

6

The Plate Number

and Great Americans Review

NOVEMBER 1994

\$16 a year

VOLUME IX, NO. 6

Subscribers can get gifts

By Gerald H. Clark

Beginning a search for the green Liberty Torch ATM test pane, *TPN* stumbled upon the National Cash Register Co. (NCR) demonstration pane featured on the front page of the September issue.

Continuing the search has led to the discovery of another demo pane—again used by NCR. The first NCR pane used the “stylized Flag” design of the 25¢ and “F” ATM panes issued by the Postal Service.

Please turn to Page 143

10¢ Red Cloud, 40¢ Chennault arrive with shiny gum, but are unavailable

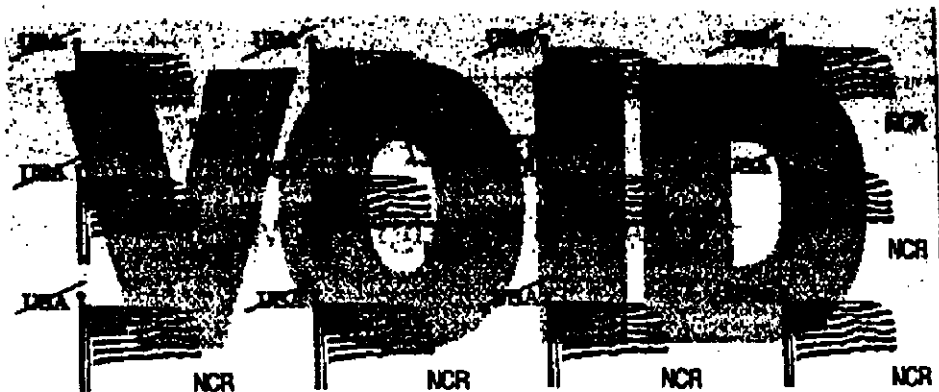
A 10¢ Red Cloud and a 40¢ Chennault with shiny gum have been confirmed.

Several collectors found the Red Cloud from Plate 2 with mottled prephosphoring and shiny gum. One collector sent in a similar Plate 2 block of the Chennault.

Neither stamp is available from the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center.

Robin Minard, a spokeswoman for the Postal Service, said both stamps had been printed more than a year ago, before the Postal Service instituted a system whereby collectors are notified any time a stamp is reprinted.

Meanwhile, the cave is selling a “light blue” 19¢ Fishing Boat printed by Guilford Gravure for American Banknote.



COPIER SAFE—This ATM pane (its purpose not understood) was made so that it could not be easily reproduced on copiers. The entire background is light blue. “VOID” is dark blue. The “stamps” do not resemble any actual stamps issued by the Postal Service, but the flag resembles the one on the “G” stamp. One pane of the “VOID” pane, plus one Torch demonstration pane and one copy of the demonstration pane shown on the cover of *TPN* in September, have been sent free to all those who contributed to *TPN*’s coverage of self-adhesive panes. Subscribers may obtain the “VOID” pane, too.



Bill Gunther, president of Guilford’s parent company, said Guilford has not printed any stamps recently. Minard said the only 19¢ Boats should be from Stamp Venturers and ABN is not printing stamps.

Al Haake ordered them but despite the new item number found them to be old 7766s.

“NICE COVER, THANKS!”—Some readers who received the freebie of three demo panes, thanked Gerald Clark for the nice cover, without opening the envelope to find the goodies that were to be found inside.

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**1995 CATALOG
COMING SOON,
SEE PAGE 142**

TPN DIDN'T DO IT!

When Carol Morehouse became the 100th person to report a self-adhesive plate number to *TPN's* Gerald H. Clark, he sent her a PNC. Ms. Morehouse wrote me a thank-you note that left me completely baffled until Clark owned up to sending the gift.

That was in July.

Later, after hours and hours on the phone, Clark was able to turn up more of the elusive Torch self-adhesive demonstration booklets first reported in *Linn's* on June 20, 1994.

Those demo items are actual self-adhesive booklets and the labels are removable. Clark used them in conjunction with Torch self-stick stamps to mail out free copies of the Torch demo booklet and two other demonstration panes to everyone who helped him compile his master list of self-adhesive plate numbers. Free, gratis!

But, he said they came from *TPN*.

While I would glory in the honor, I must confess that it never even occurred to me to send out such nice "thank-you" notes. But I'm glad the true spirit of collecting lives

LETTERS:

He's fed up with flood of Eagle & Shields, silly rope changes

I am pretty much fed up with the unending Eagle and Shield issues and the silly "one loop" reissue of the 19¢ Fishing Boat (still another replacement page?).

Wolfgang Schön
Lighthouse Publications
Aumühle, Germany

Untagged find

I have two plate-number strips of three from Plate 3 and two line pairs from Plate 4 of Scott Number 1898A untagged.

[*TPN* translation: That's T4S-3 and T4S-4, the untagged errors of the 4¢ Stagecoach from the Cottrell Press, which were listed in the 1991 *PNC Catalog*. See how much easier *PNC Catalog* numbers are than Scott!]

I got them through a mail order to the Philatelic Sales Division when postage went from 25¢ to 29¢. It's just my luck that I didn't notice it then! (I bought 100 at the time.)

Robert N. Quinn
Bellevue, Wash.

Is this Loco tagged? (Cont.)

In the July letters column, Ken Lawrence, Richard Nazar,

Letters to the editor

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

The Plate Number
and Great Americans Review

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on in Clark. So I thank all of you for your notes thanking me; I am writing this to let the world know that the accolades belong to Clark, not me. Thanks, Jerry.

Steve Esrati

and Steve Esrati termed 2¢ Locomotive stamps from the C Press with tiny specks of taggant untagged stamps. Here is the rebuttal by Richard C. Schulman, who found and reported the stamps.

The 2¢ Locomotive I submitted to you should be considered a tagged error. The stamp was supposed to be issued untagged and if there is any amount of taggant, regardless of how little, it has to be considered partly tagged or with tagging.

According to Scott, a tagging-omitted error, like a color-omitted error, must show no trace of either taggant or color, even under magnification, to be considered an error. Therefore, conversely, if a stamp is to be issued untagged and there is even a trace of taggant it is, therefore, an error.

Although both Nazar and Lawrence think the tagging was applied someplace other than the press, we could just as well say the tagging was done on press by some taggant still in the reservoir from a previous run or from one of the press rollers. To dismiss it by saying "probably" doesn't work. Also, your comment on there being only three types of paper has no bearing. BEP block tagged the 1990 Traditional Christmas booklet stamp after it was discovered that the phosphor paper the stamp was printed on didn't give off a strong enough signal. ABN did the same thing with both the 1992 Chinese New Year and the 1993 Children's Classics stamps. One of the problems with much of the so-called research in *TPN* is that it is conjecture, and not based on fact.

Is Cody prephosphored? (Cont.)

I realize that you have a need to fill space, but this con-

troversty between Ken Lawrence and Robert Kugel is becoming as boring as was the controversy you fired between Ken Lawrence and Robert Rabinowitz some time ago. Without trying to fuel the fire or taking sides, I will add the following and then drop any further discussion for fear of becoming part of the boredom.

I had read Robert Kugel's letter in the September 1993 issue of *TPN*. It didn't quite register because I don't have a Stereoview 7 microscope nor did I know what it was. And I didn't know what he meant by "high-energy ultraviolet light." Not having this equipment, it wasn't possible for me to check any of the Plate 1 Codys I had. It wasn't until I read Ken's article in *Linn's* and found that I had the same equipment he described that I was able to check my Plate 1 Codys. Surprisingly, they were all on prephosphored paper. I next checked a dealer's rather large holding of Plate 1 Codys and discovered that his, too, were all on prephosphored paper. At that point I changed the Plate 1 listing in the 1993 *Linn's Yearbook* from overall tagged to prephosphored. I've never seen an overall-tagged Cody from Plate 1. If anyone has one, I would like to examine it.

Scrap refund is a no-no

On another matter, I found it interesting that a postal clerk (*TPN*, May 1994, Page 67, "Dealer's legitimate ploy sours postal clerk") was soured by a collector (dealer) buying rolls of coils, stripping out the numbers, and then returning the scrap pasted on sheets of paper for a 90%-of-face refund. I don't know why the clerk was annoyed. He should have sent the scrap back, along with the following citations from the *Domestic Mail Manual* (Issue 47, 4-10-94). All of the following are from Module PO14 (Refunds and Exchanges):

1.1 USPS Fault. The post office may correct mistakes in selling damaged, defective, or otherwise unserviceable stamps by exchanging stamps at full value.

This section certainly doesn't apply as the post office didn't make a mistake. The key word here is "exchanged," not "refund."

1.2 Damaged in Customer's Possession. Stamps that are damaged or otherwise unusable for postage (because of humidity, moisture, or other causes) while in a customer's possession may be exchanged only for an equal number of stamps of the same denomination. ... Quantities of the same denomination over \$10 must be returned in the same configuration as when bought, i.e., sheets, coils, booklets. Each such transaction is limited to \$100 worth of stamps per customer.

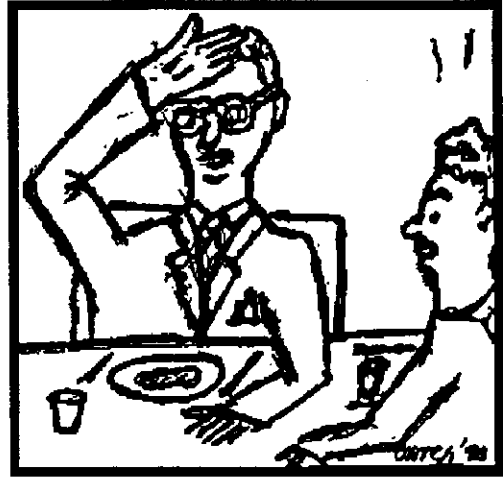
Key words here are "may be exchanged only for an equal number of stamps," not "refunded at 90% of face," and "over \$10 must be returned in the same configuration as when bought, i.e., sheets, coils..." Pasting up stamps is not the condition as bought.

1.5 Purchase error. If a customer purchased the wrong denomination stamps (or the wrong kind, size, or denomination envelope) they may be exchanged at full value. Only full panes of stamps, coils of stamps in the original sealed wrappers ... may be exchanged.

Here the key words are "coils of stamps in the original sealed wrappers." Pasted-up stamps certainly don't apply.

Pedro's World of PNCs

by Pedro Ortega, M.D.



"Oh! I forgot to renew my subscription to *TPNGAR-SAAOIWMC0FT*!"

"What in heaven is that?"

"*The Plate Number Great Americans Review Self Adhesives and Other Issues Which May Come Out From Time to Time!*"

1.6 Exchange of Spoiled and Unused Postal Matter. Unusable and spoiled stamped envelopes or postal cards, if uncanceled, and unused precanceled stamps and postal cards, are exchanged for other postage stamp paper...

f. Unused precanceled stamps in full coils and in full sheets redeemed from precancel permit holders: 90% of postage value.

Here the key words are "exchanged for other postage stamp paper" and "full coils." Close but no cigar.

Although the above citations were taken from the most recent edition of the DMM you can go back as far as Issue 23, 5-1-87, and find essentially the same rules.

So, unless someone can show me differently, the postal clerk should have sent back the stamps.

Richard C. Schulman
Smithtown, N.Y.

PNC collecting is on skids

I read with interest your editorial in the September issue. While maybe not yet at the funeral state, I disagree with you and feel that PNC collecting is indeed on a decline. I feel I speak with some expertise on this, having been into PNCs a dozen years. The main thing you missed is an intangible—"the thrill of the hunt."

Between the early 1980s and the early 1990s, there have been several changes, all of which, I feel, are detrimental to the hobby.

- Demise of the Cottrell presses. These plates didn't last long, they cracked regularly when clamped together, the precancel gaps moved around, and there were two numbers per roll. Each and every roll you bought was an adventure.
- Vending machines. There has been a shift within

USPS from coil-vending machines to booklet machines or general vending machines—with booklets and partial stamp panes. There are now fewer places to go to play the slots.

- **Shift to vended material.** The old-style machines (which generally handled more rolls) would give you change makers—numerous 1¢, 2¢, and 3¢ stamps. Now, most machines give you a strip of five of the 29¢. This may also be an artifact of rates—the current 29¢ rate (so you can get only 1¢ in change) and the previous 25¢ (no change necessary).
- **Designs.** Three out of four of the early first-class rates had stamps in both the Transportation and the Flag series. No more. ...
- **Stamp availability.** The use of bulk-mail centers and increased automation have meant that less bulk mail is handled at the smaller post offices. Many (most?) no longer even carry bulk mail stamps. Even the large regional post office here wants you to call ahead if you want rolls of 10,000.
- **Roll size.** I would have no problem shelling out for a roll of 500 of the 9.3¢ Mail Wagon or the 10.9¢ Hansom Cab. I'd get two plate numbers, gaps, and an adventure. How many times can I gamble on a roll of 10,000 of the 10¢ Eagle and Shield, especially given the lower jackpot.
- **Dealers.** Many have done good things for the hobby. But we've reached the point where they know when the SDO [stamp distribution office] gets a shipment, they get them out and quickly distribute them—no chase is necessary, just sign up for a new-issues service.

You're right that the A12113 and A1110101011 of the Eagle and Shield have been missed and may be sitting out there. But when you go fishing, you don't care if you catch fish as long as you see some action. Modern-day PNC hunting is like fishing without a nibble.

Alan Malakoff
Highland Park, N.J.

Only one Truman

In regard to my reference in the 1993 *Linn's Yearbook* to two Trumans, one with embedded (mottled) tagging, the other with surface-coated (solid) tagging, which you mentioned in the September *TPN* ("All the PNC News That Fits We Print"): The reference to the surface-coated tagged variety is erroneous, and was based on faulty information. I intend to publish a correction in the 1994 *Yearbook*.

George Amick
Trenton, N.J.

New Great Americans

I have a few items that may be of interest to you and the readers of *TPN*.

- 10¢ Red Cloud, Plate 2, prephosphored paper (mottled, embedded tagging), shiny gum.

- 40¢ Chennault, Plate 2, prephosphored paper (mottled, embedded tagging), shiny gum.

- 15¢ Cody, Plate 3, overall tagged, tagged selvage.
- 10¢ Red Cloud, Plate 2, overall tagged, tagged selvage, untagged stripe across top.

Greg Greenwald
Marshfield, Wis.

Cheating with self-adhesives (Cont.)

More thoughts on Doug Iams' letter ("Cheating with self-adhesives," July *TPN*). I raise the thought that the enterprising person described could cause mayhem in the self-adhesive arena now.

As in any specialty, varieties are what make collecting more enjoyable and allow for a more interesting exhibit.

I would like to be able to collect booklets by backing types A through D, but am hesitant to pay extra for something that can be so easily altered. It is too easy for someone to remove a middle strip off one backing type and replace it with one of a different number of the same issue. For example, assume that B1111-1 is common with backing A but rare with backing B, and that B2222-1, or any other in the series, is common with backing B. All that would need to be done is to remove the strip from the B1111-1 on backing A and switch it with the strip from the B2222-1, making it a B1111-1 with backing B.

Admittedly, there would have to be at least one number combination of any issue that is found with two different backings for this to be possible. This would direct most of our attention to the brown Eagle and Shields.

I have discussed this matter with fellow collectors and with dealers. Possible solutions could include fly-specking the colors from the individual plates, a feat in itself; using a magnifying glass to check the spacing between the strip and the surrounding stamps, or even using a microscope to attempt to compare the fibers to see if they match, since no two would be the same.

One dealer also suggested examining the booklets under long-wave UV to look for differences.

One thing I've noticed is that a previously removed strip or stamp will have a tendency to peel up from the paper when the backing is curved in a direction toward the backing. But frequent bending of the backing will cause weak areas and even folds.

Obviously this field of collecting needs to come up with some dependable methods of detecting alterations before it will take off, and now is the best time before the market gets flooded with them. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

Jerry Schmoyer
Virginia Beach, Va.

In reply: It has been reported to *TPN* that some postal clerks remove the plate-number strip from self-stick booklets when they sell them to make "booklets" out of them.

But *TPN* asked Richard Federle, a Cincinnati-area dealer in self-adhesives, about all this. He said quite emphatically, "It can't be done!" To prove it, he removed a stamp from a damaged coil strip and tried to put it back. Even if one can

get the alignment perfectly, the stamp will not look like the rest. It will curl.

Buying and Selling

On Page 68 of the Sept. 19 issue of *Linn's*, Dr. Robert Rabinowitz advertised to sell 100 different self-adhesive plate-number sheetlets for \$1,149 and all 101 different sheetlets "known to me" (includes Eagle-Shield B4344-3) for \$1,325, which means he is asking \$176 for B4344-3.

On Page 11 of the same issue he is offering to buy this number for \$12, which means he is offering to pay less than 7% of his sell price.

Doug Iams
San Jose, Calif.

In reply (by Dr. Rabinowitz): First let us conclude from Mr. Iams' letter that he can do arithmetic. I met him at the Pittsburgh STAMPSHOW. It seems to me that if his concern was genuine, rather than another attempt at "dealer bashing" (see *TPN* March 1993), he would have called or written me for an explanation.

Actually, I do have a retail price on B4344-3, in spite of the fact that Mr. Iams has concluded that I do not. I HAD a retail price for the few complete sets of 101 I had and also offered 100 different at a discount since I felt I could more readily replace that group. My \$12 offer for the B4344-3 reflects my marketing-sense decision as to what I'd pay for a quantity of them. Individually, I've paid more as some of you who have traded them to me can attest.

Thus, I certainly don't expect a collector who has only one of them to take it from his or her collection for a mere profit of \$7.07. On the other hand, I would expect *Linn's* readers, many of whom have no interest in self-adhesives but do like to search for things in post office, to do just that and possibly come up with a stack of as many B4344-3s and be happy quickly to turn a profit of 140%. Think about it. How many of you, if you found these in your local post office tomorrow, would sell 50 to 75 of the, at a profit of \$7.07 each? And if and when that occurred, the perceived value of the B4344-3 would drop much closer to the \$12 buy price.

If none are purchased, and as it becomes clearer that stocks of the brown Eagle and Shield are no longer in post offices or "in waiting" in Kansas City, then buy prices would inch up. Eventually, as dealers gain confidence that no large supplies are in collector/dealer/investor hands and that USPS is sold out, the buy price would become a significant fraction of the perceived sell price.

There are collectors today who will pay a big price for B4344-3; they are concerned that it will continue to increase in price (like the PS/5 of the 18¢ Flag from Plate 6) while they wait for a bargain. I'd cater to such a collector and buy one or two at \$75 each for a quick resale at \$100-\$150. The collector would complete his or her collection with a risk of less than \$150. But I certainly wouldn't want to buy a quantity right now at \$75 since it's too risky. If someone offered me a50 at \$75, I wouldn't buy them since I'm a businessman, not a gam-

bler. On the other hand, I'd gladly buy 50 PS/5s of the 20¢ Fire Pumper from Plates 7 and 8 at \$75 per strip since they have a track record.

Mr. Iams doesn't understand the plate-number business as it pertains to **current** items. I hope this reply helps him and other readers. I hope his note reflected ignorance of how businesses operate rather than more dealer bashing. In 1993 he wrote:

At least two out-of-state dealers (Dr. Rabinowitz and Jerry Koepp) have contacted the San Jose philatelic window looking for scarce numbers. I resent the fact that out-of-state dealers are trying to raid my philatelic window. Fortunately, the clerk here does not honor such requests...

Actually, it's fortunate that many clerks do. The dealers who search the entire country for plate numbers are doing so to obtain material for sale. We are looking for new numbers, not scarce numbers. The fact that some new numbers eventually turn out to be scarce is the way it is. Instead of condemning us for working so hard, perhaps a bit of thank is necessary. The fact is when I found the Eagle and Shield A32333 in Manchester, N.H., I "rescued" them from mailer oblivion and made them available to collectors for \$3 each per PS/5. And how many of you would rather have a space in your album for A33334 instead of the real thing? They were rescued minutes before a mailer would have used them up. And when I found the new numbers on the green Eagle and Shield self-adhesives, including D32342, D54673, and D61384, I made them available to collectors for as low as \$13 each (see my *TPN* ad on Page 90 in July). They are already higher, and may be much higher if no more are found.

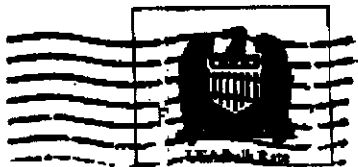
Frankly, I'm getting tired of Mr. Iams' one-sided inputs. Fortunately, most collectors appreciate the dealer role in plate-number philately and understand that anything that makes it harder for us makes it more costly for them.

In reply (by Steve Errati): It should be noted that the Postal Service's Stamp Acquisition and Distribution Branch has been urging postmasters for almost six months to remove the Eagle and Shield self-adhesives from their vaults and put them on sale, indicating that USPS computers know that inventories are quite high. (*TPN* has indicated this in "Data Bank" where "Information from..." includes this plea.) This should also alert collectors that "scarce" numbers may be stuck in some post office's vault in great number while postmasters hesitate to put them on sale because they contain only 17 stamps costing \$4.93 while most recent sheetlets contain 18 stamps for \$5.22. Clerks did not like having both sizes in their drawers because they erred in selling them. So the 17-stamp sheetlets are there but aren't there.

Odd usages on same mailing

Recently I had a chance to look through the incoming mail at the company I work for.

I enclose a commercial cover that is franked with a tagged E&S. Anyway, out of the six covers I found, three had the E&S stamps on them (all with the machine cancel)



and three had printed bulk-rate permit numbers on them.

What I find unusual is that it seems this company mailed half the flyers with E&S stamps and half with permit numbers.

In reply: You may have run into a philatelic practice in that the company may have bought the stamps from a PNC dealer at a discount, lowering the cost of its mailing on all letters carrying the stamps. The normal rate for these carrier-route sorted letters was 23 cents. If the E&S stamps were sold at 92% of face, each letter would cost only 22.2 cents (with 13 cents being paid at the time of mailing). The cost under the permit

Finally, TPN Average climbs again

The TPN Average climbed a bit during the most recent reporting period. But there's a reason behind the climb.

Many of the dealers we survey simply do not carry items such as Plate 3 from the 18¢ Flag or Plate 3 from the unprecanceled 5.2¢ Sleigh.

Don't think for a moment that we are talking only about "weaker hands," a term once applied by Dr. Robert Rabinowitz to dealers who had only one copy of an expensive item or, even worse, who sometimes advertised items they did not have in stock (a famous example was Al Hagen, who listed expensive stamps at low prices because he paid half of those prices when buying. ED Denson also listed prices for items he did not have, then went out and sought the items from other dealers, sometimes without success).

Incomplete stocks are shown in the lists of Al Haake, Craig Selig, Michael Lipson and others.

The result of this, as reflected in the statistical process, is that the remaining listings (of dealers who actually have the items) is higher than when the "ghost" prices were averaged in.

Dr. Rabinowitz has dropped some more prices, but these will not show up in the TPN Average because they are not among the PNCs that we track.

In his August 1994 list, for example, prices of recent USA flag stamps went to \$3.75 for a strip of three and \$4.00 for a strip of five, from \$4.50 and \$4.75, respectively. Comparable reductions were made in the prices of some recent 10¢ undenominated Eagle and Shields and 19¢ Fishing Boats.

These are not price reductions. Rather, they are part of a normal process in which dealers tend to mark brand-new stamps up somewhat, out of fear that the stamps may turn out to be difficult to replace. But when supplies become assured, the prices tend to drift downward.

Dr. Rabinowitz was extremely critical of TPN's computation in the September issue of an 11.8% decline in the TPN Average from its May 1993 peak.

That decline came from drops in Lipson's prices, but Dr. Rabinowitz noted that in prior lists Lipson gave discounts.

Dr. Rabinowitz suggested that TPN should have included Lipson's discounts in previous lists "like Denson does."

But there is a fallacy in that, too. Denson published a compilation of prices in which he included discounts, but if a 15% discount is offered for a total purchase exceeding, let us say, \$100, how does one treat a single sale of a \$10 stamp? TPN has always calculated its price at \$10, not \$8.50.

When Steve Esrafi published the PNC Catalog, the same thing was done. The prices were those for individual stamps, not the calculated price as part of a large purchase. Since most dealers have now abolished all discounting, pricing for the new catalog (which is expected to be out shortly) will be more accurate than in the past.

imprint would have stayed at 23 cents. Incidentally, the E&S stamp was glued down in the permit imprint's rectangle.

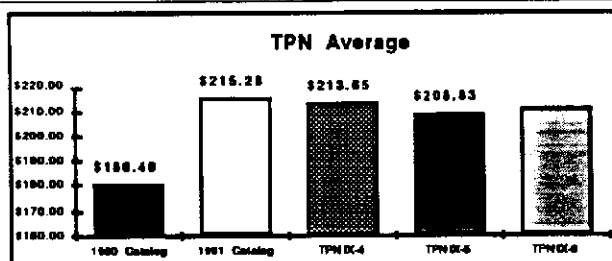
Also, I recently paid a visit to a post office where I'm good friends with a window clerk. A customer had turned in half a coil of Honeybees. I spotted them in the clerk's drawer and immediately bought them. I found one plate number. If you look closely, you'll find the "2" on the center stamp.

Maybe you could shed some light on these for me and readers of TPN.

Richard Perls

Saddle Brook, N.J.

In reply: Gladly. The "2" is shifted far up into the design. The stamps are cut so that there is almost no white space under the vignette. So we have a slitting error resulting in a downward shift of the stamps in the roll and a printing error resulting in bad registration. Very common on Honeybees!



(Denson has now retired from the retail stamp business and is confining his philatelic activities to mail sales and his own collection. He is interning to become a lawyer.)

In our next issue we shall be able to present a comparison using the new 1995 PNC Catalog. (Actually, we could do it now, but we don't want to scoop Rich Nazar.)

Changes in the components of the TPN Average

CAT	STAMP	PLATE	TPN IX-6	TPN IX-8	% Change
G29-1211	"F"	1211	\$30.48	\$28.14	-7.68%
M10-A33333	E&S	A33333	\$4.85	\$4.72	-2.78%
M19-A1112	Fishing	A1112	\$9.42	\$8.77	-6.85%
M19-AS555-unt	Fishing	AS555	\$10.49	\$10.17	-3.09%
M20-1	Consumer	1	\$189.11	\$195.50	3.38%
M20-3	Consumer	3	\$116.44	\$119.38	2.54%
o20-1	Official	1	\$69.26	\$67.19	-2.98%
o22-1	Official	1	\$83.18	\$82.97	-0.25%
F18-1	Flag	1	\$445.40	\$451.26	1.30%
F18-3	Flag	3	\$975.20	\$975.20	0.00%
F20-4	Flag	4	\$764.04	\$761.16	-0.38%
F20-11	Flag	11	\$10.50	\$10.74	2.30%
F22-1	Flag	1	\$14.66	\$14.00	-4.53%
F22-3	Flag	3	\$57.81	\$58.27	0.80%
F25-Block	Flag	5	\$4.40	\$4.30	-2.25%
F25-Echloe	Flag	5	\$8.76	\$8.51	-2.85%
F29-1MR	Rushmore	1	\$4.90	\$4.84	-1.19%
F29-1WH	White House	1	\$5.34	\$5.14	-3.74%
T52-3	Trans	3	\$233.29	\$235.04	0.75%
T52-4	Trans	4	\$14.92	\$14.84	-0.57%
T52-4P-2L	Trans	3	\$29.42	\$29.37	-0.17%
T53-3P-1M	Trans	6	\$94.76	\$93.59	-1.24%
T53-6P-1N	Trans	2	\$10.89	\$10.70	-1.79%
T74-2	Trans	2	\$19.35	\$18.49	-4.43%
T84-3P	Trans	3	\$17.98	\$17.61	-2.07%
T93-1P-N0	Trans	6	\$303.11	\$306.19	1.02%
T93-6	Trans	6	\$207.84	\$213.61	2.78%
T93-8P-2L	Trans	1	\$33.57	\$33.68	0.34%
T103-1P-1N	Trans	4	\$375.19	\$382.28	1.92%
T17-6	Trans	6	\$16.63	\$16.43	-1.18%
T17-6Pbe-1L	Trans	6	\$54.54	\$57.43	5.30%
T18-1	Trans	1	\$25.07	\$24.30	-3.08%
T18-3	Trans	3	\$78.06	\$77.98	-0.10%
T18-17	Trans	17	\$6.65	\$6.16	-7.31%
T20FP-1	Trans	1	\$168.34	\$168.15	-0.11%
T20FP-2	Trans	2	\$930.06	\$937.97	0.85%
T20FP-7	Trans	7	\$167.44	\$167.47	0.02%
T20FP-11	Trans	11	\$85.68	\$83.39	-2.63%
T20FP-12	Trans	12	\$9.40	\$9.69	3.13%

1995 PNC Catalog is due out this month

By Stephen G. Esrati

Richard Nazar, who took over *The Plate Number Coil Catalog* when I stepped down as editor and publisher in 1981, was expected to have taken the 1995 edition to the printer last month. His schedule was to have all the editorial matter at the printer first and then follow in two weeks with the ads.

All readers of *TPN* should have received a pre-publication offer offering discounts for orders sent before Oct. 31.

The regular price of the spiral-bound, soft-cover edition is \$28.75 plus postage of \$2.75. Early orders get \$2 off.

A limited edition (150 copies) of a hard-cover library edition with gold foil trim is normally \$49, but early orders could get it for \$45. A "specialist's set" with one of each book, one for use and one for the library shelf, could be had for \$5 less than the regular price of \$70.

One feature shown in the pre-publication offer had to be dropped in the catalog: Scott Publishing Co. demanded royalties for use of its numbers, so the Scott number (shown under a picture of an 18¢ Flag stamp in the flyer) had to go.

As *TPN* goes to press, I have seen all of the Flag pages and the pages for the Transportation Series through the various 5¢ values, because I still supply the prices for the catalog. It is an impressive book, but I will not review it here, leaving that to two book reviewers who can do so more dispassionately than I.

TPN has switched over to Rich's new system of numbering. Its ease of use was demonstrated again recently when *TPN* was sent a price list by a dealer who followed Scott's numbering system to the letter. The result was that it took me about five hours to enter his prices into my computer. It normally takes about an hour.

First I had to look up each Scott number to identify the stamp, something that is totally unnecessary with our numbering system. Then I had to make the computer hunt for the stamp before I could punch in the dealer's prices. Normally, I simply sort the file by catalog number and they appear in perfect order.

It simply amazes me that people still use Scott numbers in conversation, like this: "Say, have you noticed that some 1903s are almost impossible to find?" Isn't it easier for the person being asked if the stamp is identified as the 9.3¢ Mail Wagon?

Scott numbers are dandy for items that are not broken down by specialists into plate numbers, tagging types, or perms, but on Great Americans and PNCs, Scott is simply useless.

I think Scott did Rich a favor by barring use of its numbers.

Dealers' average prices for Eagle and Shields

Number	PS/\$	Number	PS/\$	Number	PS/\$
11111	53.01	A33305	54.28	A99998	53.60
22221	3.01	A34424	5.04	A99999	2.98
22221 plus	20.27	A34426	4.42	A1010101010	3.17
22222 all	2.97	A43324	4.04	A1011101010	3.08
22222 plus	2.97	A43325	3.53	A1011101011	3.48
22222 plus	30.00	A43326	3.57	A1011101012	3.40
A11111	2.67	A43334	2.95	A1110101010	3.32
A11112	2.67	A43335	2.95	A1110111010	3.33
A12213	19.88	A43426	4.22	A1111101010	3.39
A21112	2.67	A53335	3.35	A1111111010	3.27
A21113	3.78	A54444	3.82	A1211101010	2.94
A22112	2.67	A54445	3.88	A1411101010	3.39
A22113	2.57	A77777	2.89	A1411101011	2.93
A32333	221.13	A88888	2.89	A1412101010	3.50
A33333	4.10	A88889	3.51	A14121111010	2.94
A33334	81.65	A99999	3.18	A14121111111	3.20
				S11111	3.07



BAD PICTURE—*TPN* could not separate the various dark colors in this stamp. This is being issued as a Christmas ATM.

NOT AN ATM—Santa has been switched to "booklet" format. Note the changed dimensions.

USPS issues first holiday ATM

There's something new among self-adhesive ATM panes, a contemporary (i.e., non-religious) Christmas stamp. There have been "booklets" before, but not ATMs.

TPN's intrepid staff has learned that there will be a similar ATM pane in 1995. Both will be panes of 18.

The 1994 pane was originally supposed to show Santa, but at the urging of Wells Fargo Bank in California, the Postal Service substituted what is officially called the \$5.22 Christmas Contemporary Cardinal ATM Stamp.

Wells Fargo is one of the new banks that have converted their ATM machines so they can sell stamps.

The stamp shows a stylized bird surrounded by round snowflakes.

Meanwhile, the Santa self-adhesive is being issued as a \$3.48 self-adhesive "booklet."

Both issues are printed by Avery Dennison.

TPN has seen the panes (long before they were to be released in October). The plate numbers on both are V1111. There is no writing on the Cardinal ATM and the Santa shows text in Style A.

\$3.48 Christmas Santa Self-Adhesive Booklet

The \$3.48 Christmas Santa self-adhesive booklet, *Item 6616*, goes on sale Oct. 20, 1994, in Washington DC. ...

Place on Sale Nationwide Oct. 21, 1994

Avery Dennison, a private-sector supplier, produced this stamp, issued in booklets of 12 stamps. A future *Postal Bulletin* will include collector information.

Postal Bulletin, 9-15-94

\$5.22 Christmas Contemporary Cardinal ATM Stamp

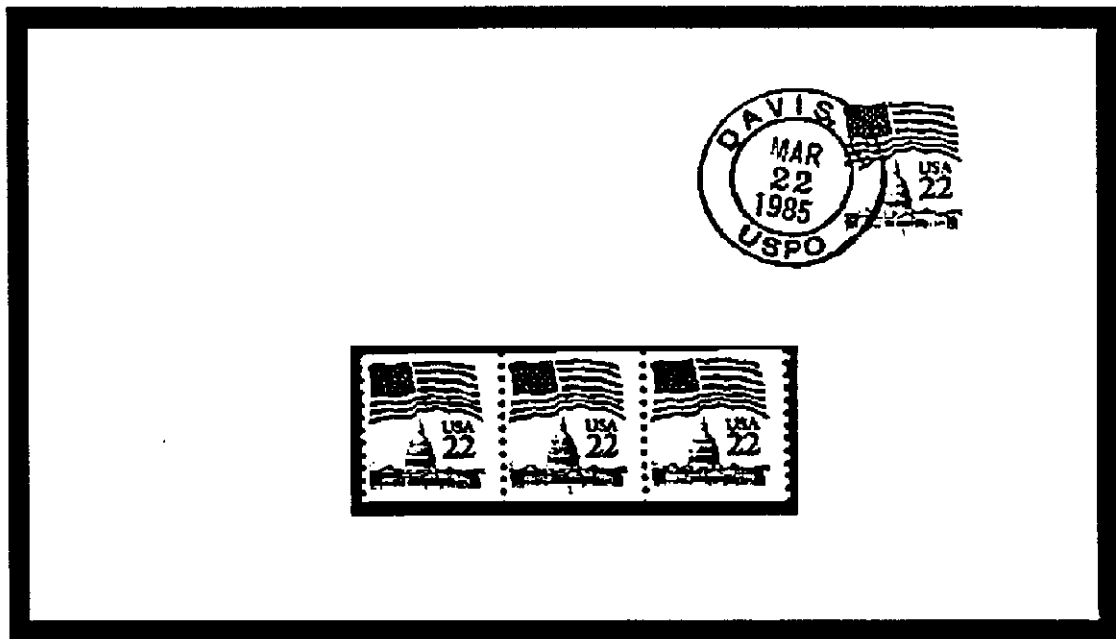
The \$5.22 Christmas Contemporary Cardinal ATM Stamp, *Item 5517*, goes on sale Oct. 20 in Harmony, Minn. These stamps are designed to be sold through bank automatic teller machines (ATMs). This stamp design features a cardinal.

Place on Sale Nationwide Oct. 21, 1994

Avery Dennison, a private-sector supplier, produced this stamp, issued in booklets of 18 stamps. A future *Postal Bulletin* will include collector information.

Postal Bulletin, 9-15-94

The box above is all the information *TPN* was able to obtain from the Postal Service as we went to press. Watch for complete specifications in our January issue.



22¢ USED ON 22ND—Dennis Chamberlain was sent 22¢ Flags before their March 29, 1985, release date. His problem: How do you document mint stamps before release and before they become common after the day of issue?

How to prove early release on *MINT PNCs*

By Dennis Chamberlain

It was March 15, 1985. I went to my post office box and removed a small envelope, then opened it while still at the post office. I was startled to see several plate strips of three of the 22¢ Flag over the Capitol.

There is always something exciting about receiving a new stamp for the first time, but what startled me was that these stamps were not due to be released until March 29! There was no explanation inside, but I recognized that it was from one of my regular PNC suppliers in New York.

Soon after arriving home, I received a phone call from New York: "Did you receive my shipment?"

"Yes, thank you," I said.

He then explained. "There are a couple of postal substations here that are openly selling coils of 100 stamps of the 22¢ Flag. Do you want more?"

"Sure, but if possible, send strips of five. Collectors are going more for strips of five now..." I told him.

"OK, I'll see what I can do."

A few days later, more of the strips arrived, including three plate strips of five. I looked at my temporary rarities. There were 11 P5/Ss and 3 P5/Ss, all Plate 1 of

the 22¢ Flag. On March 30 they would be as common as and first-class stamp. I considered using them on mail to get an early postmark, but that didn't appeal to me. I was a dealer in mint PNCs and, if possible, I wanted to preserve them as mint PNCs.

At the stationery shop I found envelopes with a clear glassine window that looked as if it were made to show off a coil strip of five. Perfect! I used a Showguard stamp mount to affix a PNC strip to a trimmed 5x9-inch card. The stamps were positioned in the center of the window.

Now the hard part. I had to seal the envelope in a way that would prove that the envelope had been sealed before cancellation. Everything I tried looked awful—until I found correction tape (this was back when people still used typewriters). I closed and sealed the envelope. With a measured strip of correction tape, I started in the upper right corner of the envelope, wrapped the tape around the back, across the sealed flap, then around the upper part of the front of the envelope, full circle until the ends of the tape met. I then sealed the ends of the tape with a single stamp. This stamp, which would receive the dated cancel, was the

final seal.

Voilà! There it was, the first ever date-documented early-release stamps in MINT CONDITION in PNC history. Postal history? It seemed like a historic moment except for one thing. I realized that I had to take them to the post office to have them canceled.

I had not thought much about this until now. Would they cancel them? Probably not, I thought, since they would not be released for another week. Maybe I should just forget it. No! I couldn't do that. I was pleased with how nice the covers had turned out. At the very least, I had to ask if they would cancel them.

I had made up 11 envelopes containing the mint PNCs. I had broken up three of the numbered strips to provide the stamps that served as the outside seals. I waited a couple of days, until March 22, before I took them to the post office. I thought it would be nice if the cancel matched the stamps—all 22s.

As I waited my turn in line at the Davis, Calif., post office, thoughts were going through my mind. "Maybe he won't notice the stamps. I doubt that! The most he can say is, 'no!' Maybe he will have no objection. Why should he? Maybe..."

"Next, please."

I have made up a few philatelic covers, would you mind canceling them for me?" I asked, as I laid them on the counter.

"Sure," he said. "Here, take this rubber stamp and do it just the way you want it." I started postmarking my covers and was about half way through.

"Hey! Those are 22¢ stamps!"

"Yes, a man sent them to me from New York," I said as I continued canceling.

"Hey! He has the new 22¢ stamps," he said again, this time louder.

I explained how I had made the special covers.

"Hey, look at these. He has the new 22¢ stamps," he repeated, loud enough so everybody in the post office could hear.

I briefly showed the other clerks my new 22¢ stamps. They smiled. (They all knew me as the strange man who uses bulk-mail decimal stamps all over my mail.)

As I left the post office, I was filled with mixed emotions. I was elated that I had the cancellations, but I felt bad that the situation, which surprised both of us, may have embarrassed the helpful clerk.

I reported the New York early release of the 22¢ Flag stamps and the existence of

my date-documented stamps in my PNC List 8, April 1985. I sent one, free and unexpected, to my New York supplier. I have not sold any of them, nor have I advertised their existence since 1985.

There are four different varieties in the eleven envelopes that may differ in value. Since I broke up three strips to seal the covers, three are sealed with plate-number singles. There is one PS/5 sealed

with a numbered single, one PS/5 sealed with a regular single, two PS/3s sealed with numbered singles, and seven PS/3s sealed with regular singles. (Do these meet the requirements of the relatively new "earliest known date" specialty?)

I have not decided how or when to market these stamps.

(Reprinted with permission from Chamberlain's PNC List 19F, August-October 1994.)

Constant plate varieties—Report 54

By A.S. Cibulskas

10¢ Eagle and Shield

a. BEP plate-number combination 11111 —"Golden Feather," multiple yellow spots to left and above left wing. Constant on all stamps. (Tran)

b. BEP plate-number combination 22222, matte gum. Two brown dots above the "I" of "bulk." Constant at 12L (illustrated in photo at left in which you can make out part of the "k" on the right).

c. BEP plate-number combination 22222, matte gum. Red dot at right of edge of stamp on level just below bottom of "Bulk rate." Constant at 2L. (Iams)



Self Adhesive Booklets

2431a Eagle	
1111 LR	11.00
2478a 29¢ Red Squirrel	
D11111	12.00
D22222	20.00
D22221, D23133	25.00
2479a Rose	
16691-2, 16694-3	11.00
2480a Pine Cone	
B1 to B15	15.00
B16	12.00
2531Ab Torch	
BC68A \$3.48	11.00
2595 Eagle Brown	
B1111-1, B3434-1	15.00
B1111-2	13.00
B2222-1, 2	35.00
B3333-1, 3	25.00
B3434-3	25.00
B4344-1, B4444-1, 3	15.00

2596a Eagle Green	
D11111, D21221	13.00
D22322, D32322	13.00
D32332, D54563	15.00
D42342, D54571	15.00
D54561, D65784	20.00
D54573	25.00
2597a Eagle Red	9.00
2598a Eagle Blue	
M111, M112	11.00
2719a Train	
V11111	12.00
2802a Christmas Toys	
V111-1111, V222-1222	7.50
V222-2112, V222-2122	7.50
V222-2221, V222-2222	7.50
V333-3333	7.50

2830a Snowman	
V1111	11.00
V2222	13.00
2813A Sunrise Love	
B111-1, 2, 3, 4	15.00
B121-5	15.00
B221-5	20.00
B222-4, 5, 6	15.00
B333-8-12, 17	15.00
B344-11-13	15.00
B444-7-10, 13-15, 17-19 ...	15.00
B444-16	20.00
Statue of Liberty	
D11111, D1212	15.00

PNC list available on request

Fedex

3663 Pimlico Court
Hamilton, Ohio 45011-5508
(513) 863-2281

Data Bank

(all text from USPS, TPN additions in brackets)

Stamp scores a "10" on the Apgar scale
WASHINGTON (Aug. 15, 1994)—A 20¢ definitive stamp honoring Dr. Virginia Apgar will be issued by the Postal Service on Oct. 24, 1994. ...

Millions of babies around the world have already been blessed with Dr. Apgar's own "stamp of approval." In 1953, she published the Apgar score, a simple assessment method that allows doctors and nurses in the delivery room to make an immediate evaluation of a newborn baby's general condition, aiding identification of those infants who need immediate medical attention.

Dr. Apgar was born on June 7, 1909, in Westfield, N.J. She graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 1929 and went on to Columbia for her medical degree, and was the first woman selected for a full professorship at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. She aspired to be a surgeon, and then moved into the then relatively new field of anesthesiology, placing special emphasis on the effects of obstetric anesthesia on newborn babies.

Dr. Apgar continued her contributions to medicine by serving the National Foundation—March of Dimes, where she directed programs of research in the causes, prevention, and treatment of birth defects. The Perinatal Section of the American Academy of Pediatrics named its annual award for her. The Apgar Award is given annually to the person who has done the most to further the cause of care for newborn babies and their mothers.

In addition to her medical achievements, Dr. Apgar was known for her sense of humor and empathy for humanity. Some of her other interests included chamber music and stamp collecting. As a prelude to the stamp-dedication ceremony, a group of physicians/musicians called the Apgar String Quartet will perform some of Dr. Apgar's favorite selections on instruments she crafted herself.

Dr. Apgar died on Aug. 7, 1974.

Technical Details—Virginia Apgar

Issue: 20¢ regular (definitive) stamp
Format: Pane of 100
First day: Oct. 24, 1994
First-day city: Dallas, Tex.
Series: Great Americans
Printer: Banknote Corp. of America, at Suffern, N.Y.
Processed: Ivex Corp.
Printing process: Intaglio
Press type: Sheet-fed intaglio
Paper: Prephosphored
Color: Brown
Size:
Image: 0.71x0.82 inches/18.02x20.81mm
Overall: 0.84x0.99 inches/21.31x25.12mm
Plate numbers: "B" followed by one single digit
Plate size: 4 positions, 400 subjects
Item No.: 1018

Stamps withdrawn from sale

Effective Dec. 30, 1994, all post offices, stations, branches, postal retail stores, vending outlets, authorized philatelic centers, and the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center must withdraw the items below from sale. Regular offices should return the stock to their designated stamp distribution office (SDO), prepared for destruction...

Item 5541 \$5.22 1992 Contemporary Christmas ATM
Postal Bulletin, 8-4-94

New stamp sales policy Full pane configuration

Effective with the issuance of this *Postal Bulletin* notice, the U.S. Postal Service is implementing a new sales policy for the sale of *only full panes or sheets* of certain stamp issues included in the 1994 Stamp Program.

Postal Bulletin, 8-4-94

Information from... Sept. 1994 Bureau of Engraving and Printing

Deliveries are continuing to occur on the following stamp issues in A/P 13 (accounting period marching September):

- Booklets**
- Pledge of Allegiance—Book of 20 (Item 6618)
- Coils**
- 2¢ Locomotive (Item 7730)
 - 5¢ Canoe, coil of 3,000 (Item 7906)
 - 23¢ Lunch Wagon, coil of 100 (Item 7913)
 - 23¢ USA, coil of 3,000 (Item 7926)
 - 29¢ Flag/White House, coil of 100 (Item 7922)
 - 29¢ Flag/White House, coil of 3,000 (Item 7924)
 - Nondenominated E&S, coil of 3,000 (Item 7977)

Private Contractors

- Delivery is continuing on...
- 19¢ Fishing Boat, coil of 500 (Item 7718)
- Self-Adhesive Convertible Booklets
- The delivery schedule for the self adhesive stamps is as follows:

Booklet	Quantity	Distribution Dates
Rose	20 million	Aug. 15–Oct. 15
Statue of Liberty	10 million	Aug. 15–Oct. 15
Love Sunrise	10 million	Oct. 15–Nov. 15

Headquarters is continuing to ask all SDOs (stamp distribution offices) and APDs (accountable paper depositories) to distribute the 17 29¢ Eagle Shield booklets (Item 5540) that are available at the APDs or Kansas City

Update

New Stamps Plate Number Coils

T20.5—The 20.5¢ Fire Engine on Type IIIb paper. (Iams, confirmed by Cuniberti)

Great Americans Series

- 10¢ Red Cloud, Plate 2. Mottled (embedded) tagging. Shiny gum. (Moreau)
- 40¢ Cheennault, Plate 2. Mottled (embedded) tagging. Shiny gum. (Greenwald)

Withdrawals

29¢ Liberty Torch ATM with original cover. Announced for Sept. 30, actually taken off sale July 12.

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: KMC Venture PNC FDCs and event covers. PNC³ member: Richard Peris, P.O. Box 8292, Saddle Brook, N.J. 07663-8292. (6-94 PNC³)

SELF-ADHESIVE FDCs wanted: Albino intaglio plate numbers, miscuts, etc. Also, Rose UPC code 16694 back, red cut marks in left or right front corners. Doug Iams, 1885 Victoria Landing, San Jose, CA 95132. (6-94 PNC³)

JUST IN FDCs of gravured Tractor Trailer #11. Farnam \$7.5, ArtCraft, Artmaster \$5. Also, Stamp Venturers' Fishing Boat: Farnam \$5, ArtCraft, Artmaster, \$4. Esratl Box 20130, Shaker Hts. OH 44120 (6-94)

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

MINT FDCS! HONEST!

MINT PNC First-Day Covers. 18 issues from 1985. For a description, see my article in this issue, but these are FDCs, not early releases. Set of 18, \$150, that's only \$8.33 each for each of these mint FDCs with FDOI status. Dennis Chamberlain, P.O. Box 4323, Davis CA 95617. (6-94)

TRACTOR TRAILER OVERPRINTS wanted: Pay \$5 for covers without plate numbers, pay \$15 for covers with plate numbers. Mixture clips also wanted. Inquire at Box TT, P.O. Box 20130, Shaker Hts. OH 44120 (6-94)

JOIN PNC3 For details, write Joann Lenz, 37211 Alper Dr., Sterling Hts. MI 48312-2203. (6-94)

TAGGED ERROR

BEP EAGLE AND SHIELD, 22222, on prephosphored paper (error). PS/5 XF, \$35; VF \$30. 5% off for PNC³ Esratl, POB 20130, Shaker Hts., OH 44120 (6-94)

NEW 5¢ CANOE: These are S11, smooth (not diagonally ridged) gum, dead gum in UV (old gum was bright). PS/5, VF only, \$2. Esratl, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (6-94)

☆☆☆ IT'S HERE! ☆☆☆

☆☆☆ 1995 PNC Catalog ☆☆☆

The 1995 catalog is expected from the printer as you read this. It is the indispensable aid to collecting PNCs. Soft-bound, \$28.75; library edition, \$49.00; specialist's set (one of each) \$70. Please add \$2.75 shipping per catalog. NJ residents add 6% tax. Nazor Publications, Inc. P.O. Box 7307, Somerset, NJ 08875-7307. (6-94)

GET EVERY NUMBER—Subscribe to my PNC new-issue service, \$25 deposit. Also, a subscription service for House of Farnam (\$5), ArtCraft (\$4), and Artmaster (\$4) FDCs. Esratl, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (6-94)

ALL BACK ISSUES of TPN are available. For a list with key articles send SASE to POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (6-94)

LIGHTHOUSE ALBUMS, supplements, stock books, supplies, UV lamps. I offer a generous 15% discount. Also, KABE albums and supplements. Esratl, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (6-94)

GREAT AMERICANS—If you collect these, you need the Summary of Data, an 18-page brochure that is updated continuously. New orders, \$7.50; orders from those who already have one, \$5. Esratl, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (6-94)

Hill stops lottery of Legends errors

Myron G. Hill, Jr., one of the founders of the Plate Number Coil Study Group, got the Postal Service to agree to hold off the shipment of Legends of the West error panes until Dec. 31. Hill's court action came just one day before collectors were to send in their orders for 150,000 remaining panes in the Postal Service's first lottery.

Hill represented a group of collectors and dealers who had paid up to \$4,700 for the errors, believing the promise of Postmaster General Marvin Runyon that all remaining panes would be destroyed.

They charged that placing the panes on sale through the lottery would deprive them of their Fifth Amendment rights that no one can be deprived of property without due process of law.

Under the agreement, the Postal Service may process orders sent in by collectors, but may not mail out any panes.

The Postal Service said it would be willing to delay but hesitated about putting the agreement in writing. Hill then said if he could not get it in writing he wanted a hearing on the matter that day. The Postal Service then relented.

Now on four library shelves

A complete, bound volume of *TPN* is now available at the Collectors Club of Chicago, making it the fourth philatelic library with a complete set.

The others are at the University of Texas at Dallas, the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison and the Philatelic Library of Munich, Germany.

250 rolls turn up

The 4¢ Stagecoach from Plates 5 and 6 and with a line gap was priced in the 1991 *PNC Catalog* at \$7 and was given a scarcity rating of B. No more!

250 rolls of 500 have just been found and were sold to PNC dealer Al Haake at face. The find will be reflected in the price quoted in the 1995 *Plate Number Coil Catalog*.

Weird tagging, Part 1

Ershad Mansur has found a plate block and a ZIP block of the 35¢ Drew from the scarce Plate 4 in which the right column of stamps in what was an upper right pane appears almost completely untagged. But it's not an untagged error because there is some tagging on the stamps and because it looks like the tagging mat had worn out at the extreme right.

Weird tagging, Part II

Ken Moreau, who found a vertical pair of the 3¢ White with the top stamp entirely untagged and the bottom stamps showing several horizontally arrayed blobs of extremely heavy tagging in the middle of the stamp, has now found the same phenomenon on a pair of 50¢ Nimitz.

Nonprofit rates increased again

Nonprofit postal rates went up slightly on Oct. 2 for letter-size mail. Nonprofit rates are adjusted upward periodically to make up for funds not allocated by Congress to subsidize special postal services, such as the mail of nonprofit organizations or the blind.

Denson calls it quits

ED Denson, who returned to the PNC business after an unsuccessful run for county commissioner in Humboldt County, Calif., is giving up his record business and his retail stamp business to become a lawyer. He will continue his PNC mail sales.

Denson was quoted in *The New York Times* Sept. 19 when he criticized the behavior of law-enforcement officers in their fight against marijuana. Among other things, low-flying helicopters have startled sunbathers and frightened cattle, and marijuana seekers have trampled gardens.

"They are certainly not here in the numbers they used to be, but they are getting more reckless," Denson said.

It depends on point of view

A dealer at AIRPEX, Dayton's annual Champion of Champions show, put up a sign: "Better plate blocks." Asked if he would sell some 20¢ Gailaudets from Plates 8 and 9 at \$50, the dealer looked through his stock, found one block from Plate 1, and said, "Sorry, we don't have that."

"Then you ought to take down your sign," he was told.

"Naw," he said, "them's modern plate blocks. That's not what I meant."

Spray cancels and the King

Dr. Frank L. Shively, Jr., who often exhibits his 8.3¢ Ambulances, won a reserve grand, a gold, and an Ohio Postal History Society first award at CINPEX '94 with an exhibit of jet-sprayed covers saying, "Welcome to CINPEX '94, Cincinnati, Ohio." Michael Laurence, editor and publisher of *Linn's*, won a silver and the award of merit of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors for "Long Live the King!," an exhibit of Elvis Presley stamps of the world. Ken Lawrence won a silver for "English Framas from Beginning to End."

As information dries up ...

Have you noticed how little news of PNCs we are getting? It's mainly because the Postal Service has provided none since December 1991. Once USPS starts issuing old plate-activity reports, that may change, but some members of the Plate Number Coil Study Group fear that some data will never be recovered.

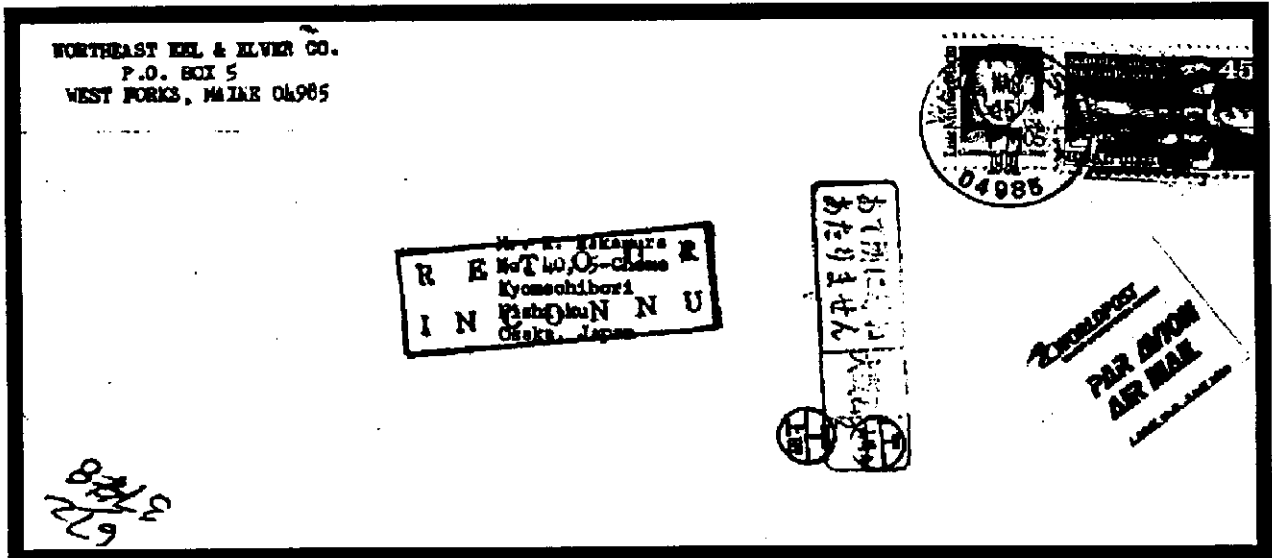
Another factor is the decrease in timely announcements from Postal Headquarters, such as about the 29¢ Cardinal ATM.

USPS 'pays' itself

Postal Headquarters is using up its old envelopes with permit imprints and is overprinting the permit indicium with a red meter. USPS pays 29 cents per letter.

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





Cover of the Bi-Month by Richard L. Beecher

Many of the lower values of the Great Americans Series are primarily needed as makeup postage.

The 5¢ Luis Muñoz Marin stamp issued in 1990 is the third 5¢ stamp in the series, succeeding the Hugo Black and Pearl Buck stamps. It is the first and only low-value Great Americans issue with a "0" before the denomination. The extra digit was added so clerks and customers wouldn't confuse it with a \$5 stamp.

On Feb. 3, 1991, the half-ounce airmail letter rate to a foreign destination other than Canada and Mexico was increased from 45¢ to 50¢. Although 50¢ stamps were already available to cover the new rate, customers still had plenty of the 45¢ Samuel

Langley issue to use up.

This cover, postmarked March 15, 1991, in West Forks, Maine, shows the 5¢ Muñoz Marin properly used to make up the necessary postage between the old and new rate. This cover has the extra bonus of having a number of postal markings on it because it could not be delivered to the addressee, and was returned to sender. There is an Osaka receiving cancel on the back. (Cover courtesy Rob Washburn)

If you have a candidate for cover of the bi-month, please send it to Richard L. Beecher, 2641 Locksley Pl., Los Angeles, CA 90039.

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

Scott	Stamp	L/block	L/Overall	Harrow/block	Harrow/overall	Harrow/phosphored	Untagged
1844	1¢ Dix	L(1, 2)		A(1)			
2171	4¢ Flanagan			E(1)			E(1, 2) Intentionally
2173	5¢ Muñoz Marin				E(1)†		E(1) Error (2) Intentionally
2176	10¢ Red Cloud			E(1)	E(1*†, 2†)	E 2¢ dull, E2 shiny	E(1, 2) Error
2178	15¢ Cody			E(1, 3)	E(2*, 3†)	E 15¢	E(2, 3) Error
1862	20¢ Truman	L(1)		E(2)	E(3)†	E 4 shiny	E(2) Error
1863	22¢ Audubon	L(1)		E(3)			L(1) Error
2182	23¢ Cassatt			E(1)	E(1*†, 2*†)	E 2¢ dull, 3 shiny	E(1) Error
2192a	25¢ London \$5 book			E(1, 2)			E(2) Error
2183a	25¢ London books I						E(1) Error (\$1.50 only)
1864	30¢ Loubach	L(1)		E(2)	E(2)†		E(1) Error
1867	39¢ Clark	L(1)		E(2)			
1868	40¢ Gilbreth	L(1)		E(2)			
2186	40¢ Chennault				E(1)†	E 2¢ dull, 2 shiny	E(1) Error
2188	45¢ Cushing			E(1)	E(1)†		E(1) Error
1869	50¢ Minitz		L(1, 2, 3, 4)	E(1, 2)	E(2†, 3*)	E 3 shiny	L(2), E(1, 2) Error
2190	52¢ Humphrey					E 1¢ dull, 1 µ shiny	
2193	75¢ Walkie					E 1¢ dull, 1 µ shiny	
2194A	51¢ Hopkins			E(1)	E(1)	E 2¢ dull, E2 shiny	E(1) Error
2196	55¢ Harte			E(1)		E 2¢ dull	E(?) Error

Symbols used in this chart:

- L = L-perforator 10.9 x 10.9
- E = Eureka off-press bull's-eye 11.2 x 11.2
- A = A Press in-line bull's eye 11.2 x 11.2
- ☆ S5 booklet only 11.2 x 11.2. The \$1.50 and S3 (Plate 1) booklets are block tagged and perforated (10 x 9.8) in-line on Goebel booklet-making equipment
- ⊗ Printed on an I-8 currency press. Tagged off press. All have shiny gum.
- * Overall tagging in all salvages.
- † Untagged area in salvage.
- E-E=Electric-eye perforator 10.9 x 10.9
- µ Phosphored paper (mottled, embedded tagging).

PNCs and the Cottrell Presses

How the Cottrell Presses Produced the Varieties We See on the 19 PNC Denominations Produced and Issued Between 1981 and 1985

By Larry G. Haynes

I Acknowledgment

Most of the information contained herein on the operation and impact of the Cottrell presses on PNCs was gleaned from an interview on Dec. 2, 1985, with William H. (Bill) Ferkler and James I. Purnell of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

I was on a business trip to Washington and decided to tour the BEP in the hopes of getting some information on the Cottrell presses. During the tour, I accidentally ran into Bill Ferkler and, after a brief spurt of "begging," Bill agreed to show me some of the presses.

The Cottrells were on the fourth floor of another building across the street from the main currency-printing building and had been shut down for only a few weeks. I could not talk them into taking me to the building housing the Cottrells; but they freely discussed the Cottrells and answered all the questions I could think of. I remember feverishly taking notes.

They were obviously busy and behind schedule on their printing duties; and I never knew when they would put me back on the normal side of the "public line" which I had somehow miraculously crossed.

I didn't know anything about printing technology and I didn't think of all the questions to ask that would help clear up the manner in which varieties on PNC stamps I had seen were produced in the Cottrell printing process.

Being an engineer and a voracious note-taker, I did get a lot more out of the discussions than I originally thought. Subsequent help in interpreting these notes from Kim Cuniberti, Alan Thomson, Ken Lawrence, Steve Esrati and others have cleared up most of the questionable areas.

Hopefully, this article will enlighten the reader on what the Cottrell presses were, what they produced, and how the production runs manifested themselves in the stamps we collect.

II Introduction

The purpose of this article is to describe the Cottrell presses as they were used from 1981 to 1985 to produce PNCs, mostly in the Transportation Series of coil stamps. A large number of denominations were issued, producing many plate numbers, precancel gaps, precancel service inscriptions, and plate, mat, and tagging varieties for PNC collectors to chase, find, and covet.

The overall Cottrell printing processes for the plate, precancel, and tagging steps will be described. Details, including diagrams and explanations, will be provided on how the plates and mats were constructed, assembled, and used in the printing steps. The resulting "images" formed on the stamps that we see and collect are described in relation to the Cottrell presses' operation. This provides an understanding of how the basic collectable characteristics of PNCs came about (e.g., plate numbers and joint lines). It also provides plausible explanations for how most of the varieties we collect (such as plate cracks and inking varieties, precancel mat varieties, and tagging varieties) were produced.

PNCs have become a major collecting arena. The Cottrells played an important role, as you will see

III The Cottrell Presses

A. History

The Cottrell presses began operations at BEP in June 1956. Initially, there were two Cottrell presses (evidently 801 and 802).

Later Presses 803 and 804 (and 805 and 806, which were gone by 1981) were added. According to literature, one precanceling press (or letterpress) was installed on Press 803 in 1959. According to literature, three tagging letterpress presses were installed in 1963-64 on Presses 801, 802, and 804. No tagging equipment was added to Press 803.

A fire in March 1982 destroyed two of the presses (802 and 804). Press 803 originally had the only precancel process and Press 801 had only a tagging process. In order to increase the production rate and run-time on the two remaining Cottrells, BEP added tagging capability to Press 803 by shaving surplus precancel mats and using them for tagging on 803 beginning in 1984. From 1983 through November 1985, when the Cottrell presses were shut down forever, both precanceling and tagging runs were made on Press 803 at the same "station." Precancel mats were removed and the shaved tagging mats were installed in their place. The black precancel ink was removed from the well; the system was cleaned of ink, and the tagging fluid was added to the well. The process was reversed to switch back to precanceling.

It is interesting to note that no stamps were produced on the Cottrells with tagging on precanceled issues (and vice-versa). It was simply not possible. During the time there were four presses, only one could produce precancels (803). And 803 could not produce tagged stamps. Press 801, 802, and 804 could only produce tagged stamps.

After the destruction of 802 and 804, Press 803 was converted to produce both tagged and precanceled stamps. However, since both were done at the same station, there was no way to get black precancel ink and taggant on the same printing.

B. Disadvantages

The disadvantages of the Cottrell presses relative to newer technology that led to their shutdown were:

- The full tagging system used was abrasive to the coil-cutting knives and perforating pins. (This was the driving force for BEP to move to block tagging.)
- The high cost of maintenance.?
- The use of multiple plates was time consuming relative to the cylindrical sleeves that replaced plates and mats on newer presses.
- Single color capability.

C. Advantages

The advantages of the Cottrell presses were:

- Higher productivity than on the Stickney presses.
- High functionality. Presses were eventually adapted so that printing and either precanceling or tagging were done in one continuous process.
- Longevity. As it turned out, they lasted almost 30 years!

D. Claims to fame

The Cottrell presses' chief claim to fame with modern-day collectors was the plate number coil. The introduction of the small plate number engraved on the bottom of the lead stamp in each row of each curved plate was the real step-out. It resulted in a recurring, small but visible number at the bottom of every 24th

stamp in a coil roll. This plate number started the PNC craze. It was first used in this manner on the 18¢ Flag stamp issued in April 1981 and printed on the B Press. It was adopted for the Cottrell Press plates and appeared on the first Transportation Series coil, the 18¢ Surrey, issued in May 1981. In all, 18 PNC denominations in the Transportation Series and the Consumer Education stamps were printed on the Cottrell presses between 1981 and 1985. These 19 issues resulted in 93 tagged, collectable plate-number strips (See Table 1).

Another Cottrell claim to fame was the introduction of the on-line precancel-printing facility that produced the gap positions in the precancel lines that have become so collectable. Ten of the 18 Transportation Series coils were issued untagged and precanceled as well as tagged. With the five precancel inscription types, a total of 14 Cottrell precancel issues exist. About 270 different gap strips with plate numbers can be collected. Also, 58 to 64 different plate number strips can be collected on the Transportation Series precancel issues (See Table 1).

The Cottrells were quite prolific in their last few years. They might have stayed around for several more years. However, the loss of the two presses in the fire and the subsequent problems of meeting coil demand with only two "old" machines instead of four "old" ones probably hastened their previously planned demise.

IV The printing/precanceling/tagging process and how it affected what we see on PNCs

A. Summary

In the following pages, I will describe the printing processes that were used on the Cottrell presses:

- Step-by-step through the overall process.
- The plate or image printing step done with intaglio printing. Details on how the plates were constructed, assembled, and used. The relationship of the image to the plate number and joint line. Plausible explanations of how many of the varieties that have been collected were produced.
- The precancel printing step done with letterpress typographic printing. Details of how the precancel mats were constructed, assembled, and used. The relationship of the precancel gaps to the image/plate number/joint line. Plausible explanations of how many of the varieties that have been collected were produced.
- The tagging step done with typography printing. Details, relationships, and plausible explanations of how many of the varieties were produced.

I will use diagrams where possible. With these diagrams and explanations, the reader should be able to visualize how things happened on the Cottrell presses and how the varieties we see today were most probably produced.

B. The overall flow of the process

Figure 1 diagrams the overall flow of the process for the Cottrell presses.

The paper roll, or web, is fed through wet rollers to moisten or condition the web.

It then flows through the INTAGLIO PRINTING SYSTEM. Ink is fed to the ink roller, then to a transfer roller, then to the metal plate cylinder. A wiper roller or wiper blade removes ink from the surface of the plate, leaving ink in the recesses that form the image to be printed on the web.

A backup pressure roller (or "fiber roller" in BEP terminology) applies pressure on the web to force it against the plate cylinder. The web is printed with 18 rows of stamps and, after this step, has the images, plate numbers, and joint lines.

The plate numbers and joint lines repeat every 24 stamps.

Table 1

Denominations	Gaps on Precancels	Tagged Plate numbers	Precanceled Plate numbers		
1¢ Omnibus	0	6	0		
2¢ Locomotive	0	6	0		
3¢ Handcar	0	4	0		
3.4¢ School Bus	4	2	2		
4¢ Stagecoach	6	2	6		
4.9¢ Buckboard	14	2	6		
5¢ Motorcycle	0	4	0		
5.2¢ Sleigh	18	4	6		
5.9¢ Bicycle	9	2	4		
8.3¢ Ambulance	7	2	4		
9.3¢ Mail Wagon	27	6	7		
10.9¢ Hansom Cab	10	2	4		
11¢ Stutz Bearcat	0	4	0		
12¢ Stanley Steamer	5	2	2		
14¢ Iceboat	0	4	0		
17¢ Electric Auto		7		Long strips	
	A-A	14	A-A	5	
	B-B	3	B-B	2	
	A-B	4	A-B	6	
	B-A	4	B-A	4	
	C-C	10	C-C	6	
		35	Totals	23	
				Strips of 5	
				A	5
				B	4
				AB	—
				BA	2
				C	6
			Totals		17
18¢ Surrey	0	16	0		
20¢ Fire Pumper	0	16	0		
20¢ Consumer Education	0	4	0		
Summary					
19 designs	About 270	93	58 to 64		

The web continues on from the plate-printing step through a set of heating rolls to "set" and dry the ink and then through a set of cooling rolls to cool the web back down to the proper temperature for the next step.

The web proceeds to the letterpress printing system, where either precanceling or tagging is applied. In the process, the transfer of ink from the mat to the web is from the raised surfaces of the cylindrical mats. The mats for both precanceling and tagging are made of hard rubber. The precancel mat is curved to provide the desired raised image. The tagging roller on Press 801 and the tagging mats on Press 803 had a smooth surface to provide the full-coverage (overall) tagging characteristic of the Cottrell Press issues.

The fluid for tagging or precanceling was transferred to the mat by the ink roller. With the fiber roller providing pressure on the web, the mat deposited fluid on the web, producing the black-ink images for precancel runs and the taggant for the unprecanceled issues.

The web then continues on to another drying and cooling step to set and dry the ink or taggant and is rolled into 39-inch diameter rolls. Later, on other machines, the web is slit into rolls, perforated, rolled into coils, and packaged for distribution. This last drying and cooling step was important to prevent the web from sticking together in the roll and to prevent transfer or smudging of the ink on the front of the web.

The Cottrells printed one-color images in the intaglio step.

C. Image Plate Printing and Explanation for Appearance of Plate and Ink Varieties

The Cottrell presses used intaglio printing to print the plate images. Figure 2 shows how the images, joint lines, and plate numbers formed on the web in relationship to one another.

Two different curved plates were pressed on a support cylinder to form the printing cylinder. The two gaps or seams where the two curved plates met formed a recess that collected ink and caused the joint line to be printed.

The length of the cylinder resulted in the printing of 18 rows of images on the web. The diameter of the cylinder resulted in the printing of 48 stamps in each row for every revolution of the cylinder.

The relative location of the plate numbers and the two joint seams on the cylinder can be seen in the diagram at the bottom of Figure 2. A plate number and the adjacent joint line repeats at intervals of 24 stamps.

Figure 3 is made up of two diagrams to show the key elements of the printing cylinder. Diagram 3b shows the support cylinder or roller. It is a metal roller with grippers on two sides to attach and hold the plates.

Diagram 3a shows the curved Plates 1 and 2. Each plate has grippers that will mesh with the grippers on the support cylinder. This end view depicts the relationship of the plate grippers to the printing support roller's grippers.

It does not take much to visualize how the assembled plates look on the support. They are pressed onto the cylinder and attached with the grippers.

The gap between the two plates after assembly is the joint and is usually from 0.002 to 0.0035 of an inch wide.

The bottom diagram of Figure 2 shows the assembled printing cylinder with the joint seam and depicts the relative positions of the plate numbers, the stamp images, and the joint line that will be transferred onto the web during Intaglio Printing.

Once the plates are locked onto the cylinder, the press operator tries carefully to balance or equalize the widths of the gap on each side. As you will note, this process of pressing the plates onto the cylinder, hooking them onto the grippers, and balancing the gap width explains why so many of the plate cracks are found at or near the joint line on the Cottrell presses [and why they are often called "gripper cracks."]

A strip of Teflon tape is cut and placed inside the joint along the length of the cylinder to reduce the depth of the seam. The Teflon is trimmed, the cylinder roll is run in and the Teflon is re-cut if it protrudes above the surface. This process explains

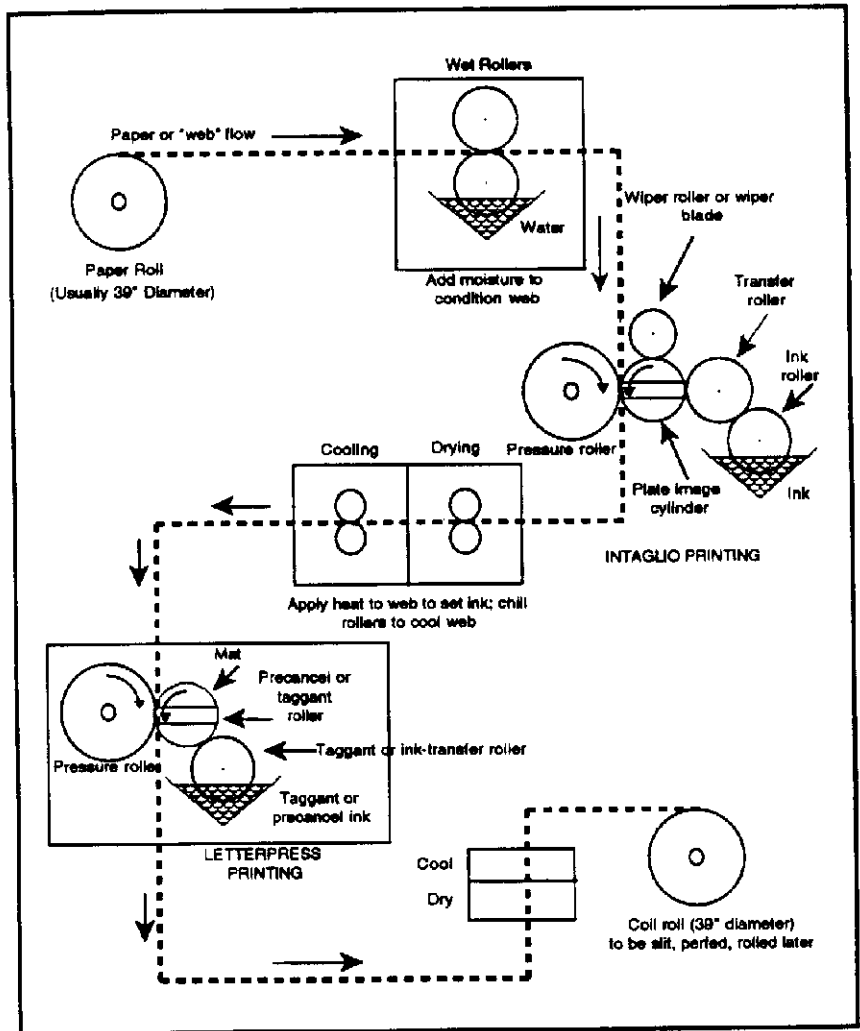


FIGURE 1—This is a schematic representation of the entire Cottrell printing process. In the intaglio section, the pressure roller applies pressure to the web, forcing it into the roller on which the plates are mounted. The ink roller picks up ink and transfers it to the transfer roller. The transfer roller applies ink to the roller on which the plates are mounted. The wiper roller wipes ink off the surface of the plates, leaving ink only in the recesses.

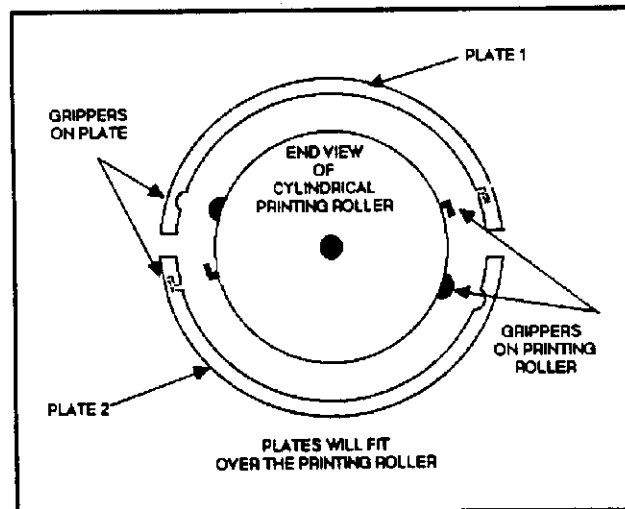


FIGURE 3a—End view of plates and roller before assembly to show grippers.

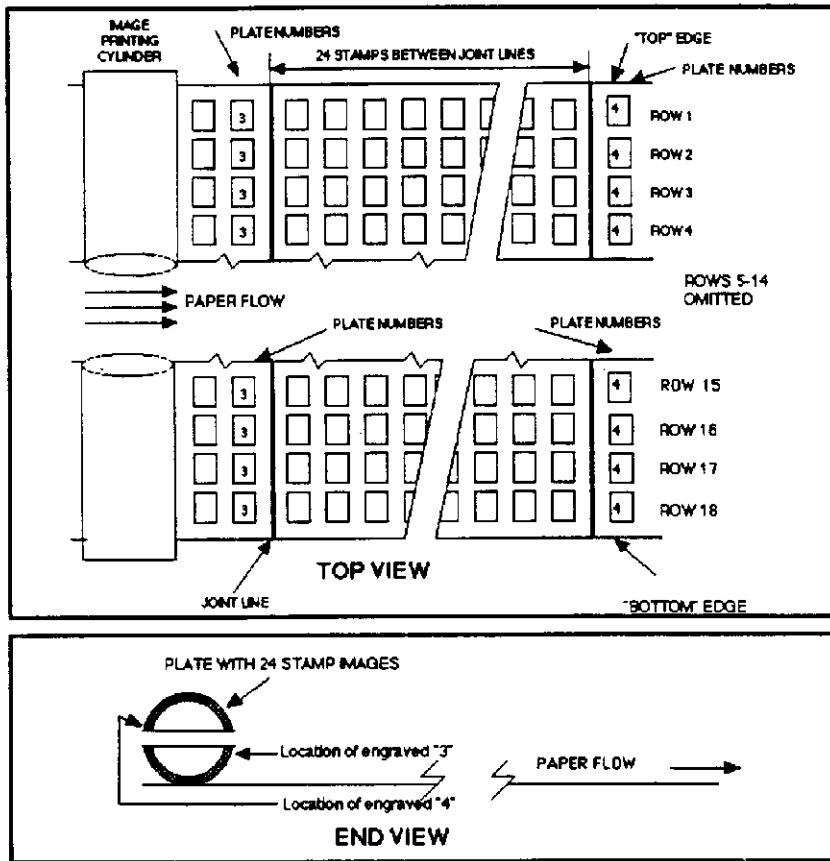


FIGURE 2—Schematic drawing of PNC printing operation on the Cottrell Presses (not drawn to scale).

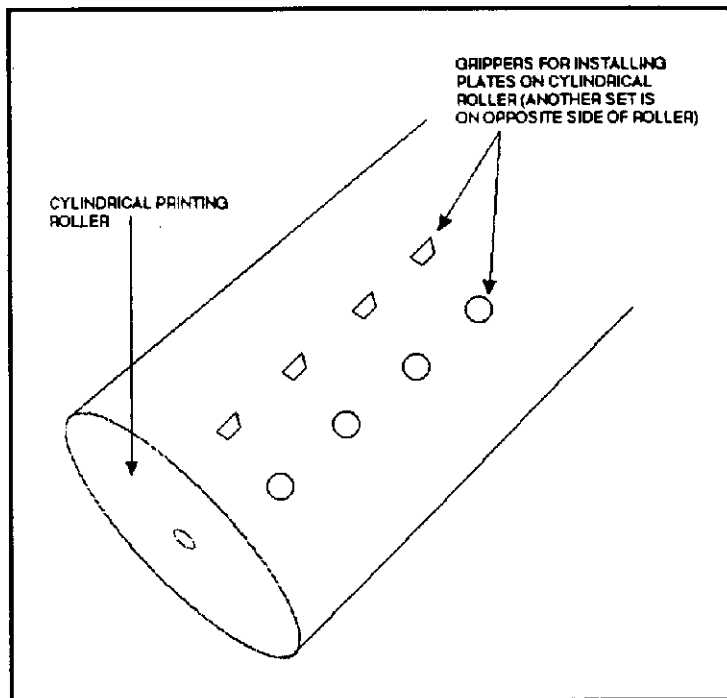


FIGURE 3b—Schematic of printing roller showing grippers. Another set of grippers is on the other side.

several PNC phenomena:

- Variety of width of the joint lines. If the gap width between plates is not adjusted properly and if different plates (when assembled on the support cylinder) have different gap widths the width of the joint line will vary on the same printing and on different printings.

- Variety of clarity of the joint lines. Depending on how carefully the Teflon tape is applied to the gap or seam, the depth of the gap will vary. This will determine the amount of ink left in the recessed area and the clarity of the printed joint line. Great care was evidently taken on the 3¢ Handcar and the 5¢ Motorcycle printings. Some of the joint lines on these issues were almost invisible. Much less care was taken on some of the 2¢ Locomotive and 9.3 Mail Wagon, which have very dark lines.

- Gouges or tear drops near the joint line. These ink spots were probably caused by gouging the plate while trimming the Teflon or perhaps during the balancing of the gaps.

- Aberrations on the joint line. The joint lines on most issues are misshapen. Some stamps show varying line widths, some show aberrations on the line that look like crescent-shaped cracks or blobs. The non-uniform setting of the Teflon tape into the gap and/or rough edges on the tape and/or foreign objects embedded in the taped joint could explain these variations.

- Multiple lines in the same joint line with different ink intensity. This could be caused by adding the Teflon in two side-by-side strips, either initially or as a corrective measure to an inadequately filled joint.

Printing the precancel and mat varieties

The precancel step on the Cottrell Press printed by typography. The precancel printing cylinders are referred to as "mats" instead of "plates." The mats are made of hard rubber. The lines and letters are raised surfaces on the mat cylinder. As with the plate cylinder, the mat cylinder is made of two half cylinders joined together. The end result is two gaps or seams that do not receive ink during printing and show up on the web as precancel gaps, analogous to the joint line. The top part of Figure 4 (to be shown in next *TPN*) illustrates how the inked, raised mat surfaces produce the lines and gaps on the web during printing.

This article will be continued in the next few issues. It will then be reissued as a brochure.

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Each stamp is shown at 150 percent of actual size.

General production and release data is included for each issue.

High-resolution images show related stamps, scarce FDCs, commercial covers, coil wrapper labels, and enlargements of constant plate varieties.

Descriptive text outlines the design, postal use, and philatelic significance of each stamp.

Informative notes explain important varieties, warn you about known forgeries, and identify sources for additional information.

The catalog number box includes the Plate Number Coil Catalog number for each PNC. Symbols show if a PNC is known with a purple machine cancel, and if it exists on a first-day program, souvenir page, or first-day cover.

Specific production data is listed for each plate, sleeve, or cylinder made to print PNCs.

Pricing is provided for used singles, mint singles, PS3s, PS5s, major varieties, and commercial covers.

18c Flag ... from sea to shining sea

The 18c Flag ... was designed by ... and each stamp was pre-printed to include the serial plate. Each number on the stamp sheet. This was in accordance with the Postal Service's policy of "one stamp per sheet" which became effective January 1, 1993.

The stamp sheet contains 25 stamps. The stamp sheet was printed on heavy 100% cotton paper. The stamp sheet was printed on heavy 100% cotton paper. The stamp sheet was printed on heavy 100% cotton paper.

Production and Release Data:

Produced by	1995
Printing process	Intaglio
Printed by	2 (PNC)
Print size	18 mm x 22 mm
Plate number	18 mm x 22 mm
Substrate	100% cotton
Production date	1995
Printing date	1995
Release date	1995

Production and Release Data Table:

1000	1.2500
500	2.5000
250	5.0000
100	12.5000
50	25.0000
25	50.0000
10	125.0000
5	250.0000
2	500.0000
1	1000.0000

(Shown at 40% actual size)

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Subscribers can obtain gifts

Continued from Page 125

The second design resembles the "Old Glory" used in the soon-to-be-released "G" stamps.

Although current ATM issues are printed in the 18-stamp format, it is possible that the "G" ATMs could be issued in a 12-stamp format because of their early production.

It is believed (but not confirmed) that most of the "G" stamps were produced while the "F" stamps were still in use. Both NCR panes are printed on paper stock and were used only for demonstration purposes.

TPN was able to obtain a limited quantity of both demo panes for distribution to TPN subscribers. Subscribers interested in obtaining the two panes may receive one of each style by sending a 52¢ self-addressed, stamped envelope with a cardboard filler and a large glassine envelope to:

TPN PANES
424 Roosevelt St.
Midvale, UT 84047-3622

Please remember, only one set per subscriber! TPN has mailed sets to those collectors who are listed as contributors to the Self-Adhesive Master List.

[TPN note: These were gifts from the author of this article. The gifts were franked as shown in the illustration on our front page. Some of the recipients never opened the envelope, but thanked Clark for the nice cover. He had to tell them to open the envelopes to get the goodies inside.]

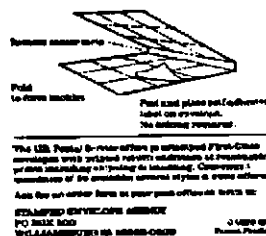
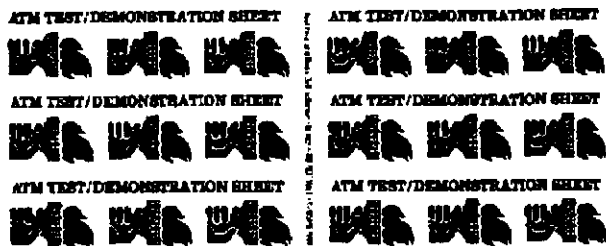
More on ATMs

TPN has learned a little more about the function of automatic teller machines (ATMs) and how postage stamps are sold through them. Most ATMs use four cassettes (storage trays) to hold currency. One cassette is used for \$5 bills, one for \$10 bills, and two for \$20 bills. To adapt an ATM to dispense stamps merely requires two simple software changes in the machine's programming. Since the \$5 bill cassette is normally the one used for stamps, the software must eliminate transactions needing that denomination. The software must also be changed to offer the customer the option of "Do you wish to purchase postage stamps?" Simple procedures, we are told.

Not so simple was adapting postage stamps for the teller machines. Let's face it, a normal, gummed, perforated stamp was never going to work. The postage stamp had to be redesigned from top to bottom. It had to be the same physical dimensions as currency. It had to use a glue that would not allow the stamps to stick to each other or to the machine, thereby causing costly downtime, repairs, and customer inconvenience. Enough stamps had to be dispensed in each transaction to make it worth the customer's time and effort to buy them through an ATM (at a 25¢ extra charge, judging by Steve Esrati's experience) rather than at a post office. The stamp also had to withstand temperature variances within the machine itself.

The USPS Engineering Development Center in Merifield, Va., worked closely with Avery International Corp. to iron out the problems and USPS actually bought a web-fed, six-color gravure printing press and had it installed in an Avery plant.

The preliminary experiments resulted in the first true ATM Test/Demonstration panes. One such pane is shown on Page 195 of the 1990 Linn's Stamp Yearbook. It is an untagged version of the 25¢ Stylized Flag design overprinted in black with two horizontal lines crossing through the "25 USA" and a two-line inscription "SPECIMEN/FOR ATM TEST."



Self-adhesive Labels



Convenient:
No Lamination
Strong
Adhesive:
Stays on
Envelope!

Easy to Use:
No Tearing!

Eighteen Labels

TORCH DEMO—Front and back of the demonstration ATM using the design of the 29¢ Torch. This is an actual self-stick pane. The front was previously illustrated in Linn's, setting off a furious pursuit.

TPN has been told of yet another test pane developed during the experiments. Again using a stylized Flag design, the denomination and "USA" were replaced by a star. It is unlikely that any of these panes will ever reach collectors' hands as a result of high security applied to these panes during the tests. These were also produced by a collaboration between Avery and USPS. TPN was told that the panes were locked in a vault after any testing. All quantities were returned to USPS. One of the major problems with this prototype was the adhesive. Heat and pressure seemed to melt the adhesive and let it ooze out between the sandwich layers of the pane. What went into the teller machine as a stack of single sheetlets came out as a single, solid block.

TPN is working to learn of other prototypes, test panes or demonstration panes. As we learn of their existence, we will add them to the master list. Any help from collectors would be greatly appreciated. If you have heard of or seen others, please let us know.

The future of ATM sales

The Postal Service proudly announced that several new banks came on line Sept. 1 to vend stamps through ATMs. With only 4 million or more of the Liberty Torch ATM pane left, there is concern that USPS may not have enough ATM panes in inventory to make it until the rate change. The July issue of *Stamps etc.*, the catalog of the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center, announced a Sept. 30, 1994, withdrawal of Item 5538—the Liberty Torch with the original cover. When Alan Malakoff attempted to order this item in early August, he was informed that it had actually been withdrawn on July 12. This may have been an effort to conserve supplies.

Unlike Autopost, Postal Buddy, and other experiments, it is evident that the distribution of stamps through ATMs has been successful and continues to grow in importance.

What's new in self-adhesives?

By Gerald H. Clark

A check in this issue's updated master list (see next page) shows several new items and corrections. Most notable is Steve's addition of average dealers' pricing.

If we were to compile a "Dirty Dozen" list, as we did with PNCs, all 12 items would be products of the Banknote Corp. of America (BCA).

Three new discoveries of liner positions have been added.

- Brown Eagle and Shield B4344-1 has been confirmed by Joann Lenz with liner position A.

- Love Sunrise B444-9 has been confirmed by Doug Iams with liner position A.

- Statue of Liberty D1212 has been found by Clair Jones with liner position C and confirmed by me. (He beat me to the post office by a week!)

The "green" splice on the Statue of Liberty was reported by Ken Lawrence as a RED splice. It was submitted as a RED splice to *TPN*, typed into the computer as a RED splice, but printed as a GREEN splice. Some computers are either color blind or have a mind of their own.

What to look for

Most collectors are searching for Green Eagle and Shield D43342. The printing of this number was reported by Dittler Bros., but has not been found and, therefore, is not added to the master list.

Brown Eagle and Shield B4344-3 remains the most elusive of the BCA numbers. There is still a ray of hope that more will be found.

The Christmas Cardinal ATM and Christmas Santa booklets have now been issued and added to the master list.

Collectors should keep a watchful eye for new numbers that may possibly show up on last year's Christmas Toy booklet. Large quantities were left over from last year and, with the pending rate increase, they will be distributed to post offices not specifically requesting this year's Santa panes. The announced printing quantity for the Christmas Cardinal is 2 million panes—the same as last year's Snowman. It is possible that we will again see two numbers on this issue.

New Rose distribution

The fourth and final distribution of the Rose booklet has been completed and resulted in no new plate numbers or varieties. It seems strange that no cutting marks have been found on panes with the corrected UPC code. Is it possible that

those found on the UPC 91 production somehow tied into the coil production which was completed before the UPC was corrected? Was the plate layout reworked and the cutting marks removed? Ideas, theories, and especially facts would be welcomed.

The third distribution of the Statue of Liberty sheetlets has been completed. It appears that panes produced for the initial distribution were printed on the D position liner with the numbers D1111. Panes from the second distribution, which occurred almost simultaneously, were printed with the plate-number combination D1212, again on D position liner. Production dated Aug. 22, 1994, for the third distribution used the plate-number combination D1212 but were found on liner C.

The "microperfs" on the coil State of Liberty offer an interesting variety of ways to collect plate-number strips. Of course, the traditional PS/5 is acceptable. Many collectors are taking PS/9 with the microperfs on the left end as shipped from the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center in Kansas City. Those collectors with access to full rolls are taking PS/9s

with the microperfs between the second and third stamps.

The third and final distribution of Love Sunrise panes began Oct. 15 and was to be completed by Nov. 15. This represents another 10 million panes, just in time for holiday mailing. It is hoped that we all learned valuable lessons from the second distribution. Collectors need to beat mailers to quantities of the new numbers as we find them. A quick look at the average prices on the master list shows four Love Sunrise numbers in the \$20 to \$75 range. Evidently, mailers beat the collectors to those numbers.

How many of us found a new number and told our trading partners, who asked for some, but when we went back for more, they were all sold out? How many plate-number combinations did we miss entirely? Who knows. Maybe none, but let's not take a chance on this distribution.

Many thanks to all those who have helped keep us up to date with their reports. Please keep those eyes open and the reports coming in.

Can one still find scarce numbers?

The July issue of *TPN* discussed quantities of Eagle and Shield booklets still in postal inventories. With prices skyrocketing on some numbers, and collectors still looking for D43342 from Dittler Bros., *TPN* went to work again.

USPS continues to beg most post offices to requisition Item 5540 to relieve the self-adhesive shortages across the country. Demand still exceeds supply in many post offices.

With the pending rate increase, time is not on the side of Washington Postal Service executives. To have to destroy a

large quantity of self-adhesive booklets when demand is so high just doesn't make sense and would be very costly.

Research showed that by Sept. 15, almost one-third of the June inventory had been distributed. This still leaves a lot on hand as you may see in the table below.

Collectors still have a good shot at finding D43342 but the chances of finding a cache of the elusive B4344-3 are getting smaller every day. With prices also rising rapidly on several Love Sunrise numbers, *TPN* was surprised to find fewer than 1,000 panes remaining in inventory on

USPS self-adhesive inventories

Printer	Booklets ordered	On hand 6/1/94	On hand 9/15/94	Distribution
BCA	20 million	7.79 million	1.82 million	5.97 million
Dittler	65 million	48.82 million	33.02 million	15.8 million
Stamp Venturers	50 million	34.22 million	27.11 million	7.11 million
Total	135 million	90.83 million	61.95 million	28.88 million

Hey! The hunt is on again. This time for self-stick EFOs

By Gerald H. Clark

Several major EFOs have been reported in the past few weeks on self-adhesive issues.

Collectors should already be aware of the horizontal die cut omitted variety on the 25¢ Eagle and Shield, which is listed in the *Scott 1994 Specialized Catalog* as 2431b and is given a catalog value of \$850 for a vertical pair.

The obvious production problems encountered by Banknote Corp. of America (BCA) in its first attempt at producing self-adhesive panes has in four more collectable varieties.

• The 29¢ brown Eagle and Shield has been found with the plate numbers B1111-1 and B1111-2 with all die cutting omitted. *Stamp Collector* featured a full-color picture of B1111-1 on its front page on July 9. It is reported that 12 to 25 copies of the error are known.

Earlier this year, Lowell S. Newman & Co. offered a horizontal pair with the intaglio 2 from the gutter between the stamps in its May 12 auction. An estimate of \$500 to \$750 was given for the pair.

Collector Rick Staiger submitted photocopies of a pane from pane B1111-2 with all die cutting present, but shifted 6mm to the left. This results in the plate numbers being printed on the stamps to the right of



DIE CUT MISSING—Lack of die cuts results in this “im-perforate” pair.

the gutter.

Even more dramatic are the three stamps on the right side of the pane measuring 30mm and containing two complete denominations.

Not to be outdone, collector Wayne Meyers submitted copies of the exact opposite, a die



SHIFT LEFT

SHIFT RIGHT

cut shifted 6mm to the right. Wayne's sheetlets produce three stamps with the plate numbers printed on the right.

Remember, the intaglio on this issue was printed using two plates attached to the same cylinder. These EFOs should also exist on panes with the numbers B1111-1. Happy hunting!

More fun on Love Sunrise

Although BCA had better results with the production of the Pine Cone issue (only minor ink bleeds have been reported), the Love Sunrise issue continues the EFO fun.

Alan Malakoff reports a pane of B444-?? (with the intaglio number completely missing). I have examined this copy and there is absolutely no trace of an intaglio impression or ink. All other portions of the intaglio printing process are normal.

Is it possible that one position of the web was not engraved with the plate number? If so, more copies should exist.

Albino numbers exist on panes with the numbers B1111-1, B222-6, B444-18, and B444-19. These examples exhibit the raised intaglio impression but lack any inking on the number.

On B44-19 and some copies of B44-18 only the number “1” lacks ink.

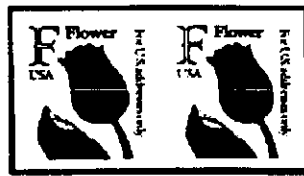
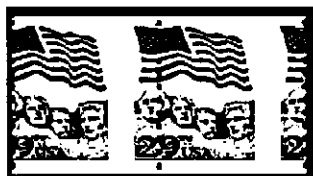
These EFOs may be the result of ink starvation, wiping problems, or inking-in problems. Collectors might want to check copies of B444-8 and B444-9. Maybe they are really B444-18 and B444-19.

Collector Michael Perry found copies of pane B333-11 miscut 3mm too long. Several markings along the bottom of the pane show the various positions for the die-cut and cutting process for slicing the web into panes.

Miscuts of the Rose sheetlet with the UPC number 91 and the top and bottom positions of Stamp Venturers' Eagle and Shields reveal cutting marks at the corners of the panes in various positions.

EFO (errors, freaks, and oddities) can add a lot of fun to the search and really spice up a collection. Please keep those reports coming in.

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Double-entry Willkies from shiny-gum version

By David P. Stiff, M.D.

At the right you will see a portion of an upper left plate block of the 75¢ Willkie. It is one of two such blocks, both on the shiny-gum paper that also shows mottling because the prephosphoring is embedded.



Double entry of plate number



Normal plate number

The leftmost stamp has the appearance of a second entry from a transfer roll. The other stamp is normal.

My recollection is that plate numbers on Stickney rotary press plates were inscribed simultaneously using a pantograph prior to bending the plates to form hemicylinders. I suspect this form of entry was also used on the Cottrell Press plates.

If one of the digits of the template was positioned upside down, all positions of the number showed the error, as in the 1½¢ Presidential plate 22880, in which the second 8 is inverted in all four positions.

TPN note: Has anyone found the double entry on any other positions of the 75¢ Willkie?

Stephen G. Esrati
P. O. Box 20130
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Forwarding and Return
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No stamps on return envelopes

DAV gives up

A recent mailing by the Disabled American Veterans arrived with a surprise: The return envelope had no stamps, according to reports from several PNC collectors.

Is this a fluke? Is it a change because the Postal Service would not provide tagged low values for the DAV's use?

Joann Lenz, who got herself on several DAV mailing lists, said she saw no difference between a mailing for larger donors and one for less generous contributors.

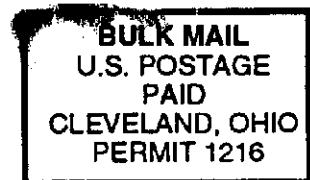
Readers who receive solicitations from the DAV are urged to let us know how their recent return envelopes looked.

Here's the background as pieced together by *TPN* with the help of Dr. Robert Rabinowitz, a member of the PNC Study Group.

DAV knew of the Postal Service's desire to end tagging on all stamps with denominations of 9¢ or less. It asked USPS to make an exception by providing it with some tagged low-value stamps so its return envelopes would receive normal facer-canceler treatment. Without such treatment, DAV-bound letters were spewed out for manual examination and canceling.

The Postal Service said no, suggesting that DAV place a small luminescent bar on its envelopes. When DAV checked on the costs and learned the costly result, it told Dr. Rabinowitz: "It's the Postal Service's job to move the mail, not ours. We won't add to our costs."

Now the question is: When did DAV decide to stop franking its envelopes?



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