

6

The Plate Number

and Great Americans Review

NOVEMBER 1993

\$16 a year

VOLUME VIII, NO. 6

Plate data denied

By Stephen G. Esrati

The Postal Service has denied my appeal under the Freedom of Information Act for stamp-printing records compiled since November 1991.

The crux of the denial is that the records no longer exist because of cost-cutting in the Postal Service.

For the text of the letter, please see "Editorial we did not write" on the next page.

Plate-activity reports had been made available to collectors for more than 50 years. Stopping this flow of information to collectors will not only cause some existing stamps never to be found unused by collectors, but it will also crimp all research into the production of U.S. stamps.

Making this even harder on collectors is a gag order put out by the Postal Service on its printers to prevent them from answering questions from collectors and philatelic journalists.

A writers' summit was scheduled for November by Azeezaly Jaffer, manager of marketing and postal publicity, and the stopping of information was sure to be one of the topics.

The final denial of my request came in a letter from Margaret O'Connell, a lawyer in the Ethics and Information Law section of the Postal Service.

Ms. O'Connell, who said she only wrote the letter, said her section had contacted James Tolbert, manager of the Stamp Management Branch, who gave the lawyers to understand that the records are no longer being compiled and that the Postal Service no longer obtains the records from the printers.

As security printers, however, all printers supplying stamps to the Postal Service must keep such data and do so. The question appears to hinge on who prints up compilations of these reports.

Only a few weeks before O'Connell's letter, Tolbert had written that he was willing to make the records available at my cost.

Please turn to Page 141

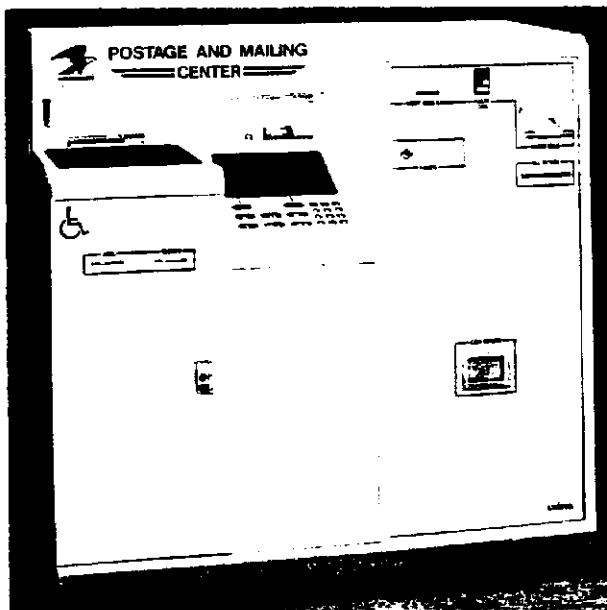


Photo courtesy Joann Lenz

NEW PMC—The Paramax™ Postage and Mailing Center, made by Unisys, which was to be introduced by November in the Washington, D.C., area. Story on Page 142.

B Press 'dead'; reprints due

"The B Press is dead," said a spokesman for BEP. "All stamps that were being printed on it are being transferred to the C and D presses.

The B Press has served only as a standby press since mid-1991.

The following Transportation Series coils, all previously printed on the B Press, have been announced by the Postal Service as imminent. No first days or issue dates were given:

1¢ Omnibus (Plate 3), 2¢ Locomotive (Plate 2), 4¢ Steam Carriage (no plate number mentioned), 10¢ Canal Boat (Plate 2), and \$1 Seaplane (Plate 3).

The Seaplane, already found by dealer Jerry Koepp, is on prephosphored paper with shiny gum.

The Postal Service said there would be no change in paper on the Locomotive, meaning that the stamp may very well be tagged. (BEP refers to its various papers by size and by tagging. "No change in paper," leads to the conclusion that the new stamp will be tagged just as the previous Locomotives were.)

Please turn to Page 140

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Paid circulation this issue: 450

An editorial we did not write

The following is the complete text of a letter denying our Freedom of Information Act request of April and our appeal of July:

September 3, 1993

This is in response to your letter dated July 28, 1993, in which you appeal, under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 USC §552 (FOIA), the denial of your request for information. In April, you requested plate-activity reports from particular printers of postage stamps. The response you received indicated that the Postal Service was no longer compiling such reports for distribution to philatelic journalists, such as yourself. You have considered this to be a denial of your request for records, which you have appealed to this office.

As a result of your appeal, we have contacted James Tolbert, Manager, Stamp Management, to discuss the reports with him. We understand that not only has the Postal Service ceased compiling and distributing reports to interested parties; we no longer obtain the material from the printers that was used to generate the reports. These printers charge the Postal Service for any plate-activity information sent, and Postal Service employees are needed to prepare any compiled reports for distribution. The plate-activity reports are not used by the Postal Service for any purpose, and were distributed in the past as a service to those customers having an interest in them. In light of the Postal Service's endeavors to locate areas in which to conserve funds, we regret that this program is no longer being pursued.

As you know, the FOIA's disclosure requirement is directed towards agency records. The term "agency records" has been defined as 1) documents that are either created or maintained by the agency, or 2) documents under the control of the agency at the time of the FOIA request. Department of Justice v. Tax Analysts, 492 U.S. 136, 144-45 (1989). The FOIA neither requires agencies to create records in order to respond to FOIA requests, Sears, Roebuck & Co. v. NLRB, 421 U.S. 132, 162 (1975), nor to answer questions disguised as FOIA requests. See Zemansky v. EPA, 767 F.2d 569, 574 (9th Cir. 1983). Because the Postal Service no longer obtains nor compiles information for the reports, agency records that would satisfy your request no longer exist.

This is the final decision of the Postal Service on your request for this information. Although no agency records are being denied, the FOIA requires that I inform you that you may obtain judicial review of a denial by bringing suit for that purpose in the United States District Court for the

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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A.S. Cibulskas
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district in which you reside or have your principal place of business, the district in which the records are located, or in the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,
(signed) Margaret O'Connell
Margaret O'Connell
Attorney
Ethics and Information Law

The following is the complete text of a letter offering the plate-activity reports for a fee:

August 9, 1993

This is in response to your Freedom of Information request for the Postal Service to provide Plate Number Reports.

After a careful review and assessment of the Plate Number Report Service, we have determined that this information and service can no longer be provided by the Postal Service. This decision is based on the following:

- incremental costs assessed by contractors and incurred by the Postal Service to edit and provide this information consistently for public release.
- concerns and issues associated with having multiple contractors providing information on unreleased stamps, and the need to review and integrate reports from multiple contractors.
- administrative time and manhours required to manage the development, compilation, review and distribution of this information on a fixed frequency.
- number of customers requesting this information does not justify expenses incurred by Postal Service.

One remaining option that could be considered is the possibility of making this service available for a fee. Specifically, we would assess a fee based on the labor and hours required to provide this information. Please let me know if this is of interest to you. I regret that I cannot provide you a more favorable response.

Sincerely,
(signed) James C. Tolbert, Jr.
James C. Tolbert, Jr.
Manager
Stamp Management

LETTERS:

*BEP's 23¢ USA
is found tagged; did
we inform Linn's?*



A discussion with George Leduc:
I have found something new again,
dumpster diver that I am.

Enclosed is a used example of the
BEP printing of the 23¢ USA. It is
definitely tagged. This is something

new, but not unexpected, seeing how USPS is running
things lately.

The phosphoring appears light, but it is definitely there.
It only shows through where the paper is untouched by the
dark color of the printing.

TPN comment: Mr. Leduc enclosed part of one cover.
The stamp appears to be in the category of "low phosphor"
papers BEP lists for the Andreotti Press. See *TPN*, July
1993, Page 92.

Follow-up letter: Have you mentioned this find to some-
one at *Linn's*?

TPN comment: Does Macy's tell Gimbel's? But the editor
of *Linn's* receives a complimentary copy of each issue of
TPN.

Mr. Leduc again: The reason I mention this is that I
would rather see this information go out to the collecting
public than mostly to dealers. It's nice when dealers are
able to locate a new stamp that may be of interest to us
PNC collectors, but the field should always be widened to
everyone. That way, all of us have a chance to look for a
new item and make a discovery. No two ways about it,
dealers have an edge over us collectors. What happens with
this stamp will dictate what I do in the future.

TPN comment: That still does not mean that *TPN* should
inform *Linn's* even before the information is disseminated
to our readers. Why should they pay \$16 a year to read
only the stuff that is not exciting enough for *Linn's*? *Linn's*
fired Steve Esrati as its PNC columnist although this is pre-
cisely the sort of stuff he wrote about in *Linn's*.

Next item: Remember Alan Thomson's find of a red line
that horizontally crossed the shield of the 10¢ Eagle and
Shield with the number A43326 (*TPN*, September 1992,
Page 112)? I have found the same thing on A8888. I have
three examples at varying heights.

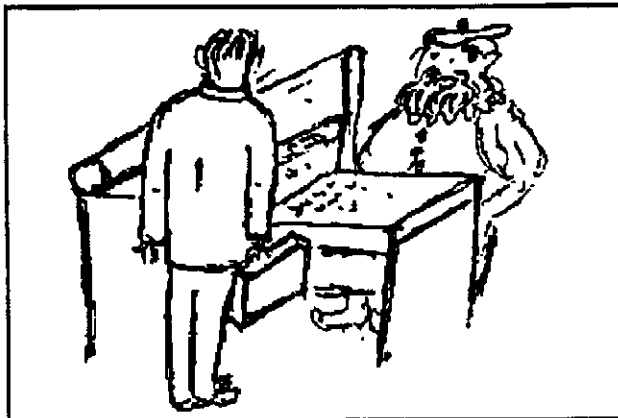
Item 3: You said the 5.9¢ Bicycle precancel with the gap
at 1L had not been reported to *TPN*. I thought I mailed
out something to almost everyone.

Anyway, I received one copy of Plate 3 with that gap
from Stamps 'n' Stuff in error. I had ordered a normal copy
and was surprised that there was no place in my album for
it. Someone then called Jerry Koepp and arranged a trade
for the last remaining 1L strip, which I believe was also
from Plate 3. A little later, Scott Smith came back from
Antarctica and scoured the Denver area, where he found
examples from Plates 3 and 4. I do not know how many he
found.

George P. Leduc
East Woodstock, Conn.

Pedro's World of PNCs

by Pedro Ortegon, M.D.



"...but Mr. Gutenberg, you promised us the Bible in 1452!"

"Mr. Nazar, don't be impatient! It's only 1453 and, after all,
we're not just copying the old Bible. This is a whole new tech-
nology!"

Perforation data, please

[By phone] How can you tell a stamp perforated on the
L-perforator from one that was perforated on the electric-
eye perforator?

Pedro Ortegon, M.D.
Bedford, Ind.

In reply (by Ken Lawrence): First of all, they have a differ-
ent gauge. On the L-perforator it is 10.9 in both direc-
tions; on the E-E perforator, it is 11 on the short side and
10½ on the long.

Also, L-perfs go through the selvage on all four sides; E-E
perfs on one long side go not quite to the edge.

Freedom of Information

I remain in "left field" regarding the reason for such poor
public relations on the part of USPS. It would seem that
good relations with the philatelic community would be in
their best interests.

E. V. Chadwick
Shavertown, Pa.

Easier to put a man on the moon

In your last issue, you mentioned the Freedom of Infor-
mation Act and how you have been thwarted by USPS in
gaining information on most new issues. You're right;
they're wrong. Period.

This information should be available to all of us stamp
collectors in a timely fashion, much before the official issue
date.

Also, I agree with you that all information is available in
the USPS beforehand and could be passed on to those of us
who would like the information.

Is USPS telling us that the United States can put a man on
the moon in this Age of Information but cannot coordi-
nate the flow of information that reaches its various desks
from the printers that have all the details of printing into a

simple form that can be distributed to all collectors?

This would be of much help to all of us, including the makers of FDCs.

USPS did this in the past. There's no reason why they can't do it again.

If you would print the names and addresses of the people that we would have to write to for our requests for information we might get somewhere. A deluge of requests may just help cause the effect we are all looking for.

George Leduc

In reply: It isn't quite time for a letter-writing campaign—yet. At STAMPSHOW, Jaffer Azcezal, manager of the Corporate Relations Department, announced the imminent appointment of a stamps czar who would have all stamp divisions under his command. This was a Postal Service response to collector complaints about the foul-ups that resulted after the old Stamps Division was placed under three hats. We'll be patient and wait for the act to come together again.

That prephosphored Harvard

I enclose three plate blocks of the 56¢ Harvard with overall and block tagging on Type I paper. The left side of each block shows only block tagging, but the right side, in varying distances from the right edge, is also overall-tagged.

I found these in the late 1980s. The block tagging was somewhat faint. It appeared as though additional taggant had been applied to meet brightness specifications, but as overall tagging.

The majority of the panes appeared overall-tagged or both. Unfortunately, the plate blocks showed only partial phenomena. I purchased only a few copies and did keep some blocks of nine (3×3) that better showed the transition. I sold them to Harry Mueggenburg several years ago. It seemed only a curiosity. Is it possible that these are now being mistaken as being on prephosphored paper?

Scott L. Hoppis

Scottsdale, Ariz.

In reply: Scott Adams, who found two partial panes of 80 stamps each, brought some of these to STAMPSHOW 93 in Houston, where they were quickly dismissed as not being on the prephosphored paper that Adams believed them to be on. Wayne Youngblood said they were clearly overall-tagged over the block tagging. That means the paper is really Type I paper, as in Hoppis' examples, although recent editions of the *Summary of Data* on the Great Americans said they were prephosphored on paper resembling Type III. The *Summary* is being fixed.

White House plate-number variety

After reading the September *TPN*, I checked my Plate 1s of the 29¢ White House stamps and found some of the same varieties reported by Wayne Meyers. They were found in New Philadelphia, Ohio, and at Tuscopex, both mint and on show covers dated April 26, 1992.

Dean Hawk

Massillon, Ohio

Cibulskas confirms constancy

A.S. Cibulskas wrote, "In my opinion all three items are,

indeed, constant plate varieties. As a matter of fact, I found two of them in my own strips. Since my strips were obtained early on, I do not believe the cause to be rechroming, but rather differences in the original engraving."

With Plate 1 becoming increasingly hard to find, I would appreciate any assistance from readers who may still have them in their area.

Wayne Meyers

5303 E. Cortland Blvd. N-11

Flagstaff, Ariz. 86004-9585

Inaccurate representations

In addition to the three basic varieties reported in the last issue of *TPN* (in my opinion, the computer graphics were not accurately representative), multiple permutations have been found and reported by Howard Foster (see next letter), Doug Iams, and others.

A.S. Cibulskas

Stamford, Conn.

Varieties on Plate 1 better than self-promotion

The short story in the September issue on the 29¢ White House varieties prompted me to examine the 110 examples accumulated so far.

Of interest perhaps is that I did not find any of the examples illustrated.

The chart (Page 137) does show, however, the range of varieties that I did discover. With the exception of the standard version, marked with a star, of which I found 35 examples, all others had more than two examples. The greatest number was found of the variety with the single vertical line, of which I found six copies.

This is the kind of collecting and studying that I enjoy, in contrast to the wide range of nit-picking, spurious arguing, and obvious self-promotion that is so apparent in most of what I read in this publication and others. To be frank, I have been tempted to drop my memberships on more than one occasion.

With the above off my chest, I hope you enjoy the enclosed. If it has no application, I will not be disappointed. At best it will be a contribution; at worst, I know a whole lot more about the nature of that particular stamp than I ever would have discovered otherwise.

Howard R. Foster

Spokane, Wash.

Litterbug found on Lunch Wagon

On the shiny-gum, mottled tagging variety of the 23¢ Lunch Wagon, I have noticed what I believe could be a plate variety. I have four strips that show a blob to the left of the lunch wagon on the numbered stamp.

It looks as if someone threw trash from the wagon, hence I am calling it the "Litterbug Lunch Wagon."

On the other hand, it could be that something stuck to the plate and stayed there for at least four revolutions.

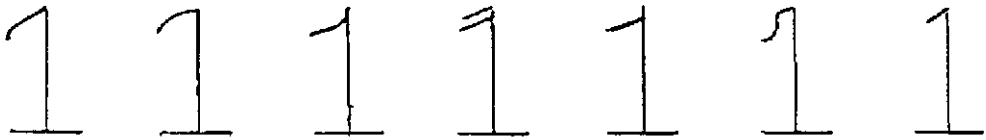
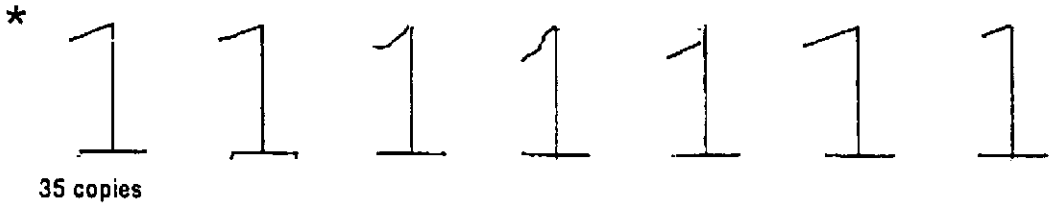
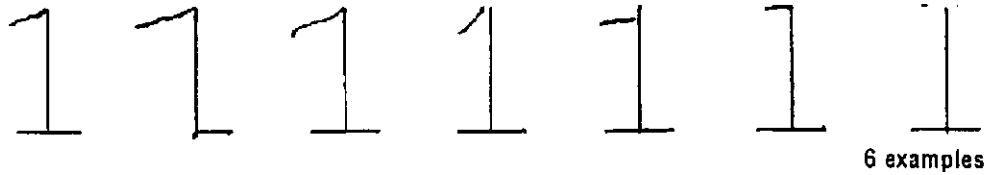


That would make it an oddity, but not a plate variety. Right?

Frank Covey

Macomb, Ill.

In reply: The same constant variety (not



WHITE HOUSE VARIETIES—Howard Foster drew these varieties of the plate number on Plate 1. Foster's angles were measured with a protractor and his wavy lines were interpreted through a microscope.

Foster did not find the varieties found by Wayne Meyers and reported in the September issue. *TPN's* varieties editor, A.S. Cibulskas, was critical of our September renderings as "inaccurate."

an anomaly) was termed the "dropped sandwich" by A.S. Cibulskas. Cibulskas also reported a constant variety on Plate 2 of the Lunch Wagon, a dot below the "9" in the date, found by Scott Adams.

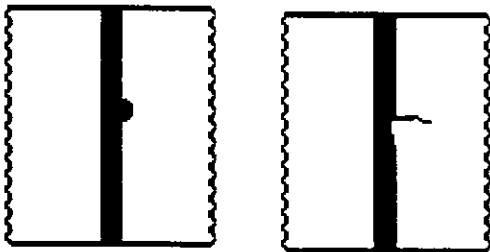
The Tugboat has the break with the hook, but the alternate break is plain. As I don't draw very well, I figured sending the stamps is better.

Misshapen tagging breaks

Enclosed are two long strips, one of the 4¢ Stagecoach from the B Press with overall-tagging; the other an overall-tagged 15¢ Tugboat. Both have tagging breaks. The Stagecoach has three breaks, two of which are the same as the one reported by Dr. John Greenwood on Page 126 in September. The other break is different, as you can see in the illustration:

Richard C. Schulman
Commack, N.Y.

TPN note: Like most illustrations in *TPN*, these are from the computer's limited skills. What you see are schematic renditions, not photographs.



EVERY OTHER ONE—These breaks alternate at a 26-stamp interval on the 4¢ overall-tagged B Press Stagecoach. On the overall-tagged 15¢ Tugboat, the hooked break alternates with a normal tagging break.

Correction on ordering numbers

A correction to your article in the September *TPN* regarding reissued stamps. There are separate order numbers for the two 40¢ Piper stamps. The original 1991 issue is 5571; the 1993 reissue is 55571. Both should be available. And this just in: The 23¢ Lunch Wagon with shiny gum is order number 67913; the dull gum with mottled tagging is 57913.

Richard L. Beecher
Los Angeles

Help wanted on gum breakers

You may recall my interest in the study of gum breakers on BEP definitives and a comment I made in this journal (Page 44, March 1993) about breakers on the Great Americans Series. As my study winds down, I find myself at the Great Americans Series wondering exactly when the breaker story

ends. I am now pursuing the answer to that question.

Are there individuals working on the gum-breaker questions who might be interested in collaborating?

Louis Fiser

7554 Brooklyn Ave. NE
Seattle, Wash. 98115-4302

Update on the White House color variety

I would like to clear up some inaccuracies regarding Ron Kronheim's letter to the editor on Page 112 of the September *TPN*, "That indigo White House stamp."

All of the stamps on the indigo coil were not slit lengthwise as indicated in the letter. Information from Kronheim, who found these varieties, is that there were three slits made by the pressmen on the roll of 100, each measuring 73 millimeters in length.

Three slit strips exist: one unnumbered strip of seven and two plate-number strips of eight. The remainder of the coil roll, 77 stamps, is unaffected by the destruction process.

On the two PNCs, the slits affect the first five stamps in the strip of eight from left to right, but the numbered stamp is unaffected.

Kronheim says, "none of the indigo stamps are for sale until a determination is made by BEP as to their cause." No other finds have been reported.

In reply: At least one reader has suggested that *TPN* added the following paragraph to Kronheim's September letter:

My present price for the indigo is \$200 a pair or \$1,800 for a plate-number [Plate 6] strip.

When *TPN* inserts something in a letter, it is marked by square brackets. In fact, we did insert "[Plate 6]" after the words "plate-number." But the letter from Kronheim, as we ran it, was his letter.

Apparently Kronheim decided to await a BEP determination after he wrote the letter to *TPN*.

Navy blue everywhere?

PNC³ member Richard Rush Jr. of Hagerstown, Md., reports the discovery of the navy blue variety. Richard would not reveal the location or quantity or date of his discovery.

However, he did say the find yielded three plate strips of five and one plate-number single from the end of the roll.



Jerry Clark, who was credited in the September issue for reporting the new 29¢ Flower booklet, actually reported a \$5.80 Pledge of Allegiance booklet.

Sometimes we forget. Although the headline of one of our Great Americans charts says "known in only one version," we've been adding varieties to it on the sly. They've been moved to the other chart, thanks to Dr. Pedro Ortegon.

An example of Richard's stamps was sent to Kronheim, the original finder of the navy blue variety, who told me that the stamps are "exactly the same color and plate number" as the original find.

Richard joined Kronheim in saying that "the stamps are not for sale at the present time."

Richard also informed me that he was assisted by USPS personnel in examining every coil in the post office, including the entire quantity in the vault. BRAVO! to this post office. Assistance like this should be the rule rather than the exception.

Navy blue stamps are surfacing in other parts of the country, as well.

I spoke to Michael Schreiber of *Linn's*, who reports a "dark purple" White House received on cover from Charleston, W. Va., dated Sept. 13, 1993. Wayne Youngblood, who has not seen either White House color variety, reports a cover with a very dark blue stamp from Michigan, dated in early September from what he thinks was the Saginaw area. He was unable to locate the cover at the time I spoke to him to give me the exact date and location.

Will there be a large discovery of the navy blue stamps, reminiscent of the Toledo brown Mt. Rushmores? Will other plate numbers be involved? Only time and patience will tell. The White House coils should be around for at least another year, maybe two. Many things await discovery!

Readers are encouraged to report additional information to *TPN* or to contact me directly. I have copies of the navy blue variety and the indigo shade from the original find and would be happy to compare these to any new finds.

Wayne Meyers

5303 E. Cortland Blvd. N-11
Flagstaff, Ariz. 86004-9585

New double tag break found

I have just put a two-line tag break from the UR pane of Plate 1 of the 5¢ Buck in my tag-break album.

Ken Moreau

Franklin, Mass.

In reply: We're not so sure any more that they are tagging breaks. See Page 128 in the September issue.

Cover of the bimonth is a bill

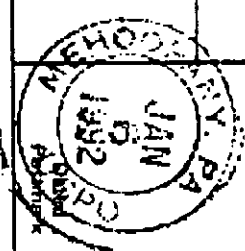







By Richard L. Beecher

Here (on opposite page) are one 1¢ Mitchell, four 10¢ Red Clouds and three \$1 Hopkins stamps used to pay a postage-due bill owed by a Pennsylvania paper-products company.

The form used is Postal Service form 3582-A and all the stamps are tied with a Jan. 6, 1992, Mehoopany, Pennsylvania, hand cancel.

The text reads:

Postage due articles amounting to ~~Three~~ dollars and ~~forty-one~~ cents are delivered upon payment of this amount. Equivalent postage is attached to this and the necessary follow sheets that form a part of this bill. If you have deposited a sum in advance for postage due mail, the amount of this bill is being deducted from your account. Please see that the value of the attached postage corresponds with the amount stated.

Name of Customer and Address D & B Paper Products P.O. 32 Mulhospang Pa. 18629		U.S. Postal Service POSTAGE DUE BILL			
Postage due articles amounting to <u>Three</u> dollars and <u>forty</u> cents are delivered upon payment of this amount. Equivalent postage is attached to this and the necessary return sheets that form a part of the bill. If you have deposited a sum in advance for postage due mail, the amount of this bill is being deducted from your account. Please see that the value of the attached postage corresponds with the amount stated.					
John Hopkins 		John Hopkins 		John Hopkins 	
Ned Cloud 		Ned Cloud 		Ned Cloud 	
Margaret Mitchell 					
Number of Follow Sheets to This Bill 0		Signature of Postmaster B. J. H. H. H. H. H.		Per	

PS Form 3882-A, December 1986

*U.S. GPO: 1980-210-225

COVER OF THE BIMONTH—This is how one pays if one has a postage-due account at the post office. Such accounts are used for "postage will be paid by addressee"

mailers and by publications (such as *TPM*) that guarantee forwarding charges and pay 35¢ for each change-of-address notice. Story about this invoice is on page 138.

Dealers drop discount offers

Several dealers have reduced prices on their price lists, but also ended their discounts.

The result, except where prices have been adjusted up or down, is that net prices remain the same.

The effect on the TPN Average, however, has been to bring it down. It has also made month-to-month comparison of the components of the average meaningless, because the average uses published prices without adjustment for discounts.

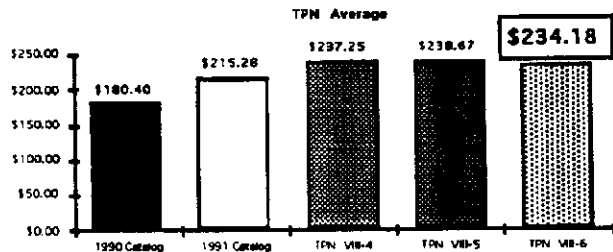
In July, the average took a tumble when Dr. Robert Rabinowitz dropped his retail prices by as much as 40%. At the same time, he ended his 25% discounts for purchases of more than \$60 worth of stamps.

Al Haake, who removed most of the more expensive stamps in his July price list, has now joined Dr. Rabinowitz in the price-cutting business, saying he has to remain competitive. But Haake's Fall list still carries the notation: "I will continue to match any other dealer's prices."

Stamps 'n' Stuff and Steve Esrati did likewise, with Jerry Koepp of Stamps 'n' Stuff ending his 20%. Esrati ended a variable discount that went as high as 25% for purchases of \$100 or more. (Esrati continues to offer a 5% discount to members of PNC and an additional 5% to the PNC Study Group.)

What all this means is that the TPN Average, which tracks advertised prices and ignores discounts and "I'll-match any price" offers, is slowly turning into a more accurate reflection of real prices.

Said Gerald H. Clark, "Nobody ever really paid Haake's list prices because of the discounts and the offer to match other dealers' prices."



In other news about prices:

Bob Reece's price list released in August showed some healthy climbs in used PNC singles.

Conspicuous on his list were Plate 14 of the 22¢ Flag at \$22 (up from \$20); Plate 1 of the phosphored 25¢ Yosemite at \$40 (up from \$5), and E&S A32333 at \$160 (not offered in last list received by TPN).

E&S A12213 rose from \$4 to \$19.

Many ordinary Transportation stamps went up, too, with the precanceled Plates 5 and 6 of the 4¢ Stagecoach going to \$7.25.

Plates 3 and 4 of the 10.9¢ Hansom Cab went to \$65 from \$70.

In comparing William S. Langs' price list of May 1992 against his May 1993 list, there were no increases in the prices of imperforate PNCs, but there were a couple of drops, proving that everything does not climb all the time.

An imperforate "F" coil with the plate numbers 2222 fell from \$1,400 to \$550. □

BEP Press is 'dead'; reprints are on their way

Continued from Page 133

The Disabled American Veterans, America's largest user of coil stamps, needs tagged 2¢ stamps for the self-addressed return envelopes it sends out.

Normally, all stamps under a face value of 9 cents remain untagged.

The Steam Carriage has not yet been reported by collectors or dealers. Nor has the Canal Boat from Plate 2, which will probably be on prephosphored, shiny-gum paper.

But in addition to the announcements from the Corporate Relations Department, TPN is now obtaining an inside-the-Postal Service monthly bulletin put out by the Stamp Acquisition Branch.

Information from Stamp Acquisition was found by Gerald H. Clark. In addition to the stamps announced by Corporate Relations, *Information* says the private contractors have been asked to reprint the 19¢ Fishing Boat (ABN) and deliveries were to begin in mid-September.

In what may be an error, *Information* says KCS is continuing to ship 29¢ Jefferson Great Americans. Trouble is that the original stamps were printed by Stamp Venturers.

Stamp Venturers has been notified to reprint the 5¢ Canoe in coils of 10,000. That would be the gravured, red Canoe on which the last batch carried the plate number "S11."

Also announced by USPS are a Plate 3 of the 23¢ Mary Cassatt of the Great Americans Series, which is expected to have shiny gum; and Plate 4 of the 20¢ Truman, announced as having shiny gum and on prephosphored paper.

The Truman, like the 50¢ Nimitz, thus has gone the full gamut of Great Americans configurations. It was printed on the A Press

with floating Plate 1 numbers and L-perforations and small block tagging; with fixed Plate 2 numbers in the four corners and bull's-eye perforations and large block tagging; and again on Plate 3 with overall tagging.

Guarding against the Xerox-made stamp

In addition BEP said it was reprinting the \$1 Official stamp. The original stamp was printed in January 1983 on the intaglio currency press (no longer available for stamp printing) in three colors, with a block of phosphor applied after printing and inscribed "USA \$1.00." The reprint is done by offset only in three colors on prephosphored paper and has only "\$1" inscribed.

Plate-block numbers are no longer printed in the selvage. As an added security feature, a line of microprinting with "USA 1993" repeated will appear below the Great Seal.

Microprinting has also been found on the four stamps issued for the new National Postal Museum. What looks like a red line between the "USA" and the "29" is really text reading "1993 WASHINGTON DC 1993." You can see it with even modest magnification.

But the microprinting is why we bother to mention the \$1 Official sheet stamp. In view of the rapid proliferation of color photocopiers, the Postal Service is becoming more security conscious. Great Britain has already introduced heroic measures to prevent use of photocopied stamps, and the microprinting would defeat the copiers because the tiny print would reproduce as a blob.

So it is safe to say that we may not only see microprinting on more stamps in the future, but can almost surely expect it on high-value issues. □

Plate-activity reports barred to TPN

Continued from Page 133

Under the gag rule, collectors and journalists are barred from obtaining the information directly from the printers.

Even before the gag order, the printers would not supply any such information without first clearing it with the Postal Service. I did, however, obtain several missing plate-activity reports from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing several years ago after BEP won permission from the Postal Service to make them available to me.

Ken Lawrence described them as the "plate activity reports only Esrati obtained." I did, however, make them available to Ken and to others in the PNC community who needed them.

What was it that made the reports so valuable even if only one philatelic publication, *The United States Specialist*, published by the Bureau Issues Association, printed them in their entirety? (*TPN* excerpted only the sections dealing with PNCs.)

Take the case of the 20¢ Flag coil. It was only from the plate-activity reports that collectors learned that a precancel existed. I reported it in *Linn's*. Once this was known, supplies were found. Despite that, no commercial cover with the precancel is known.

Or, on a more recent issue, American Bank Note Co. (ABN) made available the numbers it had placed on the 10¢ undenominated Eagle and Shield stamps. Because collectors knew what to look for, the rare E&S stamp with the number "A32333" and the less rare number "A33334" were found for collectors. Both were first found by Dr. Robert Rabinowitz.

But the rarest of all E&S stamps, "A12113," of which there had been only 11,379 impressions, or a maximum of 216,201 PNCs, has never been found, not even as a used single.

The reports told us what presses were being used, how many stamps were on a plate, when the stamps were printed, when the plate was destroyed, and—most important of all—the incidence of plate numbers.

In our PNC research, the reports also occasionally gave insights about when a plate was put back on press. This information, even though very incomplete, did allow some judgments on paper types and methods of tagging.

All that information will no longer be available. In working on the new *Plate Number Coil Catalog*, the collaborators have noticed a lack of information on all recent stamps—a sad reflection of the drying up of data at the source.

Somewhat puzzling is the fact that only four weeks before Ms. O'Connell closed the case, Tolbert had offered to have the allegedly non-existent records made available at my cost. (His letter is also included on the editorial page.)

Tolbert's letter did include one phrase that may be a clue to the reason for the USPS clamp-down on information. He cited the fact that contractors had provided "information on unreleased stamps." This, of course, was a reference to our printing the plate-activity reports for "G" stamps (*TPN*, January 1993).

The way that happened, however, was as follows: ABN had sent a letter to Joe Peng of the Postal Service telling him how many stamps with each plate number had been printed. So we learned the exact number of E&S stamps printed with the numbers "A32333." Included in that letter was the information on the "G" stamps.

But for *TPN* to obtain that letter, ABN specifically asked the Postal Service's permission to make the letter public. Permission was granted. So it was the Postal Service that had approved release of "G" stamp information.

[Amusingly, even though no one in Jaffer's department has

ever heard of a "G" stamp, used "G" stamps have been found twice by collectors and were pictured in *Linn's*.]

At STAMPHOW1991 in Philadelphia, Assistant Postmaster General Gordon Morison spent many hours with PNC collectors to improve the forms used to report plate activity to the Postal Service. It was the form he designed that was being used up to the cutoff by the private printers. BEP retained its computer-printout forms.

The forms used by the private printers are much better than those used by BEP because they spell out paper type, tagging, and other information not shown on BEP's forms.

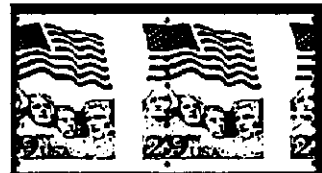
The USPS denial may hinge on a narrow construction of what we sought. We did not ask for the bound reports made up by the Postal Service, but for the raw reports that are supplied by the printers. When the Postal Service's lawyers said that these reports no longer exist, they may have been referring to the compiled, stapled compilations.

But there is still hope. After the writers' summit with Jaffer, if nothing can be nudged out of the Postal Service, we can always use the Freedom of Information Act on the BEP, which is, after all, a federal agency. Or, failing that, we may be able to get the gag order eased to permit the printers—with the oversight and control of the Postal Service—to provide the data.

All attempts to obtain a copy of the memo containing the gag order have failed, so far.

Jaffer told *TPN* that although he knows it exists, he cannot find a copy.

BUYING ERRORS



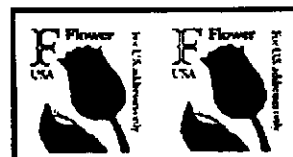
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APS

BIA

Unisys unveils its Postal Mailing Center

The following is a description of the Paramax Postage and Mailing Center. It was obtained from Paramax, a Unisys company, by Joann Lenz, who was told the unit would go into operation in six locations in the area of Washington, D.C., by November. Stamps for use in the Paramax PMC were printed in 1992 by American Bank Note Co. and bear the plate number A1. The stamps resemble the ECA GARD stamps except that the plate numbers are at the bottom of the stamps.

Services not available on the ECA GARD machine are in italics.

The Paramax™ Postage and Mailing Center (PMC) is a 24-hour, self-service mailing center that provides full time service capability without requiring the involvement of a retail clerk. It is designed to increase the number of potential customer-service locations, maximize the speed of retail servicing, and expand the hours during which postal customers can obtain rate information and postage stamps.

The PMC weighs individual mailpieces and automatically computes and displays postage rates and fees based on destination postal code and class of service. The unit accepts payments in cash (bills,

coins, or a combination) or via credit debit card.. The PMC also prints and dispenses exact-value stamps, or multiple stamps of the same denomination, for any weighed item or for other customer-designated values up to \$99.99. Stamp values are printed and dispensed on demand using rolls of non-denominated postage-stamp stock.

For each completed transaction, the PMC computes and dispenses the customer's change and provides a printed receipt. An optional label printer provides the ability to print self-adhesive service labels, bar code representations of destination postal codes, or mailpiece identification numbers for tracking and tracing purposes.

The modular nature of the unit ensures easy incorporation of options or enhancements, such as the optional letter and parcel drop box. In addition, isolation of related components to a particular module results in secure, easy access to critical system components during servicing.

Security of the unit is ensured through the use of multilayer, compartmented steel construction, electric dead bolts, anti-theft sensors, and multilevel password protection.

Installation flexibility is guaranteed by

an innovative and attractive design that provides for use in a free-standing mode, against the wall, or in a through-the-wall environment. In all cases, the design is optimized for use by handicapped persons who are restricted to wheelchairs.

A remote-access feature allows off-site diagnostics and uploading of financial data. □

2 low-profit ECA-GARD PMCs are shut down

ECA-GARD Postal Mailing Centers dispensing the BEP version of the Universal Vending Machine Coil ended their one-year test successfully, according to Robin Minard of the Postal Service.

Two of the machines—one in Oklahoma and one in Florida—were taken down because of low revenues.

Minard did not know whether they would be set up elsewhere.

A third ECA-GARD PMC was taken out of service when the Martin Luther King Jr. station in Washington was closed.

At press time, all Washington-area ECA-GARDs were out of order. Non-repair may be in expectation of the Paramaxes.

Tagging breaks on Cottrell Press PNCs (updated through Oct. 1, 1993)

Cat. No.	6L	5L	4L	3L	2L	1L	1R	2R	3R	4R	5R	6R
T2-2		B Sib	B Sib J	B Cib Sib	B Cib J							
T2-6		B Sib	B Sib J	B Cib Sib	B Cib J							
T2-8		B Sib		B Cibc J	B Cibc J							
T2-10		B Sib		B Cibc J	B Cibc J							
T5M-1							JOINT LINE					
T5M-2										B Sib	B Sib J	Sib
T5M-3		B Sb	B Sib J	B Cib J	B Cib	B Cib J				B Sib	B Sib J	Sib
T5M-4		B Sb	B Sib J	B Cib J	B Cib	B Cib J						
T5.2-3			B Si									
T5.2-5			B Si									
T17EA-1				B Cib J	B Cib J							
T17EA-2				B Cib J	B Cib J							
T17EA-3	B Cb J			B Cibc J	B Cibc J							
T17EA-4	B Cb J			B Cibc J	B Cibc J				Sb	Si		

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.

NOTE: Plates 1 and 2 of the 52¢ 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

T17EA-4-3R found used as a PS4.
 T17EA-3-3R, 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")
 T4SR-1-ot (W) 2L, 9R
 T4SC-1-ot (on stamps)(W) 9L, 8L, 7L, 6L, 1L, 3R, 5R, 7R
 T4SC-1-ot (on perfor) 12L, 11L, 10L, 9L, 8L, 7L, 6L, 5L, 3L, 2L, 1L, Line, 1R, 2R, 3R, 5R, 6R, 8R, 9R, 10R, 11R, 12R
 T5CW-1-ot # 413L, 10L, #8L, 7L, 6L, 3L, 3L, #2L, 41L, 3R, 4R, 5R, 3R, 12R, 9R, 10R
 T10CB-1-ot
 T115-2-ot (W) 12L, 11L, 10L, 9L,

8L, 7L, 6L, 5L, 4L, 3L, 2L, 1L, Line, 1R, 2R, 3R, 4R, 5R, 6R, 8R, 11R
 12L/R
 12L/C, 11L/C
 T20CC-2-ot
 T31-1 (W)
 # 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.
 "C" indicates a constant position where a "walking break" also exists.
 A question mark indicates that the reported position has not been confirmed.

Untagged stripe across top or bottom

T4S-1-ot Top
 T5CW-1-ot Top, bottom
 T10CB-1-ot,dull Top
 T115-2-ot Top, bottom
 T31-1 Top, bottom
 Ernst welcomes new reports.

TRANSPORTATION COILS

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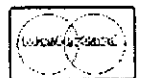
	LP	P53	P55		LP	P53	P55		LP	P53	P55
1897 1c Bus 1, 2, 5, 6	.14	.21	.52	1905c Caboose PC 1	3.05	3.20	3.40	1895c 20c PC 14	48.00	48.00	58.00
3, 4	.84	.91	1.12	Unragged 2	.80	1.12	1.52	0135 20c Official 1	7.35	17.50	46.00
2225 1c B Press 1, 2	.32	.40	.72	2131 11c Stutz 1, 2	.44	1.12	1.52	2263 20c Cable Car 1, 2	2.60	3.00	3.60
2225a unragged 2	.80	1.00	1.20	3, 4	.39	.98	1.52	2263b Overall ragged 2	2.60	3.00	3.60
1897a 2c Loco 3, 4, 8, 10	.25	.28	.56	2132 12c Steamer 1, 2	1.52	1.60	1.80	2264 20.5c Fire Engine 1	2.60	3.00	3.20
2, 6	.48	.52	.80	2132a 12c PC 1, 2	2.00	2.20	2.40	2265 21c Rail Car 1, 2	2.60	3.00	3.60
2226 2c Loco B Press 1	.68	.72	.80	2132b 12c B Press PC 1	17.60	18.40	19.20	2150 21.1c 111111	2.10	2.21	3.80
1898 3c Hanker 1, 2	.39	.64	.80	2133 12.5c Postcard 1, 2	1.86	1.96	2.60	111121	2.84	3.08	4.60
3, 4	.44	.64	.80	2133a PC 1, 2	3.12	3.20	3.60	2150a 21.1c PC 111111, 111121	3.08	3.08	4.60
2252 3c Conestoga 1, 2	.64	.72	.80	2258 13c Patrol Wagon 1	2.20	2.40	2.60	2115 22c Flag 1, 7, 13	3.82	10.15	12.00
2123 3.4c School Bus 1, 2	.56	.80	1.00	2134 14c Iceboat 1, 2, 3, 4	.98	1.68	2.00	5, 6, 10	8.40	11.20	48.00
2123a 3.4c PC 1, 2	7.20	7.60	8.00	2260 15c Tugboat 1, 2	2.00	2.24	2.40	14	4.80	4.90	6.00
1898a 4c Coach 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1.60	1.80	2.00	2260a Overall ragged 2	2.80	3.04	3.20	2, 4, 8, 12, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 11	20.40	20.80	21.60
1898ab 4c PC 3, 4, 5, 6	7.20	7.60	8.00	2261 16.7c Popcorn 1, 2	3.20	3.52	3.80	11, 17, 18, 20	2.80	2.87	3.60
2228 4c B Press 1	.80	.96	1.00	1906 17c Auto 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1.26	2.17	2.72	2127 22c "D" Official 1, 2	4.76	6.54	7.60
2228a overall ragged 1	15.20	15.60	16.00	6	13.60	14.00	14.40	0139 22c "D" Official 1	3.80	4.08	6.20
2451 4c Carriage 1	.80	.96	1.00	7	3.92	4.00	4.40	2464 23c Lunch 2, 3 (Solid tag)	24.50	35.00	64.00
2451a same, unragged	1.60	1.80	2.00	1906a 17c PC Type A 3, 4, 5	3.92	4.00	4.40	3 mottled (dull or shiny)	2.60	3.00	3.20
2124 4.9c Buckboard 3, 4	.70	.74	1.44	Type A 6, 7	8.00	10.00	10.40	2607 23c Flag A111, 212, 222	2.60	3.00	3.20
2124a PC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1.60	1.80	2.00	Type AB 5, 7, P510 only	—	—	—	A112	7.20	7.60	8.00
1899 5c M'cycle 1, 2, 3, 4	.39	1.02	1.24	Type B 3, 4	14.56	15.12	17.60	A122, 333	3.60	4.00	4.40
2253 5c M.R. Wagon 1	.80	.88	1.00	Type B 5, 6	8.00	10.80	11.20	2608 23c USA	2.80	3.20	3.60
2452 5c Circus Wagon 1	.80	.88	1.00	Type BA 5, 6	—	—	—	A1111, 2222, 2232, 2233, 3333	2.80	3.20	3.60
2452a unragged 1	1.28	1.48	1.60	Type C 1, 2	7.60	7.88	8.20	2608a BEP version 1111	2.80	3.20	3.60
Same, ground A1, A2	1.28	1.48	1.60	Type C 3, 4	8.00	8.60	8.80	2608B S111	2.80	3.20	3.60
2453 5c Conoe 1	.80	.88	1.00	Type C 5, 7	16.80	17.60	18.40	2266 24.1c Tandem 1	3.12	3.36	3.60
2, 3	1.44	1.52	1.60	2135 17c Dogged 2	1.93	2.10	2.80	2136 25c Broad Wagon 1, 2, 3, 4	2.12	2.24	3.40
2454 ground S11	1.60	1.85	1.75	2262 17.5c Room 1, PC1	2.40	2.80	3.20	5	2.68	2.80	4.00
1900 5.2c Sleigh 1, 2	2.70	4.90	12.80	1907 18c Surrey 1	42.70	72.00	76.00	2280 25c Yosemite	5.60	6.40	7.20
3	108.00	132.00	190.00	2, 5, 6, 8	1.86	2.80	3.60	Block 1, 7	2.65	2.94	3.60
5	108.00	132.00	136.00	3, 4	24.50	60.00	62.40	Block 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	8.00	8.80	9.60
1900a PC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	8.80	10.40	11.20	7	16.80	30.40	36.00	Block 9	38.40	39.20	40.00
2254 5.3c Elevator 1	.92	.96	1.04	11, 12, 15, 16	7.44	12.80	13.20	Phos 1	352.00	2.80	2.98
2125 5.5c Star Truck 1	2.24	2.32	2.40	9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18	5.04	5.60	8.80	Phos 2-9, 7-11, 13-14	2.80	2.80	3.80
2125a 5.5c PC 1	1.64	1.72	1.96	1891 18c Flag 1	96.00	112.00	352.00	Phos 5, 15	4.80	5.60	6.40
PC 2	2.08	2.24	2.40	2	13.72	20.58	35.00	Phos 6, 8	11.20	12.00	12.80
1901 5.9c Bicycle 3, 4	2.94	6.37	14.80	3	288.00	290.00	800.00	2279 "E" Enrk 1211	3.80	3.92	5.80
1901a 5.9c PC 3, 4	15.40	25.60	26.00	4	4.41	4.66	8.00	2222	4.00	4.40	4.80
PC 5, 6	47.60	70.40	72.00	5	2.45	3.29	4.40	1111, 1222	1.68	1.84	3.00
2126 6c Tricycle 1	.84	1.20	1.28	6	WANT	1,440.00	2,160.00	2281 25c Honeybee 1, 2	1.68	1.96	3.60
2126a PC 1	1.84	1.92	2.00	7	26.60	26.99	31.20	1 Orig. full set	24.00	25.20	25.60
PC 2	6.04	6.92	7.00	2149 18c Wash. 1112, 3333	1.93	2.10	2.80	2518 "F" (29c) tulip	2.80	3.20	3.60
2127 7.1c Tractor 1	1.79	2.08	2.16	2149a 18c PC 33333 & dull	3.20	3.60	4.00	1111, 1222, 2222	31.20	31.60	32.00
2127a PC 1	3.20	3.40	3.60	PC 11121, 43444	4.60	4.92	5.20	1211	6.40	6.80	7.20
2127a PC 1 "ZIP-4"	2.04	2.08	2.16	2529 19c Boat A1112, 1212	8.00	8.20	8.40	2525 29c Flower S1111, 2222 Str	2.80	3.20	3.60
1902 7.4c Baby Buggy 2	3.92	4.41	8.80	A1111, 2424, 5555, 5556	2.60	3.00	3.60	52222 (Perf.)	3.20	3.60	4.00
1902a PC 2	4.00	4.40	4.80	A5555 unragged	9.60	10.00	10.40	2523 29c Mt. Rushmore	2.80	3.20	3.60
2255 7.6c Carriage 1, 2	1.40	2.00	2.12	1908 20c Pump 1	4.41	27.65	136.00	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7	120.00	120.00	120.00
3	4.80	5.20	5.60	2	24.50	208.00	780.00	5 on Lenz Paper	6.80	7.00	7.20
2128 8.3c Ambulance 1, 2	.88	.98	1.80	3, 4, 13, 15, 16	2.35	2.45	4.40	5, 8, 9	6.80	7.00	7.20
2128a 8.3c PC 1, 2	1.00	1.12	1.80	5, 9, 10	1.23	1.44	2.72	2523a 7 Toledo brown	120.00	120.00	120.00
PC 3, 4	4.28	4.40	4.60	7, 8	100.10	100.80	120.00	2523a genuine A11111, A22211	2.80	3.20	3.60
2231 Amb. B Press 1, 2	2.80	3.00	3.20	12, 14 XF	11.20	12.32	18.40	2690 29c White House 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13	3.60	4.00	4.40
2256 8.4c Wheelchair 1, 2	2.00	2.20	2.40	6, 12, 14	3.92	3.92	7.20	2458 S1 Seaplane 1	4.00	4.80	6.40
3	19.20	19.60	20.00	11	35.35	36.82	68.00	3	4.00	4.80	
2129 8.5c Tow Truck 1	2.10	2.45	3.20	2005 20c Consumer Ed. 1, 2	3.19	26.25	160.00	Variable Rate Shield (UVM)	NET 30.00		
2129a PC 1	2.80	2.88	2.98	3, 4	3.19	26.25	96.00	1c-18c	NET 10.00		
1903 9.3c Mail Wagon 1, 2	4.41	4.90	12.00	1895 20c Flag 1	3.92	6.40	68.00	19c-29c			
3, 4	18.76	19.74	32.80	2, 11, 12	5.29	7.00	9.60				
5, 6	107.80	256.00	260.00	3	2.35	2.45	6.00				
1903a PC 1, 2	12.80	13.60	14.40	4	26.46	45.50	640.00				
PC 3, 4	23.20	24.00	24.80	6	72.00	76.00	120.00				
PC 5, 6	2.40	2.56	2.72	8	3.82	3.92	12.80				
PC 8	152.00	156.00	160.00	5, 9, 10, 13, 14	1.93	2.80	4.80				
2257 10c Boat 1, block tag	1.04	1.12	1.20								
Overall tag, dull gum	3.20	3.60	4.00								
Phosphored, shiny gum	2.40	2.56	2.80								
2457 10c Tractor trailer 1	1.04	1.12	1.20								
2604 (10c) Eagle Shield											
A11111, 11112, 21112, 22112, 22113, 43334, 43335, 53335,											
7777, 88888, 89999, 99999, all 10s	2.64	2.72	2.80								
421113, 33333, 33335, 34424, 34426, 43324, 43325, 43326,	3.80	3.88	4.00								
43426, 54444, 54445, 88889	20.00	20.00	20.00								
A12213	180.00	180.00	180.00								
A32333	85.00	85.00	85.00								
A33334	2.44	2.72	2.80								
2605 (10c) BEP 11111, 22221	2.64	2.72	2.80								
2606 (10c) ERS SV S11111	1.12	1.47	2.60								
2130 10.1c Oil Wagon 1	2.00	2.12	2.80								
2130a Block PC 1, 2	2.04	2.12	2.20								
2130a Rad PC 2, 3	6.37	11.20	28.80								
1904 10.9c Hansom 1, 2	10.40	26.40	26.80								
1904a PC 1, 2	36.40	280.00	320.00								
3, 4	2.21	2.35	4.00								

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Data bank of official information

We are printing the following non-PNC material because we can learn about new terminology on papers, gums, and printers from it.

The following news release was faxed Aug. 13, but omitted two stamps of interest to readers of *TPN*, the two versions of the 23¢ Lunch Wagon and the shiny-gum \$1 Hopkins.

MEDIA ADVISORY

Stamp varieties announced

WASHINGTON (Aug. 13, 1993)—New varieties of previously issued stamp designs are listed below. There will be no first-day ceremonies or first-day cancellations.

40¢ Airmail Stamp—Piper

The plate numbers on the first run were A1111. Plate numbers on the reprint are S1111. Initial printing was done by Sennet Enterprises as a subcontractor to American Bank Note Co. The reprint was done by Stamp Ventures. Although the reprint paper contains the same face stock as used on the first run, it was converted with PVA adhesive. Paper on the first print run was converted with Kool Jet adhesive.

TPN Translation: Kool Jet adhesive appears to be a trade name for a high-gloss gum.

We do not know what "PVA" stands for, but when the 23¢ Lunch Wagon came out, we recognized its matte gum as something new and termed it Type IV paper. It is a matte, shiny gum, which we shall henceforth call "satin finish."

Additionally, perforating on the first print run of the Piper stamp was performed by ABN on an L-perforator (random perforations). On the reprint, perforating was performed by Stamp Ventures using a perfect-corner (bull's-eye) perforation system.

Other variations from the original printing include: deletion of eagle with Olympic rings; deletion of marginal inscriptions; 90-degree turn of copyright, ZIP Code, and plate numbers; redesign of color bars, and placement of image .017 higher than original mask.

50¢ Airmail Stamp—Quimby

Plate numbers on the reprint are S1111. The original printing was done by Stamp Ventures with Kool Jet adhesive on an L-perforator. [The reprint by Stamp Ventures used a bull's-eye perforation pattern and PVA gum.

TPN translation: Over and above the fact that the new printer was KCS Industries, not Stamp Ventures, the news release does not mention that the new plate numbers start with a "K" instead of an "S."

Other variations from the original printing include: deletion of eagle with Olympic rings; 90-degree turn of copyright, plate numbers, and ZIP Code information, and redesign of color bars.

29¢ Tulip, booklet of 20

The plate numbers used on the initial print run were K1111 and K2222. On the reprint, plate numbers are K3333. Paper on the initial printing used Kool Jet adhesive, the reprint uses a PVA adhesive.

TPN Translation: Contrary to what has been happening with many other issues,

this is a change from shiny gum to satin-finish gum.

\$1 Official Mail Stamp

The original was printed in January 1983 on the BEP intaglio currency press (no longer available for stamp printing), three colors, with a block of phosphor applied after printing and inscribed "USA \$1.00." The reprint is done by BEP offset only, three colors on prephosphored paper and have only "\$1" inscribed. Plate-block numbers are no longer printed in the selvage. As an added security feature, a line of microprinting with "USA 1993" repeated will appear below the Great Seal.

TPN Translation: And here we have the nub of what has been happening to so many Great Americans and PNCs, switching from one press to another. In this case, the I-8 currency press is no longer in service and the offset printing must be done on either the Optiforma offset press or the offset portion of the D Press.

[Lacking plate-activity information, we cannot tell which.]

The following news release, last amended on Sept. 29, was received by *TPN* on Oct. 4.

MEDIA ADVISORY

Stamp varieties announced

WASHINGTON (Sept. 23, 1993)—The Postal Service has announced several reprint variations by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. There will be no first-day ceremonies or first-day cancellations.

23¢ Lunch Wagon, Coil @ 100

(Item 67913)

Previous printing was done on nonphosphored dry-gum paper. The new printing is on prephosphored resin-dextrin-adhesive paper.

TPN translation: Well, USPS got half of it right. As we all know, the Lunch Wagon reprints were issued with shiny and dull gum on Plate 3. The original stamps had satin-finish gum. The dull-gum reprints are terribly centered, both horizontally and vertically.

Richard Beecher has informed *TPN* that the shiny gum is order number 67913; the dull gum is 57913.

"Resin-dextrin," like "Kool Jet" means shiny gum. Apparently, the Corporate Relations people are now avoiding trade names.

\$1.00 Seaplane, Coil @ 500

Item 7703

Previous printing on nonphosphored, dry-gum adhesive paper with phosphor overcoating [has been changed] to prephosphored, resin-dextrin adhesive paper; new plate number: 3.

TPN Translation: A shiny-gum, Plate 3 Seaplane has been found by Jerry Koepf. The item number is the same as the one in the July-September *Stamps etc.*, so do not expect to receive Plate 3 with this item number. The plate-number interval is 48 because this is a stamp moved from the B Press.

1¢ Omnibus, Coil @ 3,000

Item N705

No paper changes have been made, however plate number has changed; new number is 3.

TPN Translation: At press time, this stamp, moved from the B Press, had not been found. Since BEP refers to papers by its system of LP numbers, the statement that the paper has not changed means the stamp will appear untagged.

The item number is the same as the one in the July-September *Stamps etc.*, so do not expect to receive Plate 3 with this item number.

10¢ Canal Boat, Coil @ 500 and 3,000

Item 7739 and 7740

Paper changed from nonphosphored, dry-gum adhesive with phosphor overcoating to prephosphored, resin-dextrin adhesive. Plate number also changed; new number: 2.

TPN Translation: When *TPN* received this faxed information, USPS gave the second item number as a five-digit number. This is correct, but 7740 is an old item number. This stamp, also is a shift away from the B Press.

4¢ Steam Carriage, Coil @ 3,000

Item 7780

No changes.

TPN Translation: No new Steam Carriage has been found by collectors or dealers. This, like the 1¢ Omnibus, is a change from the B Press. Plate number not given. This is old item number.

23¢ Mary Cassatt sheet

Item T1043

No changes in paper; however new plate number 3.

TPN Translation: Just a new plate number with the same item number, but possibly with shiny gum. This is old item number.

2¢ Locomotive, Coil @ 3,000

Item N730.

No paper changes; new plate number: 2.

TPN Translation: "No paper changes" is a hint that the stamp will be tagged, just as the previous version was. This, again, is a shift from the B Press and an unchanged item number.

20¢ Truman Sheet

Item 1022

Paper changed from nonprephosphored dry-gum adhesive paper to prephosphored, resin-dextrin adhesive paper. The new plate number [is] 4.

TPN Translation: The mystery here is why a shiny-gum Truman is needed at all. The stamp was taken off sale on June 19, 1993, without prior announcement. The stamp meets no current postal need. □

NOTICE!

Many items listed here are not yet on sale at the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center.

Most prices cut!

No more quantity discounts, but lower prices. PNC³ members may still deduct 5%. PNC Study Group members may take an added 5%. You'll love my my no-quibble return policy, my VF quality. This list (List 8) is good through Jan. 15, 1994. Prices are for VF. Deduct 10% for Fine; add 25% for XF. If you prefer PS3, deduct 5% except where separate prices are noted.

1¢ Omnibus 1, 2, 5, 6	.50
3, 4	1.00
B Press 1, 2	.50
Untagged 2	.50
2¢ Locomotive 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10	.60
B Press 1	.60
3¢ Handcar 1, 2, 3, 4	.70
3¢ Conestoga Wagon 1	1.00
2 untagged	1.00
3.4¢ School Bus 1, 2	1.25
PC 1, 2 (1R, No Gap)	6.00
4¢ Stagecoach 1, 2, 3, 4	1.25
5, 6	2.25
PC 3, 4 (1L, 2L)	7.50
PC 3, 4 (Line Gap)	11.75
PC 5, 6 (1L, 2L)	7.50
PC 5, 6 (Line Gap)	11.75
Same, B Press 1	1.00
Overall tagged 1	18.00
4¢ Steam Carriage 1	1.00
Untagged	1.00
4.9¢ Backboard 3, 4	1.00
PC 1, 2 (1R, No Gap)	1.80
PC 3, 4 (2L, 1L)	1.65
PC 3, 4 (Line Gap)	2.00
PC 5, 6 (2R, PS/7)	1.75
PC 5, 6 (No Gap)	1.75
PC 5, 6 (1R)	7.50
PC 5, 6 (3L, PS/7)	7.50
PC 5, 6 (2L)	1.75
5¢ Motorcycle 1, 2, 3, 4	1.00
5¢ Milk Wagon 1	1.00
5¢ Circus Wag. 1, unl. 1,	
A1, A2	1.50
5¢ Canoe 1, 2	1.50
3	3.00
Gravured S11	1.25
5.2¢ Sleigh 1, 2	8.50
3	240.00
5	170.00
PC 1, 2 (No Gap)	12.00
PC 3, 5 (No Gap)	14.00
PC 4, 6 (2L)	13.00
PC 4, 6 (No Gap)	20.00
5.3¢ Elevator 1	1.00
5.5¢ Star Route Truck 1	2.00
PC 1	1.50
PC 2	4.00
5.9¢ Bicycle 3, 4	15.00
PC 3, 4 (No Gap)	28.00
PC 5, 6 (Line Gap)	85.00
6¢ Tricycle 1	1.50
PC 1	1.50
PC 2	8.00
7.1¢ Tractor 1	3.00
PC 1	3.50
PC 1 "ZIP-4"	3.00
7.4¢ Baby Buggy 2	9.00
PC 2	5.00
7.6¢ Carrel 1, 2	2.50
3	6.00
8.3¢ Ambulance 1, 2	1.50
PC 1, 2 (2L, 1L, Line)	2.00
PC 3, 4 (No Gap, PS8)	10.00
PC 3, 4 (1R)	5.75
B Press, 1	3.25
2	5.50
8.4¢ Wheelchair 1, 2	2.00
3	13.00
8.5¢ Tow Truck 1	2.50
PC 1	2.50
PC 2	11.00
9.3¢ Mail Wagon 1, 2	12.50
3, 4	33.00
5, 6	240.00

PC 1, 2 (2L, No Gap)	20.00
PC 3 (2R, No Gap)	75.00
PC 4 (1R, 2L)	45.00
PC 4 (Line Gap)	20.00
PC 5, 6 (2L, No Gap)	3.00
PC 8	180.00
10¢ Canal Boat 1 (block tag)	2.00
1 overall tag (dull gum) F-VF	3.50
1 overall tag (dull gum) XF	5.00
1 phos shiny gum F-VF	3.50
1 phos shiny gum XF	5.00
10¢ Tractor Trailer 1	2.00
(10¢) Eagle, Shield	
A11111, A11112, A21112, A21113,	
A22112, A22113, A33333, A33335,	
A43324, A43325, A43326, A43334,	
A43335, A43426, A53335, A54444,	
A54445, A77777, A88888, A89999,	
A99999, A1010101010	3.00
S11111, 11111, 22221	3.00
A34424, A34426	5.00
A12213	18.00
A32333 No discount	225.00
A33334	85.00
10.1¢ Oil Wagon 1	2.50
PC 1, 2 (No Gap)	2.50
PC2 (Ln Gap)	3.50
Red PC 2, 3	2.50
10.9¢ Hansom Cab 1, 2	28.00
PC 1, 2 (Line Gap)	30.00
PC 1, 2 (1R)	55.00
3, 4 (Line Gap) (PS/3 only)	225.00
11¢ Caboose 1	4.00
PC 1	4.00
Untagged PC 2	2.50
11¢ Stutz 1, 2, 3, 4	2.00
12¢ Steamer 1, 2	2.00
PC 1, 2 (No Gap, Line Gap)	2.50
B Press PC 1	20.00
12.5¢ Pushcart 1	2.65
2	4.50
PC 1 Light olive, 1lla	2.70
PC 1 Dark olive, 1lla	3.00
PC 2	5.00
13¢ Patrol Wagon 1	2.25
13.2¢ Coal Car 1, 2	3.00
14¢ Iceboat 1, 2	1.75
3, 4	2.50
14¢ Iceboat B Press 2	3.00
15¢ Tugboat 1, 2 (Block)	3.00
Overall tagged 2	3.00

15.7¢ Popcorn 1, 2	4.00
17¢ Auto 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2.00
6	12.00
7	5.00
PC 1C, 2C (F only)	6.00
PC 3A, 4A (2L, 1L)	3.50
PC 3A, 4A (Line Gap)(Low)	10.00
PC 3A, 4A (No Gap)	3.50
PC 3B, 4B (No Gap)	22.00
PC 3C, 4C (No Gap)	7.00
PC 3C, 4C (1R, Line Gap)	7.00
PC 3BA, 4BA (PS/10)	23.00
PC 5A (1L, 2L, No Gap)	5.00
PC 5B, 6B (1L, Line Gap)	15.25
PC 5AB, 7AB (PS/9) (5R)	13.00
PC 6A (1L, 2L)	13.00
PC 5C, 7C (No Gap)	24.00
PC 7A (No Gap)	10.00
17¢ Dogsled 2	3.00
17.5¢ Racer 1	3.00
PC 1	3.00
18¢ Surrey 1	76.00
2, 5, 6, 8, 17, 18	3.00
3, 4	63.75
7	30.00
9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16	12.50
13, 14	5.50
18¢ Flag 1	480.00
2 PS/5	50.00
2 PS/3	29.00
4	7.00
5	4.00
7	30.00
18¢ Wash. 1112, 3333	3.00
PC 11121	6.00
PC 33333	3.00
PC 33333 (dull gum, tagged) 6.75	
PC 43444	8.00
19¢ Fishing Boat	
A1112	6.00
A1212, 1111, 2424, 5555, 5556	4.00
A5555 untag	10.00
20¢ Fire Pumper 1 PS/5	200.00
1 PS/3	80.00
3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16	4.00
7, 8 (PS/5 F-VF only)	145.00
12, 14	8.00
6	16.00
11 PS/5	75.00
11 PS/3	29.00

20¢ Consumer Ed. 1, 2 PS/5	125.00
1, 2, 3, 4 PS/3	25.00
3, 4 PS/5	89.00
20¢ Flag 1 PS/5	70.00
1 PS/3	4.25
2, 11, 12	8.00
3, 12	5.00
4 PS/3 only	33.50
6 PS/5	125.00
6 PS/3	69.00
5, 9, 10, 13, 14	4.00
8 PS/5	12.00
8 PS/3	3.00
PC 14	50.00
20¢ Official 1 PS/5	57.00
1 PS/3	11.00
20¢ Cable Car 1, 2 (block)	4.00
Overall tagged 2	5.00
20.5¢ Fire Engine 1	3.00
21¢ Rail Car 1, 2	3.00
21.1¢ 111111	3.00
111121	5.00
PC 111111	3.00
PC111121	5.00
22¢ Flag 1, 7, 13 PS/5	14.00
1, 7, 13 PS/3	10.00
3 PS/5	48.00
3 PS/3	11.00
14	30.00
2, 8, 12, 15, 16, 19, 22, T1	3.50
4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 17, 18, 20, 21	5.00
(22¢) "D" Eagle 1, 2	7.00
(22¢) "D" Official 1 PS/5	64.00
1 PS/3	32.50
23¢ Lunch Wag 2, 3 (solid tag)	3.50
3 (mottled, dull or shiny)	3.50
23¢ Presort A111, 212	4.00
A222 lat middle 2	4.00
A222 1lin middle 2	5.00
A112, 122, 333	6.00
23¢ USA A1111, A2222, 1111	4.00
S111	4.00
A2232, A2233	4.75
24.1¢ Tandem 1	3.50
25¢ Bread Wagon 2, 3, 4	3.50
1, 5	4.50
25¢ Yosemite	
Block 1, 7, Phos 15	6.00
Block 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	3.50
Block 9, Phos 5	9.00
Phos 1	40.00
Phos.2-3, 7-11, 13-14	3.50
Phos. 6	6.00
(25¢) "E" Earth 1211, 2222	4.25
1111, 1222	2.50
25¢ Honeybee 1, 2	4.00
1 Orig. full serif	20.00
(29¢) "F" Tulip	
1111, 1222, 2222	3.50
1211	20.00
2211	5.00
29¢ Flower S1111, S2222	5.00
S111	5.00
S2222 (Perforated)	5.00
29¢ Mt. Rushmore Flag	
1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7	3.50
7 Toledo brown VF PS/3	127.50
5, 8	6.00
9	17.00
A11111, A22211	5.00
29¢ White House Flag	
1-11, 13	4.50
29¢ UVM 1 (29¢ PS/5) (dull)	9.00
29¢ UVM 1 (29¢ PS/5) (shiny)	8.00
\$1 Seaplane 1, 3	8.00

All stamps are guaranteed genuine and (unless otherwise noted) in VF condition. All stamps may be returned (within 30 days) 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.

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Finally, which paper is which?

As readers of *TPN* know, we have had a great deal of trouble with the nomenclature of papers that have taggant applied before they are delivered to the printer.

At first, we called them "phosphored papers," because we could not accept the notion that the phosphors had impregnated the entire paper pulp. If they had, all stamps printed on such paper would appear tagged on the gummed side, as well.

The Postal Service and BEP, however, called them "prephosphored," meaning that they were already tagged when received by the printer.

When we first saw a difference among these papers—in which one paper was mottled as seen in UV while another showed solid tagging—we hesitatingly worked our way from one set of labels to another.

Throughout all this, Wayne L. Youngblood, the PNC Study Group's resident expert on tagging, wanted us to reserve the term "prephosphored" for paper that had tagging right through the paper. He demonstrated this with skinned stamps, which still appeared tagged at the scuff.

Youngblood wanted the other paper to be called "phosphor coated." His reason was the reverse of his reason for "prephosphored"—because skinned stamps were untagged at the scuff, meaning that the taggant was only on the surface as a coating.

Gradually, the study group accepted Youngblood's terminology. We called mottled paper "prephosphored" and the solid paper "phosphor coated."

We had first seen the "phosphor-coated" paper when Joann Lenz discovered rolls of 3,000 of the 29¢ Flag Over Mt. Rushmore that were not mottled. At first, we called her find "Lenz paper."

Then, under the impression that Lenz objected to the term, we tried to get away from using her name. That made all papers with solid tagging into "solidly coated prephosphored papers."

And, to keep the distinction, we also adopted "mottled prephosphored papers."

No one was particularly happy with this terminology. And one big problem with these terms was that it would be difficult to get the Scott Publishing Co. to accept them for its *Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps*.

Scott needed terminology that would be usable by non-specialists.

Beyond that, the study group's Alan Thomson noted that almost all paper is coated in some way, especially papers in-

tended for printing by gravure or offset.

At STAMPSHOW '93 in Houston, Lenz finally received a reply to her request for information from BEP.

BEP: They're all coated

That reply put whole new perspectives on the fight over terminology. As the

For the paper with a mottled appearance, the powdered taggant is dispersed in a suitable binder and then applied to the paper. For the paper with "solid taggant," the powdered taggant was mixed with a pigmented coating formulation and then applied to the paper.

numbered Paragraph 5 in BEP's letter (facing page) makes clear, both types of paper have the taggant applied on the surface of the paper. In other words, neither paper is phosphored in the paper pulp (before the paper solidifies).

BEP makes a distinction. The taggant on mottled paper is dispersed in a binder; the taggant in solidly tagged paper is in a pigmented coating.

As stamp collectors we have no way to ascertain that distinction. We can only differentiate by what we see. And what we see is a solid tagging or a mottled tagging.

BEP: Lenz paper was a sample

What's more, BEP without hesitation said Lenz paper was used only on the 29¢ Rushmore.

Many of us believed that the solidly tagged original issue of the 23¢ Lunch Wagon was also on Lenz paper. But it was soon noticed that the paper was thicker and that tearing it on the perforations was easier. Still, it is extremely difficult to tell the tagging apart from the tagging on Lenz paper.

Numbered Paragraph 6 of BEP's letter, however, tells us that "approximately eight rolls of [Lenz] paper" were used to

print the Rushmores and that the paper was not used to print any other stamps.

Somewhat less clearly, numbered Paragraph 2 draws a parallel between the use of Lenz paper and Paper Ia, used on some Consumer Education coils and Plates 9, 10, 13, and 14 of the 18¢ Surrey. Paper Ia was specifically ordered by BEP as a sample to test a different gum. Richard Nazar has stated that samples from losing bids are often used up, simply to economize.

Lenz paper was obtained as part of "a competitive procurement process" to determine what type of paper should be used for printing the Rushmores.

As Alan Thomson wrote in the *July Coil Line*, "Bidders are required to supply samples when a bid is submitted to BEP, and Rich believes Lenz paper is the result of sample rolls being put on press, either intentionally or by mistake. The fact that so few stamps of this paper type have been found by collectors seems to support the idea of a limited paper supply."

As a result, the PNC Study Group has returned to the use of "Lenz paper" to designate the two plate numbers (2 and 6) of the Rushmores printed on this paper. Lenz said she does not mind.

But what do we do now?

As soon as Lenz distributed photocopies of her letter at STAMPSHOW '93, a lively discussion broke out. Here we were with both papers basically being coated.

Alan Thomson came up with a common-sense explanation:

Assume we are talking of ways to color wood. We can do this with a stain, which soaks in but leaves the texture apparent, or we can paint it, obscuring the texture. One soaks into the wood, the other adheres to the surface.

Thus, mottled paper is the "stain." Lenz paper—and other solidly phosphored papers—are the paint. BEP actually makes this quite clear by referring to it as a pigmented coating.

Most of those at the Houston show were content with going back to "mottled phosphor" and "solid phosphor." But Youngblood, still concerned about how Scott Publishing could list them, has proposed terms that also go along with the results after scuffing:

1. **Embedded tagging**, used on engraved stamps. The taggant has acted like Thomson's stain and does go down into the paper. If scraped, the scuffed area phosphoresces in UV.

Please turn to next page

BEP explains Lenz paper

The following is the unedited text of a letter from BEP to Joann Lenz. The numbered paragraphs are responses to her specific questions. The italicized paragraphs are her questions to the BEP.

We have completed our examination of two strips of five 29¢ Flag Over Mt. Rushmore postage stamps which you submitted for examination.

You submitted strips which consisted of five stamps per strip where you found differences in the appearance of the taggant. One strip was described as having a taggant which appeared mottled under short-wave ultraviolet illumination. The other strip was described as having a more uniform or solid taggant application.

The submitted strips of stamps, as examined microscopically, appear to have been printed on different papers. The strip labeled as having a mottled appearance, as viewed under UV illumination, is from one supplier and does not have a pigmented coating. The intent of a pigmented coating is to create a paper surface which is smooth, since most of the irregularities in the paper are filled with the pigmented coating. A micrograph illustrating the appearance of the two papers is attached. Both papers are considered to be "pre-phosphored" paper.

A number of stamps from various areas of the United States were examined under UV illumination with the unaided eye and with magnifications to observe the appearance of mottle. All of the stamps exhibited mottle as observed under magnification with UV illumination. It was

also observed that the degree of mottle may vary. As observed with the unaided eye, the mottle is not always resolvable and a stamp having "mottled taggant" may be mistaken as a stamp having "solid taggant." Examination with a magnifier having as little as five times (5x) magnification may be sufficient to verify the absence or presence of mottle.

A determination of paper type, that is coated or uncoated, may also be verified with a magnifier. It is suggested that a magnifier of at least ten times (10x) magnification is used to determine if the paper is coated or uncoated; thirty times (30x) magnification will be more definitive. The enclosed micrograph was reproduced at sixty-two (62x) times magnification and clearly shows how a paper coating can cover the surface fibers and irregularities on a piece of paper.

Some points to which you want clarification are listed below:

Was the paper the same as was used for the typical mottled-tagged stamps, or was it different but still in compliance with the specifications?

1. The paper labeled "solid tagging" was not the same as was used for the typical paper with "mottled tagging."

If the paper was different, was this a "test" of new paper?

2. Both papers were obtained as part of a competitive procurement process in which a principal paper supplier for printing this stamp could be established.

Was the taggant used for the solid tags different than that used for the typical

Rushmore stamp?

If the taggant was different, was this a test of a new taggant?

3. The taggant used is identical to that used for typical Mt. Rushmore stamps. It is required that this taggant conform to certain spectral and physical performance characteristics, and any deviations or substitutions would render it useless for USPS applications.

How was the taggant applied to the strip; for example:

a. *Was the taggant applied to the surface of the paper before printing?*

b. *Was the taggant applied to the surface after the printing process?*

c. *Was the taggant incorporated in the paper sizing?*

d. *Was some taggant "shaved" off of the strip?*

4. The taggant was applied to the paper before printing. The application of taggant is performed before delivery to the BEP.

Was the tagging process different from the process used for the typical mottled strip? If there is a different tagging process/procedure for the solid tagged stamps, was this a test of a new process/procedure?

5. The application of taggant differs for the two types of paper. For the paper with a mottled appearance, the powdered taggant is dispersed in a suitable binder and then applied to the paper. For the paper with "solid taggant," the powdered taggant was mixed with a pigmented coating formulation and then applied to the paper. This application creates a smoother paper surface since space coating formulation tends to make this paper appear whiter than the "mottled paper" because the pigments in the coating promote better light scattering. However, it is possible that paper can be made to appear darker with some pigmented coatings.

6. Approximately eight rolls of paper having "solid taggant" were used for printing the 29¢ Mt. Rushmore stamp. No other stamps were printed with this paper. The primary intent was to print rolls of stamps so that coils of 100 and 500 could be made. We have no estimate as to how many coils of 3,000 stamps were produced.

The seven (*sic*) points above should clarify most of the uncertainties about the two types of 29¢ Mt. Rushmore stamps.

Larry Felix, Acting Chief
Office of Public Affairs

Finally, which paper is which?

II. **Surface tagging**, including Lenz paper and the paper used to print the 23¢ Lunch Wagon (or Type IV paper). This type of tagging is also used for gravure and offset printing. This type of tagging, of course, is what Thomson compared to paint.

It should be of interest that Youngblood's new terminology was enthusiastically adopted by *Linn's* as "surface taggant" and "embedded taggant" in the issue dated Sept. 6.

Linn's writer Michael Schreiber did, however, add these comments about the BEP letter to Lenz:

The letter to Lenz still begs the questions of when the taggant/binder is added to the paper, how the taggant becomes embedded throughout the paper, and why it looks mottled.

The Youngblood proposals were circulated among members of the study group and Lenz.

Only Kim Cuniberti took exception to their adoption. He suggested that it would be better to stick to the terminology used by BEP. This, however, has its drawbacks, as a glance at Page 92 of our July issue will show. BEP uses so many different descriptions for its prephosphored paper ("low phosphor," "high phosphor," and "prephosphored") that trying to harmonize with BEP could prove difficult, especially after the new difficulties USPS has placed in the journalists' way of getting information.

That means the new *PNC Catalog* and *TPN* will go to the two terms "embedded" and "surface" in referring to prephosphored stamps. "Lenz paper" remains for those unique stamps.

UPDATE: New issues, EKUs imperforates

New stamps

Plate Number Coils

F23USA-1111—23¢ USA stamp printed by BEP. Lightly tagged on cover (2 covers, mailed in Manchester, N.H.), Aug. 17. (Leduc)

F23USA-A2232—23¢ USA stamp printed by American Bank Note. September. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

F23USA-A2233—23¢ USA stamp printed by American Bank Note. September. (Used copy reported by Lawrence in *Linn's*. Mint, Dr. Rabinowitz)

F23USA-A3333—23¢ USA stamp printed by American Bank Note. September. (Lipson)

F29WH-9—Plate 9 of the 29¢ Flag over the White House. Large rolls. Aug. 16. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

F29WH-10—Plate 10 of the 29¢ Flag over the White House. Rolls of 100. Aug. 16. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

F29WH-11—Plate 11 of the 29¢ Flag over the White House. September. (Marrelli)

F29WH-13—Plate 13 of the 29¢ Flag over the White House. Oct. 2. (Haake)

M10-22221—The BEP version of the 10¢ undominated Eagle and Shield with the numbers 22221. Found on an American Express cover by Joann Lenz about Aug. 20. Found in rolls of 3,000 on Sept. 2. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

M10-A10 10 10 10—The ABN version of the 10¢ undominated Eagle and Shield with five sets of 10s (instead of the promised doubling of the "A"). September. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

T17EA-5—Plate 5 of the 17¢ Auto. Found with a horizontal tagging break. (Ernst)

TS1-1—Plate 1 of the \$1 Seaplane on Paper IIIn. On sale at STAMPSHOW.

TS1-3—Plate 3 of the \$1 Seaplane, prephosphored, shiny gum. USPS Item 7703. September. (Koepp)

New Scott Catalogue numbers

These numbers are announced monthly by Wayne Youngblood, editor of *Scott Monthly Journal*:

F23USA—The 23¢ USA presort stamp

Original stamp (from ABN)—2608

BEP version—2608A

Stamp Venturers version—2608B

M10—The 10¢ Eagle and Shield stamp

Original stamp (from ABN)—2604

BEP version—2605

Stamp Venturers version—2606

New EKU

T18-10—Plate 8 of the 18¢ Surrey, May 18, 1981, on USPS poster canceled at Smithsonian Station, Washington. (Blankenship)

New imperforates, misperfs, untagged errors, and splices (all from John Tison)

The following list includes all items not included in the 1991 *PNC Catalog*.

C22-1—Plate 1 of the "D" stamp. Imperforate untagged (error).

C25-1111—The "E" stamp with the numbers 1111, imperforate miscut, imperforate splice with two numbers.

C25-2222—The "E" stamp with the numbers 2222, imperforate, misperfed.

C29-1111—The "F" stamp with the numbers 1111, transition strip (imperf to perf), imperf with electric-eye bars at bottom, imperf with horizontal line at bottom. Plus, a strip of 18½ with gripper marks on first two stamps. This is from a bulk mailer's machine mailing, and this condition would have stopped the machinery.

C29-1222—The "F" stamp with the numbers 1111, transition strip (imperf to perf), misperfed.

C29-2211—The "F" stamp with the numbers 2211, imperforate.

C29-2222—The "F" stamp with the numbers 2211, imperforate miscut, splice, transition strip (imperf to perf), misperfed.

F18-1—Plate 1 of the 18¢ Flag, imperforate.

F18-5—Perforated miscut.

F20-2—Plate 2 of the 20¢ Supreme Court, red splice, misperfed.

F20-3—Plate 3 of the 20¢ Supreme Court, misperfed, double transition strip (imperf to perf to imperf).

F20-4—Plate 4 of the 20¢ Supreme Court, perforated untagged error.

F20-5—Plate 5 of the 20¢ Supreme Court, misperfed.

F20-8—Plate 8 of the 20¢ Supreme Court, imperforate untagged error.

F20-11—Plate 4 of the 20¢ Supreme Court, imperforate.

F20-13—Plate 13 of the 20¢ Supreme Court, misperfed.

F22-2—Plate 2 of the 22¢ Capitol, misperfed.

F22-7—Plate 7 of the 22¢ Capitol, transition strip (imperf to perf), misperfed, imperforate with entire number on top.

F22-8—Plate 8 of the 22¢ Capitol, transition strip (imperf to perf).

F22-10—Plate 10 of the 22¢ Capitol, misperfed.

F22-11—Plate 11 of the 22¢ Capitol, transition strip (perf to imperf).

F22-12—Plate 12 of the 22¢ Capitol, transition strip (perf to imperf).

F22-13—Plate 13 of the 22¢ Capitol, imperforate.

F22-15—Plate 15 of the 22¢ Capitol, misperfed.

F22-18—Plate 18 of the 22¢ Capitol, transition strip (imperf to perf), 2 colors of splices (black and clear).

F22-19—Plate 19 of the 22¢ Capitol, transition strip (imperf to perf).

F22-20—Transition strip (imperf to perf). **F22-22**—Plate 22 of the 22¢ Capitol, imperforate, transition strip (imperf to perf), splice.

F23USA-1111—The BEP version of the 23¢ USA, imperforate.

F25-2blk—The block tagged Plate 2 of the 25¢ Yosemite, transition strip (imperf to perf).

F25-5blk—The block tagged Plate 5 of the 25¢ Yosemite, transition strip (imperf to perf).

F25-8blk—The block tagged Plate 8 of the 25¢ Yosemite, transition strip (imperf to perf).

F25-1phos—The phosphor-imbedded Plate 1 of the 25¢ Yosemite, splice, misperfed.

F25-2phos—The phosphor-imbedded Plate 1 of the 25¢ Yosemite, misperfed.

F25-3phos—The phosphor-imbedded Plate 3 of the 25¢ Yosemite, imperforate miscut, misperfed.

F25-5phos—The phosphor-imbedded Plate 5 of the 25¢ Yosemite, splice resulting in two plate numbers (both 5s).

F25-7phos—The phosphor-imbedded Plate 7 of the 25¢ Yosemite, imperforate miscut, transition strip (imperf to perf).

F25-9phos—The phosphor-imbedded Plate 9 of the 25¢ Yosemite, imperforate miscut (with entire number on top), splice, imperforate between.

F25-11phos—The phosphor-imbedded Plate 11 of the 25¢ Yosemite, imperforate miscut.

F25-13phos—The phosphor-imbedded Plate 13 of the 25¢ Yosemite, imperforate miscut.

F25-14phos—The phosphor-imbedded Plate 14 of the 25¢ Yosemite, imperforate miscut.

F25-15phos—The phosphor-imbedded Plate 15 of the 25¢ Yosemite, imperforate.

F29MR-1—Plate 1 of the 29¢ Rushmore, imperforate miscut.

F29MR-2—Plate 2 of the 29¢ Rushmore, imperforate, misperfed, transition strip (imperf to perf), splice.

F29MR-3—Plate 3 of the 29¢ Rushmore, imperforate miscut (full number on top), imperforate miscut (full number in middle).

F29MR-4—Plate 4 of the 29¢ Rushmore, imperforate, imperforate miscut (number on top), splice, misperfed miscut.

F29MR-6—Plate 6 of the 29¢ Rushmore, imperforate miscut (number on top), splice, misperfed.

F29MR-7—Plate 7 of the 29¢ Rushmore. Used: on multiple strip mailed at Carlsbad, N.M. Mint: splice, transition strip (perf to imperf), transition strip (imperf to perf), misperfed.

F29MR-8—Plate 8 of the 29¢ Rushmore, imperforate, misperfed miscut.

F29MR-9—Plate 9 of the 29¢ Rushmore, imperforate, splice.

M18-33333P—The precanceled 18¢ Monument with the numbers 33333, misperfed.

M19-A1212—The 19¢ Fishing Boat with the numbers A1212, imperforate.

M20-2—Plate 2 of the 20¢ Consumer Education, transition strip (perf to imperf).

O20-1—Plate 1 of the 20¢ Official, splice.

T1(B)-1—Plate 1 of the B Press 1¢ Omnibus, misperfed.

T1(B)-2—Plate 2 of the B Press 1¢ Omnibus, misperfed.

T2-3—Plate 3 of the 2¢ Locomotive, misperfed.

T2-3P—Plate 3 of the precanceled 2¢ Locomotive, misperfed.

T2-4—Plate 4 of the 2¢ Locomotive, misperfed.

T2-4P—Plate 4 of the precanceled 2¢ Locomotive, misperfed.

T4S-5—Plate 5 of the 4¢ Stagecoach, imperforate.

T4S-6—Plate 6 of the 4¢ Stagecoach, imperforate.

T4S-6P—Plate 6 of the precanceled 4¢ Stagecoach, misperfed.

T5M-3—Plate 3 of the 5¢ Motorcycle, misperfed.

T5M-4—Plate 4 of the 5¢ Motorcycle, misperfed.

T5CW-1—Plate 1 of the overall-tagged 5¢ Cir-

29¢ White House EFOs

Compiled, through Oct. 11, 1993, by John Tison

Plate Number	Imperf	Imperf Miscut	Imperf between	Transition Perf-Imperf	Misperf	Splice
1	X					
2		X			X	X (clear in front; red on back)
3	X					
4	X		X			
5	X					
6	X					
7	X			X	X	X
8	X	X		X		
10	X					

Cottrell tagging fascinating

By ED Denson

I've become interested in tagging varieties lately for several reasons. Of course there is an intrinsic interest in suddenly seeing the invisible aspects of the stamps—something akin to discovering the microscopic world. But there are what I might call more practical aspects as well. Practical, that is, in the sense of advancing our knowledge of these stamps. I believe that investigation of the tagging will lead us toward plating PNCs, for instance.

As it also appears that the same tagging mats or plates were used on more than one stamp, we will gain knowledge about the various printings of the stamps, which will confirm or alter the "official" information that has been released. As part of the study of these tagging mats used on more than one stamp, I am beginning to draw up a mental list of them. Three certainly come to mind:

- The "railroad tracks" mat (see "PNC Trivia" in 1991 *PNC Catalog*, Page 15—found on 12 PNCs)

- The "wrinkled" tag, or "blazing" tag, known at least on T4S-3, T4S-4, T17EA-4 (see my article in the September issue).

- The "worn-out" or blotchy tag which probably encompasses the 14 PNCs known with "clips" or "screw heads," which I'll be discussing below.

It seems possible that working with these, and a few more, identifiable tagging mats, we will be able to reconstruct a series of printings for the Cottrell issues that make up most of the first years of PNCs.

One fascinating group of tagging varieties are associated with the use of screws or clips to hold the tagging plate on press. What is fascinating is that these fasteners are visible under UV light. Fourteen PNCs are known with tagging from these plates, all apparently printed in late 1984 and early 1985. They are listed on Page 63 of the 1991 *PNC Catalog* and have been updated regularly in *TPN* since then. In this issue of this magazine, they may be found on Page 140.

My post office still supplies some of the old Cottrell press stamps (which these 14 are) and I just got a roll of the 5¢ Motorcycle from Plates 3 and 4 (T5M-3 and T5M-4). Examining it in UV revealed that it is from the printing which not only had tagging breaks, but also shows portions of the clip used to fasten the tagging mat to the press. I also saw five features that have not been reported on but which will allow further study.

1. The clips are visible as untagged areas, which appear as a kind of purple that does not glow under UV. They are found at the bottom of tagging breaks, and occur every 12 stamps. On my roll they are at perf position 10R and 2L. As these phenomena are usually noted in terms of stamps, the near break is on stamp 3L (counting the numbered stamp as 1L) and the far break is on 10R. I'm told that this position is common. There are two clips, and like the plate numbers on these Cottrell rolls, they alternate as they appear on the roll. These clips are different sizes, as are the tagging breaks that rise from them. The first I encountered on the roll is the "wide clip," and it occurs at the off-number break, 10R. I want to provide measurements for both of these because you may find a roll with clip positions reversed—or with different clips.

The most spectacular difference is that the 10R clip is at the base of an 8mm-wide tagging break, while the 2L clip is at the base of a 3mm-wide tagging break. There are differences in the shape of the clips, etc., too.

Another distinct feature of the tagging mat is a horizontal untagged streak on the three (3L) or four (10R) stamps to the right of the break. It runs through the word "Motorcycle" and is stronger by the 10R break.

The third feature is a kind of herringbone tagging effect on the stamps on either side of the wide tagging break. It is similar to the pattern of a tire tread and is a little more than a stamp wide, so two stamps are entirely covered by it and a third has a bit of it.

The joint line at the numbered stamp of Plate 3 lacks tagging, but that of Plate 4 does not.

The underlying tagging is what I call the "worn-out" mat, that is, the tagging is weak around the lettering "1913" and "USA 5¢" and some parts of the design where the underlying paper shows through as purple areas. The design, especially the motorcycle, is blurry under UV light. The clips are known on 14 different PNCs, and, I believe, will be associated with this blurry, blotchy tagging on each of the,

I have copies available for those who wish to study these varieties. I'd like to hear from others who have strips or rolls of these clips on any PNCs.

Editor's note: The blurry effect ED is talking about is usually associated with Type II paper, which is acidic. It is believed that the effect is caused by the acidity. □

cue Wagon, transition strip (imperf to perf).

T5.9-3—Plate 3 of the 5.9¢ Bicycle, imperforate, misperfed.

T5.9-4—Plate 4 of the 5.9¢ Bicycle, imperforate, misperfed.

T5.9-5P—Plate 5 of the precanceled 5.9¢ Bicycle, misperfed.

T5.9-6P—Plate 6 of the precanceled 5.9¢ Bicycle, misperfed.

T10TF-1—Plate 1 of the 10¢ Tractor Trailer, imperforate, misperfed.

T10.1-2red—Plate 2 of the precanceled 10.1¢ Oil Wagon, misperfed.

T10.1-3red—Plate 3 of the precanceled 10.1¢ Oil Wagon, misperfed.

T13.2-2—Plate 2 of the 13.2¢ Coal Car, misperfed.

T14-1—Plate 1 of the 14¢ Iceboat, misperfed.

T14-2—Plate 2 of the 14¢ Iceboat, misperfed.

T15-1—Plate 1 of the 15¢ Tugboat, misperfed.

T15-2blk—Plate 2 of the block-tagged 15¢ Tugboat, transition strip (perf to imperf), misperfed.

T15-2ol—Plate 2 of the overall-tagged 15¢ Tugboat, misperfed.

T16.7-1—Plate 1 of the 16.7¢ Popcorn Wagon, misperfed.

T16.7-2—Plate 2 of the 16.7¢ Popcorn Wagon, misperfed, splice.

T17EA-1—Plate 1 of the 17¢ Electric Auto, imperforate number on top.

T17EA-2—Plate 1 of the 17¢ Electric Auto, perf-imperf-perf, imperforate number on top.

T17EA-3—Plate 3 of the 17¢ Electric Auto, misperfed.

T17EA-4—Plate 4 of the 17¢ Electric Auto, misperfed.

T17EA-4Pa—Plate 3 of the precanceled (Style A) 17¢ Electric Auto, imperforate (number on top).

T18-1—Plate 1 of the 18¢ Surrey, imperforate.

T18-2—Plate 2 of the 18¢ Surrey, misperfed.

T18-5—Plate 5 of the 18¢ Surrey, misperfed.

T18-6—Plate 6 of the 18¢ Surrey, misperfed.

T18-7—Plate 7 of the 18¢ Surrey, misperfed.

T18-8—Plate 8 of the 18¢ Surrey, misperfed.

T18-10—Plate 10 of the 18¢ Surrey, misperfed.

T18-13—Plate 13 of the 18¢ Surrey, imperforate miscut, misperfed.

T18-15—Plate 15 of the 18¢ Surrey, misperfed.

T18-16—Plate 16 of the 18¢ Surrey, misperfed.

T20FP-1—Plate 1 of the 20¢ Fire Pumper, misperfed.

T20FP-5—Plate 5 of the 20¢ Fire Pumper, misperfed.

T20FP-6—Plate 6 of the 20¢ Fire Pumper, imperforate, imperforate miscut.

T20FP-7—Plate 7 of the 20¢ Fire Pumper, misperfed.

T20FP-8—Plate 8 of the 20¢ Fire Pumper, misperfed.

T20FP-13—Plate 13 of the 20¢ Fire Pumper, misperfed.

T20FP-15—Plate 15 of the 20¢ Fire Pumper, misperfed.

T20FP-16—Plate 16 of the 20¢ Fire Pumper, misperfed.

T21-1—Plate 1 of the 21¢ RR Mail Car, misperfed.

T23-2—Plate 2 of the 23¢ Lunch Wagon, imperforate.

T23-3—Plate 3 of the surface-tagged 23¢ Lunch Wagon with dull gum, imperforate, imperforate miscut, transition strip (imperf to perf), transition strip (perf to imperf).

T23-No Number—Probably from Plate 3 (surface tagged, dull gum): Electric-eye bars at top, miscut, transition strip (imperf to perf), transition strip (perf to imperf).

T25-1—Plate 1 of the 25¢ Bread Wagon, imperforate.

T25-2—Plate 2 of the 25¢ Bread Wagon, transition strip (imperf to perf), transition strip (perf to imperf), imperforate between.

T25-3—Plate 3 of the 25¢ Bread Wagon, transition strip (imperf to perf).

Great Americans—Specials

50¢ Nimitz, Overall tagged, dull gum, Plate 3, untagged stripe across two top stamps. LL PS/20, \$20; or ZIP Block of 4, \$6.50.

23¢ Cassatt, Overall tagged, Plate 2, tagging break appears at top or bottom of block, \$5.75.

At last! I've been able to secure a small supply of 50¢ Nimitz, Plate 2, overall tagged. While they last, \$15 per plate block.

My regular price list

Scott	Description	Single Inscr. Bl. or Pos. Bl.	PB/4	PB/6	PB/20	Scott	Description	Single Inscr. Bl. or Pos. Bl.	PS/4	PB/6	PB/20
1844c	14 Dix Bl	.10	1.00 (15B)	2.00 (1)	4.00 (1, 2)	1864	30¢ Laubach Bl	.75	5.00 (1)	10.00 (1)	19.00 (1)
1844	14 Dix BE	.10	1.25 (1)	2.50 (1)	3.00 (1)	1864a	30¢ Laubach BE	.45	5.50 (2)		
2168	14 Mitchell BE	.10	.25 (1)			1864a	30¢ Laubach OE	6.00	75.00 (2)		
1845	24 Srovinally Catal	.10	.35 (1, 2, 3, 4)			1865	35¢ Drew Catal	.75	4.50 (1, 2)		
	Some, premium		2.00 (5, 6)				Same, premium		12.00 (3, 4)		
	Some, vert tag break		10.00 (5, 6)			2185	35¢ Chavez Pl	.50	3.50 (5, 12)		
2169	24 Lyon BE	.10	.35 (1)			196b	37¢ Milliken Catal	.80	4.50 (1-4)		
	Some, premium		.55 (2)			1867	30¢ Clark Bl	.80	8.00 (15B)	16.00 (1)	35.85 (1)
1846	34 Clay Catal	.10	.70 (1, 2)			1867c	30¢ Clark BE	.80	5.90 (2)		
2170	34 White BE	.10	.50 (1, 2, 3)			1868	40¢ Gilbreth Bl	.95	9.75 (15B)	19.00 (1)	23.90 (1)
1847	44 Schurz Catal	.15	.60 (1-4)		3.50 (4)	1868a	40¢ Gilbreth BE	.95	6.50 (2)		
	Some, vert tag break		10.00 (1)			2186	40¢ Chernouf OE	.85	5.00	4.00 (1)	
2171	44 Flanagan BE	.15	.80 (1)			2186	40¢ Chernouf PE	WANT	4.00 (2)		
2171a	44 Flanagan UE	.10	.40 (1)			2188	45¢ Cushing BE	.75	3.50 (1)		
NEW	44 Flanagan UE, blue	.15	.60 (2)			2188a	45¢ Cushing OE	.60	3.00 (1)		
1848	54 Buck Catal	.15	.70 (1-4)			1869	50¢ Nimitz Cl	1.00	11.25 (1-4)		
2172	54 Black BE	.15	.70 (1, 2)			1869a	50¢ Nimitz BE	1.00	6.50 (1, 2)		
2173	54 Muñoz OE	.15	.75 (1)			1869d	50¢ Nimitz OE	1.00	15.00 (2)		
2173	54 Muñoz UE	.15	.75 (2)			1869d	50¢ Nimitz OE	1.00	7.50 (3)		20.00 (3B)
1849	64 Hippmann Bl	.15	.60 (1)	1.20 (1)	3.90 (1)	Plate 1 wanted, pay \$4 per block; Plate 3 wanted, pay \$3.75 per block					
1850	74 Baldwin Bl	.20	.90 (1)	1.80 (1)	4.50 (1)	NEW	50¢ Nimitz PE (shiny)	1.00	4.00 (2)		
1851	84 Knox Cl	.20	1.20 (3-6)			2190	52¢ Humphrey PE (shiny)	1.00	4.50	3.45 (1)	
1852	94 Thayer Bl	.25	WANT	2.50 (1)	5.50 (1)	NEW	52¢ Humphrey PE (dull)	1.00	4.50	3.45 (1)	
1853	10 Russell Bl	.25	1.20 (15E)	2.50 (1)	7.00 (1)	2161	50¢ Harvard	1.10	7.50 (1)		
2176	104 Red Cloud BE	.30	.85 (1)			2192	65¢ Arnold BE	1.30	5.20 (1)		
2176a	104 Red Cloud OE	.30	.75 (1)			2193	75¢ Wilkin PE (dull)	1.00	7.00	5.50 (1)	
	Some, tagged salvage		1.00 (2)			NEW	75¢ Wilkin PE (shiny)	1.00	7.00	5.50 (1)	
	Some, untagged salvage	2.75 (1, 3)				2194	\$1 Ravel	1.95	14.00 (1)		
2176a	104 Red Cloud PE	.20	.85 (2)			2194A	\$1 Hopkins BE	1.50	7.00 (1)		
1854	114 Partridge Cl	.30	1.60 (2-5)			2194Ab	\$1 Hopkins OE	1.50	7.00 (1)		
1855	134 Crazy Catal	.30	2.20 (1, 2)			2194Ab	\$1 Hopkins PE chas. dull	1.50	7.00 (2)		
	Some, premium		3.00 (3, 4)			2194Ab	\$1 Hopkins PE, shiny	2.00	8.00 (2)		
1856	144 Lewis Bl	.30	1.20 (1)	3.00 (1)	9.00 (1)	2195	\$2 Bryan	3.50	21.00 (2)		
2177	144 Howe BE	.25	1.90 (1, 2)		5.90 (1)	2196	\$5 Hate BE	9.00	40.00 (1)		
2178	154 Cady BE	.30	2.00 (1)			2196	\$5 Hate PE	9.00	35.00 (2)		
	Plate 3 BE wanted, pay \$2 per block					The following are not Great American stamps, but you probably don't have them.					
2178a	154 Cady OE	.25	3.50 (2)			1894a	20¢ Flag BE Dull	.80			18.00 (4)
	Some, tagged salvage		1.25 (1, 2)			1894	20¢ Flag BE Shiny	.80	4.75 (2)	9.50 (2)	15.00 (2, 3)
	Some, with tagging break		5.00 (2)		10.00 (2)	1894	20¢ Flag Bl from Plate 3, 4 wanted. Pay \$5 for PS/6, \$10 for PS/20.				
1857	174 Carson Catal	.35	2.85 (1-4, 13-14)			C118	45¢ Langley OE	3.00	25.00		
	Some, premium		5.00 (15)								
	Plate 15, 16 wanted, pay \$2.50 per block					Abbreviations used in descriptions:					
2179	174 Lockwood	.35	2.00 (1)			Tagging: B=Block; O=Overall; P=Prephosphored; U=Untagged (or Untagged salvage); T=Tagged salvage					
	Some, premium		3.50 (2)			Perforations: L=L Perforator; E=Eureka bull's eye; SE= Straight edge					
1858	184 Mason Catal	.35	3.50 (1-6)			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.					
1859	194 Sequoyah Catal	.40	3.00 (both)			1992 Lighthouse supplements					
1860	204 Burcha Catal	.40	3.50 (1, 2, 5, 8)			I carry all Lighthouse albums, album supplements, binders, UV lamps, stock books, and supplies at a 15% discount. Added 5% off for PNC ³ members. Call or write for details.					
	Some, premium		7.00 (3)			STEPHEN G. ESRATI					
	Some, premium		7.00 (4)		20.00 (4)	P.O. Box 20130, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120					
1861	204 Galloway Catal	.40	3.90 (1, 2)		18.00 (2)	Telephone: (216) 561-9393 FAX: (216) 752-5002					
	Some, premium		12.00 (11, 13)								
	Some, premium		3.90 (1, 2)								
	Some, premium		12.00 (5, 6)								
1862	204 Irwin Bl	.40	5.00 (1)	10.00 (1)	13.00 (1)						
1862a	204 Irwin BE	.40	3.90 (2)								
1862b	204 Irwin OE Paper III		4.00 (3)								
1862b	204 Irwin OE Paper III		4.00 (3)								
2179	214 Carlson BE	.40	3.20 (1)								
1863	224 Audubon Bl	.40	2.65 (1)	5.30 (1)	13.90 (1)						
1863d	224 Audubon BE	.45	5.00 (3)								
2182	234 Cassatt BE	.50	3.00 (1)								
2182b	234 Cassatt OE	.50	3.75 (1)								
2182b	234 Cassatt PE	.50	3.00 (2)								
2183	254 London Bl	.50	3.00 (1)								
	Plate 2 wanted, pay \$2.50 per block										
2184	284 Sitting Bull BE	.50	3.80 (1)								
2184A	294 Warren PE	.45	3.00	2.00 (51, 52)							
NEW	294 Jefferson	.45	4.50	2.50 (51, 52)							

Runyon naming a stamp czar

Azeezaly Jaffer, manager of the Corporate Relations Department of the Postal Service, laid a bombshell at the annual Writers' Breakfast at STaMpsHOW '93 in Houston when he announced Postmaster General Marvin Runyon's intention of naming a stamp czar to oversee both the Stamp Marketing and the Stamp Acquisition branches.

Runyon had broken up the Stamps Division in his 1992 shakeup with disastrous results: late announcements of stamps, a gag order on private contractors, early release of dozens of new stamps, and a lack of openness on the part of a Postal Service that treats collectors as enemies.

When one of the writers asked Jaffer whether the Transportation Series and the Great American Series would be continued, he apologized because he did not know what the questioner meant and promised to reply from Washington. This caused Gary Griffith, editor of *The United States Specialist*, to explode:

"That's what's the matter with the Postal Service," he shouted. "There are 20 million stamp collectors in this country and you cannot even find one who can answer our questions."

Jaffer promised to convene a writers' summit conference in Washington to resolve many of the problems of a lack of accurate information out of the Postal Service. Originally, this was to occur in October, but because the new stamp czar had not yet been named and because he would have to be a party to any undertakings arrived at, Jaffer told *TPN* he does not expect the meeting until November.

Griffith took a parting shot at Jaffer in the hall outside the breakfast room:

"I do not understand all this secrecy. We're not dealing with the Manhattan Project; we're talking about stamps."

No opinion from APS

A weird thing happened to John Tison when he submitted an albino roll of 100 of the 29¢ White House to the expertizing service of the APS.

("OK," you ask, "if it's albino, how does Tison know it's a White House?") *TPN* asked the same question. The roll was one of five bought at the same time. The others were normal.]

The roll came back with a statement saying "no opinion" because it appeared to be "leader stock" or an "improperly packaged roll."

The finder bought it at a post office and sold it to dealer Ed Silver in New Jersey,

who sold it to Tison. When Tison received it, it was still sealed.

He's looking for another opinion elsewhere.

High-flying cheap stuff

St. Louis has taken a page out of Chicago's book by holding a stamp show including all area stamp clubs. The show, which hosted the convention of the Bureau Issues Association, also resulted in a

albums for collectors of used singles. Scott Publishing Co., for example, provides spaces for se-tenant issues as blocks or strips, not singles. Kuhn, writing in *Linn's*, said: "Potential newcomers to our hobby are turned off by their inability to find collectible examples of attached se-tenant issues in the normal mailstream. After all, who uses huge blocks of four, six, or more to mail a letter?"

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

Regency auction realization that was termed "unbelievable!" by Kurt Lenz.

The lot consisted of plate strips of seven, with a 1¢ stamp at each end, of values from 1¢ to 18¢ of the dull-gum version of the Universal Vending Coil.

When the hammer came down, Ralph Persels, the consignee, had realized \$575, less commissions.

The "unbelievable" part is that on the dull-gum stamps there were no restrictions on low values. The stamps are relatively common.

Early release FDC

Wayne Meyers, formerly of Westfield, N.J., knows how to make the Postal Service look bad. He obtained from Dr. Robert Rabinowitz strips of the 23¢ USA with the plate number S111 long before the stamps were to be issued May 14 in Denver. So he stuck them on an envelope and got them hand-canceled. (The "J" of "N.J." is missing, but the ZIP code proves it anyway.)

Then he stuck another mint strip of the same stamp on that envelope and got the Postal Service to give it the official FDCI cancel.

The Postal Service had to oblige because the cover bore the same stamps. The rules only stop the use of stamps issued later.

The result is that Meyers obtained an EKU FDC, and with an EKU earlier than the one reported in *Linn's*. His EKU: May 5. There's just one catch. Dr. Bob reported finding the stamps even earlier. There may be still earlier covers.

Kuhn's plea on albums

George E. Kuhn is concerned about

If you agree with Kuhn, he urges you to write Scott at P. O. Box 828, Sidney, OH 45365.

"Not in my back yard!"

Richard Nazar, coordinator of the PNC Study Group, learned that BEP has a complete Cottrell Press 801 in storage. BEP did not destroy the machine because someone thought stamp collectors may want to see it. So BEP put the press in storage, and has been paying since 1986.

Nazar approached the new National Postal Museum, but the museum doesn't want it.

E&S has varieties

No sooner had BEP's second Eagle and Shield stamp hit the street, Patrick Lopez started finding things wrong with it.

First he found a variety in which the third "2" in 22221, that's the yellow "2," was shifted drastically upward. But the mis-registration of the yellow plate did more damage than to louse up the plate number. It results in a yellow band across the bottom of the shield and also causes a halo around the eagle's head.

Steve Esrati found that almost all his copies of the stamp had a black horizontal line right across the strip.

Raking in the golds

Bill McMurray continues to gather awards for his "Tomorrow's Classics" exhibit. He won a gold at the Omaha Stamp Show and a vermeil at Dayton's Airpex.

In addition he won two APS Medals of Excellence, the AAPE gold medal for creativity, the AAPE award of honor, and the PNC president's award. □

Langs finds splice of Flag, Bread Wagon

William S. Langs, a specialist dealer in imperforates, reports the finding of a miscut roll of 100 of the 25¢ Bread Wagon from Plate 3.

At the end of the roll, spliced front and back by yellow masking tape, was a 22¢ Flag, but Langs calls the stamp an essay.

Asked to describe what made the stamp an essay, Langs said it was a "bicolored" stamp, but then said it was blue, pink, and black.

The 22¢ Flag was no longer being printed when Plate 3 of the Bread Wagon first went to press on Feb. 26, 1988. In addition, all plates used for printing the 22¢ Flag except Plates 15, 19, 20, 21, and 22 had been canceled by that date.

There would have been no need to print "essays" or other unused stamps of that design in 1988 since the stamp no longer met any valid rates. □

Confusion continues in the cave

Item numbers supplied by the Corporate Relations (formerly public information) Department of USPS are all available at the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center (in a cave under Kansas City), according to Monica Hand of Corporate Relations, with the exception of the new 20¢ Truman.

But many of the numbers are identical to the old one.

When Richard Beecher tried to order the 1¢ Omnibus and other new PNCs, he was told the stamps were not yet available.

Meanwhile, improvements made in the July-September *Stamps etc.* catalog have been discontinued, with most stamps not even illustrated and no tagging information. □

☆☆☆ ONLY ONE AVAILABLE ☆☆☆

HOPKINS VARIETY—Possibly the result of rechroming. Strip of 20 in shrink-wrapped original setup for a Store of the Future. \$50. Box H, c/o The Plate Number.

COLLECTING REDWOOD CITY PROVISIONALS

I am very happy for this opportunity to talk to other collectors, who like me, have sent away for their "Redwood City Postmaster's Provisionals" covers from Mr. Craig Carlton Dremann.

I would like copies of covers that readers have received stating the color of the design. I will try and correlate the types of covers with quantities that still exist. I would like especially to get copies of those covers that have PNC stamps. I will forward this correlated information in future issue of *The Plate Number*.

I will also act as a focal point for those that would like to trade covers. Send me a SASE with a copy of the REDWOOD CITY POSTMASTER'S PROVISIONALS cover you are willing to trade and indicate what you want in trade.

Mr. Dremann has covers left, but still only one per person or household. If you have not sent away for yours yet please do so. To order your cover see the July 1993 issue of *The Plate Number*.

Send copies of your covers to:

Richard L. Learn
154 Kendale Dr.
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

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 Marin				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†)		E (2, 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¢ Cassall			E (1)	E (1*†, 2*†)	E (2)£	E (1) Error
2197a	25¢ London \$5 book			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		L* (1, 2, 3, 4)	E (1, 2)	E (2, 3*)	3 (shiny gum)	L (?), E (1, 2) Error
2191	52¢ Humphrey					1£ dull, 1µ shiny	
2193	75¢ Willie					1£ (dull gum) 1 (shiny)	
2194A	\$1 Hopkins			E (1)	E (1)	E (1, 2) (2, dull and shiny)	E (1) Error
2196	\$5 Harte			E (1)		E (2)£	

Symbols used in this chart:

L = L-perforator 10.9 x 10.9

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

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

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

• Printed on an I-8 currency press. Tagged off press. All have shiny gum.

* Overall tagging in all salvage. † Untagged area in salvage.

£ Phosphored paper (solid tagging).

E-E=Electric-eye perforator 10.9 x 10.9

µ Phosphored paper (mottled).

15¢ Cody does not exist on on phosphored paper.

STaMpsHOW provided treats for PNCers

The annual meeting of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club (PNC³) was held next to the Astrodome during STaMpsHOW 93 and began with achievement awards to Harold Brown, editor of *Coil Line*; Ken Lawrence, PNC columnist for *Linn's*; Joe Sedivy, who runs the PNC³ auctions, and Stephen G. Esrati.

Dr. Joseph Agris, who had hosted a Texas barbecue for some PNCers the evening before, presented one of his five slide shows, showing many notable freaks, oddities, and usages of the Flag Series.

His first slides were a record of the wanderings of Sue Watanabe of Hawaii, who went around the islands getting all the tagged values of the Transportation Series precanceled with town-name overprints.

The previous evening, Richard Nazar, coordinator of the PNC Study Group, gave out study group awards to Dr. Agris, who published the first book on PNCs; Alan Malakoff, for his work on the yet-to-be-completed 1993 catalog; Alan Thomson, for his efforts to keep PNC information accurate, and to Esrati, for getting things to the printer when promised.

PNCers, as is their wont, congregated in the show's lunch area, where the star was Larry G. Haynes, a study group member who recently returned from three years in

Europe, where he had overseen construction of a new Exxon plant in France.

Haynes had begun a study into how the Cottrell presses worked long before his long absence from PNCdom. His article and drawings will be presented in *TPN*.

Several interesting finds were made at the show's post office, including a roll of 9.3¢ Mail Wagon precancels from Plates 5 and 6 with the gap at 5R by Eugene Ernst and Richard Nazar and of the 5.2¢ Sleigh from Plates 3 and 5 with the gap at 5L by Scott Adams.

These gaps are relatively common, but what is significant is that two stamps that were withdrawn in 1985 showed up at a philatelic counter eight years after they were supposed to be destroyed. (Counter clerks may usually keep old stock, but philatelic clerks are not supposed to.)

The philatelic booth at the show had \$1 Seaplanes on Paper III_n. The stamp was previously known only on Paper III_b.

Nazar was offered a set of rare Flag varieties: a pair of the 20¢ Flag missing the Supreme Court; a single 20¢ Flag printed entirely in black because of ink contamination; a no-number pair of the brick red Plate 8 of the 20¢ Flag, and a 20¢ sheet stamp with the blue missing. Nazar paid \$400 for the lot.

Eugene Ernst bought a no-number strip

of four from Plate 10 of the 20¢ Flag in which the blue is shifted 5mm to the right, making the flag's Union black. Six rolls of 100 containing this error were found in Danville, Ill., in 1984.

Gerald Blankenship of the American Society for Philatelic Pages and Panels proudly displayed a Postal Service poster bearing a strip from Plate 10 of the 18¢ Surrey, canceled at the Smithsonian Station in Washington on May 18, 1981. That is a new EKU, although it was obviously back-dated because the stamp was not printed until June 18.

Roger Riga, a dealer in cinderellas, had several "razor-blade rarities" for sale, including a 4.9¢ Buckboard in which there was a plate number on either side of the joint line.

The razor artist is believed to be PNC Study Group member Wayne Youngblood. □

ADLETS

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

WANTED PS 18s: Regular Perfed XF-S, imperf, misper, miscut. John Tison (PNC3 473, APS, ASDA), PO Box 8755, Newport Beach CA 92658. 1-800-854-4487. (6-93)

UNTAGGED Red Clouds: \$50 a horizontal pair; \$100 a block of 4; \$75 for untagged pair plus added stamp with slight tagging. Ken Moreau, 402 Coronation Ave., Franklin, MA 02038. (6-93)

LITTERBUG LUNCH WAGON: Blob left of wagon on numbered stamp. PS/5, VF, \$10. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (6-93)

FREE: National Precancel Price List. Six pages fully illustrated. #10 SASE appreciated. Howard Moser, 1409-13th St., Highland, IL 62249. (PNC3 4-93-1-94)

DISCOUNT POSTAGE: 19¢, 23¢, 29¢, 50¢, 75¢ at 90% of face in lots of \$100 (face) or more. No precancels. 23¢ precancels 85% of face. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (216) 561-9393. (6-93)

LAUBACH overall tagged: horizontal strips with selvaque, \$10 for each stamp. Plate blocks \$100. Ken Moreau, 402 Coronation Ave., Franklin, MA 02038. (6-93)

MIXTURE SORTERS: 10¢ Tractor Trailer stamps wanted on piece with privately overprinted endorsements. Pay \$10.00 each. VF. Box TT, POB 20130, Shaker Hts., OH 44120. (5-93)

JOIN PNC³ For details, write Joann Lenz, 37211 Alper Dr., Sterling Hts. MI 48312-2203. (6-93)

FREE: B&O RAILROAD cachet of KMC Venture: FDC of 2¢ Locomotive, Plate 3. PS/3 (Number on left stamp), poorly centered, number cut; with 3¢ B&O commemorative and 13¢ added postage. Free to anyone who loves railroads on stamps. First come gets it. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (6-93)

8.5¢ PRECANCELS, PS/3, Artmaster FDC, \$20; Same, Gill Craft, \$25; Combination with unprecanceled PS/3, KMC Venture, \$35. Same, but PS/5, H&H cachet, \$40. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (5-93)

Is one Fishing Boat paper different?

By Wayne Meyers

I recently noticed an interesting difference between 19¢ Fishing Boats with the plate numbers A2424 and the other three number combinations (A1111, A1112, and A1212) of the original printing.

At first glance, what appears to be the same paper may not be!

During my examination I observed an almost smooth tagging on A2424, relatively free of mottling, although existing very subtly, and fluorescing a pale green under short-wave UV, compared to the other three plate-number combinations. The latter have an obvious mottling and fluoresce a brighter yellow-green.

I then examined them under long-wave UV and got no reaction at all.

At first, I didn't think much of it. Papers and luminescences vary, and it didn't seem that big a deal, but curiosity got the best of me. I went back to the short-wave light and examined the gum side of these strips and was startled to see that A2424 was shining with a speckled appearance

and the others were not.

Examination under ordinary light reveals A2424 to have a slightly darker and more translucent appearance. This can be seen by placing the strips, gum side up, on a piece of plain white paper. Under 10× magnification, A2424 looks smoother and not as porous as the other plate-number combinations on the gummed side.

Could this mean that a different was used for A2424? Was the entire printing of the A2424 done with one roll of paper, or could A2424 exist on the paper of the other three combinations? If so, which is rarer?

I would greatly appreciate hearing from you regarding this at 5303 E. Cortland Blvd., Flagstaff AZ 86004-9585.

Editor's note: The impression totals of the original printings were published on Page 72 of the July 1992 *TPN*. It showed "maximum PNCs" as follows:

1111	5,860,968
1112	4,658,382
1212	1,341,590
2424	5,626,964

Is new Hopkins flaw just a rechroming of the old one?

Ken Moreau saw the cover of the *American Philatelist* that showed a plate flaw on Stamp 6 of a pane of \$1 Hopkins.

A few months later, he was at a USPS "Store of the Future," which sells shrink-wrapped stamps.

He thought he found the Hopkins variety. So he forked out \$20 at the checkout counter for panes showing the flaw.

But his overall-tagged stamps were not similar to the one illustrated with Ken Lawrence's article on the Great Ameri-

cans.

Whether Moreau's variety is the result of rechroming the original plate variety or whether it is a totally different flaw cannot be known. But here's what Lawrence said about the original flaw, probably printed with block tagging:

One of the most spectacular plate varieties on any modern stamp appeared in position 6 on some sleeve 1 panes, a pair of thick curved lines of color on Hopkins' white shirt, between the lapels of his coat. ... This was caused by a dig in the print-

ing sleeve. After it was discovered, the sleeve was repaired and rechromed, so it is not surprising that only a small number of examples have been found by collectors.

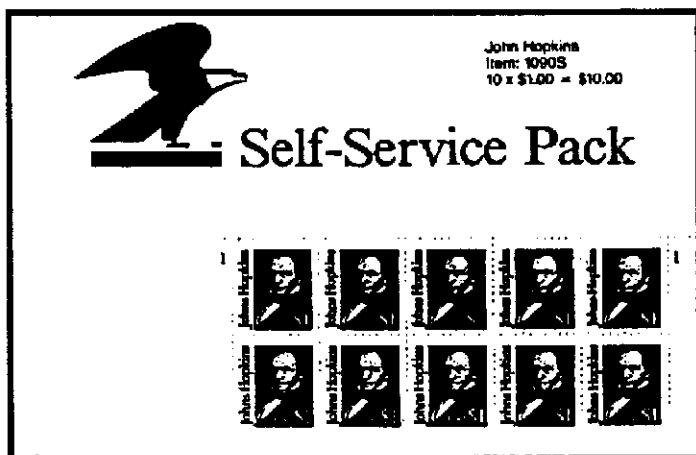
Even when the variety was being printed, it only appeared once on each revolution of the printing sleeve, which printed 320 stamps per impression, so it is quite scarce.

Moreau's copy is also from position 6, but there is no way of knowing whether it is from the same pane.



WHAT MOREAU FOUND—A small remnant of color on Hopkins' shirt.

THE ORIGINAL FLAW—This is what was shown in *The American Philatelist*.



Stephen G. Esrati
P. O. Box 20130
Shaker Heights, OH 44120-0130

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