

BEP is resurrecting plate data back to 1991

By Stephen G. Esrati

The Postal Service asked BEP in October to reconstruct all plate-activity reports going back to December 1991. BEP officials told Alan Malakoff of the PNC Study Group. The Postal Service strongly denies making any such a request.

In response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOI) request from Malakoff, BEP is sending him copies of what is being reconstructed for USPS.

Malakoff was told that BEP stopped compiling the reports when then-Assistant Postmaster General Gordon Morison told BEP to stop doing so because the Postal Service had no need for them.

Rick Arvonio of the Stamp Distribution and Acquisition Branch denied that USPS had asked for reconstruction of the reports and said the Postal Service had no need for the reports, did not want them, and did not order them. However, because the reports are technically the property of the "customer" (USPS), Arvonio said



THE VAULT—This is where plates for printing PNCs are kept.

he had to grant permission to BEP to release the reports to Malakoff under the FOI act.

Because no records were kept since Morison ordered the reports stopped, BEP is re-compiling the data from plate cards that show when each plate was handled. This is much more difficult and time-consuming than if done from the monthly reports that used to be sent to USPS.

BEP told Malakoff he would receive the reports in batches, and at the end of November he received some reports, based not on activity during a partic-

ular month but by plate number. None of the data received by Malakoff covered PNCs or Great Americans.

Sharing the information

Meanwhile, members of the study group, each working on a portion of the new catalog, and John Larson and Kim Johnson, who prepare plate-activity data for the Bureau Issues Association (BIA), tried to get the information directly from the Bureau, which was unaffected by what was perceived to be a Postal Service gag order by on its printers.

Arvonio said no gag order had ever been issued. What did take place, Arvonio said, was that he reminded suppliers of their contractual agreements not to divulge information without permission of the Postal Service, agreements that had been in place for many years.

But that was not how the printers reacted. The spokesperson for American Bank Note Co. said at the time, "I'm not allowed to talk to you anymore."

A similar reply came from Stamp Venturers.

A spokesperson for BEP said simply that as an independent federal agency it could not be muzzled that way. Arvonio, however, pointed out that all information given out by BEP has to be approved by the Postal Service (a practice that was followed even before the "gag order").

In response to the many requests for data, BEP seemed

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TPN goes to Washington, comes back with some answers

• *Transportations and Great Americans are alive*

Neither the Transportation Series nor the Great American Series is dead yet, according to Joe Brockert of the Postal Service, but an announcement is due this year about a new set of definitives.

The only stamp in either series to be unveiled by the Postal Service on Dec. 7 at the National Postal Museum in Washington was the 20¢ Virginia Apgar stamp, which will replace the recently reprinted 20¢ Truman in October.

A previously leaked internal document of the Postal Service had included a 27¢ Swan and a 29¢ Blue Jay in the Wildlife Series, but Brockert said the Swan and Blue Jay were dead.

Azeezaly Jaffer, the new stamp czar, said the 27¢ citizens' rate Swan died when the courts backed the Postal Service, which had refused to institute the citizens' rate, a recommendation made by

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• *Collector named to stamp information post*

Connie Totten-Oldham, a stamp collector, has been named manager of market and product publicity at the Postal Service. That puts her at the head of the office that handles news and information about stamps.

She was chosen by Azeezaly S. Jaffer, the new stamp czar whose formal title is manager of stamp services.

She has previously been in charge of communications at Akron and Cleveland, Ohio, and at Atlanta.

Totten-Oldham said one of her first objectives will be to teach

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WORSE BEFORE BETTER

When the Oct.-Dec. *Stamps etc.* catalog arrived, it showed two self-adhesive coils with plate numbers about which there had been absolutely no word from Postal Service Headquarters. The catalog said the Pine Cone coil would go on sale at Kansas City on Nov. 4 and the four-design Christmas coil at New York on Oct. 27.

The Christmas first day at New York was to coincide with the ASDA Mega Event. But an immediate shortage developed at the show and people waited in line for up to four hours to get plate-numbered strips. The shortage occurred despite an attempt by Postal Headquarters to get more rolls to the show by Express Mail, and sales at the show were limited to 10 strips.

That's a helluva way to run a railroad!

What is even worse is that nobody knew that there would be a first day of the coils at the Mega Event because the news release out of Washington forgot to mention that a coil format even existed.

But if that's bad, what is absolutely despicable is that you cannot buy the coils anywhere except through the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center.

This policy was not even used for the Universal Vending Machine Coils, which were also available wherever an ECA GARD machine was set up. What are philatelic counters for if you cannot buy current U.S. stamps there?

This policy of limiting the stock of philatelic clerks has now been expanded as well to reprinted stamps that are announced by news releases from Washington, stamps such as the 1¢ Omnibus, 2¢ Locomotive, 20¢ Truman, 23¢ Cassatt, and others.

Even dealers are having an awful time obtaining the reprints, leading to situations where only one dealer has an item that is an officially announced stamp of the United States, but you can't find it, you can't buy it, and philatelic clerks refer you gently to the cave in Kansas City.

That's a helluva way to run a railroad!

Postmaster General Marvin Runyon has finally named a stamp czar, Azeczaly Jaffer, to be boss over the various parts of the Postal Service that used to be just one, the

LETTERS: *Reader finds a Hopkins variety shown in Linn's*

I recently read an article in *Linn's* (Oct. 4, page 50) regarding a new \$1 Hopkins flaw. I have found in my collection two plate blocks containing the flaw pictured in the article. They are also from an upper right plate block from Plate 1 and are overall-tagged as described in the article.

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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Stamps Division.

At Houston's big APS show, Jaffer was asked whether the Transportation Series and the Great Americans Series would stay in use. He did not understand the question, promising to get back to the questioner from Washington.

So we have a stamp czar who knows zilch about stamps. That's a sure way to fix the busted railroad. But Jaffer is a quick learner. Maybe he'll straighten out the mess created when Carving Marvin got rid of all the old-timers who knew about stamps and replaced them with a bunch of know-nothings.

Jaffer has already appointed a collector to replace himself in his former post. He is instituting new procedures to get technical information to collectors. And he's listening to our gripes about our problems.

What are the problems?

- ★ Stamps appear without prior announcement.
- ★ Announcements of upcoming stamps are not only omitted or late, but are sometimes dead wrong.
- ★ New stamps cannot be obtained locally by collectors, sometimes nowhere before the deadlines for first-day cover servicing runs out.
- ★ Secrecy reigns, including the infamous gagging of printers who may not speak to reporters (USPS says it's not a "gag rule" but a "reminder.") ✗



I had purchased the stamps in May 1993 while looking through other stamps at my local post office. I immediately recognized something strange about the marking and bought the only two the clerk had. I don't know how long she had them in her stock. She said she did not often work at that post office and the stamps had probably been there more than a year.

Unfortunately my stamps are not as well centered as the one in the article, and the perforations pierce a tiny bit of the flaw, but it is there nonetheless, in exactly the same place as the one pictured.

Should I submit the blocks to the Philatelic Foundation or the APS for certificates, or send them to Scott Publishing, hopefully to get this variety catalog status?

Wayne Meyers
Flagstaff, Ariz.

In reply: Getting a certificate with a photo sounds like a good idea, but don't mount the certificate on the page if you intend to exhibit. It's considered bad form. However, you can copy the photo on the certificate to explain your exhibit.

It is unlikely that sending the stamps to Scott would add one iota of information to the catalog. They don't do much with modern varieties.

Gum breakers later than expected

The *Summary of Data on the Great Americans* indicates the gum breakers lasted longer than I had earlier believed. The key to the gum breaker story, of course, is not the press used, but the perforator on which the breaker roller bar was mounted.

Since there were multiple perforators (I assume) compared to the number of Cottrell presses, breaker and breaker-free panes could have been processed simultaneously.

In reply: This would seem highly unlikely. What is more probable is that some Great Americans that show gum breakers were printed at a different time than those without breakers. This belief is based on our experience with PNCs, where we could spot returns to press by changes in paper, etc.

The conclusion to be reached, therefore, is that the perforator was the same, but the breaker roller was removed.

Do you have any data on the electric-eye perforators?

Louis Fiset
Seattle

In reply: No.

Untagged 5¢ Motorcycle

Enclosed is a strip of the 5¢ Motorcycle. To me it appears untagged.

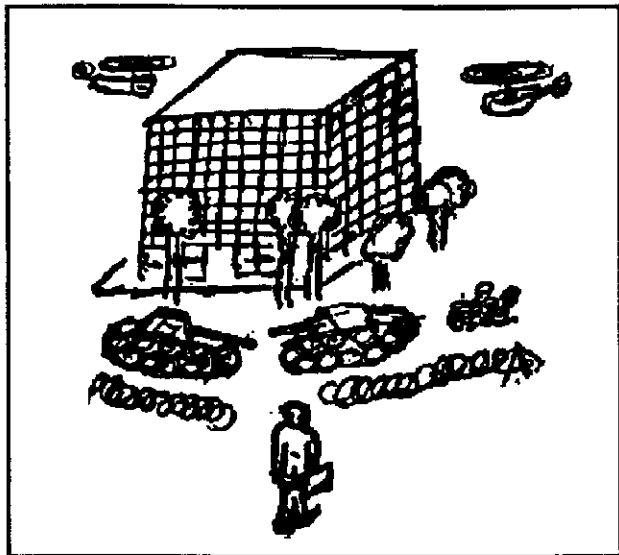
It was part of a roll from Plates 1 and 2, and only one roll was available.

A second roll of 3,000 in the same small country post office showed the number 4. The untagged roll would have escaped me had the wrapper not been missing.

In reply: It is truly untagged. But Richard Nazar, who examined another strip from the same roll, found one speck of taggant on the strip he saw.

Pedro's World of PNCs

by Pedro Ortegon, M.D.



"Calling all posts! Calling all posts! Red alert! Red alert! Esrati is approaching USPS Headquarters. Each man must do his duty—and the last one left must destroy the plate-activity reports and take the cyanide!"

Please grade this strip of PS/5 USA S111. I say VF-XF and a friend says "average" because the number is on



the bottom. What do we grade, the design or the location of the number?

Bob Novak
Edison, N.J.

In reply (by Steve Esrati): The PS/5 of USA S111 is VF-XF in my estimation because the numbers are clear of the

edge of the stamp, the stamp is beautifully centered up and down and left-to-right.

In grading strips with multiple numbers, we also want the numbers to be aligned. These are not quite, keeping it from a full XF.

Paper color on 17¢ Electric Auto

I have a continuing interest in the 17¢ Electric Auto and have some questions.

There is a very significant difference in the tinted paper of certain strips. For example, the precanceled strips in Typeface A exhibit a very blue color on Plates 3 and 6, while Plate 5 shows but a minute trace left of the joint line. I understand that the tint is caused by the wiping system being less than perfect, but why so great a variation?

Does this tinting have anything to do with the desirability of the plate-numbered strip? I have found nothing in the literature related to the subject of tint beyond the casually mentioned on Page 282 of *Linn's Plate Number Coil Handbook*. There is also a much bolder, darker precancel on some strips such as a 5A and a 3C. Is this the result of inking?

E.V. Chadwick
Shavertown, Pa.

New paper specifications found

The writer is a specialist on tagging who takes color photos of tagging varieties under UV.

On Nov. 15 I met for about four hours with some big guns of the Postal Service. I had set up the meeting with Joe Peng, program manager for quality control, but he was out of town. Without using the Freedom of Information Act (FOI), I was allowed to ask as many questions as I could. Many were answered; many were not to prevent counterfeiting.

I was given a 31-page USPS document on paper specifications (USPS-P-1191A of June 2, 1993, superseding USPS-P-1191 of May 24, 1991). Have you seen this?

In reply: TPN published the 1991 specs in the May 1993 issue, thinking they were the most recent. TPN had to use the FOI to get the data, although we were told later that this should not have been necessary.

Since this document may be of use to collectors, I am prepared to make photocopies and mail it to anyone for \$4 to cover my costs.

Bruce Menia
751 Elm Ave.
Selkirk, NY 12158-1213

All hail to strips of eight!

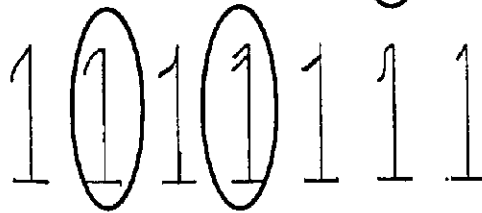
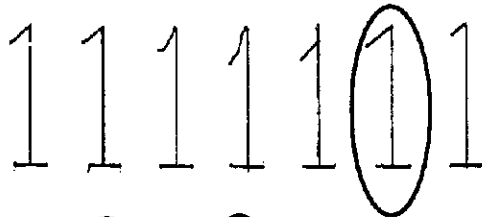
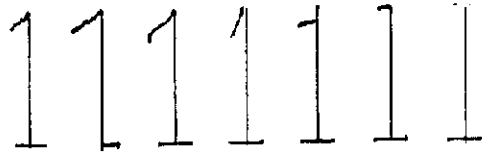
Another fine job by the USPS! Now that it seems we're more or less obliged to collect a strip of eight of the Christmas thing, how're we supposed to mount it?

Sure, vertically. Well, for 10 years I've been using black-backed heavy stock pages with clear acetate pockets for all my PNCs, and I assure you this strip of eight won't fit horizontally! The five-stamp Pine Cone will, however, so that's one out of two. I can only hope the USPS doesn't come up with additional number combinations on the contemporary. I'm sure not about to buy a different type of "album page" at this late date and start all over.

To me, this is an aggravation, and I usually express my feelings. I feel certain there are many others who feels as I do, but why don't they ever say so?

George Kuhn
Fruitland Park, Fla.

In reply: TPN's phone has been ringing off the hook with two complaints: the length of the strips and the fact that the self-stick "coils" are sold only to collectors. Now you wouldn't believe, would you, that these stamps were printed this way (at more than \$5 printing cost per 1,000) to be sold only to collectors? Or would you?



WHITE HOUSE VARIETIES (CONTINUED)—Wayne Meyers circled these three varieties of the plate number in Howard Foster's drawing in the November issue as the varieties that he reported in the September issue.

High and low White House 13s

Is there a nervous "13"?

I've noticed various distances between the bottom of the frame and the top of the plate number on Plate 13 of the 29¢ White House.

At first I thought my magnifier needed adjustment, or my eyeballs, but no! Under 16-power the distances are indeed varied from 0.25mm to approximately 0.5mm; from seeming to touch the bottom to good, clear distances when viewed with the naked eye.

This is hard to explain as the number is secure on the sleeve and image pressure and ink appear about the same. Did someone make two Plates 13?

Daniel W. Kauffman
Port Charlotte, Fla.

P.S. "I see it all now!" said the blind man.

My 12s express the same appearance, and pronounced heavy inking elucidates the situation.

More obvious than the White House 13s, the 12s show the heavy inking and fuzzy frame lines that spill over and make the numbers appear closer. The more lightly inked items have clear spaces between the vignette and the number.

P.P.S. I guess I'll have to teach Kim Cuniberti how to play "Wheel of Fortune"—or how to gamble.

In reply: First off, you've answered your own question. Second, your reference to TPN's associate editor shows that you have high expectations. He won almost \$4,000, and to most

people that's a nice trunk of change. On top of that, he took home a bunch of electronic toys, worth about \$2,000.

Is it a mystery, or is it a fraud?

Enclosed is a photocopy of a cover I traded for at Airpex '93.

At first glance, the cover is not much to look at—a windowed envelope [with a 17¢ Electric Auto from Plate 5 precanceled in Typeface B] and a one-sheet notice that the recipient had not yet paid the \$11.97 due for a subscription to *SELF*.

Now for the fun. The invoice is dated May 17, 1983. For the Plate 5 Type B the most recent *PNC Catalog* lists an estimated "to press" date of July 1, 1993.

If this cover is legitimate, it looks as if the 17¢ Auto [with a Type B precancel] might have been printed earlier than May 17. In addition, if there is some other evidence floating around that might indicate an earlier press date, this cover could possibly add another argument for the earlier printing date—even if the cover is only possibly legitimate.

So what do we have here, a mystery, a mystery solved, or—most probably—a fraud.

Joann Lenz

Sterling Heights, Mich.

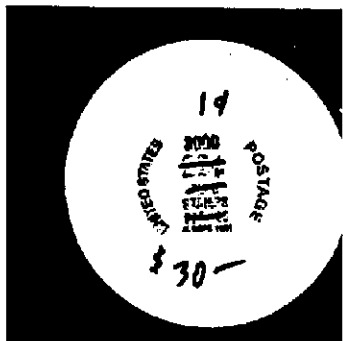
In reply: It's no fraud. Obviously, BEP did not report which typeface went to press when. The typefaces are classifications established by collectors; they were all the same to BEP.

It did not even report all returns to press. The dates in the catalog were estimated by the Plate Number Coil Study Group using what data we had.

Plate 5	07/14/81
Plate 5	12/11/84
Plate 5 precanceled	11/23/82
Plate 5 precanceled	07/01/83
Plate 5 precanceled	02/03/84
Plate 5 precanceled	12/05/84

What Lenz has proved is not only an earlier EKU, but also that the study group guessed wrong in assigning the known press dates to the typefaces.

Now they're revaluing labels



Here's a USPS-revalued coil label I got on a roll of 1¢ Omnibus, Plate 2, no tagging.

Ed Denson

Alderpoint, Calif.

Why issue self-stick coils?

The appearance first of self-adhesive coils without numbers and then with plate numbers stems from the Postal Service's servicing of FDCs, according to the folks who ordered them made, the Stamp Distribution and Acquisition Branch (SDAB) of USPS.

Doug Iams, writing in *Coil Line*, said the need for USPS workers to apply stamps to FDCs also was the reason why unfolded booklet panes came into being.

The coils are not available anywhere except from the Kansas City cave that houses the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center.

That does not, however, answer the question of why these coils needed plate numbers. None of the officials at a bull session in Postal Headquarters had the answer.

When *Linn's* asked the Postal Service, Michael Schreiber was told it was for "accountability." Iams said "getting money out of PNC collectors must have crossed their minds."

But Rick Arvonio of SDAB indicated he would prefer collectors to buy sheets and booklets, not realizing that from the collector's point of view a coil is a coil and a booklet is a booklet.

At first, self-stick coils were available only in short lengths. Then, Study Group coordinator Richard Nazar obtained a whole roll of 29¢ Eagle and Shields from the cave. He found them to be spliced.

Nazar learned of the spliced rolls because the main philatelic window at L'Enfant Plaza in Washington had sold some. By the time Nazar got there, they were all gone.

Joe Brockert of SDAB said the sale of those rolls at L'Enfant Plaza was an error.

Nazar thought he had obtained a rarity from Kansas City because he had been told at L'Enfant Plaza that the sale of whole rolls was a fluke and no more rolls could be obtained.

But Dr. Robert Rabinowitz soon found that they could be bought from the cave as complete rolls. He was told that they had been cut into short strips because collectors objected to the splices.

Some dealers started charging stiff markups for the splices.

What was strange in the entire episode was this. The stamps are printed in sheets, then cut into strips and spliced to make up the rolls. And then the cave cut them apart again, not only throwing away four stamps, but also destroying the splices.

Nazar learned in November from the cave that no coils are being cut anymore.

The cave originally needed them to apply stamps to FDCs sent in by customers. Later, when USPS started selling its own FDCs, that practice was stopped, but USPS employees still had to apply the stamps to the Postal Service's own uncached FDCs. □

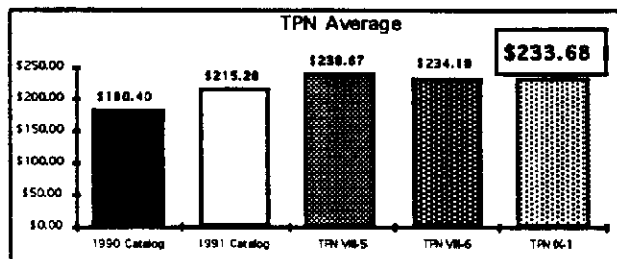
Is this a sleeper?

Scott's 1994 Specialized does not list the overall-tagged 45¢ Langley airmail stamp. I have a limited stock of UL plate blocks at \$25 each.

Steve Esrati

P.O. Box 20130

Shaker Heights, OH 44120



Test coils available from USPS

When the 1994 Winter Olympics stamps go on sale Jan. 4 in Salt Lake City, collectors will also get their first chance legitimately to obtain a U.S. test coil.

That, at least, was the plan as *TPN* went to press.

The Salt Lake City post office is preparing a first-ever U.S. Postal Service gift certificate, good for the purchase of one pane of 20 of the new stamps. The \$5.80 certificate, locally printed, will be validated by one test coil stamp which will be obliterated by a dated ball cancel. Without both validations, the gift certificate is not valid.

Test coils, catalogued for the first time in the 1994 *Scott Specialized Catalogue*, have been difficult for collectors to obtain, and most extant copies were acquired "under the table." Scott prices them only one way, but notes that defaced stamps sell for more.

Since this stamp will be officially canceled, the Salt Lake City post office may end up selling more certificates than will be redeemed for Olympic stamps. Order the gift certificates from the Philatelic Window in Salt Lake City, UT 84199-9611. Make checks out to "Postmaster."

Great Americans, Transportation Series not dead—yet

Continued from Page 1

the Postal Rate Commission.

While the Postal Service has not announced many definitives for 1994, the new \$1 and \$5 definitives will be essays not used in the series of 1869. One of these will be diamond-shaped, Brockert said. They would replace the \$1 Hopkins and \$5 Harte, both Great Americans.

No new stamps are planned in 1994 in the Wildlife Series, which the Postal Service steadfastly refuses to recognize as a series.

The main concern of PNC collectors in 1994 might have been the G stamps, which have been in production since early 1992 at American Bank Note, Stamp Venturers, and BEP. But Postmaster General Marvin Runyon has announced his intention not to increase postal rates in 1994, so the G stamps will not be needed.

Judging from an internal Postal Service communication listing Item Numbers for 1994 issues, H stamps have also been printed in expectation of the rate hike after the one to be represented by G stamps.

The self-stick stamps

The 1994 Love stamps will include self-adhesives, Runyon said at the unveiling. According to the internal memo, they will appear as coils, as well. They portray a sunrise.

If our recent experience with the Christmas and Pine Cone coils is any indication, the Love stamp coils will have plate numbers.

None of the postal officials interviewed by *TPN* before the unveiling was able to explain why plate numbers appear on the

Change in components of the TPN Average

CATALOG	STAMP	PLATE	TPN VII-6	TPN IX-1	% Change
C29-1211	1¢	1211	\$31.75	\$31.75	0.00%
M10-A33333	EAS	A33333	\$5.28	\$5.61	6.32%
M19-A1112	Fishing	A1112	\$10.01	\$9.91	-0.92%
M19-AS655unt	Fishing	A5555	\$11.96	\$11.58	-3.17%
M20-1	Consumer	1	\$220.56	\$218.08	-1.12%
M20-3	Consumer	3	\$139.41	\$139.41	0.00%
o20-1	Official	1	\$72.91	\$70.53	-3.25%
o22-1	Official	1	\$94.19	\$86.63	-5.90%
F18-1	Flag	1	\$499.01	\$499.01	0.00%
F18-3	Flag	3	\$1,147.85	\$1,147.85	0.00%
F20-4	Flag	4	\$891.89	\$891.89	0.00%
F20-11	Flag	11	\$12.35	\$12.20	-1.21%
P22-1	Flag	1	\$15.76	\$15.50	-1.61%
F22-3	Flag	3	\$63.09	\$63.01	-0.13%
F25-Block	Flag	5	\$5.18	\$5.08	-1.78%
F25-Sepos	Flag	5	\$10.96	\$10.68	-2.52%
F29-1MR	Rushmore	1	\$5.30	\$5.28	-0.43%
F29-1WH	White House	1	\$5.28	\$5.21	-1.31%
T5.2-3	Trans	3	\$221.05	\$225.80	2.60%
T5.2-4P-ZL	Trans	4	\$16.89	\$16.48	-2.44%
T5.9-3P-LN	Trans	3	\$31.58	\$30.87	-2.22%
T5.9-4P-LN	Trans	6	\$101.59	\$101.29	-0.78%
T7.4-2	Trans	2	\$12.25	\$12.08	-1.41%
T8.4-3P	Trans	3	\$22.02	\$21.45	-2.61%
T9.3-1P-NO	Trans	1	\$17.46	\$16.23	-4.41%
T9.3-6	Trans	6	\$313.93	\$308.75	-1.65%
T9.3-4P-ZL	Trans	6	\$218.24	\$220.86	1.20%
T10.9-1P-LN	Trans	1	\$37.65	\$37.57	-0.21%
T10.9-4P-LN	Trans	4	\$406.33	\$406.33	0.00%
T17-6	Trans	6	\$19.16	\$18.93	-1.20%
T17-8Pm-IL	Trans	6	\$54.02	\$54.02	0.00%
T18-1	Trans	1	\$105.82	\$105.82	0.00%
T18-3	Trans	3	\$65.22	\$64.97	-0.28%
T18-17	Trans	17	\$6.95	\$6.81	-1.99%
T20FP-1	Trans	1	\$192.05	\$189.84	-1.15%
T20FP-2	Trans	2	\$1,045.93	\$1,045.93	0.00%
T20FP-7	Trans	7	\$188.47	\$188.47	0.00%
T20FP-11	Trans	11	\$100.05	\$98.90	-1.15%
T20FP-12	Trans	12	\$10.52	\$10.44	-0.77%

The TPN Average declined modestly this month, still reflecting a move by dealers to net pricing. Joining the movement toward net pricing, Teresa Wajek of PNCs Unlimited cut many of her prices in her November list. She follows (chronologically) Dr. Robert Rabinowitz, Al Haake, Jerry Koepp, and Steve Esrati.

self-stick coils.

However, Joe Brockert of the Stamp Distribution Branch explained the reason why self-stick coils are needed by the Postal Service and why they are on sale only at the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center.

"These were created to make it possible for our people in Kansas City to affix stamps to mailed-in FDCs," Brockert said.

Rick Arvonio of Stamp Distribution said, "We'd rather just sell the self-adhesives as panes of 18."

Arvonio may not have been aware that to collectors the two products are entirely different stamps.

There will also be a self-adhesive Statue of Liberty coil

The 1994 Christmas stamps will feature Santa Claus and will be in self-stick coil strips of 12 or in full coils of 3336.

Another self-stick item, in booklet and coil form, will show Summer Garden Flowers.

At the unveiling, no mention was made of any self-stick coils.

The Mary Breckinridge stamp

Four or five years ago, the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee approved a new design for the Great Americans Series that would have pictured Mary Breckinridge, founder of the Frontier Nursing Service. The stamp was held up because her family objected to its design.

Its designer, Christopher Calle, who was present at the unveiling, said he had gone through four design changes on the stamp so far.

The stamp is not on the schedule for 1994. When it was due to be issued, the 21¢ Chester Carlson was issued in its place. □

Scott Specialized keeps bias against modern

By Stephen G. Esrati

The new *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps* shows many improvements. For the first time, plate numbers are given and priced for booklets. Also for the first time, some, but not all, gum types are identified.

The catalog continues to be inconsistent in its handling of modern U.S. material and keeps giving the impression that it will get around to showing detailed illustrations of modern stamps when they become "classics." Wait 100 years or so and they'll get it right.

To illustrate this, one need look only at the first 20 pages of the main body of U.S. stamps. Here are detailed descriptions showing how to tell one stamp from another. In addition, one can find pricing for almost every variety known.

To pick just one example at random, for the 90¢ blue Washington of 1857-61 Scott lists prices for two different double transfers and for a short transfer. In addition, it lists the earliest known use (EKU).

Compare this to the treatment of one modern stamp, the 17¢ Electric Auto in the Transportation Series.

Scott prices the seven known plate numbers as strips of three or five and indicates that there are three different precancel styles. In the 12 years since the stamps appeared, they have been studied, analyzed, described. *The PNC Catalog* lists 31 different entries for this stamp alone.

The se-tenant precancel styles are not even mentioned in Scott.

In addition, there are some well-known plate cracks, and these, too, are not mentioned. Nor, by the way, is any EKU, a point that has become more and more essential in the past several years what with the Postal Service being sloppy about early releases and almost every new issue being found by collectors before the official first day.

My greatest complaint about the handling of PNCs is that Scott once again has been stuck in a rut of its own making. It calls all untagged, service-inscribed stamps "untagged, Bureau precancels." "Bureau precancels" refers to precancels made in Washington by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing as opposed to local precancels made in local post offices.

But precancels have changed. They are now made by private printers such as Stamp Venturers and American Bank Note Co. It is time to change the terminology to "national precancel."

The entry in the new volume that sur-

Publisher sets standards for self-adhesive PNCs; renames unacknowledged Wildlife Series as Flora and Fauna set

prised me most was for the Pheasant booklets. The one with the red removed from the sky is priced at \$130, up from a mere \$9.50 last year. But another high flier, the overall-tagged 30¢ Laubach in the Great Americans Series, is not even mentioned. Plate blocks of this stamp sell for more than 10 times that of the block-tagged version. But Scott does not even indicate that two varieties exist.

Another anomaly in the listings for the Great Americans Series is that the heading lists the perforations one way (Perf. $11 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$, Perf. 11), but the entries show most of the bull's-eye perforations listed as 11.2. Why can the header not say the same thing? It's because of some arcane internal rule that Scott has followed for years, of rounding off perforation gauges, even when it detracts from exactness. The fact of the matter is that the perforations here are never 11, but either 10.9 or 11.2. Why can we not be told this?

Scott apparently has not yet made up its mind about how to handle the new varieties of PNCs and the Great Americans Series, which have started appearing with shiny gum. So, while it lists the 50¢ Nimitz as "Perf. 11.2, dull finish gum," it does not list the same stamp as also having shiny gum. Further, the dull gum variety exists with two types of tagging. It's not in Scott. And the shiny-gum perf. 11.2 variety is prephosphored. That's not in, either.

Nor are the two types of gum on the 75¢ Humphrey listed, but, in the event you think this is because they were issued too recently, the 29¢ Jefferson, which came out later, did make it into the listings.

Scott continues to be obdurate as well about the 25¢ Flag Over Yosemite coils. While it prices the two tagging types on this set, it disdains from assigning them separate numbers. So how does one use Scott to order a prephosphored (which Scott calls "pre-phosphorized") strip of Plate 1, priced in Scott at \$37.50 (up \$5) for a strip of three and \$40 (also up \$5) for a strip of five?

The editorial board's lassitude in waiting until stamps become classics may also

explain why the 45¢ Langley airmail stamp does not show the two types of tagging, one of which is expensive.

And, most inexplicable of all, Scott has assigned a whole new catalog number to the reprinted 40¢ Piper airmail, while giving the reprinted 50¢ Quimby airmail only a lettered sub-category. On neither stamp is there any indication of a change of printers, but both were changed. That leaves Scott just plain wrong.

Also annoying is Scott's treatment of the marginal inscription texts. In some instances, there is a price for an inscription block. In others, the text is quoted, but unpriced. On the Jan Matzlinger stamp (where the text of the inscription created a furor), there is no indication at all that there even is an inscription.

On the self-adhesive Eagle and Shield stamps, Scott fails to differentiate between the sheets (so-called booklets) and the coils. This is especially sad now because USPS is issuing several self-adhesive coils, some with plate numbers.

In any case, if one collects these coil stamps as singles, they are surrounded by backing; the booklet stamps are not.

To Scott's credit, it has placed the print-yourself coil stamps (UVMs) in a separate section called Computer Vended Postage. That's where they belong. They are priced only for the 29¢ denomination "because it is the current first-class rate and is the only value available through the USPS Philatelic Sales Division."

But as a demonstration of just how different Scott's listings are for recent stamps as opposed to the classics, I note that the 23¢ USA presort coils have three listings. One (from Stamp Venturers) can be told apart from the others by its color as "vio bl, red & blk" but the other two (from BEP and ABN) are simply listed as "multi." Of these, one has a "23" that is said to measure 7mm. We are not told what the other measures.

Modern stamps simply don't seem to deserve the attention Scott once gave to old stamps. By the time Scott catches up, the stamps will be hard to find. And we'll all be dead.

Self-stick coil policy

The following is Scott's announcement about how it plans to list the 1993 Christmas coil and Pine Cone stamps:

Different stamp printers and formats for the 1993 United States traditional and contemporary Christmas stamps have created the need for 15 different major Scott catalogue numbers. There are only five basic designs. In addition, a new major collectible has been created by the

U.S. Postal Service; plate numbers on self-adhesive coil stamps. These are treated as unnumbered listings....

[The coils] were produced by Stamp Venturers and...have cylinder number combinations incorporated in their designs. The number combinations repeat every 12 stamps, making one in every three Snowman coil stamps a numbered example. Scott will not number the stamps bearing cylinder numbers, but a non-lettered listing has been added for a mint strip of eight with the number allowing for all four stamp [design]s to be represented twice, and including both versions of the Snowman stamp. Used numbered stamps will not be valued....

The Pine Cone stamp is considered part of the Flora and Fauna issue, formerly referred to as the Wildlife issue. USPS has never formally acknowledged the series. No number has been assigned to the Pine Cone stamps with the plate number incorporated into the design, which repeats at regular intervals [of 18 stamps]. A non-lettered listing exists for a mint strip of five stamps with the numbered one in the center.

Scott is wrong in saying the Christmas coil is from Stamp Venturers (it is from Avery).

The key point, however, is that Scott goes with a strip of eight for the Christmas coil and a strip of five for the Pine

Cone. How did the strip of eight happen?

Why a strip of 8?

According to Dr. Robert Rabinowitz, writing in *Stamp Collector*, he, Ken Lawrence, and Stuart Morrissey, publisher of *Scott*, got together at the ASDA Mega Event to discuss the format.

[Lawrence] said that a strip of five would lack the non-numbered [Snowman]. And since the essence of PNC collecting is that a numbered strip is different than one without a number and that identical stamps with different numbers are different, then a longer strip showing both the numbered and unnumbered [Snowman] would be more appropriate.

..We all agreed that if a longer strip were made "official," it would be a strip of eight with the numbered stamp the fourth in from the left.

But something isn't quite right. To put the plate number in the center of the strip, you would need a strip of nine—and a long-strip SAFE album.

There is already dissatisfaction about the idea of strips of eight.

The ghost series

There's also an interesting observation

in the Scott news release about the USPS-unacknowledged Wildlife Series, which may become the successor to the Transportation or the Great Americans series. Just what makes up the Flora and Fauna Series?

PNC collectors, of course, know about the 25¢ Honeybee. But here's a rundown of the series, so far:

1¢ American Kestrel	sheet
3¢ Eastern Bluebird	sheet
19¢ Fawn	sheet
25¢ Pheasant	booklet
25¢ Owl and Grosbeak	booklet
25¢ Honeybee	coil
29¢ Red Squirrel	self-stick ATM, coil
29¢ Wood Duck	booklet
29¢ Pine Cone	self-stick ATM, coil
29¢ African Violet	self-stick ATM
29¢ Rose	self-stick ATM, coil
30¢ Cardinal	sheet
45¢ Pumpkinseed Sunfish	sheet
\$2 Bobcat	sheet

This does not count the "F" stamp and rouletted and perforated 29¢ Tulip, which may belong in there along with the rose and the African violet. □

USPS silent on self-stick coils

The first thing that Al Haake noticed while stripping out 29¢ Pine Cone self-adhesive coils was that after stripping out about 800 stamps, suddenly he counted to 18 and there was no numbered stamp. After stripping out 27 more strips of five, another strip lacked a plate number.

He quickly checked to see if there was a splice. There was not.

Haake, of course, was stripping out Pine Cones because they are probably the first of our new PNC series, which may replace the Transportation Series.

The Pine Cone, however, is no problem. It will merely be collected as all previous PNCs were, as strips of three or five.

But the Christmas coil is a horse of a different color. Scott Publishing said it would price them as numbered strips of eight with the number on the fourth stamp, the Snowman. A second, unnumbered, Snowman will be at the extreme right. It was the only way to work out the need to have both on one strip.

Scott said it would not assign a catalog number to the Snowman with the plate number, but would have a price for a strip of eight.

Richard Nazar, editor of *The PNC Catalog*, said he would leave out the self-adhesive coils from the next edition of the catalog as a way of speeding up produc-

tion. He said the self-adhesives would carry a new prefix, "SA" for self-adhesive. That would make the Pine Cone SA29PC-B1, signifying that it is a self-adhesive 29¢ coil bearing the plate number "B1" and manufactured by Banknote Corp. of America.

The Christmas coil would be SA29G-V1111111. The "G" comes from the word "Greetings" on the stamps. V is the designation of Avery Dennison Corp., or Avery for short.

The Postal Service did not even announce that coils were being made of the Pine Cone and the Christmas stamps. They were first revealed in the Oct.-Dec issue of *Stamps, etc.*

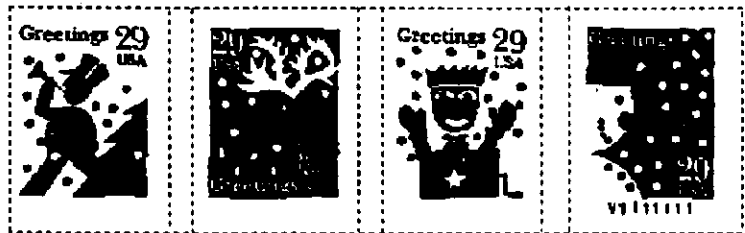
While the self-adhesive Christmas sheet stamps were supposed to be placed on sale in New York on Oct. 21, the coil stamps' first day was announced as Oct.

27 in *Stamps, etc.* It made no difference, because the Postal Service couldn't deliver the coils to the post office where they went on sale.

On Oct. 25, Dr. Robert Rabinowitz asked the main post office, across the street from Madison Square Garden (where the ASDA's Mega Event was to take place), for a roll of the coils. The post office had none. By the time the show opened, four rolls had arrived and Dr. Rabinowitz was promised one the next day, Oct. 28.

But demand at the first-day ceremonies was high, and so a sales limit of 10 strips of 12 per customer was imposed. Nobody was to get a full roll.

Meanwhile, Washington arranged for the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center to ship more rolls to New York. Dr. Rabinowitz was promised a roll for the next





day, Oct. 29, a Friday and the critical day before the weekend rush at the show.

But the Express Mail package did not arrive. By the time the show ended, Dr. Rabinowitz still had not been able to obtain the stamps and collectors had to wait as long as four hours for a supply of 10 strips.

Here is what the news release said, in part, without a word about coils:

1993 Christmas Stamps Available in Several Formats

WASHINGTON (Oct. 8)—This month, to kick off the holiday season, the Postal Service will release the Traditional and Contemporary Christmas Stamp designs. On Oct. 21, the traditional 29¢ stamp design ... will be released in Raleigh (N.C.)....

The contemporary block of four designs will be issued in New York City on the same day. These festive stamps, designed by first-time stamp designer Peter Good of Chester, Conn., feature a snowman, a toy soldier, a reindeer, and a jack-in-the-box. They will be available in sheets of 50 and booklets of 20. There will be no formal first-day-of-issue ceremony.

In addition to these two familiar formats, the contemporary designs will also be available in booklets of 12 self-adhesive stamps. The self-adhesive stamps are expected to continue the trend of customer convenience begun with several other self-adhesive stamps issued earlier this year. The self-adhesive stamps will be available at all post offices.

The "snowman" design from the contemporary group will also be featured on a sheetlet of 18 self-adhesive stamps available from automated teller machines operated by participating banks in five metropolitan areas.

Both self-adhesive formats will be issued Oct. 28 in New York City during a public ceremony at the "Postage Stamp Mega Event," hosted by the American Stamp Dealers Association.

Since USPS said nothing about the coils, it may be good to note that Avery Dennison was said by the Postal Service to have printed the self-stick booklet of 18 at its plant in Clinton, S.C., while it printed the ATM panes at its research center in Pasadena, Calif. The ATM stamps are smaller than those printed in "booklets"

All coil stamps seen so far have the plate number "V1111111." The ATM stamps were said by the Postal Service to have only four plate numbers, but there are actually more, split into two groups along the gutter between the two groups of six stamps. In one example the gutter said: "V222•Peel here to fold•Self-adhesive

Official data from the Postal Service

(TPN additions in brackets)

Note: Information may not be accurate for coils. Data for coils not reported.

19¢ Pine Cone self adhesive

Format: Sheetlet of 18 (and coils with an 18-stamp interval)
 First-day: Nov. 5, 1993
 First-day city: Kansas City, Mo.
 Printer: Banknote Corp. of America
 Printing process: Intaglio
 Colors: Green, red-brown and black
 Size: Overall: 0.87x0.98 inches/22.1x24.9mm
 Image: 0.71x0.82 inches/21.8x20.8mm
 Plate numbers: B1
 [Scott No.: 2480
 [PNC Catalog: SA29PC-B1]

29¢ Christmas Contemporary

Format: Booklet of 12 (and coils with a 12-stamp interval)
 First-day: Oct. 28, 1993
 First-day city: New York, N.Y.
 Printer: Avery Dennison, Clinton, S.C.
 Printing process: Gravure
 Colors: Black, green, blue, purple, yellow, orange, red
 Size: 0.982x1.305 inches/24.943x33.147mm
 Plate numbers: 7 [this means seven digits. Coils seen so far only with V1111111]
 [Scott No.: Snowman: 2799
 Toy soldier: 2800
 Jack-in-the-box: 2801
 Reindeer: 2802]
 [PNC Catalog: SA29G-VB1111111]

stamps•DO NOT WET•2222."

The Pine Cone

The Pine Cone stamp was also shown for the first time in *Stamps, etc.*, which illustrated the tiny plate number, but it was so small that *Linn's* said it wasn't there. We have circled it in our picture.

TPN requested the news release on Nov. 17 and received it that day by fax. As on the Christmas coil, the news release never mentioned a word about the coil:

You can't lick them, but you can stick them

WASHINGTON (Oct. 20)—A 29¢ Pine Cone self-adhesive U.S. postage stamp is being added to the selection of no-lick stamps being offered by the Postal Service. It is being issued at the Midaphil National Stamp Show in Kansas City, Mo., on Nov. 5. The new stamp joins several other self-adhesive designs in what has become a popular option for consumers looking for an easier way to apply postage.

Self-adhesive stamps give the Postal Service a way to offer added value to its customers. They can be peeled individually from the backing, and no moisture is needed to affix these "stamps of the future."

The plate numbers seen so far have been B1. These are not centered at the bottom of the stamps, but are at the bottom left of the design. "B" indicates printing by Banknote Corp. of America.

It should be noted that the production costs of self-adhesive stamps runs about 10 times higher than for ordinary sheet stamps printed by BEP. □

Self-sticks earn gripes about their stickiness

According to the internal bulletin of the Stamps Distribution and Acquisition Branch (SDAB), people are complaining about self-stick stamps.

"One particular customer indicated that the self-adhesive stamps can be removed from envelopes and that he has had letters returned to him that he was sure had stamps on them when he put them in the mail."

SDAB said the adhesive on the self-stick stamps is made so that it does not "cure" right away. That allows postal patrons to remove them if they made a mistake. But within 30 minutes, the adhesive cures permanently, and then the stamps cannot be removed without destroying either the stamps or the envelope.

In a rare attempt at humor from USPS, the technical discussion of the chemistry of adhesives included this: "If you understood all the technical terms in this article, you will receive 3 honorary credits in Chemistry 101." □

House of Farnam

Numbered Snowman FDCs with 5 stamps (one unnumbered Snowman). Supply limited. \$10.
 Numbered Pine Cone P/S3. \$7.50.
 (They're not in yet, but coming. Reserve yours now.)

Box FDC
 c/o The Plate Number

Loose-leaf Minkus arrives with prices on separate pages

By Stephen G. Esrati

The *Minkus Specialized American Catalog* has not been published since the 1988 edition appeared in 1987. The 1993 edition is just out (and the publisher is conforming to international standards by making the cover date the year of publication, not predating it for 1994), and it's surprising in many ways.

The catalog comes in an oversized three-ring binder and the prices are on separate pages at the rear. That means a buyer will not have to buy the entire catalog each year, only the updated pages and the new price lists. Thus, you pay the suggested retail price of \$27.95 now, and a still-undetermined amount next year, but it will obviously be much less.

The new Minkus maintains the maddening separation of stamps into two categories, definitives and commemoratives, each with its own sequence of numbers. And definitives run chronologically, not by set, breaking them up so that they're scattered all over the place if part of a long set.

Even more irritating is the decision to use separate numbers for reprinted versions. Thus the BEP's 23¢ USA has one number and the versions by ABN and Stamp Venturers are elsewhere in the catalog.

But if this catalog is to be judged, it

must be judged, above all, by its pricing. And here is the great flaw to this edition. Many prices are simply not there, just dashes. One is led to the suspicion that the "editorial staff," made up almost entirely of the family of the owners of *Novus Debut*, the publishers, just did not have the resources to gauge the market accurately.

The way I used the pricing guide was to take it out of the three-ring binder and to lay it on my desk next to the catalog so I could see the listing and the price more readily.

Nevertheless, I still found it difficult to price PNCs, which are listed consecutively (unlike Scott) as strips of three and five. I finally realized what was wrong. The price guide uses "9.00" in some entries and just plain "9" in others. While I can understand dropping the decimals for stamps over \$100, I found it hard to see "13" as an indication for "13.00."

In a foreword, the publisher, Jerry Epping, concedes that the book lists fewer revenues and U.S. possessions because the binder could not hold more. As it is, the pages are hard to turn because the pages far outnumber the binder's ideal capacity.

But this cost Minkus some of the stars it should have won for its efforts. The most popular new field of U.S. collecting, booklets, is ignored. And this happened

just as Scott started listing booklets by plate number.

But there's another quibble. The early pages are full of marvelous drawings to show the differences among nearly identical stamps. But when we get to the three types of the 15¢ Oliver Wendell Holmes, we have to make do with text, not pictures.

One feature of the catalog, which will be updated regularly, is a chart of all the Great Americans, showing all the perforation and tagging types and referring the collector to the proper catalog number. It helps to find the stamps in the maze that Minkus entered when it chose to list by chronology, not by set.

I know how this happened, because I attended a lunch hosted by Jacques Minkus at Locke-Ober's restaurant in Boston when the first catalog was published. Col. George A. Tlamsa, the dapper middle-European who gave his special cachet to the book, was asked about the odd numbering system chosen by Minkus.

I do not recall his exact words, but the gist of it was that Minkus would never cause dealers (meaning the vast Minkus retail chain) to renumber their stock for additions to current sets. And so grouping by sets stopped with the first edition.

In a nutshell: Nice try, but no cigar—yet! □

Clark finds varieties on Pine Cone coil's backing paper

Gerald Clark has been working up his self-stick coils and booklets. And he quickly found out that the backing paper (which says "Do not wet" at an angle) comes four ways:

- Type A: Right side up, from UL to LR
- Type B: Upside Down from LR to UL
- Type C: Right side up, from LL to UR
- Type D: Upside down, from UR to LL

This is determined by viewing the stamps right side up and from the front. On ATM pans, a strong light is needed to see the backing text. (In a few cases, his observation is made from the back. In those cases, the direction of the writing is indicated as viewed from the rear.)

More importantly, on the Pine Cone coil, the backing comes not only in Types A and B, but comes with two different papers.

- Type A: creamy paper, no brightener
- Type B: snow-white paper, hi-brite.

Here is what Clark and *TPN* found so far:

25¢ Eagle

Booklet A11111 -----C
Coil: -----C

25¢ USA Flag ATM

No number -----A from back

'F' USA Flag ATM

No number -----A from back

29¢ Torch

Does not apply to any of the 3 printings. No writing.

29¢ Eagle and Shield

BCA (Banknote Corp. of America)

B1111-1 -----A and B
B1111-2 -----A
B2222-1 -----A
B2222-2 -----A
B3333-1 -----B
B3333-3 -----B
B3434-1 -----B
B3434-3 -----?
B4344-3 -----B
B4444-1 -----B
B4444-3 -----A

Coil: No numbers -----A and B
(known with yellow and magenta splices)

Dittler Brothers

D11111 -----A
D21221 -----B
D32322 -----A
Coil: No numbers -----A
Stamp Venturers
S1111 -----C
Coil: No numbers -----C

29¢ Christmas Train ATM

V11111 -----No writing

29¢ Red Squirrel ATM

D11111 -----D
D22211 -----A
Coil: No number -----C

29¢ Rose ATM

S1111 -----A, C
Coil: No number -----C

29¢ Pine Cone ATM

3 -----B
14 -----B
16 -----B
Coil: B1 -----A and B

29¢ Christmas ATM

V222-2221 -----B
V222-2222 -----B
V333-3333 -----B
Coil:
V111111 -----B

29¢ Snowman ATM

V1111 -----None

Clark believes it possible that all booklets printed by Banknote Corp. exist with backings A and B because they may have been printed se-tenant.

Please report any additional finds to Clark in care of *TPN*. □

BEP is reconstructing plate reports

Continued from Page 1

willing to meet each request, but was overcome by the difficulty of meeting all because there were so many, especially after staff cuts in the Office of Public Affairs.

In the end, Thomas K. Brown, then chief of BEP's Office of Production Management, asked the Study Group's Myron Hill to set up a way that all could share in the product of BEP's labor.

An agreement was made with BIA that earmarks all plate-activity reports to Kim Johnson for publication in *The United States Specialist*.

Malakoff was told by BEP that since the last report for November 1991, 1,200 plates had been handled.

BEP goes self-stick

In the course of his many conversations with BEP personnel, Malakoff also learned that the Bureau will begin making self-adhesive coils and booklets.

Asking if this meant purchasing new equipment, Malakoff was told that existing equipment would be used and that the Eureka perforators, which make bull's-eye perforations, would be modified to enable them to make slits.

USPS unhappy, too

In saying that the Postal Service did not want plate-activity reports from BEP, Arvonio also observed that any information that emanates from the Postal Service should be accurate, while past BEP plate-activity reports were anything but that.

"When you get one of these reports, you say it comes from us. It's full of errors. I don't want anyone to think we put out wrong information," Arvonio said. □

Constant varieties—XLIX

Editor's note: A.S. Cibulskas' report 48 was incorporated into several replies to letters to the editor in the November issue. He did not fail to do his duty.

By A.S. Cibulskas

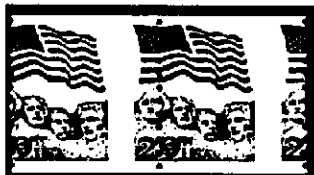
23¢ Lunch Wagon

- a. Plate 3, shiny gum. Two dots (one above the other) right of the rear wheel. Constant at 7R. (S. Adams)
- b. Plate 3, shiny gum. Multiple dots in upper one-third of stamp, concentrated in the area of the text and numbers. Constant at 9L. (S. Adams)
- c. Plate 3, shiny gum. Two dots above "89" of date. Constant at 10L. (S. Adams)

29¢ Flag over White House

- a. Plate 7. Gouge in upper left portion of top loop of the "2" of the denomination. Constant at 4L. (Preuss)
- b. Plate 7. Multiple scratches and/or gouges in right vertical portion of the "9" of the denomination. Constant at 8L. On same row of stamps as above variety. Constant at 4L. (Preuss)
- c. Plate 8. Inking variety. Red ink shift (about 1–2mm) into right side of blue field. (Preuss)
- d. Plate 8. Inking variety. Both "2"s of the dates are missing ink at the right side. From 10% to 50% of the right sides are missing. Constant at 7L to 19L. (Preuss)
- e. Plate 10. Blue dot in bottom margin below the "A" of "USA." Constant at 11L. (Leduc)
- f. Plate 10. Plate scratch and/or gouge. About 2mm long line at a 45° angle from the edge of the bottom margin below the lower tip of the "9" of the denomination. Constant at 11L. (Anon.) □

BUYING ERRORS



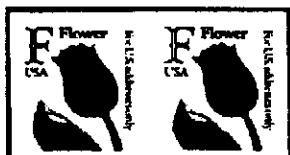
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P.O. Box 38, Cheltenham, PA 19012



APS

BIA

25¢ Flag

"Black Trees" Scott 2280b
1991 PNC Catalog 25F9iV1

Scott '94 Specialized priced at \$100 per stamp. This variety/error was probably caused by **BLACK** ink mixed with the **GREEN** ink, causing a printing with the forest printed in a dark **BLACKISH GREEN**. Very scarce!

No-number stamps available for:

Single	\$75.00
Pair	\$150.00
Strip of 3	\$225.00

David M. Schwartz

P.O. Box 762
Groton, CT 06340

BIA

PNC³

APS

Check these 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 9) is good through March 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	PC 1, 2 (2L, No Gap).....	20.00	16.7¢ Popcorn 1, 2.....	4.00	20¢ Consumer Ed. 1, 2 PS/5.....	125.00
3, 4.....	1.00	PC 3 (2R, No Gap).....	75.00	17¢ Auto 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.....	2.00	1, 2, 3, 4 PS/3.....	25.00
B Press 1, 2.....	.50	PC 4 (1R, 2L).....	45.00	6.....	12.00	3, 4 PS/5.....	89.00
Untagged 2.....	.50	PC 4 (Line Gap).....	20.00	7.....	5.00	20¢ Flag 1 PS/5.....	70.00
2¢ Locomotive 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10.	.60	PC 5, 6 (2L, No Gap).....	3.00	PC 1C, 2C (F only).....	6.00	1 PS/3.....	4.25
B Press 1.....	.60	PC 8.....	180.00	PC 3A, 4A (2L, 1L).....	3.50	2, 11, 12.....	8.00
3¢ Handcar 1, 2, 3, 4.....	.70	10¢ Canal Boat 1 (block tag).....	2.00	PC 3A, 4A (Line Gap)(Low).....	10.00	3, 12.....	5.00
3¢ Conestoga Wagon 1.....	1.00	1 overall tag (dull gum) F-VF.....	3.50	PC 3A, 4A (No Gap).....	3.50	4 PS/3 only.....	33.50
2 untagged.....	1.00	1 overall tag (dull gum) XF.....	5.00	PC 3B, 4B (No Gap).....	22.00	6 PS/5.....	125.00
3.4¢ School Bus 1, 2.....	1.25	1, 2 phos shiny gum F-VF.....	3.50	PC 3C, 4C (No Gap).....	7.00	6 PS/3.....	69.00
PC 1, 2 (1R, No Gap).....	6.00	10¢ Tractor Trailer 1.....	2.00	PC 3C, 4C (1R, Line Gap).....	7.00	5, 9, 10, 13, 14.....	4.00
4¢ Stagecoach 1, 2, 3, 4.....	1.25	(10¢) Eagle, Shield.....		PC 3BA, 4BA (PS/10).....	23.00	8 PS/5.....	12.00
5, 6.....	2.25	A11111, A11112, A21112, A21113,		PC 5A (1L, 2L, No Gap).....	5.00	8 PS/3.....	3.00
PC 3, 4 (1L, 2L).....	7.50	A22112, A22113, A33333, A33335,		PC 5B, 6B (1L, Line Gap).....	18.25	PC 14.....	50.00
PC 3, 4 (Line Gap).....	11.75	A43324, A43325, A43326, A43334,		PC 5AB, 7AB (PS/9) (SR).....	13.00	20¢ Official 1 PS/5.....	57.00
PC 5, 6 (1L, 2L).....	7.50	A43335, A43426, A53335, A54444,		PC 6A (1L, 2L).....	13.00	1 PS/3.....	11.00
PC 5, 6 (Line Gap).....	11.75	A54445, A77777, A88888, A89999,		PC 5C, 7C (No Gap).....	24.00	20¢ Cable Car 1, 2 (block).....	4.00
Same, B Press 1.....	1.00	A99999, A1010101010,		PC 7A (No Gap).....	10.00	Overall tagged 2.....	5.00
Overall tagged 1.....	18.00	A1110101010, A1011101011.....	3.00	17¢ Dogsled 2.....	3.00	20.5¢ Fire Engine 1.....	3.00
4¢ Steam Carriage 1.....	1.00	S11111, 11111, 22221.....	3.00	17.5¢ Racer 1.....	3.00	21¢ Rail Car 1, 2.....	3.00
Untagged.....	1.00	A34424, A34426.....	5.00	PC 1.....	3.00	21.1¢ 111111, plain and PC.....	3.00
4.9¢ Buckboard 3, 4.....	1.00	A12213.....	18.00	18¢ Surrey 1.....	76.00	11121 plain and PC.....	5.00
PC 1, 2 (1R, No Gap).....	1.80	A32333 No discount.....	225.00	2, 5, 6, 8, 17, 18.....	3.00	22¢ Flag 1, 7, 13 PS/5.....	14.00
PC 3, 4 (2L, 1L).....	1.65	A33334.....	85.00	3, 4.....	63.75	1, 7, 13 PS/3.....	10.00
PC 3, 4 (Line Gap).....	2.00	10.1¢ Oil Wagon 1.....	2.50	7.....	30.00	3 PS/5.....	48.00
PC 5, 6 (2R, PS/7).....	1.75	PC 1, 2 (No Gap).....	2.50	9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16.....	12.50	3 PS/3.....	11.00
PC 5, 6 (No Gap).....	1.75	PC2 (Ln Gap).....	3.50	13, 14.....	5.50	14.....	30.00
PC 5, 6 (1R).....	7.50	Red PC 2, 3.....	2.50	18¢ Flag 1.....	480.00	2, 8, 12, 15, 16, 19, 22, T1.....	3.50
PC 5, 6 (3L, PS/7).....	7.50	10.9¢ Hansom Cab 1, 2.....	28.00	2 PS/5.....	50.00	4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 17, 18, 20, 21.....	5.00
PC 5, 6 (2L).....	1.75	PC 1, 2 (Line Gap).....	30.00	2 PS/3.....	29.00	(22¢) "D" Eagle 1, 2.....	7.00
5¢ Motorcycle 1, 2, 3, 4.....	1.00	PC 1, 2 (1R).....	55.00	4.....	7.00	(22¢) "D" Official 1 PS/5.....	64.00
5¢ Milk Wagon 1.....	1.00	3, 4 (Line Gap) (PS/3 only).....	225.00	5.....	4.00	1 PS/3.....	32.50
5¢ Circus Wag. 1, unt. 1,		11¢ Caboose 1.....	4.00	7.....	30.00	23¢ Lunch Wag 2, 3 (solid tag).....	3.50
A1, A2.....	1.50	PC 1.....	4.00	18¢ Wash. 1112, 3333.....	3.00	3 (modified, dull or shiny).....	3.50
5¢ Canoe 1, 2.....	1.50	Untagged PC 2.....	2.50	PC 11121.....	6.00	23¢ Presort A111, 212.....	4.00
3.....	3.00	11¢ Stutz 1, 2, 3, 4.....	2.00	PC 33333.....	3.00	A222 fat middle 2.....	4.00
Gravured S11.....	1.25	12¢ Steamer 1, 2.....	2.00	PC 33333 (dull gum, tagged).....	6.75	A222 thin middle 2.....	5.00
5.2¢ Sleigh 1, 2.....	8.50	PC 1, 2 (No Gap, Line Gap).....	2.50	PC 43444.....	8.00	A112, 122, 333.....	6.00
3.....	240.00	B Press PC 1.....	20.00	19¢ Fishing Boat.....		23¢ USA A1111, A2222, 1111.....	4.00
5.....	170.00	12.5¢ Pushcart 1.....	2.65	A1112.....	6.00	S111.....	4.00
PC 1, 2 (No Gap).....	12.00	2.....	4.50	A1212, 1111, 2424, 5555, 5556, 6667	4.00	A2232, A2233, A3333, A4444.....	4.00
PC 3, 5 (No Gap).....	14.00	PC 1 Light olive, lilac.....	2.70	A5555 untagged.....	10.00	24.1¢ Tandem 1.....	3.50
PC 4, 6 (2L).....	13.00	PC 1 Dark olive, lilac.....	3.00	20¢ Fire Pumper 1 PS/5.....	200.00	25¢ Bread Wagon 2, 3, 4.....	3.50
PC 4, 6 (No Gap).....	20.00	PC 2.....	5.00	1, 5.....	80.00	1, 5.....	4.50
5.3¢ Elevator 1.....	1.00	13¢ Patrol Wagon 1.....	2.25	3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16.....	4.00	25¢ Yosemite.....	
5.5¢ Star Route Truck 1.....	2.00	13.2¢ Coal Car 1, 2.....	3.00	7, 8 (PS/5 F-VF only).....	145.00	Block 1, 7, Phos 6, 15.....	6.00
PC 1.....	1.50	14¢ Iceboat 1, 2.....	1.75	12, 14.....	8.00	Block 2, 3, 4, 5, 8.....	3.50
PC 2.....	4.00	14¢ Iceboat B Press 2.....	3.00	6.....	20.00	Block 9, Phos 5.....	9.00
5.9¢ Bicycle 3, 4.....	15.00	15¢ Tugboat 1, 2(Block).....	3.00	11 PS/5.....	75.00	Phos 1.....	40.00
PC 3, 4 (No Gap).....	28.00	Overall tagged 2.....	3.00	11 PS/3.....	29.00	Phos 2-3, 7-11, 13-14.....	3.50
PC 5, 6 (Line Gap).....	85.00					(25¢) "E" Earth 1211, 2222.....	4.25
6¢ Tricycle 1.....	1.50					1111, 1222.....	2.50
PC 1.....	1.50					25¢ Honeybee 1, 2.....	3.50
PC 2.....	8.00					1 Orig. full serif.....	20.00
7.1¢ Tractor 1.....	3.00					(29¢) "F" Tulip.....	
PC 1.....	3.50					1111, 1222, 2222.....	3.50
PC 1 "ZIP+4".....	3.00					1211.....	20.00
7.4¢ Baby Buggy 2.....	9.00					2211.....	5.00
PC 2.....	5.00					29¢ Flower S1111, S2222.....	5.00
7.6¢ Carrel 1, 2.....	2.50					S111.....	5.00
3.....	6.00					S2222 (Perforated).....	5.00
8.3¢ Ambulance 1, 2.....	1.50					29¢ Mt. Rushmore Flag.....	
PC 1, 2 (2L, 1L, Line).....	2.00					1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7.....	3.50
PC 3, 4 (No Gap, PS8).....	10.00					7 Toledo brown VF PS/3.....	127.50
PC3, 4(1R).....	5.75					5, 8.....	6.00
B Press, 1.....	3.25					9.....	15.00
2.....	5.50					A11111, A22211.....	5.00
8.4¢ Wheelchair 1, 2.....	2.00					29¢ White House Flag.....	
3.....	13.00					1-13.....	4.50
8.5¢ Tow Truck 1.....	2.50					29¢ UVM 1 (29¢ PS/5) (dull).....	9.00
PC 1.....	2.50					29¢ UVM 1 (29¢ PS/5) (shiny).....	8.00
PC 2.....	11.00					29¢ Pine Cone PS/5, B1.....	5.00
9.3¢ Mail Wagon 1, 2.....	12.50					29¢ Xmas, PS/8 V1111111.....	6.00
3, 4.....	33.00					\$1 Seaplane 1, 3.....	8.00
5, 6.....	240.00						

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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BEP data for PNCs

Face	PNC Cat	Plate	Assigned	Press	Subjects	To Press	Cancelled	Impressions	Notes
.29	C29	181142-1	10/26/88	Androetti	432	11/18/88	05/05/89	9,300	F stamps Red
.29	C29	181143-1	10/26/88	Androetti	432	11/18/88	05/05/89	9,300	F stamps Cyan
.29	C29	181692-1	01/24/89	Androetti	432	04/27/89	05/04/92		F stamps (year; 480 subjects at cancellation)
.29	C29	181694-1	01/25/89	Androetti	432	04/27/89	06/19/92		F stamps Black Combs; 480 subjects at cancellation
.29	C29	182647-2	04/25/89	Androetti	432	NEVER	11/28/89	NONE	F stamps Yellow
.29	C29	183106-2	06/06/89	Androetti	480				F stamps Magenta
.29	C29	183107-2	06/06/89	Androetti	480	09/06/89	09/19/92		F stamps Cyan
.29	C29	183108-2	06/06/89	Androetti	480	NEVER	11/28/89	NONE	F stamps Yellow
.29	C29	183109-2	06/06/89	Androetti	480	06/09/89	06/19/92		F stamps Black
.29	C29	183774-1	07/27/89	Androetti	480				F stamps Yellow
.29	C29	184146-2	08/25/89	Androetti	480		06/19/92		F stamps Yellow
.29	C29	184279-1	09/14/89	Androetti	480				F stamps Yellow
.29	C29	184280-1	09/14/89	Androetti	480				F stamps Yellow
.25	F25-3	180261-3	05/20/88	B	468	08/01/88	04/13/93		
.29	F29WH-5	190285-5		C-1	432	09/15/93		706,000	Off press 09/22
.29	F29WH-7	190322-7		C	480	09/27/93		475,000	
.29	F29WH-8	190955-8		C-4	480	08/22/93		271,000	Off press 08/25
.29	F29WH-9	191684-9		C-50	480	09/14/93		1,000	Off press 09/15; Damaged. 480-subjects in error
.29	F29WH-10	191893-10		C	480	08/03/93		1,031,100	Off press 08/10
.29	F29WH-11	191915-11		C-32	480	08/15/93		735,019	Off press 08/22
.29	F29WH-13	192275-13		C	480	09/05/93		632,500	Off press 09/10
.18	M18-1112	174565-2	07/01/85	Androetti	408	07/25/85	04/15/93		Magenta
.04	T45C-1	187462-1	10/01/90	D-4	432	08/10/93		556,200	Off press 08/15; Corrected press
.10	T10CB-1	177419-1	11/04/86	B	468		04/13/93		B PRESS
.10	T10CB-2	192022-2		C-43		08/29/93		240,700	Off press 08/31
.10	T10CB-2	192022-2		C-43		09/01/93		164,000	Off press 09/02
.17	T17DS-2	176958-2	07/09/86	B	468	07/16/86	04/13/93		
.23	T23-3	188104-3	02/14/91	C-17	432	09/02/93		478,780	

Bold-face items are new. Impression totals for plates that have not been canceled are only for this press run.

At last! Some data from BEP

By Stephen G. Esrati

As Yogi Berra might have said: "It's the good old days all over again!"

We have some plate-activity information from BEP, not much, but still some.

Alan Thomson, who is working on the "F" stamps for the new *PNC Catalog*, made a request for all data on undenominated stamps. He not only got information for the "F" stamps, although it is extremely sparse, but also on the "G" stamps being printed by the Bureau. In addition, there were a few other PNCs and Great Americans.

TPN, meanwhile, had made a request for data for the past few months and was sent it for August and September of 1993, our first new reports since the one that covered November 1991.

Almost immediately, the "good old days" returned. Thomson, who also tracks roll sizes for stamps meeting the first-class rate, spotted an incongruity. If Plate 5 of the 29¢ White House was printed with 832 subjects (because it is one of the two plates used for rolls larger than 100), should Plate 9 not have been the same size? But BEP reported Plate 9 as having 480 subjects, as shown in the table above.

We believe the perforator used for the large rolls to be the 18-row Huck while the larger 20-row Goebel coiler is used

for the rolls of 100.

But Plate 9 of the White House got damaged on Sept. 15 after printing only 1,000 impressions. It was immediately replaced by Plate 5, which then completed 706,000 impressions for a week ending Sept. 22.

This, by the way, was the first time we have been given on- and off-press dates, a huge help in doing the calculations needed to reconstruct the printing history of a PNC.

Unfortunately the data sent to Thomson included few impression totals, so it is of little help in determining the quantities printed of the "F" stamps. Furthermore, there is some confusion about stamps that were described in the reports as "F" Stamp Domestic Mail, U.S.P.S." Thomson believes them to have been coil stamps that were never found by collectors. His reasoning is that they were printed from plates with 432 subjects. The regular run of "F" stamp coils was noted in the reports as "Non-Denomination 'F', Coil, Gravure" followed by the color for which the plate was made.

'Domestic Mail' stamps?

It is important to note that the reports are computerized and the name of each stamp is entered into the computer only once and is then generated for each suc-

cessive plate. It is thus most unlikely that the "Domestic Mail, U.S.P.S." stamps were "F" coils. But we simply do not know what they were.

Thomson's theory is that two designs—"Domestic Mail Only" and "USA Domestic only"—were replaced by "For U.S. addresses only," as shown on the stamps that were issued.

Another factor worthy of note is that several "F" stamps were originally reported as having 432 subjects when the plate numbers were assigned but were termed to be plates of 480 subjects when the plates were canceled.

TPN was the first stamp publication to report that on the "F" stamps the Bureau repeatedly used two plates with the same plate number, one for plates with 432 subjects, the other with 480 subjects. But what troubles us now is that we cannot be sure about stamps that were called 18-row when the plate number was assigned if the reports at cancellation say they have 480 subjects (20 rows). Which size is correct?

Other news from the reports

There were several other newsworthy things in the smattering of information we have come across.

First of all, the 4¢ Steam Carriage, which the 1991 *PNC Catalog* said were

BEP data for Great Americans

Denomination	Plate No.	Date	Press	Quantity	Start Date	End Date	Value	Notes
.05	Muñoz 188446-2	04/16/91	D	400	09/13/93		295,000	Off press 09/17; Plate number given as "188446-2"
.10	Red Cloud 178318-1	06/15/87	A	400	06/25/87	04/13/93		B Press or cancellation
.20	Truman 192276-4		D-58	400	09/10/93		297,500	Off press 09/14
.25	London 179583-2	01/21/88	A	400		04/13/93		B Press or cancellation
.39	Clark 177529-2	12/02/86	A	400	12/09/86	04/13/93		B Press or cancellation
.45	Cushing 180139-1	05/03/88	A	400	05/24/88	04/13/93		B Press or cancellation
.50	Nimitz 188704-3	05/17/91	D-5	400	09/22/93		265,000	Off press 09/27; Press corrected from A
.52	Humphrey 191906-2		D-28	400	JUL 93		164,000	Off press 08/03
1.00	Hopkins 190505-2		D		08/25/93		446,000	

Bold-face items are new. Impression totals without cancellation dates are only for this press run.

printed on the B Press were actually printed on the D Press. The catalog erred.

But here we run into something we cannot yet explain. The press is given in the press log as "D-4." We have no idea what that means. The table above lists these additional characterizations of the D Press. (BEP said these were D Press.)

The information on the Steam Carriage definitely rules out a change of plate number, which may explain why the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center says it has not yet received the "reprints" announced by USPS. All the "reprints" may signify is a change in the gum. We shall have to await reports on the stamps.

The 10¢ Canal Boat, which was previously printed on the defunct B Press, is now a C Press product and is known from Plate 2.

New Great Americans

We knew, of course, that the 20¢ Truman was due out with a new plate number. What we cannot understand is why the stamps were issued at all, since they no longer meet a rate. But the Corporate Relations Department in L'Enfant Plaza had an explanation: "They were needed as make-up stamps," which the philatelists who used to work in the old Stamps Division used to call "change makers."

But if that is the case, why were the stamps withdrawn from sale only three or four months earlier? Why destroy stamps and then order more printed?

The same problems we had with the "F" coils also pops up on several Great Americans, four stamps we knew to have been printed on the A Press are suddenly called B Press products.

For the record, BEP reported in *The United States Specialist* for March 1985 that the B Press only printed coils and booklets, no sheet stamps.

"B Press is strictly a roll-to-roll press and does not have the capability of either perforating or sheeting," BEP said.

This sort of mistake leaves us wondering about the 50¢ Nimitz stamp from Plate 3, which was originally reported as being made for the defunct A Press. The stamps have now been reissued with shiny gum from a Sept. 29, 1993, printing. Is it possible that a plate made for the A Press could be used on the D-Press? Or was the original information wrong in assigning the stamps to the A Press in May 1991, near the end of the A Press' lifetime?

Paper specifications are revised but unchanged

Bruce Menia has obtained new paper specifications. Menia, who takes color photographs under UV of stamps, took his slides to Washington for a four-hour meeting with USPS officials, who watched his slides to learn what collectors look for.

The new specifications are USPS-P-1191A of June 2, 1993, superseding USPS-P-1191 of May 24, 1991.

A report on the old specs was published on Page 68 of the May 1993 issue of TPN.

Most of the changes in the new specifications for stamp paper are merely housekeeping alterations in nature.

For example, the old specs said the preferred bidder for a paper contract "shall submit a 'letter of no objection' obtained from the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Service, for the adhesive formula in the use as specified herein."

That got changed to say that the preferred bidder "shall submit to an appointed Contracting Officer's Representative a 'letter of no objection' " obtained from the same sources.

None of the technical requirements for any stamp papers was changed in any way. The PMU levels for the three types of

postal paper remain the same. That means low-phosphor (Type I) paper remains at 175 PMU (± 20 PMU) and high-phosphor paper (Type II) stays at 225 (± 25). Untagged paper continues to read zero.

Roll width, which is determined by the needs of individual presses, remains fixed at from 20 to 36 inches.

Rules on splices

Mill splices are required to contrast to the paper color, as they were in the old specs. That prohibits clear or white splices. Splices are forbidden within 2,500 feet from the beginning or end of the roll and no roll is to have more than two splices.

The tests for the adhesion of self-adhesive stamps remained the same as under the old specs. They require the removal of self-adhesive after 10 seconds, 15 seconds, and one hour to determine the amount of fiber tear for envelopes and reply cards. On clay-coated stock (such as on post cards) the amount of clay removal is measured.

The phosphor requirements for self-adhesives is identical to those for stamp papers under USPS-P-1238 of July 9, 1992, on which we did not report previously because self-adhesives were not then part of

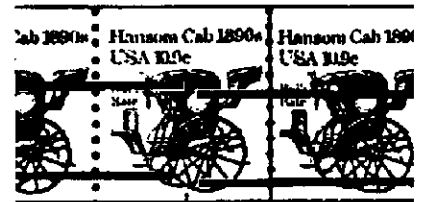
our field of interest.

However those specs did provide some useful terminology:

3.1 Description—The stamp paper covered by this specification consists of components defined as "face stock," "adhesive layer" or "PSA [for "pressure-sensitive adhesive"]," and "release liner backing" or "linerless release coating." The total construction may be referred to hereafter as the "sandwich."

Coils with linerless release coating would be intended for automatic stamp-affixing machines and have not, as of the date of writing, been made available.

The requirement pertaining to splices is still that the splices contrast with the color of the backing paper. □



NEW GAP—Gene Ernst found a 1/2 L gap on Plate 2 at a show in Texas. It is from a strip of three. The bars have been outlined in white by TPN.

What are tagging breaks? The debate goes on

By Stephen G. Esrati

Dr. Leon Chervis, who wrote the section on tagging in the original *Minkus New American Stamp Catalog*, saw "Surgery, paging Dr. Chervis" in the September issue while attending a medical meeting.

He hid *TPN* under a sheet and started to laugh. "All those around me were deep into someone's wounds and the treatment thereof, and I drew many stares from the other doctors," he said.

But Dr. Chervis agrees with Ken Lawrence, who said the study of tagging breaks is akin to reinventing the wheel.

While revising his section of the *Minkus Catalog* (reviewed in this issue) he wrote to Dick Sine, editor of the new *Minkus*: "I believe he [Lawrence] is correct. I have not told this to Steve Esrati, but I think he's looking at and has everyone seeking what may be nothing more than the wheel marks, made horizontally and vertically when sheets are fed twice through the L perforator, the sheets having already received their tagging over the already printed stamps, and the tagging has not fully DRIED yet!"

That explanation does not work. All the Great Americans tagging breaks have been found on stamps printed on the Cottrell presses. The Cottrell presses perforated stamps on an electric-eye perforator that required only one pass through the equipment.

No tagging breaks have ever been found on stamps printed on I-8 presses and perfed on the L perforator.

Do they have gum breakers?

Ken Lawrence tended to accept Dr. Chervis' theory about the breaks being wheel marks, but then threw in a second element by asking whether any of the stamps with tagging breaks also had gum breakers, because the breaker bar was also fitted to the perforating equipment.

But none of the Great Americans with tagging breaks had gum breakers. As a matter of fact, all the tagging breaks were from late printings and they fit into the tentative time lines we have been able to work out into the period when Cottrell Press 803 was used to print tagged stamps.

[Note: Cottrell 803 was used before the fire at BEP only for the printing of (un-



tagged) precancels. After the fire, it was occasionally used to print tagged PNCs. On those PNCs we have found tagging breaks resulting from the use of tagging mats that were made from shaved precancel mats. For a complete discussion of this expedient, please see "e=mc²" by Kim Cuniberti in January 1991 *TPN*.]

Tagging breaks on PNCs

Tagging breaks on Cottrell-printed PNCs have been found only on the 2¢ Locomotive, the 5¢ Motorcycle, the 5.2¢ Sleigh, and the 17¢ Electric Auto.

We know that the Cottrell breaks on PNCs were caused by the use of tagging mats made from precancel mats (the interval for precancels was 12) that were only 12 stamps wide.

On B Press stamps, tagging breaks are caused by the edge of the tagging roller that came into use after BEP switched the B Press from block tagging to overall tagging. Some mats left one break in a strip of 52, other left two with a 26-stamp interval.

Why switch to overall tagging?

Joe Peng, then general manager of the Stamp Manufacturing Division of the Postal Service, said [*TPN* January 1991, Page 3] the switch from block tagging was to prevent improper placement of the blocks, or tagging shifts as we refer to them.

That explanation was not true. It was a matter of money. Block tagging costs more. When tagging first began, it was thought that the abrasive taggant was wearing out perforator pins and so block tagging was designed not to tag where the perforations are supposed to be. It hardly ever worked that way with misalignments (tagging shifts) quite common. But when Gordon L. Morison, then assistant postmaster general, asked BEP about this in the early 1990s, he learned that the perforator-pin story was no longer true. Taggant was not damaging the perforator pins. The BEP charge for block tagging included the replacement cost of pins. That ended block tagging.

What we learned from Thomson

I had blithely gone ahead with the theory that the tagging breaks on Great Americans from the Cottrell presses were caused by a phenome-

non resembling the one that caused tagging breaks on PNCs. Alan Thomson challenged that.

He cast doubt on the theory that all the stamps had been printed on Press 803 because the sparse plate-activity data we have been provided sometimes reported them to have been printed only on other presses.

Thomson called them "scarred roller voids" and concluded that they could have been produced on other Cottrell presses. Alas, our experience with PNCs indicates that the data do not show returns to press. We have, therefore, not been able to explain changes in paper any better than we could explain changes that produced tagging breaks.

Yet we know that a PNC that exists on three different papers had to have gone to press three times.

Still, Thomson—who now says he does not believe that the untagged lines on Great Americans are tagging breaks—led us to rethink the whole subject. That's when Lawrence urged us to reread Dr. Chervis.

What we learned from Dr. Chervis

Dr. Chervis' classifications included *Type I—mat tagging*—in which each mat is just about the same size as one pane of stamps. The edges of the pane are untagged. A wide gap exists between panes. "An untagged narrow streak appears in

the vertical gutter between panes of 100 stamps," he said in the 1988 Minkus (his section was left out of the 1993 edition).

This means that any plate block with this type of tagging has two adjacent untagged margins.

It's the "untagged streak" that concerns us here. Our "tagging breaks" are not in the gutter (the selvage) of right panes. They're down the last column of stamps. On left panes, they are in the selvage.

And Dr. Cheris' "untagged streak" is the untagged area that truly is the gutter between panes.

Remember that it was Dr. Cheris' question to the PNC Study Group that started Kim Cuniberti on his adventurous research that led to "e=mc²."

Dr. Cheris had asked what we knew about the "small flexographic tagging mats" used in the early 1980s.

Apparently Dr. Cheris and the study group were not on the same wavelength. Dr. Cheris knew a whole lot about the small mats. He had even come up with exact mat measurements.

And, as his introduction to the old Minkus shows, he knew about that untagged streak.

That streak, as it happens, is not our tagging break. But Dr. Cheris believes he knows what caused our tagging break: a wheel. Dr. Cheris readily agrees that the streak goes only one way on the electric-eye perforator.

But I won't buy the wheel theory. If a wheel had run across wet tagging and thereby removed taggant, the taggant would have had to go somewhere. That's a law of physics. It would have gone onto the wheel, and the wheel's circumference would have grown. Also, that taggant on the wheel would have come off onto some panes coming through the perforator, causing an intense tagging streak.

Now it could be argued that the intense tagging streak caused by deposits from the wheel could be exactly what the "hot lines" found on some panes could have been. However, hot lines shown by Dr. Cheris are parallel to, not continuations of the untagged vertical lines.

Again, physics tells us that if the wheel took it off in the 10th column of stamps, it would have had to deposit it there, as continuations of the tagging break.

Dr. Cheris says he has a pane with both an untagged vertical line and a hot line that continues upward from it. But that isn't how it was on panes he showed me.

Still reinventing the wheel

I revert to re-inventing the wheel. I think Ken Lawrence and Dr. Cheris are both correct, but we're not talking about the same thing.

I continue to think the untagged vertical lines are caused by using the precancel press to print tagged stamps. Alan Thomson reserves the right to disagree.

But in this entire discussion, we have learned something new. The second tagging break shown on the Schurz block on the opposite page is not caused by something helical. Dr. Cheris has several panes of Schurz stamps on which that second break comes and disappears. Where it shows, it is exactly parallel to the other break.

Further, Dr. Cheris' panes show as many as three thin untagged vertical lines in the extreme right selvage. We do not know what they are.

All of Dr. Cheris' examples (from the 5¢ Buck as well) show vertical hot lines.

So, in conclusion, we still do not know what caused the untagged lines. We know they are uncommon. We believe them to be collectible.

We also know that they show up clearly in right panes, but only as fuzzy, unclear examples in left panes. These are often obscured by the untagged portion of the left edge of the pane that appears to be from a worn mat or from poor application onto the mat of the tagging substance.

Finally, one last point: The left untagged line of the Schurz stamp and the entire untagged line on the Buck stamp goes clear up-and-down the pane of Dr. Cheris' examples. The same applies to the 2¢ Stravinsky panes (Plates 3 and 4). We suspected this, but it is now proven by full panes. □

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

Cat. No.	8L	5L	4L	3L	2L	1L	1R	2R	3R	4R	5R	8R
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 Cib Sib	B Cib J							
T2-10		B Sib		B Cibc J	B Cibc J							
TSM-1										B Sib	B Sib J	Sib
TSM-2										B Sib	B Sib J	Sib
TSM-3		B Sib	B Sib J	B Cib J	B Cib	B Cib J						
TSM-4		B Sib	B Sib J	B Cib J	B Cib	B Cib J						
T5.2-3			B Sib									
T5.2-5			B Sib									
T17EA-1				B Cib J	B Cib J							
T17EA-2				B Cib J	B Cib J							
T17EA-3	B Cib J			B Cibc J	B Cibc J				Sb			
T17EA-4	B Cib J			B Cibc J	B Cibc J				Si			

JOINT LINE

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

Notes to above chart

T17EA-4-3R found used as a PS/4.
 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) ZLC, 9RC
- T4SC-1-ot (on stamps)(W) 9L, 8L, 7L, 6L, 1L, 3R, 5R, 7R
- T4SC-1-ot (on postals) 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 # #13L, 10L, #8R, 7L, 6L, 5L, 3L, #2L, #1L, 3R, 4R, 5R, 6R, 12R, 9R, 10R
- T10CB-1-ot
- T15-2-ot (W) 12L, 11L, 10L, 9L,

T20CC-2-ot
 T51-1 (W)

- 8L, 7L, 6L, 5L, 4L, 3L, 2L, 1L, Line, 1R, 2R, 3R, 4R, 5R, 6R, 8R, 11R
- 12LR
- 12LC, 11LC, 5L, 4L, 3L, 2L, 1L, Line, 1R, 2R, 3R, 4R, 5R, 6R, 7R, 8R

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
- T15-2-ot Top, bottom
- T51-1 Top, bottom

Ernst welcomes new reports.
Untagged
 T1(B)2, T3CW-2, T4SC-1, T5CW-1, T15-2

Great Americans—New items

They're printing new Great Americans. I try to have them in stock as soon as they're out. This list includes 10¢ Red Cloud, 20¢ Truman, 23¢ Cassatt, 40¢ Chennault.

50¢ Nimitz, Plate 2, overall tagged. While they last, \$17.50 per plate block.

My regular price list

Scott	Description	Single	Inscr. Bl. or Pos. Bl.	PS/4	PS/6	PS/20
1844c	14 Dix Bl	.10		1.00 (1S)	2.00 (1)	4.00 (1, 2)
1844	14 Dix BE	.10		1.25 (1)	2.50 (1)	3.00 (1)
2168	14 Mitchell BE	.10		.25 (1)		
1845	24 Stravinsky Control	.10		.35 (1, 2, 3, 4)		
	Some, premium			2.00 (5, 6)		
	Some, with tag break			10.00 (6)		
2169	24 Lyon BE	.10		.35 (1)		
	Some, premium			.55 (2)		
1846	34 Clay Control	.10		.70 (1, 2)		
2170	34 White BE	.10		.50 (1, 2, 3)		
1847	44 Schurz Control	.15		.60 (1, 4)		3.50 (4)
	Some, with tag break			10.00 (1)		
2171	44 Flanagan BE	.15		.80 (1)		
2171a	44 Flanagan LE	.10		.40 (1)		
NEW	44 Flanagan LE	.10		.60 (2)		
1848	54 Buck Control	.15		.70 (1, 4)		
2172	54 Black BE	.15		.70 (1)		
2172	54 Black BE	.15		1.25 (2)		
Plate 2 wanted, pay \$5 per block:						
2173	54 Muñoz OE	.15	.70	.75 (1)		
2173	54 Muñoz LE	.15	.70	.75 (2)		
1849	64 Topmore Bl	.15		.60 (1)	1.20 (1)	3.90 (1)
1850	74 Baldwin Bl	.20		.90 (1)	1.80 (1)	4.50 (1)
1851	84 Knox Cl	.20		1.20 (3-6)		
1852	94 Thayer Bl	.25		2.00 (1)	2.50 (1)	5.50 (1)
1853	10 Russell Bl	.25		1.20 (1S)	2.50 (1)	7.00 (1)
2176	104 Red Cloud BE	.30		.85 (1)		
2176a	104 Red Cloud OE	.30		WANT (1)		
Plate 1 OE wanted, pay \$8.90 per block:						
2176a	104 Red Cloud PE	.20		.85 (2)		
NEW	104 Red Cloud PE shiny	.20		1.15 (3)		
1854	114 Portridge Cl	.30		1.50 (2-5)		
1855	134 Crazy Control	.30		2.20 (1, 2)		
	Some, premium			3.00 (3, 4)		
1856	144 Lewis Bl	.30		1.20 (1)	3.00 (1)	9.00 (1)
2177	144 Howe BE	.25		1.90 (1, 2)		5.90 (1)
2178	154 Cody BE	.30		WANT		
Plate 3 BE wanted, pay \$2 per block; Plate 1 BE wanted, pay \$1 per block:						
2178a	154 Cody OE	.25		3.50 (2, 3)		
	Some, tagged salvage			1.25 (1, 2)		
	Some, with tagging break			5.00 (2)	10.00 (2)	
1857	174 Carson Control	.35		2.85 (1, 4, 13-14)		
	Some, premium			5.00 (15, 16)		
	Some, with tagging break			10.00 (16)		
2179	174 Lockwood	.35		2.00 (1)		
	Some, premium			3.50 (2)		
1858	184 Mason Control	.35		3.50 (1, 4)		
1859	194 Sequoyah Control	.40		3.00 (both)		
1860	204 Bunche Control	.40		3.50 (1, 2, 5-8, 10)		
	Some, premium			7.00 (3, 4)	20.00 (4)	
	Some, premium			12.00 (11, 13)		
1861	204 Gallaudet Control	.40		3.90 (1, 2)		18.00 (2)
	Some, premium			12.00 (5, 6)		
Plate 8, 9 wanted, pay \$35.00						
1862	204 Truman Bl	.40		5.00 (1)	10.00 (1)	13.00 (1)
1862a	204 Truman BE	.40		3.90 (2)		
1862b	204 Truman OE Paper III	.40		4.00 (3)		
1862c	204 Truman OE Paper III	.40		4.00 (3)		
NEW	204 Truman PE shiny	.40		2.50 (4)		
2179	214 Carlson BE	.40		3.20 (1)		
1863	224 Audubon Bl	.40		2.65 (1)	5.30 (1)	30.00 (1)
1863d	224 Audubon BE	.45		5.00 (3)		
2182	234 Cassatt BE	.50		3.00 (2)		
Plate 1 OE wanted, pay \$2.50 per block:						
2182b	234 Cassatt OE	.50		3.75 (2)		
2182c	234 Cassatt PE	.50		3.00 (2)		
NEW	234 Cassatt PE shiny	.50		3.00 (2)		
2183	254 London BE	.50		3.00 (1)		
Plate 2 wanted, pay \$2.50 per block:						
2184	284 Sitting Bull BE	.50		3.80 (1)		

Scott	Description	Single	Inscr. Bl. or Pos. Bl.	PS/4	PS/6	PS/20
2184A	294 Warren PE	.45	3.00	2.00 (51, 52)		
2184B	294 Jefferson	.45	4.50 (8)	2.50 (51, 52)		
1864	304 Loubach Bl	.75		5.00 (1)	10.00 (1)	19.00 (1)
1864a	304 Loubach BE	.45		5.50 (2)		
1864a	304 Loubach OE	6.00		75.00 (2)		
1865	354 Drew Control	.75		4.50 (1, 2)		
	Some, premium			12.00 (3, 4)		
2185	354 Chavez Pl	.50	3.50	3.50 (51, 52)		
1966	374 Millikan Control	.80		4.50 (1, 4)		
1867	394 Clark Bl	.80		8.00 (1S)	16.00 (1)	35.85 (1)
1867c	394 Clark BE	.80		5.90 (2)		
1868	404 Gibraltar Bl	.95		9.75 (1S)	19.00 (1)	23.90 (1)
1868a	404 Gibraltar BE	.95		6.50 (2)		
2186	404 Chennault OE	.85	5.00	4.00 (1)		
2186	404 Chennault PE	.85		4.00 (2)		
NEW	404 Chennault PE shiny			4.00		
2188	454 Cushing BE	.75		3.50 (1)		
Plate 1 OE wanted, pay \$1.50						
1869	504 Nimitz Cl	1.00		11.25 (1-4)		
1869a	504 Nimitz BE	1.00		6.50 (1, 2)		
1869d	504 Nimitz OE	1.00		17.50 (2)		
1869d	504 Nimitz OE	1.00		7.50 (3)		20.00 (3)
Plate 1 wanted, pay \$4 per block; Plate 3 wanted, pay \$3.75 per block:						
NEW	504 Nimitz PE (shiny)	1.00		4.00 (2)		
2190	524 Humphrey PE (dull)	1.00	4.50	3.45 (1)		
NEW	524 Humphrey PE (shiny)	1.00	4.50	3.45 (1)		
2161	564 Harvard	1.10		7.50 (1)		
2192	654 Arnold BE	1.30		5.20 (1)		
2193	754 Willie PE (dull)	1.00	7.00	5.50 (1)		
NEW	754 Willie PE (shiny)	1.00	7.00	5.50 (1)		
2194	\$1 Ravel	1.95		14.00 (1)		
2194A	\$1 Hopkins BE	1.50		7.00 (1)		
2194Ab	\$1 Hopkins OE	1.50		7.00 (1)		
2194Ab	\$1 Hopkins PE phos, dull	1.50		7.00 (2)		
2194Ab	\$1 Hopkins PE, shiny	2.00		8.00 (2)		
2195	\$2 Bryan	3.50		21.00 (2)		
2196	\$5 Harte BE	9.00		40.00 (1)		
2196	\$5 Harte PE	9.00		35.00 (2)		
The following are not Great American stamps, but you probably don't have them:						
1894a	204 Flag Bl Dull	.80				18.00 (3, 4)
1894	204 Flag BE Shiny	.80		4.75 (2)	9.50 (2)	15.00 (2)
Shiny-gum from Plates 3, 4 wanted. Pay \$5 for PS/6, \$10 for PS/20.						
C118	454 Langley OE	3.00		25.00		

Abbreviations used in descriptions:

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

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

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

1992 Lighthouse supplements

I carry all Lighthouse albums, album supplements, binders, UV lamps, stock books, and supplies at a 15% discount. Added 5% off for PNC³ members. Call or write for details.

STEPHEN G. ESRATI

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Self-sticks bring new techniques for FDCs

Artmaster was puzzled about the new numbered self-stick coils. According to Bill Toutant, the company has been mounting self-sticks for some time by gluing down the backing with the stamps still attached.

On the Pine Cone, Artmaster will service covers with strips of three with the number on the middle stamp. On the Christmas stamps, it will mount a strip of five with a numbered Snowman at the left and an unnumbered Snowman at the right.

Toutant said the Postal Service convened a meeting of cachet-makers in Washington on Nov. 9 at which time the confidential list of planned 1994 issues was presented. There was also a hint that USPS would charge cachet-makers a fee for first-day cancels. The Postal Service now sells uncacheted FDCs through the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center.

Let's get it right

In a July letter to *Stamp Collector*, Dan Kauffman of Port Charlotte, Fla., was critical of PNCers' use of the word "truncated" when referring to incomplete inkings of plate numbers.

That's funny, because the only usage of "truncated" we know of is for Plate 1 of the 25¢ Honeybee, where BEP actually cut off part of the plate number to try to keep it out of the stamp design. We use "poor inking" to explain incomplete plate numbers.

Untagged 3¢ White error

Ken Moreau has found a vertical pair of the 3¢ White. The top stamp is entirely untagged. The bottom stamp has several blobs of extremely heavy tagging in the middle of the stamp arranged horizontally. The rest of the stamp is also untagged. Anyone have any explanations?

André Thiele has gone through his Great Americans and reported a host of panes that show "crow's feet" that were not included in the *Summary of Data* prepared by *TPN*. The Summary is being updated.

Ever see Plate 2?

Why is the new \$1 Seaplane from Plate 3? Easy! Plate 2, for the B Press, was assigned on June 4, 1991. Because of a lack of data, we don't know what ever happened to it. Have you found any Plate 2 Seaplanes?

Go stand in the corner

Dr. Robert Rabinowitz, writing in

Stamp Collector, reports a rather large find of imperforate Eagle and Shields printed by BEP and bearing the numbers 11111.

Dr. Bob erred, however, when he wrote: "No further BEP 11111s will be produced, since recent production from this source has been from plate 22221."

The same error was made by dealer Marvin Frey who is selling "Imperf Line Strips of 6 (Plate #11111)."

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

Those numbers represent five different plates, not one. And Frey errs even more by referring to a "line strip." Where's the joint line?

And, have you noticed that when *Stamp Collector* prints Dr. Bob's articles it also uses his affectation of writing precancel gaps as "GAPS"?

BEP gets in the act, too

In doing his research on the "F" stamps for the new *PNC Catalog*, Alan Thomson was amazed to learn from BEP that it also printed "G" stamps in 1992.

"I thought only ABN printed those," the astonished Thomson said. But *TPN* confirmed last year that Stamp Venturers had printed the rouletted "G" stamp that was found used last year by a collector. And *TPN* assumed that ABN was only printing the big rolls.

Bad centering on Greats

Somewhere, someplace Steve Esrati read that BEP changed the way the plate numbers were positioned on Cottrell Great Americans, moving the numbers out slightly so they wouldn't be in the perfs. But he can't find the reference.

It's needed to determine just when this all happened and what plates were affected. Can anyone remember?

Update, for singles only

The 1994 Lighthouse album supplements will update the Great Americans Series, but for singles only, according to Wolfgang Schön, the publisher.

Indigo pair offered

TPN reader Wayne Meyers recently ran an ad in *Linn's* offering an unnum-

bered pair of indigo 29¢ White House stamps for \$1,200.

Not quite untagged

John Orsega has found plate blocks of the 35¢ Drew from the rare Plates 3 and 4 in which the right stamps (closest to the selvage) are almost entirely untagged. The left stamps are almost fully tagged. What keeps the right stamps from being fully untagged are tiny spots of taggant.

Orsega also tells this story. His wife

once said to him that if she heard he was chasing other women she would use his stamps for wallpaper.

Is the paper thinner?

Al Haake felt a difference in the thickness of the paper while stripping out a batch of 23¢ Lunch Wagons, all on dull-gum paper, but some with embedded (mottled) tagging and some with surface (solid) tagging.

The mottled paper felt thinner. Said Haake: "Maybe having the taggant in the paper makes it thinner than putting it on later."

Cave sends out tagged stamps

Richard L. Beecher recently ordered a pane of 4¢ Flanagans (Item 0054) from the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center. He was surprised when he received the stamps and discovered that they were tagged.

The packing slip said "4¢ Flanagan phos."

The item number for the new Plate 2 (untagged) stamps is 50054. Item 0054 was to go off sale last month.

Have you found these?

By the time you read this, a new 3¢ Conestoga Wagon printed on the C or D press will have been issued, according to an internal bulletin of the Stamp Distribution and Acquisition Branch. It should be Plate 3 and was due out in the fourth accounting period (January).

A new Plate 3 23¢ Cassatt was to have been shipped in November. It has been found on shiny gum.

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

Scott	Stamp	L/Block	L/Overall	Harrow/block	Harrow/overall	Harrow/phosphored	Untagged
1844	1c Dix	L (1, 2)		A (1)			
2171	4c Flanagan			E (1)			E (1, 2) Intentionally
2173	5c Muñoz Mann				E (1)		E (1) Error (2) Intentionally
2174	10c Red Cloud			E (1)	E (1*, 2)	E (2)E, (3 shiny gum)	E (1, 2) Error
2178	15c Cady			E (1, 3)	E (1* - 2* + 3)		E (2, 3) Error
1862	20c Truman	L (1)		E (2)	E (3)†	E (4)	E (2) Error
1863	22c Audubon	L (1)		E (3)			L (1) Error
2182	23c Lassaff			E (1)	E (1*, 2*)	E (2)E, (3 shiny gum)	E (1) Error
2197a	25c London S5 book			E (1, 2)E			E (2) Error
2183a	25c London books sr						E (1) Error (S1, S2 only)
1864	30c Laubach	L (1)		E (2)	E (2)†		
1867	39c Clark	L (1)		E (2)			
1868	40c Gilbreth	L (1)		E (2)			
2186	40c Chenault				E (1)†	E (2)	E (1) Error
2188	45c Lushing			E (1)	E (1)†		E (1) Error
1869	50c Nimitz		(*) (1, 2, 3, 4)	E (1, 2)	E (2, 3*)	E (3 shiny gum)	L (2) Error (1, 2) Error
2190	52c Humphrey					E (1E dull, 1µ shiny)	
2193	75c Wilkie					E (1E dull gum) (1 shiny)	
2194A	51 Hopkins			E (1)	E (1)	E (1µ) (2 dull and shiny)	E (1) Error
2196	55 Harbo			E (1)		E (2)E	

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
- ☆ S5 booklet only 11.2 x 11.2. The S1, S2 and S3 (Plate 1) booklets are block tagged and perforated (10 x 9.8) in-line on Goebel booklet-making equipment
- * Printed on an I-B currency press. Tagged off press. All have shiny gum.
- † Overall tagging in all salvage.
- ‡ Untagged area in salvage.
- E-Electric-eye perforator 10.9 x 10.9
- µ Phosphored paper (mottled, embedded tagging).
- 15c Cady does not exist on a phosphored paper.

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

Scott	Stamp	E-E/Catroll Overall	L/Block	L/Overall	Harrow/block	Harrow/overall	Harrow/phosphored	L/phosphored	Untagged
2168	1c Mitchell				E (1)				E Error
2169	2c Mary Lyon				E (1, 2)				E (1) Error
1845	2c Strawinsky	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6							E Error
1846	3c Clay	1, 2							E Error
2170	3c White				1, 2, 3				E Error
1847	4c Schurz	1, 2, 3, 4							E Error
1848	5c Back	1, 2, 3, 4							E Error
2172	5c Black				E (1, 2)				E (2) Error
1849	6c Upmann								
1850	7c Baldwin								
1851	8c Knox			3, 4, 5, 6*					L (P) Error
1852	9c Thayer								
1853	10c Russell								L Error
1854	11c Partridge			2, 3, 4, 5*					L Error
1855	13c Crazy Horse	1, 2, 3, 4							E Error
1856	14c Lewis								
2177	14c Howe				E (1, 2)				
1857	17c Carson	1, 2, 3, 4, 13, 14, 15, 16							E Error
2179	17c Lockwood				E (1, 2)				E Error
1858	18c Mason	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6							E Error
1859	19c Saigoyah	3, 9, 5, 2, 3, 9, 5, 3, 0							E Error
1860	20c Bunche	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13							E Error
1861	20c Gollaudet	1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9							
2180	21c Callson				E (1)				
2183	25c London sheet				E (1, 2)				
2184	28c Shifting Bull				E (1)				
2184A	29c Warren						S1µ, S2µ		
2184B	29c Jefferson						S1, S2		
1865	35c Drew	1, 2, 3, 4							
2185	35c Chavez							S1µ, S2µ	
1866	37c Mulikan	1, 2, 3, 4							E Error
2161	56c Harvard				E (1)				E Error
2192	65c Arnold				E (1)				E Error
2194	51 Kevai				E (1)				E Error
2195	52 Bryan				E (2)				E Error

Bold-faced stamps are still on sale.

Collector named to information job

Continued from Page 1

her staff, called product publicity specialists, about stamps and stamp collecting. She is considering sending them to State College, Pa., to attend the summer courses given by the American Philatelic Society or to have them take the extension courses offered by Pennsylvania State University.

Totten-Oldham said she is primarily a topical collector but collects "things I like." Among her fields of interest are first-day covers featuring women and pictorial cancels on any of the subjects she is interested in, including all states she has lived in.

Technical details to be available

Rick Arvonio of the Stamp Distribution Branch, the man who was believed to have placed a gag order on stamp printers, said no such order ever went out.

When prodded, Arvonio said the Postal Service had always taken great pains to prevent having information released on stamps that had not yet been issued. His reminder was dated shortly after *TPN* obtained and published quantities printed and plate-number combinations on "G" stamps.

"Information on unissued stamps should not have been revealed," Arvonio said.

The information on the "G" stamps came from the Postal Service with specific permission of the Postal Service for its release.

Arvonio, however, has taken steps to avert the need for stamp journalists to contact printers. He has ordered all printers to notify his office whenever they re-

print a stamp and to inform him of the differences in paper, tagging, color, or perforation style.

"They'll tell us and we'll tell you," he said.

UV lamps are taboo

An odd note was struck when Arvonio's boss, Michael Spates, said nobody in the Postal Service should be using an ultraviolet lamp to differentiate stamps.

The reason, of course, is employee safety. Precautions must be taken in using such lamps, which can damage the eyes.

The point came up when the reason for withdrawal of 20¢ Truman stamps and the subsequent reprinting of Truman stamps was raised.

Joe Brockert explained that whenever the Postal Service is aware that 5 million or more stamps are needed, the stamps are printed.

The withdrawal of the old Trumans was explained by Arvonio as getting rid of obsolete stock.

What values should be tagged?

None of the officials knew the exact cutoff for tagging. The only announcement had been that stamps of 9¢ or under would be untagged. But the 10¢ value of the Columbus souvenir sheets was left untagged.

Later, Joe Peng, then of Stamp Distribution, said the limit had been changed to 10¢. However, when the new 10¢ Canal Boats were issued, they were tagged.

Arvonio said this was because the printer (BEP) was continuing under a prior contract. Plate 2 Canal Boats have just been placed on sale at the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center and are on prephosphored paper. He said future 10¢ stamps should be untagged.

Brockert said the rule as to which values should be left untagged is not carved in stone because customers' needs have to be taken into consideration.

"We're not going to create havoc with our mail-handling technology just because of some rule," Brockert said. He was referring to the Disabled American Veterans' need for tagged small-denomination stamps. He said DAV would continue to be supplied with tagged stamps.

That's because dav puts the untagged stamps on return envelopes it send out seeking contributions. If the stamps were untagged, they would be rejected by fac-cancelers. □

Update

New PNCs

F29WH-12—Plate 12 of the 29¢ Flag over the White House. EKU Nov. 24. (Novak)

F23USA-A4444—The 23¢ USA stamp with the number "A4444." Nov. 25. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

M10-A11 10 10 10 10—The undenominated Eagle and Shield with the numbers "A11 10 10 10 10." Nov. 18. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

M10-A10 11 10 10 11—The undenominated Eagle and Shield with the numbers "A10 11 10 10 11." Dec. 6. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

M19-A6667—The 19¢ Fishing Boat with the number combination "A6667." Oct. 25. (Haake)

M19-A7667—The 19¢ Fishing Boat with the number combination "A7667." Dec. 2. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

T10CB-2—Plate 2 of the 10¢ Canal Boat, C or D Press, Prephosphored, shiny gum. Oct. 21. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

New Great Americans

10¢ Red Cloud, Plate 3—Tagging uncertain, shiny gum, found in November (Karen).

23¢ Cassatt, Plate 3—Tagging uncertain, shiny gum, found in November (Karen).

52¢ Humphrey, Plate 2—Embedded (mottled) tagging, shiny gum, with the revised inscription first issued on Plate 1 last year, found Dec. 10 in Salt Lake City (Clark).

New imperforates

F23USA-1111—The BEP version of the 23¢ USA strip, no number, but found before any other numbers had been found that were printed by BEP. Transition strip (perf to imperf). (Clark)

New precancel gap

T10.9-2P—Gene Ernst has found a half gap on the numbered stamp. It is illustrated on Page 15.

ADLETS

Classified ads are 15 cents a word. There is no charge for your address. Members of PNC² are entitled to one 25-word free adlet each year.

UPDATED PAPER PRICE LIST: If you've purchased both of the latest 23¢ Lunch Wagon varieties, then you might be interested in this list with well over 100 different PNCs (most are less than \$10). List includes identification chart with descriptions and continues for a 7th year as the only comprehensive paper-type price list for PNCs. Enclose \$2.50 in unprecanceled postage for several examples attached to chart. #10 SASE, PNC Contemporary Coils, PO Box 3654, Danbury CT 06820-3654. (1-94)

WANTED, No 18s: Regular Perfed XF-8, imperf, misper, misort. John Tison (PNC3 473, APS, ASDA), PO Box 8755, Newport Beach CA 92668. 1-800-854-4487. (6-94)

DULL GUM UVM's, 23¢ value, XF in PS/5, \$8.50. Esrafi, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (1-94)

LITTERBUG LUNCH WAGON: Blob left of wagon on numbered stamp. PS/5, VF, \$10. Esrafi, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (1-94)

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DUE IN OCTOBER—A 20¢ stamp is the only Great American shown when the 1994 stamp program was announced.

Cover of the Bi-Month

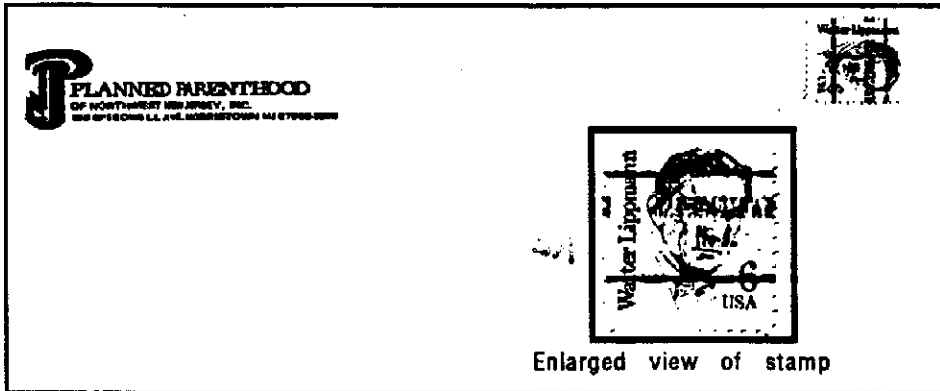
By Richard L. Beecher

From Feb. 17, 1985, to Dec. 31, 1985, the third-class non-profit rate for mail sorted to three or five digits was 6¢. During that period the 5.2¢ precanceled Sleigh (authorized as a false franking) and the 6¢ Tricycle precancel were the most commonly used stamps to pay this short-lived rate.

This cover uses the 6¢ Lippmann with a Morristown, N.J., local precancel to pay the rate.

A question to *TPN* readers: When this nonprofit rate changed to 7.4¢ on Jan. 1, 1986; 8.7¢ on March 9, 1986, and 8.5¢ on April 20, 1986, the 6¢ Tricycle was authorized by USPS as a false franking until March 31, 1987. If that 6¢ stamp could be used as a false franking, could the 6¢ Lippmann stamps be used as well during this period?

If you have a candidate for Cover of the Bi-Month, please send a clear photocopy to Richard L. Beecher, 2641 Locksley Pl., Los Angeles, CA 90039.



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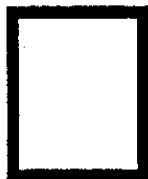
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