study Group.

this is prephosphored paper.

Perhaps the answer lies in the observations of Dr. Michael Rybalka in the next column that we have printed in bold type.

In any event, Wayne Youngblood has examined Shultz's "phosphored" examples and has found them to be overall-tagged.

Dubious entries

Another set of questions, also raised by Shultz, is for confirmation of the existence of stamps we showed in the July table. Shultz questioned the existence of overall tagging on the 4¢ Flanagan and the \$1 Hopkins and was dubious about the existence of the 5¢ Muñoz on prephosphored paper.

Alan Thomson and Youngblood confirm the existence of the overall-tagged Hopkins, but both join Shultz in questioning the other two.

Thomson uses this reasoning: "The short time between the initial release of the Muñoz Marin stamp overall-tagged and the untagged version hardly seems enough to have squeezed in a phosphored version. It's not impossible, but it seems unlikely."

Youngblood examined Shultz's \$1 Hopkins from Plate 1 and found it to be overall-tagged.

The 15¢ Cody was unprecedented. It first appeared overall-tagged. Block tagging

came later. Block-tagged plate blocks from Plates 1 and 3 are known to the study group.

Dr. Michael Rybalka, writing in the May 1989 *U.S. Specialist*, said of the overall-tagged Plate 1:

Unlike other recently issued stamps in the Great Americans Series, however, the 15¢ Buffalo Bill stamp was issued with overall phosphor tagging of the stamps and selvage rather than with the expected block tagging.

... The stamps printed on the D Press from Sleeve 2 have overall tagging, too, but the wide vertical selvage margins of post office panes are not tagged.

On stamps printed from Sleeve 1 on the A Press, all margin selvage is tagged.

In addition, on Sleeve 2 printed panes, the narrow horizontal selvage above the sieve numbers on upper panes is tagged, whereas the same narrow horizontal selvage below the ZIP inscriptions is not.

This suggests that the flexographic tagging plate is 20 stamp subjects high and was mounted on the D Press so that phosphor tagging runs from one ZIP side to another.

Dr. Rybalka's reference to untagged selvage and a 20-stamp-high tagging mat may explain the confusion about the bottom selvage.

In addition, Dr. Rybalka proves that it is possible to have overall tagging from the A Press in which the selvage is tagged.

Youngblood examined Shultz's 15¢ Codys from Plates 1 and 3 and found them both to be overall-tagged.

Printing history

The information in the table on Page 109 comes not only from the list in the 1991 *Linn's U.S. Stamp Yearbook*, but also from an analysis of BEP plate-activity reports.

We need not concern ourselves with any of the Great Americans printed on the Cottrells because they exist only with the streaky overall tagging and uneven-corner electric-eye perforations we know from PNCs printed on the Cottrells.

The stamps we list in the table on Page 111 include only those that come in two or more tagging or perforation types.

Ken Lawrence believes it to be a mistake for *TPN* to ignore stamps in the Great Americans Series that do not demonstrate differences in tagging or perforation.

Among other things, he notes their concurrent status with PNCs. Both sets started on the Cottrells and were affected by the destruction of two of those four presses in the 1982 fire at BEP.

This could, for instance, have resulted in tagging breaks on Cottrell-printed Great Americans just as on the Transportation Series.

Tagging, plate numbers, and perforations of Great Americans known in only one version

Scott	Stamp	L/Cott. Overall	L/block	L/Overall	Narrow/block	Narrow/overall	Narrow/phosphored	L/phosphored
2168	1¢ Mitchell				E (1)			
1845	2¢ Stravinsky	1,2,3,4,5,6						
1846	3¢ Clay	1,2						
2170	3¢ White		1,2,3					
1847	4¢ Schurz	1,2,3,4						
1848	5¢ Buck	1,2,3,4						
2172	5¢ Black				E (2)			
1849	6¢ Lippmann		1					
1850	7¢ Baldwin		1					
1851	8¢ Knox			3,4,5,6*				
1852	9¢ Thayer		1					
1853	10¢ Russell		1					
1854	11¢ Partridge			2,3,4,5*				
1855	13¢ Crazy Horse	1,2,3,4						
1856	14¢ Lewis		1					
2177	14¢ Howe				E (1,2)			
1857	17¢ Carson	1,2,3,4,13,14,15,16						
2179	17¢ Lockwood				E (1,2)			
1858	18¢ Mason	1,2,3,4,5,6						
1859	19¢ Sequoyah	39529, 39530						
1860	20¢ Bunche	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,10,11,13						
1861	20¢ Gallaudet	1,2,5,6,8,9						
2180	21¢ Carlson				E (1)			
2183	25¢ London sheet				E (1,2)			
2184	28¢ Sitting Bull				E (1)			
2184A	29¢ Warren						\$1	
1865	35¢ Drew	1,2,3,4						
2185	35¢ Chavez							\$1, \$2
1866	37¢ Millikan	1,2,3,4						
2190	52¢ Humphrey						1	
2161	56¢ Harvard				E (1)			
2192	65¢ Arnold				E (1)			
2193	75¢ Wilkie						1	
2194	\$1 Revel				E (1)			
2195	\$2 Bryan				E (2)			

Bold-faced stamps are obsolete. Design has been replaced.

Richard Nazar, who has always protested against the concentration only on PNCs, points to concurrent changes in paper types on PNCs and Great Americans.

That may also be what Jerry Clark found when he reported that the 45¢ Cushing and the 50¢ Nimitz printed on Plate 4 of the I-8 Press come with paper that is hibrite and dead in long-wave UV.

These varieties, could be Type I and Type II paper.

To meet their objections, and that of Eugene Ernst, we also present the table on Page 110.

If we can obtain software that will allow us to make readable time-line charts (realizing that the attempt in January 1991 was almost unreadable) we may be able to track tagging and paper types on PNCs that parallel the Great Americans.

Changes from press to press

The first Great Americans sheet stamp moved from the A Press was Plate 2 of the 15¢ Cody, which was assigned to the D Press on May 31, 1988.

It is not known why the 15¢ Cody was shifted from the A Press to the D Press in 1988, but it is likely that it was caused by a need for 15¢ stamps as the rate for post cards went up that year to 15 cents. It is altogether possible that the need to print other rate-change stamps swamped the A Press.

However, thanks to the eagle eyes of PNC dealer Craig Selig, it is known that Plate 1 of the 15¢ Cody was repeatedly repaired and rechromed, although it was in use after Plate 2 was made for the D Press. The re-entries show up on the stamps. (For a thorough study, see George W. Brett's "Re-Entry at the BEP, Specifically on the 15¢ Cody of 1988," *U.S. Specialist*, June 1992.)

[Rate-change issues always pose a problem to BEP. In 1981, for example, the stamp for the two-ounce letter rate, the 37¢ Millikan, came out with upside-down ZIP code slogans on Plate 4. It is found upside-down in all four pane positions. This variety, incidentally, is not mentioned in the 1992 *Scott Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps*.]

The rate change may also explain why some 25¢ London booklets were printed on the A Press, others on the C Press.

The 1¢ Mitchell, 10¢ Red Cloud, 25¢ London (sheet), and \$5 Harte made the move from the A Press to the C or D Press in 1991, probably because of the decommissioning of the A Press.

Long after Plate 1 of the \$1 Hopkins was placed on sale as a prephosphored stamp, USPS announced that it, too, had been moved to the C Press with a new plate number, 2.

[The ordering numbers for the \$1 Hopkins given in *Stamps, etc.* are as follows:

[\$1 overall—1090.

[\$1 prephosphored Plate 1—N1090.

[\$1 prephosphored C Press Plate 2—D1090.

[But what you may get is block tagging on 1090 and overall tagging on N1090. That, at least, was Alan Thomson's fate.]

Since our most recent BEP report is the one for November 1991, it is safe to say that other values may have been switched to current presses in the meantime.

The only sure test

If experienced collectors can mistake overall-tagged stamps for prephosphored ones (because they believed the margins to be the key factor), it is obvious that telling two identical stamps—one overall-tagged and one prephosphored—is not all that easy.

Youngblood demurs. "It is awfully hard to put it into words," he said, "but side by side, it's quite easy.

"Using the selvage to tell them apart is misleading, and it can't be done on single stamps."

Youngblood does have a sure-fire method, but it will destroy one stamp philatelically (although it would still be good for postage).

Steve Esrati did this on what he believed to be prephosphored 50¢ Nimitzes from Plate 3.

"You scratch an area on the stamp that shows printing," Youngblood said. "Then, under UV if the scratched area is untagged, you have scratched off the tagging and the stamp is overall-tagged. If it is still tagged, you have scratched off ink and the stamp is prephosphored."

Esrati's Nimitz turned out to be overall-tagged.

Shiny gum

The 50¢ Nimitz printed on the I-8 currency press has shiny gum, as did other values printed on that press.

But the Nimitz stamp is the only value of the Great Americans with two types of gum.

Reader comment invited

No, we won't rename *TPN*. It will still concentrate on PNCs. But if we can learn about PNCs from Great Americans, we'd like to persevere.

Your views are welcome, both for and against.

But do remember one thing: If it doesn't interest you, you can always skip it. On the other hand, you may learn something. □

This article has been kicked back and forth five times by Gerald Clark, Eugene Ernst, Steve Esrati, Ken Lawrence, Rich Nazar, Wolfgang Schön, D. John Shultz, Alan Thomson, and Wayne Youngblood. It was written by Esrati.

Lighthouse's PNC supplement to be a real treat

Specialist collectors of PNCs have a treat coming when the 1991 supplement for the Lighthouse PNC album comes out this fall.

The redoubtable Wolfgang Schön, a PNC collector who is also a principal in the album company, has added much that the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps* will probably ignore, including some varieties.

TPN has seen the working manuscript for the first batch of new pages—and is enthusiastic about them. Here's an album that allows us to add things we may have in our collection, but to leave them out if we don't want these pages.

One example is the precanceled 20¢ Flag, which had a page to itself in the previous album. Now, Schön has added a space for the "Q line" variety. If you don't want this page for your "Q line," you can just keep the old one.

Included on the page for the 23¢ Flags are two spaces for A222, with thin and fat red "2"s.

For the 29¢ Flag, he has added a page to allow mounting of the two strips on Lenz paper as well as two strips of the "Toledo" brown. This is the first time that Joann Lenz's name has made it into print outside *TPN* as the identifier for a type of prephosphored paper that shows no mottling.

The supplement includes the 29¢ Flag Over the White House and the 10¢ Eagle and Shield.

On the Transportation Series, there are spaces for all ragging varieties as tagging moved from block to overall and prephosphored and on to intentionally untagged.

Pity poor Wolfgang! Should he include all the plate-number combinations that were printed for the E&S or should he provide spaces only for the ones that have been found by collectors?

This is not just an academic question because an album manufacturer does not want to be accused of adding supplement pages later just to spur sales.

Schön chose to include the two combinations of the E&S that have not yet been found mint by collectors: A12213 and A33334. Perhaps by the time the supplement reaches us this fall, the strips will have been found.

It's not easy trying to outguess USPS, either. Wolfgang left lots of blanks for stamps not even imagined yet. □

Red line moves through shield of E&S



RED LINED—The computer has enhanced the red lines on these two strips to allow reproduction by *TPN's* crude printing system.

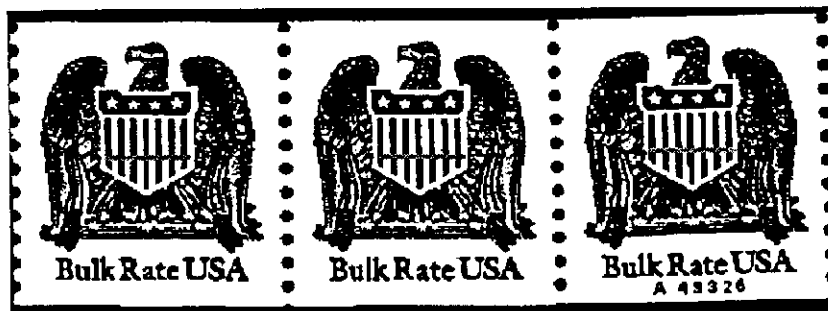


Plate and mat varieties Part XLI

By A.S. Cibulskas

1¢ Omnibus

a. B Press, Plate 2. Three small vertical dashes to middle of "1." Constant at 3L. (Liu)

10¢ Eagle and Shield

a. Number A43326. This needs explanation. Horizontal red line starting just to the left of the shield, extending almost to the right edge of the shield. Thick and blotchy, probably negating a doctor-blade explanation. The line moves down constantly and crosses about 100 stamps, disappears entirely for about 75 stamps, and then reappears at the bottom of the blue field. The cycle continues throughout the roll. The photocopy shows two relative horizontal positions. (A. Thomson)

11¢ Caboose

a. P/C Plate 1. Mat variety. Horizontal "arrowhead" just above bottom precancel line at left of the stamp. Constant at 4L. (Tison)

29¢ Flag, White House

a. Plate 3. Bottom of plate number uninked. (Multiple reports)

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