

# E&S stamps hit double digits

By Stephen G. Esrati

American Bank Note's Eagle and Shields have gone into double digits. The five plates have been made for what would logically be "A10 10 10 10." But that would be too long to fit on the

## The perils of dumpster diving

Dr. Robert Rabinowitz, writing in *Stamp Collector*, speculated on the rarity of A1112 of the 19¢ Fishing Boat, which should be the most common Fishing Boat according to the impression totals supplied by American Bank Note Co.

Dr. Rabinowitz pointed out that the stamps were printed in Scottsboro, Ind., by Multi-Color Corp., but had to be perforated elsewhere. That has been confirmed by American Bank Note, which said the stamps were perforated by Guilford Gravure in Connecticut.

His explanation for the rarity of A1112 was that Multi-Color was hit by a flood, "so it could very well be that most of the A1112s were soaked during the flood and 'destroyed.'"

It did not quite happen that way. The flood took place Aug. 8, a long time after the stamps had been printed and shipped to Guilford. According to ABN, all that was lost in the flood was waste.

Knowing that no stamps were perforated at Multi-Color, Dr. Rabinowitz also speculated on the imperforate Fishing

stamps, so Guilford Gravure, which prints E&S stamps for ABN, came up with the ingenious "AA11111." Printing had not begun when this edition of *TPN* went to press.

Two other combinations have been

Boats found by Jerry and Barb Koepp of Stamps 'n' Stuff, stamps they bought from a man who had obtained them at a flea market from a guy who had swapped three ricks of firewood for them.

The postal inspectors, according to Dr. Rabinowitz, seized the Koepps' imperforates because another dealer, William Langs, had figured out that the soaked, dirty imperfs—from which the Koepps had had to remove the gum—were from printer's waste and had come not from coils but from a sheet.

But that ain't quite the way it happened. After buying one imperforate strip from the Koepps, the postal inspectors pounced on the poor guy who had sold the stamps to Koepp and seized about 3,000 of his imperfs and threatened him with as much as five years in jail.

But they left the Koepps and their imperfs alone when the inspectors were able to prove that Multi-Color had improperly disposed of the ruined printer's waste. Multi-Color apparently tried to burn the

printed, however: A89999 and A99999.

Dr. Robert Rabinowitz found A99999 about March 10; he found A89999 on March 30, in what he termed a "limited supply."

A spokesperson for ABN gave this account of the printing history:

After the A88888s were printed, its five plates were rechromed and printing began with five plates numbered "9."

Before completing that printing run, printing began again on the 19¢ Fishing Boat, using four plates numbered "5." During printing, the black 5 plate had to be pulled and a black 6 plate was substituted, resulting in Fishing Boats inscribed A5556.

When printing was resumed on E&S A99999, it was discovered that the blue plate had something wrong with it and a blue Plate 8 was substituted. That resulted in a printing inscribed A89999.

ABN expected to resume printing the Eagle and Shields with the numbers A89999

*Please turn to Page 69*

## BEP blames ink for 'Toledo browns'; says error was caught

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing, after eight hours of work, has determined that the "Toledo brown" can be traced to the supplier of the ink.

But it also determined that the stamp is a genuine color error, not something caused by ink contamination.

BEP discussed the stamps with its contracting officer's technical representative. This is what was found:

It was reported that the drum of ink contained the proper brown ink in the upper part of the container, but when the ink in the lower portion was reached, the color changed to that which is similar to ink on the submitted [Toledo brown] stamps.

The color change was not abrupt, because there is a transition period in which the two different inks went through a blending process and stamps having intermediate colors resulted before the stamps having the color in question were produced.

*Please turn to Page 74*

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**Paid circulation this issue: 450**

## SENNETT'S FIRM MUZZLED

Stamp Venturers and American Bank Note Co. have always been most helpful in answering our questions. They filled many of the gaps in the information the Postal Service sent out.

Richard Sennett, head of Stamp Venturers, once told *TPN* that he did not understand why the Postal Service held up simple facts as if they were national secrets.

In February, we received word from the Postal Service that the 29¢ Jefferson would be printed by Stamp Venturers as part of the Great Americans Series and that it would bear one plate number, "S1."

But the Postal Service did not say where the stamps would be printed nor did it say what sort of press they would be printed on. So we called Sandra Lane at Stamp Venturers.

Mrs. Lane, Sennett's daughter, had acted as the spokesperson for the firm until now. She gladly told us that the stamps would be printed at Stamp Venturers' own plant in Ogdensburg, N.Y., on a T/A Press.

Then she asked that from now on we should call Mark Fleming, who would answer all our questions.

Ken Lawrence immediately raised a question: Past T/A Press printings were done with two paired plates of 600 stamps, each with its own plate number. Would Jefferson be the same?

We tried the Postal Service, talking first to Valoree Vargo, whose name was on the news release for the Jeffersons. She said she would find out.

Then, we received a call from the Postal Service's Joe Brockert, a man who earned his spurs writing philately for *Linn's*, saying he did not know but would try to find out. We did not hear from him again in time for the March issue.

We called Fleming, who said he worked for Banta Corp., one of the firms under the Stamp Venturers umbrella. He said he would find out for us.

But when he called back, he said, "We believe that information of this type should come from our customer, the Postal Service. We are not at liberty to disclose information without the customer's consent."

It is normal for journalists to ask questions. It is also normal for journalists to report the news. Whether the 29¢ Jeffersons have one plate number or two is definitely news, and it should not be a national secret.

We were not happy about Fleming's response. We complained to Mrs. Lane, who agreed that we should have access to such information, but apologized about the fact that although she knew the answer she would first have to resolve the policy question of whether she or the Postal Service should provide us the answer to the question: "One plate or two?"

### Letters to the editor

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

## The Plate Number

and Great Americans Review

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Published six times a year by Stephen G. Esrati, P.O. Box 20130, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120-0130. Subscription price is \$16 a year (\$14 to members of PNC). Please add \$4.00 for first-class mail or for addresses outside North America. Entire contents Copyright © 1993 by Stephen G. Esrati.

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Several days later, we called Mrs. Lane again. The answer came quickly: The T/A Press uses two plates of 600 subjects when printing definitives, thus giving us two paired plate numbers.

But on the policy question, she said the information should really come from the Postal Service and that Fleming was the man we should call to get our answers.

Please note that this type of tooth-pulling doesn't come cheap. We made two calls to Ms. Vargo in Washington, three to Mrs. Lane in Virginia, and one to Fleming in Wisconsin.

And then we started on our next quest: Have the paper specifications used by stamp printers been changed? Ms. Vargo confirmed that they had been. That would account for all the differences we've been seeing of late on such stamps as the Eagle and Shields with the numbers A7777 and A8888 as well as the differences AJ Cibulskas noticed between Plate A1 and A2 of the gravured 5¢ Circus Wagon.

Still later, after more costly long-distance calls, American Bank Note Co. confirmed that the new Eagle and Shields were printed on paper meeting the new specs. We asked the Postal Service for the new specs. Joe Brockert told us that release of the specs to *TPN* would require a manager's approval. What on earth could be secret about paper specifications?

Stay tuned! ☞

## NO MORE PLATE REPORTS

The cost-cutting Postal Service is going to stop issuing plate-activity reports. A spokesperson said USPS is aware of the fact that only few subscribers to the reports publish any of the data and is seeking a way to get the reports to those subscribers, either directly from the printers or through USPS.

That means *TPN* may be one of the few remaining sources for such information, but we'd be happier if it were not so.

Think of it. We could not have amassed the data we used to put out the *Plate Number Coil Catalog*. We would never have known what happened after the fire that destroyed two Cottrell presses. We would not have been able to figure out tagging breaks, and through them what we have called "E=MC<sup>2</sup>." We would have been unable to compile the data we have recently published on the Great Americans. ☞



Mitchell, although such light printings are known from several other (3¢ White, 5¢ Black, for example) A Press values. The 1991 article was inconclusive, and the 1992 article did not come to any conclusions, either. Our reply to Mrs. Morehouse stands. If George Brett can only guess and not be certain, that's good enough for us. We don't know why there are light printings of the 1¢ Mitchell.

### TPN wasn't first

I really think it's unfair to readers to imply that scholarship on the Great Americans began with TPN's interest or, as you implied in *Stamp Collector*, when Richard Nazar asked some questions.

Some of us have been studying these stamps and writing about them all along. Based on that backlog of research, I arranged over a year ago to get space in *The American Philatelist*, which is why I was able to send you my evolving checklist last summer when you started.

### Used singles prices

On Page 33, you attempt to rebut my article on used PNC singles prices by citing three stamps that never appear in mixtures as PNCs "that the mixture pickers have had a chance to find," and then again quote from price lists of dealers who don't sell used PNCs as your reference. The used market is as *Linn's* "Trends" has it, not as mint strip dealers discount their incomplete dregs that don't move. Compare the price lists of dealers who sell used singles, or bourse prices, or sales circuits, to see the real market.

Is the TPN Average discredited because somewhere I can

buy every item in the basket cheaper than the prices you calculate from—especially from stamp dealers who don't specialize in PNC strips?

*In reply:* The writer missed the point. If one can but mint pairs or singles from PNC mint dealers and get them canceled for less than the cost charged by dealers in used singles, then something is wrong with the prices charged by the dealers in used singles—and in *Linn's* "Trends."

### Reinventing the wheel

On Page 47, you're re-inventing the wheel again (in the section that detailed the differences in spacing of marginal inscriptions on the 920-subject A Press).

To understand the 920-subject (46 around by 20 across) A Press plate layout, consult the April 1982 *U.S. Specialist*.

With a repeat length of 46 subjects in the selvage, no layout can divide perfectly by 10. Both the 6- and 7-subject intervals (or multiples of 6 and 7) exist for every marginal marking ( $7+6+7+6+7+6+7=46$ ), so a chart that lists them is superfluous.

### Corner plate blocks

It is possible to collect corner plate blocks from 920-subject A Press sleeves, since a floating plate number can appear anywhere in the selvage, including the corner.

Early A Press printings did not have straight edges. The 10¢ Russell was the first; before that they were guillotined through the perfs on three edges. That's the reason you can't prove that a floating plate number is really at the corner on the A Press issues prior to the Russell.

Scott lists, and albums illustrate, plate blocks of six on the floaters, as well as strips of 20.

### 1¢ Dix

The 1¢ Dix is not the only Great Americans stamp with both line and bull's-eye perfs; it's the only one whose bull's-eye perfs were applied on press, on 920-subject panes. All designs that were printed from both 920- and 800-subject sleeves have both perforation styles.

### I-8 Press

Stamps from the I-8 currency press were never "re-wound," nor were they tagged on a gravure press. The I-8 is sheet-fed, so there's nothing to wind, unwind, or re-wind. The sheets are stacked. The format allows use of less expensive but more effective corn-dextrin adhesive, which is shiny.

I-8 stamps were tagged on a sheet-fed offset press, not a gravure press.

Ken Lawrence  
Jackson, Miss.

### ...and we made lots of errors

I have a few corrections for *TPN*. The following are in page order:

Page 31—The headline to Ponzillo's letter says "Canoe," but the letter deals with the Circus Wagon.

Page 31—The reply to the Morehouse letter says Cody 2 is from the C Press. It's Press 902, the D Press. Also, there are only three Great American stamps from the C Press, and we're not sure two of these aren't actually from the D

## BUYING ERRORS



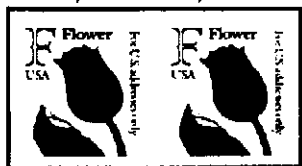
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Press. Only Cassatt 2 and maybe Hopkins 2 and Nimitz 4 (new) are C Press products.

Page 44—Your comments in Data Bank about the T/A Press are in conflict with the Warren (Page 54) and the Chavez (Page 55) entries. The latter two are also in conflict with each other. You'll confuse the troops for sure.

*In reply:* We tried hard to nail this one down. At press time (for the March issue) we learned that the T/A Press pairs two plates of 600 for a total output of 1,200 stamps.

Page 46—I don't agree with the second of your three observations at the bottom of column one. I do not believe the vertical untagged lines on the outside rows of the Stravinsky, Schurz, and Buck were created by the infamous shaved mats, and I'll be very surprised if any horizontal tagging breaks are found. I believe the lines we've found are from a salvaged tagging roller system from Press 802 or 804. The lines do not resemble the horizontal break lines on the coils. They're too clean and straight. Further, the Schurz and Buck stamps were never printed on Press 803. What say you?

*In reply:* We never said they were from the shaved precanceled mats (used to print tagged PNCs on Cottrell 803). What we did say was that some form of tagging mat was made and was held in place with a wire through a channel. The writer may be correct in guessing that this is a salvaged tagging system off one of the burned-out presses.

But we'll take exception to the statement that Schurz and Buck were never printed on Press 803. BEP reports are too sketchy to detail every on-press, off-press date and hardly ever mention returns to press. If these stamps had to be reprinted after the BEP fire, what press could they have been printed on?

Page 47 ("Data Bank")—The \$1 Hopkins with overall tagging does exist. Check the samples I've enclosed. I have doubts that any sheetlets with untagged selvage are going to turn up. The layout for these sheetlets is 4x4 (320 SPR) and, by my calculations, would require a 20-inch web. There's a little glitch here. I don't think the A Press had a capacity of 20 inches, and therefore I wonder if the overall tagging from Plate 1 isn't really from the C or D Press. This would also mean a repeat of the plate number 1, once for the A Press and once for the C/D. At any rate, the tagging cylinder would be wider and hence we've found no untagged selvage.

Page 47 ("New PNCs")—All but a few ST1Y have tagging breaks every 26 stamps. Rolls with breaks every 52 stamps are scarce. 61/20R is a very common break. See Ernst's chart on Page 50.

Page 47 (Corrections for Page 6) "Oil-based paints" undoubtedly was meant to be "oil-based inks."

Page 51—A misplaced decimal point left a big perforation hole. The 10mm perf hole sure bites into the image area.

*In reply:* That should have said 1.0mm.

Page 53—The 17¢ Lockwood was perfed on the Eureka, not the electric-eye perforator.

Page 55—The 40¢ Chennault is from Press 902, the D Press.

*In reply:* Well, actually, BEP said it was off Press 702, the A Press. We put in the 902. But since any stamp printable on the D Press can also be printed on the C Press, it isn't a good idea to make any bets here.

Page 56—The 50¢ Nimitz report is really interesting. A third Plate 3! We now have one for the I-8, one for the A Press, and one for the C/D.

Page 57—The \$5 Harte is from Press 902, the D Press.  
Alan Thomson  
Northwood, N.H.

## Getting complex

Thanks for adding Great Americans.

It gets more and more complicated about less and less.  
Duane Beck  
Shaker Heights, Ohio

## Untagged Londons straightened out

I have some thoughts about your article "Scott cleans up its act, but not for PNCs" in the January issue. You say: "On the 25¢ Jack London booklet ... it lists an untagged error. On which booklet, with what perforation gauge?"

I assume you are referring to the reference under Scott 2197 on Page 153. This is for the pane of six (Plate 1, which they say is Perf. 10). My example of the pane in question is in a \$1.50 booklet (BK 151). A dealer friend tells me he was offered a box (500 booklets) of these and knows of another almost entire box. So these are not rare.

I found a few copies of BK 150 (\$5 booklet, 2 panes of 10 from Plate 2, which Scott lists as Scott 2183a) with both panes untagged. Scott doesn't list this variety.

I have never heard of the untagged pane in a copy of BK 152, the \$3 booklet.

I do quibble with Scott on perforations varieties created when on-line perforators failed and BEP (and others, now) were forced to switch to off-line perforation. I wrote Scott's a couple of times pointing out that the on-line variety should be the major variety, and the off-line one the minor variety or varieties. I also suggested making those

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perforation references uniform.

For example, the "L" perforations are, with just a couple of exceptions, always 10.9, not 11. But Scott lists some as 10.9, others as 11. (To a semi-trained mathematician like me, that's misleading. Scott really means 11.0. Just "11" says the perforation could be anything from 10.5 to 11.4!) So far, they've done nothing along those lines

Robert E. Kitson  
Wilmington, Del.

## Azusa means 'A to Z in USA'

You report an EKU on the variable rate coil from "Azusa," California. The name "Azusa" was formed to mean "A to Z in the USA" years ago.

Mark D. Larkin,  
New York, N.Y.

## Here's one for Doug Iams

Doug Iams didn't sound too pleased about the general direction our "hobby" is going.

NASDAQ has nothing on PNC collecting.

My new-issues dealer crowed for months about getting me the Eagle and Shield A32333 for \$3.75, until Dr. Robert

Rabinowitz cornered the market for it. Then I was offered the "opportunity" to pay \$85 for it.

It was at that point that my mint collection was packed off for consignment to my favorite auction house.

No one can tamper with the used material I enjoy searching for, and the variety is endless.

A triple-struck "F" tulip surfaced recently that is truly astounding.

George L. Richards II  
Duxbury, Mass.

## Canoe split

I have an 05 Canoe printed by Stamp Venturers with a plate number "S11" that is a full 1mm from the bottom part of the stamp. But there is also a partial plate number at the top. How is this possible?

Howard A. Moser  
Highland, Ill.

*In reply:* We measured your stamp, which was 25.7mm tall. A normal stamp is 24.3mm tall. The extra 1.4mm allowed the bit of a plate number from the row above to show on your stamp. In short, what you have is a miscut resulting in an overly tall stamp. Nice find!

## UPDATE: New stamps, corrections, new finds, USPS withdrawals

### New imperforate PNCs

The following imperforates were all reported by Dr. John Greenwood and/or John Tison in Ken Lawrence's *Linn's* column for Feb. 22.

- 1T2R—Tagged Plate 2 of the B Press version of the 1¢ Omnibus.
- 5T1Y—Plate 1 of the BEP version of the 5¢ Canoe. Tagged. (Found by Haake)
- 10T1XP—Plate 1 of the 10¢ Tractor Trailer.
- 10U(A43335)P—The 10¢ Eagle and Shield with the numbers "A43335."
- 13.ZT2P—Plate 2 of the 13.2¢ Coal Wagon.
- 25T1—Plate 1 of the 25¢ Bread Wagon.
- 25T2—Plate 2 of the 25¢ Bread Wagon. (Tison via *Linn's*)
- 18T13—Plate 13 of the 18¢ Surrey.
- 23T2—Plate 2 of the 23¢ Lunch Wagon.
- 23T3—Plate 3 of the 23¢ Lunch Wagon.
- 29F1—Plate 1 of the 29¢ Flag over Mt. Rushmore.
- 29F2—Plate 2 of the 29¢ Flag over Mt. Rushmore.
- 29F3—Plate 3 of the 29¢ Flag over Mt. Rushmore.
- 29F4—Plate 4 of the 29¢ Flag over Mt. Rushmore.
- 29F6—Plate 6 of the 29¢ Flag over Mt. Rushmore.
- 29F7—Plate 7 of the 29¢ Flag over Mt. Rushmore.
- 29F9—Plate 9 of the 29¢ Flag over Mt. Rushmore.
- 29F3X—Plate 3 of the 29¢ Flag over the White House.
- 29F4X—Plate 4 of the 29¢ Flag over the White House.
- 29F6X—Plate 6 of the 29¢ Flag over the White House.
- 29F7X—Plate 7 of the 29¢ Flag over the White House.
- \$1T1—Plate 1 of the \$1 Seaplane, used strip of nine. (Dr. Greenwood via *Linn's*)

### Great Americans

- 10¢ Red Cloud—A full sheet from Plate 1 has been found untagged. Previous reports of this tagging error have all been about Plate 2. (Thomson)
- 20¢ Bunche—A vertical tagging break has been found in the left selvage of Plates 3 and 4. (Moreau)
- 22¢ Audubon—The tagging block on Plate 1 can be either small or large. Reported so far, small on right panes; large on left panes. (Moreau)
- 56¢ Harvard—An untagged error has been found. (Rose)
- \$2 Bryan—Full sheets found with white or yellow gum. (Kaplan)

### Withdrawals

- PNCs to be withdrawn from sale on June 19, 1993:
- 11¢ Stutz Bearcat.
- 11¢ Caboose, service inscribed (no precancel bars).
- 17.5¢ Racing Car, rolls of 100.
- 23¢ Flag presort.
- 25¢ Flag Over Yosemite, block tagged.
- 25¢ Flag Over Yosemite, prephosphored paper.

### Great Americans:

23¢ Cassatt, all but prephosphored paper. (Recent shipments have been block tagged. Overall-tagged Cassatts have been unobtainable from Kansas City.)

### New PNCs

- 5T3ZP—Plate 3 of the 05 Canoe. Found on cover from Planned Parenthood Federation in New York about March 28. (Barb Koepp)
- 10U(A89999)P—The undenominated 10¢ Eagle and Shield with the numbers "A89999." March 30. (Dr. Rabinowitz)
- 10U(A99999)P—The undenominated 10¢ Eagle and Shield with the numbers "A99999." About March 10. (Dr. Rabinowitz)
- 19M(A5556)—The 19¢ Fishing Boat with the numbers "A5556" in rolls of 500. April 8. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

## Data bank of official information

### 29¢ Thomas Jefferson Definitive Stamp

The 29¢ Thomas Jefferson definitive stamp goes on sale April 13.

Place on Sale Nationwide  
April 14, 1993

NOTE: Since this issue was recently added to the 1993 program, only 30 million stamps will be available and shipped to stamp distribution offices (SDOs) located in the states of Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New York, and Washington, D.C., before the first day of sale.

SUPPLY: Post offices with authorized philatelic centers will receive their standard six-position automatic distribution for a 100-subject stamp around April 12. All SDOs will re-



ceive two distributions. The first distribution, 250,000 stamps, is about April 12. The second distribution of 500,000 stamps is June 28. SDOs will not make automatic distributions to their associate offices.

*Postal Bulletin, 2/18/93*

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# E&S is found with doubled plate number

Howard Moser sent in a used single of E&S A43335 in which the dark brown 5 in the plate number has another, light brown, 5 appearing just to its left. He



calls it a "shadow 5."

The stamp does not show any doubling of the brown anywhere else.

That leads to the suspicion that the light brown 5 was somehow offset to the stamp, but not any of the other brown.

Has anyone else seen anything like it?

## Canceled plate reprinted

Tom Maeder, president of PNC<sup>3</sup>, is puzzled by a report from Charles Yeager in *Linx*'s that the BEP has reprinted the Universal Vending Machine (UVM) stamps for the ECA-GARD machines after it announced that the plate had been canceled after 14,000 impressions on Sept. 3, 1991.

According to Yeager, BEP printed another 14,000 rolls of 3,000 in January 1993.

"How come?" asked Maeder. "I thought once a plate was canceled, they couldn't print any more stamps from it."

## Chamberlain selling out

Dennis Chamberlain, the pioneer PNC dealer, has been selling off his entire inventory of PNCs, including basic strips, precancel gaps, plate varieties, and color varieties.

Chamberlain, who practically founded PNC collecting as we know it, stopped active dealing in 1986, apparently because he lacked the funds to keep building up his stock and to continue his advertising and mailings.

At a meeting of PNC<sup>3</sup> at World Stamp Expo in Washington in 1989 he was given a standing ovation when introduced and then spoke on how he came to start dealing in PNCs—almost by accident.

## 18F6 hits \$3,500

We don't often report on prices in this space. But now that Plate 6 of the 18¢ Flag has hit \$3,500 in Ed Denson's March price list, that's news.

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

## Catalog off until October

Richard Nazar, publisher of *The Plate Number Coil Catalog*, has extended his date for the appearance of the eighth edition to October 1993.

## 'Tagging break' isn't one

Ken Moreau sent in a strip of five of the 3.4¢ School Bus from Plate 2 in the belief that it had a horizontal tagging break because, he said, it had an "untagged stripe across the tops of the stamps."

If it had been a stripe caused by a tagging break, it would have had tagging at the top and bottom of the untagged area. This was merely a lack of tagging across the top of the entire strip. Thus, it is from the top row in the printing pane and the untagged area is merely the edge of the tagging mat. So far, no tagging breaks have been found on the 3.4s.

## How about these 'FDC's?

"First-day covers" of E&S A77777 and E&S A33334 were offered for sale in early February by Dr. Robert Rabinowitz.

The price for the pair was \$700.

Stamps with the plate numbers A77777 were not even printed until 1993. Stamps with the numbers A33334 were among the very first printed, but were not found mint until August 1992.

Dr. Rabinowitz said the A33334 covers "could have been legitimate" if some collector somewhere had found them and prepared FDCs with them.

But what is more likely is that both sets of covers were submitted to the Postal Service with a request for replacement because earlier covers were damaged.

USPS policy theoretically forbids the substitution of later plate numbers on such covers, but it often happens.

## Creases appear 'normal'

Kim Cuniberti has discovered something odd on strips of the 19¢ Fishing Boat with the numbers A1212. They all have an almost indiscernible crease about 1.5mm from the top of the stamp.

Some collectors who noticed sent them back to their dealers thinking they had been sold damaged goods. Cuniberti be-

lieves that the crease is the norm, therefore the stamps are not faulty.

Several of the other numbers of the Fishing Boat also show the crease, but not on all stamps.

## Seaplane break 'walks'

A walking tagging break has been found on the \$1 Seaplane. Gene Ernst reports breaks at 3L, 2L, and 1L, and said the shift in the break appears to be just under one-third of a stamp's width.

## In Court of Honor

Darrell Ertzberger's exhibit of Cottrill issues was in the court of honor at the Florida West Coast Stamp Expo in Tarpon Springs in March. Bill McMurray's "Tomorrow's Classics" will be entered in the Mega-Event in New York in May. Gary Davis's study of postal use of PNCs is entered in October's Thamespex 93 in New London, Conn.

## Scott adds numbers

Scott Publishing Co. has assigned a separate catalog number (2452B) for the gravured 5¢ Circus Wagon. The original tagged Circus Wagon was 2452 and the later, purposely untagged, version was 2452a.

Scott also assigned a separate number (2529a) for the 19¢ Fishing Boat with the numbers A5555, which it terms Type II. Previous Fishing Boats were Type I.

Type I was printed on the Schiavi Press with numbers 36 stamps apart; Type II is from an Andreotti Press with numbers 24 stamps apart.

## Stamps, etc. adds data

The April-June issue of *Stamps, etc.*, adds a new twist for customers ordering coil stamps. It now names the press on which the stamps were printed, the roll size, and the minimum number of stamps one must buy to obtain a PNC.

The last item is a trap for the unsuspecting. One must order at least three additional stamps to make sure one gets a strip of five with a plate number in the middle, because ordering the minimum could result in a strip with the number on the last stamp.

## BEP's E&S stamps due

BEP has begun printing E&S stamps in coils of 500 and 3,000. They will not have a prefix "A." The stamps are expected in April. □

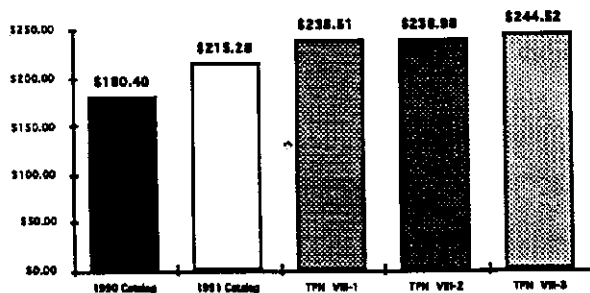
## Average dealers' prices on E&S stamps Updated to April 2, 1993

CAT	PS/3	VF5	CAT	PS/3	VF5
A11111	\$3.18	\$3.33	A34426	\$4.93	\$5.03
A11112	\$3.25	\$3.33	A43324	\$5.33	\$5.29
A12213	\$20.82	\$22.13	A43325	\$4.15	\$4.19
A21112	\$3.18	\$3.33	A43326	\$4.15	\$4.27
A21113	\$4.74	\$5.00	A43334	\$3.40	\$3.56
A22112	\$3.18	\$3.33	A43335	\$3.40	\$3.52
A22113	\$3.08	\$3.23	A43426	\$5.18	\$5.21
A32333	\$219.50	\$214.29	A53335	\$4.15	\$4.23
A33333	\$5.77	\$5.86	A54444	\$4.45	\$4.58
A33334	\$93.81	\$98.00	A54445	\$4.45	\$4.58
A33335	\$5.00	\$5.19	A77777	\$3.24	\$3.43
A34424	\$4.93	\$5.03	A88886	\$3.14	\$3.35
			A99999	\$3.30	\$3.50

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.

### TPN AVERAGE



## Price changes of strips in TPN Average

CATALOG	SERIES	FACE	PLATE	TPN VF-2	TPN VF-3	% Change
18F1	FLAG	18	1	\$512.42	\$513.67	0.24%
18F3	FLAG	18	3	\$1,176.02	\$1,210.85	2.96%
20F4	FLAG	20	4	\$989.70	\$998.26	5.46%
20F11	FLAG	20	11	\$13.72	\$13.66	-0.42%
22F1	FLAG	22	1	\$16.81	\$16.92	0.62%
22F3	FLAG	22	3	\$63.95	\$66.70	4.30%
25F5	FLAG	25	5 Block	\$5.58	\$5.69	2.06%
25F5i	FLAG	25	5 Phos	\$11.29	\$11.90	5.40%
29F1	FLAG	29	1	\$5.81	\$5.85	0.79%
29F1X	WH FLAG	29	1	\$5.83	\$5.80	-0.59%
5.2T3	TRANS	5.2	3	\$201.02	\$206.00	2.48%
5.2T4P	TRANS	5.2	4	\$17.74	\$17.71	-0.19%
5.9T3P	TRANS	5.9	3	\$29.74	\$31.36	5.45%
5.9T6P	TRANS	5.9	6	\$98.66	\$105.02	6.45%
7.4T2	TRANS	7.4	2	\$13.03	\$13.18	1.15%
8.4T3P	TRANS	8.4	3	\$23.98	\$25.98	8.35%
9.3T1P	TRANS	9.3	1	\$18.84	\$18.95	0.61%
9.3T6	TRANS	9.3	6	\$323.54	\$324.04	0.15%
9.3T8P	TRANS	9.3	8	\$217.95	\$234.05	7.39%
10.9T1P	TRANS	10.9	1	\$38.86	\$38.86	0.00%
10.9T4P	TRANS	10.9	4	\$423.55	\$424.38	0.20%
17T6	TRANS	17	6	\$21.29	\$21.52	1.08%
17T6Pba	TRANS	17	6	\$57.30	\$57.30	0.00%
18T1	TRANS	18	1	\$110.23	\$112.41	1.96%
18T3	TRANS	18	3	\$88.16	\$90.83	3.00%
18T17	TRANS	18	17	\$7.27	\$7.00	-3.64%
20T1	TRANS	20	1	\$196.01	\$197.88	0.96%
20T2	TRANS	20	2	\$1,096.24	\$1,098.54	0.21%
20T7	TRANS	20	7	\$181.39	\$192.95	6.37%
20T11	TRANS	20	11	\$100.82	\$106.54	5.67%
20T12	TRANS	20	12	\$12.37	\$11.96	-3.35%
10U A33333P	E&S	10	33333	\$6.84	\$6.74	-1.51%
19M A1112	FISH	19	1112	\$12.43	\$12.16	-2.22%
29U 1211	F	29	1211	\$36.14	\$35.29	-2.35%
20M1	CONS	20	1	\$232.65	\$232.81	-0.36%
20M3	CONS	20	3	\$140.74	\$142.14	1.00%
20c1	OFFICIAL	20	1	\$67.77	\$74.18	9.45%
22c1	OFFICIAL	22	1	\$91.66	\$91.57	-0.09%

## Chasing down a 5.2T3

By Ed Denson

(Reprinted and condensed from Denson's *Market Report* with permission)

I recently received an order for a 5.2¢ Sleigh from Plate 3. This is a rare item, and I don't often sell one. I went to my stock book and found one, but I didn't like it. It was centered very low. The number did not touch the bottom on the stamp, I discovered with my magnifying glass. Part of the number from the next row showed at the top. It was not a strip I could sell as F-VF. For F-VF the number needs to be obviously clear of the bottom. If you need a glass, pass.

Being out of stock is no problem for me. I write the market reports. If anyone knows where to find things, it's me, right? Wrong!

I turned to my reports and found seven other dealers who offer this strip (five do not). I phoned my principal wholesaler, full of confidence and placed my order. My euphoria lasted about 15 seconds. He was entirely out of stock. I began checking other wholesalers and dealers. I found only one wholesaler who had any. His were wonderfully centered on the line, but the number needed a glass to tell that the "3" didn't touch the bottom. So much for the wholesale market.

Then I turned to other dealers who list the item. Two more were out (with me, that's three out of seven). Two had only XF, at a considerable premium. Another's needed a glass to see that the number was clear. One strip I located had lots of daylight under the number, so much that the design ran off the top of the stamp.

Finally I located a new wholesaler who had a copy with daylight under the number. I ordered it. The next day I got a fax suggesting that I buy it from Al Haake instead because my wholesaler now only offered it in a set with 5.2T5. I ordered the set. My customer waited. But look at it this way, he couldn't buy it from someone else because there aren't any out there. Finally the strip arrived. It was a bit high but within the range for F-VF. My customer was happy. I made about \$10 on the deal, less phone calls.

### Lesson 1: Believe my own research

I learned a lot from all this. First, I ought to believe my own price projections. I saw buy offers at 56% of list and I should have realized weeks ago that this strip was going up. My projections show this strip at \$230-\$310 this spring. (It was \$136.50 in my average the day I started looking—an average made up of dealers who could not deliver what they advertised.)

### Lesson 2: Not every list reflects what exists

Bob Rabinowitz made this point when discussing my market research. He thought an average of all dealers' prices would be inaccurate because some of the smaller dealers were phantoms, with little or no stock. I did and do agree, but this time the major dealers had their share of vaporware, too.

### Lesson 3: When grading, we see what we want to see

Several PNCs have notoriously poor centering. The 1991 *PNC Catalog* states of 5.2T3: "Centering is often poor. These prices are for VF."

Dealers react to poor centering by redefining their grades. Instead of biting the bullet (as the catalog did), they come up with "well centered for this issue" or some such illusory standard. We should bite the bullet, put the price where it deserves to be, and sell the lower grades at good discounts. Otherwise we are deceiving collectors, who in many cases rely on the dealer to set the standards. If we say, "This is VF," even though the number may be split, this is untrue. □



# TRANSPORTATION COILS

**SPRING SPECIAL—20% off on plate strips on all orders over \$25.00**

We have all new numbers as soon as they come out.

	LP	PSS	PSS
1897 1e Bus 1, 2, 5, 6	20	30	65
3, 4	1.20	1.30	1.40
2225 1e B Press 1, 2	40	50	90
2225a untagged 2	1.00	1.25	1.50
1897A 2e Loco 3, 4, 8, 10	35	40	70
2, 6	60	65	100
2226 2e Loco B Press 1	85	90	1.00
1898 3e Hancock 1, 2, 3, 4	55	80	1.00
2252 3e Conesaga 1, 2	80	90	1.00
2123 3.4e School Bus 1, 2	70	1.00	1.25
2123a 3.4e PC 1, 2	9.00	9.50	10.00
1898A 4e Coach 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	2.00	2.25	2.50
1898AB 4e PC 3, 4, 5, 6	9.00	9.50	10.00
2228 4e B Press 1	1.00	1.20	1.25
2228a overall tagged 1	19.00	19.50	20.00
2451 4e Cabbage 1	1.00	1.20	1.25
2451a same, untagged	2.00	2.25	2.50
2124 4.9e Buckboard 3, 4	1.00	1.05	1.80
2124a PC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	2.00	2.25	2.50
1899 5e Micycle 1, 2, 3, 4	55	1.45	1.55
2253 5e Milk Wagon 1	1.00	1.10	1.25
2452 5e Circus Wagon 1	1.00	1.10	1.25
2452a untagged 1	1.60	1.65	1.75
Same, gravured A1, A2	1.60	1.65	2.00
2453 5e Canoe 1	1.00	1.10	1.25
2	1.80	1.90	2.00
2454 gravured SY1	1.60	1.65	1.75
1900 5.2e Sleigh 1, 2	3.85	7.00	15.00
3, 5	135.00	165.00	170.00
1900a PC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	11.00	13.00	14.00
2254 5.3e Elevator 1	1.15	1.20	1.30
2125 5.5e Star Truck 1	2.80	2.90	3.00
2125a 5.5e PC 1	2.05	2.15	2.45
PC 2	2.60	2.80	3.00
1901 5.9e Bicycle 3, 4	4.20	9.10	18.00
1901a 5.9e PC 3, 4	22.00	32.00	32.50
PC 5, 6	59.50	68.00	90.00
2126 6e Tricycle 1	1.20	1.50	1.60
2126a PC 1	2.30	2.40	2.50
PC 2	7.55	8.65	8.75
2127 7e Tractor 1	2.55	2.60	2.70
2127a PC 1	4.00	4.25	4.50
2127a PC 1 "ZIP-4"	2.55	2.60	2.70
1902 7.4e Baby Buggy 2	5.60	6.30	11.00
1902a PC 2	5.00	5.50	6.00
2255 7.6e Carrel 1, 2	1.75	2.50	2.65
3	6.00	6.50	7.00
2128 8.3e Ambulance 1, 2	1.25	1.40	2.25
2128a 8.3e PC 1, 2	1.25	1.40	2.25
PC 3, 4	5.35	5.50	5.75
2221 Arm. B Press 1, 2	3.50	3.75	4.00
2256 8.4e Wheelchair 1, 2	2.50	2.75	3.00
3	24.00	24.50	25.00
2129 8.5e Tow Truck 1	3.00	3.50	4.00
2129a PC 1	3.50	3.60	3.70
2	13.00	13.50	14.00
1903 9.3e Mail Wagon 1, 2	6.30	7.00	15.00
3, 4	26.80	28.20	41.00
5, 6	154.00	320.00	325.00
1903a PC 1, 2	16.00	17.00	18.00
PC 3, 4	29.00	30.00	31.00
PC 5, 6	3.00	3.20	3.40
PC 8	190.00	195.00	200.00
2257 10e Canal Boat 1	1.30	1.40	1.50
Photoshed, shiny gum	3.00	3.20	3.50
2457 10e Tractor Trailer 1	1.30	1.40	1.50
2604 (10e) Eagle, Shield			
A1111, 11112, 21112, 22112, 22113, 43334, 43335, 53335,			
7777, 88888, 99999	3.30	3.40	3.50
A21113, 33333, 33335, 34424, 34426, 43324, 43325, 43326,			
43426, 54444, 54445	4.75	4.85	5.00
A12213	25.00	25.00	25.00
A32333	225.00	225.00	225.00
A33334	No discounts	85.00	
2130 10.1e Oil Wagon 1	1.60	2.10	3.25
2130a Black PC 1, 2	2.50	2.65	3.50
2130a Red PC 2, 3	2.55	2.65	2.75
1904 10.9e Hansom 1, 2	9.10	16.00	36.00
1904a PC 1, 2	13.00	33.00	33.50
3, 4	45.50	262.50	400.00
19051 1e Caboose 1	3.15	3.35	5.00
1905a Caboose PC 1	3.80	4.00	4.25
Untagged 2	2.00	2.25	2.50
2131 11e Stutz 1, 2, 3, 4	55	1.40	1.90

	LP	PSS	PSS
2132a 12e PC 1, 2	2.50	2.75	3.00
2132b 12e B Press PC 1	22.00	23.00	24.00
2133 12.5e Pushcart 1, 2	2.65	2.80	3.25
2133a PC 1, 2	3.90	4.00	4.50
2258 13e Patrol Wagon 1	2.75	3.00	3.00
2259 13.2e Coal Car 1, 2	2.75	3.00	3.25
2134 14e Iceboat 1, 2, 3, 4	1.40	2.40	2.50
2134b B Press 2	2.80	3.90	4.50
2260 15e Tugboat 1, 2	2.50	2.80	3.00
2260a Overall tagged 2	3.50	3.80	4.00
2261 16.7e Popcorn 1, 2	4.00	4.40	4.75
1906 17e Auto 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1.80	3.10	3.40
6	17.00	17.50	18.00
7	4.90	5.00	5.50
1906a 17e PC Type A 3, 4, 5	4.90	5.00	5.50
Type A 6, 7	10.00	12.50	
Type AB 5, 7 PS10 only	—	—	14.00
Type B 3, 4	18.20	18.90	22.00
Type B 5, 6	10.00	13.50	14.00
Type BA 5, 6	—	—	59.00
Type C 1, 2	9.50	9.85	10.25
Type C 3, 4	10.00	10.75	11.00
Type C 5, 7	21.00	22.00	23.00
2135 17e Dog sled 2	2.75	3.00	3.50
2252 17.5e Racer 1	3.00	3.50	4.00
2252a 17.5e PC 1	3.00	3.50	4.00
1907 18e Surrey 1	61.00	90.00	95.00
2, 5, 6, 8	2.65	4.00	4.50
3, 4	35.00	75.00	78.00
7	21.00	38.00	45.00
11, 12, 15, 16	9.30	16.00	16.50
9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18	6.30	7.00	11.00
1891 18e Flag 1	120.00	140.00	440.00
2	19.60	29.40	45.00
3	360.00	362.50	1,000.00
4	6.30	6.65	10.00
5	3.50	4.70	5.50
6	WANT	1,800.00	2,700.00
7	38.00	38.55	39.00
2149 18e Wash. 1112, 3333	2.75	3.00	3.50
2149a 18e PC 33333 & dull	4.00	4.50	5.00
PC 11121, 43444	5.75	6.15	6.50
2529 19e Boat A1112, 1212	10.00	10.25	10.50
A1111, 2424, 5655	3.25	3.75	4.50
1908 20e Pumper 1	6.30	39.50	170.00
2	35.00	260.00	975.00
3, 4, 13, 15, 16	3.35	3.50	5.50
5, 9, 10	1.75	2.05	3.40
7, 8	143.00	144.00	150.00
12, 14 XF	14.00	15.40	23.00
6, 12, 14	5.60	5.60	9.00
11	50.50	52.60	85.00
2005 20e Consumer Ed. 1, 2	4.55	37.50	200.00
3, 4	4.55	37.50	120.00
1895 20e Flag 1	5.60	8.00	85.00
2, 11, 12	7.55	10.00	12.00
3	3.35	3.50	7.50
4	37.80	65.00	800.00
6	90.00	95.00	150.00

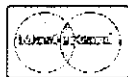
	LP	PSS	PSS
1895 20e Flag 8	5.45	5.60	16.00
5, 9, 10, 13, 14	2.75	4.00	6.00
1895a 20e PC 14	60.00	60.00	60.00
0135 20e Official 1	10.50	25.00	70.00
2263 20e Cable Car 1, 2	3.25	3.75	4.50
2263b Overall tagged 2	3.25	3.75	4.50
2264 20.5e Fire Engine 1	3.25	3.75	4.50
2265 21e Rail Car 1, 2	3.25	3.75	4.50
2150 21.1e 111111	3.00	3.15	4.75
111121	4.05	4.40	6.75
2150a 21.1e PC 111111, 111121	3.65	3.85	5.75
2115 22e Flag 1, 7, 13	5.45	14.50	15.00
3	10.50	14.00	60.00
5, 6, 10	6.85	7.00	7.50
14	25.50	26.00	27.00
2, 4, 8, 12, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 71	4.00	4.10	4.50
11, 17, 18, 20	5.95	8.30	9.50
2112 22e "D" Eagle 1, 2	4.75	5.10	7.75
0139 22e "D" Official 1	35.00	50.00	80.00
2464 23e Lunch Wagon 2, 3	3.25	3.75	4.50
2607 23e Flag A111, 212, 222	3.25	3.75	4.50
A112	9.00	9.50	10.00
A122, 333	4.50	5.00	5.50
NEW 23e USA A1111, A2222	3.50	4.00	4.50
BEP version 1111	3.50	4.00	4.50
2266 24.1e Tandem 1	3.90	4.20	4.50
2136 25e Bread Wagon 1, 2, 3, 4	2.65	2.80	4.25
5	3.35	3.50	5.50
2280 25e Yosemite			
Block 1, 7	7.00	8.00	9.00
Block 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	3.80	4.20	4.50
Block 9	10.00	11.00	12.00
Phos 1	48.00	49.00	50.00
Phos. 2, 3, 7-11, 13-14	4.00	4.25	4.75
Phos. 5, 15	6.00	7.00	8.00
Phos. 6	14.00	15.00	16.00
2279 "E" Earth 1211	4.75	4.90	7.25
2222	5.00	5.50	6.00
1111, 1222	2.10	2.30	3.75
2281 25e Honeybee 1, 2	2.10	2.45	4.50
1 Orig. full swirl	30.00	31.50	32.00
2518 "F" (29e) Tulip			
1111, 1222, 2222	3.50	4.00	4.50
1211	39.00	39.50	40.00
2211	8.00	8.50	9.00
2525 29e Flower S1111, 2222 Sil.	3.50	4.00	4.50
S2222 (Perf.)	4.00	4.50	5.00
2523 29e Mt. Rushmore			
1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7	3.50	4.00	4.50
6 on Lenz Paper	150.00	150.00	150.00
5, 8, 9	8.50	8.75	9.00
2522c 7 Toledo brown	150.00	150.00	150.00
2523A gravure A11111, A22211	3.50	4.00	4.50
2590 29e White House			
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	4.50	5.00	5.50
2468 \$1 Sealplane	5.00	6.00	8.00
Variable Rate Shield (VWM)			
1e-18e	20.00	19e-29e	10.00

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**TERMS:** Payment with order. Prices subject to change without notice. U.S. postage taken in trade at 100%. Single plate number coils available at pair price minus one stamp. Average coils available on better items. Please send for list.

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# Paper specs changed

By Stephen G. Esrati

The new paper specifications which came into effect late in 1992, have been obtained by *TPN* under the Freedom of Information Act.

The specifications establish three types of paper for printing all U.S. stamps. Type I and Type II paper are tagged in the paper mill (prephosphored). Type III paper is untagged.

The difference between Type I paper and Type II paper is in the amount of tagging signal they emit, with Type II being stronger. It is intended for stamps whose design has a lot of ink.

[The three types are listed as such in the specifications and should not be confused with the paper types that have been used for PNCs in the past. To avoid confusion, *TPN* will refer to the paper types listed in the paper specifications as USPS Type I, etc.]

One of the three papers must be used no matter what printing process is used. In other words intaglio, gravure, and offset papers have been replaced by just these three papers.

Under the old system, papers were given an LP number by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. LP-40, for example, was an untagged paper intended to be printed on an intaglio press. It was 18½ inches wide. The prephosphored version of that paper was called LP-701. Different LP numbers indicated different widths, or were intended for specific presses, such as the Andreotti gravure press or the offset portion of the D Press.

Dr. Alim A. Fatah, program manager of the Stamp Manufacturing Division, said the new specifications are not intended to set roll sizes and seek to have one paper for all printing processes. Thus, the LP numbers are no longer in use. Printers now are simply required to meet the new paper specifications.

## 'G' stamps won't switch over

The new specifications came into effect late in 1992. The specifications were actually issued May 24, 1991, as USPS-P-1191, but were not implemented immediately to allow stamp printers to use up paper stocks they had purchased or contracted for.

American Bank Note Co. said it would continue to use paper ordered under the old specifications to print stamps on which work had begun before the new specifications came into force,

## Same paper now used on all presses; BEP continues tagging over printing

with the result that all its "G" stamps will be issued at the next rate change on obsolete paper.

ABN, however, did convert to the new specifications in the midst of its printing of the undenominated (10¢) Eagle and Shield bulk-rate coil stamps. That change took place with the

printing of stamps bearing the plate numbers A71777. A71777s are on a high-bright Ivex paper. Earlier stamps were on paper that appeared dead when viewed in ultraviolet light. That paper was from Paper Corp. of the United States.

This is not to say that only Ivex paper meets the new specifications. Obviously, other paper suppliers will also submit papers for the printing of stamps, meaning that collectors will be faced with a whole new flock of papers.

## What the specs require

Stamp printers receive instructions from the Postal Service with each work order on which paper to use. According to Dr. Fatah, this happens after a conference between USPS and the printer.

The new specifications cover such things as the thickness of the adhesive, cancelability, and printability. In separate specifications [USPS-P-1238] for papers used to make pressure-sensitive self-adhesive stamps, self-stick stamps are supposed to come off envelopes in less than a half hour of soaking in water.

Curiously, the old standards made provision for printing with either water-based inks or those using chemical solvents. BEP and some of ABN's plants have long been barred from using any solvent-based inks under Environmental Protection Agency rules. Those EPA regulations are included in the 1991 specifications. Thus, all stamps are to be printed in future using water-based inks.

The primary requirement of the new paper is for a "high quality stamp paper which functions well at the various stages of printing, converting, and mail processing. The paper shall also meet the needs of the philatelic community."

Paper must be made from 100% bleached chemical wood pulp. It may not contain any poisons in the paper or the adhesive. Use of recycled material is permitted.

As to the adhesive, the specifications call for it to "adhere tenaciously for an indefinite period." All adhesives have to be approved by the Department of Health and Human Services and

## The tale of the two roosters

USPS Type II paper, the one with the increased tagging signal, is intended for stamps in which the design has a lot of color.

A recent stamp in which the inks caused tagging problems is the 29¢ Happy New Year Stamp—which has two types of block tagging added to intensify the tagging signal, according to Wayne L. Youngblood of the PNC Study Group.

In the original production run, the offset inks were placed on prephosphored (mottled) paper. The offset colors were yellow, magenta, cyan and red (PMS 485). Then the intaglio colors were printed. USPS in its announcement that preceded issuance of the stamp listed the intaglio colors as red (PMS 1795) and red (PMS 485). But this information was wrong, since the plate number codes show four offset colors and only one intaglio color, a warm red, which is seen as the dark red feathers on the rooster.

After the stamps were printed, the tagging response was found insufficient. So the stamps were run through the offset press again where a block of tagging was applied. This block of tagging almost exactly matches the vignette size of the stamp, but because registration was seldom perfect, it shows up as a brightly tagged yellow line at one or another edge of the vignette.

Later, a less costly method was devised. Youngblood thinks that the process now involved the offset run, followed by a run through an added tagging station on the offset press, followed by the intaglio.

The two types can be readily distinguished in daylight by tilting the stamp at various angles. The stamp in which the tagging went on last has shiny feathers; but on the stamp in which the intaglio went on last, the feathers are mat.

The latter is more common, Youngblood said.

the Food and Drug Administration.

According to a USPS spokesperson, the major thrust of the new specifications was to ensure that stamps adhere more firmly to envelopes. However, TPN views this comment as an oversimplification, intended to satisfy the caller and to get rid of him as fast as possible. Obviously, the new paper specifications go far beyond this.

A recent stamp that kept falling off was the 23¢ Flag Presort coil.

#### Tagging signal strength

Three types of paper are outlined in the new specifications:

USPS Type I and USPS Type II paper differ only in the amount of green phosphorescence they emit under ultraviolet light. USPS Type III paper is untagged.

Dr. Fatah explained that the design of the stamp determines which of the tagged papers is to be used. Stamps that require more ink also require Type II paper, which has a stronger signal strength from the phosphors because the "ink tends to block the phosphor signal." (Please see "The tale of the two roosters," Page 68.)

Untagged paper is for use on low values that are no longer being tagged and for precancels.

But Dr. Fatah added that BEP still does tag some stamps over the ink, thus requiring untagged paper.

[It had been believed, wrongly it turns out, that health concerns of BEP pressmen had stopped tagging at the Bureau.]

The difference between USPS Type I and USPS Type II paper may be something

PNC collectors have noticed but have been unable to explain.

The first regularly issued prephosphored coil stamps (other than the 22¢ Test coils) were the 25¢ Flag Over Yosemite stamps. They appeared splotchy under ultraviolet light. When the rate went to 29 cents, the first Flag Over Mt. Rushmore stamps also appeared splotchy. But then Joann Lenz, a Michigan collector, found some Rushmores from Plate 6 in a post office vending machine that were not splotchy. What is now being called Lenz paper exhibited a uniform, bright phosphorescence under ultraviolet light.

Collectors knew from BEP that the first attempts to print the Yosemite failed because the paper-maker had applied taggant too thickly. Inks would not stay on. BEP sent the paper back and it was buffed to reduce the thickness of the phosphors. The buffing produced the splotchy look.

Collectors theorized that the paper found by Mrs. Lenz was phosphored right in the paper mash, not applied as a coating as the early Yosemite paper had been.

What may have happened is that USPS Type I paper has been coated with phosphors while USPS Type II paper contains the phosphors, or vice-versa. But this is far from proven. Suffice it to say that USPS Type II paper is considerably more luminous.

[This report arrived very late for this edition of TPN. Studying the new specifications and analyzing them for publication did not meet our criteria for careful cross-checking with the PNC Study Group.] □

## Now it can be told: Check on Saturdays

When the Toledo browns on Plate 7 of the 29¢ Flag over Mt. Rushmore were first found in Toledo, Ohio, a widely-known collector went around from post office to post office buying up all the rolls of 100 he could find.

But another Toledo-area collector hit the jackpot. He realized that each postal clerk has his own stock locked with his own key. So he made his search on a Saturday, knowing that Saturday clerks could be different from weekday clerks.

He struck it rich, finding more than 100 rolls, all of which were bought by Al Haake.

The stamps were also supplied to Haake by collectors in Missouri and Kansas. Steve Esrafi got his from Missouri and Kansas, too.

Jerry Koepf of Stamps 'n' Stuff found his in Des Moines, Iowa, before the Toledo horde was found.

This would seem to confirm Al Haake's

theory that distribution of the Plate 7 Toledo browns was confined primarily to the Middle West. The origin of Plate 1 has not been reported. □

## Dumpster diving

*Continued from Page 59*

waste in a dumpster. All the stamps had not been consumed in the flames before the fire was doused, causing the remaining waste to get wet.

Barb Koepf said the postal inspectors, who had threatened the Koepps' source with jail, never called him to let him off the hook after the case was proved not to have been a case of theft from the Postal Service. Nor did they ever give him back his stamps. Koepf still has his.

And Multi-Color is no longer printing coils for American Bank Note Co. □

## Eagle and Shields hit double digits

*Continued from Page 59*

after Easter, using the same plates (A89999) unless one of the plates has "no more life in it." Thus, at the time this was written, it was not known whether A89999 had a limited run.

ABN did not yet have printing totals on any of the new plates at TPN's press time.

It was not known when, if at all, Guilford Gravure will put the 10s on press.

TPN has learned that BEP has printed E&S stamps in rolls of 500 and 3,000, with stamps expected in post offices in April. At TPN's press time, BEP was going back to press with the E&S stamps.

The gravured BEP stamps will have different colors than the stamps printed by ABN, a spokesperson for BEP said. Under those circumstances, it is likely that USPS will announce the BEP issues as new stamps and will have a first day.

But that's not all that's new among the E&S stamps. Stamps with the plate numbers A77777, A88888, and A99999 are on different paper than all prior E&S stamps. The A89999s had not been seen when this edition went to press, but presumably will also be on the new paper.

The original order of stamps, according to ABN, was printed on paper supplied by Paper Corp. of the United States.

Under long- and short-wave UV light, those stamps appear dead.

Starting with A77777, the paper was bought from Ivex Corp. That paper is high bright in both wavelengths.

Additionally, on the Ivex paper, the red ink does not appear to fluoresce in shortwave, which it did on all earlier issues.

ABN's spokesperson said USPS paper specifications were changed as printing of A77777 began.

The only stamps now being printed by ABN on paper with the old specifications are the "G" stamps, the spokesperson said.

TPN has obtained the revised paper specifications under the Freedom of Information Act. The new 1991 specifications (USPS-P-1191) were received April 2, in addition to the prior 1986 specs.

The 1991 specifications came into effect late in 1992, to allow printers to use up supplies of paper to which they had committed themselves, TPN was told by Alim A. Fatah, program manager of the Stamp Manufacturing Division. So it is the 1991 specifications that resulted in the changes noted above.

A preliminary article on the new paper specs is presented in this issue. □

## White House imperfs turn up all over

Imperforate rolls of 100 of Plate 4 of the 29¢ White House are being found in many parts of the country.

Many of the stamps are actually not quite imperforate in that they have blind perfs which may be seen on the gum side, where the gum shows circle-shaped cuts. This is best seen under oblique lighting.

In Salt Lake City, one roll of the imperfs was destroyed by the Postal Service. □

# Mixture picking

Several readers have sent in reports of their searches through mixtures. The following are their stories. Their data has been incorporated into our charts.

## By Ron Maifeld

The following is the result of searching four lots of U.S. definitive mixtures received from Bob Reece in November 1992.

The lots were advertised as:

- Special Mix 1 with U.S. definitives from 1981 to 1992, unsearched with PNCs. I purchased two 10-pound lots at \$32.50.

- U.S. Mix 1, mostly recent unpicked common definitives, will contain precancels, PNCs, and others. I purchased one 10-pound lot at \$28.

- U.S. Mix 27, which Bob calls a mission mix since the organization that normally sorts for him did not get to work on these (approximately 550 pounds). This mix contained a little of everything, 27 foreign, about 5% commemoratives, Christmas, high value up to \$2, common, and PNCs. I purchased 10 pounds at \$45.

The Special Mix yielded the most variety and the single example of the numbered Toledo Brown.

U.S. Mix 27 lived up to its advertising and provided a good variety of everything and filled in quite a few gaps in my used commemorative collection, but I was disappointed with the small number of PNCs. There were two nice coil freaks, however, that made the mixture more palatable.

Of all the mixtures, the cheapest of the bunch, U.S. 1, provided the most PNCs at 183. Most of these were flags, although this mixture yielded the Bread Wagon 1, two Yosemite 15s, and four unnumbered Toledo Browns.

The final count of PNCs from the 40 pounds of mix came to 515. This amounts to about 13 PNCs per pound, which is less than what I normally get, but these figures are skewed by the presence of the "mission" mix.

Purple machine cancels were noticeably lacking in the mixtures and the total number of purple machine cancels on PNCs amounted to only seven copies.

As I reflect on these mixtures, and indeed other mixtures in the past, I sometimes wonder if I might not be better off by ordering from a dealer's list. There is a lot of time involved in sorting through a 10-pound mixture, a good deal of eye-strain, a serious stack of bucks up front, plus the soaking and drying.

On the other side of the coin are those wonderful discoveries that you rarely can find on a dealer's list or, for the most part,

at a bourse dealer's.

I guess I'll get another order together.

## By Thomas S. Malek

I have recently gone through a 10-pound mix of definitives. There were 247 PNCs with a *Linn's* "Trends" value of

\$204.65.

In addition, there were 18 Toledo browns. Unfortunately, none of them was with a plate number.

## By Eugene M. Kiehlmeier

This survey is of 10,860 covers, representing three days' mail from a utility company serving western Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio and western New York.

About 10% of the covers were damaged, and the total yield was only 54 PNCs.

Incidence of 18¢ Flag					
Plate	Expected %	Expected #	Actual #	Actual %	Max PNCs
1	8.65%	18	22	10.78%	15,381,000
2	29.72%	61	69	33.82%	52,839,000
3	14.45%	29	14	6.86%	25,695,000
4	16.01%	33	57	27.94%	28,458,000
5	14.06%	29	36	17.65%	25,002,000
6	4.98%	10	6	2.94%	8,847,000
7	12.13%	25	0	0.00%	21,573,000
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	

Incidence of 20¢ Flag					
Plate	Expected %	Expected #	Actual #	Actual %	Max PNCs
1	3.04%	64	99	4.74%	24,349,500
2	7.84%	164	218	10.43%	62,772,750
3	7.61%	159	194	9.28%	60,979,500
4	7.81%	163	80	3.83%	62,546,320
5	12.70%	265	200	9.57%	101,717,100
6	2.48%	52	51	2.44%	19,845,930
8	19.40%	405	511	24.45%	155,398,610
9	16.05%	335	421	20.14%	128,545,400
10	4.46%	93	133	6.36%	35,726,490
11	1.72%	36	24	1.15%	13,770,000
12	8.64%	181	67	3.21%	69,190,120
13	4.86%	102	57	2.73%	38,950,470
14	3.39%	71	35	1.67%	27,152,559
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>2,090</b>	<b>2,090</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	

Incidence of 22¢ Flag					
Plate	Expected %	Expected #	Actual #	Actual %	Max PNCs
1	7.50%	169	172	7.64%	53,206,250
2	14.00%	315	199	8.84%	99,273,123
3	2.51%	57	145	6.44%	17,818,980
4	4.16%	94	64	2.84%	29,478,186
5	9.61%	216	243	10.79%	68,178,960
6	0.07%	2	0	0.00%	504,324
7	2.60%	58	144	6.39%	18,411,140
8	12.93%	291	443	19.67%	91,730,032
10	4.52%	102	107	4.75%	32,061,654
11	4.43%	100	82	3.64%	31,449,320
12	11.58%	261	70	3.11%	82,157,910
13	0.29%	7	11	0.49%	2,091,852
14	0.35%	8	2	0.09%	2,453,616
15	1.17%	26	40	1.78%	8,298,972
16	1.40%	32	29	1.29%	9,925,272
17	3.04%	68	78	3.46%	21,555,000
18	4.31%	97	109	4.84%	30,545,000
19	5.12%	115	163	7.24%	36,295,000
20	1.55%	35	104	4.62%	11,028,080
21	1.90%	43	14	0.62%	13,463,298
22	6.66%	150	29	1.29%	47,214,000
T	0.30%	7	4	0.18%	2,142,000
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>2,252</b>	<b>2,252</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	

**Incidence of 18¢ Surrey**

Plate	Expected %	Expected #	Actual #	Actual %	Max PNCs
1	2.99%	10	14	3.72%	3,924,594
2	12.22%	43	39	10.84%	16,020,450
3	1.78%	6	9	2.48%	2,328,192
4	1.77%	6	10	3.10%	2,325,870
5	11.83%	42	53	15.79%	15,514,128
6	11.83%	42	54	15.48%	15,514,110
7	3.24%	11	20	5.26%	4,252,374
8	12.47%	44	31	8.98%	16,346,088
9	7.30%	26	34	9.91%	9,571,212
10	7.30%	26	30	8.05%	9,571,230
11	4.02%	14	11	3.10%	5,276,682
12	4.02%	14	14	4.33%	5,276,682
13	5.38%	19	12	3.10%	7,054,132
14	5.38%	19	12	3.41%	7,054,146
15	2.89%	9	4	1.24%	3,527,730
16	2.89%	9	4	1.24%	3,527,748
17	1.54%	5	0	0.00%	2,020,140
18	1.54%	5	0	0.00%	2,020,140
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	

**Incidence of 29¢ 'F'**

Plate	Actual No	Actual %
1111	662	17.14%
1222	904	23.40%
2222	2,191	56.72%
1211	35	0.91%
2211	71	1.84%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>3,863</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**29¢ Yosemite Incidence**

Plate	Actual #	Actual %
1	1,221	18.46%
2	235	3.55%
2l (Lenz)	3	0.05%
3	1,295	19.58%
4	897	13.56%
5	19	0.29%
6	267	4.04%
6l (Lenz)	1	0.02%
7	2,576	38.94%
7l (Toledo)	2	0.03%
8	10	0.15%
9	85	1.28%
A11111	4	0.06%
A22211	1	0.02%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>6,615</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Incidence of 20¢ Fire Pumper**

Plate	Expected %	Expected #	Actual #	Actual %	Max PNCs
1	8.62%	38	46	10.45%	11,213,154
2	3.34%	15	18	4.09%	4,342,230
3	8.78%	39	47	10.68%	11,419,542
4	8.78%	39	46	10.45%	11,419,596
5	12.96%	57	77	17.50%	16,846,362
6	5.91%	26	16	3.64%	7,677,144
7	7.76%	34	37	8.41%	10,085,742
8	7.83%	34	26	5.91%	10,185,724
9	7.28%	32	24	5.45%	9,460,908
10	7.28%	32	20	4.55%	9,460,908
11	5.36%	24	21	4.77%	6,970,484
12	0.82%	4	2	0.45%	1,065,186
13	7.13%	31	29	6.59%	9,268,758
14	0.82%	4	1	0.23%	1,065,186
15	3.66%	16	13	2.95%	4,764,654
16	3.66%	16	17	3.86%	4,764,636
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	

**29¢ White House Incidence**

Plate	Actual #	Actual %
1	160	5.71%
2	62	2.21%
3	394	14.07%
4	582	20.79%
5	17	0.61%
6	657	23.46%
7	928	33.14%
8	212	7.57%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Incidence of 25¢ Yosemite Flag**

Plate	Actual # Found	Actual %	# Block Tagged	% Block Tagged	# Phos Tagged	% Phos Tagged
1	47	0.54%	47	1.75%		
1l	20	0.23%			20	0.33%
2	368	4.23%	368	13.73%		
2l	107	1.23%			107	1.78%
3	332	3.81%	332	12.39%		
3l	94	1.08%			94	1.56%
4	445	5.11%	445	16.60%		
5	567	6.51%	567	21.16%		
5l	203	2.33%			203	3.37%
6	141	1.62%			141	2.34%
7	450	5.17%	450	16.79%		
7l	190	2.18%			190	3.15%
8	316	3.63%	316	11.79%		
8l	266	3.06%			266	4.42%
9	155	1.78%	155	5.78%		
9l	1,699	19.52%			1,699	28.20%
10l	993	11.41%			993	16.48%
11l	845	9.71%			845	14.03%
13l	694	7.97%			694	11.52%
14l	728	8.36%			728	12.08%
15l	44	0.51%			44	0.73%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>8,704</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,680</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6,024</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**ADLETS**

Classified ads are 15 cents a word. There is no charge for your address. Members of PNC<sup>3</sup> are entitled to one 25-word free adlet each year.

I HAVE a few U.S. perfins, mostly N.J. state offices and Germany. Does anyone want to give them a home? Free. Box L, TPN (3-93)

WANTED PS 18s: Regular Perfad XF-S, imperf, misperl, miscul John Tison (PNC3 473, APS, ASDA) B&J Sales, 3012 S. Croddy Way, Santa Ana, CA 92704. 1-800-854-4487. (6-93)

LAUBACH SHEETS, overall tagged \$69.95; plate blocks \$16.95. Langley airmail overall tagged, sheet \$69.95, plate block \$19.95. Kim Cunibart, POB 3654, Danbury, CT 06813-3654. (PNC3 3-93)

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IF YOU DESPERATELY need a 1991 PNC Catalog, you can still obtain one from Ed Denson, the PNC Specialist, PO Box 158, Alderpoint, CA 95411. Phone (707) 926-5312. (PNC3 3-93)

LAUBACH overall tagged: horizontal strips with selva, \$10 for selva, \$10 for each stamp. Plate blocks \$100. Ken Moreau, 402 Coronation Ave., Franklin, MA 02038. (PNC3 3-93)

In addition to the three contributors named on the previous pages, these tables include data submitted by a host of TPN and Coil Line readers. The concept for the expected percentages was proposed by Dr. James Griffin.

# Try me, you'll like it!

You'll love my big discounts, my no-quibble return policy, my VF quality. This list (List 6) is good through July 6. 25% off on orders over \$100; 15% off on orders over \$50; 5% off on orders over \$25; 5% additional off for members of PNC<sup>3</sup>. Prices are for VF. Deduct 10% for Fine; add 25% for XF.



**GOING UPI The rarest "F" stamp!!**  
29U1211 PS/5 VF \$30; XF \$37.50.  
10 strips VF \$275; XF \$350.

**HARD VARIETY TO FIND!**  
"FLAMING WAGON"  
VF PS/5 \$20; XF PS/5 \$25



	PS3	PS6
1g Omnibus 1, 2, 5, 6	.65	.70
3, 4	1.20	1.35
B Press 1, 2	.80	.90
2, 6, 9 Press 1	70	.75
2g Locomotive 3, 4, 8, 10	.60	.70
5, 6	90	1.00
3g Haricar 1, 2, 3, 4	.95	1.10
3g Conestoga Wagon 1	1.10	1.20
2	1.25	1.40
3, 4 School Bus 1, 2	1.50	1.65
PC 1, 2 (1R, No Gap)	7.50	8.00
4g Stagecoach 1, 2, 3, 4	2.25	2.35
5, 6	2.60	3.15
PC 3, 4 (1L, 2L)	7.90	8.00
PC 3, 4 (Line Gap)	11.40	11.50
PC 5, 6 (1L)	8.75	9.25
PC 5, 6 (2L)	—	9.75
PC 5, 6 (Line Gap)	11.40	11.50
Same, 9 Press 1	1.50	1.75
Overall tagged 1	20.90	21.00
4g Steam Carriage 1	2.00	2.25
Untagged	1.75	2.00
4, 9g Buckboard 3, 4	1.25	1.40
PC 1, 2 (1R, No Gap)	1.40	1.75
PC 3, 4 (2L, 1L)	6.75	7.50
PC 4 (No Gap)	—	19.75
PC 3, 4 (Line Gap)	4.25	4.50
PC 5, 6 (2R, PS/7)	—	6.00
PC 5, 6 (No Gap)	6.50	6.75
PC 5, 6 (1R)	—	7.50
PC 5, 6 (3L, PS/7)	—	7.00
PC 5, 6 (2L)	—	5.60
5g Motorcycle 1, 2, 3, 4	1.45	1.55
5g Milk Wagon 1	1.35	1.45
5g Circus Wagon 1, unt. 1, A1, A2		
	1.75	1.85
5g Canoe 1, 2	1.90	2.00
Gravure S11	1.65	1.75
5, 2g Steigh 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, 4 (No Gap)	11.75	12.00
PC 4, 6 (2L)	—	16.00
PC 4, 6 (No Gap)	15.00	16.00
5, 3g Elevator 1	1.50	1.65
5, 5g Star Houle Truck 1	2.75	3.00
PC 1	2.15	2.25
PC 2	4.35	4.50
5, 9g Bicycle 3, 4	12.50	16.00
PC 3, 4 (No Gap)	32.00	34.00
PC 5, 6 (Line Gap)	98.00	100.00
6g Triangle 1	1.65	1.80
PC 1	2.20	2.50
PC 2	10.50	11.00
7, 1g Tractor 1	3.50	3.75
PC 1	3.50	3.75
PC 1 "ZIP" 4"	2.50	2.75
7, 4g Baby Buggy 2	10.00	12.25
PC 2	4.70	5.20
2255 7, 6g Carreta 1, 2	2.75	2.90
3	10.50	11.00
8, 3g Ambulance 1, 2	2.00	2.25
PC 1, 2 (2L)	2.10	2.25
PC 1, 2 (1L, Line Gap)	2.25	2.80
PC 3, 4 (No Gap, PSB)	—	11.50
PC 3, 4 (1R)	5.00	5.50
B Press 1	4.15	4.50
2	4.60	5.00
8, 4g Wheelchair 1, 2	2.75	3.00
3	26.00	26.50
8, 5g Tow Truck 1	3.50	3.80
PC 1	3.60	4.00
PC 2	12.50	13.00

	PS3	PS6
9, 3g Mail Wagon 1, 2	10.75	16.50
3, 4	32.50	45.00
5, 6	290.00	300.00
PC 1, 2 (2L, No Gap)	18.00	19.00
PC 3 (2R, No Gap)	51.00	66.00
PC 4 (1R)	—	55.00
PC 4 (2L)	—	35.00
PC 4 (Line Gap)	29.00	21.50
PC 5, 6 (2L, No Gap)	3.50	4.00
PC 8	275.00	280.00
10g Canal Boat 1	1.90	2.00
Prephotoshed 1 F-VF	2.80	3.00
Same, XF	4.80	5.00
10g Tractor Trailer 1	2.55	2.75
(10g) Eagle Shield		
11111, 11112, 21112, 22112, 22113, 43334, 43335, 53335, 77777, 88888, 99999	3.30	3.50
21113, 33335, 43325, 43326, 54444, 54445	4.80	5.00
33333, 43324, 43426, 34424, 34426		
	5.80	6.00
12213	25.00	25.00
32333 NO DISCOUNT	245.00	245.00
33334	115.00	115.00
10, 1g Oil Wagon 1	2.75	3.15
PC 1, 2 (No Gap)	3.30	3.50
PC 2 (Un Gap)	4.70	5.00
Red PC 2, 3	3.10	3.40
10, 9g Hansom Cab 1, 2	22.00	45.00
PC 1, 2 (Line Gap)	35.00	36.00
PC 1, 2 (1R)	—	55.00
3, 4 (Line Gap)	375.00	—
11g Caboose 1	5.00	5.50
PC 1	4.25	4.75
Untagged PC 2	2.75	3.00
11g Suez 1, 2, 3, 4	2.00	2.50
12g Steamer 1, 2	2.55	2.90
PC 1, 2 (No Gap, Line Gap)	2.70	3.00
B Press PC 1	25.00	25.00
12, 5g Pushcart 1	3.00	3.75
2	4.50	5.00
PC 1 Light olive, Illa	3.50	4.00
PC 1 Dark olive, Illa	4.25	4.75
PC 2	4.00	4.50
13g Patrol Wagon 1	3.20	3.50
13, 2g Coal Car 1, 2	3.00	3.25

	PS3	PS6
14g Iceboat 1, 2, 3, 4	2.75	3.00
14g Iceboat B Press 2	4.50	5.00
15g Tugboat 1, 2 (Block)	3.25	3.65
Overall tagged 2	4.70	5.00
16, 7g Popcorn 1, 2	4.40	4.75
17g Auto 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3.50	4.00
6	20.75	22.00
7	5.50	6.00
PC 1G, 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 5A, 7A (PS/9) (SR)	—	17.00
PC 6A (1L, 2L)	12.00	13.00
PC 5C, 7C (No Gap)	25.00	25.50
PC 7A (No Gap)	—	12.50
17g 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, 17, 18	4.50	5.50
3, 4	79.00	82.00
7	44.75	50.00
9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16	14.00	15.00
13, 14	7.30	8.00
18g Flag 1	WANT	480.00
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	3.25	3.60
PC 11121	7.00	7.50
PC 33333	3.75	4.25
PC 33333 (dull gum, tagged)	6.75	7.25
PC 43444	9.50	10.25
19g Fishing Boat		
A1112	12.50	13.00
A1212	6.00	6.50
A1111, 2424, 5555	3.25	3.50

	PS3	PS6
20g Fire Pumper 1	80.00	200.00
3, 4, 13, 15, 16	5.50	6.00
5, 9, 10	4.00	4.50
7, 8 (PS/5 F-VF only)	100.00	190.00
12, 14	13.00	13.50
2	WANT	WANT
6	15.75	17.25
11	60.00	97.50
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	6.00	18.00
PC 14	65.00	65.00
20g Official 1	22.50	85.00
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	4.30	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	18.00
2, 5, 8, 13, 12, 15, 16		
19, 21, 22, 11	5.50	6.00
3	25.00	55.00
4, 6, 11, 17, 18, 20, 21	8.50	9.00
14	37.00	48.00
(22g) "D" Eagle 1, 2	7.00	8.50
(22g) "D" Official 1	50.00	80.00
23g Luncheon Wagon 2, 3	4.00	4.50
23g Flag A111, 212, 333	4.00	4.50
A222 (at middle 2)	4.00	4.50
A222 (thin 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	5.50	6.00
25g Yosemite		
Block 1, 7, Phos 15	9.50	10.00
Block 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	4.00	4.50
Block 9, Phos 5	11.50	12.00
Phos 1	61.50	62.50
Phos 2-3, 7-11, 13-14	4.00	4.50
Phos 6	17.50	18.00
(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. full size	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		
S111	4.00	4.50
S2222 (Perforated)	4.50	5.00
29g Mt. Rushmore Flag		
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	4.00	4.50
7 Teles brown VF	170.00	—
8, 9	8.50	9.25
A11111, A22211	4.00	4.50
29g White House Flag		
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	4.00	4.50
29g LVM 1 (29g PS/5)	9.40	10.00
\$1 Seaplane	7.00	9.00

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

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

## STEPHEN G. ESRATI

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# Great Americans—The book

The stamp-by-stamp summary that began in the January issue of TPN has been updated, revised, and expanded. It has grown to 16 illustrated pages and includes all tagging breaks, shipping totals, every scrap of information available. If you collect the Great Americans, it is a sort of catalog (but it doesn't include prices).

Price: \$7.50 postpaid.

## Great Americans—Singles are back

Scott	Description	Single	Issued	PBA	PGA	PSA
1844c	1¢ Dix BL	.10		1.00 (18E)	2.00 (1)	4.00 (1, 2)
1844	1¢ Dix BE	.10		1.25 (1)	2.50 (1)	3.00 (1)
2168	1¢ Mitchell BE	.10		25 (1)		
1845	2¢ Staszewsky Cottrell	.10		.35 (1,2,3,4)		
	Same, premium			2.00 (5, 6)		
	Same, vert tag break			10.00 (5, 6)		
2169	2¢ Lyon BE	.10		.35 (1)		
	Same, premium			.55 (2)		
1846	3¢ Clay Cottrell	.10		.70 (1, 2)		
2170	3¢ White BE	.10		.50 (1, 2, 3)		
1847	4¢ Schurz Cottrell	.15		.60 (1-4)	3.50 (4)	
	Same, vert tag break			10.00 (1)		
2171	4¢ Faragun BE	.15		.80 (1)		
2171a	4¢ Faragun UE	.10		.40 (1)		
1848	5¢ Buck Cottrell	.15		.70 (1-4)		
2172	5¢ Black BE	.15		.70 (1, 2)		
2173	5¢ Muñoz OE	.15	.70	.75 (1)		
2173	5¢ Muñoz UE	.15	.70	.75 (2)		
1849	6¢ Lippmann BL	.15		.80 (1)	1.20 (1)	3.90 (1)
1850	7¢ Baldwin BL	.20		.90 (1)	1.80 (1)	4.50 (1)
1851	8¢ Knox OL	.20		1.20 (3-6)		
1852	9¢ Thayer BL	.25		WANT	2.50 (1)	5.50 (1)
1853	10¢ Russell BL	.25		1.20 (18E)	2.50 (1)	7.00 (1)
2176	10¢ Red Cloud BE	.30		.85 (1)		
2176a	10¢ Red Cloud OE	.30		.75 (1)		
	Same, tagged salvage			1.00 (2)		
	Same, untagged salvage			2.75 (1, 3)		
2176b	10¢ Red Cloud PE	.20		.85 (2)		
1854	11¢ Partridge OL	.30		1.60 (2-5)		
1856	13¢ Crazy Cottrell	.30		2.20 (1, 2)		
	Same, premium			3.00 (3, 4)		
1856	14¢ Lewis BL	.30		1.20 (1)	3.00 (1)	9.00 (1)
2177	14¢ Howe BE	.25		1.90 (1, 2)		
2178	15¢ Cody BE	.30		2.00 (1)		
	Same, Plate 3 BE			WANT		
2178a	15¢ Cody OE	.25		3.50 (2)		
	Same, tagged salvage			1.25 (1, 2)		
	Same, with tagging break			5.00 (2)	10.00 (2)	
1857	17¢ Carson Cottrell	.35		2.85 (1-4, 13-14)		
	Same, premium			5.00 (15, 16)		
	Same, vert tag break			10.00 (15)		
2179	17¢ Lockwood	.35		2.00 (1)		
	same, premium			3.50 (2)		
1858	18¢ Mason Cottrell	.35		3.50 (1-6)		
1859	18¢ Seavoyah Cottrell	.40		3.00 (both)		
1860	20¢ Bunce Cottrell	.40		3.50 (1,2,5-8)		
	Same, premium			7.00 (3)		
	Same, premium			WANT (4)	20.00 (4)	
	Same, premium			12.00 (11, 12)		
1861	20¢ Galathea Cottrell	.40		3.90 (1, 2)		18.00 (2)
	Same, premium			12.00 (5, 6)		
	Same, premium			50.00 (7, 8)		
1862	20¢ Truman BL	.40		5.00 (1)	10.00 (1)	13.00 (1)
1862a	20¢ Truman BE	.40		3.90 (2)		
1862b	20¢ Truman OE Paper III			4.00 (3)		
1862c	20¢ Truman OE Paper III			4.00 (3)		
2179	21¢ Carlson BE	.40		3.20 (1)		
1863	22¢ Audubon BL	.40		2.85 (1)	5.30 (1)	13.90 (1)
1863d	22¢ Audubon OE	.45		5.00 (3)		
2182	23¢ Casatt BE	.50		3.00 (1)		
2182b	23¢ Casatt OE	.50		3.75 (17)		
	Same, with tagging break			5.75 (21)		
2182c	23¢ Casatt PE	.50		3.00 (2)		
2183	25¢ London BE	.50		3.00 (1)		
	Same, premium			5.00 (2)		
2184	28¢ Sitting Bull BE	.50		3.80 (1)		

Scott	Description	Single	Issued	PBA	PGA	PSA
2184A	28¢ Warren PE	.45	3.00	2.00 (81, 82)		
NEW	29¢ Jefferson	.45		2.00 (81, 82)		
1864	30¢ Laubach BL	.75		5.90 (1)	10.00 (1)	19.00 (1)
1864a	30¢ Laubach BE	.45		5.50 (2)		
1864a	30¢ Laubach OE	6.00		75.00 (2)		
1865	35¢ Drew Cottrell	.75		4.50 (1, 2)		
	Same, premium			12.00 (3, 4)		
2185	35¢ Chavez PL	.50	3.50	3.50 (31, 32)		
1966	37¢ Melian Cottrell	.90		4.50 (1-4)		
1867	38¢ Clark BL	.80		8.00 (18E)	16.00 (1)	35.85 (1)
1867c	38¢ Clark BE	.80		5.90 (2)		
1868	40¢ Gibreth BL	.95		9.75 (18E)	19.00 (1)	23.90 (1)
1868a	40¢ Gibreth BE	.95		8.50 (2)		
2186	40¢ Chennaut OE	.85	5.00	4.00 (1)		
2186	40¢ Chennaut PE	WANT		WANT (2)		
2188	45¢ Cushing BE	.75		3.50 (1)		
2188a	45¢ Cushing OE	.80		3.00 (1)		
1889	50¢ Nimtz OL	1.00		11.25 (1-4)		
1889a	50¢ Nimtz BE	1.00		6.50 (1, 2)		
1889b	50¢ Nimtz OE	1.00		7.50 (3)		
Plate 1 wanted, pay \$4 per block; Plate 2 wanted, pay \$6 per block						
NEW	50¢ Nimtz PE (shiny)	1.00		4.00 (3)		
2190	52¢ Humphrey PE	1.00	4.50	3.45 (1)		
2181	56¢ Harvart	1.10		7.50 (1)		
2192	65¢ Arnold BE	1.30		5.20 (1)		
2193	75¢ Willie PE (dull)	1.00	7.00	6.50 (1)		
NEW	75¢ Willie PE (shiny)	1.00	7.00	5.50 (1)		
2194	\$1 Ruel	1.95		14.00 (1)		
2194A	\$1 Hopkins BE	1.50		7.00 (1)		
2194Ab	\$1 Hopkins OE	1.50		7.00 (1)		
2194Ab	\$1 Hopkins PE Lanz	1.50		7.00 (2)		
2195	\$2 Bryan	3.50		21.00 (2)		
2196	\$5 Harts BE	9.00		40.00 (1)		
2196	\$5 Harts PE	9.00		36.00 (2)		
The following are not Great American stamps, but you probably don't have them.						
1894a	20¢ Flag BE Dull	.60		10.00 (3)	18.00 (4)	
1894	20¢ Flag BL Shiny	.60		4.75 (2)	8.50 (2)	15.00 (2)
1894	20¢ Flag BL Shiny from Plate 3 wanted. Pay \$5 for PBA, \$10 for PSA.					
C118	45¢ Langley OE	3.00		25.00		

Abbreviations used in descriptions:

Tagging: B=Black; O=Overall; P=Phosphored; U=Untagged (or Untagged salvage); T=Tagged salvage

Perforations: L=L Perforator; E=Europa bull's eye; SE=Straight edge

I have a complete stock of ZIP and copyright blocks. All prices net. No discounts. Prices subject to change. Some quantities limited. I pay postage on orders over \$10, otherwise please add 52 cents.

### 1992 Lighthouse supplements

I carry all Lighthouse albums, album supplements, binders, UV lamps, stock books, and supplies at a 15% discount. Added 5% off for PNC<sup>3</sup> members. Call or write for details.

## STEPHEN G. ESRATI

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Tagging breaks on Cottrell Press PNCs (updated through April 15, 1993)

Cat. No.	6L	5L	4L	3L	2L	1L	1R	2R	3R	4R	5R	6R	Notes
2T2		B Sib	B Sib J	B Cib Stb	B Cib J								Symbols, abbreviations B = Bar (vertical) C = Clip (T-shaped) S = Screw head  Clips and screw heads also show bar breaks. Clip and screw locations: t=top; b=bottom; c=complete fastener  J = a junction of four mats has been found at this location. This is seen as a horizontal break PLUS a vertical break. % = exists with Sb, but not in a numbered strip.
2T6		B Sib	B Sib J	B Cl Stb	B Cib J								
2T8		B Sib		B Cibc J	B Cibc J								
2T10		B Sib		B Cibc J	B Cibc J								
5T1							JOINT LINE			B Sib	B Sib J	Sib	
5T2										B Sib	B Sib J	Sib	
5T3		B Sb	B Sib J	B Cib J	B Cib	B Cib J							
5T4		B Sb	B Sib J	B Cib J	B Cib	B Cib J							
5.2T3			B St %										
5.2T5			B St %										
17T1				B Cib J	B Cib J								
17T2				B Cib J	B Cib J								
17T3	B Cb J			B Cibc J	B Cibc J				Sb				
17T4	B Cb J			B Cibc J	B Cibc J				St				

NOTE: Plates 1 and 2 of the 5.2¢ Sleigh have been found with a horizontal joint line, meaning a vertical tagging break exists. Anyone with a full roll would be able to confirm location of vertical breaks.

Notes to above chart

17T4, 3R found used as a PS/4.  
17T3, 3R, found mint.

All positions are given by stamp, not by perforation. 1L is the stamp with the plate number.

This chart developed and updated by Eugene R. Ernst. Please report new finds to him at 15522 Windy Cove, Houston, TX 77095. Please include a diagram showing how you count position.

Overall tagging

(only on rolls where the tagging break is constant and does not 'walk')

4T1Ri (W) 2L, 9R  
4T1X (on stamps) (W) 11L7, 9L, 8L, 7L, 6L, 2L7, 1L, 3R, 5R, 7R, 9R7, 10R7

4T1X (on perfor) 12L, 11L, 10L, 9L, 8L, 7L, 6L, 5L, 4L, 3L, 2L, 1L, Line, 1R, 2R, 3R, 5R, 6R, 8R, 9R, 10R, 11R, 12R

5T1Y # 19L, #13L, 10L, #8L, 7L, 6L, 5L, 4L7, 3L, #2L, #1L, 3R, 4R, 5R, 8R, 12R

15T2i (W) 12L, 11L, 10L, 9L, 8L, 7L, 6L, 5L, 4L, 3L, 2L, 1L, Line, 1R, 2R, 3R, 4R, 5R, 6R, 8R, 11R

20T2G 12L/R  
\$1T1 (W) 12L, 11L, 3L, 2L, 1L, 4R

# 5T1Y Circus Wagon is confirmed with only one break in 52 stamps, stamps not marked have two. "W" indicates that a "walking" tagging break has also been reported. This means a break can be found on all positions.

A question mark indicates that the reported position has not been confirmed.

Untagged stripe across top or bottom

4T1Ri Top  
5T1Y Top, bottom  
15T2i Top, bottom  
\$1T1 Top, bottom

Ernst welcomes new reports.

'Toledo brown' blamed on supplier of ink

Continued from Page 59

Linda W. Wilder, spokesperson for BEP, said the color change would have gone "unnoticed during production for a short period of time since the change in color was so gradual."

She said the pressmen would have been unable to notice the color change in the ink fountains "since the color of very thick ink would appear very dark brown, almost black."

BEP's contracting officer was able to supply normal 29¢ Flags over Mt. Rushmore as well as Toledo browns from which color copies were made. The Toledo browns used by the Bureau were also from Plate 7 and their color matched the color of a mint strip of five submitted by TPN.

According to Ms. Wilder, the gradual change in the color of the stamps was noticed during production, and the errors were tagged for destruction. She said: "It is believed that only a small number of error color stamps escaped detection during examination and were issued to the U.S. Postal Service for sale."

Apparently BEP noticed the change only when Plate 7 was being printed, but Toledo browns are also known on Plate 1. They are very scarce.

Collectors have found Plate 7 Toledo browns in various parts of the United States. The name was given to them by Al Haake, whose supply came from the Toledo, Ohio, area. But the stamps were first found by Gary Davis in Iowa. Numbered strips from Plate 7 are currently being offered by dealers at around \$150.

The earliest known use of a Plate 7 Toledo brown is Dec. 2, 1991.

The Scott catalog will give the Toledo brown a separate number, 2523c.

The Toledo brown is only the second PNC that BEP has acknowledged as being a color error. BEP also said the 22¢ Flag from Plate 8 with a black union in the flag was a color error.

It termed the 20¢ Flag from Plate 8 with a brick red Supreme Court ink contamination, as it did with the various 22¢ Flags in which the Capitol was blue instead of black.

TPN is unaware of any ruling on the 25¢ Flag over Yosemite from Plate 5 in which the trees were printed in black. If anyone has a report on this variety, we ask that it be shared with our readers. □

Flag Series Roll Sizes, updated to April 4, 1993

18F	20F	22F	25F	29F	29FX
1 A, B	1 A, B, C	1 A	1 B, C	1 A	1 A
2 A, B, C	2 A, B, C	2 A, B, C	1 B*, C*	2 A, B, C	2 A, B, C
3 A, B	3 A, B	3 A	2 A, B	2 C	3 A, B, C
4 A, B	4 A, B	4 B, C	2 B*, C*, D*	3 A	4 A, B
5 A, B, C	5 B	5 A	3 A, B, C	4 A	5 B, C
6 A, B	6 B	6 B, C	3 B*, C*, D*	5 B, C	6 A
7 A	8 A	7 A	4 A, B, C	6 B, C	7 A
	9 A	8 A	5 A	6 B, C	8 A
	10 A	10 A, B, C	5 A	7 A	
	11 A, B	11 A	6 A	8 B, C	
	12 A	12 A	7 A	9 A	
	13 B	13 B, C	7 A	A11111 D	
	14 A, B	14 B, C	8 A, B, C	A22211 D	
	14 P, B, C	15 B, C	8 A, B*, C*		
		16 B, C	9 A		
		17 A	9 A		
		18 A	10 A		
		19 A	11 A		
		20 A	13 A		
		21 B, C	14 A		
		22 A	15 A		
		Ti A, C			

Key to table

" = "P" on label  
 A = Roll of 100  
 B = Roll of 500  
 C = Roll of 3,000  
 D = Roll of 10,000

29F2i and 29F6i are on Lenz paper

Data compiled by Alan Thomson  
 P.O. Box 91  
 Northwood, NH 03261

Please send changes or corrections directly to Alan Thomson.



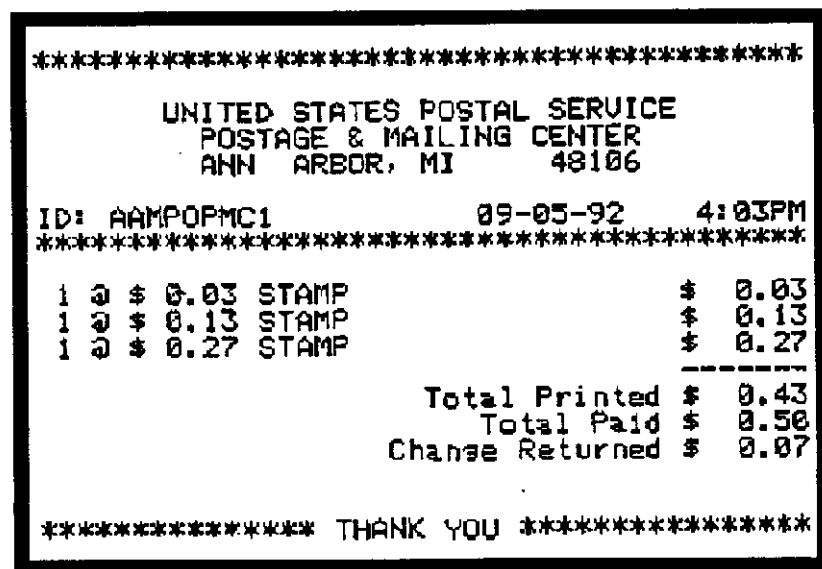
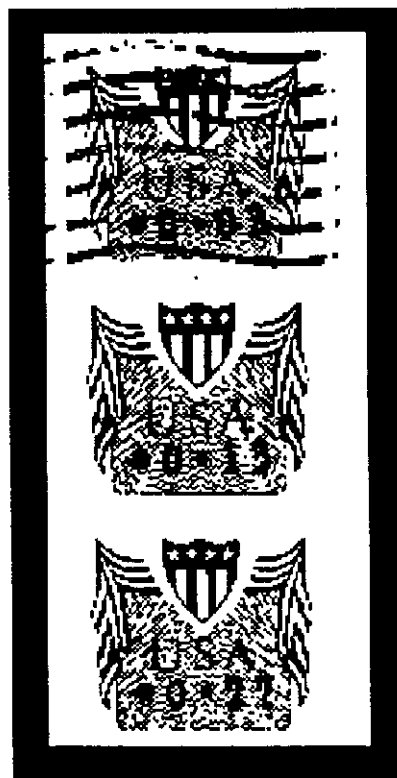
# It really pays to look ahead!

When the Postal Service finally realized that collectors were running 1¢ UVMs to obtain numbered strips with higher values, word went out from L'Enfant Plaza to reprogram the Postal Mailing Centers so that only stamps from 19¢ up could be bought.

The Postal Service had not looked ahead. Readers of *TPN* had predicted that

collectors would get their 29¢ strips for \$1.88, not \$5.22.

But Joann Lenz did look ahead. Lenz, the secretary of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club (PNC<sup>3</sup>), prepared some birthday covers in September 1992, using UVMs. Because she also intended to get them postmarked on the birthday, the contents said: "Belated birthday greetings!"



**BE PREPARED!**—Receipt, left, shows how Joann Lenz beat the Postal Service's abolition of low-value UVMs to prepare the birthday cover showing the recipient's birthday (03-13-27).

## Great Americans Cover of Bi-Month

By Richard L. Beecher

This is a cover with multiple use of the L-Perforated 40¢ Gilbreth on a registered letter from Los Angeles to Madras, India.

The elliptical shape of the Registry Section purple cancels cannot be explained, but it's probably caused by wear.

## Hotchner explains varieties on Flags

Writing in the April 5 issue of *Linn's*, John M. Hotchner explains some of the freaks that have been found on Flag coils, including missing colors, wrong colors, excess colors.

He also reported a color variety on the 7.6¢ Carreta. □

The total postage of \$4.04 is broken down as follows:

- \$3.60 for registration with postal insurance up to a value of \$100.

- \$0.44 for the half-ounce airmail rate.

- Two 2¢ Jefferson coil stamps account for the last four cents of postage.

The back of the envelope features three more of the elliptical Registry Section cancels plus a black Madras arrival cancel. □



### 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 Mann				E (1)†		E (1) Error (2) Intentionally
2176	10¢ Red Cloud			E (1)	E (1** 2†)	E (2)‡	E (1, 2) Error
2178	15¢ Cody			E (1, 3)	E (1* 2† 3†)	μ 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)			L (1) Error
2182	23¢ Cassatt			E (1)	E (1** 2**†)	E (2)‡	E (1) Error
2197a	25¢ London \$5 box			E (1, 2)‡			E (2) error
2183a	25¢ London books ☆						E (1) Error (\$1.50 only)
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)	E (1) Error
2188	45¢ Cushing			E (1)	E (1)†		E (1) Error
1869	50¢ Nimitz		1 @ (1, 2, 3, 4)	E (1, 2)	E (2, 3**)	3 (shiny gum)	L (2), E (1, 2) Error
2193	75¢ Wilkie					1 E (dull gum), 1 (shiny)	
2194A	\$1 Hopkins			E (1)	E (1)	E (1u, 2)	E (1) Error
2196	\$5 Harte			E (1)		E (2)‡	

#### Symbols used in these charts:

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. All have shiny gum.

\* 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 January 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
2158	1¢ Mitchell				E (1)				E Error
2169	2¢ Mary Lyon				E (1, 2)				E (1) Error
1845	<b>2¢ Stravinsky</b>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6							E-E Error
1846	<b>3¢ Clay</b>	1, 2							E-E Error
2170	3¢ White				1, 2, 3				E Error
1847	<b>4¢ Schurz</b>	1, 2, 3, 4							E-E Error
1848	<b>5¢ Buck</b>	1, 2, 3, 4							E-E Error
2172	<b>5¢ Black</b>				E (1, 2)				E (2) Error
1849	6¢ Lippmann		1						
1850	7¢ Baldwin		1						
1851	8¢ Knox			3, 4, 5, 6*					L (?) Error
1852	9¢ Thayer		1						
1853	<b>10¢ Russell</b>		1						L Error
1854	11¢ Partridge			2, 3, 4, 5*					L Error
1855	13¢ Crazy Horse	1, 2, 3, 4							E-E Error
1856	<b>14¢ Lewis</b>		1						
2177	14¢ Howe				E (1, 2)				
1857	<b>17¢ Carson</b>	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	<b>20¢ Bunche</b>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13							E-E Error
1861	<b>20¢ Gallaudet</b>	1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9							
2180	21¢ Carlson				E (1)				
2183	25¢ London sheet				E (1, 2)				
2184	28¢ Sitting Bull				E (1)				
2184A	<b>29¢ Warren</b>						S1, S2μ		
NEW	29¢ Jefferson						S1, S2		
1865	<b>35¢ Drew</b>	1, 2, 3, 4							
2185	35¢ Chavez							S1, S2μ	
1866	37¢ Millikan	1, 2, 3, 4							E-E Error
2190	52¢ Humphrey						1‡		
2181	56¢ Harvard				E (1)				E Error
2192	65¢ Arnold				E (1)				E Error
2194	<b>\$1 Ravel</b>				E (1)				E Error
2195	\$2 Bryan				E (2)				E Error

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

# Great Americans questions (and even a few answers)



## Tagging break

On this 4¢ Schurz, there is a vertical tagging break, but to its left there is part of a second one. What is it?

Ken Moreau  
Franklin, Mass.

*Answer:* TPN first mentioned tagging breaks in the January issue. That was the first anyone had ever heard of them.

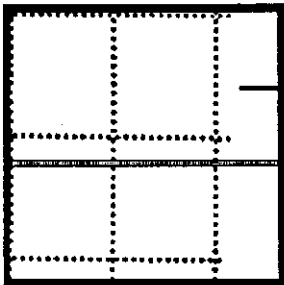
We still do not know precisely what caused them but believe it to be a channel for a fastener used to hold down a tagging mat on Cottrell Press 803, which had no tagging capability before the great BEP fire.

What this looks like—although it's just a guess—is that the channel cut for the fastener was not a straight line, but a sort of spiral. This would appear to be the spot where the channels overlapped.

It would also suggest that at the top of the short channel there was a hole for the fastener to go through the mat.

## Untagged with stripe

I have a plate block from Plate 2 of the 35¢ Drew that does not have overall tagging. It has a single line of phosphored material



across the top half of the two bottom stamps. I don't know how to classify this or is it something that should have overall tagging?

Thomas O. Field  
Rockville, Md.

*Answer:* Many Drew blocks have a bright line of tagging across them, as shown in the illustration above, but the stamps are overall tagged, too.

There are two possible reasons why the reader thought the stamps untagged:

- His UV lamp is not filtered to eliminate unwanted visible light.
- His UV lamp was used in a brightly lit room.

## Tagging break, stubby lines

I have a pane of 23¢ Cassatts from Plate 2 with overall tagging. There is an untagged stripe through "Mary Cassatt" on all stamps in the bottom row. Why?

*Answer:* The stripe is the end of the tagging mat. It is usually at the top or bottom of a pane, but if the tagging roller is not perfectly aligned, it can float up and down. Stamps with such breaks are the perfect way to differentiate phosphored from overall-tagged Cassatts.

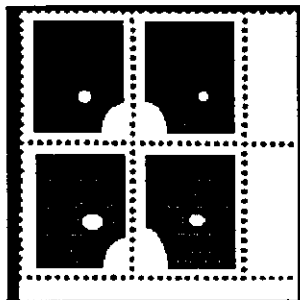
I have a left pane of a Cottrell-printed 20¢ Gallaudet. The right selvage shows the usual



electric-eye markings, but the left selvage has stubby vertical lines. What are they? They're new to me.

*Answer:* We'll have to await comments from readers. The stubby lines are new to us, too.

What's up with the tagging on these 2¢ Lyon stamps?



*Answer:* It looks very much as if the tagging mat was worn out, although we haven't the faintest idea why there is that untagged spot near Mary Lyon's chin.

On other Lyon stamps we have now noticed that the tagging often causes the type to appear like a photographic negative, a phenomenon we also noticed on PNCs, but could never explain. But Kim Cuniberti's article on Page 80 theorizes that Type II paper, which is acidic, may have repelled taggant.

## Various questions

I have a 20¢ Truman with floating plate numbers. The top has a straight edge, the bottom is perfed.

*Answer:* The panes were separated by a guillotine that was supposed to go through the

perfs. On the bottom, it did; on the top, it missed.

I have a 23¢ Cassatt with overall tagging from Plates 1 and 2 on Type I paper.

*Answer:* TPN has had no previous reports of Type I paper on the Cassatts.

My 30¢ Laubachs show no E-E marking on the left sides of Plate 1.

*Answer:* We have checked a half dozen full panes. Most show no E-E on the left selvage; one shows a "crow's foot."

My 39¢ Clark with floating plate numbers is on Type II paper. You list only Type III.

*Answer:* We have now found some Clarks on Type II paper, as well. We should add here, that our listing of paper types for the Great Americans is based almost entirely on reports from just two collectors. We are certain that other paper types will be identified for many other stamps.

My 50¢ Nimitz with dull gum is on Type I paper for Plates 2 and 3 and on Type II paper for Plate 1.

And, I have a \$2 Bryan from Plate 2 on Type II paper.

Carol Morehouse  
Carlsbad, CA

## Varieties XLV

### Gravured Circus Wagons have different papers

A.S. Cibulskas, writing in the Feb. 19 issue of *Mekel's Weekly*, says the papers used for A1 and A2 of the gravured 5¢ Circus Wagon are different.

He made these observations:

- The paper and gum of A1 are slightly creamy; A2 is lighter.
- A2 gum has more obvious horizontal striations than A1.
- Under magnification, A1 appears to have more obvious paper fibrilles than A2.

Several collector have also noticed that all Eagle and Shield Stamps starting with A7777 are on a high bright paper. Earlier stamps were on dead paper.

All three stamp printers, Stamp Venturers, American Bank Note and the BEP have reported that new paper specs are in effect.

The only explanation obtainable so far from the Postal Service is that the specifications were changed on the adhesive, because USPS was seeking a more moisture-resistant gum so stamps would not be affected by moist climates.

An attempt to obtain the specifications was met by a statement that this required approval of top USPS management.

TPN has asked Postmaster General Marvin Runyon for the old and new specs under the Freedom of Information Act. A preliminary report appears on Pages 68-69 in this issue of TPN. □

# Bunche stamps have mixed pairings

The production totals on the 20¢ Bunche stamps do not add up.

Here are the totals reported by BEP:

Plate	Impressions
1	205,824
2	205,824
3	110,736
4	110,736
5	520,801
6	521,305
7	483,598
8	335,099
10	505,769
11	505,769
13	149,000

We can ignore the plate pairings 1 and 2; 3 and 4; and 10 and 11. All were paired and produced identical impression totals.

Presumably, Plate 13 was paired with Plate 7, giving this result.

Plate 7 total	483,598
Plate 13 total	-149,000
Remainder	334,611

But there were 335,099 impressions from Plate 8. If it printed these paired to Plate 7, that leaves some Plate 8 impressions unaccounted for:

Plate 8 total	335,099
Remainder from pairing with Plate 7	-334,611
New remainder	495

The question now is whether any of these impressions came from a pairing with Plate 6.

Plate 6 total	521,305
Plate 5 total	-520,801
Remainder	509

Thus, it would appear that a handful of stamps (495 impressions) were printed by a pairing of Plates 6 and 8. The remaining 14 impressions cannot be accounted for.

So far, knowing this is of no great importance. After all, on the Great Americans, pairings do not show up on the stamps as they did with PNCs. But suppose we find a paper or tagging variety on one of the stamps that has been paired. We, therefore, would need to know the plate number of its twin, which should show the same variety.

The 20¢ Bunche is the only Cottrell-printed Great American for which we have complete data on which more than two plates were paired.

On the 17¢ Carson, multiple pairings may have occurred, too, but we lack production details for Plate 14, and so are unable to draw any conclusions.

But, on another front, we now know that BEP failed to provide data on returns to press. We know this from the stamps with the same plate number that we have found with and without gum breakers and with and without tagging breaks.

Therefore, research is needed to fill in the missing data. We ask readers to report all gum breakers and tagging breaks they

find.

After we have all this data, we will see if any stamps exist from those same plates without either of those characteristics.

## What's rare?

When we began collecting PNCs, the first challenge was to find what plate numbers existed.

In the beginning, none were expensive.

On the Great Americans, we are starting quite late. The stamps have been in circulation more than 12 years. Research is just starting.

But we can safely pick out the stamps and plate numbers that command premium prices, although it is still too early to give dollar values. "Premium prices" means that the stamps are a bargain if they can be obtained for the full price listed in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps*.

Here, then, is a preliminary list of the "Dirty Dozen" Great Americans (not including any paper or tagging varieties):

Great Americans 'Dirty Dozen'	
2¢ Stravinsky, Plates 5 and 6	
13¢ Crazy Horse, Plates 3 and 4	
17¢ Carson, Plates 15 and 16	
20¢ Bunche, Plates 3 and 4, Plates 11 and 13	
20¢ Gallaudet, Plates 5 and 6, Plates 8 and 9	
25¢ London, Plate 2	
30¢ Laubach, Plate 2, overall tagged	
35¢ Drew, Plates 3 and 4	
50¢ Nimitz, dull gum, Plate 2, overall tagged	

Of these, the Drews and Gallaudets and the Nimitz are probably harder to find than the overall-tagged Laubach, which, although already priced quite beyond other Great Americans, appears to be fairly easy to find in New England post offices.

For collectors of matched plate positions, some positions are hard to find.

But we still lack enough information to point out which ones.

## Tagging breaks

Alan Thomson has found two 4¢ Schurz plate blocks from Plate 2 with a tagging break in the right outside selvage. That's news because it confirms that Plate 2 exists with a tagging break.

But it also poses a puzzle because the two blocks have tagging breaks of differing widths.

We can't explain it.

In addition, he has found a 50¢ Nimitz from Plate 4 with shiny gum, meaning it

is off the I-8 Press, with a tagging break across the top. That, too, is news and just as puzzling.

The I-8 press could not tag. So the printed stamps were put through an offset press, which applied tagging.

What this indicates is that the tagging roller on the offset press had a seam.

## Hopkins confusion

Alphonse D. Ponzillo notes that *Stamps etc.* lists the \$1 Hopkins from the A Press as being on prephosphored paper and asks an explanation.

Easy! *Stamps etc.*, as usual, is wrong. This useless guide to U.S. stamps has now become a quarterly, which means it will be even less useful.

On the Hopkins, *TPN* ordered all three item numbers. Here's what was sent:

1090 \$1 Johns Hopkins  
(1989, panes of 20)

This was the block-tagged Plate 1.

D1090 \$1 Johns Hopkins ("C" press,  
prephosphored paper)

This was Plate 2, prephosphored.

N1090 \$1 Johns Hopkins ("A" press,  
prephosphored paper)

This was Plate 1, overall-tagged.

And, yes, the overall-tagged Hopkins does exist. In our last issue we cast doubt on this because no one had ever found an overall-tagged Hopkins with untagged selvage. But these stamps appear yellowish in daylight and the tagging is clearly over the printing.

We'd still like reports of untagged selvage.

## Large and small blocks

One of the things that has been learned as a result of publishing the stamp-by-stamp summary of the Great Americans is that several of the stamps printed with floating plate numbers on the A Press show both large and small tagging blocks.

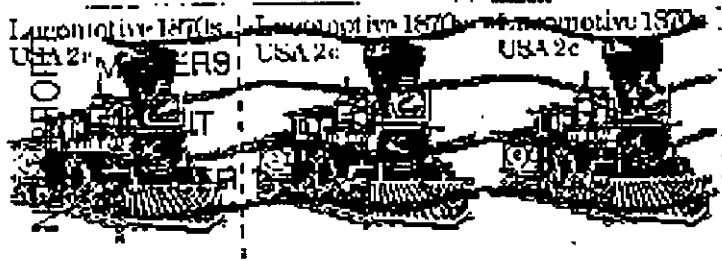
Stamps on which both sizes of blocks have been reported include the 14¢ Lewis, the 22¢ Audubon, and the 39¢ Clark.

Because both sizes of tagging block have been found by Robert Kugel on right or left panes, we can rule out a tagging mat that was only 10 stamps wide.

The possibility exists that what we are seeing is the result of an unreported return to press, meaning that one size of tagging block was used for one printing run, followed by a change to the other size.

This coincides with findings of more than one paper type on one stamp, particularly the 10¢ Russell which also exhibits two colors of gum. □

ROB'S COVER OF THE BI-MONTH



**NONPROFIT USAGE**—Portion of a cover featuring three 2¢ Locomotives from Plate 8 in a rare nonprofit-rate usage. The mailer's postmark on the numbered stamp says "Nonprofit" vertically. A four-line horizontal inscription says "Mailers/permit/number/1." The postmark, according to the *Domestic Mail Manual*, should have been dat-

ed. *TPN* is showing only a portion of the cover to highlight the details. The cover originated from the Ronald Reagan Scholarship Program. (If you have a candidate for Cover of the Bi-Month, please send a photocopy of your cover against a black background to Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, ME 04976.)

Actual Great Americans quantities shipped to USPS

By Ken Lawrence

We have been fed a lot of baloney by the General Accounting Office about supposed huge savings to be reaped in purchasing cheap stamps from the private sector. Keep these figures handy for reference when the stamp papers next report the GAO figures as gospel.

The following figures are through fiscal year 1991 and the cost is stated per 1,000 stamps.

Face	Who	Shipped	Cost
.01	Dix	644,550,000	\$1.43
.01	Mitchell	703,800,000	1.73
.02	Stravinsky	1,228,340,000	1.38*
.02	Lyon	612,910,000	1.80
.03	Clay	240,900,000	1.30*
.03	White	2,031,950,000	1.62
.04	Schurz	290,900,000	1.31*
.04	Flanagan	489,450,000	2.02
.05	Buck	506,700,000	1.33*
.05	Black	323,760,000	2.50
.05	Munoz	315,780,000	1.87
.06	Lippmann	67,550,000	1.54
.07	Baldwin	102,150,000	1.50
.08	Knox	109,850,000	1.62
.09	Thayer	116,300,000	1.60
.10	Russell	262,500,000	1.51
.10	Red Cloud	492,000,000	1.78
.11	Partridge	144,350,000	2.06
.13	Crazy Horse	1,157,790,000	1.17*
.14	Lewis	1,520,400,000	1.57
.14	Howe	734,320,000	1.55
.15	Cody	2,085,400,000	1.56
.17	Carson	1,620,180,000	1.23*
.17	Lockwood	504,120,000	1.67
.18	Mason	751,530,000	1.09*
.19	Sequoyah	110,290,000	1.31*
.20	Bunche	1,216,250,000	1.05*
.20	Gallaudet	453,750,000	1.12*
.20	Truman	938,800,000	1.61
.21	Carison	66,030,000	3.03
.22	Audubon	697,000,000	1.54
.23	Cassatt	548,650,000	2.24

.25	London pane	6,390,000	3.63
.25	London \$5	1,639,986,000	2.33
.25	London \$1.50	350,373,600	6.05
.25	London \$3	687,495,000	3.35
.28	Sitting Bull	46,170,000	1.98
.30	Laubach	343,300,000	1.69
.35	Drew	183,060,000	1.15*
.37	Millikan	623,560,000	1.20*
.39	Clark	733,900,000	1.60
.40	Gilbreth	382,050,000	1.60
.40	Chennault	91,300,000	2.60
.45	Cushing	485,950,000	1.72
.50	Nimitz	577,450,000	1.87
.52	Humphrey	249,020,000	1.91
.56	Harvard	126,450,000	3.25
.65	Arnold	180,780,000	1.74
1.00	Revel	277,790,000	1.68
1.00	Hopkins	249,580,000	2.84
2.00	Bryan	197,250,000	2.27
5.00	Hane	41,468,000	7.23

Until the next report on stamp printing costs, here are some comparison figures in FY 1991:

.01	Kestrel (ABN)	400,000,000	1.10
.03	Bluebird (ABN)	200,000,000	1.10
.30	Cardinal (SV)	200,000,000	1.44
1.00	USPS, rings (SV)	22,266,000	3.27

Even this isn't really a fair comparison, because private-sector gimmick items, such as the ATM pressure-sensitive stamps, cost \$15 per 1,000—no economy there.

The entire manufacturing cost of all U.S. postage stamps and stamped paper, plus migratory waterfowl revenue stamps, in FY 1991 was \$126.509 million, with a selling value of \$13.1 billion. Thus the manufacturing cost is less than 1% of the face value, on average—and of course that's actually the least expensive part of the process it takes to get stamps to the public.

The Gordon Morison/Don McDowell/

Joe Peng team never intended to save money when they went to the private sector in the first place, but now that some of us have complained about the shoddy products and the corruption of the system, cost effectiveness is being presented as the rationalization. Don't believe it.

Sooner or later USPS will pay the piper dearly for the revenues it loses with the security it has sacrificed by turning away from quality intaglio printing and replacing it with low-grade offset-printed stickers.

The appearance of the "G" stamps stolen from KCS Industries is just the tip of the iceberg, and it occurred just one month after the GAO had assured Congress that there is no security problem with the private stamp printers.

Here is another interesting point about these figures: Some of these stamps were not needed at all. BEP vaults are stuffed with 6¢ Eisenhower and 7¢ Franklin stamps in the Prominent Americans Series, and those get shipped almost every year, so the 6¢ Lippmann and 7¢ Baldwin Great Americans were superfluous.

[*TPN note:* Note also that the cost of stamps printed on the Cottrell presses (marked with an asterisk) are considerably lower than those printed on other presses.] □

If your label says "3-93," your subscription has expired.

**$E \neq MC^2?$** **By Kim Cunibert**

Former PNC Study Group member Jerry Clark recently discovered a tagging oddity that initially defied explanation. His strips from 5e Motorcycle Plates 3 and 4 had the tagging breaks on the 3L stamps of each strip. This, in and of itself, was not startling. What was shocking was what appeared to be a second tagging break right on the joint line of Plate 3 but not on Plate 4.

Sight unseen, this would seem to point to a completely different set of tagging mats, ones that were 24 subjects long. Why? Because that would be the only way to create tagging breaks at 3L on even plate numbers, yet leave another repeating characteristic (in this case a "second" tagging break) on only one plate and not the other.

Potentially, this would be an earth-shattering ( $E=MC^2$ -

*That means the equation is not true, but we're just checking!*

smashing) discovery. But, alas, it turned out to be something else. The familiar tagging breaks 12 stamps over, at 9R, were present.

Having once seen the strips in question, two things became very clear:

- The joint line on Plate 3 was very heavily inked, whereas the Plate 4 joint line was quite pale.

- The strips were printed on Type II paper, which I have noticed exhibit an unusual characteristic as it relates to tagging.

Whether it is paper stock from Eastern Fine Paper or the time period when Type II paper was used on Cottrell Press 803 (the more likely culprit), the tagging then in use seems to have an adverse reaction to the printing ink.

The resulting look under short-wave UV is that the tagging seems to pull away from virtually all inked areas of the design. It pulls away far enough so that an untagged

area surrounds all the wording and numbers and the motorcycle, leaving a 0.5–1.0mm margin totally void of tagging.

I'm familiar with this phenomenon on most, if not all, Type II paper strips, but it would seem to be a chemically related reaction of the tagging to the ink without the paper becoming involved.

It should be remembered, however, for those who want to theorize causes, that Type II paper is the only acidic paper we have seen on PNCs, therefore the paper could play some role in a more complex reaction. I have not seen this characteristic on Type I paper, which is basic (non-acidic).

So, although an interesting tagging variety, we are not seeing evidence of any new or previously undiscovered tagging mats, nor some well-aligned mat crack—any such feature would also appear on Plate 4's joint line. What we are seeing, however, is a clear example of an as-yet-not-

explained characteristic that should by now be familiar to those PNCers who use their short-wave lamps. Anybody have any answers? The line forms over there by that sign, you know, the one that says " $E=MC^2$ ." □

**By Eugene R. Ernst**

I obtained a strip similar to the one found by Jerry at STAMPSHOW 91 in Philadelphia.

Earlier observation had shown that the taggant appears to be absorbed by the ink on some printings, thereby creating the appearance of untagged (or light tagging) in the design.

Because the inking on the joint line was darker than normal, I feel that the ink caused the joint line area to appear untagged.

A check on dealers' stocks failed to turn up another copy or its possible mate on Plate 4.

I bought the strip for reference, and it now paid off. It matches Jerry's. □

Stephen G. Esrati  
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Shaker Heights, OH 44120-0130

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