

Study Group names glossy-gum paper used on Transportations

By Kim Cuniberti

When the 23¢ Lunch Wagon was first printed in 1991, we saw the beginning of the end of papers with tagging applied after printing. What we did not expect was the BEP decision to use glossy-gum Flag paper (with embedded phosphors that appear mottled) instead of the Type IV paper originally used on the Lunch Wagon.

I am calling this Flag paper EPG (for Embedded Phosphors, Glossy). It was first found on Plate 1 of the 10¢ Canal Boat.

Type IV paper (which TPN has been calling "satin-finish gum, surface tagged") may be unique to the Lunch Wagon.

But EPG paper may not be the last word.

When the latest printing of Plate 3 Lunch Wagons appeared on glossy-gum Flag paper, it also showed up as a dry-gum version on this same paper with embedded-tagging, and a mottled look (apparently gummed in the familiar diagonal style of Nashua Co., which also did Type I and III papers). I tentatively called this new paper Type Vn. The reason it was

tentative was because we did not know whether this paper was a winning or losing bid. [TPN note: Previous experience, especially with Lenz paper, taught us that BEP always uses up paper samples from a losing bid.]

Why gum is meatless and unflavored. Page 34
Updated paper chart. Page 30

Since we found embedded tagging and glossy gum on Plate 2 of the 10¢ Canal Boat and Plate 3 of the \$1 Seaplane, we can assume that Type Vn was the losing bid. That means Type Vn will go the way of Type IV paper as a one-time usage.

[TPN note: Here's where our study of the Great Americans may come in handy. Stamp Venturers used EPG paper on the 29¢ Warren but used what appears to be shiny-gum, surface tagged (unmottled) paper on the 29¢ Jefferson. BEP used a dull-gum Type IIIb paper on the first 52¢ Humphrey from Plate 1 (with incorrect selvage) and then switched to EPG paper

on the corrected Plate 1. It also used EPG on the phosphored 50¢ Nimitz and the reprinted 75¢ Willkie. The original Willkie was on Type IIIb. When Plate 2 of the \$1 Hopkins was reprinted, it also moved from Type IIIb to EPG Paper.]

Missing examples

I still feel there are examples of the service-inscribed decimal-denominated bulk rate stamps on Type III or IIIb paper that have gone unnoticed.

The 16.7¢ Popcorn Wagon from Plate 1 was recently reported to me as having been found on Type IIIb. The 24.1¢ Tandem Bicycle went to press so many times that it must be out there in something other than Type III. Other possibilities may exist. Any help?

Hi brites

I've been watching "hi-brite" and "dead" long-wave UV paper varieties on several issues, especially Flags going all the way back to the 20¢. There are some dramatic differences and some appear scarce. I expect to expand this new area of study in the coming year.

New 2¢ Locomotives out, but they're not tagged for the DAV

The 1¢ Omnibus and the 2¢ Locomotive, reprinted on the C Press, have finally emerged from the cave of the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center, about three months after they were assigned item numbers in September.

The stamps were announced as C Press reprints with no change in paper on Sept. 29. The announcement correctly said the Omnibus would be from Plate 3 and the Locomotive from Plate 2.

Most of the plate numbers on the 1¢ Omnibus are damaged to some degree.

Some look like a purple blob with a white "3" visible inside (under magnification).

Others are damaged at the left side of the "3," sometimes with thin lines closing up the "3." Most of the time, however, the "3" just fades out on the left.

The blob variety is less common.

The stamps have a plate-number interval of 48 and are the third versions of

both stamps, which were first printed on the Cottrells and later on the B Press.

The surprise was that they were both untagged. It had been expected that the 2¢

Locomotive would be tagged for use on return envelopes by the Disabled American Veterans.

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MAKING THINGS BETTER

Connie Totten-Oldham headed the misnamed Corporate Relations Department for only a month, but in that month she made a difference.

When *TPN* visited her, she asked what was wrong with the news releases sent out by her department. She took copious notes, and changes were made.

We say this not to take a bow but to itemize the changes Ms. Totten-Oldham could make in just one month.

If you will look at Data Bank in this issue, you will note that one of the colors of the new Eagle self-adhesive coil is called putty. The dictionary defines it as a "light yellowish gray or light brown gray." But the news release followed each named color with its Pantone Matching System number, and so we could look at "putty" and determine that philatelists would call it buff or light beige.

TPN had asked for the reintroduction of PMS designations in the news releases.

This was not mere pedantry. We have noted a change in the colors used to print the stamps we collect, but we have never had those color changes spelled out for us.

In fact, the Postal Service may not even have known that a printer slightly changed a previous color, as on the 4¢ Flanagan and the 40¢ Chennault.

Later, when *TPN* talked to Rick Arvonio, manager of Stamp Acquisition, we were told that from now on, whenever a printer reprints a stamp, Arvonio is to be informed precisely about what changed, be it the gum, the press, the color, or something else. Arvonio vowed that collectors would be told of all such changes.

Another improvement in the news releases that we requested was to be told precisely who printed the stamps, not just the name of the contractor.

In other words, we did not so much want to know that Stamp Venturers, for example, was the contractor on a coil and is putting its "S" in front of the plate number, we also wanted to know if it was printed on a Champlain press at J. W. Fergusson & Sons., instead of having to wait for George Amick to reveal that information in *Linn's U.S. Stamp Yearbook*.

Of course we used to be able to get that information directly from the printers. And when the news releases gave us incomplete data, we simply called and filled in the gaps. But that has now been made impossible by the Postal Service's "reminder" to printers that they can say nothing without clearing it first with the Postal Service, a reminder that was perceived by printers and *TPN* to be a gag order.

Not yet implemented in the news releases is the additional request that the press used to print a stamp be identified and that we be told the exact plate size.

It does make a difference whether Stamp Venturers

The Plate Number and Great Americans Review

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prints stamps on its T/A Press or on Fergusson's Champlain. Why this has not been added puzzles us.

We also asked that the item number used by the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center be included in the news release. As you will see in the release for the Eagle self-sticks, that information is now given.

But the most important change is that the Postal Service has now begun to tell us about the self-stick coils that it makes for servicing first-day covers in the cave of the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center. Not only does it do so, but there is a notation that the technical information for the coils is identical to that given for the "sheetlet" of 18, which collectors refer to as a booklet.

(It may be time for Scott Publishing Co. to re-examine that usage. These little panes are not booklets, even if they can be folded to resemble booklets. They are either self-adhesive panes of 18 or panes made for vending by automatic teller machines (ATMs). Listing them as booklets only adds to the many confusions Scott fosters, chief of them being the description of all precancels as "Bureau" precancels, whether printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing or on the presses of Amos Press.)

Not among the things we requested were the prices of these items as they are sold by the cave. But that, too, has now been provided. On the 18-stamp Eagle coil, it is \$5.22.

But there is one element that PNC collectors of first-day covers should note: If you order FDCs from the cave, you take pot luck and have one chance out of 18 that your cover will come back with a plate number. The only surefire ways to get numbered FDCs is to order a strip of 18, make up the cover, and send it in before the 30-day time limit expires for obtaining first-day postmarks.

Be warned: It is highly unlikely that you will have the stamps from the cave before the 30-day deadline expires.

That leaves you the alternative of buying 18 uncached Postal Service FDCs in the hope that you will be sent one with a plate number. You would still be playing the lottery. And the cost of 18 covers would be \$9, a bit steep for one numbered FDC. And then, too, you would be stuck with 17 covers you don't want.

The final alternative is to buy numbered covers from

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.

dealers. You will have to wait a while, because the servicers invariably have to ask for a time extension, which is almost always granted. Eventually, serviced covers show up, sometimes as much as six months after the stamps go on sale (as was the case with the original Universal Vending Machine coils).

An easier solution, which FDC collectors ought to urge the Postal Service to adopt, would be to extend the 30-day limit to all collectors who include the statement from the cave with their FDCs with a notation saying that the requested stamps arrived after expiration of the deadline. ✽

LETTERS: Navy blue variety on 29¢ White House

Ron Kronheim reports the discovery of Plate 8 of the 29¢ White House in navy blue by Jim Fowler of Greenville, S.C.

Fowler submitted a copy to Kronheim in early December, and Kronheim confirmed the color variety.

Fowler said, "Loads of them were discovered in my area." However, he was able to obtain only 150 mint stamps, including three numbered strips. Evidently, many were used if Fowler was able to buy only 150.

Until these stamps were reported, the navy blue variety had been reported only from Plate 6.

Wayne Meyers
Flagstaff, Ariz.

In reply: Meyers enclosed a mimeographed news release from Richard Rush of Hagerstown, Md., who made the following finds of the navy blue stamps from Plate 6:

Date of find	Where found	PNCs	Total stamps
09/14/93	Insurance agency	1 (Note 1)	25
09/15/93	Church parsonage	2	70
09/17/93	Nonprofit Org.	1	38
11/15/93	2 private homes	0	28 (Note 3)
	TOTAL	4 (Note 2)	161

Note 1: Number was on end of strip

Note 2: Only 3 can be considered PNCs of 5 or longer

Note 3: An additional 69 stamps were acquired with this find. The stamps were from Plate 6, but have not been verified as navy blue.

No complete rolls were found, Rush said. All the stamps were bought, as near as can be determined, from the same post office. Attempts to find the stamps at the post office were in vain.

Rush advertised the stamps in Linn's at \$190 per stamp; \$3,500 for a numbered strip of 7; \$500 for a single with plate number, and \$150 for used singles on cover.

Comments on January issue

Page 3—Louis Fiset is correct. First of all, gum breakers have nothing to do with printing. They were applied by breaker bars on the electric-eye perforators. You could probably ask someone at BEP how many E-E perforators were still operating from 1981 to 1985, but it was certainly more than one.

There were several Cottrell presses running when the

Pedro's World of PNCs

by Pedro Ortegon, M.D.



"When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for a semiofficial agency to dissolve the bonds which have connected it to one people..."

"Mr. Rumyon, excellent memo, but I don't think you owe them any explanations!"

Great Americans began, and they were faster than the perforators.

We have seen changes in the breaker configuration, reflecting different breaker bars, bar angles, etc., on one or another E-E perforator since the beginning. During the Liberty Series era (mid 1950s to mid-1960s), you could also find panes without breakers simply from having been at the head end of a run when the perforator was being fed, before the breakers bar was engaged.

Page 6—It isn't true that most test coils were obtained "under the table." At least during the 1960s and 1970s, test coils were supplied with the coil-stamp affixers that post offices sold. You could also have them for the asking, just like a lot of other non-accountable postal paper (official seals, registry labels, etc.).

Page 15—Stamps are not destroyed when they are withdrawn. They are removed from philatelic sale and put into accountable paper, then sold at ordinary postal windows as needed until supplies are exhausted.

In answer to your question, "Is it possible that a plate made for the A Press could be used on the D Press?" Intaglio printing sleeves are not interchangeable between the A Press and the D Press.

Page 16—The (Cottrell press) stamps that show tagging breaks were perforated on electric-eye perforators, not L-perforators. On the E-E equipment, which perforated webs before they were sheeted out (as opposed to L-perforators, which perforated sheets), the web is fed only

once through, not twice. A break could be applied only in the direction of travel (as on the illustrated Schurz block), probably by a hold-down metal finger. Perhaps such a fitting was needed at the delivery end after the breaker bar was no longer in place.

Three different papers are not proof of three different press runs. Every web-fed press had a flying-paster feed system, allowing a new roll of paper (which could easily be a different type) to be spliced onto the end of the old one without stopping the press.

In reply: TPN was not implying the impossibility of a flying paste-up when it said that different papers prove different press runs. The fact is that the different papers had different time frames. Papers I and Ia were used before Papers II and IIa. Paper III came still later. That means that a printing on Papers I and III had an interval of several years between press runs.

Page 22—6¢ Lippmann stamps could not be used alone to prepay a higher presort rate. The only reason false franking was ever allowed prior to the current rate structure was to permit obsolete service-inscribed stamps to be used for the particular applicable service, so that the stamp's legend was also a proper endorsement. The illustrated cover is also an improper usage, unless it is endorsed "Authorized Nonprofit Organization" between the stamp and the address.

Ken Lawrence
State College, Pa.

More self-stick backings

I went through my self-stick stamps and can add some new information.

Different versions than reported by Jerry Clark:

25¢ Eagle Booklet A11111 ——— D (upside down, from UR to LL)

29¢ Eagle and Shield

B1111-2 ————— B (Upside down, from LR to UL)

B2222-2 ————— B

B4444-3 ————— B

D21221 ————— A (Right side up, from UL to LR)

29¢ Red Squirrel D22211 ————— D

Versions on numbers Clark did not report:

29¢ Eagle and Shield

B3434-3 ————— B

D32332 ————— A

D42342 ————— A

29¢ Red Squirrel

D22221 ————— D

D22222 ————— D

D23133 ————— D

29¢ Christmas ATM

V111-1111 ————— B

V222-1222 ————— B

V222-2112 ————— B

V222-2122 ————— B

29¢ Pine Cone ATM (all B)

B1, B2, B4, B5, B6, B7, B8, B10, B11, B12, B13, B15

Doug Iams
San Jose, Calif.

Numbers on self-stick coils

How can USPS claim that the plate number on the self-stick coils are for accountability? With only B1 for the Pine Cone and V1111111 on the Christmas coil, what is there to keep track of?

Doug Iams

In reply: We wondered about that, too. So we asked. The answer was almost obvious. There's only one number now, but with the trend toward self-stick stamps continuing, there may be more in the future.

Distributing Father Flanagan

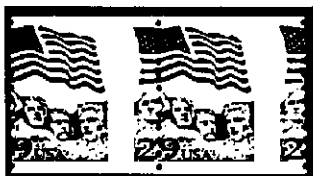
The writer of the following letter discovered that the "new, bluer color" on the reissued 4¢ Flanagan from Plate 2 had already been used on Plate 1. He also noted that there had been a reissue of Plate 2. TPN asked him how he knew.

You asked how I knew that the 4¢ Flanagan stamps I have are new reissues. The post office in Duluth, Minn., is a distribution center for numerous smaller post offices in the area. When the new stamp came out, I spoke with the postal employee responsible for stock, who informed me that he had recently received the stamps from regional distribution centers in Michigan and California.

The packets of stamps were dated April 1993, which, I was informed, was the date of the printing of the stamps.

I also have copies of the stamps from Plate 1 and Plate 2 from a dealer and have compared them with the stamps

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APS

BIA

I purchased, as well as with a plate block of the tagged original I have. The colors of the two reissues vary distinctly from that of the original issues, although the color of the Plate 2 stamp is more similar to the that of the original—all of which you are familiar with.

The notes I made when I talked to the postal employee show that the packets were stamped April 16, 1993, OZ-73 SE. The post office had received 250,000 from Englewood, Calif., and 50,000 stamps from Lansing, Mich.

A. Stanley Hietala
Tower, Minn.

More varieties on \$1 Hopkins, Plate 1

Here are some flaws on Plate 1 of the \$1 Hopkins. All are overall-tagged.

I have five copies of Flaw 1, which sometimes occurs on the same pane with Flaw 2. I have four copies of Flaw 2.

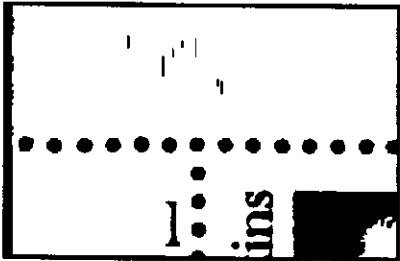
I have one copy of Flaw 3 and one copy of the flaw reported by Wayne Meyers in the January issue.

Mike Keller
Brooklyn, N.Y.



Flaw 1

Dot in margin of UR plate block. May appear alone or on same pane with Flaw 2.



Flaw 2

Series of faint vertical dashes above UL block. Resembles "Rain Crack" on 4.9¢ Buckboard.



Flaw 3

Small dot in margin of UR plate block, closer to plate number and perfs than Flaw 1.

In reply: Keller also sent in a LL plate block in which there is a blue vertical hairline from the bottom margin up to about the level of the "h" in "Johns." The line is at the extreme right of the LL block, between the first and second perforations from the right. It arrived too late for illustration.

Even better, Keller found a Self-Serve pack at a Store of the Future which was supposed to have 10 23¢ Mary Cas-

satt stamps. But he got 20 stamps, saying: "Who says stamp collecting is not profitable?"

Trumans not destroyed

It was suggested in the January *TPN* that the 20¢ Trumans withdrawn from sale several months ago were to be destroyed. I believe this is incorrect.

Per the Sept. 16, 1993, *Postal Bulletin*, the 20¢ Truman stamps were to be withdrawn from Philatelic Fulfillment in Kansas City (and presumably from other philatelic centers) on Sept. 20, 1993. They were, however, not to be destroyed. The bulletin directs that remaining stocks of the Truman stamp were to be placed "on sale at regular windows until exhausted." It is my belief that 20¢ stamps are needed as change-makers and that a reprint of the Truman stamps was needed because stocks of the earlier printings were running low.

Richard L. Beecher
Los Angeles

Creative journalism

You certainly exercised some creative journalism on Page 14 of the January *TPN*. It is a quantum leap to say I "...believe them (stamps described in the plate report as 'F Domestic Mail') to have been stamps that were never found by collectors," when I suggested the cylinders might have been made for a rejected design. I believe no such thing. Plates made in error don't go to press, and if through some monumental error they should, the stamps would not be released. Your statement implies both.

On further consideration my suggestion was a poor one because if the rejected inscription had been used, it would have affected only the black cylinder and would not be cause to set aside the entire set of four.

In that same article, you have a typographical error in the subject size for a White House Flag sleeve. You list it is as 832 when you meant 432. Typos are understandable, but why don't you translate those BEP half-sleeve counts to the real numbers? The C and D presses use subjects per sleeve of 864 and 960, depending on whether there are 18 or 20 rows. If you must quote the plate-activity reports so precisely, please do the same for your correspondents.

Alan Thomson
Northwood, N.H.

In reply: We do not translate the stated plate sizes because we can never be certain how to translate them. This was certainly true when BEP suddenly used 20-row plates in printing 18-row 20¢ Flags on the C Press.

We misunderstood Thomson's original comment about the F stamps and we do apologize.

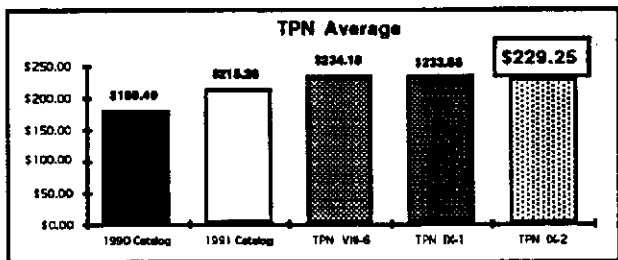
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The Plate Number
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⑤

3/21/94



Averages of dealers' recent E&S prices

Cat	PS/5	PS/3	Cat	PS/5	PS/3
11111	3.03	2.77	A43325	3.83	3.41
11111-impert (PS/5)	275.00	—	A43326	3.88	3.57
2221	3.19	2.94	A43334	3.15	2.88
22221-photos (error)	26.87	—	A43335	3.08	2.88
22222	2.94	2.74	A43420	4.51	4.41
A11111	2.01	2.00	A53335	3.59	3.47
A11112	2.86	2.60	A54444	3.92	3.68
A12213	20.75	19.77	A54445	3.83	3.68
A21112	2.91	2.60	A77777	3.04	2.88
A21113	4.17	3.87	A88888	3.04	2.88
A22112	2.86	2.60	A88889	3.61	3.26
A22113	2.78	2.52	A89888	3.33	3.15
A32333	228.00	228.00	A89889	3.67	3.34
A33333	4.57	4.39	A99988	3.13	2.99
A33334	85.52	86.41	A1010101010	3.14	3.00
A33335	4.54	4.36	A1011101011	3.33	3.08
A34424	4.66	4.67	A1110101010	2.88	2.68
A34426	4.41	4.04	S11111	3.08	2.88

Changes in components of the TPN Average

CAT	STAMP	PLATE	TPN IX-1	TPN IX-2	% Change
C29-1211	"F"	1211	\$31.75	\$31.54	-0.65%
M10-A33333	E&S	A33333	\$5.81	\$5.28	-8.35%
M19-A1112	Fishing	A1112	\$9.91	\$9.80	-1.18%
M19-A5555-ant	Fishing	A5555	\$11.58	\$10.74	-7.25%
M20-1	Consumer	1	\$218.09	\$215.43	-1.22%
M20-3	Consumer	3	\$139.41	\$128.01	-8.18%
O20-1	Official	1	\$70.53	\$70.51	-0.03%
O22-1	Official	1	\$86.63	\$86.89	+1.96%
F18-1	Flag	1	\$493.01	\$494.71	+0.86%
F18-3	Flag	3	\$1,147.85	\$1,124.13	-2.07%
F20-4	Flag	4	\$891.89	\$852.15	-4.46%
F20-11	Flag	11	\$12.20	\$11.87	-2.73%
F22-1	Flag	1	\$15.50	\$15.30	-1.34%
F22-3	Flag	3	\$63.01	\$60.95	-3.27%
F25-Block	Flag	5	\$5.08	\$4.80	-5.68%
F25-Photos	Flag	5	\$10.68	\$9.95	-6.89%
F29-1MR	Rushmore	1	\$5.28	\$5.16	-2.18%
F29-1WH	White House	1	\$5.21	\$5.13	-1.56%
T5-2	Trans	3	\$225.80	\$232.30	+2.92%
T5-2-4P-2L	Trans	4	\$15.48	\$16.34	+5.56%
T5-9-3P-LN	Trans	3	\$30.97	\$31.26	+0.93%
T5-9-4P-LN	Trans	6	\$101.20	\$100.38	-0.83%
T7-4-2	Trans	2	\$12.08	\$11.67	-3.33%
T8-4-3P	Trans	3	\$21.45	\$20.85	-2.79%
T9-3-1P-NO	Trans	1	\$18.23	\$18.18	-0.25%
T9-3-6	Trans	6	\$308.75	\$313.70	+1.60%
T9-3-8P-2L	Trans	8	\$220.86	\$217.83	-1.37%
T10-9-1P-LN	Trans	1	\$37.57	\$36.51	-2.82%
T10-9-4P-LN	Trans	4	\$406.33	\$404.80	-0.38%
T11-6	Trans	6	\$18.93	\$18.22	-3.77%
T11-6Pba-1L	Trans	6	\$54.02	\$53.15	-1.60%
T11-1	Trans	1	\$105.82	\$105.20	-0.59%
T11-3	Trans	3	\$84.97	\$84.88	-0.11%
T11-17	Trans	17	\$6.81	\$6.80	-0.17%
T20FP-1	Trans	1	\$189.84	\$186.20	-1.97%
T20FP-2	Trans	2	\$1,045.93	\$1,019.67	-2.51%
T20FP-7	Trans	7	\$188.47	\$186.20	-1.15%
T20FP-11	Trans	11	\$98.90	\$97.58	-1.33%
T20FP-12	Trans	12	\$10.44	\$9.98	-4.41%

PRICE WAR! Dale counters Dr. Rabinowitz' price cuts, drops TPN average 4 points

Dale Hendricks, who almost died of Legionnaires' disease recently and is still on oxygen, re-entered the PNC fray with a full-page ad in the Feb. 5 issue of *Stamp Collector* and a week later in *Linn's*.

Before his new prices were entered into the TPN data base, the TPN Average stood at 233.54, down 0.14 from the January issue. But Hendricks sent it plummeting to 229.25, continuing its decline since its high at 239.52 in November 1992.

The main impetus for the drop in the average was Dr. Robert Rabinowitz' change last summer to net pricing, dropping all discounts and lowering prices. He explained that it was an effort to get away from the labor-intensive calculating of the discounts.

Other dealers followed. Dale is the most recent, but his prices were among the highest in our survey. The cuts make him competitive.

The Dale ad cut some of his prices by as much as two-thirds, many by half. The price of the 18¢ Flag from Plate 3 dropped as PS/5 from \$995 to \$775; Plate 4 of the 20¢ Flag from \$800 to \$635, and Plate 1 of the 20¢ Consumers from \$190 to \$160.

Ed Denson's *PNC Market Briefing* for Dec. 1, 1993, disagreed with TPN's view that dealers' conversion to net pricing reduced the prices of PNCs. By his methodology, which includes 434 PNCs, prices rose 7% from his Oct. 1 compilation.

That, of course, was before the Dale bombshell hit.

How dealers arrange their price lists

On another matter, Denson received a complaint from a collector that he should list his PNCs by *Scott Catalogue* order.

So Denson compared dealers' price lists and found that only Henry Karen uses strictly Scott order. Apparently Denson does not get price lists from Craig Selig, who also lists in Scott order.

He notes that Dale and Charles W. Dickler "sort of" use Scott, but finds their lists difficult to use. All other dealers surveyed by Denson use either an order based on face value or group the stamps by series and then denomination.

"I find it especially interesting," he wrote, "that four of the dealers don't use Scott numbers at all. I find using those lists which are in Scott order extremely difficult because stamps with the same subjects don't have the same number. This means that what collectors regard as a natural sequence like the Stagecoaches or the Ambulances are broken up and hundreds of stamps intervene."

As you will note from the list of Eagle and Shield prices, strips with the numbers A34424 and A34426 are beginning to move up a hair. But prices have remained amazingly stable for the two biggest items, A32333 and A33334. Dale cut his price on the latter to \$65 and prices the former at "P.O.R." A call to his firm got a quote of \$195, "but we're out of them."

Also rising are strips from yellow Plate 1 with part of the plate number missing. The key strip in this group is A12213, which Dr. Rabinowitz is selling at \$195. The normal strip is \$19.

Dr. Rabinowitz' first 1994 price list (97A) again has lower prices for almost all common PNCs, but prices for some better items are up. Some examples:

Plate 3 of the 18¢ Flag is now \$850; Plates 3 and 4 of the 20¢ Consumer have moved to \$99 and a line gap strip of the 3.4¢ School Bus has climbed to \$295.

After long slumber, the se-tenant precancels of the 17¢ Electric Auto are also up, with the A-B typefaces on Plates 3 and 4 going to \$375 for a strip of 11. Also on the rise are many gap strips of the 17¢ precancels, with the 3L gap on Plates 5 and 7 going from \$35 to \$95 and 5L going from \$90 to \$145.

TRANSPORTATION COILS

FREE 2228A 4c Stagecoach, B Press, overall tagged on orders over \$100.00

	LP	PS3	PS5		LP	PS3	PS5		LP	PS3	PS5
1897 1c Bus 1, 2, 5, 6	.14	.21	.52	1905 11c Caboose 1	2.21	2.25	4.00	1895 20c Flag 8	3.82	3.92	12.80
3, 4	.84	.91	1.12	1905c PC 1	3.05	3.20	3.40	5, 9, 10, 13, 14	1.93	2.80	4.00
2225 1c B Press 1, 2	.32	.40	.72	Unassigned 2	.80	1.12	1.52	1895c PC 14	48.00	48.00	48.00
2225c unassigned 2	.80	1.00	1.20	2131 11c Shetr 1, 2	.44	1.12	1.52	0135 20c Official 1	7.35	17.50	56.00
NEW 14 C Press 3	.68	.72	.80	3, 4	.39	.98	1.52	2263 20c Cable Car 1, 2	2.60	3.00	3.60
1897A 7c Loco 3, 4, 8, 10	.25	.28	.54	2132 12c Showman 1, 2	1.52	1.60	1.80	2163 Overall tagged 2	2.60	3.00	3.60
2, 6	.48	.52	.80	2132a 12c PC 1, 2	2.00	2.20	2.40	2164 20.5c Fire Engine 1	2.60	3.00	3.20
2226 2c Loco B Press 1	.68	.72	.80	2132b 12c B Press PC 1	17.60	18.40	19.20	2285 21c Mail Car 1, 2	2.60	3.00	3.60
NEW 2c Loco C Press 2	.68	.72	.80	2133 12.5c Postcard 1, 2	1.84	1.94	2.60	2150 21.1c 111111	2.10	2.21	3.80
1898 3c Handcar 1, 2	.39	.44	.80	2133a PC 1, 2	3.12	3.20	3.60	111121	2.84	3.08	4.60
3, 4	.44	.44	.80	2250 13c Patrol Wagon 1	2.20	2.40	2.60	2150c 21.1c PC 111111, 111121	3.08	3.08	4.60
2252 3c Conestoga 1, 2	.64	.72	.80	2259 13.2c Coal Car 1, 2	2.20	2.40	2.60	2115 22c Flag 1, 7, 13	3.82	10.15	12.00
2123 3c School Bus 1, 2	.54	.80	1.00	2134 14c Caboose 1, 2, 3, 4	.98	1.68	2.00	3	8.40	11.20	48.00
2123a 3c PC 1, 2	7.20	7.60	8.00	2134b B Press 2	2.24	3.12	3.60	5, 6, 10	4.80	4.90	6.00
1898A 4c Coach 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1.60	1.80	2.00	2260 15c Engine 1, 2	2.00	2.24	2.40	14	20.40	20.80	21.60
1898Ab 4c PC 3, 4, 5, 6	7.20	7.60	8.00	2260c Overall tagged 2	2.80	3.04	3.20	2, 4, 8, 12, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 27	2.80	2.87	3.60
2228 4c B Press 1	.80	.96	1.00	2260e Overall tagged 2	3.20	3.52	3.80	11, 17, 18, 20	4.74	4.64	7.60
2228a overall tagged 1	15.20	15.60	16.00	2361 16.7c Popcorn 1, 2	1.28	2.17	2.72	2117 22c "D" Engine 1, 2	3.80	4.08	6.20
2451 4c Carriage 1	.80	.96	1.00	1906 17c PC Type A 3,4,5	13.60	14.00	14.40	0139 22c "D" Official 1	24.50	35.90	64.00
2451a same, unassigned	1.60	1.80	2.00	7	3.92	4.00	4.40	2464 23c Locom 2, 3 (Solid tag)	2.60	3.00	3.20
2124 4c Backboard 3, 4	.70	.74	1.44	1906a 17c PC Type A 3,4,5	3.92	4.00	4.40	3 month (Add or shiny)	2.60	3.00	3.20
2124a PC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1.60	1.80	2.00	Type A 6, 7	8.00	10.00	10.40	2407 23c Flag A111, 212, 222	2.60	3.00	3.20
1899 5c Mill Wagon 1	.80	.88	1.20	Type A 8, 9	11.20	11.20	11.20	A112	7.20	7.60	8.00
2253 5c Mill Wagon 1	.80	.88	1.00	Type B 3, 4	14.56	15.12	17.60	A122, 333	3.40	4.00	4.40
2452 5c Grass Wagon 1	1.28	1.48	1.60	Type B 5, 6	14.00	18.80	19.20	2408 23c USA	3.20	3.60	4.00
2452a unassigned 1	1.28	1.48	1.60	Type BA 5, 6	—	—	47.20	A111, 222, 2232, 2233, 3333, 4444	3.20	3.60	4.00
Some, general A1, A2, A3	1.28	1.48	1.60	Type C 1, 2	7.60	7.88	8.20	2408a BEP various 1111	2.80	3.20	3.60
2453 5c Cannon 1	.80	.88	1.00	Type C 3, 4	8.00	8.80	8.80	2408b 5111	2.80	3.20	3.60
2, 3	1.44	1.52	1.60	Type C 5, 7	16.80	17.60	18.40	2236 24.1c Vandalism 1	3.12	3.36	3.60
2454 general S11	1.60	1.65	1.75	2135 17c Dog sled 2	1.93	2.10	2.80	2136 25c Broad Wagon 1, 2, 3, 4	2.12	2.24	3.40
1900 5.2c Sleigh 1, 2	2.70	4.90	12.80	2262 17.5c Knorr 1, PC1	2.40	2.80	3.20	5	2.68	2.80	4.40
3	108.00	132.00	190.00	1907 18c Survey 1	42.70	72.00	76.00	2280 25c Yosemite	—	—	—
4	108.00	132.00	156.00	2, 5, 6, 8	1.84	2.80	3.60	Block 1, 7	5.60	6.40	7.20
1900a PC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	8.80	10.40	11.20	3, 4	24.50	60.00	62.40	Block 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	2.64	2.94	3.60
2254 5.3c Elevator 1	.92	.96	1.04	7	16.80	30.40	36.00	Block 9	8.00	8.80	9.60
2125 5.5c Star Truck 1	2.24	2.32	2.40	11, 12, 15, 16	7.44	12.80	13.20	Phs 1	38.40	39.20	40.00
2125a 5.5c PC 1	1.64	1.72	1.96	9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18	5.04	5.60	8.80	Phs 2-3, 7-11, 13-14	2.80	2.98	3.60
PC 2	2.08	2.24	2.40	1891 18c Flag 1	96.80	112.00	352.00	Phs 5, 15	4.80	5.60	6.40
1901 5.9c Bicycle 3, 4	2.94	6.37	14.80	2	13.72	20.58	36.00	Phs 6	11.20	12.00	12.80
1901a 5.9c PC 3, 4	15.40	25.60	26.00	3	288.80	290.00	800.00	2279 "E" Earth 1211	3.80	3.92	5.80
PC 5, 6	47.60	70.40	72.00	4	4.41	4.66	8.00	2222	4.00	4.40	4.80
2126 6c Bicycle 1	.84	1.20	1.28	5	2.45	3.29	4.40	1111, 1222	1.68	1.84	3.00
2126a PC 1	1.84	1.92	2.00	6	WANT	1,440.00	2,160.00	2281 25c Yosemite 1, 2	1.68	1.94	3.60
PC 2	6.04	6.92	7.00	7	28.60	26.99	31.20	1 Orig. full set	24.00	25.20	25.60
2127 7c Tractor 1	1.79	2.08	2.16	2149 18c Wink. 1112, 3333	1.93	2.10	2.80	2518 "F" (25c) Tolo	—	—	—
2127a PC 1	3.20	3.43	3.60	2149a 18c PC 3333 & add	3.20	3.60	4.00	1111, 1222, 2222	2.80	3.20	3.60
2127a PC 1 "ZF-4"	2.04	2.08	2.16	PC 11121, 43444	4.60	4.92	5.20	1211	31.20	31.60	32.00
1902 7.4c Baby Buggy 2	3.92	4.41	8.80	2529 19c Boat A1112, 1212	8.00	8.20	8.40	2211	6.40	6.80	7.20
1902a PC 2	4.00	4.40	4.80	A1111, 2424, 5555, 5556, 6647, 7667, 7766	—	—	—	2525 29c Flower S1111, 2222 SW	2.80	3.20	3.60
2255 7.6c Carole 1, 2	2.55	2.00	2.12	—	—	—	—	52222 (Post)	3.20	3.60	4.00
3	4.80	5.20	5.60	AS555 unassigned	2.60	3.00	3.60	2523 29c Mt. Rushmore	—	—	—
2128 8.3c Arbolwood 1, 2	.88	.98	1.80	1908 20c Pump 1	9.60	10.00	10.40	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7	2.80	3.20	3.60
2128a 8.3c PC 1, 2	1.00	1.12	1.80	2	4.41	27.65	136.00	6 on Lantz Paper	120.00	120.00	120.00
PC 3, 4	4.28	4.40	4.60	3, 4, 13, 15, 16	2.35	2.45	4.40	5, 8, 9	6.80	7.00	7.20
2231 Amb. B Press 1, 2	2.80	3.00	3.20	5, 9, 10	1.23	1.44	2.72	2523c 7 Inland Irons	120.00	120.00	120.00
2256 8.4c Wheelbarrow 1, 2	2.00	2.20	2.40	7, 8	100.10	100.80	120.00	2523a general A1111, A22211	2.80	3.20	3.60
3	19.20	19.60	20.00	12, 14 XF	11.20	12.32	18.40	2690 29c White House 1-14	3.60	4.00	4.40
2129 8.5c Tow Truck 1	2.10	2.45	3.20	12, 14	3.92	3.92	7.20	NEW Pine Cones self-stick 11	—	—	5.00
2129a PC 1	2.80	2.88	2.96	11	35.35	36.82	68.00	NEW Loco self-stick	—	—	5.00
2	10.40	10.80	11.20	2005 20c Consumer Ed. 1, 2	3.19	26.25	160.00	NEW Engine self-stick	—	—	5.00
1903 9.3c Mail Wagon 1, 2	4.41	4.90	12.00	3, 4	3.19	26.25	96.00	NEW Xmas PS/3 V1111111	—	—	6.00
3, 4	18.76	19.74	32.80	1895 20c Flag 1	3.92	6.40	68.00	2468 S1 Soups 1, 3	4.00	4.80	8.00
5, 6	107.80	256.00	260.00	2, 11, 12	5.29	7.00	9.60	Variable Rate Shield (RVN) per PS/5	—	—	30.00
1903a PC 1, 2	12.80	13.60	14.40	3	2.35	2.45	6.00	1c-18c	—	—	10.00
PC 3, 4	23.20	24.00	24.80	4	28.46	45.50	643.00	19c-29c	—	—	—
PC 5, 6	2.40	2.54	2.72	6	72.00	76.00	120.00	—	—	—	
PC 8	152.00	156.00	160.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
2257 10c Boat 1, block tag	1.04	1.12	1.20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Overall tag, full gum	3.20	3.60	4.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Photo-back, shiny gum 1, 2	2.40	2.56	2.80	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
2457 10c Tractor Trailer	1.94	1.12	1.20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
2604 (10c) Eagle Shield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
A1111, 11112, 21112, 22112, 22113, 43334, 43335, 53335, 77777, 88888, 89999, 99999, all 10s, 1110101010, 1011101011, 1110110101	2.64	2.72	2.80	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
A21113, 33333, 33335, 34424, 34426, 43324, 43325, 43326, 43426, 54444, 54445, 88889	3.80	3.88	4.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
A12213	20.00	20.00	20.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
A32333	180.00	180.00	180.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
A33334	85.00	85.00	85.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
2605 (10c) BEP 11111, 22221, 22222	2.64	2.72	2.80	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
2606 (10c) ERS SW S11111	2.64	2.72	2.80	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
2130 10.1c OH Wagon 1	1.12	1.47	2.50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
2130a Block PC 1, 2	2.00	2.12	2.50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
2130a Red PC 2, 3	2.04	2.12	2.20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1904 10.9c Horse 1, 2	6.37	11.20	28.80	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1904a PC 1, 2	10.40	26.40	26.80	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
3, 4	36.40	280.00	320.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

STAMPS 'N' STUFF WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD

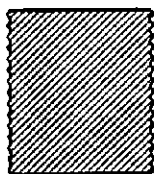
We will attempt to meet any major dealer's advertised current prices
TERMS: Payment with order. Prices subject to change without notice. U.S. postage taken in trade at 90%. Single plate number coils available at pair price minus one stamp. Average coils available on better items. Please send for list.
CONDITION: Fine-Very Fine, Never hinged. If you require XF, add 35% to list.

STAMPS 'N' STUFF

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Paper Type Identification Chart

Gum ridges



45°

Type I

No gum texture

Type Ia



Type II



Type IIa

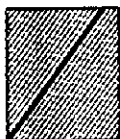
For illustrations of the gums on Type III, please refer to Page vi of the 1991 PNC Catalog.

No gum texture

Type IIIa

Subtle horizontal pattern visible in strip

Type IIIb



56°±

Type IIIc

No gum texture

Type IV

Type I

Paper Corp of the United States (PCUS). Paper from Miami Paper Corp. (now Cross Pointe Paper Corp.). Other suppliers never confirmed. Gummed by Nashua Corp.

Gum is characterized by diagonal gum ridges at about a 45° angle. All are alkaline. In longwave UV, Type I ranges from hi-brite to dull gray-purple. Type I paper, when back lit, shows a criss-cross pattern at a 20° angle, but some Type I stamps show no criss-cross.

Type Ia

A smooth-textured PCUS product found only on 18¢ Surrey (Plates 9, 10, 13, 14) and Consumer Education (Plates 1 and 2).

Type II

Eastern Fine Paper Corp. Gum has horizontal ridges ranging from nearly smooth (but still distinguishable) to distinct. When back lit, Type II paper has a criss-cross pattern running at a 45° angle. Paper is acidic, often making the stamps appear strange in shortwave UV because the acid reacts with the taggant. Paper II is yellow-brown in longwave UV, and is termed "dead" paper.

Type IIa

Same paper as Type II with unbroken, distinct ridges.

Type III

Glatfelter paper as first seen was gummed and supplied by L&CP Corp. (now known as Ivex Corp.). Paper face is very smooth. Backlighting shows no texture. Long-wave UV is dullish purple, sometimes with hi-brite fibers. Paper is alkaline. Gum texture varies from a stippled appearance to intersecting horizontal waves.

Type IIIa

Glatfelter paper actually predating Type III in manufacture, but discovered later. Supplied by Frank Parsons Paper Co. under a brief BEP contract (July to November 1985). Gum applied by Paper Manufacturers Co. is uniformly smooth and yellowish when compared to Type III.

Type IIIb

Glatfelter paper meeting the changed specifications of March 1989 for LP-40 paper. Gum required better adhesion and is still smoother than Type III but still has a subtle horizontal orientation. Long, slightly bending horizontal gum patterns can be best seen in a strip of several stamps than in a single stamp.

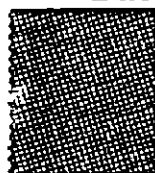
Type IIIc

A new PCUS product using Glatfelter paper and Nashua gum. Gum ridges are generally subtler than Type I and at a steeper 56° angle.

Type IV

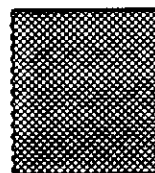
Smooth-gummed surface-coated phosphor paper with uniformly smooth appearance in shortwave UV. [TPN note: This is surface-coated, satin-finish-gum phosphored paper.] Found only on

Back lit



20°

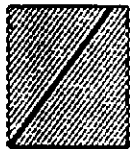
Type I



45°

Types II and IIa

This chart originally appeared in Kim Cuniberti's price list of PNCs by paper type. It was developed by Cuniberti in collaboration with Richard J. Nazar.



Type Vn

Plates 2 and 3 of the 23¢ Lunch Wagon.

Type Vn

Diagonal gum ridges (like Type I or Type III.) Embedded phosphor (mottled or snowy) in shortwave UV. Found only on Plate 3 of the 23¢ Lunch Wagon.

EPG Paper

This is the first Flag paper we have named. It has tagging that appears mottled and glossy gum, hence Embedded Phosphor,

USPS switches contractors; ABN (printer of E&S) is out

By Dr. Robert Rabinowitz and Stephen G. Esrati

Four private printers were awarded contracts Jan. 6 to print stamps for the Postal Service.

Not included was American Bank Note Co. (ABN), which has printed everything from undenominated Eagle and Shield bulk mail stamps to next year's "G" stamps. Its contract expired Dec. 31 and it is expected to print its last stamps by April 1, a USPS official said.

Also left out was U.S. Banknote Co., which printed the 1992 Love stamps.

The Postal Service announced the new five-year contracts Jan. 11.

The winning bidders are:

- Ashton-Potter America, Inc., in Amherst, N.Y.—\$125.7 million for offset and offset/intaglio stamps with water-activated gum.

- Avery Dennison Corp. in Clinton, S.C.—\$14.3 million for self-stick stamps.

- Banknote Corp. of America in New York City—\$116.7 million for intaglio, offset, offset/intaglio stamps with water-activated gum and for self-stick stamps. These will be produced at its plant in Suffern, N.Y.

- Stamp Venturers of Chantilly, Va.—\$73.4 million for self-stick as well as stamps with water-activated gum. USPS officials said the firm would produce the stamps at the plants of its partners, J.W. Fergusson & Sons of Richmond, Va., and KCS Industries in Milwaukee. The Postal Service did not mention Stamp Venturers' own plant in Ogdensburg N.Y.

Winners of contracts to print ATM self-stick stamps will be announced soon.

USPS officials said BEP would continue to be its prime supplier.

Loss greatest to ABN

The loss is greatest to ABN, which also printed the new variable-rate coils vended by Paramax (Unisys) machines near Washington, D.C.

Unlike the variable-rate stamps printed by BEP for ECA-GARD machines, the ABN

stamps have vertical orientation with the plate numbers at the bottom. BEP's stamps were printed sideways with the plate numbers at the left side of the stamps.

ABN's Eagle and Shield stamps, printed by Guilford Gravure of Guilford, Conn., have been among the best-selling of recent coil stamps since they were intended to pay the freight for all bulk mail other than first class or nonprofit.

At the time of this writing, the firm had produced 31 different plate-number combinations. The E&S stamps were also produced by BEP and Stamp Venturers in slightly altered design and colors.

The Stamp Venturers product was only in rolls of 10,000. BEP has produced rolls of 500 and 3,000. ABN has produced all three sizes.

Guilford is another loser

Guilford Gravure, an independent company, is another victim of the shift in USPS contracts. But it may pick up work from the winning contractors, just as Fergusson once did from ABN.

Also produced by ABN was the 19¢ Fishing Boat coil for post cards and the 23¢ USA coil for first-class mail.

Early Fishing Boats were printed by Multi-Color Corp. of Scottsburg, Ind., which used a Schiavi press with a plate-number interval of 36. ABN later shifted the contract to Guilford, which used an Andreotti Press with an interval of 24.

The USA stamps were also printed by BEP and Stamp Venturers.

Parent firm went belly-up

Ashton-Potter (AP), a Canadian-owned firm, went bankrupt in Canada last year, forcing Canada Post to award 45% of its stamp-printing business to Leigh-Mardon Security Printing, Ltd., of Australia.

After bankruptcy, a Toronto conglomerate, MDC Corp., bought AP's print shop in Amherst, just outside Buffalo. That's the "American" side of the former AP.

The Amherst plant was set up after Congress complained about the printing of the

29¢ Warren stamp in the Great American Series by Canadian Bank Note Co. (CBNC), acting as subcontractor for Stamp Venturers.

A spokesman for Canada Post said it did not want to give the entire printing contract to CBNC out of fear that "we don't want to be in the same position as we were with Ashton-Potter" when its bankers put it into involuntary bankruptcy, leaving Canada Post in dire straits. AP owed \$13 million when a bank called its \$9 million loan.

Stock of loser tumbles

U.S. Banknote, the only company among the losers that is publicly traded, lost \$1.37 of its \$6 value in delayed, heavy trading on the New York Stock Exchange on Jan. 6 when it announced the loss of its stamp-printing contract.

The company told the Reuters news service that the lost contract would reduce earnings 15¢ a share and cost it \$24 million of its estimated 1994 income of \$200 million.

That would indicate that ABN, which had a much larger percentage of the stamp-printing business, stands to lose much, much more.

A spokesperson for ABN cited the "gag order" from the Postal Service for declining to speak with TPN. "I'm not allowed to talk to you," she said.

Banknote Corp. of America has a recent history of plate-number proliferation. □

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

◆ (216) 561-9393

Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive Stamps 101: A Refresher Course

The following information is from the January 1994 issue of Information from...., the monthly newsletter of the Stamp Acquisition and Distribution Branch, which is intended as an internal publication of the Postal Service.

The "I" referred to by the writer is not identified.

While this information is not about the coil stamps being sold only by the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center, it also applies to coils. Item numbers given here, however, are not for the coil stamps.

Now that self-adhesive stamps have become a popular and growing part of the stamp program, it is essential to define some of the commonly used terms associated with these stamps. This will reduce unnecessary confusion and ensure that we are all talking on the same wave length when we speak about these products. I have grouped the discussion into three categories: 1) terminology, 2) product types, and 3) questions raised by consumers with regard to environmental impact of these stamps.

"We expect self-adhesive stamps in coils, for both household users and for business mailers, to be available in 1995."

1.) Definition of terms

What is in a name? You will often hear different terms used to define or name these stamps, such as "no-lick," "self-adhesive," "pressure-sensitive adhesive," "self-stick," and "peel-and-stick" stamps, among many others. The name that is most correct from the technical point of view is "pressure-sensitive adhesive," or PSA stamps for short. However, since the Postal Service does not want to be too technical or inflict unnecessary punishment on its customers to use a tongue twister name like that, the Postal Service prefers the name "Self-adhesive" stamps, and that name is printed on the back of the booklets and sheetlets that we currently sell.

Is It a Booklet or a Sheetlet? Another term that often causes confusion is whether the self-adhesive stamps are *booklets* or *sheetlets*. Well, it depends! We currently sell two types of self-adhesive stamps. The first type is the regular self-adhesive stamps such as the Eagle and Shield (Item #5540), the Pine Cone (Item #6690), the Rose (Item #6694), the Red Squirrel (Item #6688) and the 1993 Contemporary Christmas (Item #6689), which featured four stamp designs including a reindeer, a snowman, a jack-in-the-box and a soldier. These self-adhesive stamps are classified as booklets, or convertible booklets (since the customer can remove the middle peel strip and fold them into a booklet). Hence, they are given item numbers that identify them as booklets [TPN note: Numbers in the 6000 series], since these self-adhesive booklets are primarily competing against the regular gummed or lick-and-stick booklets. The other type of self-adhesive stamps, which are strictly designed for sale through automatic teller machines (ATMs), is called ATM stamps, and are designated as sheetlets, to differentiate them from the above category, even though both types are the same in terms of pane dimensions and both have the peel strip in the middle. Therefore, the ATM stamps are given item numbers which identify them as sheetlets [TPN note: Numbers in the 5000 series]. Examples of these stamps are Liberty Torch (Item #5538), 1992 Christmas Toy Train (Item #5541), and the 1993 Snowman (Item #5528).

2.) Product Types

The self-adhesive stamps are now available in the form of convertible booklets which are available for sale at all post offices, and the ATM sheetlets which are designed for sale through bank ATMs and at philatelic centers only. Because only a limited number of banks currently are selling the ATM stamps, these stamps are distributed to the APDs (Postal Service distribution centers) that serve the cities where the participating banks are located only, rather than a nationwide distribution. Thus, it is imperative that all employees who work at APDs know that ATM stamps should not be distributed for sale over the counter at post offices. In the near future, we will improve our package labeling

to ensure that our employees can easily distinguish between regular self-adhesive booklets which are for distribution to all post offices, and self-adhesive ATM sheetlets, which are for sale only through bank ATMs and philatelic centers. We expect self-adhesive stamps in coils, for both household users and for business mailers, to be available in 1995.

Another question that comes up frequently is why are the ATM sheetlets so much thinner than the self-adhesive booklets. Some customers even write occasionally to accuse us of being cheap, and hence making the thin stamps to save on paper costs. In reality, the ATM stamps cost us much more to manufacture than the regular self-adhesive booklets. They are engineered to very high dimensional and surface property tolerances to ensure they can [be] dispensed through all major ATM equipment banks use without any failure. Thus, the ATM stamps have to be the same dimensions, thickness and similar surface properties as those of a U.S. dollar bill. That is why they are thinner than the regular self-adhesive booklets.

3.) Environmental Impact of Self-adhesives

Some customers occasionally ask about the environmental impact of the self-adhesive stamps. Most of the questions relate to the throwaway liner (or backing), which some consumers consider as creation of more waste; others believe, erroneously, that the liner is made of plastic and cannot be recycled. In fact, the liner material for our self-adhesive stamps is made of paper and not plastic; moreover, this paper liner is recyclable with normal office waste, such as copier machine paper and business envelopes, unlike most of the commercial consumer labels that are currently available in the market. Thus, while the backing or throwaway liner may appear to be a wasteful idea, in reality it serves to afford extra protection for the self-adhesive stamps and eliminates the need for further packaging. As an example, a booklet of the traditional lick-and-stick stamps is manufactured with the stamps attached to a folded cover which is then sealed with adhesive to protect the stamps. This not only increases the cost of manufacturing, but it also uses more paper and adhesive, or sealant, for closure, and the booklet cover is thrown away after the stamps are used up just like the throwaway liner of self-adhesive stamps. Thus, from the material balance point of view, the self-adhesive stamps are not any more wasteful of resources than the traditional stamps, or in layman's terms, you do not have to kill more forests to make self-adhesive stamps!

KIM CUNIBERTI, APS

SOME IMPORTANT VARIETIES

LONG WAVE UV VARIETIES ON TRANSPORTATIONS

Periodically over the past seven years I have noted references to "high bright" varieties on PNC's when viewed under Long Wave UV light. On the Cottrell Press issues this type of reaction seems to have appeared in the last year or so before the press was taken out of use in 1985. Similarly, some examples also popped up on the "B" Press in this same time frame. With the exception of the 4.9 Buckboard #3 & 4, all of these varieties seem to be much less common and in some instances scarce. While seeking these strips I also noted the opposite extreme: the "dead" papers. While this "dead" look (previously known as the only reaction of Type II paper (Eastern Fine product), I also found two distinctly different "dead" reactions on type I paper, the same paper that all the "high brights" are on. Some of these are likewise less common with the bulk of most PNC's falling in a generally mediocre range of relative intensity. Below is my offering of what I've been able to secure. The "high brights" are, by the way, electric, knock-your-socks-off, super white examples.

	Hi-brite	Dead (cream/yellow)	Dead (tan/brown)
3.4 P/C 1,2	12.00	8.00	12.00
4.9 P/C 3,4	2.00		5.00
	5.6		10.00
8.3 P/C 1,2	5.00	4.00(#1 only)	4.00
	"low 1"		15.00
10.1 P/C 1	15.00		2.75(Type II)
10.9 P/C 1,2	45.00(6vf only)		N/A
12 P/C 1,2	6.00		N/A
12.5 P/C 1	12.00		3.00(Type II)

LONG WAVE UV VARIETIES ON RECENT FLAG ISSUES

	Hi Brite	Dull	Dead
29 Rush Flag 4	4.00	4.00	
5	4.00		7.50
6	4.00		
7	4.00		12.00
29 Whitehawk 2		4.50	4.50
3		4.50	4.50
4		4.50	4.50
5		4.50	4.50
6		4.50	4.50
7		4.50	4.50
10.11.12.13	4.50		4.50

A FEW GOOD PAIRS

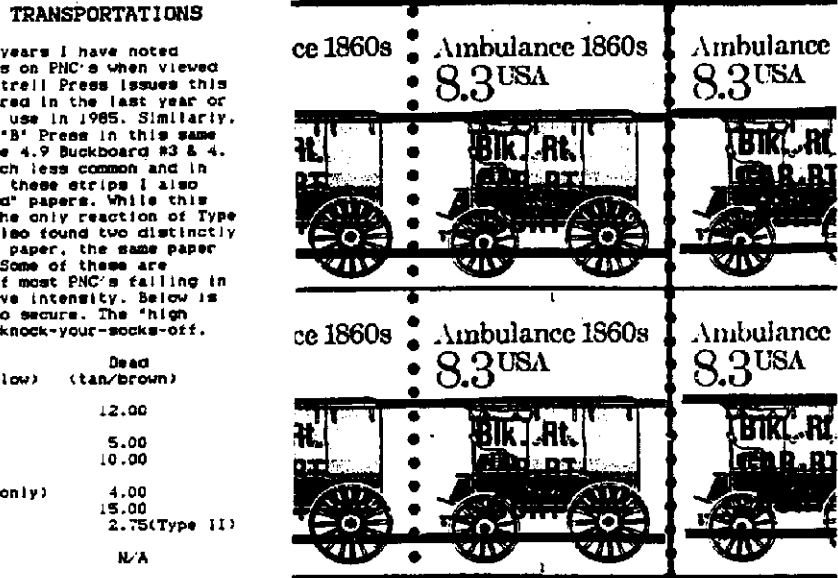
	VF	XF
2280 GREY TREES \$ 25 (from #9 bik tag)	\$ 30	
2281 Untagged Bee	35	45
2260 Untagged Tug	15	20
2523 Toledo Brown	5	6
2523 same w. top of 20 Geo's head missing (from lavish #1 roll)	25	
1895 Impert-miscut (2-mm flag at bottom)	25	30
Set of all six	100	125

UNTAGGED ERRORS

2260 15c PS7 FVF only:	\$ 175
2201 25c PS5 VF	250

WELL CENTERED "TOLEDO BROWN" #7:

	VF, XF	XF
PS5	\$ 160	\$ 210
PS7	190	220
PS10	200	230



8.3 AMBULANCE with the LOW ENTRY PLATE # 1

these strips are from matched rolls cut from each other directly from the printed web. Under magnification the paper fibers match. The enlarged copy above shows the Low 1 captured whole at the top of the lower strip with the normal 1 whole at the bottom. The top strip results in a no # strip without being miscut. A striking rarity! One of each set of 2 strips listed below is available:

	Fine	XF (enlarged above)
	\$ 125	\$ 195 (PS 10)

Near misses (top of Low 1 clipped and just showing at bottom of mate):

	FVF	VF	XF
Line Gap	\$ 45	\$ 55	\$ 65
Gap 2L	50	60	70

**** SCARCE !!! "LENZ" PAPER # 2 ****
One VF PS7 available: \$ 625



PS5 - 10.9 P/C # 2 with low entry at 2L
FVF \$ 65 VF \$ 75 XF \$ 90

LIGHTHOUSE PORTABLE UV LAMPS:

L80 Longwave (for paper types)	\$ 15.95
L85 Shortwave (for tagging)	32.95
special short wave filter	37.95

Add \$ 1.50 for shipping one lamp, \$2.50 for both.

Deeduct 10% off lamp price with \$50 order, 20% with \$100 order.

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Flavored gum? Religiously correct gum? We stick to the issues

Information from..., the monthly newsletter from the Stamp Acquisition and Distribution Branch, continues to be humorous while handling serious subjects. The following is the complete text of a recent issue about gum. Even the most experienced collectors should learn something from it, and still manage a smile here or there:

Frequently, we receive inquiries with regard to the nature of postage stamp glues, what they are made of, whether the glue has animal blood, horse hooves, chicken feathers, or a myriad of other exotic (or weird, depending on your taste) substances. Some of the health-conscious Yuppies who seem to be fascinated with counting calories ask about the number of calories consumed each time they lick a stamp!

First, to put all superstitions to rest, the glue used with postage stamps has no animal blood, horse hooves, chicken feathers or any other ingredient that is banned by any religion or government or safety regulation. As for the calorie content, it is only a tempest in a teapot, as illustrated below:

The glue is coated on the stamp paper at 16-18 grams per square meter (which is equivalent to 0.001 ounces per square inch, which is the dimension of a typical stamp). As you can plainly see, there is not a whole lot of glue to consume or worry about in terms of calories even if you assume that the whole glue coating somehow comes off and is ingested (no wonder we get all these complaints about stamps falling off envelopes from these people).

We use two types of adhesives on our water-activated postage stamps. One is a mixture of dextrin and resin and the other is simply dextrin. Dextrin is a gummy substance made from starch. The starch base used for stamp adhesives is obtained primarily from corn and sometimes potatoes. The resin portion of the adhesive is obtained from plant material. Occasionally, a small quantity of a food-grade yellow dye is added to the adhesive formulation to give it a slightly yellowish color to alert the customer to the presence of an adhesive coating on the back side of the stamp. No other additives are mixed with the dextrin or resin components.

As required by law, these additive formulas have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration as being food-grade products which are safe for human consumption.

We also occasionally receive suggestions from customers who inquire why don't we provide stamps with different glue flavors such as vanilla, strawberry, chocolate, and so on. We have declined to add flavoring to stamp adhesives for the following reasons:

First, our additives must be approved by the FDA. Any change in our present formulation may jeopardize its approval for use. Further, if any flavor additive that is added to improve stamp glue taste may cause problems with some of our customers who may be allergic to some common food additives such as flavors or colorants.

Secondly, since no one flavor is likely to please or satisfy all our customers, it will necessitate the use of a wide range of flavors which would make it difficult and costly for the Postal Service to decide what kind of flavor to use with each of many stamp designs issued each year. We have, therefore, chosen a stamp adhesive that is as neutral in taste as possible.

While we regret that some customers do not like the taste of the present adhesive, adding flavoring would create a greater problem. Also, for the convenience of those customers who do not like the taste of the glue of the traditional lick-and-stick stamps, the Postal Service has issued self-adhesive stamps, in several different designs, which are now available in all post offices nationwide. The self-adhesive stamps are not affected by humidity, have long shelf-life, and adhere more tenaciously to different envelope substrates when properly applied.

Ghosts of the Sepoy Uprising of 1857

The questions about the ingredients used in stamp gum have a serious undertone that the Postal Service only hints at when it said stamp gum contains no "ingredient that is banned by any religion." In 1857 native soldiers of the British army in India re-

belled (the Sepoy Uprisings) because the British had issued cartridges covered in grease made from animal fats. Cow fat was taboo for Hindu soldiers; pork fat to Moslem soldiers. There are people in the United States of those two and many other religions who have religious objections to certain foods. The Postal Service can only be commended for being sensitive to their beliefs.

Gum contains no animal blood, horse hooves or chicken feathers and it is not fattening. But flavors are a no-no.

Mint flavor proves forgery

The new people in the Postal Service may not know it, but flavored gums have been used by USPS since about 1984, according to Ken Lawrence.

"When the Postal Service did a survey and found that people prefer Flag stamps, they actually stacked the deck," Lawrence said. "Only the Flag stamps were mint flavored; all others were not. Obviously, any secretary who has to lick a lot of stamps would have

preferred the Flag stamps."

Lawrence also pointed to an instance when precanceled 20¢ Flags were turning up forged on tagged stamps. At that time he advised collectors to taste the gum. Precancels were gummed with unflavored dextrin, the tagged stamps had mint gum. Therefore, mint gum on a precancel was a sure way to determine forgery.

Should collectors collect stamps as distinct varieties if they have different flavors? "If the only way to tell them apart is destructive," Lawrence said, "collectors tend not to collect them, although in the case of those German stamps with sulfuric acid in the gum, they had to remove the gum to preserve the stamps."

Lawrence said the excuse that USPS would have to get each flavor approved by the FDA doesn't hold water because the FDA has approved flavors for almost every use, so it would not be necessary to get them reapproved just for use in gum.

There's news in it, too

It really pays to pick up *Information from...*

In November it said the 3¢ Conestoga Wagon reprints (Item 7763) would be delivered in the fourth accounting period. Starting on Oct. 1, accounting periods run four weeks. So the fourth period would be January. This should be a stamp off the C Press with a 48-stamp interval between plate numbers.

It also re-emphasized that BEP is now printing 10¢ Eagle and Shield stamps, meaning that post offices can order from BEP and their area distribution centers, something they cannot do for E&S stamps printed by private contractors. (E&S stamps with the numbers 2222 were found in early January by Richard Cook.)

SADB reported that BEP had had a problem with the reprinting of the 23¢ Cassatt (Item 1043) and delivery was delayed from October to November. Henry Karen of Michael M. Karen Inc. put the shiny-gum, embedded (mottled) tagging Cassatts on sale in November, but it was impossible to obtain them from the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center until January.

ABN was to deliver 19¢ Fishing Boats (Item 7718 for rolls of 500 and Item 7719 in rolls of 3,000) in November. Dr. Robert Rabinowitz found two new plate-number combinations in December.

And there's news in what it omits

Ken Lawrence says, "If the only gum now in use is dextrin (or

Check these prices

PNC⁵ 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 10) is good through May 15, 1994. Prices are for VF PS/5. Deduct 10% for PS/3 or Fine; add 25% for XF.

1c Omnibus 1, 2, 5, 6	.40
3,4	.50
B Press 1, 2	.55
B Press Untagged 2	.50
C Press 3	.50
2c Locomotive 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10	.50
B Press 1	.60
C Press 2	.60
3c Handcar 1, 2, 3, 4	.70
3c Conestoga Wagon 1	1.00
2 Untagged	1.00
3,4c School Bus 1, 2	1.00
PC 1, 2 (1R, No Gap)	5.00
4c Stopcoach 1, 2, 3, 4	1.00
5, 6 (VF, Poor only .50)	1.50
PC 3, 4 (1L, 2L)	6.50
PC 3, 4 (Line Gap)	10.75
PC 5, 6 (1L, 2L)	6.50
PC 5, 6 (Line Gap)	10.75
Same, B Press 1	1.00
Overall tagged 1	14.00
4c Steam Carriage 1	1.00
Untagged	1.00
4,9c Buckboard 3, 4	.90
PC 1, 2 (1R, No Gap)	1.80
PC 3, 4 (2L, 1L)	1.65
PC 3, 4 (Line Gap)	2.00
PC 5, 6 (2R, PS/7)	1.75
PC 5, 6 (No Gap)	1.75
PC 5, 6 (1R)	7.50
PC 5, 6 (3L, PS/7)	7.50
PC 5, 6 (2L)	1.75
5c Motorcycle 1, 2, 3, 4	1.00
5c Milk Wagon 1	1.00
5c Circus Wg. 1, wnt. 1,	
A1, A2, A3	1.50
5c Cannon 1, 2, 3	1.50
Grassrod 511	1.25
5,2c Sleigh 1, 2	8.50
3	240.00
5	170.00
PC 1, 2 (No Gap)	12.00
PC 3, 5 (No Gap)	14.00
PC 4, 6 (2L)	13.00
PC 4, 6 (No Gap)	20.00
5,3c Elevator 1	1.00
5,5c Star Route Truck 1	1.75
PC 1	1.50
PC 2	4.00
5,9c Bicycle 3, 4	15.00
PC 3, 4 (No Gap)	25.00
PC 5, 6 (Line Gap)	80.00
6c Tricycle 1, rag or PC	1.50
PC 2	8.00
7,1c Tractor 1	3.00
PC 1	3.50
PC 1 "21P+4"	2.00
7,4c Baby Buggy 2	9.00
PC 2	5.00
7,4c Carrot 1, 2	2.50
3	6.50
8,3c Ambulance 1, 2	1.50
PC 1, 2 (2L, 1L, Line)	2.00
PC 3, 4 (No Gap, PSB)	8.00
PC 3, 4 (1R)	5.75
B Press, 1	3.25
2	5.00
8,4c Wheelchair 1, 2	2.00
3	13.00
8,5c Tow Truck 1, rag or PC	2.50
PC 2	11.00
9,3c Mail Wagon 1, 2	12.50
3, 4	33.00
5, 6	250.00
PC 1, 2 (2L, No Gap)	20.00
PC 3 (2R, No Gap)	75.00

PC 4 (1R, 2L)	45.00
PC 4 (Line Gap)	20.00
PC 5, 6 (2L, No Gap)	3.00
PC 8	180.00
10c Canal Boat 1 (block tag)	1.50
1 overall tag (dull gun) F-VF	3.50
1 overall tag (dull gun) XF	5.00
1, 2 phase shiny gun F-VF	3.50
10c Tractor trailer 1	2.00
(10c) Eagle, Shield	
A11111, A11112, A21112, A21113	
A22112, A22113, A33333, A33335,	
A43324, A43325, A43326, A43334,	
A43335, A43426, A53335, A54444,	
A54445, A77777, A88888, A89999,	
A99999, A101010101, A110101010	
A101101011, A1110111010	2.75
S11111, 11111, 22221	2.75
22221 phosphored (error)	30.00
A34424, A34426	5.00
A12213	29.00
A32333	200.00
A33334	85.00
10,1c Oil Wagon 1	2.50
PC 1, 2 (No Gap)	2.50
PC 2 (In Gap)	3.50
Rail PC 2, 3	2.50
10,9c Hansom Cab 1, 2	28.00
PC 1, 2 (Line Gap)	30.00
PC 1, 2 (1R)	60.00
3, 4 (Line Gap) (PS/3 only)	250.00
11c Caboose 1	3.50
PC 1	1.00
Untagged PC 2	2.00
11c Stutz 1, 2, 3, 4	2.00
Rail PC 2, 3	2.00
12c Steamer 1, 2	2.00
PC 1, 2 (No Gap, Line Gap)	2.50
B Press PC 1	20.00
12,5c Pushcart 1	2.65
2	4.50
PC 1 Light olive, 11c	2.78
PC 1 Dark olive, 11c	3.00
PC 2	5.00
13c Patrol Wagon 1	2.50
13,2c Coal Car 1, 2	2.50
14c Iceboat 1, 2, 3, 4	2.00
14c Iceboat B Press 2	3.00
15c Tugboat 1	2.00
Overall 2, Block 2	3.00
16,7c Popcorn 1, 2	3.00
17c Auto 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2.00

6	12.00
7	5.00
PC 1C, 2C (F only)	6.00
PC 3A, 4A (2L, 1L)	3.50
PC 3A, 4A (Line Gap)(Low)	10.00
PC 3A, 4A (No Gap)	3.50
PC 3B, 4B (No Gap)	22.00
PC 3C, 4C (No Gap)	7.00
PC 3C, 4C (1R, Line Gap)	7.00
PC 3BA, 4BA (PS/10)	23.00
PC 5A (1L, 2L, No Gap)	5.00
PC 5B, 6B (1L, Line Gap)	18.25
PC 5AB, 7AB (PS/9)(5R)	13.00
PC 6A (1L, 2L)	13.00
PC 5C, 7C (No Gap)	24.00
PC 7A (No Gap)	12.00
17c Dogled 2	3.00
17,5c Racer 1, rag or PC	3.00
18c Survey 1	76.00
2, 5, 6, 8, 17, 18	3.00
3, 4	63.75
7	30.00
9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16	12.50
13, 14	5.50
18c Flag 1	450.00
2 PS/5	45.00
2 PS/3	20.00
4	7.00
5	4.00
7	30.00
18c Wash. 1112, 3333	3.00
PC 11121	6.00
PC 33333	3.00
PC 33333 (dull gun, tagged)	5.75
PC 43444	7.00
19c Fishing Boat	
A1112	6.00
A1212, 1111, 2424, 5555, 5556, 6667	
7667, 7766	4.00
A5555 Untagged	10.00
20c Fire Pumper 1 PS/5	175.00
1 PS/3	50.00
3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16	4.50
7, 8 (PS/5 F-VF only)	160.00
12, 14	8.00
6	35.00
11 PS/5	75.00
11 PS/3	29.00
20c Consumer Ed. 1, 2 PS/5	150.00
1, 2, 3, 4 PS/3	25.00
3, 4 PS/5	95.00

20c Flag 1 PS/5	70.00
1 PS/3	4.25
2, 11, 12	8.00
3	5.00
4 PS/3 only	33.50
5, 9, 10, 13, 14	4.00
4 PS/5	125.00
6 PS/3	69.00
8 PS/5	12.00
8 PS/3	3.00
12	7.50
PC 14	50.00
20c Official 1 PS/5	57.00
1 PS/3	11.00
20c Cablo Car 1, 2 (block)	3.00
Overall tagged 2	5.00
20,5c Fire Engine 1	3.00
21c Rail Car 1, 2	3.00
21,1c 111111, plain and PC	3.00
111121 plain and PC	5.00
22c Flag 1, 7, 13 PS/5	14.00
1, 7, 13 PS/3	10.00
3 PS/5	48.00
3 PS/3	11.00
14	30.00
2, 8, 12, 15, 16, 19, 22, 21	3.00
4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 17, 18, 20, 21	5.50
(22c) "D" Eagle 1, 2	7.00
(22c) "D" Official 1 PS/5	64.00
1 PS/3	32.50
23c Launch Wg 2, 3 (solid tag)	3.50
3 (mottled, dull or shiny)	3.50
23c Pressed A111, 212	3.50
A222 fat middle 2	3.50
A222 thin middle 2	4.00
A112, 122, 333	4.50
23c USA A111, A2222, 1111	4.00
S111	4.50
A2232, A2233, A3333, A4444	4.50
24,1c Tandom 1	3.50
25c Broad Wagon 2, 3, 4	3.50
1, 5	4.00
25c Yosemite	
Block 1, 7, Phos 5, 15	6.00
Block 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	3.50
Block 9	9.00
Phos 1	40.00
Phos 6	12.00
Phos 2-3, 7-11, 13-14	3.50
(25c) "E" Earth 1211, 2222	4.25
1111, 1222	2.50
25c Honeybee 1, 2	3.50
1 Orig. full sail	20.00
(29c) "P" Tulip	
1111, 1222, 2222	3.50
1211	20.00
2211	5.00
29c Flower S1111, S2222	5.00
S11	5.00
S2222 (Perforated)	5.00
29c Mt. Rushmore Flag	
1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7	3.50
7 Toledo brown VF PS/3	127.50
5, 8	6.00
9	15.00
A11111, A22211	5.00
29c White House Flag 1-14	4.50
29c WWM 1 (29c PS/5) (dull)	9.00
29c WWM 1 (29c PS/5) (shiny)	8.00
29c Pine Cone PS/5, B1	4.50
29c Xmas, PS/B Y11111111	5.00
29c Love PS/5 B1	4.50
29c Eagle PS/5 111	4.50
51 Soapstone 1, 3	8.00

All stamps are guaranteed genuine and (unless otherwise noted) in VF condition. All stamps may be returned (within 30 days) for a complete refund, no questions asked. Some strips may be in limited supply. For XF, please add 25%.

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

STEPHEN G. ESRATI

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New 2¢ Locomotives out, but they're not tagged for the DAV

Continued from Front Page

What DAV needs

DAV, still using multiple frankings on its return envelopes, is currently using five untagged, gravured 5¢ Circus Wagons and two B Press-printed 2¢ Locomotives.

The way the stamps are applied to the envelopes, the strip of five is at the upper left and the pair to its left, placing the tagged stamps near the upper right corner of the envelope.

According to an article by Ken Lawrence in the August 1993 issue of *The American Philatelist*, the DAV is the largest user of unprecanceled, low-value coil stamps, using more than all other users combined.

The saga of gum

Continued from Page 34

resin-dextrin), that's news. When did they stop using dull-finish Davac gum, which had been in use since the experimental 6¢ Eisenhower booklets of 1971? Davac gum is a polyvinyl acetate and polyvinyl alcohol adhesive, different from the shiny dextrin gums. If it has been phased out after 30 years, shouldn't someone say so?"

TPN carefully checked the latest USPS paper specifications. They do not specify the type of adhesive other than to require it to meet certain standards of adhesion and delimiting the amount of curl. They also specify initial grab and tack time. But they do not specify the materials from which the adhesives are made, other than to say they must receive a letter of no objection from the FDA.

We also checked the specifications used by BEP (*TPN* July 1993, Page 92). And here we find three types of adhesive: dextrin, resin/dextrin/ and dry gum.

Chances are that the "dry gum" is the old Davac gum.

It is used on three papers still earmarked for the Andreotti press (although all three—LP-58, LP-59, and LP 690) appear to be leftovers soon to be replaced by other papers.

It is also used on two untagged and three prephosphored papers for the C Press.

However, most of the Andreotti, all D Press and some C Press papers are all dextrin or resin-dextrin.

What this appears to mean is that slowly but surely we are going to shiny gum. □

He illustrated the article with a DAV cover bought in *TPN*'s January 1992 auction of DAV covers. Lawrence was the successful bidder for the entire lot of 79 DAV covers, plus one cover to *Look* magazine.

The *Look* cover was illustrated in his article in the Aug. 16 issue of *Linn's*.

That means he probably earned more from the two articles than the unusual lot cost him.

Did they print 2 versions?

Immediately upon learning that the Locomotives were untagged, *TPN* asked the Postal Service if, perhaps, there were two versions, one tagged for DAV and one untagged for collectors.

The answer came back that the last printings on the B Press in the fall of 1990 (never mentioned in any plate-activity reports) were tagged and an October 1993 reprint was untagged.

Robin Minard, a spokesperson for the Postal Service, said the DAV would make do with the older reprints.

"What if they run out?" she was asked.

"At that time," she said, "there may be some different arrangements."

Joe Brockert of the Stamp Acquisition and Distribution Branch told *TPN* in December that DAV's need would be met because it was not in the interest of the Postal Service to do anything that would interfere with the orderly flow of the mails.

Brockert added that the rule on tagging stamps only with a face value of 10¢ or more could be adjusted for postal needs.

Meanwhile, Long Island collector Richard Shulman has noted that some 2¢ Locomotives—he believes them to be early printings—have traces of tagging, as if some taggant has been left over on the press.

Why DAV needs tagged stamps

DAV needs tagged stamps because it sends out the envelopes on which they are mounted for use as return-envelopes which, DAV hopes, will contain a check.

Thus, these envelopes enter the mail-stream all over America as one-piece mailings. When they go through the facer-cancelers, these letters must have a tagged stamp or be ejected.

In fact, DAV's automated stamp-affixing equipment has made two requests to the Postal Service. It wants coils of 12,000 and it wants them tagged.

It was for the DAV that the gravured 5¢ Circus Wagon were printed as rolls of 10,000. But, alas, they were untagged, too.

DAV wanted them tagged, *TPN* was told at the time by the printer, American Bank Note Co., which could have prepared rolls of 12,000 if USPS had asked.

So DAV makes its own rolls of 12,000 by rewinding rolls of 3,000 and splicing four of them together.

The 2¢ Locomotives are in coils of 3,000. But they should have been tagged.

Conversion next on 3¢ Conestoga

The appearance of the Omnibus and Locomotive off the C Press leaves only the 3¢ Conestoga Wagon to make its way to the C Press. The 10¢ Canal Boat made the move earlier.

The Stamp Acquisition and Distribution Branch (SADB) apparently has had great difficulty in obtaining the new Conestoga Wagon from BEP.

The stamp was first announced in *Information from* in November as Item 7763, to be delivered in the fourth accounting period (roughly coinciding with January). The January issue said it would be out in the fifth accounting period because "BEP had a delay."

The item number, however, is suspect, since that is the number for the version printed by the defunct B Press. According to Rick Arvonio of SADB, collectors were to be told by the Postal Service of every new version of a stamp. It is, therefore, likely that when the stamp is announced, it will have a different item number. Expectations are that it will be a C Press product with the plate number 3. However, the delays in production, may indicate that this could possibly be the first coil stamp printed on the new F Press, an off-set/intaglio press.

The 5¢ Circus Wagon, also originally printed on the B Press, has just been found with the plate number A3, a gravure printing by ABN. Whether it, too, will move to the C Press, is uncertain. □

Ink is phosphored on new Wagon

The red ink on the newly found 4¢ Circus Wagon with the plate number A3 is phosphorescent in both long- and short-wave UV light.

The ink glows a bright orange under both types of lamp. Previous printings of the stamps by ABN had ordinary, nonphosphorescent ink.

It is not believed that the ink on the new stamp will activate the sensors on the facer-canceler.

USPS standardizes all marginal inscriptions

After the unveiling of the 1994 U.S. stamp program, stamp czar Azeezaly Jaffer convened a meeting in the onetime office of the Washington city postmaster in the National Postal Museum where USPS big shots, three artists, and three journalists had a question-and-answer period.

The most important outcome of the meeting was only hinted at. It concerns marginal inscriptions of all U.S. stamps, which are now being standardized.

What emerged at the meeting, because someone asked, was that the selvaige description had been dropped from the reissued 40¢ Piper airmail because it was not needed. What was not said, because no one asked, was that marginal descriptions of stamp subjects, are being generally dropped (although not on all stamps).

It is most likely that when the 20¢ Virginia Apgar stamp appears in October in

the Great Americans Series, there will be marginal notes to say who she was.

But Rick Arvonio of the Stamp Acquisition and Distribution Branch made it clear that such inscriptions would only appear where absolutely necessary. He hedged a bit by stating that no Postal Service procedure is written in stone and would be followed on a stamp-by-stamp basis.

According to an article in *Linn's*, the standardization of marginal material includes dropping of the ZIP code message, equalizing the type size on plate numbers, and adding an equation for counter clerks to give them the face value of the pane. Not mentioned in the article was the additional requirement to use a diagram to indicate the pane's position when more than four panes are printed in one revolution of the press.

An official announcement of the new

rules for marginal markings was included in the news release for the Winter Olympics stamps:

Collectors will notice that type face and size in the marginal markings is being standardized for all stamps, from all suppliers, and total prices for a full pane are included, a welcome change for both customers and postal workers since there are often many different prices for a single whole pane of stamps, depending on how many stamps are included on each particular pane.

When the Edward R. Morrow stamp was released, it had plate numbers only 2mm tall that were positioned over or under the first or last column of stamps.

On an upper right pane, the number is above the 10th stamp in the top selvaige.

The arithmetic inscription is over the 1st stamp in the top row and says: "50x.29=\$14.50." □



Temporary job only

Connie Totten-Oldham, who was reported in the last issue of *TPN* to have been named manager of market and product publicity at the Postal Service, was only in that job for 30 days under a three-month rotation plan instituted by Deborah K. Bowker, who left her post as vice president of the Postal Service on Dec. 1.

Bowker named Art Sheeley to Totten-Oldham's job for the next 30 days (January) and Sanders Fowler for the following 30 days (February).

Sheeley used to be a spokesperson in the Corporate Relations Department; Fowler has recently been manager of special events and was in charge of the huge celebration that accompanied the roll-out of the Elvis Presley stamp in Memphis.

Azeezaly S. Jaffer, the manager of stamp services who held Totten-Oldham's job before being named stamp czar, had nothing to do with these appointments, said Robin Minard of Corporate Relations, although Jaffer told *TPN* that he was instrumental in naming Totten-Oldham to succeed himself.

Ms. Bowker left the Postal Service for a post outside government.

Plate 9 not all that rare

The January issue's chart on Page 14 gave some readers the impression that only 1,000 impressions had been made from Plate 9 of the 29¢ Flag Over the White

House. That total was only for that press run and does not indicate scarcity. Plate 9 is common from earlier press runs. *TPN* should have made that clearer.

Why not use Scott?

One reader objected to the use of *PNC Catalog* numbers in the chart, saying that *TPN* should have used Scott numbers. The *PNC Catalog* numbers were defined on the front page of the September 1993 issue. Scott does not give separate numbers for plate numbers.

Christmas coils from Carolina

The official announcement from the Postal Service for the printing of the coils of the 29¢ Christmas contemporary stamps did not reveal where they were printed. They were printed at Avery Dennison in Clinton, S.C.

Plate 3 not yet found

The 10¢ Red Cloud from Plate 3, which we reported found by Henry Karen of Michael M. Karen, Inc., turned out to be Plate 2. Plate 3 has not been found yet.

Cassatt is mottled

The 23¢ Cassatt from Plate 3, which we reported found by Henry Karen of Michael M. Karen, Inc., turned out to have shiny gum and embedded (mottled) phosphors.

Variety report—L (Al's jubilee!!!)

By A.S. Cibulskas

10¢ Eagle and Shield

A33333—Same as A43426 (which was previously reported). Misregistration of the green plate results in a thin, but readily obvious, yellow vertical line on the left side. Constant on all stamps. (Moreau)

29¢ Rushmore

Gravured 22211—Obvious doubling at the top of the two left statues. As above, probably due to misregistration of the plates as one of the 2s in the plate number is misaligned. (Lipson)

Splices

Although these are not plate varieties, we are tracking splices on self-adhesive coils.

29¢ Pine Cone—red and cellophane splices (Lipson)

29¢ Christmas—red splices (Lipson)

 * * * * *
 * Thank you, Al Cibulskas *
 * * * * *
 * For 50 issues you have written the *
 * * * * *
 * above column. This is to let you know *
 * * * * *
 * that your work is appreciated. *
 * * * * *
 * Steve Esvati *
 * * * * *

BEP's Eagle and Shield found tagged

Kim Cuniberti has found five rolls of 3,000 of the undenominated 10¢ Eagle and Shield stamps with the plate-number combination 22221 printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing on weakly pre-phosphored paper. The find was reported to *TPN* one day after the January issue was taken to the printer (Dec. 15).

As a precancel the stamps should be untagged. But their appearance reopened the discussion as to what values are supposed to be tagged.

BEP told *TPN* that stamps of 10¢ and up should be tagged. Rick Arvonio of the Stamp Acquisition and Distribution Branch (SADB) told *TPN* that stamps with a face value of 10¢ or less are supposed to be untagged.

Price goes up

Cuniberti first sold the stamps at \$10 for a VF, numbered strip of five, \$14 for XF. He thought he would find more.

His ad ran only two weeks in *Linn's*, because Cuniberti just about sold out, having wholesaled some at \$6 a strip. The retailers who obtained them did not obtain enough to satisfy the needs of all their retail new-issue customers, and then the price began to climb. Cuniberti's price in February was \$30 for VF.

Paper supplier blamed

Robin Minard of USPS said it is believed that the fault was at the paper supplier's, who may have had some phosphors left in the machinery when this paper was made.

"We are only guessing," she said, "but what leads us to believe this is that the tagging is very weak, only giving a reading of 12 [PMUs] while a normal stamp should have from 45 to 100."

The PNC Study Group had more or less come up with the same theory, that since all these stamps are lacquer coated, the lacquer was contaminated (though diluted).

In theory, the paper is supposed to be checked by a PMU meter both at the mill and at the printer.

The stamps tested by USPS were sent in by *TPN*. That was also the procedure when untagged 19¢ Fishing Boats were found. Those stamps were inadvertently printed on unphosphored paper by Guilford Gravure, acting for the contractor, American Bank Note Co. After we submitted the untagged stamps, Minard was able to obtain an explanation from ABN about picking up an incorrect roll of paper.

(Because there are traces of taggant on those Fishing Boats, the PNC Study Group has rejected this explanation. It be-

lieves that the paper manufacturer produced a defective roll, as in this instance. For this discussion, please see *TPN* "Postal Service answers some questions" in *TPN*, September 1993.)

A problem with lamps

Some PNCers had a tough time identifying the weakly tagged stamps because their UV lamps leak visible light. The tagging shows up just fine under a filtered Lighthouse shortwave lamp or a Scott-light.

Even under other lamps, the strips appear to be bright, so comparison with a known untagged E&S strip from BEP would prove it.

Tagged or untagged?

The uncertainty as to what values should be untagged began with ABN's Columbian souvenir sheets. The 10¢ value

was untagged. ABN said that was what was ordered by the USPS.

Questioned about this, Joe Peng, then of SADB, said the cutoff had been raised from 9¢ to 10¢. He said new 10¢ Canal Boats would be untagged, but they were not. When the C Press Canal Boats came out a year later, they were on prephosphored paper.

Arvonio insisted that the cutoff was 10¢, as Peng had said. Asked why the Canal Boats were tagged, Arvonio said they had been printed "under a previous contract."

BEP spokesperson Lori DeRose asked Percy Sutton of the manufacturing section. Sutton told Ms. DeRose: "All stamps from 10¢ and up are supposed to be phosphored." □

Yes, Virginia, there is a phosphored Cody

Dr. Robert L. Kugel, who wrote two letters to *TPN* in the September 1993 issue to prove that the 15¢ Cody stamps do exist on prephosphored paper, is annoyed that Ken Lawrence, writing in the Jan. 31 issue of *Linn's*, used Dr. Kugel's methodology to prove the same thing.

First, some background.

Charles Yeager, writing in the *United States Specialist* for February 1991, reported that it was his belief that an early A Press printing of Plate 1 in May 1988 was on phosphored paper. "Stamps printed from Sleeve 1 with block tagging, I believe, were printed no earlier than July 1988," Yeager wrote.

Plate 1 stamps also exist on paper that was overall-tagged after printing. The existence of stamps on phosphored paper was originally disputed by Wayne L. Youngblood, the PNC Study Group's authority on tagging.

What made the identification so difficult was that all the overall-tagged Plate 1 stamps are tagged in the selvage, preventing collectors from identifying overall tagging by the absence of tagging there.

TPN asked BEP and was told that no Codys were printed on phosphored paper.

This summer, however, Youngblood was shown some examples by Richard Schulman, and Youngblood was converted. "Richie's examples made a believer out of me," he said, noting that the stamps were surface tagged, meaning that the tagging appears solid.

But Michael D. Kinney, who contributed to the PNC Study Group's initial analysis of the Great American Series, was also convinced that the Cody stamps were never phosphored. Kinney came to his conclusion by sending examples he believed to be phosphored to Youngblood, who pronounced them overall-tagged.

At that point Dr. Kugel entered the picture, saying he disagreed with Kinney and upholding Yeager. His method was to use a stereoscopic microscope and a high-intensity UV light. His conclusion was:

"Under the microscope, using short-wave UV illumination, I could see no tagging material on top of the printing ink in either block [of Plate 1 Cody stamps]. These cannot be overall-tagged. They are printed on prephosphored paper."

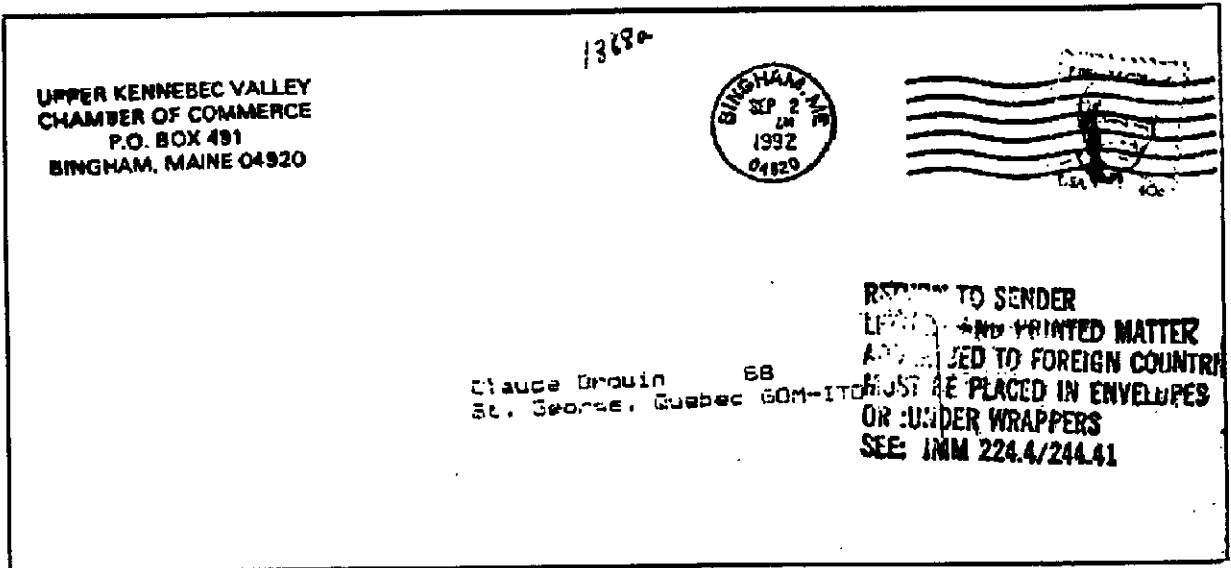
BEP's Leah Akbar said: "All the Cody stamps from Plate 180004-1 were printed on LP-40 paper." That is untagged paper.

Dr. Kugel said he had never seen a Plate 1 Cody with overall tagging.

That's where Lawrence entered the fray.

Readers of *TPN* know that Lawrence, a contributing editor of this magazine, often criticizes others for "re-inventing the wheel." In *Linn's*, Lawrence did again what Dr. Kugel had done more than six months previously.

Dr. Kugel asks why Lawrence extracted the information Dr. Kugel had presented in *TPN*, based on original research methods, with no acknowledgment to Dr. Kugel's pioneering. □



**Cover of the BI-Month
By Richard L. Beecher**

The current one-ounce letter rate to Canada is 40¢. Two stamps from the Great Americans Series can be used to pay this rate: the 40¢ Gilbreth (an early issue still widely available) and its replacement, the 40¢ Chennault.

This flyer, mailed from Bingham, Maine, to St. George, Québec, carries the reprinted Gilbreth with bull's-eye perforations and block tagging.

A little known regulation in the International Mail Manual, the USPS bible that pertains to U.S. mail sent to foreign countries,

forbids the mailing of unsealed flyers to Canada.

The six-line rubber stamp reads: "RETURN TO SENDER/ LETTERS AND PRINTED MATTER/ADDRESSED TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES/MUST BE PLACED IN ENVELOPES/ OR: UNDER WRAPPERS/ SEE: IMM 224.4/244.41"

[Editor's note: We tried mailing TPN to Canada the way we mail it as bulk mail in the United States. We had to put it into a sealed envelope.

[Many other publications apparently beat this regulation by using plastic wrap.]

Update on orientation of self-stick backings

Jerry Clark has updated his findings on the orientation of the backing on self-adhesive sheetlets, ATMs, and coils with the help of A.S. Cibulskas, Doug Iams, and Joann Lenz.

- 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

2431a 25¢ Eagle

- Booklet A11111 -----C, D
- Coil -----C

2475a 25¢ USA Flag ATM

- No number -----A from back

2522a 'F' USA Flag ATM

- No number -----A from back

2531b 29¢ Torch

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

29¢ Eagle and Shield

- 2595a BCA -----A, B
- 1111-2 -----A, B
- 2222-1 -----A
- 2222-2 -----A, B
- 3233-2 -----A
- 3333-1 -----B (Hi brite)
- 3333-3 -----B

- 3434-1 -----B
- 3434-3 -----B
- 4234-2 -----A
- 4344-3 -----B
- 4444-1 -----B
- 4444-3 -----A, B

Coil: No numbers -----A, B

- 2596a Dittler Bros. -----A
- D11111 -----A
- D21221 -----A, B
- D32322 -----A
- Coil: No numbers -----A

- 2597a Stamp Venturers -----C
- S1111 -----C
- Coil: No numbers -----C

29¢ Christmas Train ATM

- V11111 -----No writing

2478a 29¢ Red Squirrel ATM

- D11111 -----D
- D22211 -----A, D
- D22221 -----D
- D22222 -----D
- D23133 -----D

2479a 29¢ Rose ATM

- S1111 -----A
- Coil: No numbers -----C

2802a 29¢ Holidays (4 designs)

- V111-1111 -----B
- V222-1222 -----B
- V222-2112 -----B

- V222-2122 -----B
- V222-2221 -----B
- V222-2221 -----B
- V333-3333 -----B
- Coil: V11111 -----B

2803a 29¢ Snowman ATM

- V1111 -----None

2480a 29¢ Pine Cone

- B1 to 16 -----All B
- Coil: B1 -----B

29¢ Love Sunrise

- B111-1 -----B
- B111-2 -----B
- B111-3 -----B
- B111-4 -----B
- B121-5 -----B
- B222-4 -----B
- B222-6 -----B
- Coil: B1 -----A

29¢ Eagle

- M112 -----A
- Coil: 111 -----A

Please send your reports to Clark at 424 Roosevelt St., Midvale, UT 84047-3622. If you find a new plate number, a photocopy would be appreciated.

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 new 20¢ Truman, 23¢ Cassatt, 52¢ Humphrey. 50¢ Nimitz, Plate 2, overall tagged. While they last, \$17.50 per plate block. 20¢ Gallaudet, Plate 9. While they last, \$75 per plate block.

My regular price list

Scott	Description	Single	Inscr. Bl. or Post. Bl.	PS/4	PS/6	PS/20
1844c	14 Dix Bl	.10		1.00 (1SE)	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 Slavinsky Catrail	.10		35 (1, 2, 3, 4)		
	Same, premium			2.00 (5, 6)		
	Same, vert tag break			10.00 (6)		
2169	24 Lyon BE	.10		35 (1)		
	Same, premium			.55 (2)		
1846	34 Clay Catrail	.10		70 (1, 2)		
2170	34 White BE	.10		50 (1, 2, 3)		
1847	44 Schurz Catrail	.15		60 (1-4)		3.50 (4)
	Same, vert tag break			10.00 (1)		
2171	44 Hanogan BE	.15		80 (1)		
2171a	44 Hanogan UE	.10		.40 (1)		
NEW	44 Hanogan UE	.10		.60 (2)		
1848	54 Buck Catrail	.15		.70 (1-4)		
	Same, with tagging break			3.00 (3)		
2172	54 Black BE	.15		.70 (1)		
2172	54 Black BE	.15		1.25 (2)		
Plate 2 wanted, pay 45¢ per block						
2173	54 Muñoz OE	.15	.70	.75 (1)		
	Same, with ZIP			1.00 (1)		
2173	54 Muñoz UE	.15	.70	.75 (2)		
1849	64 Bismann Bl	.20		.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	104 Russell Bl	.25		1.20 (1SE)	2.50 (1)	7.00 (1)
2176	104 Red Cloud BE	.30		.85 (1)		
2176a	104 Red Cloud OE	.30		WANT (1)		
Plate 1OE wanted, pay \$0.90 per block						
2176a	104 Red Cloud PE	.20		.85 (2)		
1854	114 Portledge Cl	.30		1.60 (2-5)		
1855	134 Crazy Catrail	.30		2.20 (1, 2)		
	Same, premium			3.00 (3, 4)		
1856	144 Lewis Bl	.30		1.20 (1)	3.00 (1)	
2177	144 Howe BE	.25		1.90 (1, 2)		5.90 (1)
2178	154 Cody BE	.30		2.00 (1)		
2178	154 Cody BE	.30		4.00 (3)		
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)		
	Same, tagged selvage			1.25 (1, 2)		
	Same, with tagging break			5.00 (2)	10.00 (2)	
1857	174 Carson Catrail	.35		2.85 (1-4, 13-14)		
	Same, premium			5.00 (15, 16)		
	Same, with tagging break			10.00 (16)		
2179	174 Lockwood	.35		2.00 (1)		
	same, premium			3.50 (2)		
1858	184 Mason Catrail	.35		3.50 (1-6)		
1859	194 Sagesyah Catrail	.40		3.00 (both)		
1860	204 Bunche Catrail	.40		3.50 (1, 2, 5-8, 10)		
	Same, premium			7.00 (3, 4)		20.00 (4)
	Same, premium			12.00 (11, 13)		
1861	204 Gallaudet Catrail	.40		3.90 (1, 2)		18.00 (2)
	Same, premium			12.00 (5, 6)		
Plates 5, 6 wanted; pay \$6.00 per block						
	Same, premium			75.00 (9)		
Plates 8, 9 wanted; pay \$37.50 per block						
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 Carbon 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 (1)		
2182b	234 Cassatt OE	.50		5.00 (1)		
2182c	234 Cassatt OE	.50		3.75 (2)		
2182d	234 Cassatt PE	.50		3.00 (2)		
NEW	234 Cassatt PE shiny	.50		3.00 (3)		

Scott	Description	Single	Inscr. Bl. or Post. Bl.	PS/4	PS/6	PS/20
2183	254 London BE	.50		3.00 (1)		
Plate 2 wanted, pay \$2.50 per block						
2184	284 Siting Bull BE	.50		3.80 (1)		
2184A	294 Wilson PE	.45	3.00	2.00 (5), (52)		
2184B	294 Johnson	.45	4.50 (8)	2.50 (5), (52)		
1864	304 Laubach Bl	.75		5.00 (1)	10.00 (1)	19.00 (1)
1864a	304 Laubach BE	.45		5.50 (2)		
1864a	304 Laubach OE	6.00		75.00 (2)		
1865	354 Drew Catrail	.75		4.50 (1, 2)		
	Same, premium			12.00 (3, 4)		
2185	354 Chavez Pl	.50	3.50	3.50 (5), (52)		
1966	374 Millikan Catrail	.80		4.50 (1-4)		
1867	394 Clark Bl	.80		8.00 (1SE)	16.00 (1)	35.85 (1)
1867c	394 Clark BE	.90		5.90 (2)		
1868	404 Gilbrath Bl	.95		9.75 (1SE)	19.00 (1)	23.90 (1)
1868a	404 Gilbrath BE	.95		6.50 (2)		
2186	404 Chermoull OE	.85	5.00	4.00 (1)		
2186	404 Chermoull PE	.85		4.00 (2)		
2188	454 Cushing BE	.75		3.50 (1)		
Plate 1 OE wanted, pay \$1.50 Wf, \$2.50 XF						
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 3 OE wanted, pay \$3.75 per block						
NEW	504 Nimitz PE (shiny)	1.00		4.00 (3)		
2190	524 Humphrey PE (dull)	1.00	4.50	3.45 (1)		
NEW	524 Humphrey PE (shiny)	1.00	4.50	3.45 (1, 2)		
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 Rand	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 may not have them.
 1894a 204 Flag Bl Dull 80 15.00 (3, 4)
 1894 204 Flag BE Shiny 80 4.75 (2, 3) 9.50 (2, 3) 18.00 (2, 3)
Shiny gum from Plates 3, 4 wanted. Pay \$5 for PS/6, \$10 for PS/20.
Dull gum from Plate 2 wanted. Pay \$4 for PS/6, \$7.50 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 selvage); T=Tagged selvage

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 postage on orders over \$10, otherwise please add 52 cents.

1992 Lighthouse supplements
 I carry all Lighthouse products at a 15% discount. Added 5% off for PNC³ members. Call or write for details.

STEPHEN G. ESRATI
 P.O. Box 20130, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120
 Telephone: (216) 561-9393 FAX: (216) 752-5002

'I say, Watson, this is a case of larceny.'

It just had to be a case of larceny.

Four commercial covers have turned up with machine-affixed 10¢ Tractor Trailer stamps, all overprinted "Bulk Rate" in red ink. All the stamps bear a plate number.

And all the stamps were addressed to the same town, three of them to the same street. The designations for the carrier route—"CR" followed by two digits—are all different.

That shows Sherlock Holmes that the junk-mail covers were removed from the mailstream by a clerk who was sorting the mail to the various carrier routes.

The odd thing about the covers is that none bears a bar code. If they had been bar-coded, the sorting would have been done by machine and the larceny could not have happened.

Tractor Trailer stamps did not bear a service endorsement, so mail using them needed to be marked "First Class," "Bulk Mail," or "Bulk Mail Carrier Route."

When mailers complained of the extra costs, the Postal Service belatedly approved the use of overprints.

UVMs hit \$1,800 a set

Bill Lee of Norman, Okla., turned down an offer to buy a set of shiny-gum UVMs from 1¢ to 18¢ for \$1,600. But Robert V. Owens, also of Norman, sold a set for \$1,800. Face value of the sets was \$8.55.

What gave the shiny-gum low values the speculative value was that by the time the shiny-gum stamps were distributed the machines were no longer supposed to vend stamps under 19¢. But in Norman postal employees, with the approval of the postmaster, continued running low values long after the cutoff, including the sale of some to a Texas dealer.

The Norman Postal Mailing Center was taken out in October. The PMC in Oklahoma City was removed Aug. 24.

\$5 Harte found untagged

Dennis Chamberlain has saved 88 \$5 Harte stamps from mail for the past 18 months. Of these, 56 were block-tagged, 30 were overall-tagged, and 2 were untagged.

Back to the future

Ron Maifeld sent in a USPS receipt for the purchase of a coil of 100 29¢ White



House stamps. The receipt says the stamps were produced in 1994, but Maifeld bought them on Dec. 28, 1993. "I assume," he said, "that the Postal Service was able to go into the future and print these."

Maifeld is the new editor of the Greater

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

Cincinnati Philatelic Society's newsletter, *Syncopated Perfs*, and is writing the PNC column for Janet Klug's *Clermont Collector*, newsletter of the Clermont County (Ohio) Stamp Club.

Willing to consult

In discussing the difficulty in obtaining newly reissued stamps from the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center, Henry Karen of Michael M. Karen, Inc., said the Postal Service is a mess.

"If they paid me enough, I'd be willing to go down there and consult. I'd soon straighten them out," he said.

'And the winners are...'

Winners of major awards for PNC exhibits in 1993 have been compiled by Bill McMurray. Those winning golds or firsts are:

Ron Hayes, Wiscopex and Danepex
David Updike, Wiscopex Youth
Joseph Agria, M.D., ASDA Mega Event
Bill McMurray, ASDA Mega Event, Omaha, and St. Louis
Jeffrey L. Orren, Thamespex
Dean Hawk, Stark County (Canton, Ohio)
Leonard Piskiewicz, Sunpex

Study Group adds members

Gerald Blankenship, who specializes in PNCs on USPS souvenir pages; Robert Washburn, a specialist on commercial covers and earliest known usages, and Joann Lenz, a specialist on the 17¢ Electric Auto, have all been invited to join the Plate Number Coil Study Group. They are replacing Chamberlain, Ken Lawrence, and David Barrie-LaVergne, all of whom resigned.

TPN adds Clark

Gerald H. Clark has been named an associate editor of this magazine. Jerry is a member of the PNC Study Group and a constant source of news about new plate numbers, new developments in the Postal Service, and (even though he rarely gets a byline) is the originator of all manner of stories that appear in *TPN*.

Selig publishes prices

Veteran PNC dealer Craig Selig has issued a price list for PNCs after a long hiatus. Attached to it is Selig's comprehensive offering of test coils and local precancels by city.

3 different papers

John S. Shue has noticed that the untagged paper on which the B press reprinted the 1¢ Omnibus from Plate 2 comes in three papers.

They vary from "dead" in long-wave UV dark purple to a light purple. They appear similarly in filtered short-wave UV. But without the filter (which removes visible light and some long-wave UV) the two dull papers look alike.

Not printed for DAV

When the 5¢ Circus Wagon with the plate number "A3" was found to have been printed with ink that fluoresces red in both long- and short-wave UV, it was quickly assumed by some PNCers that the stamp had been printed for the DAV to serve as the tagged stamps the organization needs on its return envelopes.

The reason for the change of ink was still unexplained as this issue went to press, but Rick Arvonio of Stamp Acquisition said it definitely had not been produced to meet the needs of the DAV.

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

Scott	Stamp	L/Block	L/Overall	Perfor/Block	Perfor/overall	Perfor/phosphored	Untagged
1844	1c Dix	L (1, 2)		A (1)			
2171	4c Flanagan			E (1)			E (1, 2) Intentionally
2173	5c Muñoz Marin				E (1)†		E (1) Error (2) Intentionally
2176	10c Red Cloud			E (1)	E (1-†, 2†)	E 2S	E (1, 2) Error
2178	15c Cody			E (1, 3)	E (1*, 2††, 3†)		E (2, 3) Error
1862	20c Inman	L (1)		E (2)	E (3)†	E 4L shiny	E (2) Error
1863	22c Audobon	L (1)		E (3)			L (1) Error
2182	23c Cassatt			E (1)	E (1-†, 2-†)	E 2S, 3L shiny	E (1) Error
2197a	25c London SS book			E (1, 2)☆			E (2) Error
2183a	25c London books ☆						E (1) Error (S1, S2 only)
1864	30c Lombach	L (1)		E (2)	E (2)†		E (1) Error
1867	39c Clark	L (1)		E (2)			
1868	40c Gilbreth	L (1)		E (2)			
2186	40c Cherrault				E (1)†	E 2	E (1) Error
2188	45c Cushing			E (1)	E (1)†		E (1) Error
1869	50c Hemitz		L (1, 2, 3, 4)	E (1, 2)	E (2, 3*)	E 3 shiny	L (1), E (1, 2) Error
2190	52c Humahoy					E 1E dull, 1L 2L shiny	
2193	75c Wilkin					E 1E dull gum, 1 shiny	
2194A	\$1 Hopkins			E (1)	E (1)	E 1, 2 dull and shiny	E (1) Error
2196	\$5 Hanle			E (1)		E 2S	

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-E = Electric-eye perforator 10.9 x 10.9
- μ Phosphored paper (solid, surface tagging).
- μ Phosphored paper (noticed, embedded tagging).
- 15c Cody does not exist on a phosphored paper.

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

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

Scott	Stamp	L/Block/Overall	L/Block	L/Overall	Perf/seps/block	Perf/seps/overall	Perf/seps/phosphored	L/phosphored	Untagged
2168	1c Mitchell				E (1)				E Error
2169	2c Mary Lyon				E (1, 2)				E (1) Error
1845	2c Shrivinsky	1,2,3,4,5,6							E-E Error
1846	3c Clay	1,2							E-E Error
2170	3c White				1,2,3				E Error
1847	4c Schurz	1,2,3,4							E-E Error
1848	5c Buck	1,2,3,4							
2172	5c Black				E (1, 2)				E (2) Error
1849	6c Lippmann		1						
1850	7c Bohlewin		1						
1851	8c Knox			3,4,5,6					L (?) Error
1852	9c Thayer		1						
1853	10c Russell		1						L Error
1854	11c Partridge			2,3,4,5					L Error
1855	13c Crazy Horse	1,2,3,4							E-E Error
1856	14c Lewis		1						
2177	14c Howe				E (1, 2)				
1857	17c Carson	1,2,3,4,13,14,15,16							E-E Error
2179	17c Lockwood				E (1, 2)				E Error
1858	18c Mason	1,2,3,4,5,6							E-E Error
1859	19c Sequoyah	39,529, 39,530							
1860	20c Bunche	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,10,11,13							E-E Error
1861	20c Gallaudet	1,2,5,6,8,9							
2180	21c Carlson				E (1)				
2183	25c London sheet				E (1, 2)				
2184	28c Sitting 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 Millikan	1,2,3,4							E-E Error
2161	56c Harvard				E (1)				E Error
2192	65c Arnold				E (1)				E Error
2194	\$1 Reval				E (1)				E Error
2195	\$2 Bryan				E (2)				E Error

Bold-faced stamps are still on sale.

Coils of 30,000 coming from BEP

By Stephen G. Esrati

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing will be asked to print coils of 30,000, Rick Arvonio, manager of stamp acquisition said at a seminar USPS called for philatelic writers.

The meeting, promised last August by Azeezaly Jaffer, was intended to ease some of the tensions between the Postal Service and the stamp press.

This report deals only with the areas of interest to the readers of *TPN*, not those dealing with such dramatic issues as the recall of the Legends of the West, early releases, or the need to win a new generation to stamp collecting.

Arvonio said the interagency agreement between the Postal Service and BEP is being renegotiated to allow BEP to print coils larger than the 3,000 it is allowed under the current agreement.

The need to do this followed from another thing Arvonio said: From now on it will be the aim of the Postal Service to have only one printer print a stamp, not several of them as on the 10¢ Eagle and Shield and the 23¢ USA Flag.

Among new developments Arvonio outlined were elliptical perforations, micro-perforations, linerless self-adhesive coils for bulk mailers, and increased use of microprinting.

Microprinting is employed in large part to prevent the photocopying of stamps. Copiers are unable to pick up the tiny print.

But in response to a question, Arvonio conceded that postal employees would not get out magnifiers to check on the microprinting. He said most forgeries would continue to be detected by the facer-canceller because they lack tagging.

Which made a writer comment: "So tagging is still your prime security device."

Arvonio agreed.

Arvonio said there might be exceptions to the one-printer/one-stamp idea, among them being the printer's ability to fulfill the contract as limited by press capacity.

Another new idea Arvonio foresaw was channel perforations on self adhesives. These would permit the easy separation of just one stamp, backing and all.

Plate-activity reports

No result was promised after a lengthy discussion about the discontinuance of plate-activity reports.

[For the record, I said nothing about this issue, allowing others to carry the ball.

The reason I was silent was because it had become commonplace for postal officials to assert that only a handful of collectors wanted the reports.]

George Griffenhagen, editor of *Topical Time*, challenged the assertion that the reports were too costly for the Postal Service by reading a few lines from the *Stamps etc.* catalog showing that the Postal Service sells plate numbers and profits from plate numbers.

John Hotchner, who writes for just about all stamp publications, challenged the assertion that the Postal Service could not justify the cost of preparing the reports.

"You are cutting your own self-interest," he said. "You encourage people to collect plate numbers."

Charles Peterson, president of Writers' Unit 30 of the APS, pointed out that placing plate numbers on coil stamps raised the retained number of stamps from a pair to a strip of five. Charles Yeager, Washington correspondent for *Linn's*, quickly added that on a stamp such as the 22¢ Flag, collectors want 22 strips of five rather than one numberless pair.

Gary Griffith, former editor of the *U.S. Specialist*, also knocked down the theory that only a few collectors want the data. His magazine, he said, has been printing the reports for 50 years and is the recognized depository for such information, the place where collectors go to obtain plate-activity data.

Richard Nazar, editor of *The Plate Number Coil Catalog*, handed Jaffer a working proof of the next catalog (complete except for the Transportation Series) to illustrate what information is needed by collectors.

Stamp Distribution

In the past, printers were able to ship stamps directly to the SDOs and 330 large offices (called associate offices). Because printers got paid when they shipped, they were eager to ship as soon as possible.

But this led in part to the many recent early releases and Washington's inability to control release dates as strictly as it wanted.

"We've changed that," Spates said. All shipments now must go the SDOs and they have to hold them until they get the "go" signal from us.

As in the past, some offices will still be able to order directly from BEP, but not from the private printers.

Spates was proud of something else, too: "We've legalized inter-office sales."

What he meant was that it is now legal for a post office lacking stamps to obtain them directly from an office that has them. In the past, the stamps were supposed to go to an SDO first.

Problems of distribution plagued the 10¢ Eagle and Shields, bringing this problem to the attention of the new team that took over after Postmaster General Marvin Runyon ordered staff reductions and lost a large part of his administrative expertise.

Information from ...

When I praised Michael Spates, manager of the Stamp Acquisition and Distribution Branch (SADB), for the fine publication put out by his office, he was struck dumb, never having heard of *Information from...*

It turns out that the publication is intended to assist the ever-decreasing number of Stamp Distribution Offices (SDOs), down to 130 now from 150 last year. Inside SADB it is referred to as the "non-newsletter newsletter."

Other writers, hearing my praise for it, asked for a wider distribution.

Where, when, and how

The writers paid their own way to Washington (except for the staff of Amos Press and Novus Debut, who had their expenses reimbursed) and paid for their own accommodations.

The Postal Service treated to a supper at Red, White & Blue in Arlington on Sunday, Feb. 13. The meeting began at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, across the street from Postal Headquarters, at 8:30 the next morning. Breakfast and lunch were provided.

In all, about 25 writers attended, with one coming from Fort Myers, Fla., by train.

From the Postal Service side, almost the entire executive level on the stamp side was in attendance all day, including all the staffers of the Corporate Relations Department.

Ken Lawrence was unable to attend, stopped by snow and an ice storm. Dr. Robert Rabinowitz, decided at the last minute that he would not attend.

That left Nazar and me to represent the PNC world. But other writers staunchly backed our position on plate-activity reports.

What USPS is saying about new stamps

(All text from USPS. TPN additions in brackets)

New stamps send a little love

WASHINGTON (Dec. 21)—The 29¢ self-adhesive Love stamp will be issued in Loveland, Ohio, on Jan. 27, just in time for Valentine's Day. A public first-day ceremony will be held that day in Loveland.

Technical details

[The Postal Service has confirmed that the following information also applies to coil stamps. But contrary to that assurance, the Love coils found by the PNC Study Group bear only the plate number B1 in green from the intaglio plate.]

Issue: 29¢ Love Self-Adhesive

Format: [Coils]

Issue date: Jan. 27, 1994

First-day city: Loveland, Ohio

Printer: Banknote Corp. of America

Printing process: Offset/intaglio

Colors: Blue, yellow, red (offset) and green (intaglio)

Size:

Overall 0.87x0.982 inches; 22.1x24.9mm

Image 0.72x0.83 inches; 18.0x20.8mm

Plate numbers: B followed by four digits (untrue for coils, see above. The plate number is found above the "9" of "29.")

[Plate number interval: 18]

[Backings: "DO NOT WET" right side up, NW to SE]

[Scott Catalogue: UNKNOWN]

[PNC Catalog: SA29L-B1]



First-day city: Sarasota, Fla.
Printer: 3M (contractor); National Label Co. (printer)
Printing process: Gravure
Colors: Red (PMS 485); putty (PMS 453), and blue (PMS 286)

Size:

Overall 0.87x0.98 inches; 22.1x24.9mm

Image 0.73x0.82 inches; 18.5x20.8mm

Plate numbers: Three single digits preceded by the letter "M." The plate number appears once every 18 stamps. [The plate numbers have no prefix on stamps seen by the PNC Study Group.]

Item numbers: Coil strip of 18: [Item No.] 6697M, cost is \$5.22

[Plate number interval: 18]

[Backings: "DO NOT WET" right side up, NW to SE]

[Scott Catalogue: UNKNOWN]

[PNC Catalog: SA29E-111]

Data Bank

Second version of Postage and Mailing Center stamp to be issued Feb. 19

WASHINGTON (Jan. 21)—The first day of sales for the Unisys-version Postage and Mailing Center (PMC) stamp will be Feb. 19. The stamp will go on sale at the Merrifield, Va., post office at 6 a.m. that day, and will be available from PMC machines in five other Northern Virginia locations beginning Feb. 21 at 9 a.m. There will be no first-day-of-issue ceremony.

A PMC is a vending machine that weights an item, determines the postage necessary for the desired class of service, and prints a stamp with the appropriate amount of postage from 19¢ up to a maximum of \$99.99. Postal Service testing of the machines began in 1992 with a version of the equipment that was manufactured by ECA GARD. The ECA GARD machines remain in operation in several locations around the country.

The new Unisys machines perform the same functions as those produced by ECA GARD; however, the stamps printed by each manufacturer's equipment are easily distinguishable. The stamp from the Unisys machine has a horizontal orientation (perforations on each side), while the stamp produced by the ECA GARD PMC is vertical (perforations top and bottom). Both stamps feature a shield with a flag bunting on it. American Bank Note Co. produced the stamps for the Unisys PMC. Subcontractor Guilford Gravure did the printing.

The offices which will be testing the machines include: Merrifield branch, 8409 Lee Hwy., Merrifield, Va. 22116-9998; Herndon post office, 590 Grove

Eagle self-adhesive stamp

WASHINGTON (Jan. 4)—A bold new Eagle design is featured on a self-adhesive stamp being issued Feb. 4.

"Self-adhesive stamps are here to stay," said Rick Arvonio, manager, stamp acquisition, whose office has seen a strong increase in public sales and demand for lick-free, tear-free stamps.

"The public has been asking for them for years, and we are pleased that technology has gotten to the point where self-adhesive stamps are a significant part of the U.S. stamp program," added Arvonio.

There are currently five different self-adhesive stamp designs on the market: Eagle and Shield; Rose; Pine Cone; Red Squirrel, and Christmas. Other self-adhesives scheduled for release in 1994 include a Love stamp on Jan. 27, and Statue of Liberty and Christmas stamps later in the year.

The first self-adhesive U.S. postage stamp was released in 1974 [Scott 1552, the self-destroying Christmas "precancel"], but these "stamps of the future" were not technologically efficient to produce. The next self-adhesive stamp to receive nationwide distribution to post offices was the Eagle and Shield [Scott 1989, which was first issued Nov. 10, 1989, for use in 15 test cities and was also issued in coil strips of 18], which went on sale in 1992.

The new 29¢ Eagle will be issued at a public ceremony in Sarasota, Fla., on Feb. 4 in conjunction with the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition and the American Philatelic Society spring meeting. The stamp will be dedicated by Azeezaly S. Jaffer, manager, stamp services. Jaffer has managerial responsibility for all stamp-related functions of the Postal Service.



Technical details

[The Postal Service has confirmed that the following information also applies to coil stamps.]

Issue: 29¢ Eagle

Format: Coil, sold in strips of 18 stamps. Coil strips are available by mail order from the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center.

Issue date: Feb. 4, 1994

Counting numbers found on Eagles

Some rolls of the Eagle self-adhesive stamp have counting numbers on the backing. Al Haake of the PNC Study Group has found.

The numbers do not appear on every roll.

Where found, they were near the top of the backing, with the tops of the numbers cut off. They were spaced 18 stamps apart, just like the plate numbers, and appear across several stamps, starting with the second stamp to the right of the plate number (2R) and continuing to the fourth (4R). Haake said he would sell them as strips of eight or nine.

The numbers look like this:

00040143 361 16:16

The eight-digit number goes up by one across the web. The other numbers remain the same.



Not a photograph. Numbers not certain.

from the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center, P.O. Box 449997, Kansas City, Mo. 64144-9997. The usual \$10 minimum and 50¢ handling fee apply. Post offices with PMCs will not accept mail orders of PMC stamps.

Technical details

Issue:	PMC (Postage and Mailing Center) Stamp [These stamps are called Universal Vending Machine (UVM) coils by TPN, based on the original nomenclature used on the printing contract with BEP]
Denomination:	Variable rate
Format:	Coil (rolls of 3,000 stamps)
Issue date:	Feb. 19, 1994
First-day city:	Merrifield, Va.
Printer:	Guilford Gravure (American Bank Note Co., contractor)
Printing process:	Gravure
[Press:	Andreotti]
Colors:	Red and blue
Size:	
Overall	0.87x0.96 inches/221.1x24.4mm
Image	0.71x0.82 inches/18.0x20.8mm
Plate numbers:	Two single digits, preceded by the letter "A" Plate number appears every 24 stamps
Item Number:	9366

[The item number on the old ECA-GARD UVMs have been changed. Item 7765, a single, has become 9344; 7766, a strip of 30 including one plate number, has been changed to 9345.]

[Scott Catalogue: UNKNOWN]
[PNC Catalog: M29UVM-AXX]

Information from...

Stamp Acquisition and Distribution

January stamp issues

Love Sunrise	Jan. 27	Loveland, OH
(Self-adhesive convertible booklet)		Item 6604

[Stamps etc. gives the Item Number of the coils as 6604N]

February stamp issues

Eagle	Feb. 4	Sarasota, FL
(Self-adhesive convertible booklet)		Item 6697

[Stamps etc. gives the Item Number of the coils as 6697M]

March stamp issues

[No coils or Great Americans]

Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP)

Deliveries are continuing to occur on the following stamp issues in A/P 6 [Accounting period 5, or, roughly, March]

- Coils
- 3¢ Conestoga Wagon (Item 7763)

This coil was originally scheduled for A/P 4 [or, roughly, January], but BEP had a delay. The new scheduled delivery date is A/P 6.

[TPN Note: This is probably going to show the plate number 3 and have a plate-number interval of 48 from a C Press printing]

- 5¢ Canoe—Pre-cancelled coil (Item 7906)
- 29¢ Flag/White House—500 (Item 7923)

American Bank Note Co. (ABN)

5¢ Circus Wagon coils of 10,000 stamps (Item 7932)

[TPN Note: This is probably the recently found A3 stamp]

St., Herndon, Va. 22070-9998; West McLean branch, 1544 Springhill Rd., McLean, Va. 22304-9998; Trade Center station, 300 S. Pickett St., Alexandria, Va. 22304-9998; Manassas post office, 8801 Sudley Rd., Manassas, Va. 22110-9998, and Woodbridge post office, 1800 Reddy Dr., Woodbridge, Va. 22191-9998.

Collectors who desire information about the availability of the Unisys PMC machines may phone the Postal Answer Line at (703) 698-6360. Callers should request message number 810 at the prompt.

Customers who do not have access to a test site may purchase Unisys-version PMC stamps with a 29¢ denomination, in any quantity, Item Number 7765,

Update

New PNCs

F29WH-14—Plate 14 of the 29¢ Flag over the White House. Dec. 23. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

M10-22221phoe—Tagged errors of BEP's version of the 10¢ undenominated Eagle and Shield with the numbers 22221. Dec. 16. This stamp's weak tagging can be seen only with a filtered shortwave UV lamp such as the Scott or Light-house. (Cuniberti)

M10-22222—BEP's version of the 10¢ undenominated Eagle and Shield with the numbers 22222. Jan. 11. (Richard Cook, philatelic clerk, Salt Lake City, via Clark)

M10-A1110111010—ABN's version of the 10¢ undenominated Eagle and Shield with the numbers A1110111010. Feb. 8. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

M19-A7766—The 19¢ Fishing Boat with the numbers A7766. Dec. 21. (Haake)

SA29L-B1—The 29¢ self-adhesive Love Sunrise stamp. Plate-number interval of 18. Issued Jan. 27 at Loveland, Ohio.

SA29E-111—The 29¢ Eagle self-adhesive coil. Plate-number interval of 18. Issued Feb. 4 at Sarasota, Fla.

T1(C)3—Plate 3 of the 1¢ Omnibus, printed on the C Press. Interval between plate numbers is 48. Untagged. All plate numbers appear damaged in some rows, although normal plate numbers have been found. The damage consists either of a broken purple number or a white number contained in a purple blob. About Jan. 7. (Haake from Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center).

T2(C)2—Plate 2 of the 2¢ Locomotive, printed on the C Press. Interval between plate numbers is 48. Untagged. About Jan. 7. (Haake from Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center).

T5CW-A3—Plate 3 of the gravured 5¢ Circus Wagon, printed by American Bank Note, Jan. 19. This is a face-different stamp from previous gravured 5¢ Circus Wagons because the ink is phosphorescent. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

New Great Americans

23¢ Cassatt—Plate 3, confirmed as being on embedded-phosphor (mottled) paper. Shiny gum. Found in November by Henry Karen. Shipped by Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center as item 51043 in January 1994.

38¢ Laubach—Plate 1 (usually overall tagged, L Perforator, i-8 press). Untagged (error) pane. (Dave Kaplan)

ADLETS

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

WANTED PS 18a: Regular Perfed XF-S, imperf, misperf, miscut. John Tison (PNC3 473, APS, ASDA), PO Box 8755, Newport Beach CA 92658. 1-800-854-4487. (6-94)

HOPKINS VARIETIES: Blocks of 10 from Store of Future in original wrapper with various constant plate varieties. Write for details. Mike Keller, 201 Freeman St., Brooklyn, NY 11222. (PNC3) (2-94)

UNTAGGED RED CLOUD, \$10 per stamp; 30¢ Laubach, overall tagged, \$5 per stamp. Plate blocks POR. Larger entities pro-rated. Ken Moreau, 402 Caronation Dr., Franklin, MA 02038. (PNC3) (2-94)

LITTERBUG LUNCH WAGON: Blob left of wagon on numbered stamp. PS/5. VF, \$10. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (2-94)

JOIN PNC3 For details, write Joann Lertz, 37211 Alper Dr., Sterling Hts. MI 48312-2203. (2-94)

GET EVERY NUMBER—Subscribe to my PNC new-issues service. \$25 deposit, please. I also have a subscription service for House of Farnam, ArtCraft, and Artmaster FDCs. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (2-94)

SAVE ON POSTAGE: Scrap from PNCs and Great Americans at 95% if you order at least \$100 worth. All the first-class rates, 19¢, 23¢, 29¢. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (2-94)

WANTED: Plate blocks of 20¢ Gallaudet, Plates 8 and 9. Pay \$35. Plate blocks of 25¢ London, Plate 2. Pay \$5. Also plate blocks of 20 of 20¢ Flag with shiny gum. Make an offer. Greata, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (2-94)

Stamps etc. gives expanded treatment to coils, brushes off Great Americans

The January-March issue of *Stamps etc.*, which arrived in February, has a special section on coil stamps. The catalog says it will offer an "expanded listing" of one kind of stamp in each issue.

According to an explanatory note, "This catalog issue details all available coil stamps, including some from previous years." How often the expanded coil section will appear is left unsaid, but it will probably be once a year.

Let us first examine the stamps that are presented in the catalog as coils.

The 29¢ Love and 29¢ Eagle self-adhesive stamps are shown without plate numbers and no plate-numbered strips are listed. Both are offered as strips of 18, which means that each strip of 18 will include a plate number because the interval between plate numbers is 18.

In the previous edition, the 29¢ Pine Cone, also in strips of 18, was described as "Strip of 18 (included plate number)." It is too bad that such valuable information has been dropped.

The illustrations for the Love and Eagle strips are not based on actual stamps but on the artist's models. But if the stamps turn out to be like the illustrations, the

"DO NOT WET" text on the backing runs right side up from NW to SE on the Love (it does on stamps seen by the PNC Study Group) and from SE to NW upside down on the Eagle.

Things get stickier with the 23¢ Lunch Wagon, which is listed as a C Press item in coils of 100, 500, and 1,000 as Items 7913, 7914, and 7915. Item 67913, the shiny-gum, embedded (mottled) tagging version, got lost.

The regular coil listings also list the 10¢ Eagle and Shield (all three versions); the new 1¢ Omnibus off the C Press (Items 57705 for a strip of 49, 57704 for a coil of 500, and 57705 for a coil of 3,000. The item number for a roll of 3,000 and for a numbered strip of 49 are the same); 2¢ Locomotive off the C Press (Item 57730 for a strip of 49 or a roll of 3,000), and several old coils: B Press 1¢, 2¢, 3¢ (Conestoga), 4¢ (Steam Carriage), and 5¢ Circus Wagon.

Also listed are the 5¢ Canoe, the ECA-GARD machine coil, the B and C Press versions of the 10¢ Canal Boat, the 10¢ Tractor Trailer, 15¢ Tugboat, 19¢ Fishing Boat, 23¢ USA Flag (3 versions), the rouletted and perforated 29¢ Flower, intaglio

and gravured Mt. Rushmores, \$1 Seaplane, and strips of 12 of the self-stick Christmas coil.

The only \$1 Seaplane listed is the one printed on the B Press in 1990, although the illustration clearly shows the plate number 3. Plate 3 stamps were printed on the C Press.

Those are all the coils listed in the catalog. No coils are scheduled for withdrawal from sale and no coils listed in the July issue have been dropped from sale.

The listing of the Great Americans leaves much to be desired. Only five values are given regular listings (29¢, 52¢, 75¢ in both versions, \$1, and \$5). All others are listed on the back of the order blank. The Postal Service notes that collectors wanting to save the supplemental list should photocopy it.

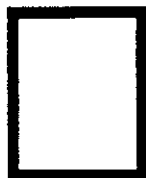
Because *Stamps etc.* is almost invariably late, when one calls the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center one must always make sure to ask whether any later stamps have been added since the most recent catalog was sent to the printer.

Fortunately, some PNCers like Richard Beecher do that regularly to make sure all of us are kept up to date.

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

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