

E&S quantities given

By Stephen G. Esrati

The rarest 10¢ Eagle and Shield is the one that has never been found by collectors: A12113. It has not even turned up used in mixtures. Only 216,201 numbered strips could exist, based on printing totals released exclusively to *TPN* by American Bank Note Co.

Ranking just behind A12113, in ascending order of scarcity, were A43324 (227,126 strips), A32333 (289,541 strips), and A33334 (375,117 strips).

One thing that sticks out immediately is that the market for plate number coils did not place a high price on A43324, probably because a sufficient quantity was found by dealers to satisfy collector demand. The prices of A32333 and A33334, however, have been high.

The retail price of A32333 has gone above \$200.

The impression totals and our calculation for maximum possible PNCs for each plate-number combination are shown at the right.

The information was put together by the helpful and con-

10¢ Eagle and Shield

Number	Impressions	Max. PNCs
A11111	350,981	6,668,639
A11112	131,550	2,499,450
A22112	156,993	2,982,867
A21112	292,031	5,548,589
A22113	351,713	6,682,547
A12113	11,379	216,201
A12213	20,674	392,806
A21113	46,304	879,776
A33334	19,743	375,117
A33333	50,275	955,225
A32333	15,239	289,541
A33335	21,404	406,676
A43334	351,255	6,673,845
A43335	280,622	5,331,818
A53335	28,322	538,118
A54445	129,534	2,461,146
A54444	140,931	2,677,689
A43326	155,685	2,958,015
A43325	111,243	2,113,617
A43324	11,954	227,126
A43426	82,960	1,576,240
A34426	221,250	4,203,750
A34424	45,636	867,084

The table is not in numerical order, but in the order in which the various plate-number combinations were printed.

scientious spokesperson for ABN after she saw how much trouble *TPN* was having trying to ascertain quantities from the impression totals for each cylinder.

She sent the data to the Postal Service to be issued with the plate-activity reports.

But the information was not released by USPS when it sent out the report dated November 1992. She said that unless USPS authorized the release of the data, ABN could not do so.

Calls to several of the newly appointed officials at USPS gained authorization to release the information.

Also released was the total number of impressions for "G" coils, which will be issued at the next postal rate change. (See table on Page 6.)

The "G" stamps will come in two types, and the second type, which adds a cylinder for green, is for "G" stamps intended for non-profit mailings.

Unfortunately, number-by-number quantities were unavailable for two stamps: the 19¢ Fishing Boat, the first coil printed by ABN, using Multi-Color Corp. of Scottsburg, Ind., as a subcontractor; and the 23¢ Flag, the first coil printed by Guilford Gravure as subcontractor.

But we only needed data on the Fishing Boat to check our own calculations, because we were able to work out quantities on that stamp from the impression totals reported for each cylinder. Those totals are shown on Page 6.

On the 23¢ Flag, *TPN* reader Mike J. Stefun was able to calculate possible ranges of quantities printed with each combination of plate numbers before stamps with the numbers A333

were issued. (See his article in *TPN* for September 1992, Page 99)

He was able to calculate exact production for A111, giving it an impression total of 577,196, or 10,966,724 maximum PNCs.

For the other plates, Stefun ranked them by making assumptions on the quantity of A112 that was printed.

The quantities he calculated, using 100,000 impressions as the assumption for A112, was as follows:

A112	100,000
A122	84,691
A212	548,057
A222	124,836

This would mean that A122 should be the scarcest 23¢ Flag while A111 and A212 should be common.

Please turn to Page 6

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A NEW STUDY GROUP

Michael D. Kinney is interested in starting a study group on the Great Americans Series. Kinney collects them as plate blocks from all positions.

Creation of a study group to parallel the work of the PNC Study Group would be a wonderful idea, even though the Bureau Issues Association has a Tagging Committee, which should be doing this work. Kinney is a member of BIA.

You may readily ask: "Why set up two groups?"

The answer is quite simple. BIA, like most philatelic organizations, believes in publishing material only after the studies are "completed." In effect, what this means is that very little information is published about work in progress.

The PNC Study Group has never held to such dogma. It has always published all information just as soon as it became available. And the result has been fruitful.

That's because no one knew what to study, what was important and what was not, what finding had importance in relation to another finding.

To put this into real terms, let's recall the direction we came from with regard to PNCs.

Step 1—It was necessary to learn what plate numbers existed and how they were paired.

Step 2—Dennis Chamberlain discovered that precancel gaps could be in more than one position. This led to the change from collecting strips of three to collecting strips of five.

Step 3—Jerry Clark first plated some of the precancels on the 17¢ Electric Auto.

Step 4—Richard Nazar noticed differences in the papers on which the Transportation Series was printed. (No one has ever tackled the papers on the Flags or the Miscellaneous Series.)

Step 5—Steve Esrati and Jerry Clark noticed tagging breaks on some Cottrell-printed PNCs.

Step 6—Kim Cuniberti developed a theory on why precancel gaps move across the web.

Step 7—Dr. Leon Cheris asked an innocent question about the "small flexographic mats" used by BEP after the fire that destroyed two Cottrell presses.

Step 8—Cuniberti and Nazar asked Esrati for chronological data to show printing dates to try to line up tagging gaps, paper types, and events at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. In doing this, Nazar noted that Great Americans were often printed on the same dates as some of the PNCs, and even on the same presses.

Step 9—Cuniberti put it all together in what we have called $E=MC^2$, the definitive analysis that explained much of what we had found but did not understand about PNCs. That article led the January 1991 issue of *TPN* and was probably the most important thing we ever printed. (It is

The Plate Number

and Great Americans Review

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still available from *TPN* for \$3.50.)

But in doing his work, Cuniberti had to go after bits of information that we had paid no attention to previously, such as Larry Haynes' report that on a visit to BEP he had seen some odd precancel mats. That turned out to be the clue from which Cuniberti was able to build $E=MC^2$.

And then we could explain almost everything we found on PNCs.

There should be some related developments on the Great Americans which, although never used for precancels, went through the same transition from the Cottrell presses to other presses. There should be some parallel to the Cottrell paper types.

Which brings us back to the Great Americans.

Some Great Americans exist on papers that exactly match those of PNCs, except for the fact that they are turned by 90 degrees because of the way they were printed.

We have also found our first tagging breaks, caused by the use of makeshift tagging mats for Cottrell Press 803, just as we did among PNCs.

We are making a preliminary effort in this issue to list some of the paper types, but we cannot yet do so for each plate number.

For its part, this *TPN* is starting a BEP plate-activity report that will enable us to establish time lines that we can relate to PNC production. It is likely that when this work is complete, we will have indications of what to look for in the way of distinctions.

In the meantime, we are still in the early stages of Step 1, trying to learn what stamps exist with what plate numbers. That's why we print the charts in every issue, hoping that someone will add information.

(Kinney did supply data on plate numbers for some untagged errors in this edition of *TPN*.)

Kinney welcomes comments from readers at 1430 Daly Ave., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494. We wish him well. ♪

A FEW WORDS OF THANKS

When I returned from vacation in late October, I rushed to get *TPN* out. Despite jet lag, I worked three 15-hour days, bringing the *TPN* Average up to date, scanning in Pedro Ortegon's late-arriving cartoon, setting type for Bob Rabinowitz's last-minute ad, adding information that re-

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.

quired telephone calls all over the United States, and, finally, getting the computer to print it all out.

It was a lot of work, as each issue seems to be. But it beats turning into a couch potato. One has to do something with one's time, especially in retirement.

But there should also be a paycheck. *TPN* has never lost money, but it isn't making it, either.

In 1992, the gross profit from subscriptions and ads, less postage and the high cost of printing, was just under \$2,500. If the telephone bills relating directly to *TPN* are subtracted, as well as the costs of software updates and computer maintenance, the profits are probably under \$500.

This is not said as a complaint, nor even to ask for more ads or to raise the subscription price. It is said because I'm grateful that *TPN* has kept me from going stir crazy.

And I thank all of you, subscribers, advertisers, contributors, and even critics for making it possible. ☞

LETTERS: Untagged 2¢ Locomotive from Plate 8 is found

I would like to report a find of a very, very beautiful 2¢ Locomotive from Plate 8 that is untagged. The stamp is used.

I also have a 2¢ Locomotive overall tagged (off the B Press) with an untagged 1mm (1/16th inch) stripe across the bottom of the stamp.

Ken Moreau
Franklin, Mass.

In reply: Both finds have not been reported previously. B Press tagging mats had two seams. Two mats were used together. But a tagging break would show up as a vertical untagged line across the stamp, such as the ones found on many other B Press PNCs. A horizontal line is new to us.

E&S reports sought

My son, Paul, and I wish to supplement our recent contribution to the statistics in *TPN* on what people find in mixtures. We suggested then that it would be interesting to tabulate finds on the 10¢ Eagle & Shield stamp, so as to determine if any incidence of scarcity of mint strips was due to most of the stamps being used by mailers.

David Rickard, 8, also helped us find those numbers.

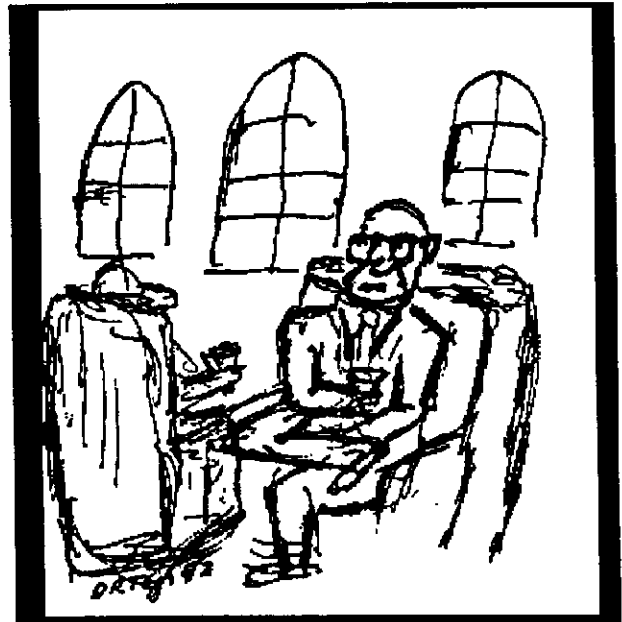
Gary Wulfsberg
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

In reply: The following is all of the scanty data supplied so far on E&S stamps. We welcome more:

Number	Impressions	Max. PNCs	Found
A11111	350,981	6,668,639	12
A11112	131,550	2,499,450	3
A12113	11,379	216,201	
A12213	20,674	392,906	1
A21112	292,031	5,546,589	16
A21113	46,304	879,776	
A22112	156,993	2,982,967	13
A22113	351,713	6,682,547	20
A32333	15,239	289,541	1
A33333	50,275	955,225	2
A33334	19,743	375,117	
A33335	21,404	406,676	5
A34424	45,636	867,084	1
A34426	221,250	4,203,750	3
A43324	11,364	227,126	
A43325	111,243	2,113,617	8

Pedro's World of PNCs

by Pedro Ortegon, M.D.



"Congressman, you weren't involved in the House post office scandal were you?"
"No, that was just a numbers game."

Number	Impressions	Max. PNCs	Found
A43326	155,685	2,958,015	5
A43334	351,255	6,673,845	20
A43335	280,622	5,331,818	15
A43426	82,960	1,576,240	3
A53335	28,322	538,118	
A54444	140,931	2,677,689	10
A54445	129,534	2,461,146	10
A77777			2
Totals		57,528,882	148

Included in the above are the Wulfsbergs' figures and the results of Wayne Meyers' dumpster diving.

Down in the dumpster

The above list includes commercial covers I found in the trash from June 1, 1992, through Nov. 30.

Note the rarity of numbers beginning with "3." Can you explain this?

(In reply: See the impression totals.)

Also enclosed is a photocopy of a cover with numbers "A77777" I found in the trash. I made a photocopy and had the window clerk date the copy for me (Nov. 13, 1992). Is this the earliest known usage?

(In reply: Until an earlier one is reported.)

On the enclosed cover with the 23¢ USA A2222, note the spray-on cancel. Is every piece canceled by these machines, with or without tagging?

Wayne Meyers
Union, N.J.

(In reply: Your bar-coded cover received an automation discount. That also required the mailer to face the covers,

so tagging is not required for the machines to find the stamp.

Strictly speaking, the spray marking is not a cancel, but it does the same job, it defaces the stamps.

Interesting

The info on the Great Americans has been interesting, even though it's outside the PNC area. Anything on the various paper types on the Great Americans would be interesting along with the tagging types.

John Bensko

Memphis

In reply: What we know is in this issue. We need help for more.

TPN is all wet

Despite extensive publicity otherwise, the fact is that Scott has listed the black offset color missing error since the 1991 *United States Specialized Catalogue*. The only question concerns whether or not all stamps referred to in the footnote actually have black ink on them.

William W. Cummings

Catalogue Editor

Sidney, Ohio

In reply: TPN regrets the error.

Untagged Greats

You do not list the 40¢ Chennault untagged. I have it.

The same holds true for the 25¢ London sheet stamp, which I have on commercial cover tied with an untagged 4¢ Flanagan that is also untagged.

Alphonse D. Ponzillo

Waterbury, Conn.

Why not use Penny Blacks?

You put lousy stamps on your renewal cards.

I don't like your philosophy much anyway, but I suspect you need my subscription.

Howard Foster

Spokane, Wash.

A word of thanks

I would like to thank you for all the effort you and the contributing editors do on behalf of all PNC collectors. I enjoy every edition and do my best to read and understand it all.

James J. O'Connell, III

Redondo Beach, Calif.

\$1 Hopkins color variety

I've noticed two distinct color varieties on the \$1 Johns Hopkins: a grayish blue and a deep blue. Both seem to be available in equal quantities. I have 13 of each from my mail.

Dennis Chamberlain

Davis, Calif.

In reply: Dennis, one of the earliest members of the PNC Study Group, may have found a clue to how to differentiate the overall tagging on Plate 1 from the prephosphored paper Plate 1.

The stamp he calls grayish blue has a yellow cast under

shortwave UV. The tagging is quite obviously over Hopkins' face.

On his deep blue variety, the yellow is gone and Hopkins' face is clear.

Simple question, complex reply

Why did American Bank Note print more of the 23¢ Flag presorts when the 23¢ USAs were already available?

Gerald Clark

Midvale, Utah

In reply: The Flag presorts were an expedient that became necessary when the 10¢ Tractor Trailer generic precancel came under fire from mailers of first-class mail. They had to add an endorsement (even overprints) saying "First Class."

So the Flag presorts were made by using the flag from the gravured 29¢ Flag and adding text. They were made in small and large rolls. Nobody pretended that they were beautiful, just useful.

Under the "peace treaty" between the Postal Service and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, BEP was no longer to print coils in rolls larger than 3,000, which many mailers wanted. BEP, however, was to print smaller rolls, but never on a "hurry-up" basis.

One part of the complex "peace treaty" required lengthy lead time for BEP to produce stamps. This precluded asking BEP to print small rolls of the 23¢ Flags and greased the skids for ABN to get the printing order, even for small rolls.

When the Postal Service ordered the 23¢ USA stamps to replace the 23¢ Flags, BEP was to print the smaller rolls while ABN was to print the large rolls.

But before BEP could make rolls of 500 and 3,000 of the USA stamps, big mailers whose equipment did not permit use of USA coils of 10,000 (already available from ABN), called for more small rolls. USPS could do nothing but to ask ABN to print more. And that's why A333 was printed.

What is not explainable is the intentional strangling of BEP by the Bush and Reagan administrations. The 1989 report by the Government Accounting Office summed it up like this:

First, in 1981, as part of the new [Reagan] administration's emphasis on privatization, Treasury suggested to the Postal Service that it explore contracting out stamp production to the private sector. Second, since 1982, Postal Service officials have projected that future stamp demand would eventually exceed the Bureau's capacity, necessitating increased sources of private sector stamp production.

GAO noted that former Treasury Secretary James A. Baker III supported the Postal Service's demand to contract out stamp production, adding:

Postal Service officials maintain that stamp production costs could be reduced and stamp quality could be improved if the Bureau acquired a modern facility to replace its 75-year-old facility. They contend that the vertical layout of the current facility contributes to excessive material handling, and the inability to control temperature and humidity contributes to an increased number of defective stamps, which increases stamp costs. Postal Service officials said they believe that these problems could be corrected by a modern, single-level, environmentally controlled production facility.

As long as the Treasury (which "owns" BEP) was controlled by people who wanted to privatize stamp production, there was no chance that BEP would get a new building. Meanwhile, a new "peace treaty" will have to be negotiated soon, and chances are that BEP will lose even more stamp production.

Eventually, this may mean that we shall have no more duplicated issues such as the 29¢ Flag over Mt. Rushmore, the 5¢ Canoe, or the 23¢ USA presort. One printer will do the whole job.

Used Yosemite update

Since I wrote the article on the incidence of used PNCs, [TPN, November 1992] some new information has become available on the 25¢ Yosemite issue.

I have received one updated price list as well as lists from two additional dealers not originally surveyed. Of note is the fact that the updated list raised the price on phosphored Plate 1 (1P) by \$10 and the 1P was not even listed on either of the two new lists (all other Yosemite were listed).

Also, I have had the opportunity to go through a hoard of used PNCs that has not previously been reported on. Since the hoard is not mine, I am not at liberty to go into specifics, but I can provide some useful information. The number of Yosemite PNCs is in four figures and the source is regional rather than local or national. Of the four highest-priced Yosemite (1B, 1P, 6P, 15P), there were no large numbers, so their scarcity is still intact.

Also of note was the fact that 2P and 3P were present in relatively low numbers compared to the 13Ps and 14Ps (2P and 3P were issued between 13P and 14P). Since that is also the case for the reports to TPN, I again suggest 2P and 3P may be somewhat underpriced.

Last, there was a typo on the article (my fault, not TPN's). In the last paragraph, 7P should have been 7B.

Is there any reason that TPN doesn't include the Toledo browns in the incidence chart.

Doug Iams
San Jose, Calif.

In reply: If Toledo browns are reported, TPN will list them. So far there have been no reports.

UPDATE: New stamps, new finds,

New stamps

- 4T1X—Plate 1 of the 4¢ Steam Carriage, tagging break at 9L. (Smith)
- 5T(A1)YX—Plate 1 of the gravured 5¢ Circus Wagon in rolls of 10,000. Nov. 30 (before stamps went on sale). (Dr. Rabinowitz)
- 5T(A2)YX—Plate 2 of the gravured 5¢ Circus Wagon in rolls of 10,000. Nov. 30 (before stamps went on sale). (Dr. Rabinowitz)
- 23F(A2222)PX—The plate-number combination A2222 on the 23¢ USA. Nov. 10. (Dr. Rabinowitz)
- 29F6X—29¢ Flag Over White House, Plate 6. Imperforate partial roll of 100. (Esrafi)
- 29F8X—29¢ Flag Over White House, Plate 8. On commercial cover from Hartford, Conn., dated Nov. 24, 1992. (Grandahl via Cibulakus) Mint rolls of 100. Dec. 1. (Wigger)

TPN corrections

Page 132—The lower chart was affected by computer errors that threw some of the columns out of line. A corrected version appears this month.

Data Bank of Official Information

USPS texts except for [bracketed] additions by TPN

FDC deadline extended

The deadline for ordering first-day-of-issue postmarks for the ECA GARD version of the Postage and Mailing Center (PMC) stamp has been extended from Aug. 22, 1992, to April 30, 1993, to allow customers ordering the stamps by mail the opportunity to obtain the postmark.

*Philatelic Release 92-085
Received at TPN Nov. 20, 1992*

5¢ Circus Wagon

The 5¢ Circus Wagon coil of 10,000 stamps goes on sale Dec. 8 in Cincinnati, Ohio. This stamp design is identical to the 5¢ Circus Wagon 500- and 3,000-stamp coils manufactured by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

Do Not Place On Sale Before Dec. 9, 1992

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*Customer Service Support, 11-12-92
Postal Bulletin, Nov. 12, 1992*

Circus Wagon stamp in coils of 10,000 issued Dec. 8

The Postal Service issued a gravure version of the 5¢ Circus Wagon stamp in coils of 10,000 on Dec. 8 in Cincinnati, Ohio. First-day-of-issue cancellations will be available by mail order, but no dedication ceremony was conducted.

An intaglio version of the stamp, in coils of 500 and 3,000 was originally issued in Syracuse, N.Y., on Aug. 31, 1990.

Issue: 5¢ Circus Wagon Stamp
Format: Coils of 10,000
Issue date: Dec. 8, 1992
First-day City: Cincinnati, Ohio
Manufacturing process: Gravure (American Bank Note Co., contractor; Guilford Gravure, printer)
Color: Red (PMS 186)
Size: Image .71x.82 inches/18.0x20.8mm
Overall .87x.96 inches/22.1x24.4mm

Plate numbers: One preceded by the letter "A" [A1 and A2 found]

[Press: Andreotti (19 strips of 24)]

[PNC Catalog Numbers: 5T(A1)Yi and 5T(A2)Yi]

*Philatelic Release 92-086
Received by TPN (by FAX) Dec. 14, 1992*

Editor's note: This arrived, at our request, by facsimile machine. We had to pay \$4.50 to receive it through our printer. It was sent out to Linn's that day, too, eight days after the first day.

VARIETIES, ERRORS

1864 Laubach Overall Tagged:

Plate 2 UL Plate block \$50.00
Plate 2 UL Plate strip of 20 \$119.00
Single stamps \$3.95 each

C118 Langley Overall tagged:

Plate 999999-1 UR Plate block \$25.00
Plate 999999-1 UR Plate strip of 20 \$75.00
Plate 999999-1 Full pane of 50 \$119.00
Single stamps \$3.00 each

Toledo Brown Mt. Rushmore:

Plate 7 strip of 5 VF \$125.00
Plate 7 strip of 5 XF \$150.00
VF singles \$2.50; XF \$3.00—Order 10 or more singles, deduct 25%. Plate strips of 7 available, add \$5

2280B Yosemite PS of 5 # 13

Number 50% gone \$12.00

2168 Mitchell:

Bottom pane, block of 58, No plate number. Contains 15 totally untagged stamps (error) and 43 stamps with a tiny dot of taggant above Mitchell's head. Interesting piece.
\$80.00

2170 White:

Plate block, untagged error \$50.00

Payment with order. You'll love the quality of my stamps. 10-day return if not satisfied.

David M. Schwartz

P.O. Box 762 Groton, CT 06340-0762

A P S

P N C³

ABN provides printing totals per plate number

Continued from Page 1

ABN also reported that it had printed 129,037 impressions of the 23¢ Flag stamp with the numbers A333. That would place the maximum number of PNCs at 2,451,703.

The November 1992 plate-activity report was sent out by the Postal Service Stamp Product Development Branch. There were no data from BEP whatsoever, just from printers in the private sector. The last report from BEP was for activity in November 1991, which was contained in the May 1992 report.

ABN's breakdown of printing totals for each plate-number combination is unprecedented. In the past, I tried to calculate such figures based on the insufficient data presented by BEP. As can

be seen in recent issues of the *Plate Number Coil Catalog*, I never quite succeeded.

In a few instances, USPS and BEP were able to provide more complete data, after I requested those data. But in some instances, printing quantities have always been incomplete. It was never clear why the numbers could not be released in the same form as those now made public by ABN. After all, BEP had those data.

Another thing that is unprecedented in the new data from

'G' Stamps		
Number	Impressions	Max. PNCs
A1111	1,468,470	27,900,930
A1112	175,122	3,327,318
A1212	174,703	3,319,357
A1211	50,786	964,934
A2211	24,990	474,810
A2212	198,657	3,736,483
Nonprofit 'G' Stamps		
Number	Impressions	
A11111	1,356,594	
A21111	707,508	

19¢ Fishing Boat		
Number	Impressions	Max. PNCs
A1111	5,860,968	111,358,392
A1112	4,658,382	88,509,258
A1212	1,341,590	25,490,210
A2424	5,626,964	106,912,316

ABN is that they provide data on stamps that have not yet been issued, specifically the "G" stamps. In the past, even when BEP reported such figures to the Postal Service, the USPS cut them out of the plate-activity reports. □

Gravured 05 Circus Wagon shifts plate numbers to left

The plate numbers (A1 and A2) on the gravured 05 Circus Wagon isn't centered, but under the little wheel.

The reason for the apparent shift to the left, a spokesperson for ABN said, is that the "A" is always at the same location. "If this had been a four-digit plate number, the number would have been centered," she said.

The stamps were printed on an Andreotti press at Guilford Gravure, using a new fine-line screen that makes the dots invisible under magnification.

In other news from ABN, in mid-December ABN was printing 19¢ Fishing Boats (with

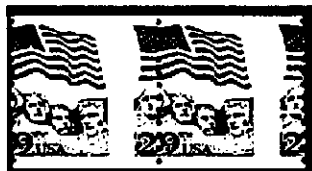
the plate numbers A5555) and "G" stamps.

The spokesperson said another press run of the 10¢ Eagle and Shield would start soon. She indicated that the initial run would be "A77777," but that it is possible there could be a plate change later.

She reaffirmed that at each plate change the printers are instructed by USPS to send quantities to the Philatelic Sales Division in Kansas City, but said the quantity put aside for collectors varies with each printing order from the Postal Service.

Covers exist dated Dec. 7, a day before the first-day. □

BUYING ERRORS



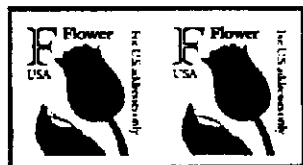
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APS

BIA

GAO report says BEP charges more for printing

The General Accounting Office has come up with findings that it costs more to print stamps at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing than at private printing firms.

In making its comparison, GAO looked at eight pairs of stamps. It found that the difference in cost was from 13 cents to \$8.18 lower per thousand stamps.

But the comparison made by the GAO was like comparing apples to oranges.

BEP is barred by the Washington EPA from using oil-based inks. The private printers can still use them.

BEP is also barred by EPA from allowing certain solvents in the air. The private printers are under no such restriction.

The Bureau said GAO's findings could not be projected to other stamps.

Finally, GAO ignores its own finding in its Dec. 1989 report on stamp production that the BEP plant is obsolete. The private sector, not being dependent on a Treasury Department that will not allow it to build a modern plant, has the advantage of modernity.

But even these distortions do not reflect the fact that BEP prints a whale of a lot more stamps than the private sector.

In this issue of *TPN*, we tried to find out something about the \$1 Revel, more than 500 million of which were destroyed (See Page 14). We could not find out from the only people who knew, the postal officials who are no longer there but who made it a mission to privatize stamp production. All we could learn was that BEP delivered the stamps, but we do not know who ultimately paid for the destroyed stamps.

The GAO made no recommendations. But it said "it agrees that it is necessary to maintain the Bureau as a stable, secure source of stamps." □

HELP CALIFORNIA IS SUFFERING FROM THE GREATEST RECESSION SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION. BUT..., NOT ALL IS LOST. YES YOU CAN HELP THIS GREAT STATE SURVIVE BY SPENDING SOME OF YOUR GREENBACKS IN CALIFORNIA. I WILL HELP YOU DO THAT. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS BUY ONE OR MORE OF THE ITEMS SHOWN BELOW. ALL MONIES RECEIVED WILL BE SPENT IMMEDIATELY TO STIMULATE THE LOCAL ECONOMY. (NO HOARDING, I GUARANTEE IT.) THANKS, BUT NO FOOD STAMPS ACCEPTED AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, USABLE MINT U.S. POSTAGE ACCEPTED AT FULL FACE VALUE.

INTRODUCING ... ULTRA-LUM ULTRAVIOLET HAND-HELD LAMPS

THESE POWERFUL ULTRAVIOLET LAMPS ARE THE PERFECT ANSWER FOR THE STAMP COLLECTOR SEEKING AND IDENTIFYING TAGGING VARIETIES AND ERRORS. EACH LAMP IS HOUSED IN AN ATTRACTIVE AND DURABLE SILVER ANODIZED ALUMINUM HOUSING. ITS PROFILE DESIGN FITS COMFORTABLY IN THE HAND WITH THE OFF/ON SWITCH PROPERLY PLACED FOR FINGERTIP CONTROL. BUT **MOST IMPORTANT** IS THE USE OF LONG-LIFE, UV-TRANSMITTING FILTER GLASS ASSURING HIGHER UV INTENSITY FOR THOUSANDS OF HOURS OF USE.

OF THE 24 DIFFERENT COMMERCIAL UV LIGHT MODELS AVAILABLE, I RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING:

HAND-HELD LAMPS

PART NUMBER	WAVELENGTH	NO. OF TUBES	WATTAGE	NET WEIGHT	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE
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95-0010-05	254nm S.W.	ONE	FOUR	1 lb.	\$135.00	\$109.00
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THIS SHORT WAVE LAMP IS IDEAL FOR DETECTING U.S TAGGING VARIETIES AND LOOKING FOR UNTAGGED ERRORS.

95-0011-11	365nm/254nm	TWO	TWO X SIX	2 lbs.	\$210.00	\$169.70
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THIS COMBO SHORT/LONG WAVE IS THE ABSOLUTE BEST ALL-AROUND UV LIGHT ON THE MARKET. EACH SEPARATE BULB FEATURES SIX WATTS, 50% MORE THAN THE ONE ABOVE, AND ALSO FEATURES LONG WAVE FOR IDENTIFYING FLUORESCENT PAPER AND INK VARIETIES; ALSO USED FOR DETECTING ALTERED STAMPS, COVERS, DOCUMENTS.

LIGHT SHIELD FOR USE WITH EITHER LAMP ABOVE (SNAPS ON AND OFF LAMP HOUSING)	\$15.00	\$10.00
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DESIGNED TO SHIELD YOUR STAMPS FROM EXTRANEIOUS LIGHT. ALLOWS USE OF UV EVEN IN A WELL-LIT ROOM.

POCKET-SIZE LAMPS

95-0005-04	254nm S.W.	ONE	\$29.95	\$24.20
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THIS POCKET-SIZE LAMP USES BATTERIES AND IS ALL YOU NEED FOR FINDING VALUABLE UNTAGGED ERRORS AND OTHER TAGGING VARIETIES AT YOUR POST OFFICE. IF YOU ARE JUST STARTING OUT OR ARE ON A BUDGET, THIS IS IT.

95-0005-03	365nm L.W.	ONE	\$19.95	\$16.12
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THIS LONG WAVE LIGHT COMPLEMENTS THE SHORT WAVE ABOVE FOR IDENTIFYING FLUORESCENT PAPERS & INKS.

INTRODUCTORY OFFER: FREE LIGHT SHIELD WITH PURCHASE OF HAND-HELD LAMP

ANNOUNCING: 2 NEW ULTRA VIEW (3-HOLE) ALBUM PAGES

DURABLE, LONG-LASTING POLYPROPYLENE pH 7.0 (NEUTRAL) WITH OUR STANDARD ACID-FREE PAPER INSERTS

SIZE No. 9,	8.5 X11 PAGE	SIX PAGES \$6.00 POSTAGE PAID
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ALLOWS YOU TO DISPLAY ALL TAG VARIETIES OF THE **GREAT AMERICANS** SERIES.

EACH PAGE DISPLAYS 18 PLATE BLOCKS OF 4 OR 18 MARGIN BLOCKS OF 6. (9 ON EACH SIDE).

SIZE No. 14,	8.5 X11 PAGE	SIX PAGES \$6.00 POSTAGE PAID
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ALLOWS YOU TO DISPLAY LONGER **PNC STRIPS** UP TO 12 STAMPS PER STRIP.

14 VERTICAL POCKETS PER PAGE, 7 PER SIDE. IDEAL FOR TAG BREAKS AND PRECANCEL GAPS, 7 DUPLICATE STRIPS.

STD. SIZE No. 1, FOR MOUNTING 50 STRIPS OF 5 OR 75 STRIPS OF 3. RECEIVE 25 MOUNTS 9½" LONG **\$6.00** POSTPAID

QUESTION: "DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PIGEON AND A CALIFORNIA REAL ESTATE BROKER?"

ANSWER: "A PIGEON CAN STILL MAKE A DEPOSIT ON A BMW."

30-DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE, UV HAND-HELD LAMPS SHIPPED UPS, PLEASE ADD FREIGHT COST.

HARRY MUEGGENBURG,
35525 BLUFF COURT, CARMICHAEL CA 95608

Average dealers' prices on E&S stamps Updated to Dec. 14, 1992

Number	PS/3	PS5	Number	PS/3	PS5
11111	\$2.98	\$3.27	34424	\$4.65	\$4.92
11112	\$3.04	\$3.27	34426	\$4.65	\$4.92
12213	\$16.01	\$16.97	43324	\$4.85	\$5.05
21112	\$2.98	\$3.27	43325	\$3.87	\$4.14
21113	\$4.66	\$4.93	43326	\$3.87	\$4.20
22112	\$2.98	\$3.27	43334	\$3.31	\$3.58
22113	\$2.90	\$3.18	43335	\$3.31	\$3.58
32333	\$190.00	\$187.50	43426	\$4.74	\$4.98
33333	\$5.63	\$5.89	53335	\$4.09	\$4.23
33334	\$87.39	\$90.22	54444	\$4.21	\$4.48
33335	\$4.64	\$4.91	54445	\$4.21	\$4.48
			77777	\$3.28	\$3.25

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. Most dealers are out of 32333.

Statistical fluke lowers average

The TPN Average is down a notch this month because of a statistical fluke.

As we do whenever *Linn's* publishes its PNC "Trends," we included the prices listed in the edition of Dec. 14. But those prices are also an average, and the compilers are not nearly as current as *TPN*. Therefore, the *Linn's* prices on many PNCs, were lower than our calculations in the November issue.

The table at the lower left points up the minute increases and declines.

Several stamps not included in our average are still showing increases, the precanceled 3.4¢ School Bus, the overall-tagged 4¢ Stagecoach, the scarcer E&S stamps, and Plate 8 of the 29¢ Mt. Rushmore, at least for VF and XF quality.

In his ads, Dr. Robert Rabinowitz has been saying that E&S A12213 (at \$16) is "underpriced." Our unweighted average of dealers' prices shows it at \$16.97. If it were included in the *TPN* Average (which corrects for F-VF quality), it would be shown at \$19.52. That would seem to indicate that Dr. Rabinowitz is correct.

Most dealers have run out of A32333 of the Eagle & Shields. Lucky is the collector who bought his or hers at \$3 or \$3.50 when the stamp was first found. One dealer who has some in stock is charging \$150 wholesale for the strips.

Collectors should be wary on the 10¢ Canal Boat on prephosphored paper. BEP quality was terrible. Even VF quality is hard to find in the big rolls. The stamps waver up and down across the web and side-to-side centering fluctuates from one plate number to the next. XF should carry a premium.

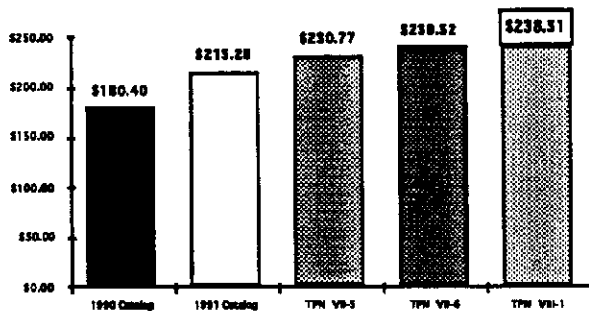
Ed Denson has put out a new price list, so his prices are back in the *TPN* Average after an absence caused by his unsuccessful career in politics.

Denson's list also provides a peek into one of his new endeavors, "The PNC Market Report." He sells the report, but he also buys and sells PNCs in accordance with the results of his studies.

Basically, he watches for the dealer whose prices are lowest on stamps that are showing upward price movement and then buys those stamps from him. But he says collectors can benefit from the list because it would help them "see what's going up now, and you'll spot bargains at shows, in stamps stores and even from PNC dealers."

According to his study, the phosphored Plate 1 of the 25¢ Flag had a 463% price hike from January through November and the overall-tagged 4¢ Stagecoach had one of 400%. □

TPN Average



Price changes of strips in TPN Average

CATALOG	SERIES	FACE	PLATE	TPN VII-6	TPN VIII-1	% Change
18F1	FLAG	18	1	\$514.87	\$510.65	-0.82%
18F3	FLAG	18	3	\$1,185.29	\$1,176.02	-0.78%
20F4	FLAG	20	4	\$902.62	\$889.70	-1.43%
20F11	FLAG	20	11	\$13.72	\$13.72	0.00%
22F1	FLAG	22	1	\$16.36	\$16.50	0.84%
22F3	FLAG	22	3	\$63.05	\$63.08	0.04%
25F5	FLAG	25	5 Block	\$5.52	\$5.50	-0.42%
25F5i	FLAG	25	5 Phos	\$10.78	\$11.06	2.57%
29F1	FLAG	29	1	\$5.81	\$5.81	0.00%
29F1X	WH FLAG	29	1	\$5.84	\$5.83	-0.20%
6.2T3	TRANS	5.2	3	\$199.87	\$201.02	0.58%
5.2T4P	TRANS	5.2	4	\$17.70	\$17.74	0.26%
5.9T3P	TRANS	5.9	3	\$29.28	\$29.49	0.71%
5.9T6P	TRANS	5.9	6	\$98.22	\$98.19	-0.04%
7.4T2	TRANS	7.4	2	\$12.88	\$12.95	0.54%
8.4T3P	TRANS	8.4	3	\$23.89	\$23.83	-0.24%
9.3T1P	TRANS	9.3	1	\$19.26	\$18.84	-2.21%
9.3T6	TRANS	9.3	6	\$319.67	\$317.79	-0.59%
9.3T8P	TRANS	9.3	8	\$214.54	\$216.63	0.97%
10.9T1P	TRANS	10.9	1	\$39.02	\$39.68	1.68%
10.9T4P	TRANS	10.9	4	\$420.47	\$423.55	0.73%
17T6	TRANS	17	6	\$21.16	\$21.13	-0.16%
17T6Pba	TRANS	17	6	\$55.20	\$55.58	0.69%
18T1	TRANS	18	1	\$111.90	\$110.23	-1.49%
18T3	TRANS	18	3	\$87.50	\$88.18	0.78%
18T17	TRANS	18	17	\$7.44	\$7.35	-1.24%
20T1	TRANS	20	1	\$198.15	\$196.01	-1.08%
20T2	TRANS	20	2	\$1,103.05	\$1,096.24	-0.62%
20T7	TRANS	20	7	\$178.83	\$181.39	1.43%
20T11	TRANS	20	11	\$100.57	\$100.82	0.25%
20T12	TRANS	20	12	\$12.59	\$12.59	0.00%
10U A33333P	E&S	10	33333	\$6.76	\$6.77	0.17%
19M A1112	FISH	19	1112	\$12.34	\$12.43	0.75%
29U 1211	F	29	1211	\$35.27	\$36.14	-0.35%
20M1	CONS	20	1	\$233.96	\$233.65	-0.13%
20M3	CONS	20	3	\$140.94	\$140.74	-0.15%
20o1	OFFICIAL	20	1	\$65.63	\$67.01	2.10%
22o1	OFFICIAL	22	1	\$92.45	\$91.66	-0.86%

Dummy Coil (Number on Gum)

\$50 for a strip of 10 (no discounts)

STEVE ESRATI
PO BOX 20130
SHAKER HEIGHTS, OHIO 44120

Plate 13 Yosemite has same flaw as Plate 8

Father Marian Douglas sent in a variety of the 25¢ Yosemite "ski slope." This one is different, because a skier would end up in the trees



above the "25." The Franciscan said it looks just as if someone had taken a chain saw and lopped off the trees at the right of the stamp.

The stamp was on a roll off Plate 13 found by Father Douglas's cousin's son.

The very same constant variety, found on every stamp in the roll of block-tagged Plate 8, was reported in *TPN* in May 1990 by James A. Courter II.

all the PNC news that fits we print
(and some Great Americans, too)

The strip began with four unnumbered 29¢ stamps followed by a PNC. But the next stamp showed "-- -- 18" followed by another normal stamp. The next stamp again showed the dashes.

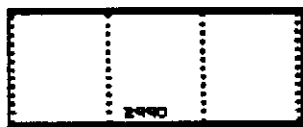
The stamps were generated from the Philatelic Sales Division's own ECA GARD machine by a postal employee, who noticed the aberration and took a pen to circle the dashes and write "BAD" on those two stamps.

It is not known what causes the machines to print stamps with the dashes, nor is the meaning of the "18" clear.

When such stamps were first found, it was believed that the "18" might represent the input from someone who wanted to buy 18 stamps and that this somehow worked its way to the printer. But at the PSD, surely, the person operating the machine would hardly desire a strip of 18, since the PSD sells them in strips of 30.

Coils of the future

Henry Karen of Michael M. Karen,



Inc., was the successful bidder for a roll of 3,000 of Stamp Venturers dummy coils with a counting number on the gum of every 10th stamp. Karen paid \$3,500 for the coil, which yielded 299 strips of 10. He set his retail price at \$45 a strip.

Karen's check and a matching one from Stamp Venturers were donated to the American Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund.

STAMP VENTURERS
3000
BACK NUMBERED
EAGLE LOGO COIL
FOR HURRICANE AUCTION 10/12/92

Karen sent along the label in which the roll came. It seems was especially printed at Karen's request.

UVMs say '-- -- 18'

Imagine the surprise of Bill Toutant at Artmaster when he received a strip of 30 UVM stamps that had the following configuration.

UVMs say '0.00'

Tom Maeder told Jerry Clark that when the technician changes UVM rolls in a PMC in California, he always runs off four or five test stamps. These are printed with a zero denomination to read "0.00."

Muñoz is different

Somebody erred at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in making up the printing plates for the 5¢ Muñoz Marin. The lower right and lower left plate blocks of four also contain the copyright inscription. The upper left and upper right blocks place the copyright in the third row, thus taking them out of the plate block.

BEP gets too sticky

A bulk mailer in Salt Lake City complained to the Postal Service that all his BEP-printed 23¢ USA stamps were imperforate.

Actually, the stamps were beautifully perforated, but the mailer found that his affixing machine was cutting them in half and he had to clean out the works after every fifth or sixth stamp.

The diagnosis that emerged was that the gum put on by BEP was too thick, causing the machines to jam.

Other mailers made similar complaints.

The stamps, by the way, were the first from BEP to carry a plate number on the tray label. (A tray holds 50 rolls of 500 and there are eight trays in a carton.)

23 CT P. C. 500'S PLATE 01
USA PRESORTED P. C. SELECT 50 COILS

As may be seen from the photo above, BEP got the plate number (1111) all wrong.

Kiwi rarity

Coming back from his second stint in Little America, Scott F. Smith of the PNC Study Group proved the philatelic dictum to keep hunting, even in the most unlikely places.

In New Zealand, Smith found a 9.3¢ Mail Wagon from Plate 4 with the pre-cancel gap at 3R.

That Scarcity D strip was reported in the 1991 *PNC Catalog* as having had only one find. Well, now there have been two.

Smith said he would try to trace it back on his next trip to the Antarctic in February.

Latest lottery results

Ordering from the Philatelic Sales Division is a lottery. You guess what *Stamps, etc.* means and get whatever they send you, and the two may not agree.

Two item numbers are given for the 10¢ Canal Boat. One says "nonprephosphored paper." But you get block tagging. The other says "coils of 100." You still get block tagging. It lists two 23¢ Casatts. Item 0043 gets you block tagging; Item T1043 brings in prephosphored stamps. You cannot get overall tagging there.

Three items are listed for the \$1 Hopkins. Item 1090 yields block-tagged Plate 1; Item N1090 yields Plate 1 overall-tagged; Item N1090 yields Plate 2 on prephosphored paper.

UVM splice found

Dr. John Greenwood has obtained a splice from a roll of UVMs. He said it looked just like the splice on the 16.7¢ Popcorn Wagon.

Last of the B Press?

The new 10¢ Canal Boat on shiny-gum, prephosphored Flag Series paper

may was printed on the B Press. (See story on Page 13 to prove that the B Press was not torn down as announced by an assistant postmaster general.) The interval between plate numbers turned out to be 52, proving its origin on the "defunct" press.

Is this EKU for real?

Dick Koenig has found what may be the first commercial cover carrying a UVM stamp, but it presents a bit of a problem.

The cover was in a business mailing from New Haven, Conn., on Nov. 13, 1992.

The rub is that New Haven does not have an ECA GARD PMC. So we call upon Sherlock Holmes to perform his usual magic. Holmes quickly came to a possible solution:

"PNC dealers and servicers of first-day covers who ordered large quantities of UVMS from the Philatelic Sales Division in Kansas City received five strips of 30, consisting entirely of 29¢ stamps.

"Dealers such as Al Haake and Dr. Robert Rabinowitz asked Kansas City to send them the daily limit of five strips on a daily basis. So did Artmaster in Louisville, Ky.

"They obviously disposed of their scrap. Judging by geography, the New Haven mailer obviously was using discount postage he had purchased from Dr. Rabinowitz.

"That still makes it a legitimate EKU on a commercial cover."

To check Holmes' ratiocination, *TPN* called Dr. Rabinowitz, who said he sold nearly \$1,000 worth of his scrap to A. S. Cibulskas.

But Cibulskas sold his scrap at 92% of face to places in the Southwest, not in Connecticut.

So this EKU is still iffy.

A word in time

A technician who services the PMCs that dispense UVMS in Detroit called the wife of a PNC collector to warn her that the machines were to be reprogrammed so they could no longer sell any UVMS below 19¢.

So Joann Lenz rushed to the post office to print up her "birthday" UVMS.

Each of these is a strip of three with a plate number and with the dates of birthdays and anniversaries spread across three stamps.

She made about 10 of them.

Which Circus Wagon?

When the Postal Bulletin announced the gravured 5¢ Circus Wagon it said it was copyright 1992.

The original 5¢ Circus Wagon was issued in 1990, so the copyright on the design was in 1990.

According to Dr. Michael Rybalka (*U.S. Specialist*, Oct. 1988):

USPS obtains a copyright for its new stamp designs in the year the designs are completed. The copyright year does not always coincide with the year of issuance. The 2¢ Mary Lyons definitive, for instance, was released in 1987 but bears a 1984 copyright date.

American Bank Note Co. was told to place a 1990 copyright on the wrapper label, and did so.

We miss you, Sara Jane Cullison

The philatelic boutique in Akron, Ohio, was the best in the country when Sara Jane Cullison ran it. She sold PNCs as strips of 10 and sold obsolete stamps until she ran out.

No more! Mrs. Cullison, a stamp collector, retired in 1991, and her replacement got her job by seniority. The replacement still has strips of 10, but lacks even the most basic current stamps. And she knows from nothing.

From best to hum-drum in a year. Ave, Sara!

ADLETS

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

WANTED PS 18s: Regular Perf'd 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. (6-93)

AT FACE, your extra mint postage same as cash. Use full face value when ordering from my competitive PNC-5 price list (Precancel 100%). Brian McPherran, PO Box 1786, Tacoma, WA 98401-1786. (1-93)

ARE YOU A MIXTURE SORTER? TPN needs your reports of what you find. Especially needed now are reports on the 29¢ Rushmore, the 25¢ Yosemite (only if you separate block-tagged from prephosphored), the 29¢ White House, and the 10¢ Eagle and Shield. Please don't leave it to the other guy, join in the effort!

☆☆☆ THE 1993 PNC CATALOG, LATE BUT STILL COMING ☆☆☆

Due to circumstances beyond my control, the catalog will be printed in the first quarter of 1993. I will send out notices for pre-publication orders. Richard J. Nazar, 34 Nottingham Way, Somerset, NJ 08873. (1-93)

TRADE PS 6 to PS18, plate/mat varieties, paper types, tag/precancel gaps. Send/have want list. John Bensko, 209 S. Idlewild, Memphis, TN 38104. (PNC3 1-93)

WANTED: Commercial covers of any Cottrell precancel PNC and any 10¢ Eagle/Shield PNC. Top prices paid. Rob Washburn, PO Box 840, Skowhegan, ME 04976. (PNC3 2-93)

PNCs BY SUBSCRIPTION: My customers got A32333 and A33334 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.

PNC 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. (1-93)

USED PS5 Rushmore #2 Lenz Paper on #6 envelope (certified mail), machine canceled. \$100. Scott Smith, 14150 E Temple #V-11, Aurora, CO 80015-1122. (1-93)

LIGHTHOUSE SUPPLEMENTS—15% off on all Lighthouse PNC supplements, Lighthouse UV lamps, Lighthouse stock books, or Lighthouse albums. An additional 5% off to members of PNC3. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (1-93)

JOIN PNC3 For details, write Gene Trinks, 3603 Bellows Ct., Troy, MI 48083. (1-93)

RARE PNCs

Brick Red Color Variety

20¢ Flag Plate #8 PS3.....\$2,000⁰⁰

Fire Pumper # 7 on FDC

Line Pair on Bazaar Cachet\$750⁰⁰

Imperforate 5.9¢ Bicycle Plate 4

Plate strip of 4.....\$850⁰⁰

Complete wholesale/retail list, January 1993—
Please send SASE.

Dennis Chamberlain

P.O. Box 4323

Davis, CA 95617

Try me, you'll like it!

You'll love my big discounts, my no-quibble return policy, my VF quality. This list (List 4) is good through March 3. 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 XP.



SALE: The rarest "F" stamp!!!
29U1211 PS/5 VF \$28; XF \$35.
10 strips VF \$250; XF \$315.

	PCS	PS6
1g Omnibus 1, 2, 5, 6	.55	.60
3, 4	1.10	1.25
8 Press 1, 2	.80	.90
Untagged 2	.70	.75
2g Locomotive 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10	.60	.70
8 Press 1	.65	.85
3g Handcar 1, 2, 3, 4	.90	1.00
3g Conestoga Wagon 1, 2	1.00	1.05
3g Scho of Bus 1, 2	1.50	1.65
PC 1, 2 (1R, No Gap)	6.50	7.00
4g 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, 8 Press 1	1.50	1.75
Overall tagged 1	17.90	18.00
4g Steam Carriage 1	2.00	2.25
Untagged	1.75	2.00
4g Backboard 3, 4	1.05	1.80
PC 1, 2 (1R, No Gap)	1.40	1.75
PC 3, 4 (2L, 1L)	5.75	6.50
PC 4 (No Gap)	—	13.75
PC 3, 4 (Line Gap)	5.75	6.50
PC 5, 6 (2R, PS/7)	—	7.00
PC 5, 6 (No Gap)	7.50	7.75
PC 5, 6 (1R)	—	7.50
PC 5, 6 (2L, PS/7)	—	7.00
PC 5, 6 (2L)	—	7.60
5g Motorcycle 1, 2, 3, 4	1.45	1.55
5g Milk Wagon 1	1.35	1.45
5g Circus Wagon 1	1.35	1.45
Same, untagged 1	1.75	1.85
Gravure, A1, A2	2.05	2.15
5g Carriage 1	1.10	1.25
Same, 2	1.90	2.00
Gravure S11	1.65	1.75
5.2g Sleigh 1, 2	10.75	15.00
3	195.00	200.00
5	185.00	190.00
PC 1, 2 (No Gap)	12.00	12.75
PC 3, 5 (No Gap)	11.75	12.80
PC 4, 6 (2L)	—	16.00
PC 4, 6 (No Gap)	15.00	16.00
5.3g Elevator 1	1.50	1.65
5.3g Star Route Truck 1	2.75	3.00
PC 1	2.15	2.25
PC 2	3.35	3.50
5.3g Bicycle 3, 4	12.50	15.00
PC 3, 4 (No Gap)	28.00	32.00
PC 5, 6 (Line Gap)	90.00	95.00
5g Tricycle 1	1.65	1.80
PC 1	2.20	2.50
PC 2	8.50	9.00
7.1g Tractor 1	2.65	2.75
PC 1	2.75	3.00
PC 1 "ZIP-4"	2.50	2.75
7.4g Baby Buggy 2	10.00	12.25
PC 2	3.70	4.20
2Z5 7.6g Carreta 1, 2	2.75	2.90
3	8.50	9.00
8.3g Ambulance 1, 2	2.00	2.25
PC 1, 2 (2)	2.10	2.25
PC 1, 2 (1L, Line Gap)	2.25	2.80
PC 3, 4 (No Gap, PS8)	—	11.50
PC 3, 4 (1R)	5.00	5.50
8 Press, 1	4.15	4.50
2	4.60	5.00
8.4g Wheelchair 1, 2	2.75	3.00
3	24.00	24.50
8.5g Tow Truck 1	3.00	3.30

	PCS	PS6
8.5g PC 1	3.60	4.00
PC 2	10.50	11.00
9.3g Mail Wagon 1, 2	12.75	15.50
3, 4	42.50	45.00
5, 6	280.00	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	275.00	280.00
10g Carrol Boat 1	1.90	2.00
Prephotosored 1 F-VF	2.80	3.00
Same, XF	4.80	5.00
10g Tractor Trailer 1	2.35	2.55
(10g) Eagle, Shield		
11111, 11112, 21112, 22112, 22113, 43334, 43335, 53335, 77777	3.30	3.50
21113, 33333, 33335, 43324, 43325, 43326, 43426, 54444, 54445	4.80	5.00
34424, 34426	5.80	6.00
12213	15.00	16.00
32333 NO DISCOUNT	225.00	225.00
33334	84.80	85.00
10.1g 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
10.9g Hanson Cab 1, 2	20.00	35.00
PC 1, 2 (Line Gap)	30.00	32.00
PC 1, 2 (1R)	—	50.00
3, 4 (Line Gap)	350.00	—
11g Caboose 1	5.00	5.50
PC 1	4.00	4.50
Untagged PC 2	2.25	2.50
11g Stutz 1, 2, 3, 4	2.00	2.50
12g Steamer 1, 2	2.35	2.70
PC 1, 2 (No Gap, Line Gap)	2.70	3.00
B Press PC 1	19.00	20.00
12.5g Plushcart 1	3.00	3.40
2	4.00	4.50
PC 1 Light olive, Illa	3.50	4.00
PC 1 Dark olive, Illa	3.75	4.25
PC 2	4.00	4.50
13g Patrol Wagon 1	3.20	3.50

	PCS	PS6
13.2g Coal Car 1, 2	3.00	3.25
14g Iceboat 1, 2, 3, 4	2.25	2.50
14g Iceboat 8 Press 2	4.00	4.30
15g Tugboat 1, 2 (Block)	3.25	3.65
Overall tagged 2	4.70	5.00
16.7g Poccon 1, 2	4.40	4.75
17g Auto 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3.50	4.00
6	20.75	22.00
7	5.50	6.00
PC 1C, 2C (F only)	9.00	9.50
PC 3A, 4A (2L, 1L)	4.75	5.00
PC 3A, 4A (Line Gap)(Low)	14.00	15.00
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
17g Dogged 2	3.20	3.60
17.5g Racer 1	3.15	3.50
PC 1	4.50	5.00
18g Surrey 1	100.00	110.00
2, 5, 6, 8	4.50	5.50
3, 4	75.00	78.00
7	44.75	50.00
11, 12, 15, 16	13.00	15.00
9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18	6.30	7.00
18g Flag 1	WANT	460.00
2	29.00	50.00
3	WANT	WANT
4	10.25	12.25
5	5.75	6.50
7	37.50	40.00
18g Wash, 1112, 3333	3.50	4.00
PC 1121	6.00	6.50
PC 3333	3.75	4.25
PC 33333 (dull gum, tagged)	6.75	7.25
PC 43444	8.50	9.25
19g Fishing Boat		
A1112	12.50	13.00
A1212	6.00	6.50

	PCS	PS6
A1111, 2424	3.25	3.50
20g Fire Pump 1	80.00	200.00
3, 4, 13, 15, 16	5.50	6.00
5, 9, 10	4.50	5.00
7, 8	100.00	180.00
12, 14	13.00	13.50
2	WANT	WANT
6	13.75	15.25
11	60.00	87.50
20g Consumer Ed. 1, 2	47.50	225.00
3, 4	45.00	145.00
20g Flag 1	9.50	90.00
2, 11	6.00	13.00
3, 12	5.00	7.00
4	65.00	WANT
6	90.00	160.00
5, 9, 10, 13, 14	5.00	6.00
8	5.00	16.00
PC 14	60.00	60.00
20g Official 1	22.50	65.00
20g Cable Car 1, 2 (block)	4.00	4.50
Overall tagged 2	6.00	7.00
20.5g Fire Engine 1	4.30	4.70
21g Rail Car 1, 2	4.00	4.70
21.1g 111111	4.00	4.75
111121	5.00	6.00
PC 111111	4.25	4.75
PC 111121	5.00	6.00
22g Flag 1, 7, 13	14.00	16.00
2, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 71	5.50	6.00
3	25.00	65.00
4, 6, 11, 17, 18, 20, 21	8.50	9.00
14	27.00	28.00
(22g) "D" Eagle 1, 2	6.00	7.50
(22g) "D" Official 1	50.00	80.00
23g Lunch Wagon 2, 3	4.00	4.50
23g Flag A111, 212, 333	4.00	4.50
A222 1st middle 2	4.00	4.50
A222 1st middle 2	5.00	5.50
A112, 122	5.00	5.50
23g USA A1111, A2222	4.00	4.50
Same, 1111	4.00	4.50
24.1g Tandem 1	4.85	5.30
25g Bread Wagon 1, 2, 3, 4	4.50	5.00
5	5.30	6.00
25g 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	49.50	50.00
Phos 2-3, 7-11, 13-14	4.00	4.50
Phos 6	16.50	17.00
(25g) "E" Earth 1211, 2222	6.50	7.00
1111, 1222	4.00	4.50
25g Honeybee 1, 2	4.00	4.50
1 Orig. tul serial	26.50	27.00
(29g) "F" Tulip		
1111, 1222, 2222	4.00	4.50
1211	27.50	28.00
2211	6.50	7.00
29g Flower S1111, S2222		
S11	4.00	4.50
S2222 (Perforated)	4.50	5.00
29g ML Rushmore Flag		
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	4.00	4.50
7 Toledo brown F	142.50	145.00
7 Toledo brown VF	170.00	—
8, 9	8.50	9.25
A11111, A22111	4.00	4.50
29g White House Flag		
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	4.00	4.50
29g UVM 1 (25g PS/5)	9.40	10.00
\$1 Sealane	7.00	9.00

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Great Americans

Scott	Description	Single	Margin	Inset	Margin	ZIP	G	Plate	Plate	Plate
			Block	Block	Block	Block	Block	Block 4	Block 1	Block 22
1844	1¢ Dix. BL	.10	.15	—	.75	.85	.85	WANT	1.50 (1)	3.00 (1, 2)
1844	1¢ Dix. BL SE	.10	.15	—	—	.75	—	1.00 (1)	—	—
1844	1¢ Dix. BE	WANT	WANT	—	WANT	WANT	.85	1.80	1.50 (1)	2.75 (1)
2168	1¢ Mitchell BE	.10	.15	—	.20	.25	.25	.30	—	—
1845	2¢ Stravinsky Cottrell	WANT	WANT	—	WANT	.25	.25	.35 (1-4)	—	—
2169	2¢ Lyon BL	.10	.15	—	.20	.25	.25	.30 (1, 2)	—	—
1846	3¢ Clay	WANT	WANT	—	WANT	WANT	WANT	WANT	—	—
2170	3¢ White BL	.10	.15	—	.25	.30	.30	.35 (3)	—	—
1847	4¢ Schurz Cottrell	WANT	WANT	—	WANT	WANT	WANT	.80 (1-4)	—	—
2171	4¢ Farragut BE	.10	.15	—	.25	.30	.50	.80 (1)	—	—
2171	4¢ Farragut UE	.15	.20	—	.30	.35	.60	.40 (1)	—	—
1848	5¢ Buck Cottrell	.15	.20	—	WANT	WANT	WANT	.70 (1, 2)	—	—
2172	5¢ Black BE	WANT	WANT	—	WANT	WANT	WANT	WANT	—	—
2173	5¢ Marfox OE	.15	.20	.70	.40	—	.45	.50 (1)	—	—
2173	5¢ Marfox UE	.15	.20	.70	.40	—	.45	WANT	—	—
1849	6¢ Lipmann BL	.15	.20	—	WANT	.45	.45	.60 (1)	.80 (1)	3.00 (1)
1850	7¢ Bakewell BL	WANT	WANT	—	WANT	WANT	WANT	.80 (1)	WANT	4.50 (1)
1851	8¢ Knox DL	.15	.20	—	.50	.70	.70	1.20 (3, 6)	—	—
1852	9¢ Thayer DL	WANT	WANT	—	WANT	.80	.80	WANT	1.50 (1)	5.00 (1)
1853	10¢ Russell BL	WANT	WANT	—	WANT	WANT	WANT	1.20SE	WANT	7.00 (1)
2176	10¢ Red Cloud BE	.30	.35	—	.70	.75	1.50	.85 (1)	—	—
2178	10¢ Red Cloud OE	.30	.35	—	.85T	.90T	1.75T	WANT	—	—
2176	10¢ Red Cloud PE	.20	.25	—	.75	.80	1.00	.85 (2)	—	—
1854	11¢ Partridge OL	WANT	WANT	—	WANT	1.00	WANT	1.60 (4, 6)	—	—
1855	13¢ Gray Horse Cottrell	WANT	WANT	WANT	—	WANT	WANT	2.20 (1, 2)	—	—
1856	14¢ Lewis BE	WANT	WANT	—	WANT	1.20	1.20	WANT	—	9.00 (1)
2177	14¢ Howe	.25	.30	—	.80	1.00	1.00	1.25 (1, 2)	—	—
2178	15¢ Cody BE	WANT	WANT	—	WANT	WANT	WANT	WANT	—	—
2178	15¢ Cody OE	.25	.50	—	1.10U	1.15U	1.15U	1.25U (1, 2, 3)	—	—
2178	15¢ Cody UE	.25	.60T	—	1.20T	1.25T	1.25T	1.35T (1)	—	—
2178	15¢ Cody PE	WANT	WANT	—	WANT	WANT	WANT	WANT	—	—
1857	17¢ Carson Cottrell	WANT	WANT	—	WANT	WANT	WANT	2.20 (14)	—	—
1858	18¢ Mason Cottrell	WANT	WANT	—	WANT	WANT	WANT	3.00 (1, 2)	—	—
1859	19¢ Seawright Cottrell	WANT	WANT	—	WANT	WANT	WANT	3.00 (60c)	—	—
1860	20¢ Burnet Cottrell	WANT	WANT	—	WANT	2.20	WANT	3.50 (11, 13)	—	—
1861	20¢ Gallaudet Cottrell	WANT	WANT	—	WANT	2.20	WANT	3.85 (1)	—	—
1862	20¢ Truman BL	.50	1.00	—	3.00	3.00	12.00	8.00 (1)	WANT	13.00 (1)
1862	20¢ Tru BL SE	.40	.80	—	2.50	—	10.00	5.00 (1)	—	—
1862	20¢ Tru BE	WANT	WANT	—	WANT	2.20	2.20	3.90 (2)	—	—
Special:	matched set of four corner plate (2) blocks: \$15.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1862	20¢ Tru OE	.50	.70U	—	2.50U	3.00U	3.00U	4.00U (3)	—	—
2179	21¢ Calson BE	.30	.35	—	1.30	1.40	1.40	1.55 (1)	—	—
1863	22¢ Audubon BL	.60	.70	—	WANT	2.20	2.20	WANT	2.40 (1)	13.00 (1)
1863	22¢ Audubon OE	WANT	WANT	—	WANT	WANT	WANT	2.65 (3)	—	—
2182	23¢ Cassatt BE	.50	.55	—	2.00	2.00	2.50	3.00 (1)	—	—
2182	23¢ Cassatt OE	WANT	WANT	—	WANT	WANT	WANT	3.00 (11, 21)	—	—
2182	23¢ Cassatt PE	.65	.75	—	2.00	2.50	2.50	3.00 (2)	—	—
2183	25¢ London BE	.40	.45	—	1.70	1.80	1.80	1.90 (1)	—	—

This stamp comes in dark and light blue. Prices same for either. Pair of singles of each is 80¢.

2184	25¢ Sitting Bull BE	.45	.50	—	1.80	1.80	1.90	2.00 (1)	—	—
2184A	25¢ Warren PE	.45	.50	3.00	1.80	1.80	1.90	2.00 (51)	—	—
1864	30¢ Lauch BL	.75	.80	—	3.25	4.00	4.00	5.00 (1)	WANT	19.00 (1)
1864	30¢ Lauch BL SE	.70SE	.75SE	—	3.00SE	3.50SE	3.50SE	4.50SE (1)	—	—
1864A	30¢ Lauch BE	.45	.50	—	2.05	2.15	2.15	6.50 (2)	—	—
1864A	30¢ Lauch OE	6.00	6.90T	—	27.50T	36.00T	36.00T	75.00 (2)	—	—
2185	35¢ Chavez PL	.50	.60	3.50	2.25	2.35	2.35	2.75 (51)	—	—
1867	38¢ Clark BL	1.20	1.25	—	4.80	4.80	4.80	6.00 (1SE)	WANT	35.85 (1)
1867	38¢ Clark BE	1.20	1.25	—	4.50	4.80	4.80	6.85 (2)	—	—
1868	40¢ Gilbreth BL	.85	1.00	—	3.25	4.00	4.00	0.75 (1SE)	WANT	23.90 (1)
1868	40¢ Gilbreth BE	.80	1.00	—	3.25	4.00	4.00	6.50 (2)	—	—
2186	40¢ Chennaut OE	.80	.85U	—	5.00U	—	3.65U	3.65	4.00 (1)	—
2186	40¢ Chennaut PE	WANT	WANT	WANT	—	WANT	WANT	WANT	—	—
2188	45¢ Cushing BE	.75	.85	—	2.80	2.80	2.80	3.00 (1)	—	—
2188	45¢ Cushing OE	.60	.70U	—	WANT	2.85U	WANT	WANT	—	—
1869	50¢ Nimtz OL	WANT	WANT	—	WANT	WANT	WANT	11.25 (1, 3)	—	—
1869	50¢ Nimtz BE	1.00	1.10	—	7.50	8.00	8.00	8.75 (1, 2)	—	—
1869	50¢ Nimtz OE	1.00	1.10T	—	4.30T	4.00T	5.00T	6.00T (3)	—	—
2190	52¢ Humphrey PE	.75	.80	4.50	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.45 (1)	—	—
2192	65¢ Arnold BE	.90	1.00	—	3.40	3.55	3.55	3.90 (1)	—	—
2193	75¢ Wilkie PE	1.00	1.10	5.50	3.50	3.65	3.65	4.00 (1)	—	—
2194A	\$1 Hopkins BE	WANT	WANT	—	3.50	—	—	7.00 (1)	—	—
2194A	\$1 Hopkins OE	1.50	1.65	—	6.25	—	—	7.00 (1)	—	—
2194A	\$1 Hopkins PE	1.50	1.65	—	6.25	—	—	7.00 (1)	—	—
2194A	\$1 Hopkins PE Lutz	1.50	1.65	—	6.25	—	—	7.00 (2)	—	—
2196	\$5 Harle BE	7.00	7.25	—	—	—	—	40.00 (1)	—	—
2196	\$5 Harle PE	7.00	7.25	—	—	—	—	35.00 (2)	—	—

These are not Great American stamps, but you probably don't have them.

1864	20¢ Flag BE	4.20	4.35	—	WANT	WANT	WANT	10.00	13.50	—
C118	45¢ Langley OE	3.00	3.25T	—	15.00T	20.00U	15.00T	25.00	—	—

Abbreviations used in descriptions: T=Tagging; B=Block; D=Overall; P=Phosphorescent; U=Untagged (or Untagged selvage)
 Perforations: L=L, Perforator; E=Excise hole in eye; SE=Straight edge

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What do you know? B Press is not defunct, but stands by

The supposedly defunct B Press at BEP, which was said to have been dismantled, apparently is still in existence and can print stamps.

Most recently it was used to print 1¢ Omnibus and 5¢ Circus Wagon.

That the B Press lives was learned from the reply to a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act filed by Alan Malakoff of the PNC Study Group.

What Malakoff sought to find out was the quantities printed on Plates 2 and 3 of the 25¢ Flag Over Yosemite, for which data are lacking.

Off-handedly, Malakoff indicated that since the press is no longer in use, the plates must have been retired and impression totals should, therefore, be available.

The answer was: "The B Press is still in operation."

The information that the B Press was facing its end came from a BEP spokesperson and was reported in TPN in July 1991.

Circus Wagon twins

Another question asked by Malakoff regarded the 5¢ Circus Wagon.

Two plates, were made for this stamps, both with the plate number "1."

Plate 186019-1 was assigned to the B Press on March 9, 1990; Plate 187031-1 was assigned to the B Press on July 5, 1990.

BEP never reported sending either plate to press in its summary of plate activity for the Postal Service, nor did it ever state that one of the plates had been canceled.

In response to Malakoff's questions, BEP said both plates were used to print the stamps.

But, Malakoff was told, Plate 186019-1 was canceled on July 20, 1990, just weeks after Plate 187031-1 was made.

Malakoff believes Plate 186019-1 may have been defective and that stamps printed from it may have been destroyed. □

Help wanted on Stravinsky

To try to figure out the tagging breaks found on the 2¢ Stravinsky, we request reports on full panes or any identifiable part of the panes that show untagged lines. We're looking for a horizontal break, too.

Let TPN know, please! □

USPS 'fixes' PMCs to stop printing 1¢ UVMs

It was almost inevitable. Although the Postal Service had warned that collectors would be limited in the printing of Universal Vending Machine Coils (UVMs) at Postal Mailing Centers (PMCs), this was hardly enforced.

So collectors printed tons of 1¢ stamps to obtain strips of five in a higher denomi-

nation and with a plate number.

In the beginning, collectors were considerate of other postal patrons, and allowed them to use the machines for mailing. But things got feisty in November in the Detroit region as collectors refused to give up the machines.

The Postal Service fixed that by repro-

gramming the Detroit-area machines to vend no stamps under 19¢, making it more expensive for those who were printing up numbered strips, especially people who were acting as agents for dealers.

The reprogramming, so far, appears to be limited to the Detroit area and Norman, Okla. □

MYSTERY: What happened to Plate 2 of the ill-starred Revels?

By Stephen G. Esrati

What could have been one of the greatest embarrassments ever to the U.S. Postal Service has now turned into an \$800,000 mystery.

The \$1 Bernard Revel stamp was issued in Sept. 23, 1986.

In 1987, collectors noticed that an engraver had secretly added a Star of David to the design just to the right of the mustache (as seen on the stamp).

The engraver of record for the vignette was Kenneth Kipperman of BEP.

USPS decided not to replace the stamp, but also decided not to reprint it.

USPS had been put into an awkward position. If it had replaced the stamp with one lacking the illicit star, every stamp catalog in the world would have depicted the two types, calling even more attention to the star.

On the other hand, if it would have printed more of the stamps with the star, it would have appeared open to charges that it was condoning what was possibly an anti-Semitic act.

So the USPS chose not to do anything at all, allowing the stamps that had been printed with the star to be used up.

On April 6, 1989, the *Postal Bulletin*, said BEP's stock of Revel stamps had been depleted. It urged postmasters to sell two 50¢ stamps instead.

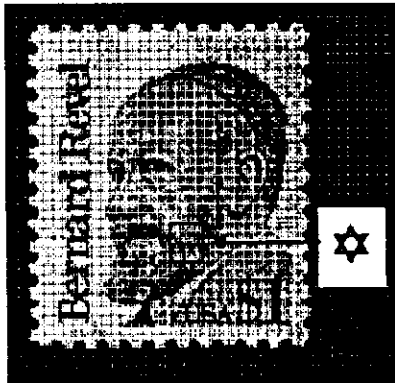
But something about all this is extremely fishy, although no one noticed it. I did as I was compiling the summary of Great Americans that begins in this issue of *TPN*.

Plate 1 of the Revel stamp was assigned on July 18, 1986, and was first sent to press on Aug. 21, 1986. When the plate was canceled in 1989 (three years later), BEP reported that it had run 747,991 impressions of the plate, or 598.3 million stamps.

Collectors have only found the Revel stamp with the plate number 1.

But there was a Plate 2. Stamps from Plate 2 have never been found by collectors.

That plate was assigned on Aug. 27,



1986, and was first sent to press on Sept. 6, 1986, more than two weeks before the stamp was to be issued. But that plate was canceled very quickly, not three years later as was the case with Plate 1.

Plate 2 was canceled Nov. 6, 1986. BEP said it had printed 670,991 impressions from it, or 536.8 million stamps. The cancellation date was only three months after the plate was assigned, an unusual haste for BEP.

Which brings up the first possible explanation. Is it possible that someone noticed the star long before it was spotted by collectors? Could Plate 2 have been made to replace the embarrassing Plate 1?

Nobody now knows. The people at the Postal Service who would have been in positions to know left USPS in the recent reduction of executives.

A USPS spokeswoman, Robin Minard, said the stamps would definitely have been delivered to the Postal Service. But, she added, the records for that period are no longer available.

In other words, no one in USPS can recall what happened to the 536.8 million stamps. The cost of printing those stamps is estimated at from \$805,189 to \$1.878 million, based on estimated costs of \$1.50 to \$3.50 per thousand provided by Ms. Minard.

George V.H. Godin, editor of the *Durand Standard Plate Number Catalog*, believes that Plate 2 did not have the Star of David.

That theory would only be possible if the star had been spotted almost immediately and a new master die had been made to produce Plate 2.

Yet it is difficult to understand why Plate 2 stamps were never distributed, especially where Plate 2 was printed only weeks after Plate 1.

So we move to the second possible explanation. Someone spotted the star before the stamp was to be issued. A new stamp was quickly ordered with the intention of replacing the stamps with the star.

But time was running out. Stamps had to be available on the official First Day of Issue. Apparently, Plate 2 did not quite make it in time. So it was never distributed.

Or, to come up with a third possibility, the star might have been spotted but officials in the Postal Service had already decided neither to reprint it or to replace it.

But that raises an interesting question. In view of the ghastly squabble that eventually resulted in USPS officials refusing to talk to BEP officials, someone had to account for the destruction of 536 million stamps.

Surely the Postal Service wanted the sizable charge placed on the books of BEP, since the star was put there illicitly at the Bureau. Perhaps it simply refused to pay for the printing of the stamps.

In any event, the \$1 Revel stamp was eventually replaced, in 1989, by the \$1 Johns Hopkins. The Revels carried the star up to the day they were withdrawn from philatelic sale on Aug. 31, 1989.

Perhaps that might explain the long life of the \$1 Eugene O'Neill coil stamp. □

Nonprofit rates up a notch

Some nonprofit postal rates went up on Oct. 4, 1992.

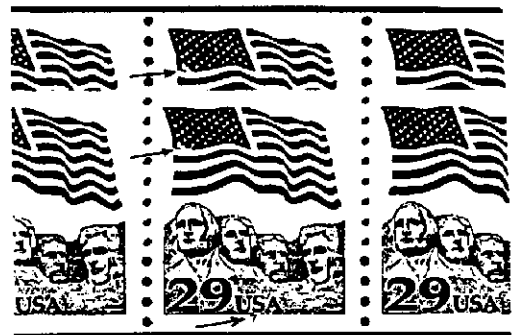
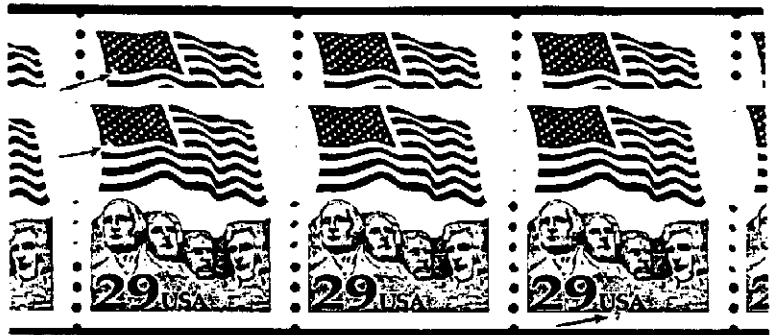
The rate increases did not affect the basic letter rate of 11.1¢, or the discounts available for automation or entry into the mailstream. The only change was in items weighing more than 3.3363 ounces and for mailpieces other than letters. □

CONTEMPORARY COILS

Kim Cuniberti, APS, PNC3

A few extraordinary goodies

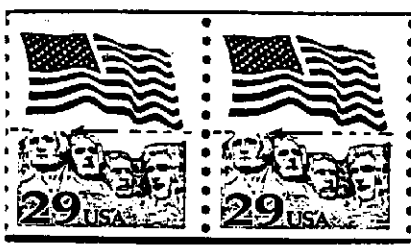
'TOLEDO BROWN' VARIETIES :



"HOLE IN THE FLAG" CONSTANT :

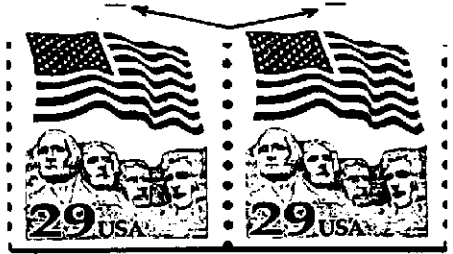
- 1L- NUMBER STAMP- PS 7: VF: \$195 ; XF/S: \$235
- 3L- PS 10: FVF: 175 VF: 195

ONE OF EACH GRADE & TYPE LISTED
AVAILABLE



TOP OF HEAD MISSING !!!

PER STAMP: VF: \$15; XF/S: \$20
PS5 SCARCE *1 CENTERED LIKE
PAIR ABOVE: \$ 895



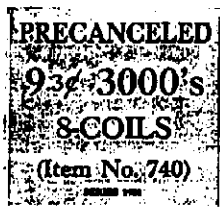
ELECTRIC EYE MARKS !!!

PER STAMP: VF: \$20; XF/S: \$25

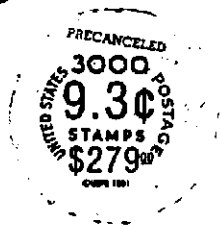
29¢ FLAG 'LENZ' PAPER *2

FVF: \$ 295
VF: 345
VF/XF: 425
NO XF/S

LABELS:



YELLOW PAPER:
\$ 75



VIOLET INK:
\$ 45

PNC exhibits start earning their just deserts, reap gold

By Stephen G. Esrati

Judging at stamp shows is a sometimes thing. Most of the time standard exhibits are examined by standard judges who apply standard criteria.

One must assume that the judges know what they are looking at. For that reason, shows place an especially high value on the description of the exhibit supplied by the exhibitor. That gives the judges time to bone up on the exhibits they are going to see.

Entering a PNC exhibit and calling it "U.S. Coils" is a sure way to be downgraded in judging. It is better to be as specific as possible, such as "The 20¢ Flag Coil" or "The Decimal Precancel on U.S. Transportation Coils."

But that still leaves open the question of what the judges know.

Let's examine a hypothetical show with two PNC exhibits.

Exhibit A includes examples of the original art work from which the stamps were made, an imperforate example of a 20¢ Flag spliced to a 17¢ Auto, and a BEP card celebrating the printing of the 25¢ Honeybee. The exhibit is called "Selections from a Specialized Plate Number Coil Collection."

That title indicates that no attempt has been made at completeness. It says this exhibit is intended to show selected material.

Exhibit B is a complete workup of the 5.2¢ Sleigh. It also includes the artist's model and includes every known precancel gap, including the only set with the gap at 3R.

Both exhibits have been prepared by a professional artist who was paid to do the writeup and, in the Sleigh exhibit, to draw explanations of the hash marks. Both have a title page that completely describes what the collectors wanted to show.

Finally, the two exhibitors chose to enter these powerful exhibits at a show where the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club was having a meeting, a factor that sometimes means one of the judges may be from inside the PNC fraternity.

So what we have are two superb exhibits. The mounting is perfect, the writeup is perfect. The material is superb.

On Saturday afternoon, the two exhibitors enter the exhibition hall and find they have both won vermeils, not golds. They are outraged. At the awards banquet that evening, both exhibitors are showered with special awards, a research award here, a PNC³ award there, an APS award here, a best-USA there.

At the judges' critique Sunday afternoon they get explanations. The judges praise both exhibits, and do not in the least feel they have slighted them. After all, they got vermeils and all sorts of special recognition, just no golds.

One of the judges allows himself to say this: "While I recognize the merit in Exhibit A, I darsay that because of the limited nature of the collecting area exhibited, this exhibit is simply not ripe for a gold medal."

Another says: "Judged against some of the gold-medal exhibits shown here, such as the superb 'Cats on Stamps' and Dr. Lotsa Moni's early U.S.—which has won large golds at five internationals—these coil exhibits simply are not in the same class."

The judge who was chosen from among the short list of PNC³ members who are qualified as APS judges feels he must make some sort of remark in defense of his *raison d'être*, says, lamely, "I thought these two exhibits merited a gold medal because the material shown is on a par with the Moni exhibit, which won the grand award, and the Cats exhibit, which, to my way of thinking, should not be competing against a traditional-philately stamp collection but should be segregated to a Walt Disney type of topical show. I really resent the idea that a collection worth no more than \$10 walked off with the Reserve Grand Award."

Now the two PNC exhibitors feel just a bit better, but they still have their vermeils and all their special awards, but no golds.

Sound fanciful? Sadly, I have seen such examples of uneven judging. All that having been said, here are some recent PNC exhibits and the prizes they picked up.

At HOUPEX 92 in Houston, Dr. Joseph Agnis won a silver-bronze and the PNC³ President's Award.

At AIRPEX XVII in Dayton, William DiPaolo won a silver and the PNC³ President's Award. Dr. Frank L. Shively Jr. won a silver.

At THAMESPEX in New London, Conn., Mary Ann Owens won a grand award, a gold, an American Topical Association gold, a PNC³ Achievement Award and the APS Medal of Excellence.

Also winning golds and the PNC³ Achievement Award were: Dr. Shively and DiPaolo. Ken Lawrence won a PNC³ Achievement Award and the PNC³ President's Award.

Silvers and the PNC³ Achievement Award went to Roland Grandahl and Rocco Caponi, who also won the American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS) Award.

Bronzes and the PNC³ Achievement Award were won by Dean M. Hawk, James Duffy, and Richard J. Lucia, who also won the AFDCS Award.

At the Eureka (Calif.) Stamp Show, George Capuzzo won a silver and the PNC³ Achievement Award.

At INDYPEX in Indianapolis, DiPaolo won a silver and the Award of Honor of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE). Joyce Kirk won a silver and the AAPE Creativity Award.

At CHARPEX in Charlotte, N.C., DiPaolo won a gold.

It looks like PNC exhibits have finally overcome judges' prejudices and lack of knowledge. At THAMESPEX, they won three of the seven golds, plus the grand award (another gold). PNCs are finally in the major leagues.

VARIETIES PERF — TAGGING — ETC.

	Single	Block	P-Bk.		Single	Block	P-Bk.
1735 "A" (15) "L" Perf.....	30	120	1.50	2176 10¢ Red Cloud			
1862 20¢ Truman				Block tagged.....	30	—	1.50
"A" Press, Floating Pl. No.,			(20)	Overall tagged.....	30	—	1.50
L Perf, Block Tag (Small).....	50	3.00	12.00	Prephotoscored.....	20	—	1.00
1862a 4-Position Pl. Block				2178 15¢ Coby			
Bulls Eye Perf., Block Tag				Block tagged.....	30	—	1.50
(Large)	50	2.00	2.50	Re-entered position sold as se-terant strip			
1862b 4-Position Pl. Block				of 3 showing original and re-entry 5.00			
Bulls Eye Perf., Overall Tag ..	50	2.00	2.50	Overall tagged.....	30	—	1.50
1863 22¢ Audubon			(20)	2182 23¢ Cassatt			
"L" Perf.....	75	3.00	15.00	Block tagged.....	50	—	2.50
1864 30¢ Laubach				Overall tagged.....	75	—	5.00
"A" Press Floating Pl. No.,			(20)	Prephotoscored.....	50	—	4.00
Block Tag (Small)	75	3.00	15.00	2186 40¢ Chennault			
4-Position Pl. Bl., Bulls Eye				Overall tagged.....	50	—	4.00
Perf., Block Tag (Lg).....	75	3.00	4.50	Prephotoscored.....	80	—	4.00
4-Position Pl. Block, Bulls				2188 45¢ Cushing			
Eye Perf., Overall Tag.....	5.00	20.00	POR	Block tagged.....	90	—	4.50
1867 39¢ Clark			(15)	Overall tagged.....	90	—	4.00
"L" Perf.....	1.20	4.80	24.00	2194A 51 Hopkins			
1867c 39¢ Clark				Block tagged.....	1.50	—	7.50
Bulls Eye Perf.....	1.20	4.80	6.00	Overall tagged.....	1.50	—	7.50
1868a 40¢ Gilbreth				Prephotoscored, Plate 2.....	1.50	—	7.50
Bulls Eye Perf.....	1.20	4.80	6.00	Baby Gash Plate Variety,			
1869 50¢ Himtz				pos. G, Overall tagged.....	5.00	—	12.50
Overall Tagged, "L" Perf,				2196 \$5 Harte			
Shiny Gum	1.50	6.00	7.50	Block tagged.....	8.00	—	40.00
Block Tagged, Bulls Eye,				Prephotoscored, Pl. 2, New			
Dull Gum.....	1.00	4.00	5.00	perf normal.....	8.00	—	40.00
Overall Tagged, Bulls Eye,				2524 29¢ Flower			
Dull Gum.....	1.00	4.00	5.00	Bulls Eye Perf.....	75	3.00	5.00
2168 1¢ Mitchell				"L" Perf.....	50	2.40	3.00
Normal Inking.....	.05	—	.25	2525 29¢ Love			
Light Inking.....	.10	—	.50	"L" Perf.....	1.00	4.00	5.00
2171 4¢ Flanagan				Bulls Eye Perf.....	.60	2.40	3.00
Block tagged.....	.10	—	.50	2616 29¢ Columbian WCSE			
Unagged.....	.10	—	.50	Broken "a" variety, se-			
2173 5¢ Munoz Marin				terant pair 2.40			
Overall Tagged, Normal				C118 45¢ Langley			
placement of Pl. No.....	.10	—	.50	Block tagged.....	.90	—	4.50
Plate No. & ZIP Inscription				Overall tagged.....	3.00	—	24.50
on same piece of salvage.....	.10	—	.50				
Plate strip of 20, either of							
above.....	—	—	5.00				
2173 Munoz Marin							
Unagged, Normal Place-							
ment of Plate No.....	—	—	.50				
Plate No. & ZIP Inscription							
on same piece of salvage.....	.10	—	.50				
Plate strip of 20, either of							
above.....	—	—	5.00				

UNTAGGED ERRORS

	Single	Block	P-Bk.
2182 23¢ Cassatt	10.50	47.00	POR
1869 50¢ Himtz (Bulls Eye)...	10.50	47.00	POR
2616 29¢ Columbian WCSE...	7.50	—	POR
Broken "a" variety.....	15.00	—	
Se-terant pair 20.00			

Plate Strips, Indecision Blocks, etc. available for most of the above.
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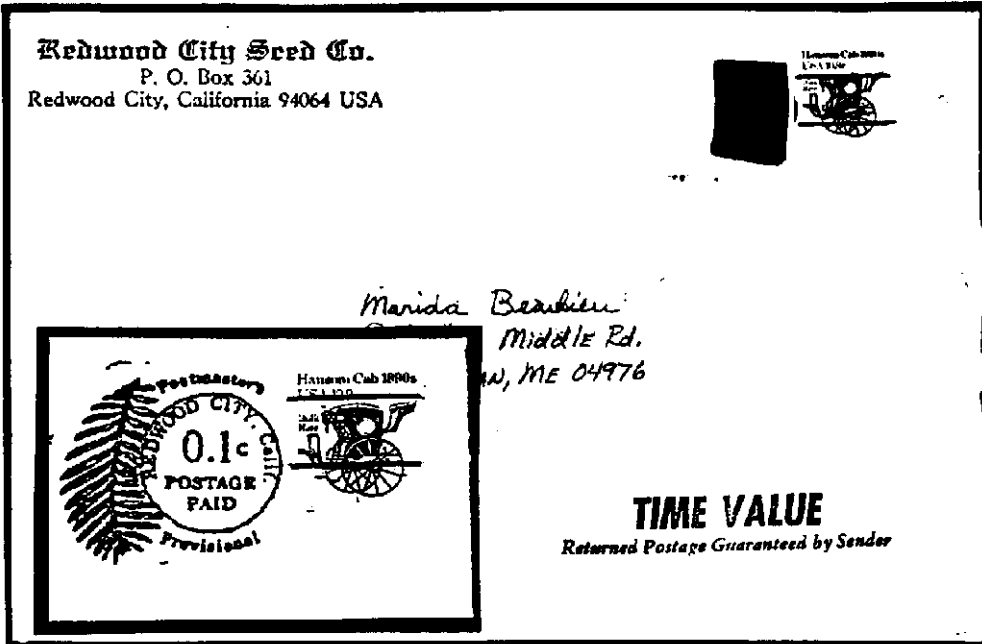
All orders under \$100 please add \$1.50 extra for postage & handling. NY residents add appropriate tax.

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date for Cover of the Bi-Month, please send a photocopy of your cover against a black background to Rob Washburn, PO Box 840, Skowhegan, ME 04976.)

Lighthouse

UPDATE your Lighthouse PNC STRIP &/or SINGLES Album(s) with the 1991 SUPPLEMENTS. In fact, these supplements really cover a very much longer period of additional PNC issues than on a year only, viz:

Supplements for:	Item	No. of Pages	Price
(1) "1991 SUPPLEMENT" to Part 2 of "SF" Hingeless PNC STRIP ALBUM: all PNC Strip (PS3 or PS5/PS7 additions 1990 to mid-1992 (30 months!))	N 53 PNC SF/1991	35	US \$ 132.50
(2) "1991 SUPPLEMENTS" to Part II of (USED or MINT) PNC SINGLES ALBUMS: all PNC additions 1989 to mid-1992 (42 months !) (a) Ordinary Edition, without mounts (b) Hingeless Edition, with SF mounts	N 53 CS /1991	16	US \$ 29.50
	N 53 CS SF /1991	16	US \$ 57.50

During October / November 1992, after the aforesaid supplements will have become available in North America, the **complete sets of album PAGES**, too, will be updated to include the new pages and will thereafter be supplied as follows:

PNC Sets of Pages	Period	No. of Pages	Regular Pages without mounts	SF-Hingeless Pages with mounts
PNC STRIPS PS3 / PS5 / PS7 (Regulars & Precancels) Part 1: COTTRELL Press / Joint line / Regulars overall tagged Part 2: Other presses / No joint line / Regulars diff. tagging	1981-85	62	-	53 PNC / 1 SF US \$ 185.00
	1981-92	59	-	53 PNC / 2 SF US \$ 169.00
PNC SINGLES (Regulars & Precancels) Part 1: COTTRELL Press / Joint line / Regulars overall tagged Part II : Other presses / No joint line / Regulars diff. tagging	1981-85	13	53 CS / I US \$ 22.00	53 CS / I SF US \$ 43.00
	1981-92	21	53 CS / II US \$ 31.00	53 CS / II SF US \$ 61.00
PERFECT 2-post turn-bar Binder with "USA" on spine			DP-53 red US \$ 59.00	
EXCELLENT 13-ring Binder (without name of country on spine)			DE-red US \$ 61.00	
SLIP CASE (suitable for either PERFECT or EXCELLENT binders)			KA-red US \$ 25.00	

It is a matter of personal preference whether to choose a PERFECT or an EXCELLENT binder. In view of the lengths of particularly the PS 7 mounts, the editors feel inclined to recommend the DE-red binder for items 53 PNC / 1 & 2 SF, since the pages are getting bent less when being turned over.

Please place your order with your favorite dealer or else contact LIGHTHOUSE PUBLICATIONS, INC., P.O. Box 705, Hackensack, NJ 07602-0705.

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New Address: 255 Duke St., Montreal, Que. H3C 2M2, Canada.

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

Scott	Stamp	L/block	L/Overall	Harrow/block	Harrow/overall	Harrow/phosphored	Untagged
1844	1¢ Dix	L (1, 2)		A (1)			
2171	4¢ Flanagan			E (1)			E (1) Intentionally
2173	5¢ Muñoz Marrn				E (1)†		E (2) Intentionally
2176	10¢ Red Cloud			E (1)	E (1*†, 2†)	E (2)£	E (2) Error
2178	15¢ Cody			E (1, 3)	E (1*, 2*†, 3†)	E (1) (disputed)+	E (3) Error
1862	20¢ Truman	L (1)		E (2)	E (3)†		E (2) Error
1863	22¢ Audubon	L (1)		E (3)			(2) Error
2182	23¢ Cassatt			E (1)	E (1*†, 2*†)	E (2)£	E (1) Error
2197a	25¢ London \$5 book			E (1, 2)☆			
2183a	25¢ London books ☆						E Error
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)†		E (1) Error
1869	50¢ Nimitz		L* (1, 2, 3, 4)	E (1, 2)	E (2, 3*)		L (2), E (1, 2) Error
2194A	\$1 Hopkins			E (1)	E (1)	E (1, 2)μ	E (1) 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.
 + The existence of 15¢ Cody on prephosphored paper is in doubt. See Page 24 of this issue.
 Entries printed in boldface type indicate that they are new or have been changed since the last report.

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

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

Scott	Stamp	E-E/Cottrell	Overall	L/block	L/Overall	Harrow/block	Harrow/overall	Harrow/phosphored	L/phosphored	Untagged
2168	1¢ Mitchell					E (1)				E Error
2169	2¢ Mary Lyon					E (1, 2)				E (1) Error
1845	2¢ Stravinsky	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6								E-E Error
1846	3¢ Clay	1, 2								E-E Error
2170	3¢ White					1, 2, 3				L Error
1847	4¢ Schurz	1, 2, 3, 4								E-E Error
1848	5¢ Buck	1, 2, 3, 4								
2172	5¢ Black					E (1, 2)				E (2) Error
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*					L Error
1855	13¢ Crazy Horse	1, 2, 3, 4								E-E Error
1856	14¢ Lewis			1						
2177	14¢ Howe					E (1, 2)				
1857	17¢ Carson	1, 2, 3, 4, 13, 14, 15, 16								E-E Error
2179	17¢ Lockwood					E (1, 2)				E Error
1858	18¢ Mason	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6								E-E Error
1859	19¢ Sequoyah	39529, 39530								
1860	20¢ Bunche	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13								E-E Error
1861	20¢ Gallaudet	1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9								
2180	21¢ Carlson					E (1)				
2183	25¢ London sheel					E (1, 2)				
2184	28¢ Sitting Bull					E (1)				
2184A	29¢ Warren							S1, S2		
1865	35¢ Drew	1, 2, 3, 4								
2185	35¢ Chavez								S1, S2	
1866	37¢ Millikan	1, 2, 3, 4								E-E Error
2190	52¢ Humphrey							1		
2161	56¢ Harvard					E (1)				
2192	65¢ Arnold					E (1)				E Error
2193	75¢ Willkie							1		
2194	\$1 Revel					E (1)				E Error
2195	\$2 Bryan					E (2)				E Error

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

A roundup of available data and comparisons with PNCs

By Stephen G. Esrati

1¢ Dorothea Dix

Plate	Assigned	Canceled	Press	SPR	To Press	Canceled	Impress.
40544-1		06/22/83		800	07/08/83	11/26/83	NONE
40545-2	03/02/83		801	800	07/08/83	11/24/86	2,250
40546-3				800	07/15/83	11/24/86	NONE
40547-4				800	07/15/83	11/24/86	NONE
40732-1	07/26/83		702	920	08/03/83	09/26/85	1,340,000
174860-2	07/22/85		702	920	07/29/85	03/21/88	306,000

Bull's eye perforations from A Press' in-line perforator until perforator broke down.

The 1¢ Dorothea Dix stamp was first assigned to Cottrell Press 801. Four Cottrell plates were made and Plate 2 was even reported as having gone to press, printing only 2,250 impressions on July 8, 1983.

(Because the Cottrell presses always paired two plates, some stamps must have been printed from another plate or the printing on Plate 2 is an erroneous report.)

That date is well after the fire at BEP which destroyed Presses 802 and 804. After the fire, as we know from Kim Cuniberti¹, Press 803 was used principally to print precancels.

All four Cottrell plates for the 1¢ Dix were canceled on Nov. 24, 1986, well after the Cottrells had been retired. It is unlikely that stamps printed on Plate 2 were ever issued.

On July 25, 1983, a plate was made for the A Press (Press 702 in BEP nomenclature) that printed 920 stamps per revolution. It was the first Great American printed on the A Press. Our charts show a figure for "SPR," or stamps per revolution.

Later printings on the A Press changed this plate configuration to print 800 stamps per revolution, returning to the format having plate numbers in the corners of all four panes. In the 920-stamp arrangement, plate numbers float in the left or right selvage and there is no selvage on the other three sides of the pane.

The first Dix printing from Plate 1 on the A Press² had in-line bull's eye perforations and floating plate numbers in the left and right selvage. ("In-line" perforation is that done by the integral harrow perforator on a press.)

According to Dr. Michael Rybalka³, the on-press perforator broke down in December 1983 and perforating had to be shifted to L-perforators, which produce sheets in which the rows of perforations do not line up at the intersections.

It is necessary to understand exactly what happened. Here is Robert E. Kitson's⁴ explanation:

Historically, all but one of the recent BEP perforation varieties appear to have resulted from BEP's work with in-line perforators. (The exception was the two varieties of Scott's No. 1662, the 13¢ Flag stamp.) BEP would start a production run on a press equipped with an in-line perforator. If the perforator failed before the run was completed, imperforate stock was wound up and then perforated on the "L" or "E-E" perforators (both in one case). Later, BEP abandoned in-line perforation altogether.

Dr. Rybalka also noticed two other characteristics.

- Perforation on the A Press extended one hole into the selvage; but went straight through the selvage with the L-Perforator.

- The block tagging on the stamps perforated with the L-Perforator was smaller and ragged looking. This is commonly referred to today as "small block tagging."⁵

On July 22, 1985, a second plate was made, and printing began two days later.

We are just beginning to study the paper used to print the Great Americans Series, but from PNCs we know that Type I paper was used during the period in which Plate 1 was printed.

The Great Americans

By the time Plate 2 was printed, Paper Types II, IIa, and III were known on PNCs.

The Dix stamp has shown up with a paper which looks like Type II except that the gum ridges are now vertical instead of horizontal. Gerald Clark says it is Type II, but the direction of the web accounts for the changed orientation.

A word on format: Traditional plate block collecting is by corner blocks of four. Some collectors attempt to find corner blocks from all four pane positions. But the A Press did not allow this because it had floating plate numbers which we see only on the right or left selvage.

Some collectors continued to collect blocks of four, but blocks of six, with the plate number in the center, are also collected, as are complete strips of 20 from the edge of the pane. Scott prices the plate blocks from the 920-stamp arrangement as blocks of six and strips of 20.



LEFT SELVAGE—Electric-eye marking, found on L-Perforator and Eureka.

RIGHT SELVAGE—Marking found next to each stamp in right selvage.

While the plate block is the only way in which the plate's number can be identified, there are other distinctions, sometimes with the same plate number.

One is in the electric-eye markings. The A Press had two types of marking, or no markings at all.

Dr. Michael Rybalka⁴ said the electric-eye markings first appeared after the switch to the Eureka perforator, but as may be seen above, this is not so.

Known Dix varieties

Plate 1: Block tagging (small). L-Perforator. Paper II. E-E.

Plate 1: Plate 1: Block tagging (small). Bull's eye perforator. Paper I. No E-E.

Plate 2: Block tagging (large). L-Perforator. Paper II. EE.

The 1¢ Dix was replaced by the 1¢ Margaret Mitchell and went off sale at the Philatelic Sales Department (PSD) Oct. 31, 1986. We have almost no printing data on the Mitchell stamp.

1¢ Margaret Mitchell

Plate	Assigned	Canceled	Press	SPR	Press Date	Canceled	Impress.
176704-1	05/19/86		702	800			
189023-2	06/22/81		802	800			

What should be noticed on the Mitchells is that Plate 1, printed on the A Press, was reported with 800 stamps per revolution.

Paper and gum

Unless otherwise stated, all stamps have dry, yellowish gum.

Paper designations are those of PNCs, but Type II Paper has vertical gum striations.

This resulted from a different arrangement of the plate and provided the more traditional format whereby there would be four corner plate blocks. Plate 2 has not been reported by collectors.

The 1¢ Mitchell was replaced by the 1¢ Kestrel of the Wildlife Series, the existence of which USPS has denied. Mitchells were taken off sale Aug. 31, 1991, when the Kestrels were issued.

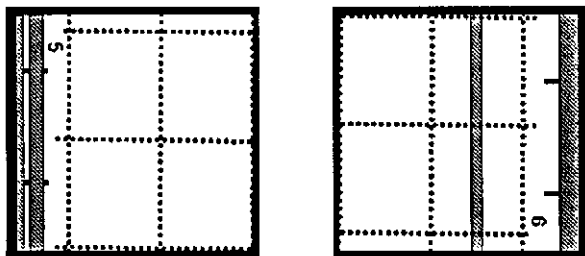
Known Mitchell varieties

Plate 1: Block tagging. Bull's eye perforator. No E-E

2¢ Igor Stravinsky

Plate	Assigned	Certified	Press	SPR	To Press	Canceled	Impress.
40225-1	05/17/82	09/27/82		800	10/04/82	01/04/85	339,899
40225-1			800	800	12/11/84		
40225-2	05/17/82		803	800	10/04/82	04/02/87	339,899
40225-2			803	800	12/11/84		
40227-3	05/17/82	09/27/82	803	800	12/03/84	04/02/87	2,416,706
40227-3				800	02/19/85		
40228-4	05/17/82	09/27/82	803	800	12/03/84	04/02/87	2,416,70
40228-4			803	800	02/19/85		
41148-5	12/17/84		803	800	02/06/85	04/02/87	255,080
41149-6	12/17/84		803	800	02/06/85	04/02/87	255,080
41191-7	JAN 85			800			

All 2¢ Igor Stravinsky stamps are off Cottrell Press 803, the precancel press after the fire. We expected to find some of the tagging anomalies we found on PNCs printed on that press in



TAGGING BREAKS—Shaded areas show untagged parts of plate blocks. These are probably tagging breaks caused by makeshift tagging mats on Cottrell Press 803.

1984. And we have.

Press 803 required the making of special tagging mats to print tagged stamps. We may speculate that the breaks we have found, like those on PNCs, result from a method of fastening the tagging mats to the press. In this instance, a channel appears to have been cut into the mat and a wire, or other fastener, was used to tie the mat around the cylinder.

We have found a lower right plate block from Plate 6 with a 2mm untagged tagging break running vertically through Stamps 90 and 100 about 10mm left of the untagged selvage.

We have also found an upper left plate block from Plate 6 with a 3mm vertical tagging break in the left selvage, about 2mm to the right of where the edge of the tagging mat leaves its untagged area. Another break similar to the one on Plate 6, is found in the upper right block of Plate 5. Paper varieties are also possible, but so far they are all Type II.

Plate 7 has never been canceled, but no Plate 7 stamps have been reported by collectors.

Known Stravinsky varieties

Plates 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6: Overall tagging. Electric-eye perforator. Paper II. E-E

The Stravinsky stamp was replaced by the 2¢ Mary Lyon, and sale at the PSD ended April 30, 1987. No Wildlife 2¢ stamp has been issued.

2¢ Mary Lyon

Plate	Assigned	Certified	Press	SPR	To Press	Canceled	Impress.
177215-1	09/08/86						
178641-2	08/11/87		702	800			

Known Lyon varieties

Plate 1: Block tagging. Bull's eye perforator. Paper II. No E-E

The Lyon stamp would appear to be likely to emerge from BEP as an untagged value, but, so far, all untagged specimens have been the result of tagging errors. One of these was reported by H. Harry Mueggenburg,⁷ and collectors are urged to make sure to collect these specimens as set-tenant pairs in combination with tagged stamps to prove that they stem from the error.

We have almost no printing data on the Lyon stamp.

The Lyon stamp has not yet been replaced by a stamp in the Wildlife Series and continues on sale at the PSD.

3¢ Henry Clay

Plate	Assigned	Certified	Press	SPR	To Press	Canceled	Impress.
40637-1	05/04/83		801	800	06/23/83	11/24/86	354,875
40637-1			801	800	07/12/85		
40638-2	05/04/83		801	800	06/23/83	11/24/86	354,875
40638-2				800	07/12/85		
40639-3	05/04/83		801	800	UNKNOWN	11/24/86	UNKNOWN
40640-4	05/04/83		801	800	UNKNOWN	11/24/86	UNKNOWN
40681-5	JUN 83	NEVER		800	NEVER	02/27/84	NONE
40682-6	JUN 83	NEVER		800	NEVER	02/27/84	NONE
40683-7	06/08/83	NEVER	801	800	NEVER	11/04/85	NONE
40684-8				800		02/27/84	NONE
40703-9	06/22/83		801	800	NEVER	11/04/85	NONE

Known Clay varieties

Plates 1, 2: Overall tagging. Electric-eye perforator. Paper I

The 3¢ Henry Clay was printed only on the Cottrell presses. It was replaced by the 3¢ Paul Dudley White and sale at the PSD ended Feb. 28, 1987.

All BEP reports indicate printing on Cottrell Press 801, the press reserved for tagged stamps after the fire. This means there should be no tagging anomalies on this stamp.

The printing data are skimpy. BEP did not know when it sent Plates 3 and 4 to press. But no stamps from any plates other than 1 and 2 have ever been reported by collectors.

It is possible that the second printings in 1985 may show differences in paper.

The Clay stamp was replaced by the 3¢ Paul Dudley White stamps, all of which were printed on the A Press with the new 800 SPR arrangement.

3¢ Paul Dudley White

Plate	Assigned	Certified	Press	SPR	To Press	Canceled	Impress.
177016-1	07/24/86		702	800	08/12/86	08/07/87	742,000
178557-2	07/28/87		702	800	09/02/87	12/04/87	2,462,700
178852-3	09/17/87		702	800			

Known White varieties

Plates 1, 2, 3: Block tagging. Bull's-eye perforator. Paper III. No E-E

The 3¢ White was replaced by the 3¢ Bluebird of the Wildlife Series and went off sale at the PSD Aug. 31, 1991.

4¢ Carl Schurz

Plate	Assigned	Certified	Press	SPR	To Press	Canceled	Impress.
40315-1	09/24/82		802	800	04/29/83	11/24/86	196,850
40315-1				800	02/04/85		
40315-1			801	800	07/24/85		
40316-2	09/24/82		802	800	04/29/83	11/24/86	196,850
40316-2				800	02/04/85		
40316-2			801	800	07/24/85		
40317-3	09/24/82		802	800	05/05/83	11/24/86	141,250
40318-4	09/24/82		802	800	05/05/83	11/24/86	141,250
40613-5	04/18/83		800	800	NEVER	11/04/85	NONE
40614-6	04/18/83		800	800	NEVER	11/04/85	NONE

The 4¢ Carl Schurz stamp was printed only on the Cottrell presses. The stamp was replaced by the 4¢ Father Flanagan and went off sale at the PSD Oct. 31, 1986.

Known Schurz varieties

Plates 1, 2, 3, 4: Overall tagging. Electric-eye perforator. Paper I. E-E

Plates 1 and 2 were returned to press twice in 1985, so paper types and possible tagging anomalies may exist.

The report that some of the Schurz stamps were printed on Press 802 is in error because that press was destroyed in 1982.

Schurz stamps were replaced by the 4¢ Father Flanagan issue.

4¢ Father Flanagan

Plate	Assigned	Certified	Press	SPR	To Press	Canceled	Impress.
176085-1	02/18/86		702	800	07/02/86	04/30/91	1,501,701

Known Flanagan varieties

Plate 1: Block tagging. Bull's-eye perforator. Paper III. No E-E

Plate 1: Untagged (intentionally). Bull's-eye perforator. E-E

It should be noted that while the Father Flanagan stamp has not been replaced by a Wildlife stamp, only one A Press plate was made and it was canceled in 1991.

We are missing almost all BEP data for 1992 and know that Plate 1 went back to press to print the purposely untagged version. We do not, however, know when that happened.

5¢ Pearl Buck

Plate	Assigned	Certified	Press	SPR	To Press	Canceled	Impress.
40561-1	03/15/83		801	800	05/31/83	11/24/86	445,595
40561-1			801	800	06/01/83		
40561-1			801	800	06/14/85		
40561-1			801	800	07/18/85		
40562-2	03/15/83		801	800	05/27/83	08/20/85	445,595
40562-2			801	800	05/31/83		
40562-2			801	800	06/01/83		
40562-2			801	800	06/14/85		
40562-2			801	800	07/18/85		
40563-3	03/15/83		801	800	06/02/83	11/24/86	373,118
40564-4	03/15/83		801	800	06/02/83	11/24/86	373,118

The 5¢ Pearl Buck was printed entirely on Cottrell Press 801. Paper types may exist because of the many returns to press.

The Type I paper has been found with white and yellow gum.

Known Buck varieties

Plates 1, 2, 3, 4: Overall tagging. Electric-eye perforator. Paper I. E-E

The Buck stamp was replaced by the 5¢ Hugo Black and went off sale at the PSD on June 30, 1986.

5¢ Hugo Black

Plate	Assigned	Certified	Press	SPR	To Press	Canceled	Impress.
175869-1	12/18/85		702	800	02/11/86	09/23/88	427,800
175869-1			702	800	06/28/88		
175869-1			702	800	08/22/88		
180619-2	07/21/88		702	800			

The Hugo Black stamp went back to press twice with Plate 1 before being replaced by Plate 2. It is likely that paper types should exist on the stamps printed from Plate 1.

Known Black varieties

Plates 1, 2: Block tagging. Bull's-eye perforator. Paper III.

The Black stamps sold out at the PSD before March 1990 and were replaced by the current 5¢ Luis Muñoz Marin stamp.

5¢ Luis Muñoz Marin (with descriptive selvage)

Plate	Assigned	Certified	Press	SPR	To Press	Canceled	Impress.
185388-1			702	800	01/25/90		
188445-2	04/16/91		902	800	09/25/91		

The Muñoz stamp is unique in that the copyright inscription on the two bottom panes are in the row with the plate number while on the top panes the copyright is in the third row, out of the plate block of four.⁸ This arrangement continued even after new plates were made for the C Press.

Known Muñoz varieties

Plate 1: Overall tagging. Electric-eye perforator. Paper IIIa. (Some E-E, but not at each stamp of right selvage)

Plate 2: Untagged (intentionally). Electric-eye perforator. Paper IIIa. (Some E-E, but not at each stamp of right selvage)

6¢ Walter Lippmann

Plate	Assigned	Certified	Press	SPR	To Press	Canceled	Impress.
173878-1	04/17/85		702	920	07/18/85	03/14/88	272,500

Only one A Press plate was ever used to print the 6¢ Walter Lippmann stamp, which went off sale at the PSD Aug. 31, 1991. No replacement stamp was issued.

Known Lippmann varieties

Plate 1: Block tagging (large). L-perforator. Paper II. E-E

The stamp is known only with block tagging and L-perforations in the 920 SPR arrangement.

7¢ Abraham Baldwin

Plate	Assigned	Certified	Press	SPR	To Press	Canceled	Impress.
41151-1	JAN 85		702	920	01/14/85	12/23/86	265,000
178016-2	03/31/87		702	800			

Two A Press plates were made for the 7¢ Abraham Baldwin stamp. Plate 2 has not been reported by collectors.

Known Baldwin varieties

Plate 1: Block tagging (large, worn). L-perforator. Paper III. E-E

The stamp went off sale at the PSD Feb. 28, 1992, but no replacement stamp was issued.

8¢ Henry Knox

Plate	Assigned	Certified	Press	SPR	To Press	Canceled	Impress.
174113-1	05/03/85		110	1600	UNKNOWN	04/07/87	UNKNOWN
174114-2	05/03/85		110	1600	UNKNOWN	04/07/87	UNKNOWN
174117-3	05/03/85		110	1600	06/05/85	04/07/87	74,234
174123-4	05/05/85		110	1600	05/10/85	07/10/85	74,234
174123-4			110	1600	06/05/85		
174125-5	05/07/85		110	1600	06/05/85	04/07/87	74,234
174134-6	05/07/85		110	1600	06/05/85		
174155-7	05/09/85		110	1600	NEVER	04/07/87	NONE
174161-8	05/10/85		110	1600			
174171-9	05/11/85		110	1600	NEVER	04/07/87	NONE
174180-10	05/12/85		110	1600	NEVER	04/07/87	NONE
174211-11	05/15/85		110	1600	UNKNOWN	04/07/87	UNKNOWN

The 8¢ Henry Knox stamp was printed on an I-8 currency press, which is designated by BEP as Press 110. The I-8s are sheet-fed, not web-fed presses. Therefore, it prints one sheet at a time, with 1,600 stamps per revolution.

BEP data on printing are incomplete. The stamp went off sale at the PSD June 30, 1992 and no replacement stamp was issued.

Stamps are known only from Plates 3, 4, 5, and 6. All were tagged on an offset press.⁹

Known Knox varieties

Plates 3, 4, 5, 6: Overall tagging. L-perforator. Shiny gum.

The quantities printed from Plate 6 might be close to the quantities given for Plates 3, 4, and 5, since all four plates could be printed at one feed.

9¢ Sylvanus Thayer

Plate	Assigned	Certified	Press	SPR	To Press	Canceled	Impress.
41280-1	03/28/85		702	920	06/13/85	03/30/87	315,500

The 9¢ Sylvanus Thayer stamp was printed only from one A Press plate with floating plate numbers at 920 SPR.

Known Thayer varieties

Plate 1: Block tagging (large). L-perforator. Paper II. E-E and no E-E

The Thayer stamp went off sale at the PSD Feb. 28, 1992, but no replacement has been issued.

10¢ Richard Russell

Plate	Assigned	Certified	Press	SPR	To Press	Canceled	Impress.
40935-1	04/18/84		702	920	05/08/85	09/26/85	598,000
175199-2	08/20/85		702	800	NEVER	03/26/87	NONE
177700-3	01/15/87		702	800	NEVER	02/05/88	NONE

The 10¢ Richard Russell stamp was the first to appear with straight edges on three sides of the pane.¹⁰ Only Plate 1 was printed. But it comes in three varieties, with and without electric-eye markings in the selvage, with large and small tagging blocks, and on different papers and with different types of gum.

Known Russell varieties

Plate 1: Block tagging (small). L-perforator. Paper II. No E-E. White, dull gum

Plate 1: Block tagging (large). L-perforator. E-E. (Paper II). Yellow gum

Plate 1: Block tagging (small). L-perforator. Paper IIa. E-E. Yellow gum

The Russell stamp went off sale at the PSD Dec. 31, 1987, having been replaced by the 10¢ Red Cloud.

10¢ Red Cloud

Plate	Assigned	Certified	Press	SPR	To Press	Canceled	Impress.
175318-1	06/15/87		702	800	06/25/87		
189137-2	07/05/91		902	800			

There is somewhat of a mystery about the finding of untagged Red Clouds. While there is no doubt that untagged copies exist (two panes have been found by different collectors, both in Mas-

sachusetts), the provenance of the untagged stamps is under suspicion.

Joe Peng, former director of the USPS Office of Stamp Manufacturing, told *TPN* that both the Red Cloud and the 10¢ Canal Boat had been reprinted as untagged stamps because USPS had raised the cutoff for low-value tagged stamps from under 9¢ to under 11¢. That was his explanation why the 10¢ value of the Columbian souvenir sheets had been left intentionally untagged.

And, when the Canal Boat showed up in a new B Press-printed version, it turned out to be on prephosphored, shiny-gum Flag paper.

Thus, the assurance gained from Peng's "confirmation" that the Red Clouds had been left untagged intentionally has been greatly undercut, and *TPN* has revised its listing from "intentionally untagged" to "untagged error."

Known Red Cloud varieties

Plate 1: Block tagging. Bull's-eye perforator. Paper III. No E-E

Plate 1: Overall tagging (tagged and untagged selvage). Bull's-eye perforator. Paper IIIa. No E-E

Plate 2: Overall tagging (untagged selvage). Bull's-eye perforator. No E-E

Plate 2: Prephosphored paper. Bull's-eye perforator. No E-E

We can, however, trace the printing history of Red Cloud even though we have no reports from BEP of a return to press.

Plate 1 off the A Press first appeared block-tagged with bull's-eye perforations. When tagging was changed from block to overall, Plate 1 appeared with overall tagging.

Plate 2 off the C Press was first printed with overall tagging and was later changed to prephosphored paper. In the latter case, the paper is of the type which shows no mottling. For this summary, we'll call it dull-gum Lenz paper.

Plate 2 with overall tagging has untagged selvage. This makes identification of Plate 2 on prephosphored paper relatively easy in the case of marginal copies, since the prephosphored stamps have tagged selvage. Michael D. Kinney, however, believes there may be examples of Plate 2 with overall tagging and tagged selvage. This is still being verified.

Plate 2 off the C Press has also been confirmed to have a tagging break, an untagged horizontal stripe of about 2mm width running horizontally near the top or bottom of the counter pane. This is absolute proof of overall tagging on single stamps since the tagging break is the result of nontagging at the seam of the tagging roller.

11¢ Alden Partridge

Plate	Assigned	Cancelled	Press	SFR	To Press	Cancelled	Impress.
41192-1	JAN 85	NEVER		1500	NEVER	02/14/85	NONE
41194-2	01/25/85		110	1500	03/18/85	04/15/87	UNKNOWN
41195	NEVER		110	1500	NEVER	04/17/87	NONE
41196-3	01/29/85		110	1500	03/18/85	04/15/87	68,415
41202-4	01/30/85		110	1500	03/18/85	04/15/87	68,201
41203-5	01/31/85		110	1500	03/18/85	04/15/87	68,201
41204-6	02/01/85		110	1500	UNKNOWN	04/15/87	68,291
41215-7	02/02/85		110	1500	NEVER	04/15/87	NONE
41221-8	02/03/85		110	1500	NEVER	04/15/87	NONE
41222-9	02/04/85		110	1500	NEVER	04/15/87	NONE
41223-10	02/05/85		110	1500	UNKNOWN	04/15/87	UNKNOWN
41224-11	02/06/85		110	1500	UNKNOWN	04/15/87	UNKNOWN

The 11¢ Alden Partridge stamp was printed on an I-8 currency press. The stamp went off sale at the PSD on Aug. 31, 1989, and was not replaced by a new stamp.

We have no explanation for the different impression totals for the four known panes (2, 3, 4, and 5), since all four plates were printed simultaneously on the I-8 press. Furthermore, despite a BEP report of a printing from Plate 6, such stamps have never been found by collectors. That impression total may be the one for Plate 2.

Known Partridge varieties

Plates 2, 3, 4, 5: Overall tagging. L-perforator. Shiny gum

13¢ Crazy Horse

Plate	Assigned	Cancelled	Press	SFR	To Press	Cancelled	Impress.
39678-1	NOV 81	08/03/81	802	800	12/03/81	04/15/83	708,562
39679-2	NOV 81		802	800	12/03/81	11/24/86	708,562
39680-3	NOV 81		803	800	04/03/82	11/24/86	1,193,628
39680-3			803	800	10/16/84		
39680-3			803	800	11/14/84		
39681-4	NOV 81		803	800	04/03/82	11/24/86	1,193,628
39681-4			803	800	10/16/84		
39681-4				800	11/14/84		
40643-5	5/17/83		803	800	UNKNOWN	11/24/86	UNKNOWN
40644-6	5/17/83		803	800	UNKNOWN	11/24/86	UNKNOWN

Plates 1 and 2 of the 13¢ Crazy Horse stamp were printed on Cottrell press 802 before the BEP fire. Printing was switched to Press 803, the designated precancel press, after the fire. Because this press used jerry-built precancel mats for printing PNCs, we expect it to have produced tagging anomalies on the Crazy Horse stamps, as well.

Known Crazy Horse varieties

Plates 1, 2, 3, 4: Overall tagging. Electric-eye perforator. Paper I E-E

The Crazy Horse stamp was withdrawn from sale Aug. 31, 1985 at the PSD.

14¢ Sinclair Lewis

Plate	Assigned	Cancelled	Press	SFR	To Press	Cancelled	Impress.
41174-1	01/10/85		702	920	02/11/85	06/23/86	3,882,000
176753-2	05/22/86		702	800	11/21/86	04/15/87	NONE

The 14¢ Sinclair Lewis stamp, printed on the A Press, was replaced by the Julia Ward Howe stamp.

Known Lewis varieties

Plate 1: Block tagging (small). L-perforator. Paper II E-E

The Lewis stamps that exist—only from Plate 1—are in the 920 SPR arrangement and have floating plate numbers.

14¢ Julia Ward Howe

Plate	Assigned	Cancelled	Press	SFR	To Press	Cancelled	Impress.
177505-1	11/25/86		702	800	01/06/86	12/12/89	2,142,210
177505-1			702	800	MARCH 87		
177832-2	02/25/87		702	800			

The Julia Ward Howe stamp is still on sale at the PSD.

Known Howe varieties

Plates 1, 2: Block tagging (large). Paper III. Bull's-eye perforation. No E-E

15¢ Buffalo Bill Cody

Plate	Assigned	Cancelled	Press	SFR	To Press	Cancelled	Impress.
180004-1	04/12/88	04/25/88	702	800	05/04/88	12/12/89	
180291-2	05/31/88		702	800			
184995-3	11/27/89	01/04/90	902	800			

The 15¢ Buffalo Bill Cody stamp is the one value of the Great Americans that has received the greatest attention from philatelic researchers. This is so because of tagging differences and a re-entry first noticed by PNC dealer Craig Selig.

According to George W. Brett¹¹ a re-entry "is the second or other multiple entry of a subject on a printing base without erasure of the preceding entry or entries. The purpose is to extend the life of an image carrier that has developed wear to an unacceptable degree" (emphasis in original).

Brett illustrates the re-entries, but for those you are urged to turn to his article, since it is beyond the scope of this discussion.

Earlier, Charles Yeager¹² had noted tagging varieties on the Cody stamp. To explain the differences, his article included photographs of two types of tagging mat used on the A Press, one for block tagging and one for overall tagging.

Yeager said the stamps from Plate 1 were first printed on the A Press. Sleeve 2 followed on the D Press. Then, the A Press (which had been shut down during the latter part of 1988) was used again in July 1989 to print more Cody stamps from Plate 1.

Yeager then tracked down the actual plate activity for Plates 1 and 3.

Plate 1

On Press		Impress.	In Engraving		Vault
From	To		From	To	
05/04/88	05/10/88	444,000	05/11/88	05/18/88**	
05/19/88	05/20/88	77,000	05/20/88	06/26/88*	05/26/88
07/18/89	08/10/89	355,719	08/11/89	08/29/89**	
09/05/89	09/06/89	130,000			
10/10/89	10/18/89	156,000	10/18/89	10/20/89*	
10/30/89	11/07/89	716,500	11/08/89	**	11/08/89

* Deochrome, re-entries, rechrome
 **Deochrome, repair, rechrome

Plate 3

On Press		Impress.	In Engraving		Vault
From	To		From	To	
01/04/90	01/21/90	418,500	01/22/90	01/27/90*	
02/02/90	02/16/90	413,500	02/22/90		02/22/90
07/24/90	07/27/90	242,478	07/28/90		07/28/90
			09/01/90	**	

* Deochrome, re-entries, rechrome
 **Deochrome, repair, rechrome

Yeager said the data were not altered, although he spotted several clerical errors in them. "But for my purposes the information is not skewed by the mistakes," he added.

Our first task, then, is to check Yeager's data with the data we were provided by USPS.

Both certified dates are from Yeager. And, as you can see, no returns to press were included in any of the plate-activity data from BEP. Nor were the impression totals stated.

Yeager's point, however, was the tagging differences. His matched set of plate blocks from Plate 1 were on prephosphored paper, which he bought when the stamps first went on sale.

His conclusion:

My guess is that the Buffalo Bill stamps were first printed on phosphored paper in May 1988. Stamps printed from Sleeve 1 with block tagging, I believe, were printed no earlier than July 1989.

How about the stamps from Sleeve 3? Which tagging variety occurred first—the block-tagged stamps or the stamps tagged overall except on parts of the selvage? My guess is that the block tagging occurred first.

Our reports show that Plate 1 stamps exist with block and overall tagging as well as on prephosphored paper (although prephosphored paper has not been seen by the PNC Study Group). Overall-tagged stamps have tagged selvage.

Plate 2 (from the D Press) is known only with overall tagging, with untagged as well as tagged selvage. Plate 2 stamps show an untagged 2mm break near the top or bottom margin, confirming that the stamp is overall-tagged, even on single stamps.

Plate 3 is known with block tagging as well as with overall tagging and tagged selvage.

For a discussion on the prephosphored 15¢ Cody, please see "Prephosphored or overall?" at the end of this summary.

Known Cody varieties

Plates 1, 3: Block tagging. Bull's-eye perforator

Plates 1, 2: Overall tagging (tagged selvage). Bull's-eye perforator. Paper III. No E-E

Plates 2, 3: Overall tagging (untagged selvage, some also untagged at top or bottom). Bull's-eye perforator. Paper III. No E-E

Plate 1: Prephosphored paper. Bull's-eye perforator (existence uncertain)

17¢ Rachel Carson

Plate	Assigned	Cancelled	Press	SPR	To Press	Cancelled	Impress.
39629-1	04/07/81			800	04/22/81	06/29/83	900,256
39629-2	04/07/81			800	04/22/81	10/14/83	899,434
39630-3	04/24/81			800	05/02/81	10/14/83	504,808
39631-4	3/17/81		804	800	05/02/81	11/24/86	530,943
40239-5	MAY 82	NEVER		800	NEVER	06/14/82	NONE
40241-6	JUN 82	NEVER		800	NEVER	06/02/82	NONE
40243-7	JUN 82	NEVER		800	NEVER	06/14/82	NONE
40259-8	JUN 82	NEVER		800	NEVER	06/29/82	NONE
40260-9	06/24/82			801	800	UNKNOWN	11/24/86 UNKNOWN
40263-10	07/01/82			803	800	UNKNOWN	11/24/86 UNKNOWN
40266-11	07/07/82			801	800	UNKNOWN	11/24/86 UNKNOWN
40268-12	07/08/82			803	800	UNKNOWN	11/24/86 UNKNOWN
40785-13	10/24/85			801	800	12/01/83	10/24/85 715,285
40785-13				800		04/27/84	
40785-13				800		10/01/84	

40785-13			800	11/27/84		
40786-14	OCT 83		800	12/01/83		
40786-14			800	04/27/84		
40786-14			800	11/27/84		
40845-15	04/27/84		801	800	07/02/85	11/24/85 277,597
40846-16	APR 84		801	800	07/02/85	09/12/85 NONE

The 17¢ Rachel Carson stamp was printed only on the Cottrell presses. The stamp was replaced by the 17¢ Belva Ann Lockwood. The Carsons went off sale at the PSD Aug. 31, 1986. Only Plates 1, 2, 3, 4, 13, 14, 15, and 16 are known to collectors. Since Cottrell plates were paired, Plate 14 probably was returned to press on Oct. 1, 1983 with Plate 13.

When BEP canceled Plates 5, 6, 7, and 8, they were called "3-color intaglio." The Carson stamp was issued only as a monochrome green stamp.

The report that Plate 16 was canceled with no production is obviously in error, since stamps exist with that plate number.

There is a possibility that stamps printed in 1984 and 1985 may show paper varieties and tagging anomalies.

Known Carson varieties

Plates 1, 2, 3, 4, 13, 14, 15, 16: Overall tagging. Electric-eye perforator. E-E
 This summary will be continued in the March issue.

Footnotes

1. Kim Cumbetti, "E-MC2, Tagging breaks traced to BEP fire that destroyed two Cottrell presses." (TPN Jan. 1991).
2. The USPS *Philatelic Catalog* for Oct.-Nov. 1963 said: "The ... Dix stamps ... were printed on the web-led, eight-color combination gravure-intaglio press. These stamps were printed in sheets with only right and left hand selvage. The selvage is on the right, left and top of the panes. The plate numbers will move progressively up and down the selvage on a pane-to-pane basis as a result of each full rotation of the intaglio or gravure cylinders. (The) stamps have nearly imperforate edges."
3. Dr. Michael Rybalka, "1¢ Dorothea Dix Varieties," (*United States Specialist*, March 1987)
4. Robert E. Kilson, "Perforation Varieties on Recent U.S. Issues," (*U.S. Specialist*, December 1986). The stamp using both "L" and "E-E" perforators was the 10¢ undenominated Christmas stamp (Scott 1580 and 1580a).
5. Kilson, *ibid*: "The size of the tagged blocks on the Eureka-perforated varieties of the Great Americans stamps is larger than those processed on the 'L' perforator. The stamps involved are Scott Nos. 1862 (20¢ Truman), 1863 (22¢ Audubon), 1864 (30¢ Laubach), 1867 (39¢ Clark) and 1868 (40¢ Gilbreth)." But the tagging block's size has nothing to do with the perforator. Rather, it would appear that when new tagging mats had to be made for the new plate arrangement on the A Press, the blocks were simply larger. In any event, the observation does not hold for the 1¢ Dix stamps because Kenneth J. Moreau has found L-perforated Dix stamps with small as well as large tagging blocks.
6. Rybalka, "50¢ Minitz and 39¢ Sperry: Data on New Printings," (*U.S. Specialist*, April 1987).
7. Alan Thomson, "Huge tagging shift causes untagged errors," (*TPN*, November 1992).
8. *Linn's U.S. Stamp Yearbook* 1991 attributed this to a siderographer's error.
9. Bureau of Engraving and Printing, "Gravure and Intaglio Presses Printing U.S. Postage Stamps," (*U.S. Specialist*, March 1985): The H-8 presses are "the only presses utilized in stamp production which do not have the capability of in-line phosphor tagging. The stamps must be tagged during a second printing pass on an offset press."
10. USPS *Philatelic Catalog* for Aug.-Sept. 1964: "Beginning with the 10¢ Richard Russell stamp issued May 31, 11964, new issues produced on the 'A' press and perforated on 'L' perforators will have straight edges all around rather than one straight and three perforated edges. Formerly, full sheets of stamps were cut by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing through perforations to produce panes. This required very precise cutting through the center of the perforations. Any failure in the cutting operation resulted in panes of less than philatelic quality."
11. George W. Brett, "Re-Entry at the BEP, Specifically on the 15¢ Cody of 1988," (*U.S. Specialist*, June 1992).
12. Charles Yeager, "Inside Washington," (*U.S. Specialist*, February 1991).

Acknowledgments

Contributing to this article were: Luigi Argine, Gerald Clark, Michael D. Kinney, Ken Lawrence, Kenneth J. Moreau, Alan Thomson, and Wayne Youngblood.

CAN'T WAIT UNTIL MARCH?
 The entire summary is available for \$5.
 (The complete summary will be updated
 periodically as more data come in.)
POB 20130
Shaker Heights, OH 44120

Phosphored or overall-tagged? It's not so easy

Collectors are really having a hard time telling the difference between overall-tagged and prephosphored stamps.

On sheet stamps with untagged selvage, overall tagging can be distinguished easily. But when overall-tagged sheet stamps have tagged selvage, telling them apart becomes extremely difficult.

It is even more difficult in the case of single stamps.

Let's go back in history: In April 1989, Charles Yeager wrote about prephosphored Yosemite in the *United States Specialist*. He called them phosphor-coated.

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing began testing the phosphor-coated paper at the end of 1988. During initial press runs it was found that the phosphor coating was too heavy. BEP personnel complained that part of the coating was flaking off during the press runs, i.e., phosphor particles were coming off the paper. There was some concern among the printers whether the "flying phosphor" was toxic and thus a health hazard. The phosphor was tested and found to be non-toxic.

In this paragraph we come upon several aspects that need amplification. The health hazard would not have been from touching the phosphors, but from inhaling phosphor dust. Surely BEP printers knew that asbestos was long considered non-toxic, too; except that asbestos workers kept dying from a lung disease caused by inhaling asbestos particles.

This brings up one of the reasons BEP shifted from on-press tagging to phosphored papers in the first place. USPS explained its shift to phosphored paper only in terms of better security against stamp washing, the better penetration of cancellation inks, the better activation of facer-cancelers. But the printers' concern was also involved, as it was when BEP switched from oil-based inks.

What has happened then is that the health hazard, if any, was shifted from the pressrooms at BEP to the paper mill. Let the paper workers get sick, is the apparent message.

Yeager told of one experiment in which paper for printing Flag stamps was run through the Andreotti press, which applied tagging. This had also been done when stamps were printed on the I-8 currency press, but on an offset press. The Flag stamps' paper was re-rolled and put on the C Press where Flags were printed. But the printing flaked off. Yeager explained:

According to a BEP spokesman, the problem of excessive phosphor was finally solved by returning all rolls of the phosphor coated paper to the paper supplier. The supplier reduced the heavy coating of phosphor by "shaving off" the top of the phosphor particles that were "standing up." I interpret this to mean that the BEP returned some of the phosphor-coated paper rolls to the paper finisher where the rolls were scuffed or brushed to remove loose phosphor particles. The rolls were then probably calendared and shipped back to the BEP. Subsequent test printings using the "shaved" paper produced stamps acceptable to USPS and regular production runs began.

What is noteworthy here is that the PNC community picked up Yeager's use of "shaving" and "calendering."

We still do not know how Lenz paper is made. We know it exhibits no mottling and does not have tagging on the gum side, but those, so far, are the only certain statements that can be made about it.

Back to the main problem: How do you tell a single prephosphored stamp from a single overall-tagged stamp?

As indicated in the summary of the Great Americans in discussing the 23¢ Cassatt stamp, the best test uses no ultraviolet at all, but simply examines the stamps in sunlight. The stamp on white paper is prephosphored, the creamy one is overall-tagged.

Yeager predicted that collectors would have trouble telling them apart. He was right.

But Yeager also reported that Plate 1 of the 15¢ Cody had first been printed on prephosphored paper.

Michael D. Kinney is not so sure:

Here are some of the reasons for my opinion:

- I have some prephosphored copies of Plate 1, which were so identified by several dealers. I sent these to Wayne Youngblood. He said, "These are all overall tagged." I do not believe Plate 1 exists on prephosphored paper. I have never seen one.

- I have written Charles Yeager several letters about Plate 1 on prephosphored paper. He wrote that he could not tell prephosphored paper from overall tagging, but they appeared [Kinney's emphasis] to be prephosphored.

- You quote Yeager [on Page 22]: "My guess [Kinney's emphasis] is that the Buffalo Bill stamps were first printed on phosphored paper in May 1988."

- I quote from Page 110 of the September 1992 *TPN*: "[The 15¢ Cody] first appeared overall-tagged. Block tagging came later. Block-tagged plate blocks from Plates 1 and 3 are known to the study group."

- You also quoted Dr. Michael Rybalka [Page 110]: "[T]he 15¢ Buffalo Bill stamp was issued with overall phosphor tagging... That's overall tagging."

- If you check Yeager's plate activity report for Plate 1, look at the press runs of May 4 and May 19, 1988. Without a doubt, the block tagging was run on May 19. The plate is worn badly.

- Since, according to Youngblood, there are [Kinney's emphasis] overall-tagged stamps from Plate 1 with tagged selvage (the printing appears to be from new plates) and since there are prephosphored stamps to come from this repaired Plate 1. I don't see this as possible.

My point is: The 15¢ Cody from Plate 1 on prephosphored paper may not exist.

That leaves the only way to be sure if paper is prephosphored or overall-tagged with seamless rollers is to submit the stamps to an expert, a totally undesirable situation.

Yeager told *TPN* that "everybody has been checking on that Cody," but he added that he really does not know. □

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Scott cleans up its act, but not for PNCs

The people who put out the 1993 *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps* have made an honest effort to improve the catalog. In some ways, they succeeded.

It is not in the province of *TPN* to review every aspect of this work, but to focus on the needs of PNC collectors.

But one must wonder sometimes if the people at Scott Publishing read the criticisms made about their previous efforts. Little errors, easily corrected, keep popping up year after year. For example, Scott keeps telling us that the 1976 Clara Maas stamp shows the heroic nurse and the Newark German Hospital. Oh yeah? Strenuous examination, even under UV light, reveals only the nurse, but no hospital. How could Scott never notice?

In a more serious vein, this magazine has noted previously that the 1981 20¢ Flag booklets come both scored on the perforations and without scoring. Scott mentions only that scored perforations can be found in a pane from the \$1.20 booklet, even though the \$2 and \$4 booklets also have scoring. Shouldn't there be prices for all six booklets, not just for one pane?

Scott has finally taken on a task once carried out by Dr. Leon Cheris for the defunct Minkus catalog in that it now lists untagged errors. It calls them "tagging omitted" varieties and provides a separate catalog listing for them (using a suffix designation). But untagged error listings still raise questions.

On the 25¢ Jack London booklet, for example, it lists an untagged error. On which booklet, with what perforation gauge?

It also lists an untagged error for the 22¢ Audubon, but with which perforation style?

It lists the 25¢ London sheet stamp as being in existence with overall tagging, but does not price the variety. It's the first time such tagging has been reported on a London sheet stamp. Wayne Youngblood doubts its existence and believes Scott to be in error. (It has not been added to our Great Americans charts, although many of the untagged errors have been.)

In the field of PNCs, Scott still uses the same catalog number, 2127a, for both overprint styles on the 7.1¢ Tractor. They are different stamps. The new overprint was even given a separate first-day ceremony.

The same obstinacy pertains on the two different overprints on the 10.1¢ Oil Wagon. Both are 2130a. That means a red overprint and a black overprint are the

same stamp, according to Scott.

Nor does Scott give separate numbers to the block-tagged and the prephosphored 25¢ Yosemite, although it lists and prices them all (without, however, revealing to the nonspecialist how one tells these two types of tagging apart. A little note on block tagging and overall tagging would clear up any confusion.)

In the listing of the red 5¢ Canoe, Scott is simply hilarious. It calls this stamp, printed by Stamp Venturers, a "Bureau precancel."

Yet, to show up the lack of consistency, the 20¢ Cable Car gets a separate suffix for the overall-tagged variety, as does the 15¢ Tugboat.

"Pre-phosphored paper" is not mentioned in the listing of Great Americans at all. Nor is the purposely untagged 5¢ Luis Muñoz Marin stamp.

Scott, like *TPN*, got caught by the misstatement of Joe Peng of the Office of Stamp Manufacturing that the 10¢ Red Cloud had been left untagged intentionally. Untagged stamps are known, but these are untagged errors.

In the listing of the red 5¢ Canoe, Scott is simply hilarious. It calls this stamp, printed by Stamp Venturers, a "Bureau precancel."

That's because someone at Scott Publishing decided to use that terminology for all service-inscribed stamps.

The same could be said for service-inscribed stamps printed by the American Bank Note Co. It is time for the "Bureau precancel" usage to get an overhaul.

The same goes for Yosemite tagging styles. □

BEP's version of USA differs from ABN's

It is a long-standing principle in philately that collectors can always tell a reprint from the original.

And so it is with BEP's version of the 23¢ USA stamp, originally printed by American Bank Note Co.

The easiest way to tell them apart is in the words "Presorted First-Class."

BEP's version shows this in pure, white letters. The ABN version contains a light blue in all the letters.

Another easy test is the blue at the bottom of the stamp. In the BEP version, all the blue below "USA" is the same shade of dark blue, but in the ABN version, the blue becomes lighter and lighter as it approaches the bottom of the stamp.

Some collectors have measured the stamps and found the BEP version to be larger. It is by 0.5mm in both directions, but this measurement is tricky. To make the measurement accurately, one must measure only the dark blue rectangle and disregard and light blue that juts out from beneath because of poor register.

The "23" on the BEP version is wider, measuring 6.75mm in width to ABN's 6.00mm; additionally, the ABN "23" is completely surrounded by a fine outline in light blue. BEP's is not.

Finally, the BEP service inscription is shorter.

A new combination of plate numbers on the ABN version of this stamp was found



in rolls about Nov. 10 by Dr. Robert Rabinowitz.

The stamps show "A222," and will be listed in the *PNC Catalog* as 23F(A222)PX.

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Plate and mat varieties—Part XLIII:

Rain crack is found on 12¢ Stanley Steamer

By A.S. Cibulskas

10¢ Eagle and Shield

a. Plate-number combination 21112: Continuous yellow line approximately 1mm thick throughout the roll. About one-third of the way down from the top edge, through the widest part of the eagle's wings. (Lenz)

12¢ Stanley Steamer

a. Unprecanceled Plate 1: Continuation (extension to upper row) of multiple cracks reported earlier. Illustrated at right by enlarged photocopy showing the multiplicity of cracks (ink enhanced because of poorness of direct reproduction on copier). I believe that this rivals the 4.9¢ Buckboard "Rain Crack" in dramatic effect. Constant at 2R. (Preuss)

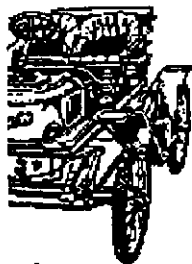
29¢ Flag Over White House

a. Plate 4: Inking variety. The bottom part of the plate number is missing, resulting in the appearance of a triangle instead of a "4." Constant. (Lenz)

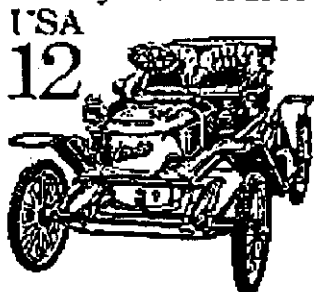
b. Plate 4: The bottom part of the plate number is missing. Constant. (Cibulskas)

In addition to the above, Plate 3 has been previously reported.

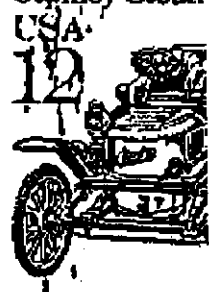
Steamer 1909



Stanley Steamer 1909



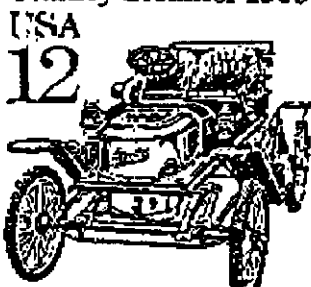
Stanley Steamer



Steamer 1909



Stanley Steamer 1909



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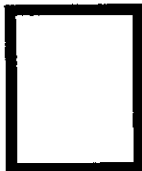


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