

E&S total hits 42 different A numbers

By Stephen G. Esrati

Now that the American Bank Note Co. is no longer producing Eagle and Shield stamps, it is time to take a closer look at what has become the PNC with the largest number of plate-number combinations.

Including stamps with numbers we have been told about but have not yet found, ABN produced 42 different sets of numbers. In addition, BEP has produced three combinations and Stamp Venturers one.

Plate-by-plate E&S analysis Pages 61-62

Based on the printing totals provided to *TPN* by ABN, the rarest plate-number combination is A12113, a number that has never been found by collectors, mint or used. But we have production totals only for the first 23 combinations printed (see

Page 63 in this issue of *TPN*).

Information about the other combinations exists, but we cannot get it because of the infamous (but supposedly nonexistent) gag rule placed on the printers by the Postal Service.

What's more, although former Assistant Postmaster General Gordon Morison took great pains at STaMpsHOW '91 to gather the wants of PNC collectors as to what *Please turn to Page 60*

Aborted rate-change stamps revealed in quest for data

By Alan M. Malakoff

A 30¢ Pumpkinseed Sunfish coil and more details on the "G" stamp have come to light recently in the ongoing quest for more information from the Postal Service.

The Sunfish stamp, eventually released as a 45¢ sheet stamp definitive, was originally going to be a 30¢ coil. Back in 1991, when rates went to 29¢, there was a big USPS push for a 30¢ rate, which was denied by the Postal Rate Commission.

In anticipation of that rate, however, USPS issued the 30¢ Cardinal sheet definitive stamp and left the 1991 Christmas stamps undenominated.

USPS, however, also prepared orders and artwork for 30¢ coils and booklets. In-



cluded were a 30¢ Sunfish coil and at least three new booklets, one with a cardinal, one with a wood duck, and one of a flag

with Olympic rings. On the coil, Stamp Venturers was to print rolls of 100 and American Bank Note Co. the larger rolls.

When the Postal Rate Commission denied the 30¢ rate in November 1991, USPS canceled these orders.

Despite USPS's denial of the existence of a Wildlife Series, \$1 and \$5 Wildlife sheet definitives were also designed and *Please turn to Page 54*



BAND TAGGING—Ken Lawrence finds a new tagging type (untagged is shaded), but it's only from worn-out mats in which the horizontal parts of the block tagging have worn out, except for a tiny remnant above Carlson's head. See Page 57.

IN THIS ISSUE

USPS issuing gravured 10¢ Tractor Trailer, Page 64.
Self-adhesives gaining popularity, Page 68.

5¢ Canoe	54	DAV mailings	56
5¢ Circus Wagon	56	Prices	52
15¢ Cody	57	Self-adhesives	57, 70
22¢ Flag	53	Tagging	56
29¢ Unisys UVM	54, 55	TPN Average	52
Adlets	67	Update	69
All the news	67	Vartettes	53
Cover of the Bi-Month ..	53		
Data bank	54, 69		

Paid circulation this issue: 450

LOTS OF PROMISES

There was a long discussion at the writers' summit at the Loew's L'Enfant Plaza Hotel about the right of writers to call stamp printers directly.

"Oh, we don't have any objection to your doing that," said Michael Spates, who is in charge of the Stamp Acquisition and Distribution Branch, "as long as you do not release proprietary information and as long it doesn't involve stamps we have not announced."

That seems pretty clear. The writers offered to set up a group together with the L'Enfant Plaza Platoon to screen the information and then make it public. They offered to run it all through the Corporate Relations Department.

But shortly after the meeting—after the writers had been assured several times that there was no gag rule on the printers and that writers were free to call the printers to ask for information—Richard Nazar called American Bank Note to ask about quantities printed of ABN's recent stamp production.

Kelly Keough of ABN was helpful and pleasant, but she said she could not give him the information. Nazar told her that the "gag rule" was a thing of the past, but she said she would provide the information to USPS, which would pass it on to Nazar.

So Nazar called Robin Minard of USPS. She was helpful and pleasant, but said she would soon put out a broadcast message with the information Nazar wanted. Nazar held his breath. He waited. And then the broadcast message buzzed over the fax machines of philatelic writers.

If you will have a glance at Data Bank in this issue, you will quickly see that the broadcast message of March 4 was next to useless. We were, it is true, told about many plate numbers printed by ABN, including some not yet found by Dr. Robert Rabinowitz (who had found several even before they were announced). But what good was it to be told that ABN had printed coils of the Eagle and Shield using plate numbers made up of the numbers 0, 1, and 2?

Actually, these were 10s, 11s, and 12s. But the exactness, the clarity, the precision of that report proves something. The folks at USPS still don't understand the questions being asked by the philatelic press. Thus, answers like "0, 1, and 2" may appear good enough to them, but they're useless to philately. (We were later given actual numbers.)

TPN complained to Azeezaly Jaffer who said he would straighten things out.

"I have tried to work inside the system," he said, "but the system doesn't seem to work. Maybe it's time to change the system."

Later, he said writers would be asked to list the 15 things they needed to know about every new stamp and hinted that plate-activity reports would be resumed.

Letters to the editor

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

The Plate Number and Great Americans Review

Editor:
Contributing editors:

Stephen G. Esrati
A.S. Cibulskas
Gerald H. Clark
Kim Cuniberti
Ken Lawrence
Richard J. Nazar

Published six times a year by Stephen G. Esrati, P.O. Box 20130, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120-0130. Subscription price is \$16 a year (\$14 to members of PNC). Please add \$4.50 for first-class mail or for addresses outside North America. Entire contents Copyright © 1994 by Stephen G. Esrati.

Advertising rates: \$25 a quarter page (vertically or horizontally); \$45 a half page; \$80 a page. Other display ads are \$5 a column inch (1¾ inches wide). Classified ads: 15 cents a word, no charge for your address. Classified display: \$5 a column inch (1¾ inches wide).

He was asked specifically about the 30¢ Pumpkinseed Sunfish coil stamp, the 27¢ Swan coil stamp, and about the new-and-improved 10¢ Tractor Trailer stamp that is to be released in May.

These are things we would have learned about in plate-activity reports, if we would have seen them. Now, we are flying blind and depending on crumbs off the L'Enfant Plaza Platoon's table.

The Tractor Trailer is the worst case of all. Here is a failed stamp that mailers hated and that was replaced by the most successful PNC stamp ever, the 10¢ Eagle and Shield. Is it coming out because American Bank Note is out of the picture and can supply no more Eagle and Shields? Or has the inscription been changed to meet mailer needs? The answer, we are told, is: No!

When the information emanated from L'Enfant Plaza, there was no technical detail, no picture, no hint of what would be different except the plate number.

Surely they aren't reissuing a failed stamp! ✱

THE FUTURE OF TPN

There was a stamp show in Cleveland from March 18 through the 20th. I got so tired on the first two days, I did not go back on Sunday. I went running, instead. But the run was no good and I couldn't finish. I went home and soon called 911 because of chest pains.

After a triple bypass operation a few days later, I tried to figure out how to keep *TPN* going on the exact schedule of taking it to the printer on the 15th of even-numbered months. The fact is, I cannot. I shall, therefore, make an effort to publish six issues a year, but I can no longer guarantee it.

All subscribers will have their subscriptions automatically extended in the event issues are skipped, or, if worst comes to worst, will receive rebates of the remainder of their subscriptions.

I shall make every effort to keep *TPN* going, but exercise and relaxation now are more pressing needs.

Steve Esrati

LETTERS: *Don't blame me, blame Steve Esrati*

If Robert Kugel is annoyed with me, it must be because you have misled him. My article in *Linn's* repeated what I have told you many times during the past two years, including the technique of identification. You refused to believe it when I first reported it, refused again when I referred you to Charlie Yeager's article, and refused yet again when Kugel wrote. It is likely that whoever sold the variety to Kugel relied either on Yeager's description or mine of its existence. It wasn't I who reinvented any wheels.

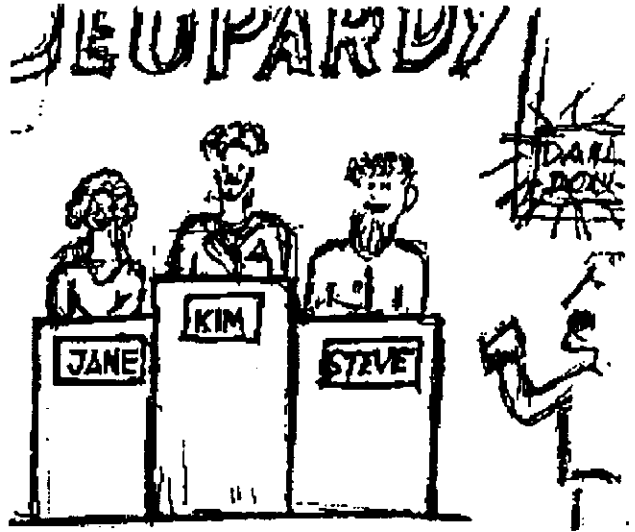
I had been compiling a Great Americans checklist before you branched out into this field, as I conducted the original research for my article that appeared in the April 1993 issue of *The American Philatelist*. When you published your first set of Great Americans data, it was riddled with mistakes. Against my better judgment, I sent you my checklist, with your promise that it would be used only to correct your list, which at that time was limited to varieties. Instead, you appropriated the whole thing, and immediately added the full list of Great Americans stamps to your chart.

However, you rejected my listing of the prephosphored 15¢ Cody—first, I think, because you had not seen it, later relying on Wayne Youngblood's statement, and even later sourced to the Bureau. I knew my information was correct because Charlie Yeager and I had bought our stamps when they first came out, and I included the prephosphored variety in my *American Philatelist* article. When Wayne Youngblood was here at State College in June (he and I both were faculty for the APS Summer Seminar), I showed him my block, using the technique described in *Linn's*, and he agreed it was prephosphored. That was before you published Kugel's "pioneering" letter and your attack on it, but it was your continuing refusal to accept our proof that prompted me to send the article to *Linn's* with that as its focus.

Since you were aware of all this, you could have informed Kugel that I did not extract anything from him, and that his research method was not original. You know quite well that I acknowledge all my sources. Instead, you deflected his unhappiness toward me, and yet you still refuse to admit the variety exists, as the chart on Page 42 shows. (It also omits the untagged \$5 Harte that you reported elsewhere in the same issue, and possibly other new data.)

For the record, the technique of examining stamps under a microscope with ultraviolet illumination has been a standard method of expertizing since the first brochure was issued by the Philatelic Foundation in 1945 (which also boasted of an infrared comparison microscope), if not even earlier. It is one of the first lessons for new expertizers. If I had not been quarreling with you about the Cody variety, I would have used the 23¢ Cassatt varieties as the examples to illustrate the method, as a seg-

Pedro's World of PNCs by Pedro Ortegón, M.D.



And now, the Daily Double, Mr. Cuniberti! A chance to win \$2,000! The answer is: "It can be sagged, surface-embedded, sometimes looks mottled, but all can be errors." Good luck, Kim!

ment of my *Linn's* series on modern specialized collecting. I first recommended that method to you, when you were having difficulty separating the overall tagged and prephosphored Cassatt stamps that lacked selvage, as more reliable than the dark-room reference comparison you had been doing.

Ken Lawrence
State College, Pa.

In reply (By Steve Esrati): Ken's letter accuses me of appropriating his checklist. In fact, his chronological method as opposed to my method of doing everything by denomination (as I did in the *PNC Catalog* and in the summary of data on the Great Americans) precluded my use of his checklist. The charts that appear in *TPN* are not related to Ken's checklist. Still, the acknowledgments in the summary included Ken.

"Riddled with mistakes" is a bit strong. When I began to work on Great Americans, the only source available was the one done by Wayne Youngblood for *Linn's World Stamp Almanac*. It was incomplete, at best. I was unable to find any available listing in which one could find everything that existed in the Great Americans Series. So I made up the charts, first the varieties and then the additional one for the rest of the series. I gave acknowledgment to Wayne's original work (and had permission to adapt it) but went on independently from there. I acknowledge that it was not perfect at first and admit that it had to be tinkered with. It probably isn't perfect yet.

The prephosphored Cody and the untagged Harte did not make the March issue for a simple reason: The USPS

writers' summit took place on Feb. 14. I usually take *TPN* to the printer on the 15th of the month before the cover date. Because of terrible weather and poor driving conditions, I got back to Cleveland late on the 15th and *TPN* was a day late. Those omissions were mistakes. There were many others. There ain't no such thing as an errorless publication, but this one had to be rushed, too.

As to my refusal to admit that the prephosphored Cody exists, please check the headline on Page 38: "Yes, Virginia, there is a phosphored Cody."

As to the method of detecting whether the tagging is over or under the ink, I tried that, too. I thought I had found some prephosphored Codys. I sent them to Wayne. "Overall tagged," he said. He advised that I learn to watch for "tagging glow," which Wayne said was an easy way to determine overall tagging. Despite 60 years of experience in philately and despite my pioneering work on German tagging in the 1960s, I was never able to see tagging glow.

Finally, Dr. Kugel's letters were actually written long before I printed them. I had simply run out of room in the previous issue. Thus, Kugel's letters may have been written before you taught at the APS seminar. Nor did I attack them. I solicited comment from BEP and Wayne. I printed their responses. That's not an attack.

In reply to Ken (by Dr. Robert Kugel): Lawrence's *American Philatelist* article is the definitive review article on the

Great Americans series. However, one must question his intellectual honesty if, as he claims, he absolutely knew the Cody was on prephosphored paper, and yet allowed to persist the notion one might read into Yeager's original article that it was only "probably on prephosphored paper."

His letter says it better than I could. Let's let it go and not waste any more time on him.

In reply to Steve (by Ken Lawrence): Much of what you write is true, so let me clarify just two points.

First, when I proposed early last year to do a series for *Linn's* on modern specialized U.S. collecting, one of the articles I suggested was on on the techniques to differentiate prephosphored from overall tagging.

In conceiving that segment, I planned originally to use varieties of the 23¢ Cassatt stamp as examples. After following the saga of the 15¢ Cody in *TPN*, I decided that example would be more useful to readers.

Since Robert Kugel was among the intended beneficiaries, I was dismayed to read your report that he was annoyed with me. I still am. If he had sent his report to me instead of to you, I would have assured him that he was correct, and that his technique was the recognized one for identifying this difference.

But he didn't. He sent his report to you, and you debunked it. He ought to be thanking me for setting the record straight, and kicking himself for not having written to me in the first place. Instead, with your assistance, he has taken aim at the messenger (one whose message on this point has been consistent since 1988), for agreeing with him!

Second, although I do not believe in withholding useful information, I do desire to publish the fruit of my research first in my chosen venue under my byline.

I had worked two years on my Great Americans article, using my chronological checklist as my working outline, when your first article and checklist appeared. At the time, yours was limited to stamps with more than one variety, and contained many mistakes.

I sent my list so that you could correct the mistakes in yours, on the specific stated understanding that you would not appropriate the rest of it. However, the next edition of your chart included every stamp.

It is true that you rearranged the listings by denomination, as they were given in the 1991 *Linn's Yearbook*, but the yearbook listings were wrong on almost every stamp you added to the expanded listing. Your chart did not reproduce the *Linn's* mistakes (which remained until I corrected them in the 1992 yearbook published last year). You corrected those data from my list.

Thus every scrap of my list appeared in *TPN* right after I sent it, except the disputed 15¢ Cody item, but rearranged in denomination sequence. That far exceeded our original agreement on how my list could be used.

Since the entire compilation first appeared under your byline or that of the study group, the impression given to readers is that my *American Philatelist* article relied heav-

BUYING ERRORS



Imperforates Perf Shifts
Missing Colors
Offsets Color Shifts
Miscuts, etc.

Older Issues • Recent Issues
New Finds

(215) 728-7836

MONTCLAIR STAMP CO.

P.O. Box 38, Cheltenham, PA 19012



APS

BIA

ily on *TPN's* research, when the reality was just the reverse.

A summary acknowledgment is not a byline.

I would never have brought this up, despite the irritation I felt, had you not added insult in the last *TPN* by accusing me of reinventing the wheel. The wheel has plenty of inventors, and they all deserve more credit than they receive, but I was among them at the start.

And when I gave my first compilation to *TPN*, it included the 15¢ Cody on prephosphored paper, with full documentation.

Yellow-gum Nimitz

I have some 50¢ Nimitz stamps (from Plate 4 off the I-8 Press and with L Perforations) that have yellow gum. Can you explain?

Steve Burke

Southfield, Mich.

In reply (by Ken Lawrence): They are, indeed yellow gum and the color matches the gum on the imperforate 1¢ Franklin (Scott 314), a real orange-yellow.

Line on BEP's E&S

(By phone) Can you explain the horizontal lines seen on so many Eagle and Shield stamps produced at the BEP?

Dr. Robert Rabinowitz

Stamford, Conn.

In reply (by Ken Lawrence): They appear to be caused by a nick in the doctor blade. The doctor blade is like a squeegee and wipes excess ink off. If there is a nick in it, a horizontal line will be seen on the stamps at the point where the ink can leak through.

What was that 'Bulk Rate'?

In addition to the usual late-breaking news on stamps, tagging, and letters that you print, I also enjoy the little tidbit items, such as the one in the latest issue on the 10¢ Tractor Trailer PNCs overprinted "Bulk Rate."

I also find very useful items about current bulk-rate mailing rates and practices. I've been exhibiting usages of Transportation Coils occasionally over the last few years and information from *TPN* helps in write-ups.

I'd like to find out what I can about the "Bulk Rate" overprint described in the last issue. Do you know where I can get such a cover? Whether the stamp has a plate number? Failing that, can I get a copy so I can see what the cover looks like.

Leonard Piskiewicz

Santa Clara, Calif.

In reply: On Page 44 in March 1993 we reprinted the instructions from the 1-7-93 *Postal Bulletin* that authorized the overprinting of Tractor Trailer stamps. On Page 99 of the July issue we reprinted the broadcast message suspending ordering of the Tractor Trailer stamp. That issue also included an adlet offering \$2.50 for private overprints. In the next issue, the offer went to \$5. In

November, the adlet offered \$10. No replies came in.

Finally, a collector offered three covers, all with plate numbers. All were mailed by the North Shore Hotel in Evanston, Ill., and were mailed to addresses north of Chicago by carrier-route sort.

The three covers are no longer on the market. I would suggest doing what the original seeker did: Run an ad and keep jacking up the offering price until someone breaks a cover loose.

There should be dozens of varieties on these overprints, not only as to color and typeface, but even in the wording.

All readers are urged to share any information they have on such overprints.

Untagged 3¢ White

I have a bottom horizontal strip of the 3¢ White with the bottom row totally untagged and the next row up with beautiful block tagging.

Looks like the mat might have slipped a cog.

Carol M. Morehouse

Carlsbad, Calif.

Not available

I placed a phone order with Philatelic Fulfillment on March 15. I tried to order items mentioned in *Information from* Item 7932, the 5¢ Circus Wagon is available but the person taking my order could not guarantee that this version would be any different from the original. Item 7763 (3¢ Conestoga Wagon) and Item 7906 (5¢ Canoe) were not available.

Richard L. Beecher

Los Angeles

Set-asides are dead

TPN Note: At the writers' summit, Richard Nazar asked Michael Spates, manager of the Stamp Acquisition and Distribution Branch, whether the policy of having printers set aside a certain number of stamps of each plate number was still being honored. Spates said he had never heard of such a policy and asked for documentation. After reading *TPN's* account of the proposed policy, Spates replied:

Thank you for the information regarding the previous administrations's policy on setting aside plate numbers for the philatelic community. We researched this issue and learned that currently the Postal Service's policy is that it does not honor orders for specific coil stamp plate numbers. This research also provided us with insight as to what it would take for the Postal Service to change this policy. To do so would increase our overall costs with our stamp suppliers and at our Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center with nominal sales returns to offset these increased costs.

While I see no modification to this policy at the present time, we will keep your request in mind for future refer-

ence. If there should be a change, we will notify the philatelic community through our Corporate Relations group.

Michael F. Spates
U.S. Postal Service

In reply: It had been hoped that setting aside some of each plate number for sale through the cave would prevent loss to collectors of stamps that could not be found at post offices. One example is the Eagle and Shield with the plate-number combination A12113.

In praise of *TPN*

TPN Average continues its decline

The TPN Average continues its decline as more dealers join the move to net pricing and as sales of PNCs continue to sag.

Henry Karen of Michael M. Karen Inc. notes that he has reduced his inventory levels, laying in fewer PNCs than before.

What is important, however, is that after a year of adjusting to net pricing, prices continue to go down, which can only be interpreted as an attempt by dealers to entice buyers with lower prices. It also means less buyer demand.

There has been a noticeable dropping off of enthusiasm, possibly because of the profusion of plate numbers on such stamps as the 10¢ Eagle and Shield.

Karen suggests that things would be better if collectors could get a respite from the flood of new plate numbers if the printers would make efforts to limit their number. (One way to do this is to use rechromed plates instead of constantly adding new ones.)

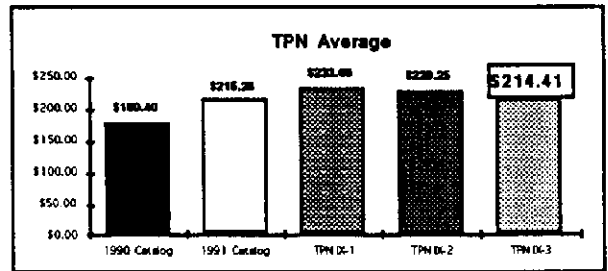
"It's getting to be like the days when they went to large plate blocks and killed off plate-block collecting," Karen said.

Admittedly, reporting that PNC collecting is hitting a bumpy period is considered heresy by some in the PNC community. But

I don't see how PNC collectors could do without *The Plate Number*.

You're a superb editor! Please keep fighting for the release of essential information from the USPS. You're fighting not just for us PNC collectors but for all of philately. I appreciate all you're doing.

Sydney K. Kay, Ph. D.
Dallas



that appears to be the only explanation for the constant downward drift of PNC prices.

The decline in the TPN Average so far this year is 8.25%. The decline since the March issue of *TPN* is 6.47%.

This month's big decline for Plate 3 of the 18¢ Flag represents a 13.8% drop since the January issue. But in this instance, a note of caution must be added. Many dealers simply do not have this stamp any more.

Changes in components of the TPN Average

CAT	STAMP	PLATE	TPN IX-2	TPN IX-3	% Change
C25-12**	"	1211	\$31.54	\$30.11	-4.56%
M10-A33333	E&S	A33333	\$5.25	\$4.82	-8.32%
M19-A11112	Fishing	A11112	\$9.86	\$9.06	-7.51%
M19-A5555-um	Fishing	A5555	\$10.74	\$10.44	-2.78%
M20-1	Consumer	1	\$215.43	\$205.56	-4.58%
M20-3	Consumer	3	\$128.01	\$121.42	-5.15%
S20-1	Official	1	\$70.51	\$69.91	-0.85%
o27-1	Official	1	\$86.89	\$84.94	-2.25%
F18-1	Flag	1	\$494.71	\$471.79	-4.63%
F18-3	Flag	3	\$1,124.13	\$989.00	-12.02%
F20-4	Flag	4	\$852.15	\$778.41	-8.65%
F20-11	Flag	11	\$11.87	\$11.05	-6.88%
F22-1	Flag	1	\$15.30	\$14.85	-2.93%
F22-3	Flag	3	\$60.95	\$59.13	-2.96%
F25-6block	Flag	5	\$4.80	\$4.58	-4.56%
F25-6ches	Flag	5	\$9.95	\$9.48	-4.74%
F29-1MR	Rushmore	1	\$5.16	\$4.91	-4.90%
F29-1Wh	White House	1	\$5.13	\$5.08	-0.90%
T5-2-3	Trans	3	\$232.30	\$230.86	-0.62%
T5-2-4P-2L	Trans	4	\$15.34	\$15.42	+0.53%
T5-9-3P-LN	Trans	3	\$31.26	\$29.88	-4.42%
T5-9-6P-LN	Trans	6	\$100.36	\$94.56	-5.78%
T7-4-2	Trans	2	\$11.67	\$11.43	-2.07%
T8-4-3P	Trans	3	\$20.85	\$19.31	-7.39%
T9-3-1P-NO	Trans	1	\$18.18	\$17.94	-1.33%
T9-3-6	Trans	6	\$313.70	\$299.82	-4.42%
T9-3-8P-2L	Trans	8	\$217.83	\$208.60	-4.24%
T10-9-1P-LN	Trans	1	\$35.51	\$35.03	-1.38%
T10-9-4P-LN	Trans	4	\$404.80	\$385.25	-4.83%
T17-6	Trans	6	\$18.22	\$17.46	-4.17%
T17-6Pba-1L	Trans	6	\$53.15	\$51.41	-3.16%
T18-1	Trans	1	\$105.20	\$98.47	-6.39%
T18-3	Trans	3	\$84.88	\$79.81	-5.97%
T18-17	Trans	17	\$6.80	\$6.74	-0.85%
T20FP-1	Trans	1	\$186.30	\$178.94	-3.95%
T20FP-2	Trans	2	\$1,019.67	\$964.08	-5.45%
T20FP-7	Trans	7	\$186.30	\$175.79	-5.64%
T20FP-11	Trans	11	\$97.59	\$88.46	-9.36%
T20FP-12	Trans	12	\$9.98	\$9.64	-3.46%

Recent prices of Eagle and Shield stamps

No.	PS/3	PS/5	No.	PS/3	PS/5
11111	\$2.70	\$3.04	A43335	\$2.89	\$3.10
22221	2.91	3.18	A43428	4.11	4.20
22221-photos	—	60.00	A53335	3.25	3.44
22222	2.69	2.88	A54444	3.55	3.65
A111111	2.59	2.83	A54445	3.55	3.85
A111112	2.59	2.83	A77777	2.79	3.02
A12213	19.17	19.64	A88888	2.79	3.01
A21112	2.59	2.83	A88889	3.26	3.51
A21113	3.68	3.80	A89999	3.03	3.21
A22112	2.59	2.83	A99998	3.34	3.67
A22113	2.51	2.73	A99999	2.92	3.12
A32333	211.8	221.87	A10 10 10 10 10	3.00	3.16
A33333	4.16	4.19	A10 11 10 10 10	2.75	2.96
A33334	81.01	83.80	A10 11 10 10 12	3.15	3.25
A33335	4.07	4.12	A11 10 10 10 10	2.75	2.96
A34424	4.70	5.02	A11 10 10 10 10	2.55	2.83
A34426	4.03	4.41	A11 11 10 10 10	2.90	3.00
A43324	4.05	4.07	A11 11 11 10 10	3.15	3.25
A43325	3.43	3.55	A14 11 10 10 10	2.90	3.00
A43326	3.88	3.76	A14 12 11 11 10	3.15	3.25
A43334	2.89	3.10			

I Goofed

Someone sent in \$10 for one of my unique House of Farnam FDCs showing a PS/5 of the Christmas self-stick and \$7.50 for a PS/3 of the Pine Cone. I cashed the check but lost the request. Please write so I can send it out.

P.S. I still have a stock of both covers. The Christmas is unique because it shows both a numbered and an unnumbered Snowman.

Steve Esratl



Mrs. Margaret M. England
9916 Woodruff Avenue
Temple City, CA 91780-1729

9-8-5



COVER OF THE BI-MONTH—Two 50¢ Nimitz stamps have been used to pay the certified-mail fee on a mass mailing. This rate has been in effect since Feb. 3, 1991. The regular postage is paid with the 23¢ Presorted First Class precancel. This stamp pays the lowest first-class presorted rate for matter other than cards. Additional clues tell us that this cover is part of a qualified mass

mailing. The perforations on all the stamps are sharply cut, indicating that they were applied by machine. The certified mail endorsement is not a label, but an integral part of the envelope. Lastly, all three stamps are tied to the envelope with a mailer's postmark permit originating at ZIP code 22773. (By Richard L. Beecher)

BEP shows a PNC that never was

Starting at the St. Louis Stamp Expo last year, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's archivist, Cecilia Hatfield Wertheimer, has been showing a three-frame exhibit of stamps that never were.

Included in the exhibit was a Flag stamp designed for the rate change of 1985. This stamp was eventually issued in revised form as the 22¢ Flag coil.

According to the writeup in the exhibit, the stamp was never issued because of "a concern that color contamination between the red stripes of the flag and black of the dome might result in high spoilage."

A variation of the design was eventually used on the booklet covers of the 22¢ Flag over Capitol stamps.

The exhibit, slightly changed from its original showing, was on show again at the Garfield Perry March Party in Cleveland, site of the Bureau Issues Association's annual meeting. Mrs. Wertheimer also presented a slide show to illustrate the archival work now being done at BEP.

None of the other stamps that never were fall within the purview of *TPN*.

Mrs. Wertheimer, who is not involved in the continuing struggle between BEP and



the Postal Service about plate-activity reports, told *TPN* that she was firmly convinced not only that all the "missing data" on printing since late 1991 would one day become available to collectors, but also that she simply could not believe a rumor that because someone at BEP was angry at the Postal Service all computerized plate-activity data had been purged forever from the system.

"It's still there," she said. □

Plate varieties —Report LI

By A. S. Cibulskas

10¢ Eagle and Shield

a. Plate-number combination 99998—Inking variety. The top loop of the "8" in the plate number is filled in. (Moreau)

b. Plate-number combinations 33333 and 22113—The last (brown) plate numbers are heavily overinked, resulting in an enlarged digit. (Moreau)

23¢ Lunch Wagon

a. Plate 3, shiny gum. Large blob of ink under "A" of "USA." Constant at 8R. (S. Adams)

b. Plate 3, shiny gum. Four ink blobs: in middle of vertical part of "2"; in left vertical line of "U" in "USA"; in white area right of "A" in "USA," and in white area right and below the "A" of "USA." Constant at 8L. (Liu)

Please report constant plate and mat varieties to Cibulskas at 28 Westwood Dr., Stamford CT 06902.

30¢ coil, first-class presort 'G' stamps revealed

Continued from Page 47

ordered in late 1991. A \$2 Bobcat sheet stamp had already been issued. The new values were then placed "on hold" until at least this year as a result of USPS budgetary restraints.

It is not known (nor is USPS saying) if the "Essay" stamps, announced for later this year, will replace or be in addition to the Wildlife definitives.

More news on 'G' stamps

Numerous "G" stamps were also prepared starting in 1991 for the rate change that is now set for next year. It is believed that BEP printed this gravure stamp for the

New version of Canoe is hard to distinguish

Even though it was listed in *Stamps etc.*'s January-March issue, a new "dull gum" version of the 5¢ Canoe got past everyone.

But the stamp, when finally noticed by the PNC community in late February, immediately became a problem.

Let's look at the original Stamp Venturers version first. That stamp, with the plate-number combination "S11," had shiny gum that was diagonally ribbed at about a 45-degree angle. To see the gum ridges, one had to turn the stamp slowly until the ridges became apparent. No magnification was needed.

The new stamps, although described as "dull gum," are also shiny. The main difference is that the gum is smooth, without ridging.

With only such a minor difference, dealers wondered if they should bother to strip out a roll of 10,000 stamps. Would collectors want the two varieties? Was it worth an outlay of \$500 a roll?

Then Phil Rose of the PNC Study Group examined the two versions. Rose found the original stamp (Item 7907A) to have dull white gum under long-wave UV; the new version (Item 57907) is totally dead (purple) in long-wave UV.

After examining Rose's stamps, *TPN* concludes that the difference is not in the paper, but in the gum. Seen from the face of the stamps in UV, both stamps look alike.

The appearance of the new variety contradicts a statement by Rick Arvonio of the Stamp Acquisition and Distribution Branch that collectors would be told of each new variety printed. Merely listing a new item in *Stamps etc.* hardly meets the promise of an announcement from SADB. □

first-class rate in rolls of 100, 500, and 3,000, although the quantities printed are not known. Stamp Venturers and ABN each printed 3.4 billion coil G stamps in rolls of 100, 500, 3,000, and 10,000.

In addition to the stamps for the first-class rate, Stamp Venturers also prepared 500 million "G" stamps for first-class presorted bulk mail in rolls of 500 and 3,000. ABN printed 780 million of a "G" non-profit presort coil, also in rolls of 500 and 3,000. (See *TPN*, January 1993.)

[TPN note: At the writers' summit in February, Michael Spates, manager of Stamp Acquisition and Distribution, defended the gag rule on philatelic writers—which he also said does not exist—by stating that the Postal Service could not permit the dissemination of news on stamps not announced by USPS.]

Given the false-franking use of the 5¢ Canoe, it is unclear why such a nonprofit stamp would be necessary.

Avery printed a "G" stamp to meet the first-class rate as self-adhesive sheetlets

of 18 and as philatelic coils of 5,004.

Other issues to meet the new rate include not only a "G"-rate postcard, but also a postcard makeup-rate stamp (both in sheets, not in coils).

Other aborted stamps

In addition to the three designs of the 23¢ coils issued so far by USPS—Lunch Wagon, Presorted First-Class Flag, and USA—it appears that a fourth design, also with an American flag, was envisioned. ABN was to be the printer, but this order was canceled by the Postal Service.

The intaglio-engraved 10¢ Tractor Trailer was slated to move to a gravure version in rolls of 10,000, just like the 5¢ Canoe. In fact, Stamp Venturers had actually started its preparation, but because of mailers' dissatisfaction with the stamp, the Postal Service canceled that order and, instead, issued the 10¢ Eagle and Shield coils.

Stamp Manufacturing told Robin Minard that no Tractor Trailers had ever been ordered from Stamp Venturers. □

How The Postal Bulletin announced the new UVMs ...

Postage and Mailing Center Stamp

The Postal Service has announced tests for the second version of the Postage and Mailing Center (PMC) in the Northern Virginia District beginning Feb. 19, 1994. The PMC allows customers to weigh an item and determine the postage necessary for the desired level of service. It then prints a stamp with the appropriate postage.

The stamp's design features a blue and white stars and stripes shield in the upper center with red and white bunting draped on either side. USA, in red, appears below the shield. The PMC prints the stamp's denomination below the USA in black. PMCs print stamps in any denomination from 19 cents to \$99.99.

After the first version of this stamp went on sale in August 1992, some customers received their mailpieces marked "Returned for Insufficient Postage." Be aware that both versions of the Postage and Mailing Center Stamp are approved postage with the



feature of variable rates. The only difference between the two versions of the stamp is the location of the perforations. This version has horizontal perforations (on each side), and the earlier version has vertical perforations (top and bottom).

PLEASE POST ON ALL BULLETIN BOARDS

... and managed to get the perforations all wrong

The Postal Bulletin of Feb. 17 carried the above notice, intended as a poster to be put up at all post offices. The imperforate illustration, which was not available to the philatelic press on Feb. 14 (when writers complained to the Postal Service about not getting it) appears to be an artist's rendition, since the denominations on stamps as vended on the first day were usually cut off at the bottom of the loop.

It should be noted that the last paragraph reversed the direction of the perforations on the two versions of the stamp.

The warning that the stamps are "approved postage" results from many documented cases where the stamps were marked void, defaced with ballpoint pens, or otherwise rejected as stamps.

It is doubtful that this notice will improve matters.

Unisys machine goes into service with new UVMs

By Myron G. Hill, Jr.

After many delays, the new Universal Vending Machine coil (UVM) for use in Unisys machines was placed on sale Feb. 19, 1994, at Merrifield, Va.

[TPN note: Everybody seems to be calling these stamps "variable rate coils" or VRCs, but it is not the rate that is variable. What is variable is the denomination. Richard J. Nazar, publisher of the new *PNC Catalog*, will also call them UVMs and the catalog number for these new stamps will be M29UVM-A11. The stamps were originally called UVMs by BEP, probably because that is what they were termed in the printing contract.]

The new coil was produced by American Bank Note Co., with printing by its subcontractor, Guilford Gravure. The stamp design is the same as for the UVM produced by the BEP for the ECA GARD machines. However, the stamp has a vertical rather than a horizontal format and bears its plate numbers at the bottom rather than at the left side.

The value is printed as "\$0.29" instead of "*0.29."

[TPN note: Nazar said that the original BEP design had simply been stretched vertically by computer to fill the required area, giving the stamp its somewhat squeezed appearance.

[The machines, themselves, were made by the Paramax Division of Unisys.]

The stamps I saw on the first day were nicely centered with a clear plate number. This contrasts with generally poorer centering and a light plate number on the earlier BEP coils.

The plate number available on the first day was "A11." It appears at the bottom of every 24th stamp.

There was no official first-day ceremony, but an FDOI cancel was available at the post office. The Postal Service is selling mint coil stamps and FDCs from its Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center. Many dealers were present at Merrifield to buy stamps directly from the Unisys machine.

They could buy any denomination from 19 cents up. However, each person was limited to one transaction with a 99-stamp maximum. Dealers wanting more stamps had to get in line again. They prepared their covers while waiting in line.

In the afternoon, the wait was about one hour, an improvement from the morning when the wait was one and a half hours because of a machine breakdown. A Unisys representative was there to repair the

machine and remained all day to assist customers in operating the machine and answering questions.

Both the Unisys and the ECA GARD machines weigh mail and indicate the postage required. However, the Unisys machine has substantial improvements over the ECA GARD machine, such as printing stamps much faster and accepting bills up to \$20.

It gives change using Susan B. Anthony dollars.

It is even designed to accept credit cards, but that function was not operational on the first day. A sign said the feature will be "available soon."

Other Unisys machines were available in five other northern Virginia post offices on Feb. 21 (Presidents' Day) to continue the testing.

The Merrifield machine at first provided stamps that were not up to collector standards in that it chopped off part of the denomination, making a "19" appear to say "17." The bottom of the 9's loop would not print.

The West McLean machine was out of order quite a bit of the time at the end of February.

The publicity from the Postal Service about the new stamps said:

Collectors who desire information about the availability of the Unisys PMC machines may phone the Postal Service Answer Line at (703) 698-6360.

I called to find out about repairs at West McLean. I got a recorded announcement saying: "The number you have reached is not in service."

How to make combinations

On the old ECA GARD machines, stamps emerged in the order that the customer ordered them. So if your birthday was March 13, 1927, and you wanted to make up a strip saying "03/13/27" what you did was to print up one 3¢ stamp, followed by a 13¢ stamp, and finally a 27¢ stamp.

You cannot do this on the Unisys machine at all because its lowest value is 19¢.

You can, however, still make any other combination as long as the denominations are more than 19¢. But this machine does it backward.

Using the previous example (even though impossible) you would first print the 27¢ stamp, followed by the 13¢, and the 3¢.

That's because the machine spits them out with the last stamp ordered at the head of the strip.

By Stephen G. Esrati

Some Unisys UVMs that were made at the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center have the values centered under the blue shield, but most do not. The majority of the stamps have the "9" of "\$0.29" closer to the right edge of the design than the "\$."

In a few cases, the "9" is outside the frame.

As in most stamps printed by ABN, the stamps themselves tend to be XF or better in their vertical and horizontal centering.

It is not yet known whether collectors and dealers will assay the condition of the new UVMs by the centering of the denomination. Yet it seems reasonable that to be regarded as an XF stamp, the denomination should, at the very least, be inside the frame and, preferably, close to well centered.

New printer due

Because American Bank Note's contract with the Postal Service expired in 1993, a new printer will have to produce any additional stamps for the Unisys machine if they should be needed.

That means the stamps are likely to be redesigned in their entirety since ABN used the art for the BEP version and stretched it by computer.

A new printer would also use different plate numbers.

\$9.95 PNC is a find

John S. Shue was also at Merrifield on the first day. He was helping people with the machine.

When a woman needed two \$9.95 stamps, Shue showed her how to make them. One came out with a plate number. Shue bought it and bought her another.

The fingerprint hazard

Collectors who make their way to northern Virginia to try their hands at the Unisys machines should be extremely careful about leaving their fingerprints on the stamps.

The ink used to imprint the denomination in the Unisys machine is not quick drying. Thus, it takes a while for the newly printed denomination to dry. Touch the wet ink and your fingerprints will show on the next stamp you touch.

So if a collector attempts to remove strips from the machine it is important to grab the strip beyond the numbered strip of five. Otherwise fingerprints will soon mar the numbered strip.

May be from worn-out phosphor plate

Vertical 'band tagging' found on 21¢ Carlson pane

By Ken Lawrence

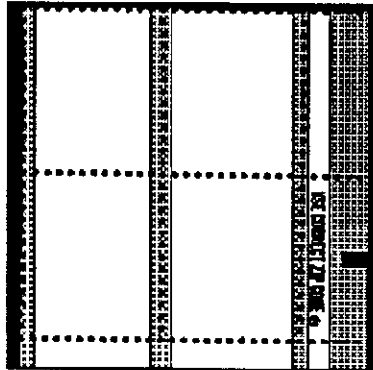
Recently I purchased a pane of 21¢ Chester Carlson stamps in the Great Americans Series with a style of tagging I had not seen previously.

I would call it vertical band tagging, and I would recommend collecting it in vertical pairs, strips, or blocks. Single stamps may not be adequate for positive identification.

A vertical pair of the new variety is shown on the front page of this issue. On this page are a normal pair (below) and a block of four of the variety (right). None of these illustrations is a photograph, but computer-generated graphics.

On the actual pane, there are slight remnants of the horizontal untagged lines that are normal in block tagging, but as a whole, seen in UV light, the sheet appears to have purple vertical lines running through it.

The 21¢ Carlson stamp was issued in 1988 and was withdrawn from philatelic sale on Sept. 20, 1993. It is still widely



BAND TAGGING—The horizontal untagged areas have disappeared.

available in post offices. I purchased mine in State College, Pa.

Like most U.S. definitives issued in the 1980s, the 21¢ Carlson stamps were printed with a block of tagging ink over the vignette of each stamp, and with an untagged frame on all four sides around the tagging block.

At that time, officials in charge of stamp ordering and production believed that the abrasive materials suspended in the tag-

ging ink caused damage to perforating equipment at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The purpose of the untagged border on each stamp was to avoid wearing down the perforating pins.

Often, however, tagging blocks were printed out of register with the stamp vignette, as occurred on the left edge of my pane. When that happened, perforations crossed the tagged area.

The tagged portion of the new variety runs in continuous bands from the top of the pane to the bottom. It extends across the top and bottom selvage. It is patchy in spots, but the only continuous untagged portions are the left and right borders of each stamp.

Perhaps a new tagging plate was manufactured in this format, but I think a different explanation is more likely. Probably the original tagging plate wore down to the point where the raised portions were level with the horizontal grooves that had separated them, while deeper vertical grooves remained.

In that way, the tagging blocks became connected vertically while remaining separate horizontally.

You may wonder what purpose a 21¢ stamp serves. I use it to make up a 40¢ rate on my 29¢ stamped envelopes. □

Why are self-sticks needed? USPS explains, but still muddies the waters

"The convertible stamp booklet is available in a coil version, sold only in strips of 18 stamps for \$5.22 from the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center's *Stamps etc.* catalog. The Postal Service needs the coil version because it uses a label-attaching machine to affix stamps to first-day covers. Since no perforations exist on either version of the stamp, there is no difference in stamps affixed to covers from the booklets or coil.—*Marketing, 1-6-94*"

That is the text of part of the announcement for the Eagle self-adhesive coil in the *Postal Bulletin*.

A similar announcement was published for the Love Sunrise self-adhesive stamp. It was not published for previous self-adhesives that were also printed as coils.

But the announcements are wrong in stating that there is no difference between the two versions. Not only is the backing visible on the coils, but the plate numbers are different.

USPS always gets its facts straight!



NORMAL—Block tagging and untagged portions (shaded)

Prephosphored Cody printed on paper sample

By Stephen G. Esrati

Examination of Ken Lawrence's prephosphored 15¢ Cody suggests that the stamps were printed on a paper sample.

"BEP, as you know," Lawrence said, "never threw away any paper."

This was demonstrated when Lenz paper turned out to be a sample and when some early PNCs appeared on Paper Ia.

Lawrence drew this conclusion after we compared various plate blocks in daylight. His prephosphored block (proven under a microscope) was not on white paper. In daylight, it looked like overall tagging.

By comparison, a known prephosphored block of another denomination appeared snow white.

"This could explain why they kept telling you at BEP that all Codys were printed on untagged paper," Lawrence said, adding that BEP would not have had records of printing on a paper sample.

Lawrence said that when he and Charles Yeager visited the BEP they were told that the plate cards proved use of a special paper.

PLATE NUMBER COILS

SPECIAL: E&S Imperforate PS6 BEP 11111 \$225, imperf pair \$29

	LP	PS3	PS5
2604 (10c) Eagle and Shield			
A11111, A11112, A21112, A22112, A22113, A43334, A43335, A53335, A77777, A88888, A89999, A99999, A1010101010, A1011101011, A1011101012, A1110101010, A1110111010, A1111101010, A1411101010, A1411101011, A1412111110	2.64	2.72	2.80
A21113, A33333, A33335, A34424, A34426, A43324, A43325, A43326, A43426, A54444, A54445, A88889	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) Stamp Ventures S1111	2.64	2.72	2.80
1891 18c Flag 1	96.00	112.00	352.00
2	13.72	20.58	36.00
3	288.00	290.00	800.00
4	4.41	4.66	8.00
5	2.45	3.29	4.40
6	WANT	1,440.00	2,160.00
7	26.60	26.99	31.20
2149 18c Wash. Monument 1112, 3333	1.93	2.10	2.80
2149a 18c PC 33333 shiny & dull	3.20	3.60	4.00
PC 11121, 43444	4.60	4.92	5.20
2529 19c Boat A1112, 1212	8.00	8.20	8.40
A1111, A2424, A5555, A5556, A6667, A7667, A7766, A7779	2.60	3.00	3.60
A5555 untagged	9.60	10.00	10.40
2005 20c Consumer Ed. 1, 2	3.19	26.25	160.00
3, 4	3.19	26.25	96.00
1895 20c Flag 1	3.92	6.40	68.00
2, 11, 12	5.29	7.00	9.60
3	2.35	2.45	6.00
4	26.46	45.50	640.00
6	72.00	76.00	120.00
8	3.82	3.92	12.80
5, 9, 10, 13, 14	1.93	2.80	4.80
1895a 20c PC 14	48.00	48.00	48.00
0135 20c Official 1	7.35	17.50	56.00
2150 21.1c Letters 11111	2.10	2.21	3.80
111121	2.84	3.08	4.60
2150a 21.1c PC 111111, 111121	3.08	3.08	4.60
2115 22c Flag 1, 7, 13	3.82	10.15	12.00
3	8.40	11.20	48.00
5, 6, 10	4.80	4.90	6.00
14	20.40	20.80	21.60
2, 4, 8, 12, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, T1	2.80	2.87	3.60
11, 17, 18, 20	4.76	6.64	7.60
2112 22c "D" Eagle 1, 2	3.80	4.08	6.20
0139 22c "D" Official 1	24.50	35.00	64.00
2607 23c Presort Flag A111, A212, A222	2.60	3.00	3.20
A112	7.20	7.60	8.00
A122, 333	3.60	4.00	4.40
2608 23c USA			
A1111, A2222, A2232, A2233, A3333, A4364, A4443, A4444, A4453	3.20	3.60	4.00
2608a BEP version 1111	2.80	3.20	3.60
2608b Stamp Ventures version S111	2.80	3.20	3.60
2280 25c Yosemite			
Block 1, 7	5.60	6.40	7.20
Block 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	2.66	2.94	3.60

	LP	PS3	PS5
2280 25c Yosemite (continued)			
Block 9	8.00	8.80	9.60
Phos 1	38.40	39.20	40.00
Phos. 2-3, 7-11, 13-14	2.80	2.98	3.80
Phos. 5, 15	4.80	5.60	6.40
Phos. 6	11.20	12.00	12.80
2279 "E" Earth 1211	3.80	3.92	5.80
2222	4.00	4.40	4.80
1111, 1222	1.68	1.84	3.00
2281 25c Honeybee 1, 2	1.68	1.96	3.60
1 Orig. full serif	24.00	25.20	25.60
2518 "F" (29c) Tulip			
1111, 1222, 2222	2.80	3.20	3.60
1211	31.20	31.60	32.00
2211	6.40	6.80	7.20
2525 29c Flower S1111, 2222 S11	2.80	3.20	3.60
S2222 (Perf.)	3.20	3.60	4.00
2523 29c Mt. Rushmore			
1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7	2.80	3.20	3.60
6 on Lenz Paper	120.00	120.00	120.00
5, 8, 9	6.80	7.00	7.20
2523c 7 Toledo brown	120.00	120.00	120.00
2523a gravure A11111, A22211	2.80	3.20	3.60
2690 29c White House 1-14	3.60	4.00	4.40
NEW Pine Cone self-stick B1	—	—	5.00
NEW Love self-stick B1	—	—	5.00
NEW Eagle self-stick 111	—	—	5.00
NEW Xmas PS/8 V1111111	—	—	6.00
Variable Rate Shield (UVM) BEP version Plate 1 per PS/5			
1c—18c			30.00
19c—29c			10.00
Same, Unisys, ABN version A11, 19c—29c			10.00

With \$100 purchase you may buy
Single Black Forest Yosemite (\$100 cat) for just \$35.

or

Pair of imperf 19c Fishing Boat (our retail \$450) for just \$250.

Quantities extremely limited on these items. Subject to prior sale. Call early!

The hottest item since PNCs:
Self-adhesive booklet plate numbers

We are attempting to carry all of them.

We cannot list plate numbers in this ad yet,
because they're proliferating fast
and we're still flying blind.

Send us your want list. We'll try to fill it.
Send us lists of your duplicates. We may want
to buy them.

Stamps 'n' Stuff
your headquarters for ATMs
and self-stick booklets.

TRANSPORTATION COILS

SPECIAL: E&S Imperforate PS6 BEP 11111 \$225, imperf pair \$29

	LP	PS3	PS5		LP	PS3	PS5		LP	PS3	PS5
1897 1c Bus 1, 2, 5, 6	.14	.21	.52	2127 7.1c Tractor 1	1.79	2.08	2.16	2134 14c Iceboat 1, 2, 3, 4	.98	1.68	2.00
3, 4	.84	.91	1.12	2127a PC 1	3.20	3.40	3.60	2134b B Press 2	2.24	3.12	3.60
2225 1c B Press 1, 2	.32	.40	.72	2127a PC 1 "ZIP+4"	2.04	2.08	2.16	2260 15c Lugboat 1, 2	2.00	2.24	2.40
2225a untagged 2	.80	1.00	1.20	1902 7.4c Baby Buggy 2	3.92	4.41	8.80	2260a Overall tagged 2	2.80	3.04	3.20
NEW 1c C Press 3	.68	.72	.80	1902a PC 2	4.00	4.40	4.80	2261 16.7c Popcorn 1, 2	3.20	3.52	3.80
1897A 2c Loco 3, 4, 8, 10	.25	.28	.56	2255 7.6c Carreta 1, 2	1.40	2.00	2.12	1906 17c Auto 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1.26	2.17	2.72
2, 6	.48	.52	.80	3	4.80	5.20	5.60	6	13.60	14.00	14.40
2226 2c Loco B Press 1	.68	.72	.80	2128 8.3c Ambulance 1, 2	.88	.98	1.80	7	3.92	4.00	4.40
NEW 2c Loco C Press 2	.68	.72	.80	2128a 8.3c PC 1, 2	1.00	1.12	1.80	1906a 17c PC type A 3, 4, 5	3.92	4.00	4.40
1898 3c Handcar 1, 2	.39	.64	.80	PC 3, 4	4.28	4.40	4.60	Type A 6, 7	8.00	10.00	10.40
3, 4	.44	.64	.80	2231 Amb. B Press 1, 2	2.80	3.00	3.20	Type AB 5, 7 PS10 only	—	—	11.20
2252 3c Conestoga 1, 2	.64	.72	.80	2256 8.4c Wheelchair 1, 2	2.00	2.20	2.40	Type B 3, 4	14.56	15.12	17.60
2123 3.4c School Bus 1, 2	.56	.80	1.00	3	19.20	19.60	20.00	Type B 5, 6	16.00	18.80	19.20
2123a 3.4c PC 1, 2	7.20	7.60	8.00	2129 8.5c Tow Truck 1	2.10	2.45	3.20	Type BA 5, 6	—	—	47.20
1898A 4c Coach 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1.60	1.80	2.00	2129a PC 1	2.80	2.88	2.96	Type C 1, 2	7.60	7.88	8.20
1898Ab 4c PC 3, 4, 5, 6	7.20	7.60	8.00	2	10.40	10.80	11.20	Type C 3, 4	8.00	8.60	8.80
2228 4c B Press 1	.80	.96	1.00	1903 9.3c Mail Wagon 1, 2	4.41	4.90	12.00	Type C 5, 7	16.80	17.60	18.40
2228a overall tagged 1	15.20	15.60	16.00	3, 4	18.76	19.74	32.80	2135 17c Dogsled 2	1.93	2.10	2.80
2451 4c Carriage 1	.80	.96	1.00	5, 6	107.80	256.00	260.00	2262 17.5c Racer 1, PC1	2.40	2.80	3.20
2451a same, untagged	1.60	1.80	2.00	1903a PC 1, 2	12.80	13.60	14.40	1907 18c Surrey 1	42.70	72.00	76.00
2124 4.9c Buckboard 3, 4	.70	.74	1.44	PC 3, 4	23.20	24.00	24.80	2, 5, 6, 8	1.86	2.80	3.60
2124a PC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1.60	1.80	2.00	PC 5, 6	2.40	2.56	2.72	3, 4	24.50	60.00	62.40
1899 5c M'cyde 1, 2, 3, 4	.39	1.02	1.24	PC 8	152.00	156.00	160.00	7	16.80	30.40	36.00
2253 5c Milk Wagon 1	.80	.88	1.00	2257 10c Boat 1, black tag	1.04	1.12	1.20	11, 12, 15, 16	7.44	12.80	13.20
2452 5c Circus Wagon 1	.80	.88	1.00	Overall tag, dull gum	3.20	3.60	4.00	9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18	5.04	5.60	8.80
2452a untagged 1	1.28	1.48	1.60	Phosphored, shiny gum 1, 2	2.40	2.56	2.80	1908 20c Pumper 1	4.41	27.65	136.00
Same, gravured A1, A2, A3	1.28	1.48	1.60	2457 10c Tractor trailer 1	1.04	1.12	1.20	2	24.50	208.00	780.00
2453 5c Canoe 1	.80	.88	1.00	2130 10.1c Oil Wagon 1	1.12	1.47	2.60	3, 4, 13, 15, 16	2.35	2.45	4.40
2, 3	1.44	1.52	1.60	2130a Black PC 1, 2	2.00	2.12	2.80	5, 9, 10	1.23	1.44	2.72
2454 gravured S11	1.60	1.65	1.75	2130a Red PC 2, 3	2.04	2.12	2.20	7, 8	100.10	100.80	120.00
1900 5.2c Sleigh 1, 2	2.70	4.90	12.80	1904 10.9c Hansom 1, 2	6.37	11.20	28.80	12, 14 XF	11.20	12.32	18.40
3	108.00	132.00	190.00	1904a PC 1, 2	10.40	26.40	26.80	12, 14	3.92	3.92	7.20
5	108.00	132.00	136.00	3, 4	36.40	280.00	320.00	11	35.35	36.82	68.00
1900a PC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	8.80	10.40	11.20	190511c Caboose 1	2.21	2.35	4.00	2263 20c Cable Car 1, 2	2.60	3.00	3.60
2254 5.3c Elevator 1	.92	.96	1.04	1905a PC 1	3.05	3.20	3.40	2263b Overall tagged 2	2.60	3.00	3.60
2125 5.5c Star Truck 1	2.24	2.32	2.40	Untagged 2	.80	1.12	1.52	2264 20.5c Fire Engine 1	2.60	3.00	3.20
2125a 5.5c PC 1	1.64	1.72	1.96	2131 11c Stutz 1, 2	.44	1.12	1.52	2265 21c Rail Car 1, 2	2.60	3.00	3.60
PC 2	2.08	2.24	2.40	3, 4	.39	.98	1.52	2464 23c Lunch 2, 3 (Solid tag)	2.60	3.00	3.20
1901 5.9c Bicycle 3, 4	2.94	6.37	14.80	2132 12c Steamer 1, 2	1.52	1.60	1.80	3 mottled (dull or shiny)	2.60	3.00	3.20
1901a 5.9c PC 3, 4	15.40	25.60	26.00	2132a 12c PC 1, 2	2.00	2.20	2.40	2266 24.1c Tandem 1	3.12	3.36	3.60
PC 5, 6	47.60	70.40	72.00	2132b 12c B Press PC 1	17.60	18.40	19.20	2136 25c Bread Wagon			
2126 6c Tricycle 1	.84	1.20	1.28	2133 12.5c Pushcart 1, 2	1.86	1.96	2.60	1, 2, 3, 4	2.12	2.24	3.40
2126a PC 1	1.84	1.92	2.00	2133a PC 1, 2	3.12	3.20	3.60	5	2.68	2.80	4.40
PC 2	6.04	6.92	7.00	2258 13c Patrol Wagon 1	2.20	2.40	2.60	2468 S1 Seaplane 1, 3	4.00	4.80	8.00
				2259 13.2c Coal Car 1, 2	2.20	2.40	2.60				

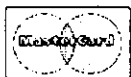
We carry all new numbers as soon as they're issued.

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

2700 University, Suite 214,
W. Des Moines, IA 50265

Jerry & Barb Koepf (515) 224-1737
Phone Orders Call TOLL FREE:

1-800-999-5964

FAX: (515) 226-1651



FREE

with \$100 purchase
(choose 1)

- PS5 2228A overall tag #1
- PS5 2256 8.4c Wheel Chair # 3
- PS5 2518 "F" Tulip #1211

(or choose one of the following
imperf pairs)

- 25c Yosemite
- 20c Flag
- 29c Flag over White House

E&S total hits 42 different A numbers

Continued from Page 47

should appear in plate-activity reports from private printers, it was Morison himself who ordered a year later that all plate-activity reports should stop being compiled.

This means that not only are we unable to get total production for each plate-number combination, but also that we are unable to get the raw production total for each plate, as for the green Plate 6, for example. This leaves collectors without a clue as to what is being printed.

What is now coming out of the Postal Service is merely a list of plate numbers, without quantities.

That makes the detective work on the Eagle and Shields—probably the most used coil stamp ever—extremely difficult.

What we do know is that 13 sets of plates were made, but no plates ever carried the number 13. Not all plates were used.

While someone in the Postal Service under the old administration had the wonderful idea of preventing 10-digit plate numbers on E&S stamps, the idea was scrubbed after Postmaster General Marvin Runyon slashed the Postal Headquarters staff in half and a whole new team of executives took over stamp production.

The idea that was not passed on to the new team was that Plate 11 would be marked as Plate 1, thus retaining only five plate numbers on a stamp. Guilford Gravure, the printer, proposed an "AA" prefix.

Our production data ended with stamps bearing plate numbers in the 50000 series. But we are able to make several findings on the entire series based on when the stamps were found and by the paper on which they were printed.

When they were found

A7777	Oct. 26, 1992
A8888	Jan. 13, 1993
A8999	Mar. 30, 1993
A9999	Mar. 10, 1993
A8889	May 30, 1993
A9998	June 10, 1993
A10101010	September 1993
A101101011	Nov. 18, 1993
A101101012	Mar. 25, 1994
A1110101010	Nov. 18, 1993
A1110111010	Feb. 8, 1994
A111101010	Mar. 1, 1994
A111111010	Mar. 22, 1994
A141101010	Mar. 1, 1994
A141101011	April 4, 1994
A141211110	Mar. 25, 1994

The last (A141211110) was on the second list of new plate-number combinations announced by the Postal Service to the philatelic press.

In addition, the Postal Service has announced the following, which have not yet been found:

A11 10 10 10 11, A12 11 10 10 10, and
A14 12 11 11 11 11.

Constant plate varieties

Yellow Plate 1 has a constant plate variety that may be seen on the seven plate-number combinations that include the yellow number 1.

The variety is a plate number in which the top of the 1 is missing.

Since the stamps with the combination A12213 are in themselves worth more than five times the run-of-the-mill E&S stamps, the variety on that plate number is one of the rarities among E&S stamps, retailing at about \$150.

Another constant plate variety has recently been found by Bob Novak on the blue Plate 2 of E&S stamps made by BEP. It is a blue "ghost 1" seen to the right of the last plate number on 22221. The variety also occurs on 22222.

The ghost looks like a "1" and is just to the right and slightly below the brown "1."

Another constant plate variety on blue Plate 2 is a blue bird over the right wing of the eagle. It may be found on both 22221 and 22222. It was first found by Dr. Robert Rabinowitz, who says it looks like a speck to the naked eye, but under magnification turns into a bird or insect.

Curiously, Dr. Rabinowitz has found the blue bird on 22222 and on the tagged error of 22221, but never on the normal (untagged) 22221.

Other rarities

Two combinations of plate numbers have relatively high prices. A32333 is the costliest E&S stamp. Fifteen rolls of 3,000 (1,875 numbered strips) were found. But when the stamp first entered the market, most dealers sold it to their new-issues subscribers for about \$3.

Quantities have never been revealed on A33334, but Dr. Robert Rabinowitz has stated that the quantity was more than 15 rolls, but less than half a case, which works out to less than 4,000 strips.

The original retail price of A33334, however, was steep from the start with many collectors and dealers objecting loudly to the pricing methods used by wholesalers.

However, another rarity came into view late in 1993, when Kim Cuniberti discovered some rolls of the BEP's version of the Eagle and Shield on lightly phosphored paper. These stamps were originally offered at around \$10, but the price began to rise sharply when Cuniberti could find no more.

By the time major dealers began to sell the tagged error, the XF price was \$80, with few or no VF copies available at a lower price.

According to the Postal Service, the error was the result of poor quality control by the paper supplier. Robin Minard of the

Postal Service said the light tagging was the result of having some taggant left in the machinery when this paper was made.

She said the level of tagging on the phosphored stamps was very weak (12 phosphor meter units, or PMUs) when a normally tagged stamp should have from 45 to 100 PMUs.

The PNC Study Group believes that since all E&S stamps have a lacquer coating, the lacquer was contaminated.

The imperforates

So far, the only known imperforates are on the BEP-printed 11111. Prices on these, as numbered strips of six, started at \$225 and now range up to \$300.

Paper differences

While early (the first 23 plate-number combinations) E&S stamps are dead (purple) in shortwave UV light, later stamps (starting with A77777) appear to be on high-bright paper:

All of the later stamps also have a slight difference in the gum when compared to previous stamps, but the difference is one of texture, with the newer stamps appearing somewhat smoother with less of a stippling in the gum than earlier stamps.

This paper change, a result of a change in paper specifications, can also be detected in other untagged stamps from ABN, such as the 23¢ USA.

Why they were made

The undenominated 10¢ Eagle and Shield stamp became the workhorse of the Postal Service under the new concept that was introduced with the rate hike of Feb. 3, 1991.

Previously, decimal-denominated stamps were available for many bulk rates. That ended in 1991 with the 5¢ Canoe being intended for all nonprofit rates and the 10¢ Tractor Trailer for all other usages. But the Tractor Trailer didn't work, chiefly because it required an additional service endorsement and because many mailers felt that it gave the impression that they were paying only a dime for postage.

The 23¢ precancel stamps and the undenominated E&S stamps were intended to clear up that problem.

Who'll make them now

Originally, ABN made all E&S stamps. Later, other printers went into production with a change in the colors in the "Bulk Rate" inscription and the rearrangement of those inscriptions from "Bulk Rate USA" to "USA Bulk Rate."

The reason for asking BEP to print E&S

Please turn to Page 63

Plate usage on ABN's Eagle & Shield stamps

Plate 1 Blue	Plate 1 Red	Plate 1 Green	Plate 1 Yellow	Plate 1 Brown
11111 11112 12113 12213	11111 11112 21112 21113	11111 11112 12113 21112 21113 22112 22113	11111 11112 12113 12213 21112 21113 22112 22113	11111
Total Blue Plate 1: 4 Plate 2	Total Red Plate 1: 4 Plate 2	Total Green Plate 1: 7 Plate 2	Total Yellow Plate 1: 8 Plate 2	Total Brown Plate 1: 1 Plate 2
21112 21113 22112 22113	12113 12213 22112 22113 32333	12213	34424 34426 43324 43325 43326 43426	11112 21112 22112
Total Blue Plate 2: 4 Plate 3	Total Red Plate 2: 5 Plate 3	Total Green Plate 2: 1 Plate 3	Total Yellow Plate 2: 6 Plate 3	Total Brown Plate 2: 3 Plate 3
32333 33333 33334 33335 34424 34426	33333 33334 33335 43324 43325 43326 43334 43335 43426 53335	32333 33333 33334 33335	32333 33333 33334 33335 43334 43335 53335	12113 12213 21113 22113 32333 33333
Total Blue Plate 3: 6 Plate 4	Total Red Plate 3: 10 Plate 4	Total Green Plate 3: 10 Plate 4	Total Yellow Plate 3: 7 Plate 4	Total Brown Plate 3: 6 Plate 4
43324 43325 43326 43334 43335 43426	34424 34426 54444 54445	34424 34426 43426 54444 54445	54444 54445	33334 34424 43324 43334 54444
Total Blue Plate 4: 6 Plate 5	Total Red Plate 4: 4 Plate 5	Total Green Plate 4: 5 Plate 5	Total Yellow Plate 4: 2 Plate 5	Total Brown Plate 4: 5 Plate 5
				33335 43325

62 The Plate Number, May 1994

Plate 5 (cont.)	Plate 5 (cont.)	Plate 5 (cont.)	Plate 5 (cont.)	Plate 5 (cont.)
53335 54444 54445 Total Blue Plate 5: 3 Plate 6	Total Red Plate 5: 0 Plate 6	Total Green Plate 5: 0 Plate 6	Total Yellow Plate 5: 0 Plate 6	43335 53335 54445 Total Brown Plate 5: 5 Plate 6
Total Blue Plate 6: 0 Plate 7	Total Red Plate 6: 0 Plate 7	Total Green Plate 6: 0 Plate 7	Total Yellow Plate 6: 0 Plate 7	34426 43326 43426 Total Brown Plate 6: 3 Plate 7
77777 Total Blue Plate 7: 1 Plate 8	77777 Total Red Plate 7: 1 Plate 8	77777 Total Green Plate 7: 1 Plate 8	77777 Total Yellow Plate 7: 1 Plate 8	77777 Total Brown Plate 7: 1 Plate 8
88888 88889 89999 Total Blue Plate 8: 3 Plate 9	88888 88889 Total Red Plate 8: 2 Plate 9	88888 88889 Total Green Plate 8: 2 Plate 9	88888 88889 Total Yellow Plate 8: 2 Plate 9	88888 99998 Total Brown Plate 8: 2 Plate 9
99998 99999 Total Blue Plate 9: 2 Plate 10	89999 99998 99999 Total Red Plate 9: 3 Plate 10	89999 99998 99999 Total Green Plate 9: 3 Plate 10	89999 99998 99999 Total Yellow Plate 9: 3 Plate 10	99998 89999 99999 Total Brown Plate 9: 3 Plate 10
1010101010 1011101011 1011101012 Total Blue Plate 10: 3 Plate 11	1010101010 1110101010 1110101011 1110111010 Total Red Plate 10: 4 Plate 11	1010101010 1011101011 1011101012 1110101010 1110101011 1111101010 1211101010 1411101010 1411101011 Total Green Plate 10: 9 Plate 11	1010101010 1011101011 1011101012 1110101010 1110101011 1110111010 1111101010 1111111010 1211101010 1411101010 1411101011 Total Yellow Plate 10: 11 Plate 11	1010101010 1110101010 1110111010 1111101010 1111111010 1211101010 1411101010 1412111110 Total Brown Plate 10: 8 Plate 11
1110101010 1110101011 1110111010 1111101010 1111111010 Total Blue Plate 11: 5 Plate 12	1011101011 1011101012 1111101010 1111111010 1211101010 1411101010 1411101011 Total Red Plate 11: 7 Plate 12	1110111010 1111111010 1412111110 1412111111 Total Green Plate 11: 4 Plate 12	1412111110 1412111111 Total Yellow Plate 11: 2 Plate 12	1412111110 1412111111 Total Brown Plate 11: 4 Plate 12
1211101010 Total Blue Plate 12: 1 Plate 14	1412111110 1412111111 Total Red Plate 12: 2 Plate 14	Total Green Plate 12: 0 Plate 14	Total Yellow Plate 12: 0 Plate 14	Total Brown Plate 12: 1 Plate 14
1411101010 1411101011 1412111110 1412111111 Total Blue Plate 14: 4	Total Red Plate 14: 0	Total Green Plate 14: 0	Total Yellow Plate 14: 0	Total Brown Plate 14: 0

Continued from Page 60

stamps may have been because of the Postal Service's method of distributing stamps.

BEP is the only printer from which post offices may order directly. To obtain stamps from the private printers, such as ABN, post offices must work through Stamp Distribution Offices (SDOs).

There have repeatedly been shortages of ABN's E&S stamps (and some post offices were out again this March and had to revert to 10¢ Tractor Trailer stamps they could not otherwise get rid of).

BEP could not, however, manufacture rolls larger than 3,000 under its interagency agreement with the Postal Service. (It is believed that BEP wanted it that way.) To meet shortages, therefore, it is likely that Stamp Venturers was brought into the production picture to supplement the production of larger rolls.

Now that ABN has lost its printing contract, the likelihood is that at first Stamp Venturers will print rolls of 10,000 while BEP prints smaller rolls, at least until the interagency agreement between BEP and USPS is amended to allow BEP to become the sole supplier.

The Postal Service has announced that in future it will seek to have only one printer produce one stamp. Because of the huge demand for this stamp, it would be easier for the Postal Service if the sole printer were BEP because post offices can order directly from BEP.

E&S stamps, incidentally, should survive the next rate hike since they are basically undenominated stamps and would still sell for 10 cents with additional postage paid as false franking.

What the charts tell us

We know the chronological order in which the first 23 plate-number combinations were printed because American Bank Note Co. released the information.

That, of course, was before the gag order on the private printers.

We also know the quantities printed for each plate-number combination. That information was provided exclusively to TPN.

And, before USPS stopped the circulation of plate-activity reports, we also knew how many impressions were made from each plate.

Mike Stefun, a TPN reader, was able to work out production totals of some ABN-printed stamps using those reports, but he could do it for only three E&S stamps because there was too much overlap in which the same plate (Green Plate 1, for example) was used in seven combinations.

However, we knew that there were 20,674 impressions off green Plate 2, which was used only in the combination A12213. The impression total for A12213 is, therefore, 20,674, the fifth-smallest total of all E&S stamps for which we have data.

Kim Cuniberti notes that the charts dem-

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

Price (through Apr. 7)	
Number	Average of PS/5
A11111	\$2.83
A11112	2.83
A22112	2.83
A21112	2.83
A22113	2.73
A12113	19.64
A12213	Never found
A21113	3.80
A33334	83.80
A33333	4.19
A32333	221.67
A33335	4.12
A43334	3.10
A43335	3.10
A53335	3.44
A54445	3.65
A54444	3.65
A43326	3.76
A43325	3.55
A43324	4.07
A43426	4.20
A34426	4.41
A34424	5.02

onstrate that the blue, green, and brown plates appear to have worn out more often while the plates for the lighter colors did not. This, he said, may be because it is more difficult to see damage on light-color plates. A case in point is that a constant plate flaw does exist on the yellow Plate 1, and it was not noticed by the printer.

The charts show this in that a yellow plate may have been used in combination with as many as 11 other plates, while the highest number of blue usages was six.

Another way of noting this is that so many red, green, and yellow plates were never used.

Matching plates

We know next to nothing about production totals or the chronological order of printing of E&S stamps starting with A77777. What we do know is that ABN made an effort starting with production of the 23¢ USA stamp to keep all the plate numbers the same.

"We're getting better," said Kelly Keough, the spokeswoman for ABN at the time. And so, when printing resumed with A77777, all the plates matched. That was in the fall of 1992.

The next batch was also matched: A88888. When printing was completed, all five "8" plates were sent to be rechromed while printing began on A99999. But matched plates ended right there. The blue Plate 9 went bad during production and had to be replaced. A blue Plate 8 was put on press, resulting in the plate-number combination A89999.

We were not told how A88889 came into being, but presumably, the other plates of

Plate 9 went bad and needed replacement, too, except for brown Plate 9.

Guilford Gravure was able to keep things under some control while it was using the "8" plates. No more than two combinations were printed with any one "8" plate. Plate 9 got a bit worse, here we had three combinations for three of the colors.

But all the good intentions stopped when Plates 10 and 11 started production in the fall of 1993. As you can see from the charts, yellow Plate 10 was used in 11 different combinations with Plates 10, 11, 12, and 14 of the other colors. Green Plate 10 was used in nine combinations.

The previous record for the largest number of plate combinations happened while Plate 3 was in use with ten usages of the red and green plates and seven of the yellow.

Red Plate 11 also saw constant use as other plates were in a back-and-forth between the press and the rechroming room. Red 11 was used in seven combinations.

Changed paper specs

As mentioned earlier, the paper changed after the beginning of printing of the A77777 stamps.

To explain that, ABN referred to the first 23 plate-number combinations as "the original order."

Keough said the stamps printed under the original order were printed on UV-dead paper supplied by Paper Corp. of the United States (CPUS). Starting with A77777, high-bright paper was supplied by Ivex.

In addition, stamps printed on Ivex paper use a red ink that does not fluoresce in shortwave UV. (That fluorescent red ink re-

turned on Plate A3 of the 5¢ Circus Wag-on.)

The change in paper suppliers, Keough said, was to comply with new paper specifications, the first inking *TPN* had that paper specs had been changed.

What we learned

It is possible that either A99999 or its replacement, A89999, may have had a short production run. We won't know unless we

can obtain production information. But we do know that blue Plate 9 went bad. The charts show that brown Plate 9 also seemed to have had some problem, because it was replaced to make A99998. Yet short press runs do not necessarily mean high prices, as the two tables on Page 61 illustrate.

The key is whether dealers were able to find the stamps in large enough quantity to satisfy demand.

The proof rests in A43324, a stamp with a

smaller production total than A32333. Yet A32333 sells for about \$228 while A43324 is available at less than \$5.

Should we ever get plate-activity data, the charts may help us to sort out all these many plates and make sense out of them.

Until then, this is the best we can hope for. □

Helping with this article were Jerry Clark, Kim Cuniberti, Rich Nazar, and Dr. Robert Rabinowitz.

Gravured 10¢ Tractor Trailer due May 25

A stamp that failed is being reissued May 25.

The stamp is the 10¢ Tractor Trailer, which drew angry reactions from mailers because its endorsement read: "Additional Presort Postage Paid" without indicating the desired rate.

The reprint will carry the same endorsement.

When it was originally issued, the stamp was intended for all bulk mail other than nonprofit. That meant mailers had to add an endorsement to their envelopes stating "Bulk Rate" or "First Class." Things got so bad that the Postal Service authorized private overprints on the stamps.

But the situation was quickly ameliorated when the gravured 29¢ Rushmore was revised into the 23¢ Presorted First Class stamp, which could be used on all first-class mail. That left the Tractor Trailer as the only stamp for basic bulk mail, although it still required an endorsement.

As Alan Malakoff's story on the front page of this issue of *TPN* shows, the Postal Service had intended to print a gravured version of the Tractor Trailer in

Stamp Design Information (April 9, 1994)

Issue: Tractor Trailer (reprint, new gravure printing) (Item 7910R)
Denomination: 10¢
Format: Coil (rolls of 3,000) [and rolls of 500]
Issue date: May 25, 1994
First-day city: Secaucus, N.J.
Printer: Bureau of Engraving and Printing
[Press: Andreotti]
Manufacturing process: Gravure
Colors: Green and gray
Size: Image: 0.71x0.82 inches / 18.0x20.8mm
Overall: 0.87x0.96 inches / 22.1x24.4mm
Plate numbers: two singles digits [believed to be 11]
[Interval: 24]
PNC Catalog Number: T10TT-11

rolls of 10,000 through Stamp Venturers. That contract was canceled in 1991.

The introduction of the undenominated Eagle and Shield, which is clearly inscribed "Bulk Rate," probably caused that cancellation.

On April 30, 1993, the Postal Service sent out a broadcast message instructing post offices that the 10¢ Tractor Trailer was no longer available from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and advising them of automatic substitution on their orders of the BEP-printed 10¢ Eagle and

Shield.

The new version of the stamp, printed by gravure on the Andreotti press at BEP, will be issued May 25 at Secaucus, N.J., in rolls of 3,000 and 500.

The first day is identical to that of the original stamp, which was also released in Secaucus. What is inexplicable is that the stamp is being released on the Wednesday prior to NOJEX. Officials of NOJEX knew nothing about the stamp, according to Richard J. Nazar. □



ORIGINAL—Stamp gave impression that mass mailers paid less, lacked service endorsement.

OVERPRINTED—Mailers used private overprints to indicate service desired.

NEW?—*TPN*'s guess as to what new stamp will look like. Only obvious change is in plate number.

Check these prices

PNC³ members may still deduct 5%. PNC Study Group members may take an added 5%. You'll love my my no-quibble return policy, my VF quality. This list (List 11) is good through July 15, 1994. Prices are for F-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 Unlogged 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 unlogged	1.00
3, 4 School Bus 1, 2	1.00
PC 1, 2 (1R, No Gap)	5.00
4c Sleepers 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 logged 1	14.00
4c Steam Carriage 1	1.00
Unlogged	1.00
4, 9c Backboard 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 Wag. 1, cont. 1	1.50
A1, A2, A3	1.50
5c Carose 1, 2, 3	1.50
Grounded S11	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, reg or PC	1.50
PC 2	8.00
7, 1c Tractor 1	3.00
PC 1	3.50
PC 1 "ZB+4"	2.00
7, 4c Baby Buggy 2	9.00
PC 2	5.00
7, 6c Carrole 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	7.50
8, 4c Wheelchair 1, 2	2.00
3	13.00
8, 5c Tow Truck 1, reg 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 log)	1.50
1 overall log (dull gum) F-VF	3.50
1 overall log (dull gum) XF	5.00
1, 2 phos shiny gum F-VF	3.50
10c Tractor Trailer 1	2.00
(10c) Engine, Shield	
A11111, A11112, A21112, A21113	
A22112, A22113, A33333, A33335	
A43324, A43325, A43326, A43334	
A43335, A43426, A53335, A54444	
A54445, A77777, A88888, A89999	
A99999, A1010101010, A1110101010	
A101101011, A111011010	
A111101010, A1411101010	2.75
A101101012, A11111010	
A141211110	3.50
S11111, 11111, 22221	2.75
22221 phosphoral (error)	60.00
A34424, A34426	5.00
A12213	20.00
A32333	200.00
A33334	85.00
10, 1c Oil Wagon 1	2.50
PC 1, 2 (No Gap)	2.50
PC 2 (Lo Gap)	3.50
Red PC 2, 3	2.50
10, 9c Hummer 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	3.00
Unlogged PC 2	2.00
11c Sault 1, 2, 3, 4	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, 11a	2.70
PC 1 Dark olive, 11a	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 Lugboat 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) (SR)	13.00
PC 6A (1L, 2L)	13.00
PC 5C, 7C (No Gap)	24.00
PC 7A (No Gap)	12.00
17c Doghead 2	3.00
17, 5c Racer 1, reg or PC	3.00
18c Surrey 1	76.00
2, 5, 6, 8, 17, 18	3.00
3, 4	63.75
7	30.00
9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16	12.50
13, 14	5.50
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 gum, logged)	5.75
PC 43444	7.00
19c Fishing Boat	
A1112	6.00
A1212, 1111, 2424, 5555, 5556, 6667	
7667, 7766, 7779	4.00
A5555 unlogged	10.00
20c Fire Pump 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
6 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 Cable Car 1, 2 (block)	3.00
Overall logged 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, 11	3.00
4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 17, 18, 20, 21	5.50
(22c) "D" Eagle 1, 2	7.00
(22c) "B" Official 1 PS/5	64.00
1 PS/3	32.50
23c Lunch Wag. 2, 3 (solid log)	3.50
3 (method, dull or shiny)	3.50
23c Proser A111, 212	3.50
A222 1st middle 2	3.50
A222 2nd middle 2	4.00
A112, 122, 333	4.50
23c USA A1111, A2222, 1111	4.00
S111	4.50
A2232, A2233, A3333, A4364, A4444	
A4453	4.50
24, 1c Tandem 1	3.50
25c Bread 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 serif	20.00
(29c) "F" Tulip	
1111, 1222, 2222	3.50
1211	20.00
2211	5.00
29c Flower S1111, S2222	5.00
Ski	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 UVM 1 (29c PS/5) (dull)	9.00
29c UVM 1 (29c PS/5) (shiny)	8.00
29c UVM Unmgs A11	4.50
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
S1 Seaplane 1, 3	8.00

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

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

STEPHEN G. ESRATI

P.O. Box 20130, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120
 Telephone: (216) 561-9383
 FAX: (216) 752-5002



Great Americans—Buying, selling

Buying: I'm always in the market for blocks. I pay half my sales price.

Selling:

50¢ Nimitz, Plate 2, overall tagged. \$17.50 per block; 20¢ Gallaudet, Plates 8 and 9. \$75 per block.

45¢ Langley airmail, overall tagged (not in Scott), \$25 per block.

My regular price list

Scott	Description	Single	Inscr. Bl. or Pas. Bl.	PS/4	PS/6	PS/20
1844c	14 De Bl	10		1.00 (1SE)	2.00 (1)	4.00 (1, 2)
1844	14 De BE	10		1.25 (1)	2.50 (1)	3.00 (1)
2168	14 Mitchell BE	10		25 (1)		
1845	24 Shostakovich Cattell	10		35 (1, 2, 3, 4)		
	Same, premium			2.00 (5, 6)		
	Same, vert tag break			10.00 (6)		
2159	24 Lyon BE	10		.35 (1)		
	Same, premium			.55 (2)		
1846	24 Clay Cattell	10		70 (1, 2)		
2170	34 White BE	10		50 (1, 2, 3)		
1847	44 Schurz Cattell	15		80 (1-4)		
	Same, vert tag break			10.00 (1-2)		
2171	44 Hanagan BE	15		80 (1)		
2171a	44 Hanagan UE	15		40 (1)		
2171a	44 Hanagan UE	10		60 (2)		
1848	54 Buck Cattell	15		90 (1-4)		
	Same, with tagging break			10.00 (3)		
2172	54 Black BE	15		70 (1)		
2172	54 Black BE	15		1.25 (2)		
Plate 2 wanted, pay \$6.65 per block						
2173	54 Munoz OE	.15	70	75 (1)		
	Same, with ZIP			1.00 (1)		
2173	54 Munoz UE	.15	70	75 (2)		
1849	64 Topmann Bl	.15		.60 (1)	1.20 (1)	3.90 (1)
1850	74 Baldwin Bl	.20		.90 (1)	1.80 (1)	4.50 (1)
1851	84 Knox Cl	.20		1.20 (3-6)		
1852	94 Thayer Bl	25		2.00 (1)	2.50 (1)	5.00 (1)
1853	10 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 Partridge Cl	.30		1.60 (2-5)		
1855	124 Crazy Cattell	30		2.20 (1, 2)		
	Same, premium			3.00 (3, 4)		
1856	144 Lewis Bl	30		1.20 (1)	3.00 (1)	9.00 (1)
2177	144 Howe BE	25		1.90 (1, 2)		5.90 (1)
2178	154 Cody BE	30		2.00 (1)		
2178	154 Cody BE	30		4.00 (3)		
Plate 3 BE wanted, pay \$1 per block; Plate 1 BE wanted, pay \$1 per block						
2178c	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 Cattell	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 Cattell	.35		3.50 (1-6)		
1859	194 Sequoyah Cattell	.40		3.00 (both)		
1860	204 Bunche Cattell	.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 Cattell	.40		3.90 (1, 2)		18.00 (2)
	Same, premium			12.00 (5, 6)		
Plate 5, 6 wanted; pay \$6.00 per block						
	Same, premium			75.00 (8, 9)		
Plate 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)		
1862b	204 Truman OE Paper III	.40		4.00 (3)		
NEW	204 Truman PE shiny	.40		2.50 (4)		
2179	214 Carlson BE	.40		3.20 (1)		
1863	224 Audubon Bl	.40		2.65 (1)	5.30 (1)	30.00 (1)
1863d	224 Audubon BE	.45		5.00 (3)		
2182	234 Cassatt BE	.50		3.00 (1)		
2182b	234 Cassatt OE	.50		5.00 (1)		
2182b	234 Cassatt OE	.50		3.75 (2)		
2182b	234 Cassatt PE	.50		3.00 (2)		
NEW	234 Cassatt PE shiny	.50		3.00 (3)		

Scott	Description	Single	Inscr. Bl. or Pas. Bl.	PS/4	PS/6	PS/20
2183	254 London BE	.50			3.00 (1)	
2183	254 London BE	.50			10.00 (2)	
2184	284 String Bull BE	.50			3.80 (1)	
2184a	294 Warren PE	45	3.00	2.00 (S1, S2)		
2184b	294 Jefferson	45	4.50 (B)	2.50 (S1, S2)		
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 Cattell	.75		4.50 (1, 2)		
	Same, premium			12.00 (3, 4)		
2185	354 Chavez Pl	.50	3.50	3.50 (S1, S2)		
1966	374 Million Cattell	.80		4.50 (1-4)		
1867	394 Clark Bl	.80		8.00 (1SE)	16.00 (1)	35.85 (1)
1867c	394 Clark BE	.80		5.90 (2)		
1868	404 Gilbreth Bl	.95		9.75 (1SE)	19.00 (1)	23.90 (1)
1868a	404 Gilbreth BE	.95		6.50 (2)		
2186	404 Chernouf OE	.85	5.00	4.00 (1)		
2186	404 Chernouf PE	.85		4.00 (2)		
2188	454 Cushing BE	.75		3.50 (1)		
Plate 1 OE wanted, pay \$1.50 VF, \$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 (3)		
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 Wilkie PE (dull)	1.00	7.00	5.50 (1)		
NEW	754 Wilkie PE (shiny)	1.00	7.00	5.50 (1)		
2194	\$1 Revel	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 Howe BE	9.00		40.00 (1)		
2196	\$5 Howe PE	9.00		35.00 (2)		
The following are not Great American stamps, but you may not have them.						
1894e	204 Hoag Bl Dull	.80		15.00 (3, 4)		
1894	204 Hoag 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=Strait 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

Dealer's legitimate ploy sours a postal clerk

A dealer has made it hard for a philatelic clerk by annoying an accountable-paper clerk.

Here's the story: A philatelic clerk had a request for 9,000 stamps from a collector. The clerk called accountable-paper clerks around the country and found one who had the required stamps.

"Sell me 9,000," he said, "for a collector who needs them."

"Nothing doing," came the answer. "For you, I'd do anything; but for a collector, heck, no! I've had it with collectors."

"What's the matter?" the philatelic clerk asked. "After all, we're here to sell stamps."

"I recently had a huge order from a collector. The check came in and was OK. I sent him the stamps. A little later, I got the stamps back. He had removed the plate-number strips, and pasted up the rest, asking me for a refund at 90% of face."

That, of course, is absolutely the way things are supposed to be done. But it entails work for the accountable-paper people.

The story tells something about the way Dr. Robert Rabinowitz manages to find so many new plate numbers, for it was he who bought the coils and sent back the scrap.

His name has now become legend among accountable-paper clerks.

Lighthouse supplements

Lighthouse Publications has decided to wait until the spring of 1995 before publishing its album supplements for PNC coils and coil singles.

In his explanation to Dr. Rabinowitz, Lighthouse publisher Wolfgang Schön said he would need to await publication of various new handbooks and catalogs, including the *PNC Catalog*.

Treasure hunting

Mike Keller has been busily going through mixtures to find PNCs, and he's been successful. In one 3-pound mix, he found 94 PNCs with a total value of \$170.85, based on *Linn's* "Trends." In another three pounds, he found 89 PNCs, valued at \$117.25; 95 in a third, at \$187, and 87 in a fourth at \$169.25.

Among his finds were five 7.6¢ Carre-tas from Plate 3, nine 8.4¢ Wheelchairs from Plate 3, and one Typeface B 17¢ Auto from Plate 5.

New tagging breaks found

Gene Ernst reports several new PNC tagging breaks: \$1 Seaplane, Plate 1, 6L and 7L (found by Alan Thomson) and 2¢ Locomotive, Plates 8 and 10, bar at 6L and a complete clip at 5L (found by John Bensko).

Indigo White House OK'd by Foundation

Wayne Meyers has obtained the Philatelic Foundation certificate for Plate 6 of the indigo and navy blue varieties of the 29¢ Flag over the White House.

The foundation has ruled that an indigo unused pair, submitted for expertization by Ron Kronheim of Rita Kay Quality Stamps, is a genuine indigo variety of the blue stamp. On another pair, in which the blue comes out as navy blue, the foundation ruled it to be a genuine variety of the indigo variety.

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

APS starts expertizing Toledo Brown Rushmores

Two covers were offered in the July auction of PNC³. Both were sent to the expertizing service of the American Philatelic Society. One came back with a certificate proclaiming it a true Toledo Brown; the other was rejected as a "transition color" because some maroon was present on the stamp.

Joe Sedivy, manager of the PNC³ auctions, said the rejected stamp looked good to him and is urging collectors to submit offered Toledo Browns to APS just to be safe.

Detective work pays

Sedivy obtained an indigo White House stamp on a letter. He went to the firm from which it was mailed and inquired whether they had any more. A partial roll was still in the office, and the firm and Sedivy agreed on a stamp-for-stamp swap for ordinary White House stamps.

The roll still had 70 stamps in it, including two plate-number strips showing the source as Plate 7. Previous indigos were

reported from Plate 6.

Spliced self-adhesive

Tom Malek bought some Eagle and Shield self-adhesives at the National Postal Museum in March. His strip had a yellow splice.

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

1991 PNC CATALOG: I still have a few left. They're \$20 each. ED. Denson, PO Box 158, Alderpoint, CA 95411. (3-94)

LITTERBUG LUNCH WAGON: Blob left of wagon on numbered stamp. PS/5, VF, \$10. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (3-94)

TRACTOR TRAILER OVERPRINTS: wanted: Pay \$2.50 for covers without plate numbers, pay \$10 for covers with plate numbers. Mixture clips also wanted, inquire at Box TT, P.O. Box 20130, Shaker Hts. OH 44120 (3-94)

JOIN PNC3 For details, write Joann Lenz, 37211 Alper Dr., Sterling Hts. MI 48312-2203. (3-94)

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 FDGS. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (3-94)

SAVE ON POSTAGE: Scrap from PNCs and Great Americans at 92% if you order at least \$100 worth. All the first-class rates, 19¢, 23¢, 29¢. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (3-94)

BAND TAGGING: Ken Lawrence has consigned a pane of 21¢ Carlsons to me. Plate block, \$50; plain block, \$25; vertical pair, \$10. Make checks payable to Ken Lawrence. First-come, first-served. Dept. KL, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (3-94)

ALL BACK ISSUES of TPN are available. For a list with key articles send SASE to POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (3-94)

BARGAIN: I obtained too many Unisys 29¢ UVMs. That's a break for you. Send SASE and \$3 per PS/5. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (3-94)

AUSTRIA BLACK PRINTS: Austria prepares a beautiful folder containing black prints for each new stamp. Text is in German, but it is accompanied by an English translation. My customer for these gave up collecting, so I can accept one subscription starting with early 1994 issues. Price is \$3 per black print (sometimes there are more on each folder). Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (3-94)

Self-adhesives gain popularity

By Gerald H. Clark

The last update on self-adhesive backing papers (*TPN*, March 1994), contained several errors and made a few omissions. This update is current as of 6 p.m., April 14.

(Yes, I've had a confirmation of a new number in the last 10 minutes.)

There has been a tremendous outpouring of responses to the errors in March. A growing number of collectors is trying to find all the numbers printed and several dealers are scrambling to build inventories in anticipation of collector demand. Michael M. Karen Inc. ran an ad in *Linn's* offering the numbers he had in stock. I have even found a swap network that rivals the early days of PNC trading.

The demand now seems to be coming from PNC collectors and booklet collectors.

Demand at post offices for "no-lick" stamps continues to increase. Many of us have had to wait in line behind postal patrons buying them. Further evidence of their increasing popularity is the rash of new plate numbers on the second distribution of the Love Sunrise issue.

Dates on the outer carton label indicate these were printed on March 10, 1994. On March 28, I found B344-12 and B333-12 at my philatelic window. All stations in my area had been out of these booklets for almost a month. Since then, B333-9, B333-11, and B444-14 have been added to the confirmed list. More new numbers are likely as this distribution continues.

Another second distribution, of the Rose booklet, was scheduled in three areas by April 15. Four more areas are to get them by May 20 and the rest of the country by July 22. This should provide us with several new plate numbers.

For helping with this project and aiding in keeping the record straight, thanks to A. S. Cibulskas, Gregg Greenwald, Al Haake, Doug Iams, Hank Karen, Robert Kitson, Joann Lenz, Michael Lipson, Alan Malakoff, Richard Nazar, Joseph Reymer, and Alan Thomson.

Self-adhesive master list

Code to backing text

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 and Shield

Booklet A1111 -----C D
Coil: No numbers -----C

2475a 25¢ USA Flag ATM

No numbers -----A from back

2478a Red Squirrel ATM

D11111 -----D
D22211 -----D
D22221 -----D
D22222 -----D
D23133 -----D
Coil: No numbers -----C

2479a 29¢ Rose

(UPC 94) S111 -----A
(UPC 91) S111 -----A
Coil: No numbers -----C
Note: 40% of the first production was incorrectly inscribed with the Universal Product Code (UPC 91) for the \$2.90 African Violet booklet, instead of the correct \$5.22 for the Rose booklet.

2480a 29¢ Pine Cone

B1 to B 16 -----B
Coil: B1 -----A --B
PNC Catalog number: SA29PC-B1
(clear or red splices)

2522a 'F' (29¢) Flag ATM

No number -----A from back

2531A 29¢ Torch

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

Note: There are two varieties of the booklet with the first cover (text only): lacquered and not lacquered. The second cover features an enlarged picture of the stamp.

29¢ Eagle and Shield

2595a Banknote Corp. of America
B1111-1 -----A --B
B1111-2 -----A --B
B2222-1 -----A
B2222-2 -----A --B
B3333-1 -----B
B3333-3 -----B
B3434-1 -----B
B3434-3 -----B
B4344-1 -----B
B4344-3 -----B
B4444-1 -----A --B
B4444-3 -----A --B
Coil: No numbers -----A --B
(yellow or red splices)

2596a Dittler Bros.

D11111 -----A
D21221 -----A --B
D22322 -----A
D32322 -----A
D32332 -----A
D42342 -----A
D43453 -----A
D54561 -----A
Coil: No numbers -----A

2597a Stamp Venturers

S1111 -----C
(top, center, and bottom positions)
Coil: No numbers -----C

2598a 29¢ Eagle

M111 -----A --B
M112 -----A --B
Coil: 111 -----A --B
PNC Catalog number: SA29E-111
(clear splices)
(one row is known with numbers on the backing at 18-stamp intervals with Position A)

2719a Christmas Train ATM

V11111 -----No writing

2802a 29¢ Christmas (4 designs)

V111-1111 -----B
V222-1222 -----B
V222-2112 -----B
V222-2122 -----B
V222-2221 -----B

V222-2222 -----B
V333-3333 -----B
Coil: V1111111 -----B
PNC Catalog number: SA29G-V1111111
(red splices)

2803a 29¢ Snowman ATM

V1111 -----No writing
V2222 -----No writing

2813 29¢ Love Sunrise

First printing
B111-1 -----B
B111-2 -----B
B111-3 -----B
B111-4 -----B
B111-5 -----B
B121-5 -----B
B221-5 -----B
B222-4 -----B
B222-5 -----B
B222-6 -----B
Second printing
B333-9 -----B
B333-11 -----B
B333-12 -----B
B344-12 -----B
B444-14 -----B
Coil: B1 -----A
PNC Catalog number: SA29L-B1

Coming new issues

29¢ Blue Jay booklet
Same, coil of 5,004
29¢ Statue of Liberty booklet
Same, coil of 5,004
29¢ Christmas Santa booklet (SV)
Same, coil of 3336
29¢ Christmas ATM booklet (SV)
"G" booklet (Avery Dennison)
Same, coil of 5,015
"G" ATM (Avery Dennison)

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.

Eagle self-adhesives

soak off in plain water

The 29¢ Eagle self-adhesives, made by 3M Corp. can be soaked off covers in water without affecting the stamp, according to a news release put out by 3M.

TPN tried it, and it worked just fine.

The stamps were printed for 3M by National Label Co. of Lafayette Hill, Pa.

Other self-adhesives pose problems for collectors. Some come apart when soaked in water; others just hold on to the envelopes forever.

Some collectors have successfully soaked self-adhesives off cover by using lighter fluid, but the stamps come off with a gummy residue.

Other collectors mount used copies by cutting them off the covers with a small margin all around the stamp and mount mint copies by retaining the backing.

Update

New PNCs

F23USA-A4453—The 23¢ USA stamp printed by American Bank Note with the plate-number combination A4453. Feb. 22. (Haake)

F23USA-A4364—The 23¢ USA stamp printed by American Bank Note with the plate-number combination A4364. Feb. 22. (Haake)

M10-A1011101012—The 10¢ undenominated Eagle and Shield with the plate-number combination A10 11 10 10 12. Coils of 10,000. March 25. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

M10-A1111101010—The 10¢ undenominated Eagle and Shield with the plate-number combination A11 11 10 10 10. Coils of 10,000. March 1. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

M10-A11111101010—The 10¢ undenominated Eagle and Shield with the plate-number combination A11 11 11 10 10. Coils of 10,000. March 22. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

M10-A1411101010—The 10¢ undenominated Eagle and Shield with the plate-number combination A14 11 10 10 10. Coils of 10,000. March 1. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

M10-A1411101011—The 10¢ undenominated Eagle and Shield with the plate-number combination A14 11 10 10 11. Coils of 10,000. April 14. (Haake)

M10-A14121111010—The 10¢ undenominated Eagle and Shield with the plate-number combination A14 12 11 11 10. Coils of 10,000. March 25. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

M19-A7779—The 19¢ Fishing Boat with the plate-number combination A7779. April 11. (Novak)

M29UVM-A11—The Unisys version of the Universal Vending Machine coil. Issued Feb. 19.

T5C-S11smooth—The 5¢ Canoe printed by Stamp Venturers with the plate-number combination S11 and with "dull" gum. Listed in *Stamps etc.* in rolls of 10,000 in January-March issue. See article, Page 54 this issue.

New imperforates

F29WH-9—Plate 9 of the 29¢ White House Flag. Roll of 500. Bought by Dr. Agris, opened and discovered by Covey.

Data Bank

(all text from USPS, TPN additions in brackets)

Reprints Result in Varieties of Existing Stamps

WASHINGTON D.C. (March 4, 1994)—Several definitive stamps have been reprinted with new plate numbers...

19¢ Fishing Boat Coil of 3,000

The plate numbers on the reprints are A6667 and A7766.

19¢ Fishing Boat Coil of 500

The plate numbers on the reprints are A5556 and A7667.

5¢ Circus Wagon Coil of 10,000

The plate number on the reprints is A3.

Bulk Rate Eagle and Shield Coil of 3,000

The plate numbers on the reprints are an (A) followed by ten digits comprised of the numbers 0, 1 and 2.

[TPN note: No specific numbers were given in the news release. By telephone, the following plate-number combinations were provided: A1010101010, A1011101011, A1011101010, A1111101010, A1110101011, A1211101010.]

Bulk Rate Eagle and Shield Coil of 10,000

The plate numbers on the reprints are A1010101010, A1110101010, A1110111010, A1111101010, A1011101012, A1111111010, A1411101010, and A1411101011.

23¢ USA Coil of 10,000

The plate numbers on the reprints are A4443, A4444, A4453, and A4364.

3¢ Conestoga Wagon

The only change is a new plate number, which is 3.

Update on 1994 stamps

WASHINGTON D.C. (April 8, 1994)

Bulk Rate Eagle and Shield Coil of 10,000

There are two new plate-number combinations: A1412111110 and 1412111111. The printer was American Bank Note.

19¢ Fishing Boat Coil of 3,000

One new plate-number combination: A7679.

10¢ Tractor Trailer

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing is reprinting this stamp in coils of 3,000. The reprinted version is different from the original version in that it is being switched from intaglio to gravure printing. The plate number on the new version is 11. The first day of issue is May 25 in Secaucus, N.J. There will be no first-day-of-issue ceremony. [See article, Page 62 in this issue.]

Information from ... (March 1994)

Deliveries are continuing to occur on the following stamp issues in A/P 7 (accounting period 7, or roughly April).

Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP):

Coils	1¢ Omnibus coil of 3,000 (Item 7705)
	3¢ Conestoga Wagon coil of 3,000 (Item 7763)
	5¢ Canoe coil of 3,000 (Item 7906)
	10¢ Canal Boat coil of 500 (Item 7739)
	23¢ USA First-Class Presort coil of 500 (Item 7925)
	23¢ USA First-Class Presort coil of 3,000 (Item 7926)
	29¢ Flag/White House coil of 100 (Item 7922)
	29¢ Flag/White House coil of 500 (Item 7923)
	NDN Bulk Rate Eagle/Shield coil of 500 (Item 7976)
	NDN Bulk Rate Eagle/Shield coil of 3,000 (Item 7977)

American Bank Note Company:

	10¢ Eagle/Shield Bulk Rate coil of 10,000 (Item 7978A)
	19¢ Fishing Boat coil of 500 (Item 7718)
	19¢ Fishing Boat coil of 3,000 (Item 7719)
	23¢ USA First-Class Presort coil of 10,000 (Item 7927A)

Basic Level Bulk Mail mailings

with 11.1¢ Nonprofit Stamped Envelopes

[TPN Note: We publish this because it spells out the three ways to prepare a false franking.]

To meet customer demand in the short term and to contain costs, the Postal Service will continue printing nonprofit stamped envelopes with the old 11.1¢ rate. Because the nonprofit basic rate increased from 11.1 to 11.3¢ on Nov. 21, 1993, this action requires nonprofit bulk mailers authorized to use these stamped envelopes to pay the additional postage due at the time of mailing...

Authorized nonprofit mailers may pay the difference in postage for pieces mailed at the basic level bulk in one of three ways:

1. The mailer may affix a meter impression or meter strip in the amount of the difference to each individual piece in the mailing.
2. The mailer may affix postage stamps or a meter strip to the mailing statement, in the amount of the total postage difference due for all the pieces in the mailing, rounded to the next higher full cent.
3. The mailer may make payment for the amount of the difference through an advance deposit account...

Postal Bulletin, 2/17/94



Bill Toutant of Artmaster was quoted in the January issue as saying he was making FDCs with strips of five Christmas self-adhesives with a numbered Snowman at the left and an unnumbered Snowman at the right.

In fact, Artmaster prepared FDCs as strips of four with the numbered Snowman as the second stamp from the left. The PS/5 strips were prepared only for Steve Esrati.

On Page 36 we said the 3¢ Conestoga Wagon must still find its way to the C Press. Plate 2 of that stamp was printed on the C Press several years ago.

On Page 45, in announcing an untaged error of Plate 1 of the 30¢ Laubach, we said the stamp is usually overall tagged. It is block tagged.

Maximum PNCs on self-adhesives

By Alan M. Malakoff

Using USPS ordering and shipping records, it is now possible to determine the maximum number of PNCs for some self-adhesive coils.

The 29¢ Pine Cone (SA29PC-B1) was printed by Banknote Corp. of America. The only known plate number on the coil is "B1." A total of 2,006,000 coil stamps were ordered by and delivered to the Postal Service.

This translates into 400 rolls of 5,015 stamps each. As the spacing between plate numbers is 18 stamps apart, there should be 111,444 plate-number strips.

This number is definitely on the low side. The rarest, still unfound, 10¢ Eagle and Shield (A12113) has about 216,200 strips. However, we need to remember that the Pine Cone coil was a philatelic issue, made solely for collectors—either on sale directly through the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center or used on first-day covers. Thus, it is unfair to compare the Pine Cone's impressions with any stamp issued for a nonphilatelic purpose. The 111,000 strips should be plenty

for collectors.

The 29¢ Eagle (SA29E-111) was printed by 3M Co with the numbers "111." Its shipping total was about the same—1,981,584 stamps. Translated into strips, that works out to 110,088 PNCs.

The four-design Christmas stamp (SA29G-V1111111) by Avery is a little different as its spacing is only 12 stamps apart. Its printing of 2,001,600 stamps works out to 166,800 PNC strips, probably all "V11111111."

No information is available yet on the 29¢ Love Sunshine stamp.

There are two critical assumptions to this analysis:

- Only one plate number exists on each of these coils.

- The spacing of the coils (the plate circumference) matches the 12- or 18-stamp length of strips sold by the Postal Service.

If anyone has any information to contradict either of these assumptions, please send it to me (in care of *TPN*). Confidence will be respected if desired.

And, of course, none of this conjecture or calculation would be necessary if the Postal Service would just go back to issuing its old plate-impression reports. □

22¢ Official has dull gum, too

Ken Lawrence reports that the 22¢ Official (which is not a PNC) is known with dull gum.

Wayne Youngblood, who owns a copy, said he has had it for four or five years.

But until now, nobody ever reported its existence.

Won't you help?

Reports are needed on the incidence of finding the following stamps in mixtures or in office mail: The 10¢ Eagle & Shield, 25¢ Yosemite, 29¢ Rushmore, 29¢ White House. Please share your knowledge with others.

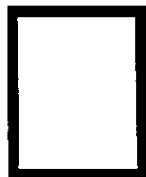
The Plate Number,
P.O. Box 20130,
Shaker Heights, OH 44120

If your label says 3-94, renew now.

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

Forwarding and Return
Postage Guaranteed,
Address Correction
Requested

BULK MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CLEVELAND, OHIO
PERMIT 1216



IF BOX IS CHECKED
YOUR SUBSCRIPTION
HAS EXPIRED