

TPN is given demo pane of 25¢ ATM

By Stephen G. Esrati

TPN has stumbled upon a new demonstration item for ATMs (automatic teller machines). The item is the size of a dollar bill and is printed in red and blue.

Basically, it is the same as the plastic 25¢ ATM panes sold through Seafirst National Bank machines in Seattle in 1990. All that is missing is the denomination.

The red "USA" on the demo pane is crossed out by a diagonal blue line, as if a denomination were being obliterated.

The demo pane was obtained from NCR Corp., an AT&T company. ATMs were recently installed in offices of Huntington National Bank, which has offices throughout Ohio.

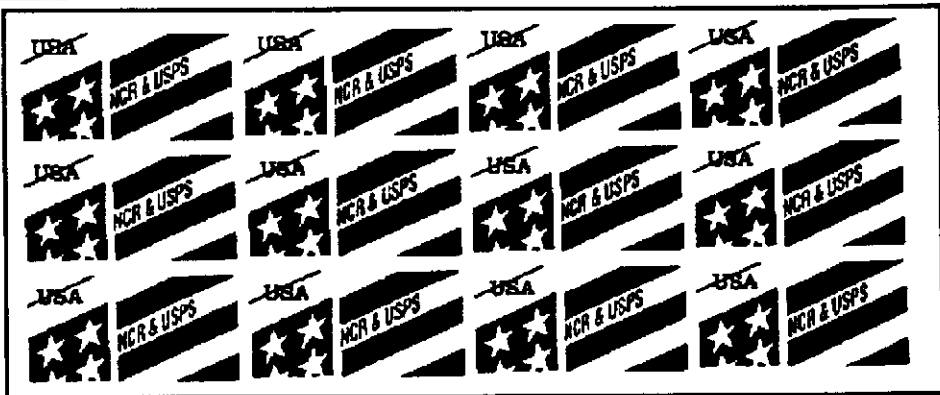
I had been hunting for the green ATM Test/Demonstration sheet that looks like a 29¢ Torch ATM sheetlet. Such a pane was illustrated in *Linn's* on June 20, 1994.

TPN's Huntington Bank branch has just installed its first ATM machine—and it sells stamps.

You can buy one, two, or three \$5.22 sheetlets. The charge is debited to your checking account—not to your credit card. All the sheetlets you buy come out of the machine in one bunch, making the sheetlets a bit dog-eared. There is an extra charge of 25 cents on the entire transaction, so you cannot buy the stamps at face.

The stamps obtained by TPN were the 29¢ Torch ATM panes.

The bank manager said she tests the machine with real



DEMO PANE—NCR Corp. gave TPN this pane when TPN requested a dummy pane showing the 29¢ Torch. NCR officials said the demonstration pane is used at trade shows to promote use of NCR machines.

stamps, not dummies. She suggested calling NCR, the manufacturer of the machine.

NCR, acquired last year by AT&T, gave quick and friendly service, and TPN was promised a sample sheetlet.

But when it arrived, the sheetlet was not the Torch illustrated in *Linn's*, but the pane illustrated above.

The simulated ATM is on paper, not plastic, and is inscribed on the back:

NCR and the United States Postal Service—
A partnership for progress through ATMs

This is curiously reminiscent of a cardboard facsimile pane that was distributed in May and June of 1990 at some Cal-
Please turn to Page 106

Plate-activity reports to resume in 1995

The Postal Service will resume publication of plate-activity reports in 1995. Rick Arvonio told a seminar of stamp writers June 27 at Postal Headquarters. Arvonio is manager of stamp acquisition.

Other news of interest to PNC collectors that came out

of the seminar included:

- USPS representatives at stamp shows will start to carry a full philatelic stock. This was announced by Azeezaly Jaffer, manager of stamp services.

- From now on, when a stamp goes off sale at philatel-

ic counters, it will go off sale at all counters. This was announced by Michael Spates, manager of stamp acquisition and distribution, who outlined a withdrawal program tied to the computerized stamp-inventory system.

Please turn to Page 108

IN THIS ISSUE

Old plate reports to be resurrected, Page 107
How we now treat the 15¢ Cody, Page 112
Prephosphored E&S 2222 found, Page 111

1¢ Omnibus	123
10¢ E&S 22222	111
10¢ Tractor Trailers	110, 122
15¢ Cody	112
20¢ Apper	113
25¢ Honeybee	117
29¢ White House	116
Adels	114
All the news	116

BEP, gum	107
Corrections	107
Cover of Bi-Month	111
Data bank	114
Gum, mats	107
Mixtures	93
Offset/intaglio test	117
Plate reports	107
Review: Yearbook	90

Review: Scott 1995	83
Self-adhesives	120
Status of Liberty coil	118
Tagging	90
TPN Average, prices	120, 121
Updates	114
Varieties	111, 122-3
Withdrawals	114
Paid circulation this issue 435	

HAVE PNCS PEAKED?

Every once in a while it pays to step back and examine what it is we are all doing.

PNC collecting appears healthy. The Plate Number Coil Collectors Club (PNC³) keeps adding members. A handful of daring souls have started up as PNC dealers in the last few years.

But there are some storm clouds on the horizon.

Some nasty people say it's all because there has been no PNC catalog since 1991.

Some even nastier people say it is because the Postal Service is putting out too many things for us to collect. Strange, a few years back, when the Postal Service put out nothing for us, these same people complained just as loudly that PNC collecting had become boring.

The nastiest of all people say it is all getting too complicated because the Postal Service keeps changing the way things are done.

But let's examine some of these views just a little, starting with the last.

Paper specifications change. Technology changes. Old presses die, new presses start. All this results in new gums, new papers, new tagging, new stamps. One would think that this is something to cheer about because it poses a challenge to us and because it introduces some variety (no pun intended) into the pursuit of yet another plate number on the 10¢ Eagle and Shields.

We have seen this change also because the Postal Service (under the old regime) tried to get away from one-source printing. The new regime says it will try to avoid putting out the same stamp from more than one printer. But isn't it interesting to have three printers—and three different kinds of plate number—on the same stamp, not to mention the differences in color or gum or what have you?

That's what makes this all so interesting, so much better than merely sticking each new issue of U.S. stamps into the space provided for it by an album maker.

So let's try the second argument. Too many things for us to collect! Why the nerve of those people for putting out 43 different plate numbers on the Eagle and Shield (if we only count the American Bank Note issues)!

Come on, get off that podium! This has been one of the great chases in American philately. Thanks mainly to Dr. Robert Rabinowitz, who unearthed many of them before they were used up as postage by junk mailers, we have tracked down all but two numbers that were reported as having been printed. We have never had even a report of a used single in mixture of A12113, of which there should be more than 200,000 copies. That makes the hunt for the wrong Bill Pickett sheets pale in comparison. So far, 118 Pickett sheets have been found; but not a single A12113!

More recently, we let A11 10 10 10 11 get by us (if the

Letters to the editor

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

The Plate Number

and Great Americans Review

Editor:

Stephen G. Esrati

Contributing editors:

A.S. Cibulkaas
Kim Cuniberti

Gerald H. Clark
Alan M. Malakoff

Richard J. Nazar

Phone: (216) 561-9393

FAX: (216) 561-6030

Published six times a year by Stephen G. Esrati, P.O. Box 20130, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120-0130. Subscription price is \$16 a year (\$14 to members of PNC³). Please add \$4.50 for first-class mail or for addresses outside North America. Entire contents Copyright © 1994 by Stephen G. Esrati.

Advertising rates: \$25 a quarter page (vertically or horizontally); \$45 a half page; \$80 a page. Other display ads are \$5 a column inch (1 3/4 inches wide). Classified ads: 15 cents a word, no charge for your address. Classified display: \$5 a column inch (1 3/4 inches wide).

USPS report of the existence of such a stamp was correct). But perhaps that one will turn up in mixtures.

When a reader complained many years ago to *The New York Times* that the Sunday crossword was too difficult he was told: "Puzzles are meant to be puzzling."

Collecting PNCS is supposed to be a challenge. You've never been able to walk into a post office and buy such items as Plate 6 of the 18¢ Flag. Plates 17 and 18 of the 18¢ Surrey were not put on sale until the 18¢ Surrey was obsolete. Only a handful of collectors in Florida and Texas could ever buy Plate 6 of the 22¢ Flag. Nobody is quite sure what happened on Plate 1 of the prephosphored 25¢ Flag, but it flew right past us and got lost.

On the other side of the equation, the first 20¢ Fire Pumpers sold in Cleveland were from Plates 1 and 2. I bought only one long strip of 50.

That is what makes all this a challenge. It beats buying a year set and mounting the stamps into an album.

And it has to be stressed over and over that the existence of so many plate numbers and of different papers and tagging styles adds to the challenge. That's all to the good.

So what is it that seems to have put those clouds on the horizon? Prices are falling. Some dealers have gone out of business. And, quietly, very quietly, you can hear the rumor: "Interest in PNCS is dropping because there's no catalog."

Hey, when I started putting out the catalog in 1985, I expected to sell 100 copies. I ran off a second printing and the total press run was 200. You can't tell me that those 200 copies launched PNC collecting. PNC collecting was there first!

And let's examine the bit about the departing dealers more closely. It costs a lot of money to lay in a supply of PNCS. Some dealers simply could not keep up.

If Dennis Chamberlain had had enough cash to lay in a large stock when he predicted the growth in PNC collecting, he would have become a very rich man. Instead, he fell along the way as did such dealers as M&M/ Southwest, H&H Stamp and Coins, and Stu Kusinitz.

Let's not sing funeral dirges yet. Things are fine.

Steve Esrati

LETTERS: *Menia to ask the expertizers*

The following letter is a follow-up on a letter by Bruce Menia appearing in the July issue. At that time, Ken Lawrence said Charles Yeager had taken Lawrence's pane of the band-



tagged 21¢ Carlson to BEP for examination. BEP did not have an explanation for the pane. When Menia said he had seen other examples, Lawrence urged him to share the information.

I have discussed this matter with several other tagging friends and the consensus is that my theory [TPN note: Menia theorized a buildup of material, "probably dried out or 'pasty taggant' left on the tagging mat."] is correct.

I have decided to submit the block to the APS Expertizing Service for a ruling. I am also submitting a full mint sheet of the same stamp and more than a dozen colored short-wave UV photographs.

Until I receive a ruling on this matter, I guess we will all just have to wait and see.

Bruce Menia
Selkirk, N.Y.

Withdrawn USA stamps

TPN note: The writer of the following letter, Scott Smith, spends most of his time in Little America in Antarctica. He comes home for a few months every year during the Antarctic winter and tries to catch up then.

While reading through back issues of TPN, I came across the March 1993 article about the withdrawal of BEP-printed USA presort stamps.

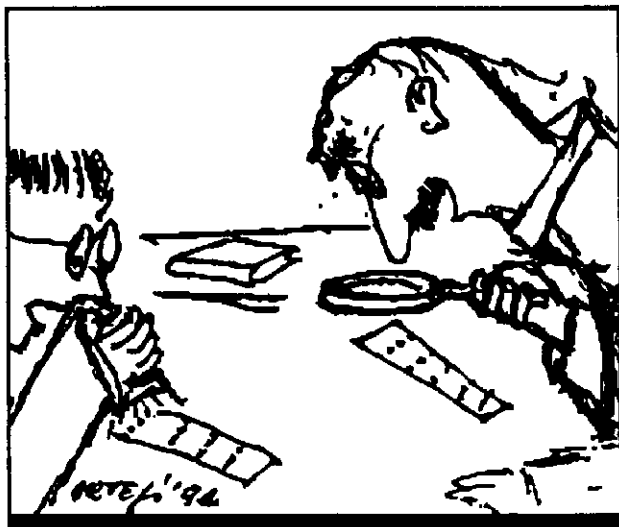
The long strip of USA stamps I enclose was also returned to the post office because the customer said they would not go through automated equipment. Hence, two rolls of 3,000 were returned.

On one roll, there was a single blind perf that would turn up once in a while. The enclosed strip is for you to check for anomalies. I couldn't see any myself.

In reply: As in the original incident, TPN was unable to find any measurable difference in the perforation gauge or in the diameter of the perforation hole. But this time, because Scott sent in a strip of 20, we could see what went wrong. The perforation rows are not always at the same height on the stamps. The first four stamps from the left have about a quar-

Pedro's World of PNCs

by Pedro Ortega, M.D.



"I can't tell these new papers apart."

"I think you need special Lenzes."

ser of a perf hole at the top. The next seven stamps show the perforations complete at both top and bottom. The next two stamps match the height of the first four. Two more follow with the perfs complete at top and bottom, and then the rest of the strip again shows a quarter of a perf hole at the top.

While we don't know if this was reason to recall and destroy the stamps, it's the best clue yet.

Is this the indigo White House?

I also enclose a used example of a 29¢ White House. Is this the indigo variety?

I have found several copies in mixtures, as well as some USA stamps that are tagged, some heavily tagged and others that are only lightly tagged. Is there any other news on this subject?

Scott Smith
Denver

In reply: TPN has no reference copies of the indigo White House, so this is not the place to send possible indigos. In view of the rather impossible ruling from the Philatelic Foundation that the dark blue is a variety of the indigo, it seems best to send the stamp to the American Philatelic Expertizing Service of the APS. A ruling on how the indigo came about is still awaited from BEP.

Is this \$5 Harte untagged?

Enclosed is a \$5 Bret Harte I thought was untagged. I don't know if it can be considered untagged as I do see a spot of taggant, part of a vertical line through the center.

In reply: TPN follows the Scott Catalogue's policy on calling a stamp an untagged error or a color-missing error. There must be no trace of taggant or of the supposedly missing color

on the stamp. While untagged \$5 Harte are known, this one cannot be termed an untagged error.

Is this 20¢ Bunche untagged?

The enclosed 20¢ Bunche does appear to have some tagging, but not much.

In reply: Your submission of these two stamps clearly shows that you are using an ultraviolet lamp that does not filter out visible light and long-wave UV. Under TPN's unfiltered Raytech shortwave lamp, the speck of taggant on the Harte hardly shows up. But under a filtered Lighthouse portable UV lamp, the contrast is clearly visible. As to the Bunche, the stamp is on paper that is so full of brighteners, that the tagging hardly shows in the Raytech; but in the Lighthouse, the fluorescence is screened out and the stamp clearly shows up as a lightly tagged stamp.

Hopkins colors

In your Summary of Data on the Great American, you mention that there are shades of blue colors on the \$1 Hopkins and that you do not know which color goes with which plate number. Do you know yet?

I could send two or three different colors with plate numbers.

Carol Morehouse
Carlsbad, Calif.

In reply: TPN's goal is to be a clearinghouse of information. Your offer is gratefully acknowledged, but is answered in the next letter.

Are these numbers real?

(Via CompuServe) I just received the latest *Plate Number*. I tried to match up some of your numbers and found that I was missing some Eagle and Shields, specifically: A11 10 10 10 11, A11 11 11 11 10, and A14 12 10 10 10. Do these numbers really exist?

L. Schenfeld
Johnstown, Pa.

In reply: These numbers appeared in the chart of EoS prices on Page 80. They would have slipped into the data bank because these prices were found on a dealer's price list. They do not exist.

Hopkins colors

My gray-blue \$1 Hopkins are from Plate 2, shiny gum, mottled prephosphoring.

My block-tagged Plate 1 stamps are intense deep blue.

My Plate 1 overall tagged are a slightly less intense blue.

The dull-gum unmottled prephosphored Plate 2 stamps are even less intense.

You may find it interesting to compare the \$1 Hopkins as illustrated in the April-June 1993 *Stamps etc.* with the illustration in the April-June 1994 issue.

In reply: It isn't really fair to compare color illustrations in different editions of *Stamps etc.* because all the other stamps also appear in different hues, especially the \$5 Harte.

Double entry on Willkie

There's a double entry of the plate number on one of

the UL positions of the 75¢ Willkie. So far, I have seen it only on the shiny gum variety.

David P. Stiff, M.D.
Charlestown, R.I.

In reply: We would welcome a submission of that double entry for possible illustration in TPN.

Rummaging for fun

I've heard of different names given to fellows like me, but cannot think of one right now. Every Sunday afternoon, and whenever I believe no one is watching, I rummage through the five waste receptacles in our post office. One finds the darndest things that way!

In reply: Ah, the wonders of living in a small town! Most big-city post offices lock their doors on Sunday. The Clovis post office (pop. 35,000) locks its doors Sunday from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. "due to vandalism to P.O. boxes, stamp machines, etc." That still leaves it open all day Sunday.

I recently found the enclosed.

What the writer sent in is a Number 10 window envelope from GEICO in Washington, D.C., bearing one BEP-printed 10¢ Eagle and Shield. The eagle's own right wing (seen on the stamp's left) has a vertical yellow smudge, obscuring almost all of the detail of the feathers.

Oblique light direction shows no apparent damage to the paper surface. The magnification I have gives the appearance of plate damage, with bits of the wing's ridge lines gouged out.

Perhaps someone else has noted a similar example.

H.A. (Tom) Merkel
Clovis, N.M.

In reply: The proper way to get a determination on an item like this is to send it in to BEP, but it charges hefty for its work, which does not always answer philatelic questions properly. And it may not be much better to send it in for expertizing because such a new item would not be known to the experts, either. Can any readers help out?

Philatelic clerks

In response to Judy Bruno's letter in the July TPN, I would agree with Steve's response that the collector community should not have to do the work necessary to come up with a proper list of philatelic centers nationwide. That's the job of the Postal Service.

With regard as to whether philatelic clerks should handle mail orders, I don't have a real problem with this, but clerks should be guided by a reasonable set of priorities. I think all clerks should give first priority to their own walk-in customers, then to local mail orders, and lastly to out-of-area mail orders.

I was surprised to read in Judy's letter that philatelic clerks in Vacaville and Roseville, Calif., do not open coil rolls. According to the USPS' own "Philatelic Centers Operations Guide" (Handbook PO-201) published in May 1988, section 342 states that "philatelic outlets may open coils of stamps as requested and sell any number to a customer, except that coils having fractional denominations ... may be sold only in multiple of 10 stamps." I

wish USPS personnel would follow their own documented guidelines.

Richard L. Beecher
Los Angeles

In reply: TPN has received an offer from Associate Editor Alan Malakoff to start compiling a list of philatelic centers. A short story about this effort is in this issue.

Follow-up (by Judy Bruno): To the best of my knowledge it is not illegal to write to any philatelic center. The problem is in what USPS' policy is as to whether it permits clerks to respond or not. I have been mailed a copy of something labeled G900, which is a section of some manual titled *Philatelic Services*. I have no idea whether it's new or old. I hadn't received it when I wrote my first letter to TPN. But I'd heard everything under the sun from those not wishing to respond, everything from "No time,, not permitted to do this," to "You're outside of Zone 3 and not eligible for the 'Stamps by Mail Program.' "

The safest thing would be to leave Washington alone as far as mail requests go and to straighten out the listing in *Introduction to Stamp Collecting*.

TPN note (by Steve Esrati): I took a 1993 version of this book to Azeezaly Jaffer and pointed out to him that the one philatelic window listed in it for Cleveland was closed 14 years ago and that the two current philatelic windows are not listed.

A corrected listing—with hours and phone numbers—would be useful and the phone numbers would eliminate a bundle of 75¢ directory-assistance calls. The elimination of wrong addresses and of phantom philatelic centers would also be useful.

The only problem I have is the forwarding of my letter to Jaffer without asking. I don't know the man, so I didn't know what to expect.

TPN note: Ms. Bruno sent in G900. The section on mail orders reads as follows:

Mail Orders 1.4: Mail orders for postage stamps of selected quality and other philatelic items must be directed to the USPS Philatelic Sales Division (now called the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center). Post offices do not fill mail orders for stamps and other philatelic items other than orders under the stamps-by-mail program and for locally precanceled stamps. Customers must provide a self-addressed stamped envelope for the return of precanceled stamps.

Time to stop collecting

We are getting away from good, old-fashioned stamp collecting. We have come to splitting hairs. A lot of people like me don't understand paper and a lot of other variables for which you need an income far greater than mine, otherwise your collection is incomplete. So all that is left is to STOP.

Bob Belk
Turlock, Calif.

Overprinted Tractor Trailers

In the July TPN you printed Richard Beecher's report of the Tractor Trailer overprinted "First Class. I have two covers with the same overprinted stamp, one from Wells Fargo Bank (return address in Petaluma, Calif.) and the other from Chase Manhattan Bank (return address in Wilmington, Del.). My overprints are both red and in the same location on the stamps, the same as Beecher's and the illustration in the Page 1 article in *Linn's*, Sept. 16, 1991. I conclude that there must have been lots of these overprints used around the country.

Enclosed is an enlarged copy of an overprint reading "BLKRT" in block letters. The cover's return address is AT&T in Roseland, N.J. The overprint is blurry and hard to see in the copy. [TPN note: We could not reproduce it.] It's printed [horizontally across the stamp] in purple and violet ink, with the center of the overprint purple and the rest a much more gray violet; looks like the ink wasn't well mixed or two different inks were not well mixed.


I also noted the want ad for Tractor Trailer overprints with your P.O. Box number under adlets. Is this your ad? [Yes.] Enclosed is my WANTED poster for these overprints. Have you ever seen any mint copies of overprints? [No.] I haven't, nor have I ever seen such advertised.

I'll share information on these overprints with those interested in these stamps and usages.

Leonard Piskiewicz

WANTED

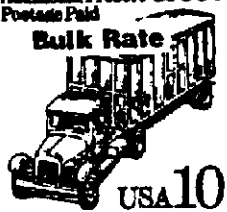
Tractor Trailer
Additional Postage 1930s
Postage Paid



First Class
USA 10

Tractor Trailer
Additional Postage 1930s
Postage Paid

Bulk Rate



USA 10

PRIVATE OVERPRINTS

FIRST CLASS and Bulk Rate

ALL VARIETIES

- * MINT STRIPS AND PNC'S
- * ERRORS AND VARIETIES
- * USAGES ON COVER
- * INFORMATION ON SUPPLIERS OF THE OVERPRINTS

CONTACT: LEONARD PISKIEWICZ
951 ROSE COURT
SANTA CLARA, CA 95051
(408) 241-4626

NCR gives TPN an unknown test pane

Continued from Page 101

ifornia philatelic windows and at the National Postal Forum in Anaheim. The front of that facsimile did have the denomination "25," crossed out like the "USA" in our pane.

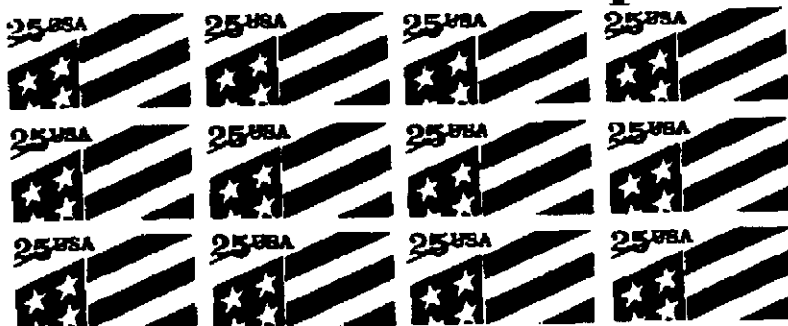
Such a pane (front and back) is illustrated on the right, courtesy of Alan Malakoff. Note the misspelling of "facsimile."

Officials of NCR told Gerald Clark that NCR machines do not need test panes because the machines are self-learning. That means the machine learns the dimensions of the item to be vended from the actual item.

Demonstration panes such as the one we were given are used at trade shows to promote use of NCR machines, Clark was told.

There is, by the way, one other major difference between machines used to sell the 25¢ ATM pane in Seattle and the machines in Cleveland. The machines used at Seafirst in Seattle were made by Fujitsu; the machines in Cleveland by NCR.

Clark was told by someone at NCR that he believed the demo panes were printed "by the Postal Service."



CARDBOARD COPY—A facsimile of the original 25¢ ATM pane was printed on card stock and distributed in California. "Facsimile" is misspelled on the rear (below).

United States Postal Service - American Banking Industry

**A partnership for progress
through
Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs)**

*Facsimile -- ATM Stamp Sheetlet
First Day of Issue
May 18, 1990
Seattle, Washington*

Self Adhesive Booklets

- 2431a Eagle**
1111 LR11.00
- 2478a 29¢ Red Squirrel**
D11111, D2222112.00
D22222, D2313325.00
- 2479a Rose**
16691-2, 16694-311.00
- 2480a Pine Cone**
B1 to B1515.00
B1612.00
- 2531Ab Torch**
BC68A \$3.4811.00
- 2595 Eagle Brown**
B1111-1, B3434-115.00
B1111-29.00
B2222-1, 235.00
B3333-1, 325.00
B3434-325.00
B4344-1, B4444-1, 315.00
B4344-340.00

- 2596a Eagle Green**
D11111, D212219.00
D22322, D323229.00
D32332, D5456315.00
D42342, D5457113.00
D54561, D6578420.00
- 2597a Eagle Red**9.00
- 2598a Eagle Blue**
M111, M11211.00
- 2719a Train**
V1111112.00
- 2802a Christmas Toys**
V111-1111, V222-12227.50
V222-2112, V222-21227.50
V222-2221, V222-22227.50
V333-33337.50

- 2830a Snowman**
V111111.00
V222213.00
- 2813A Sunrise Love**
B111-1, 2, 3, 415.00
B121-515.00
B221-520.00
B222-4-615.00
B333-8-12, 1715.00
B344-11-1315.00
B444-7-10, 13-1915.00
- Statue of Liberty**
D1111114.00

See me for PNCs. List free.

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

It's called PVA dextrin

BEP switches to moisture-resistant gum

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing is shifting the printing of precanceled stamps to a new untagged paper.

The new paper has a matte gum. Previous paper had shiny gum.

The old gum was regular dextrin gum. The new gum is PVA dextrin.

Norma Upgrand, a spokesperson for BEP, said paper specifications had been changed and the Bureau will use up old paper. That means we may get several versions of the same stamps.

Robin Minard, spokesperson for the Postal Service, said the change took place because the new gum is more resistant to humidity. She said it will not be affected until relative humidity tops 90%.

The new paper has been found on the 23¢ USA (plate numbers "1111") and the 10¢ Eagle and Shield (plate numbers "2222"). Both stamps are believed to be printed on the Andreotti press.

The *PNC Catalog* will define the stamps as:

M10-22222 glos
M10-22222 dull
F23USA-1111 glos
F23USA-1111 dull

When we published the new paper spe-



NEW GUM—BEP-printed Eagle and Shields with the numbers 2222 and 23¢ USA with the numbers 1111 are known with matte gum.

cifications used by BEP in the July 1993 issue of *TPN*, the untagged papers for the Andreotti press were only listed as dextrin gum.

There was no prior announcement about the change of papers from the office of Rick Arvonio, who promised to publicize any changes by the printers.

Meanwhile, Scott F. Smith discovered a

10¢ undenominated Eagle and Shield printed by BEP with the numbers "11111" on prephosphored paper.

Smith found his one used copy in a mixture.

Later, 22222 was also found on prephosphored paper.

This finds raised speculation in the PNC Study Group some of whose members went on a tour of the BEP during the NAP-EX stamp show. At each press' control station, a PMU (phosphor meter unit) meter was found.

This allows pressmen to check on whether tagged stamps have enough tagging.

The fact that several stamps printed by BEP that were supposed to be untagged have found their way to collectors on prephosphored paper leads study group members to the conclusion that pressmen don't bother checking on the tagging of stamps that are supposed to be untagged. So prephosphored precancels slip through the system.

OOPS!

Missing plate reports to be dug up, except for American Bank Note's

Rick Arvonio, manager of stamp acquisition, has agreed to request production data on stamps printed since 1991. That word comes from Charles J. Peterson, president of Writers Unit 30 of the American Philatelic Society.

"That's a generous offer, and one which could complete the record on many, if not all, of the U.S. stamps printed since 1991," Peterson said.

"The USPS plans to make this data call on stamp manufacturers as a *one-time request*," Peterson wrote to some 28 stamp journalists in a request for lists of wanted data.

The lists were to be sent to *TPN* subscriber John L. Larson, co-chairman of the Plate Number Checklist Service of the Bureau Issues Association (BIA). Larson and co-chairman Kim D. Johnson, pledged that they would take on the project and distribute the data.

TPN has sent portions of its master list of PNCs and Great Americans. But it disregarded Peterson's time limitations of "stamps printed since 1991." That was because BEP often delays release of cancellation dates and total production for many

years after printing. Several instances come to mind, such as the B Press versions of the 1¢ Omnibus and the 2¢ Locomotive.

TPN concluded that if the plate-activity reports had continued uninterrupted after the 1992 postal reorganization, some data on the older issues would have been issued during a BEP house-cleaning (as often happened in the past when hundreds of plates were canceled).

Peterson set a cutoff date of Sept. 1 for getting the lists to Larson.

"For understandable reasons, the USPS will only send the requests to stamp producers with whom they have a current contractual relationship. That means no requests will go the American Bank Note Company. That will leave a significant void, which I hope we can find some alternative way to overcome. Please list ABN-produced issues as well," Peterson said.

If Arvonio had not issued his gag rule, all that ABN information would have been made available while ABN was still under contract. But ABN has now shut down its Washington office.

1991 PNC Catalog: Page 4—The footnote for the Eric blue variety of Plate 4 of the 22¢ Flag leads one to believe that the Esrati report on this find was the first. Actually, William H. Hatton reported a previous find (without plate number) in *Linn's* of May 19, 1986.

TPN: Page 19—Steve Esrati asked when the plate numbers were moved out of the perfs on the Great Americans. André Thiele points out that Esrati published this information as Footnote 16 in *A Summary of Data on the Great Americans*.

Page 69—*TPN* credited the finding of the undenominated 10¢ Eagle and Shield with the plate-number combination "14 11 10 10 11" to Al Haake on April 14. We were off on both reports. It was discovered around March 30 by Sam Frackman, who does not read *TPN*.

Page 71—The First-Class Presort "G" stamp was printed by Stamp Ventures.

Page 72—Ken Lawrence's reply to Richard Schulman was about the untagged 2¢ Locomotive.

Page 80—We included three Eagle and Shield stamps in our pricing chart that do not exist. They were: A11 10 10 10 11, A11 11 11 11 10, and A14 12 10 10 10. The prices quoted for A11 10 10 10 11 were really for A11 10 10 10 10, which was omitted from the chart.

Page 86—The Dittler Bros. Eagle and Shield Coil was listed with liner C. It should have said liner A.

Page 88—The entry for the gravured Circus Wagon listed as T5CW-A3 should have said, "Numbers say 'A3.'"

Plate-activity reports

Continued from Page 101

- The Bureau of Engraving and Printing is still not yet printing any rolls larger than 3,000, Arvonio said, although it has the ability to do so. BEP printed the B Press 2¢ Locomotives in rolls of 10,000.

- As of the date of the seminar, BEP had exceeded its fiscal year stamp-printing target by 30 million stamps.

- There is no incentive to stamp printers to create a coil issue with many plate-number combinations because each contract is for a fixed price. In fact, Arvonio said, it is to the printer's advantage to be as cost efficient as possible during printing and extra plate (and, consequently, extra plate-number combinations) would, in fact, reduce profit.

Plate reports

Plate-activity reports will be issued quarterly, Arvonio said, and will be compiled 30 days after a stamp finishes shipping. Unlike the old plate-activity reports, the new forms will include all returns to press.

The front of the form to be filled out by printers is shown on the opposite page. The back allows line-by-line entry of a plate's color, plate number, date approved, date on press, date off press, date destroyed, and gross impressions. In addition, there is a space for listing the order of color application (which reflects the digits in the plate-number combination). Additionally, there is space to report on the quantity printed for each plate-number combination.

While American Bank Note did furnish TPN with quantities for each plate-number combination printed, other printers did not report those data.

The reason the program does not start until 1995 is because USPS needs to negotiate with BEP to capture all the data required by the new Stamp Production Information Report (and also needs to renegotiate present contracts with private contractors).

There was some discussion about providing plate-activity reports for the three years in which the data were not compiled. Jaffer put it on the list of items to be studied.

Charles Peterson, president of Writers Unit 30 of the American Philatelic Society, who helped organize the seminar, noted that the information is recoverable and urged postal officials to retrieve it.

Later, old reports were promised (see Page 107 of this issue).

Free riders

Peterson noted that there was some peril

in the attendance by several persons who are not members of Unit 30 at the seminar. Several of these persons do not write for any philatelic publication.

He said he was attempting to retain a mix of writers ranging from those working on catalogs, to those with Sunday columns, reporters for the weekly stamp press, and editors of specialized journals.

The free riders at the seminar also ate dinner the previous evening on the Postal Service's tab.

Philatelic counters

Jaffer, responding to a question by a TPN reader in the July issue, said he had no idea where philatelic counters are. He said at both the dinner and the seminar that he believed 100 of them were in Pittsburgh alone, although this may have been said facetiously.

Jaffer told the writers that he was aware of the wide disparity of service from one philatelic counter to another and hopes to correct this by training philatelic clerks and bringing all philatelic counters under the aegis of his office.

Nonprofit 'G' stamps

Arvonio agreed with several writers that there was absolutely no need to print "G" stamps for nonprofit, first-class, or first-class presort rates because those rates would be met by the generic service-inscribed stamps now available.

"That decision was made by the previous administration," he said.

'The clock is ticking'

In answer to Richard Nazar who had sought information from the private sector, Arvonio pointed out that someone has to pay for the work done to find the data.

In one case, Nazar obtained information from Avery, which sent it to Robin Minard. She turned it over to Arvonio, who sent it back to Avery, saying, "We did not order this."

The point was that if the Postal Service requests information, it pays for the work. If anyone else asks for information, the Postal Service still gets billed.

But that policy does not appear to be evenly applied. Arvonio distributed a letter about a perforation variety on the Hank Williams sheet stamp from Richard Sennett of Stamp Venturers to Wayne Youngblood dated June 21. There was no indication that a copy of the letter had been sent to the Postal Service. The letter referred to a prior telephone call from Youngblood to Sennett.

When writers questioned this, Arvonio said: "That's OK, we asked for this."

But Linn's of July 11 carried a long arti-

cle by Youngblood detailing how he originally found out the details from Sennett in a June 13 telephone conversation.

But when Nazar wrote a printer, not only did he not get the information, but after it was unearthed the information was withheld by Arvonio. Different strokes for different folks.

Stamp withdrawals

Spates said that when a stamp goes off sale, it goes off sale everywhere.

He said the stamps are now programmed to stay on sale a year while inventories are monitored. When stamps do not sell, they will be pulled back from regular windows to the Stamp Distribution Offices. Philatelic counters will continue sales.

While they remain in the *Stamps etc.* catalog, sales will continue at philatelic counters. But when philatelic sales are halted, it will be on an issue-by-issue basis.

It was not certain how collectors will learn when a stamp is withdrawn.

Self-stick popularity

Dr. Robert Rabinowitz noted the popularity of self-adhesives. Spates agreed, but said the magnitude of the shift to self-adhesives is still undefined.

Spates said some of the recent success of self-adhesives was the change in the program that stopped charging a premium for such stamps in March of 1993.

He said initial printing orders for self-adhesives had gone up and that the Postal Service is still researching a linerless coil while also hoping to market a reusable dispenser.

Tractor Trailers

Spates said the gravure reprinting of the 10¢ Tractor Trailer took place because supplies had dropped. [See chart on Page 110.] He said sales had continued and usage had, too. He said it is always policy to give mailers a choice between two designs for the same purpose, and the Tractor Trailer is the alternative to the 10¢ Eagle and Shield.

Transportations' future

Although several USPS officials did release information to the writers in advance of the date on which such news was supposed to be made public, the writers were unable to get any information on the future of the Transportation Series or the Great Americans.

James Tolbert, manager of marketing, said an announcement would come in late summer or early fall.

Item 7910—Tractor Trailer coil of 3,000

Shown by U.S. Postal Service accounting period (A/P)

	A/P 5 1/8-2/4	A/P 6 2/5-3/4	A/P 7 3/5-4/1	A/P 8 4/2-4/29	A/P 9 4/30-5/27	A/P 10 5/28-6/24
Opening inventory at start of A/P	2,096	2,096	2,096	59,792	117,616	171,056
Received at BEP vault during A/P			60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Shipped by BEP to postmasters during A/P			2,304	2,176	6,560	3,584
Ending inventory	2,096	2,096	59,792	117,616	171,056	227,472

Study group is wrong about Tractor Trailers

The writers' summit called by USPS the day after NAPEX 94 was a follow-up of a similar conference in February where much was promised to the assembled writers—including access to the printers—and little was delivered.

A question raised early in the June meeting by members of the Plate Number Coil Study Group was about the need to reprint the 10¢ Tractor Trailer stamp.

According to information reaching the study group, the stamp was an unmitigated disaster.

- Mailers did not want to use it.
- The stamp was flooding vaults of post offices all over the country.

So, we asked Michael Spates, manager of stamp acquisition and distribution. He said the stamp was needed and was in short supply so a reprinting was ordered.

Spates showed irritation when it was indicated to him that the study group had seen the actual total of all stamps in post offices and that the number was huge.

"I don't know," he said, "how you can get into the internal Postal Service computer system, but we'll have to look into that!"

He said the supply was low, and he was right.

He requested a printout of supplies and, when it was brought to the meeting room,

read the quantities shown in the table above.

The table reflects the stock remaining in the vault at BEP, not the balance in the field.

The study group checked the total in the field as of July 15 and found that there were 43,000 rolls of 3,000. That figure includes the 14,624 rolls shipped out by BEP during the period covered in the chart.

That would indicate a low number when the reprinting was ordered.

Spates said it is USPS policy always to give mailers a choice of two designs. The alternative to the Eagle and Shield is the Tractor Trailer.

Details on self-adhesive Statue of Liberty coils

By Alan M. Malakoff

In the July issue, *TPN* discussed the details of what full rolls of self-adhesive coils look like. A detailed study was performed since then on a roll of the recently released Statue of Liberty coil.

The Liberty stamp, printed by

Avery, is produced in coils of 5,004 (278 strips of 18). It comes with the liner perforated (actually, more like rouletting) every 18 stamps.

The roll is shrink wrapped with a rectangular label ($5\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{3}{16}$ inches) on the outside. The label

is very similar to that used by Avery on the Christmas coil—both in size and content. It includes a manufacturing date and a plate number. Although it is in the same typeface, there is an overprinting of information on the plate-number line. This indicates that the label may have been printed in two steps rather than just one.

The wrapped roll is $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. Within the wrap is a piece of cardboard to hold the roll firm. The cardboard is circular, just less than the diameter of the roll.

The roll is taped closed with a small piece of red tape. It looks similar to the tape found on several splices of other issues. The end of the roll is at the perforation. The header strip is equivalent to 36 stamps, or two full perforated strips. The header strip shows evidence of die cuts.

[*TPN* note: This may indicate that the header strip originally had stamps adhering to it and that these were removed before packaging.]

The stamps on the roll start at a perforation, so the numbered stamp is the fifth one in. The roll ends on a perforation (thus maintaining the multiple-of-18 count). The inner end of the liner is glued onto the core.

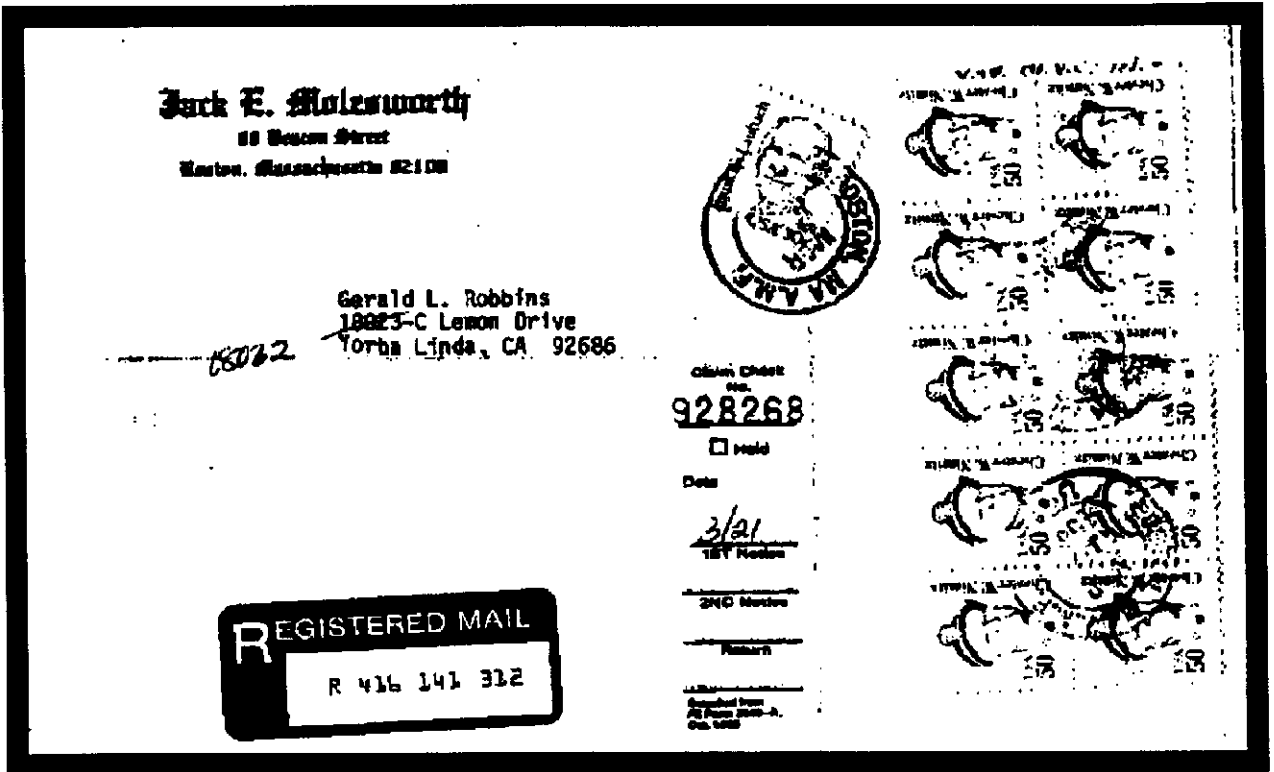
The core of the roll had the standard three-inch diameter. However, the core itself was thicker than those seen in the coils previously examined—about half-inch thick versus a quarter inch previously. The backing paper near the two perforations closest to the core was damaged and torn, probably by the core-cutting operation.

This particular roll had no splices. Ken Lawrence and others have found splices on other Statue of Liberty strips.

ITEM# 6661 SELECT
 STATUE OF LIBERTY COILS (PERFORATED)
 QTY: 1 ROLL OF 5004 STAMPS
 \$.29/STAMP
 DATE 05/18/94
 UNIT VALUE \$1451.16 PER ROLL/COIL
 PLATE#C@11D1111
 MANUF AVERY DENNISON

POSITIVELY NOT TO BE PLACED ON
 SALE UNTIL THE DAY FOLLOWING THE
 FIRST-DAY-SALE DATE AS ANNOUNCED
 IN THE POSTAL BULLETIN

OVERPRINTING, showing "Plate, Coil, D1111," is circled.



Cover of the Bi-Month by Richard L. Beecher

This cover illustrates a problem faced by postal historians who attempt to document rates in their collections. This registered cover, mailed by one stamp dealer to another, has \$5.30 in postage made up of ten 50¢ Nimitz stamps and one 30¢ Laubach (all block-tagged). But how does one calculate the registration fee and the postage?

Now with the aid of the newly published book by Henry W. Beecher and Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz, *U.S. Domestic Postal*

Rates, 1872-1993, the task is much easier.

The March 16, 1988, postmark is covered by rates that went into effect on April 3, 1988. A quick check of the tables in the book tells us that the \$5.30 is made up of \$4.85 for registration (with insured value between \$100 and \$500) and 45¢ in postage (25¢ for the first ounce and 20¢ for the second).

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.

Prephosphored BEP E&S 22222 found

A customer of Kim Cuniberti, who wished to remain anonymous, has found four rolls of 3,000 of the 10¢ undenominated Eagle and Shield, printed by BEP with the plate-number combination "22222," on prephosphored paper.

Three rolls are normal; one shows the "extra blue 1" flaw, which looks like a blue plate number to the right of the others.

It is the third prephosphored number combination from BEP. Earlier, Cuniberti himself found a small quantity of "22221." Recently, Scott Smith found a single used copy with "11111" in a mixture.

Cuniberti is advertising his strips at \$20 F-VF, \$24 VF, and \$28 XF. His ads in *Linn's* appeared before this issue of *TPN*

could be taken to the printer, so he decided against publishing an ad in *TPN*, fearing

he would be sold out before the issue was received by subscribers.

Constant plate varieties—Report 53

By A. S. Cibulskas

10¢ Tractor Trailer

a. Plate Number 22—Dot to right and below plate number. (Maves)

10¢ Eagle and Shield

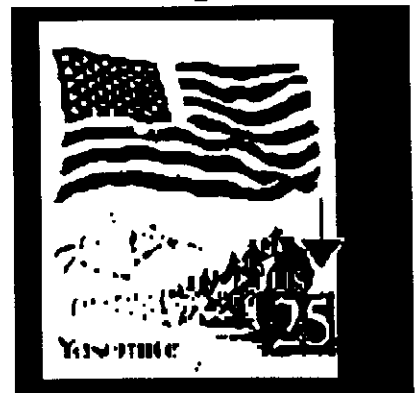
a. Plate Number 22221, BEP—Black dot above and right of right wing. Constant at 1L. (Scott Adams)

TPN note: Since there is no black plate on these stamps, the dot must be either blue or brown.

b. Plate Number 88889—Misregistration of the green 8, almost touches the yellow 8. (Moreau)

25¢ Yosemite

a. Plate 2, prephosphored—"Excised 'A'" flaw. The "A" of "USA" is missing on all stamps. (Rose)



How we now treat the 15¢ Cody

The following is a reprint of the way we now treat the 15¢ Cody in the Summary of Data on the Great Americans. This revision includes the prephosphored Plate 1 stamp. It drops the listing of Plate 1 with overall tagging.

15¢ Buffalo Bill Cody (A Press)

Plate	Assigned	Certified	Press	SPR	To Press	Canceled	Impress.
180004-1	04/12/88	04/25/88	702	800	05/04/88	12/12/89	2,056,219
184995-3	11/27/89	01/04/90	702	800			

Issued: 06/06/88, Cody, WY Shipped: 2,085,400,000

15¢ Buffalo Bill Cody (D Press)

Plate	Assigned	Certified	Press	SPR	To Press	Canceled	Impress.
180291-2	05/31/88		902	800			

The 15¢ Buffalo Bill Cody stamp is the one value of the Great Americans that has received the greatest attention from philatelic researchers. This is so because of tagging differences and a re-entry first noticed by PNC dealer Craig Selig.

According to George W. Brett,¹⁴ a re-entry "is the second or other multiple entry of a subject on a printing base without erasure of the preceding entry or entries. The purpose is to extend the life of an image carrier that has developed wear to an unacceptable degree" (emphasis in original).

Brett illustrates the re-entries; but if these interest you, you are urged to turn to his articles.

Earlier, Charles Yeager¹⁵ had noted tagging varieties on the Cody stamp. To explain the differences, his article included photographs of two types of tagging mat used on the A Press, one for block tagging and one for overall tagging.

Yeager said the stamps from Plate 1 were first printed on the A Press. Sleeve 2 followed on the D Press. Then, the A Press (which had been shut down during the latter part of 1988) was used again in July 1989 to print more Cody stamps from Plate 1.

Yeager then tracked down the actual plate activity for Plates 1 and 3.

Plate 1

On Press		Impress.	In Engraving		Vault
From	To		From	To	
05/04/88	05/10/88	444,000	05/11/88	05/18/88**	05/26/88
05/19/88	05/20/88	77,000	05/20/88	06/26/88*	
07/18/89	08/10/89	355,719	08/11/89	08/29/89**	
09/05/89	09/06/89	130,000			
10/10/89	10/18/89	156,000	10/18/89	10/20/89*	
10/30/89	11/07/89	715,500	11/08/89	**	

* Dechrome, re-entries, rechrome
** Dechrome, repair, rechrome

Plate 3

On Press		Impress.	In Engraving		Vault
From	To		From	To	
01/04/90	01/21/90	418,500	01/22/90	01/27/90*	07/28/90
02/02/90	02/16/90	413,500	02/22/90		
07/24/90	07/27/90	242,478	07/28/90		
			09/01/90	**	

* Dechrome, re-entries, rechrome
** Dechrome, repair, rechrome

Yeager said the data were not altered, although he spotted several clerical errors in them. "But for my purposes the information is not skewed by the mistakes," he added.

Our first task, then, is to check Yeager's data with the data we were provided by USPS.

Both certified dates are from Yeager. And, as you can see, no returns to press were included in any of the plate-activity data from BEP. Nor were the impression totals stated.

Yeager's point was the tagging differences. His matched set of plate blocks from Plate 1 were on prephosphored paper, which he bought when the stamps first went on sale.

His conclusion:

My guess is that the Buffalo Bill stamps were first printed on phosphored paper in May 1988. Stamps printed from Sleeve 1 with

block tagging, I believe, were printed no earlier than July 1989.

How about the stamps from Sleeve 3? Which tagging variety occurred first—the block-tagged stamps or the stamps tagged overall except on parts of the selvage? My guess is that the block tagging occurred first.

Plate 1 stamps exist with block tagging and on prephosphored paper. The prephosphored paper, however, does not appear white in daylight and gives the impression of the paper color we are used to seeing on stamps where the tagging was applied after printing.

It is now believed that this prephosphored paper was from a paper sample. A variety of the prephosphored paper is known on medium-bright paper, meaning that it fluoresces in long-wave UV.

Overall tagging of Plate 1 may exist, but see Brett¹⁴. Brett says outright that the stamps from Plate 1 exist only on prephosphored paper and with block tagging.

Plate 2 (from the D Press) is known only with overall tagging, with untagged as well as tagged selvage. Plate 2 stamps show an untagged 2mm horizontal break near the top or bottom margin, confirming that the stamp is overall-tagged, even on single stamps.

Plate 3 is known with block tagging as well as with overall tagging and tagged selvage.

Known Cody varieties

Plates 1, 3: Block tagging. Paper III. Bull's-eye perforator
Plate 1: Prephosphored paper. Bull's-eye perforator. Paper III (slightly fluorescent in long-wave UV). No E-E

Plate 1: Prephosphored paper. Bull's-eye perforator. Paper III (bright bluish white in long-wave UV). No E-E

Plate 2: Overall tagging (tagged selvage). Bull's-eye perforator. Paper IIIb. Short, stubby E-E.

Plate 2: Overall tagging (untagged selvage). Bull's-eye perforator. Paper IIIb. Short, stubby E-E.

Plate 3: Overall tagging (untagged selvage, some also untagged at top or bottom). Bull's-eye perforator. Paper IIIb. IIIc. No E-E

Plate 2 has been found with a horizontal tagging break at bottom of pane.

14. George W. Brett, "Re-Entry at the BEP. Specifically on the 15¢ Cody of 1988," (U.S. Specialist, June 1992, and continuation, June 1994).

15. Charles Yeager, "Inside Washington," (U.S. Specialist, February 1991).



That ends the excerpt from the Summary. Now some history.

By Stephen G. Esrati

The question about the existence of the prephosphored Plate 1 Cody was first raised by Michael Kinney, who kept sending examples of the stamp to Wayne Youngblood for authentication. Youngblood always sent the stamps back saying they were overall tagged.

Youngblood said at a PNC³ meeting at the 1993 Plymouth (Mich.) Show that he had never seen a prephosphored Plate 1 Cody. That was in April. Within three months, Youngblood changed his mind, but did not tell TPN.

This was how the "controversy" reached the pages of TPN. At each stage of the discussion, TPN attempted to verify new reports. It did so by asking Youngblood, the PNC Study Group's authority on tagging, and by asking BEP.

Youngblood now says that he thought the stamps were prephosphored when he first saw them, but had his mind changed by BEP, which said there were no prephosphored Plate 1 Codys. BEP held that position until 1993. Youngblood believed BEP.

When Dr. Robert Kugel reported that he had verified prephosphoring by using a microscope under UV illumination (letter in Sept. 1993 issue), TPN again asked Youngblood and BEP.

Leah Akbar of BEP checked with the pressmen, who checked the printing logs. She said: "All Cody stamps from Plate 180004-1 were printed on LP-40 paper." LP-40 paper is untagged.

TPN sent the blocks examined by Dr. Kugel to Youngblood for his examination after the Plymouth Show but before Youngblood

attended the 1993 APS stamp seminar at State College. He pronounced them overall-tagged.

In March 1994, on a visit to Cleveland, Ken Lawrence said he believed that Ms. Akbar's report was based on the use of sample paper for that prephosphored printing because BEP always uses up all paper samples. Lawrence said he did not believe paper samples were chronicled in printers' logs. Thus, use of a prephosphored paper would not have been found by checking BEP records.

There were, of course, contrary views. First of all, there was Yeager's original report that the stamps were first printed on phosphored paper. The problem for Kinney (and for *TPN*) was that Yeager said: "My guess is that the Buffalo Bill stamps were first printed on phosphored paper." That is hardly a conclusive statement.

So *TPN* called Yeager. Yeager said he could not tell a phosphored stamp from an overall-tagged one.

There was also the cited article by George Brett in the June 1992 issue of *The United States Specialist*, in which Brett said:

The tagging situation may give us a leg up on what printing(s) produced the re-entries I have seen. I would consider the normal specimens from sleeve 1 with fresh-appearing prints and phosphored paper to be from the first printing of May 1988. The block tagging that shows on all of the re-entered pieces I have checked could have come from either the third printing of July 1989 or the sixth printing of the October-November 1989. According to Yeager (1991), the sixth printing presumably had overall tagging. [Emphasis added]

And here we have another guess just like Yeager's. The sixth printing "presumably" was overall tagged.

TPN has been criticized for raising the issue of whether prephosphored Codys existed. Raising the issue went against the prevailing dogma. It was at odds with other published sources.

But the minute *TPN* heard from Youngblood that Richard Schulman's Codys had "made a believer out of me" *TPN* printed that report. ("Yes, Virginia, there is a phosphored Cody," Page 38, March 1994.)

The trouble here was that Youngblood was convinced during the summer 1993 stamp seminars of the American Philatelic Society; *TPN* learned of his change of mind in time for the March 1994 issue, which went to press Feb. 15.

The controversy now turns to the existence of verifiable overall-tagged stamps from Plate 1. All the Plate 1 stamps in my stock were sent to Dr. Kugel. He checked them under his microscope. They were all prephosphored. He did make one discovery though. One of my blocks was on high-bright paper.

That finding would probably skew Brett's findings reported in the June 1994 *U.S. Specialist*, where Brett removed the gum before viewing stamps in UV. He found the back of the stamps dead in UV.

Brett wrote:

My diagnosis is that this is a phosphor face-coated paper with the phosphor applied prior to printing. I have confirmed this by removing the gum from a block, to eliminate that factor and clearly getting a "dead" reading for the back side.

What would Brett say about the high brights?

Brett also excluded the existence of overall-tagged stamps from Plate 1:

We also clarify that only sleeve 1 State 1 panes had face-applied phosphor before printing; all others had block tagging after printing. This statement does not apply to the sleeve 2 panes. [Emphasis added]

"State 1" in Brett's usage is the original plate before re-entries.

His whole article, of course, is about re-entries and not about the tagging.

Readers are asked to send in any Plate 1 Codys they believe to be overall-tagged. All will be checked. This may be taken to mean that *TPN* doubts the existence of the sixth printing, which was "presumably" overall-tagged.

It took 10 years to get 20¢ Apgar



The July-August issue of *Museum Post Rider*, journal of the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum, has a front-page story by Dr. L. Joseph Butterfield, a pediatrician, about his 10-year battle to get a stamp for Dr. Virginia Apgar, also a pediatrician.

The Apgar stamp—as a definitive in the Great Americans Series—is to be issued

Oct. 24 at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

Dr. Butterfield tells of the appointment of a steering committee by the academy and the appropriation to the committee of a "modest" budget to steer Apgar through the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee.

The AAP offered staff support to the steering committee from their Washington office (Susan Campbell) and the March of Dimes loaned a lobbyist from their Washington office (Anne Harrison-Clark) to support the project....

Harrison-Clark and Campbell laid out the process for the nomination and selection of a commemorative stamp....

The formal nomination of Dr. Virginia Apgar for a postal stamp was carried to the USPS office in February of 1987 and a long wait began.

This was a well orchestrated full media blitz, including syndicated columns in newspapers, and Washington contacts through Rep. Patricia Schroeder.

The sponsors were told in 1990 that a stamp would be issued, but not when.

Late in 1993 the AAP office received an inquiry from the USPS as to the most desirable event where the Apgar stamp might be deinducted.

The stamp was finally announced at the preview of the 1994 stamp program.

I have a FAX

"All I want is the FAX, ma'am," said
Sgt. Friday of "Dragnet."

I had to cave in. Incoming FAXes at my neighborhood printer were costing me a fortune, so I put in a new phone line dedicated to my FAX modem.

You may still send me mail by on-line services (the numbers are in all my ads), but you may now send me FAXes at (216) 561-6030.

This will work well for FAXing photocopies of things you wish to call to *TPN*'s attention, but if the copies are to be printed in *TPN*, I'll still need a mailed copy.

Steve Esrati

Update

New PNCs

M10-1111—The 10¢ Eagle and Shield from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing with the numbers "1111" on prephosphored paper. Found only as one used copy on paper in a mixture by Scott Smith.

M10-2222—The 10¢ Eagle and Shield from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing with the numbers "2222" and with matte instead of shiny gum. Found by Dr. Robert Rabinowitz in his own stock.

M10-2222—The 10¢ Eagle and Shield from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing with the numbers "2222" on prephosphored paper. Found by a customer of Kim Cuniberti.

M19-S111—The Stamp Venturers version of the 19¢ Fishing Boat, issued June 25 at Arlington, Va., with the plate-number combination "S111." Plate-number interval is 33.

F23USA-1111—The 23¢ USA stamp from the BEP with matte instead of shiny gum. Found around May 30 by a philatelic clerk. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

F23WH-16—Plate 16 of the 29¢ Flag Over the White House. Reported by Bob Novak through Dick Koenig about June 14.

SA29SOL-D1111—The 29¢ self-adhesive Statue coil. Issued May 25 at Haines City, Fla. with the plate-number combination "D1111."

Withdrawals

Withdrawals are now ordered by item numbers. Of the coils ordered withdrawn, TPN could identify only the prephosphored 25¢ Yosemite, 25¢ Honeybee, and the unprecanceled 12.5¢ Pushcart.

New Scott numbers

10¢ Tractor Trailer gravured: 2458

• 19¢ Fishing Boat coil of 500 (Item 7718)

Self-Adhesive convertible booklets

At the end of June, deliveries began to the SDOs (stamp distribution offices) on the Rose (10 million) and Statue of Liberty (20 million) self-adhesive booklets. In addition, we have begun producing additional Rose, Statue of Liberty, and Love Sunrise booklets. The delivery schedules are as follows:

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

Headquarters is continuing to ask all SDOs/APDs to distribute the 17 29¢ Eagle/Shield booklets (Item 5540) that are available at the APDs or Kansas City.

Information from... August 1994

[The August issue merely repeated the distribution of the new batch of self-adhesives.]

Information from... July 1994

Bureau of Engraving & Printing
Deliveries are continuing to occur on the following stamp issues in Accounting Period 11 (roughly July):

- Coils
- 1¢ Omnibus coil of 3,000 (Item 7705)
- 5¢ Canoe coil of 3,000 (Item 7906)
- 23¢ Lunch Wagon coil of 100 (Item 7913)
- 23¢ USA First-Class Presort coil of 3,000 (Item 7926)
- 29¢ Flag/White House coil of 100 (Item 7922)
- 29¢ Flag/White House coil of 500 (Item 7923)
- (10¢) undenominated Eagle/Shield coil of 3,000 (Item 7977)

Private contractors

Delivery is continuing to occur on the following stamp issue in Accounting Period 11 to the APDs (accountable paper depositories):

Stamps withdrawn in less than a year, TPN learns

Internal USPS documents that have become known to TPN show that the Postal Service has no intention of adhering to the policy of keeping stamps on sale for a full year, as indicated in *Stamps, etc.*

In other internal documents, USPS said it had begun shipping new priority mail labels, ending the advertising of two-day delivery.

"Priority mail has eliminated the two-day guarantee; therefore, the labels can't be used," the internal document said.

Of more interest is the withdrawal of stamps from inventory. Such stamps were to be returned to stamp distribution offices for disposition.

Philatelic centers as well as regular windows were instructed in a communication dated July 20 that they are not permitted to sell the listed items after Aug. 15. All of the listed items had previously been withdrawn from sale at the Philatelic

Fulfillment Service Center.

The communication recommends that the withdrawn stamps be destroyed during the fourth postal quarter.

TPN could identify the 25¢ Yosemite (prephosphored), 25¢ Honeybee and the 12.5¢ Pushcart as headed for destruction.

The withdrawn stamps include many that were first placed on sale in *Stamps, etc.* catalogs dated between January and December 1993. That means stamps are not left on sale a full year as stated in *Stamps, etc.* as follows:

Each item will be illustrated in at least three consecutive *Stamps, etc.* quarterly catalogs (space permitting) and will additionally be listed as available in at least one more catalog prior to removal from sale.

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.

TRADE PNCs and Great Americans PBs. Tag/paper types, PB positions. Have 1881 # 8, 9 & 1864AOE. Send have/want lists. John Bensko PNC3 599, POB 40042, Memphis, TN 38174-0042. (5-94)

JUST IN FDCs of gravured Tractor Trailer #22, Farnam \$5, ArtCraft, Artmaster \$4. Coming soon: Tractor Trailer #11. Esrati Box 20130, Shaker Hts. OH 44120 (5-94)

MATCHED SET Plate 2 overall-tagged 30¢ Laubach, \$250. 25¢ London, My choice of position, Plate 2, \$7. Store of the Future block of 10, \$1 Hopkins, with stain on shirt. \$20. Ken Moreau, 402 Coronation Dr., Franklin, MA 02038. (5-94)

☆☆☆ INVENTORY CLEARANCE ☆☆☆

Take 40% off on all line pairs and PS/3; take 30% off PS/5. Send for my Aug.-October list (5¢ SASE please). Dennis Chamberlain, P.O. Box 4323, Davis CA 95617. (5-94)

BAND TAGGING: Ken Lawrence has consigned a pane of 21¢ Carlsons to me. Plain block, \$25; vertical pair, \$10. Make checks payable to Ken Lawrence. Dept. KL, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (5-94)

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

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

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 (5-94)

JOIN PNC3 For details, write Joann Lenz, 37211 Alper Dr., Sterling Hts. MI 48312-2203. (5-94)

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

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

ALL BACK ISSUES of TPN are available. For a list with key articles send SASE to POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (5-94)

LIGHTHOUSE ALBUMS, supplements, stock books, supplies, UV lamps. Offer a generous 15% discount. Also, KABE albums and supplements. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (5-94)

BEP DIE IMPRESSIONS of 1¢ Franklin and \$2 Madison on invitation to BEP's centennial celebration. Only 500 made, one available. \$20 from Box BEP, c/o The Plate Number. (5-94)

FIRST-DAY CEREMONY program for Stamp Venturers' version of 19¢ Fishing Boat. 2 available. \$20 each from Fish c/o The Plate Number. (5-94)

BACK-NUMBERED test coils from Stamp Venturers. Strip of 10, \$45 from Box SV, c/o The Plate Number. (5-94)

SCRAP Postage, 20¢ Truman, 29¢ Warren at 90%. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120.

Data Bank

(all text from USPS, TPN additions in brackets)

TRANSPORTATION COILS

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

	LP	PS3	PS5
1897 1c Bus 1, 2, 5, 6	.14	.21	.52
3, 4	.84	.91	1.12
2225 1c B Press 1, 2	.32	.40	.72
2225a untagged 2	.80	1.00	1.20
NEW 1c C Press 3	.68	.72	.80
1897A 2c Loco 3, 4, 8, 10	.25	.28	.56
2, 6	.48	.52	.80
2226 2c Loco B Press 1	.68	.72	.80
NEW 2c Loco C Press 2	.68	.72	.80
1898 3c Handcar 1, 2	.39	.64	.80
3, 4	.44	.64	.80
2252 3c Conestoga 1, 2, 3	.64	.72	.80
2123 3.4c School Bus 1, 2	.56	.80	1.00
2123a 3.4c PC 1, 2	7.20	7.60	8.00
1898A 4c Coach 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1.60	1.80	2.00
1898Ab 4c PC 3, 4, 5, 6	7.20	7.60	8.00
2228 4c B Press 1	.80	.96	1.00
2228a overall tagged 1	15.20	15.60	16.00
2451 4c Carriage 1	.80	.96	1.00
2451a same, untagged	1.60	1.80	2.00
2124 4.9c Buckboard 3, 4	.70	.74	1.44
2124a PC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1.60	1.80	2.00
1899 5c M'cyde 1, 2, 3, 4	.39	1.02	1.24
2253 5c Milk Wagon 1	.80	.88	1.00
2452 5c Circus Wagon 1	.80	.88	1.00
2452a untagged 1	1.28	1.48	1.60
Same, gravured A1, A2, A3	1.28	1.48	1.60
2453 5c Canoe 1	.80	.88	1.00
2, 3	1.44	1.52	1.60
2454 gravured S11	1.60	1.65	1.75
1900 5.2c Sleigh 1, 2	2.70	4.90	12.80
3	108.00	132.00	190.00
5	108.00	132.00	136.00
1900a PC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	8.80	10.40	11.20
2254 5.3c Elevator 1	.92	.96	1.04
2125 5.5c Star Truck 1	2.24	2.32	2.40
2125a 5.5c PC 1	1.64	1.72	1.96
PC 2	2.08	2.24	2.40
1901 5.9c Bicycle 3, 4	2.94	6.37	14.80
1901a 5.9c PC 3, 4	15.40	25.60	26.00
PC 5, 6	47.60	70.40	72.00
2126 6c Bicycle 1	.84	1.20	1.28
2126a PC 1	1.84	1.92	2.00
PC 2	6.04	6.92	7.00
2127 7.1c Tractor 1	1.79	2.08	2.16

	LP	PS3	PS5
2127a PC 1	3.20	3.40	3.60
2127a PC 1 "ZIP+4"	2.04	2.08	2.16
1902 7.4c Baby Buggy 2	3.92	4.41	8.80
1902a PC 2	4.00	4.40	4.80
2255 7.6c Canote 1, 2	1.40	2.00	2.12
3	4.80	5.20	5.60
2128 8.3c Ambulance 1, 2	.88	.98	1.80
2128a 8.3c PC 1, 2	1.00	1.12	1.80
PC 3, 4	4.28	4.40	4.60
2231 Amb. B Press 1, 2	2.80	3.00	3.20
2256 8.4c Wheelchair 1, 2	2.00	2.20	2.40
3	19.20	19.60	20.00
2129 8.5c Tow Truck 1	2.10	2.45	3.20
2129a PC 1	2.80	2.88	2.96
2	10.40	10.80	11.20
1903 9.3c Mail Wagon 1, 2	4.41	4.90	12.00
3, 4	18.76	19.74	32.80
5, 6	107.80	256.00	260.00
1903a PC 1, 2	12.80	13.60	14.40
PC 3, 4	23.20	24.00	24.80
PC 5, 6	2.40	2.56	2.72
PC 8	152.00	156.00	160.00
2257 10c Boat 1, block tag	1.04	1.12	1.20
Overall tag, dull gum	3.20	3.60	4.00
Phosphored, shiny gum 1, 2	2.40	2.56	2.80
2457 10c Tractor Trailer 1	1.04	1.12	1.20
2458 same, gravure print, 11, 22	1.04	1.12	1.20
VARIETY 22 with period	10.00	10.00	10.00
2130 10.1c Oil Wagon 1	1.12	1.47	2.60
2130a Block PC 1, 2	2.00	2.12	2.80
2130a Red PC 2, 3	2.04	2.12	2.20
1904 10.9c Harson 1, 2	6.37	11.20	28.80
1904a PC 1, 2	10.40	26.40	26.80
3, 4	36.40	280.00	320.00
190511c Caboose 1	2.21	2.35	4.00
1905a PC 1	3.05	3.20	3.40
Untagged 2	.80	1.12	1.52
2131 11c Sautz 1, 2	.44	1.12	1.52
3, 4	.39	.98	1.52
2132 12c Steamer 1, 2	1.52	1.60	1.80
2132a 12c PC 1, 2	2.00	2.20	2.40
2132b 12c B Press PC 1	17.60	18.40	19.20
2133 12.5c Pushcart 1, 2	1.86	1.96	2.60
2133a PC 1, 2	3.12	3.20	3.60
2258 13c Patrol Wagon 1	2.20	2.40	2.60

	LP	PS3	PS5
2259 13.2c Coal Car 1, 2	2.20	2.40	2.60
2134 14c Caboose 1, 2, 3, 4	.98	1.68	2.08
2134b B Press 2	2.24	3.12	3.60
2260 15c Lightboat 1, 2	2.00	2.24	2.40
2260a Overall tagged 2	2.80	3.04	3.20
2261 16.7c Popcorn 1, 2	3.20	3.52	3.80
1906 17c Auto 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1.26	2.17	2.72
6	13.60	14.00	14.40
7	3.92	4.00	4.40
1906a 17c PC Type A 3, 4, 5	3.92	4.00	4.40
Type A 6, 7	8.00	10.00	10.40
Type AB 5, 7 PS10 only	—	—	11.20
Type B 3, 4	14.56	15.12	17.60
Type B 5, 6	16.00	18.80	19.20
Type BA 5, 6	—	—	47.20
Type C 1, 2	7.60	7.88	8.20
Type C 3, 4	8.00	8.60	8.80
Type C 5, 7	16.80	17.60	18.40
2135 17c Dog sled 2	1.93	2.10	2.80
2262 17.5c Racer 1, PC1	2.40	2.80	3.20
1907 18c Sunny 1	42.70	72.00	76.00
2, 5, 6, 8	1.86	2.80	3.60
3, 4	24.50	60.00	62.40
7	16.80	30.40	36.00
11, 12, 15, 16	7.44	12.80	13.20
9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18	5.04	5.60	8.80
1908 20c Pump 1	4.41	27.65	136.00
2	24.50	208.00	780.00
3, 4, 13, 15, 16	2.35	2.45	4.40
5, 9, 10	1.23	1.44	2.72
7, 8	100.10	100.80	120.00
12, 14 XF	11.20	12.32	18.40
12, 14	3.92	3.92	7.20
11	35.35	36.82	68.80
2263 20c Cable Car 1, 2	2.60	3.00	3.60
2263b Overall tagged 2	2.60	3.00	3.60
2264 20.5c Fire Engine 1	2.60	3.00	3.20
2265 21c Rail Car 1, 2	2.60	3.00	3.60
2464 23c Lunch 2, 3 (Solid tag)	2.60	3.00	3.20
3 modified (dull or shiny)	2.60	3.00	3.20
2266 24.1c Tandem 1	3.12	3.36	3.60
2136 25c Broad Wagon			
1, 2, 3, 4	2.12	2.24	3.40
5	2.68	2.80	4.40
2468 S1 Seaplane 1, 3	4.00	4.80	8.00

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

STAMPS 'N' STUFF WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD

We will attempt to meet any major dealer's advertised current prices!

TERMS: Payment with order. Prices subject to change without notice. U.S. postage taken in trade at 90%. Single plate number coils available at pair price minus one stamp. Average coils available on better items. Please send for list.

CONDITION: Fine-Very Fine, Never hinged. If you require XF, add 35% to list.



STAMPS 'N' STUFF

2700 University, Suite 214,
W. Des Moines, IA 50288-1451

Jerry & Barb Koepf (515) 224-1737

Phone Orders Call TOLL FREE:

1-800-999-5964

FAX: (515) 226-1651



FREE

with \$100 purchase

(choose 1)

PS5 2228a overall tag #1

PS5 2256 8.4c Wheel Chair # 3

PS5 2518 "F" Tulip #1211

(or choose one of the following
imperf pairs)

25c Yosemite

20c Flag

29c Flag over White House

Liberty microperfs moved from number

The 29¢ Statue of Liberty self-adhesives were to have microperforations just to the left of the plate number. But when issued, the perfs had been moved so that there are now four stamps to the left of the numbered one.

The shift was done at the request of Scott Beach, manager of the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center, who asked the manufacturer, Avery Dennison, to move them to meet collector preferences.

But almost immediately, collectors have begun asking: "How do you collect them?"

Al Haake said: "I just ignored the microperfs. I broke the rolls down to strips of five."

Dr. Robert Rabinowitz noted that collectors who obtain strips of 18 from the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center will receive strips that have been torn at the microperfs, leading him to believe that collecting in strips of five is going to be standard.

TPN thinks that the perfs through the liner are not what collectors want to collect, but for those who do want to show the microperfs, it would be best to have at least one stamp at the left of the microperfs, making a strip of at least eight. With two stamps left of the microperfs, you'd need a strip of nine, but you will find few album pages to hold them.

To obtain them, you must order a strip longer than 18 and specify that you do not want it separated. If that is not possible, you're stuck with ordering a full roll at \$1,451.16.

Stamps withdrawn

In a wholesale housecleaning, the Postal Service has ordered the withdrawal and destruction of 336 items on its master list, including rolls of 100 of the prephosphored 25¢ Flag Over Yosemite and coils of 500 and 3,000 of the 25¢ Honeybee.

It also cleaned up the master list, removing the 27¢ Swan, but leaving in the 29¢ Blue Jay self-adhesive.

No premium for No. 11

You should not pay a premium for first-day covers of the 10¢ Tractor Trailer with the plate number 11, which showed up later that the stamps with a 22. Artmaster, which also makes House of Farnam covers, was able to obtain 11s without paying a premium. The 11s, however, will be late. The 22s are already available.

Are there 2 Trumans?

George Amick, writing in Linn's U.S. Stamp Yearbook for 1993, says the 20¢

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

Truman from Plate 4 is known with embedded (mottled) tagging as well as surface-coated (solid) tagging. Alan Thomson of the PNC Study Group says that's news to him. He has found the stamp only with mottled tagging. Anyone disagree?

'Santa Ana pinks' reported

Sam Frackman has discovered what he terms "Santa Ana pinks," a variety of the BEP's Eagle and Shield in which the stripes in the shield are too wide and all the colors are way off. According to Alan Thomson, Frackman attributes the phenomenon to the use of ink that was too thin for gravure. Frackman is advertising a strip of nine in *Linn's* at \$8.

Did it take a year?

Jim O'Connell receives TPN by first-class mail. He sent in the cancel (they were mailed June 18, 1994) which clearly said: "JUN 18, 1993."

No-vowel precancel hunt

Tats Watanabe of Honolulu has completed a 10-year task of getting a local two-line precancel from the town that has no vowels, Aiea, Hawaii, on every value of the Transportation Series but one. The missing stamp is the \$1 Seaplane.

Watanabe's effort has produced 56 stamps, including all service-inscribed values and all three 7.1¢ Tractors.

Yes, there's a program

When the Postal Service issued Stamp Venturers' version of the 19¢ Fishing Boat it said there would be no first-day ceremony on June 25. But the postmaster of Arlington, Va., site of NAPEX '94, decided otherwise. When collectors entered the show that Saturday morning, Postmaster Leonard L. Napper personally handed out 200 beautiful souvenir programs with an enlargement of the one-rope boat on the cover. Alan Malakoff got one with a plate number.

Indigo is an error

The 29¢ indigo White House is a color error, BEP printers told Ken Lawrence at NAPEX. But they couldn't tell if the ink was the one intended for the 4¢ Flanagan.

PNCs on CD-ROM

Dick Sine, editor of the Minkus catalog, has just assembled a CD-ROM disk, "The Encyclopedia of U.S. Stamps," which includes pictures of all U.S. stamps. It can be used with almost any operating system, but requires a CD-ROM player.

'G' stamp precursors

Hank Karen of Michael M. Karen Inc. was the winner of the auction run by Stamp Venturers for the sale of one roll of back-numbered test stamps that were on show at the World Columbian Stamp Exposition in Chicago. The proceeds were donated to Hurricane Andrew relief work. Those back-numbered test items will become very desirable collectibles when the back-numbered "G" stamps are issued at the next rate change.

What's really indigo?

Joe Sedivy, manager of the PNC³ auctions, has found 70 mint copies of an "indigo" White House stamp from Plate 7. Sedivy calls his find the "Chicago blue."

Meanwhile, Rick Staiger is advertising "indigos" in *Coil Line* and *Linn's* at \$15 each or \$25 a pair.

Wayne Meyers, who owns some indigos bought from the original find, told Sedivy his stamps were not indigos. Writing in *Coil Line*, Meyers said Sedivy's stamps are a new color variety that appear violet or purple. Meyers recommends expertizing by the Philatelic Foundation.

But that makes little sense since the PF could not base its opinion on BEP data and has no comparison material. The PF said the "navy blue" is a variety of the "indigo."

Philately is still awaiting replies by BEP, some of them going back two years, about varieties found by collectors. Sedivy submitted a brick red Rushmore. Meyers said that until BEP rules on all the shades they remain a mystery.

Meyers also bought some of Staiger's stamps and said they are definitely not indigos, but said they are the same shade as Sedivy's.

All genuine indigos are horizontally slit for destruction by BEP, Meyers said.

Record prices at auction

When Kim Cuniberti auctioned off a strip of nine of the Toledo brown from Plate 1, the minimum bid was \$1,150. He was surprised to get two bids over \$2,000. The winning bid was \$2,100.

Cuniberti said there was strong interest

in the 22¢ Flag imperforates, including one that was also misperforated.

Lot 95, an imperforate tagged 4¢ Steam Carriage, of which only four are known, sold for the minimum bid of \$3,000, a disappointment.

Three strips of UVMS, all missing the de-

nomination, were sold. A dry gum and a shiny gum strip of seven went for \$280, a shiny strip of five brought \$225.

Meanwhile, pioneer PNC dealer Dennis Chamberlain has sold a PS/3 of the brick-red Plate 8 of the 20¢ Flag for \$1,400.

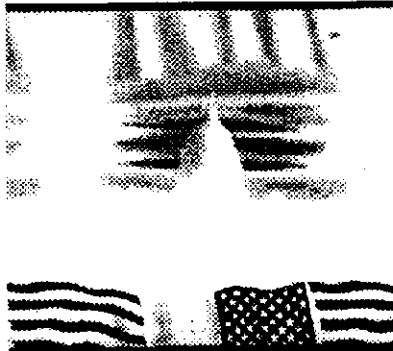
Test for the Honeybee

BEP explains weird offset/intaglio strip

Philatelic Trivia—What has red and blue spots, and waves a black flag? I'll give you a hint—Buzz, buzz.

By Richard J. Nazar

If you haven't guessed it yet, the answer to this strange question can be found in the illustration below. Do you still need some help? If you said, "Yes," join the crowd. It took several Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) pressmen to figure out this one.



RIGHT OF SPLICE—The five verticals at the top and the horizontal below it are red. Horizontal lines at side of the outline of the Capitol dome are blue (bottom one is red). The flag at bottom is black.

As I had promised to John Greenwood, the owner of the unusual strip—which shows four miscut 25¢ Bread Wagon stamps spliced with tan masking tape to about five of the "stamps" illustrated above—I took the strip to the recent NAPEX stamp show in Arlington, Va., where BEP pressmen were offering their expertise in identifying and explaining errors and oddities brought in by collectors. Within minutes, the four pressmen at the table all concurred that the strip was genuine and they provided a unanimous opinion in a note, which reads as follows:

The Bread Wagon is regular production work spliced at the rewind with a test used in ascertaining the feasibility of intaglio using the Goebel Optiforma with the Goebel "C" press. It is a(n) offset blue + red background designed to merge with the flag sleeves. This work was done in

preparation for the Honeybee coil.

This splice was the most astounding piece that the BEP pressmen examined all weekend. It was talked about from Friday afternoon until the show closed on Sunday. Of course all this discussion yielded more of a description than what was written. The following explanation is based on the pressmen's discussions.

The strip should never have made it all the way through processing; splices are to be culled before the web is fed through the perforating, coiling, and packaging equipment.

The masking tape connecting the two pieces of paper is the type used by the BEP, although they were surprised that the overlap was so short (slightly more than 1/4 inch). They decided the length of the overlap was acceptable, but a longer overlap is more commonly produced.

The pressmen also said double-sided tape (what they called "sticky back") is commonly—but not always—used between the overlap areas to produce a more secure splice in addition to the masking tape on the face. This strip does not have the "sticky back," but this did not affect their opinion that it is genuine.

From what they could recall, the Optiforma/C Press test of this design had a very short run on just one day, and all of the product was to be destroyed. (They term this "mutt work," which indicates that the product is to be mutilated.) Obviously, this example shows that some got out. They couldn't believe that the product of such a short test run could have made its way into the normal stamp supply.

They said the Optiforma/C Press product to the right of the splice was printed from two, specially-made test printing plates (sleeves)—one for the red and blue offset impression printed on the Optiforma press, and one for the black intaglio impression printed on the C press.

The offset portion of this test design was created and used solely for this test. The flag that appears at the bottom of the strip is the top portion of the design used on the 22¢ Flag coil and the 22¢ Flag Test coil, but the impression is not from sleeves from either of these two issued stamps. The black flag impressions on the strip came from a specially-produced sleeve that included impressions of the 22¢ flag design in several rows around the cylinder (the exact number of rows was not remembered, but it was most likely 18 or less—possibly 10). The plate

did not include any extraneous side markings, such as electric eye markings—mainly because it was not intended to be processed after printing. The pressmen believed that this strip may have shown the top row of impressions on the intaglio plate because there were no additional flag images above the flag shown at the bottom.

What this all boils down to is that this is the only reported example of a production test that was produced by combined impression from two BEP presses in preparation for production of the Honeybee coil. It is with-



REGULAR INTAGLIO—This stamp proves that the spliced strip shows the outline of the Capitol dome.

out doubt, one of the great gems of PNC philately! But now comes the tough part, where should Dr. Greenwood place this unique strip in his album—with the 25¢ Bread Wagons, the 22¢ Flag, or the 25¢ Honeybee?

[*Author's note:* The pressmen at the Bureau Issues Association (BIA) table at NAPEX represented the local chapter of the Federal Managers Association (FMA)—a sort of union for managers in the federal government. While at the table, the BEP pressmen were printing and selling their annual show card that marks their participation with the BIA at the NAPEX event.

(For more information about the show cards, contact Richard Schulman at P.O. Box 248, Commack, NY 11725-0248.)]

Great Americans—Buying, selling

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

Selling:

50¢ Nimitz, Plate 2, overall tagged. \$17.50 per block; 20¢ Gallaudet, Plates 8 and 9. \$75 per block.
25¢ London, Plate 2, \$10 per block; 45¢ Cushing, overall tagged, \$7.50 per block.

My regular price list

Scott	Description	Single	Issued. Bl. or Post. Bl.	PS/4	PS/6	PS/20
1844c	14 Dec Bl	10		1.00 (15E)	2.00 (1)	4.00 (1, 2)
1844	14 Dec BE	10		1.25 (1)	2.50 (1)	3.00 (1)
2168	14 Mitchell BE	10		25 (1)		
1845	24 Stravinsky Catroll	10		35 (1, 2, 3, 4)		
	Same, premium			2.00 (5, 6)		
	Same, vert tag break			10.00 (6)		
2169	24 Lyon BE	10		35 (1)		
	Same, premium			55 (2)		
1846	34 Clay Catroll	10		70 (1, 2)		
2170	34 White BE	10		50 (1, 2, 3)		
1847	44 Schurz Catroll	15		80 (1-4)		
	Same, vert tag break			10.00 (1-2)		
2171	44 Flanagan OE	15		80 (1)		
2171a	44 Flanagan UE	10		40 (1)		
NEW	44 Flanagan UE	10		60 (2)		
1848	54 Buck Catroll	15		90 (1-4)		
	Same, with tagging break				10.00 (3)	
2172	54 Black BE	15		70 (1)		
2172	54 Black BE	15		1.25 (2)		
Plate 2 wanted, pay \$0.65 per block						
2173	54 Menzies OE	15	70	750 (1)		
	Same, with ZIP			1.00 (1)		2.00 (1)
2173	54 Menzies UE	15	70	75 (2)		
1849	64 Lippmann Bl	15		60 (1)	1.20 (1)	3.90 (1)
1850	74 Baldwin Bl	20		90 (1)	1.80 (1)	4.50 (1)
1851	84 Knox Bl	20		1.20 (3-6)		
1852	94 Thayer Bl	25		2.00 (1)	2.50 (1)	5.50 (1)
1853	10 Russell Bl	25		1.20 (15E)	2.50 (1)	7.00 (1)
2176	104 Red Cloud BE	30		85 (1)		
2176a	104 Red Cloud OE	30		WANT (1)		
Plates 1 OE and 2 OE wanted, pay \$0.90 per block						
2176a	104 Red Cloud PE	20		85 (2)		
1854	114 Fairidge Cl	30		1.60 (2-5)		
1855	134 Crazy Catroll	30		2.20 (1, 2)		
	Same, premium			3.00 (3, 4)		
1856	144 Lewis Bl	30		1.20 (1)	3.00 (1)	9.00 (1)
2177	144 Howe BE	25		1.90 (1, 2)		5.90 (1)
2178	154 Cody BE	30		2.00 (1)		
2178	154 Cody BE	30		4.00 (3)		
Plate 3 BE wanted, pay \$2 per block, Plate 1 BE wanted, pay \$1 per block						
2178a	154 Cody OE	25		3.50 (2, 3)		
	Same, tagged selvage			1.25 (2)		
	Same, with tagging break			5.00 (2)		10.00 (2)
2178a	154 Cody prephotosphered	25		3.50 (1)		
	same, on white paper			7.00 (1)		
1857	174 Carson Catroll	35		2.85 (14, 13-14)		
	Same, premium			5.00 (15, 16)		
	Same, with tagging break			10.00 (16)		
2179	174 Lockwood	35		2.00 (1)		
	Same, premium			3.50 (2)		
1858	184 Mason Catroll	35		3.50 (1-6)		
1859	194 Sequoyah Catroll	40		3.00 (both)		
1860	204 Burchie Catroll	40		3.50 (1, 2, 5, 10)		
	Same, premium			7.00 (3, 4)		20.00 (4)
	Same, premium			12.00 (11, 13)		
1861	204 Gallaudet Catroll	40		3.90 (1, 2)		
	Same, premium			12.00 (5, 6)		
Plate 5, 6 wanted, pay \$6.00 per block						
	Same, premium			75.00 (8, 9)		
1862	204 Truman Bl	40		5.00 (1)	10.00 (1)	13.00 (1)
1862a	204 Truman BE	40		3.90 (2)		
1862b	204 Truman OE Paper III	40		4.00 (3)		
1862b	204 Truman OE Paper III	40		4.00 (3)		
NEW	204 Truman PE shiny	40		2.50 (4)		13.00 (4)
2179	214 Carlson BE	40		3.20 (1)		
1863	224 Audubon Bl	40		2.65 (1)	5.30 (1)	30.00 (1)
1863d	224 Audubon BE	45		5.00 (2)		
2182	234 Cassatt BE	50		3.00 (1)		
2182b	234 Cassatt OE	50		5.00 (1)		
2182b	234 Cassatt OE	50		3.75 (2)		11.00 (2)
2182b	234 Cassatt PE	50		3.00 (2)		

Scott	Description	Single	Issued. Bl. or Post. Bl.	PS/4	PS/6	PS/20
NEW	234 Cassatt PE shiny	50		3.00 (3)		
2183	254 London BE	50		3.00 (1)		
2183	254 London BE	50		10.00 (2)		
2184	284 Sitting Bull BE	50		3.80 (1)		
2184A	294 Women PE	45	3.00	2.00 (51, 52)		
2184B	294 Jefferson	45	4.50 (8)	2.50 (51, 52)		
1864	304 Laubach BE	75		5.00 (1)	10.00 (1)	19.00 (1)
1864a	304 Laubach BE	45		5.50 (2)		
1864a	304 Laubach OE	6.00		75.00 (2)		
1865	354 Draw Catroll	75		4.50 (1, 2)		
	Same, premium			12.00 (3, 4)		
2185	354 Chavez Pl	50	3.50	3.50 (51, 52)		
1966	374 Millikan Catroll	80		4.50 (1-4)		
1867	394 Clark Bl	80		8.00 (15E)	16.00 (1)	35.85 (1)
1867c	394 Clark BE	80		5.90 (2)		
1868	404 Gilbrath Bl	95		9.75 (15E)	19.00 (1)	23.90 (1)
1868a	404 Gilbrath BE	95		6.50 (2)		
2186	404 Chemnitz OE	85	5.00	4.00 (1)		
2186	404 Chemnitz PE	85		4.00 (2)		
2188	454 Cushing BE	75		3.50 (1)		
2188	454 Cushing OE	1.00		7.50 (1)		23.50 (1)
1869	504 Nimitz Cl	1.00		11.25 (1-4)		
1869a	504 Nimitz BE	1.00		6.50 (1, 2)		
1869d	504 Nimitz OE	1.00		17.50 (2)		
1869d	504 Nimitz OE	1.00		7.50 (3)		20.00 (3)
NEW	504 Nimitz PE (shiny)	1.00		4.00 (3)		
2190	524 Humphrey PE (dull)	1.00	4.50	3.45 (1)		
NEW	524 Humphrey PE (shiny)	1.00	1.00	4.50	3.45 (1, 2)	
2161	564 Harvard	1.10		7.50 (1)		
2192	654 Arnold BE	1.30		5.20 (1)		
2193	754 Willie PE (dull)	1.00	7.00	5.50 (1)		
NEW	754 Willie PE (shiny)	1.00	7.00	5.50 (1)		
2194	\$1 Revel	1.95		14.00 (1)		
2194A	\$1 Hopkins BE	1.50		7.00 (1)		
2194Ab	\$1 Hopkins OE	1.50		7.00 (1)		
2194Ab	\$1 Hopkins PE photo, dull	1.50		7.00 (2)		
2194Ab	\$1 Hopkins PE, shiny	2.00		8.00 (2)		
2195	\$2 Bryan	3.50		21.00 (2)		
2196	\$5 Haite BE	9.00		40.00 (1)		
2196	\$5 Haite PE	9.00		35.00 (2)		

The following are not Great American stamps, but you may not have them.

1894a	20¢ Flag Bl Dull	80		15.00 (3, 4)
1894	20¢ Flag BE Shiny	80	4.75 (2, 3)	9.50 (2, 3)
				18.00 (2, 3)

Shiny gum from Plates 3, 4 wanted. Pay \$5 for PS/6, \$10 for PS/20.

Dull gum from Plate 2 wanted. Pay \$4 for PS/6, \$7.50 for PS/20.

C-18 45¢ Langley OE 3.00 25.00

Abbreviations used in descriptions:

T=tagging; B=Black; O=Overall; P=photosphered; U=untagged (or Untagged selvage); T=tagged selvage

Perforations: L=Perforator; E=Europa's eye; SE=straight edge

I have a complete stock of ZIP and copyright blocks. All prices net. No discounts. Prices subject to change. Some quantities limited. I pay postage on orders over \$10, otherwise please add \$2 cents.

1993 Lighthouse supplements

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

1993 Ka-Be supplements

I carry all Ka-Be products at a 15% discount. Call or write for details.

STEPHEN G. ESRA TI

P.O. Box 20130, Shaker Heights,

Ohio 44120

Phone: (216) 561-9393; FAX: (216) 561-6030

E-Mail: America OnLine—StevStamps

CompuServe: >Internet:StevStamps@aol.com

Genie: StevStamps@aol.com@inet#

CATALOGUED VARIETIES ADD SPICE TO YOUR PNCs

Cat	Description	Length	Price	Cat	Description	Length	Price	Cat	Description	Length	Price
FLAG SERIES											
F20-2	Flying Footprints	5, No #	10.00	6T1P	Dirt clod (2L) NEW	5	7.50	T17EA-1	Broken Axle, PS/3	3	45.00
F20-14	Q Line, not PC	3	30.00	T7.1-1P	Dot under "1" of "1920s"	5	5.90	T17EA-1	Tagging break 2L	5	7.50
F20-14P	Q line, PC	3	70.00	T7.4-2	Blown tire	6	65.00	T17EA-2	Tagging break 2L	5	7.50
F22-2	Comet 6L, NEW	8	5.00	T8.3-1	Whole low plate number, Superb	5	37.50	T17EA-3Pbs	Se-tenant precancel, Gap 4R, hole in D (Row 16) at 1R	10	35.00
F22-6	Flying Saucer	5	15.00	T8.3-1	Whole low number, VF	5	30.00	T17EA-3Pbs	Se-tenant precancel, Gap 4R, 3-dot (Row 13) Type II paper, tagging appears as tiny flecks of phosphor	5	12.50
TRANSPORTATION SERIES											
T1-4	Chipped plate, F same, VF	5	3.50	T8.3-1P	Double number, whole at bottom, cut at top	5	18.50	T17EA-4Pbs	Se-tenant precancel, Gap 4R, hole in D (Row 16) at 1R	10	35.00
T1-5	Paper II	5	3.25	T8.3-1P	same, number cut, Ln gap same, number cut, Gap 1L	5	7.50	T17EA-4Pbs	Se-tenant precancel, Gap 4R, Dot over top bar (Row 16) at 1L	10	35.00
T1-6	Crack 1R, poor same, VF	5	1.50	T8.3-1P	Double number, whole at bottom, cut at top, Ln gap	5	5.00	T17EA-5	Reclining Comma	5	10.00
T1-6	Paper II	5	3.25	T8.5-1P	Extra red below PC	6	10.00	T17EA-6	Dot over "E," F only same, VF	5	20.00
T2-3	Smoking T same	3	12.00	T8.5-2	Flying Flashlight	5	10.00	T17EA-7	Oil Drop	5	15.00
T2-3	Smoking T cont. (faint)	5	15.00	T9.3-1P	Wearing W	5	20.00	T17EA-Pa	Dot over "E," line misses parts, No Gap	5	17.50
T2-3	Tail on T, F same, VF	5	6.00	T9.3-2	U crack	5	15.00	T18-1	Lightning bolt, XF same, VF	5	145.00
T2-3	same, F	3	7.50	T9.3-2P	same, line does not touch	5	10.00	T18-1	same, PS/3, VF	5	90.00
T2-6	Tag break 4L, Screwhead	6	2.50	T9.3-2	U crack, faint	5	22.00	T18-1	Lightning bolt continuation, pair, poor	2	35.00
T2-8	Tag break 3L	6	2.50	T9.3-2	U crack	5	22.00	T18-9	Lightning bolt same, F	5	15.00
T2-8	Tag break 2L	5	2.50	T9.3-3P	Smoking g, Ln gap, Superb	5	80.00	T18-10	Lightning bolt same, F	5	15.00
T2-10	Tag break 2L	5	2.50	T9.3-5P	same, w/ continuation, VF	10	80.00	T20FP-2	Crack over "e," pair	2	100.00
T2(B)	Spike	5, No #	10.00	T9.3-6P	same, w/ continuation, F	10	65.00	T20FP-15	Wounded P	5	15.00
T3CW-1	Flaming Conestoga Wagon	5	20.00	T9.3-5P	Hash mark 3R, gap 3L	10	45.00	T21-1-1	RR tracks, continuation	5	27.50
T3CW-1	1st continuation	5	20.00	T9.3-6P	Hash mark 3R, gap 3L same, in long strips, showing both plate numbers and both hash marks	10	45.00	T23-3	Litterbug	5	10.00
T3CW-1	2nd continuation	5	20.00	T10.1-1	Artillery Shell I, 3R	48+	100.00	MISCELLANEOUS SERIES			
SPECIAL: Set of 3 wagons				T10.1-1	Artillery Shell II, Flying Hyphen 2R	5, no #	15.00	M21.1-2	Line, very faint	5	10.00
T4S-1	Diag. slashes 1R, NEW	2	4.50	T10.1-1	Burning shell	5, no #	7.00	M21.1-2P	Line	5	15.00
T4S-1	same	3	5.50	T10.1-1	Dot over "L" of "OIL" 4R	8	7.00	M21.1-2P	Line, 1st ext. down	5	15.00
T4S-1	same	5	6.50	T10.1-1P	Scorouting 1 in "10.1" NEW	5, no #	5.00	M25-1	Phantom yellow image same, singles	5, no #	15.00
T4S-2	Chill roller damage 3L	8	12.50	T10.1-1P	Artillery Shell I, 3R	6	8.50	Price is in this ad and good through Thanksgiving. FREE: One strip of Nonalim I on the 11¢ Caboom with every order over \$25.			
T4S-2	Quotes same, with chill roller damage at 2L, 3L	8	12.50	T10.1-1	Flying Hyphen 2R	5	8.50				
—	Matching strips of 8 with severe chill roller damage and Quotes from Plate 1 and 2	8	22.50	T10.1-1	Artillery Shell III	5, no #	7.00				
T4S-2	Diag. slashes 2L	5	9.75	T10.1-1	Perched Parrot	5, no #	7.00				
T4(B)-1	Blob	5, No #	7.50	T10.9-1	Low entry 2L	5	85.00				
T4.9-4	Whip (long), Not PC	5	10.00	T10.9-1P	Low entry 2L, Gap 3L, XF	10	85.00				
T4.9-4P	Same, PC, Gap 2L	5	11.60	T10.9-P	Low entry 2L, Gap 3L, VF	10	75.00				
T4.9-4P	Same, PC, Gap 1L	6	11.60	T11C-1	Brake shoe	5, no #	13.50				
T4.9-4P	Same, PC, Line Gap	5	13.00	T11C-1P	Brake shoe	5, no #	11.00				
T4.9-4P	Same, PC, No Gap	5	20.00	T11C-1P	Hoseline II, strip of 3 with variety on R stamp	3, no #	30.00				
T4.9-5P	Rain crack, # cut	5	20.00	T11C-1P	Hoseline I	5, no #	10.00				
T4.9-5P	Continuation	5	20.00	T11C-1P	Sitting Duck precursor	5, no #	17.50				
T4.9-5P	Matching set	5	45.00	T11SB-3	Polishing cloth	5	16.00				
T4.9-6P	Whip, Gap 2L	6	18.50	T11SB-3	Fender crack and broken #	5	11.50				
T4.9-6P	Buggy rein	6	35.00	T11SB-3	Severe chill roller doubling of "r" in "Bearcat" 1L	5	10.00				
T5M-3/4	Clip Tagging break 2L in folded long strip showing both plate numbers	49	10.00	T12-7	No plate number but joint line	5	10.00				
T5M-4	Long strip showing 2 tagging breaks	36	5.00	T12-7P	No plate number but joint line	5	10.00				
T5.2-1	Horizontal (J) tag break	5	20.00	T15-2	Anchor Line	5, no #	10.00				
T5.2-2	Horizontal (J) tag break	5	20.00	T15-2	Anchor Line continuation	5, no #	10.00				
T5.2-4P	Hash mark, gap 2L, XF	10	50.00	Matched set	5, no #	22.50					
T5.2-4P	Gap 3 1/2 L XF same, VF	10	15.00	T16.7-1	Spilled Popcorn	5, no #	7.50				
T5.2-4P	same, F	10	10.00	T17EA-1	Broken Axle, pair	2	30.00				
T5.2-4P	same, F	10	8.00								
T5.2-6P	Gap 3 1/2 L XF same, VF	10	15.00								
T5.2-6P	same, F	10	10.00								
T5.5-1	Burned rubber	5	9.00								
T6-1P	Blobe 1R	5	8.00								

Most of these strips are varieties listed in the 1991 PNC Catalog. A few (marked "NEW") are recent additions to my stock.

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

TERMS: Cash with order, please. Ohio purchasers, please add 7% Cuyahoga County sales tax.

STEPHEN G. ESRATI

P.O. Box 20130, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

Telephone: (216) 561-9303

FAX: (216) 561-6030

E-Mail: America OnLine—StevStamps

CompuServe: >Internet:StevStamps@aol.com

Genie: StevStamps@aol.com@inetf



Self-adhesive master list as reported through Aug. 15, 1994

By Gerald H. Clark

Code to text on liner

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

2431a 25¢ Eagle and Shield

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

2475a 25¢ USA Flag ATM

- No numbers -----A from back

2478a Red Squirrel ATM

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

2479a 29¢ Rose

- (UPC 94) S111 -----A
- (UPC 91) S111 -----A
- Coil: No numbers -----C

Note: 40% of the first production was incorrectly inscribed with Universal Product Code (UPC 91) for the \$2.90 African Violet booklet, instead of correct \$5.22 for the Rose booklet.

2480a 29¢ Pine Cone

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

2522a 'F' (29¢) Flag ATM

- No numbers -----A from back

2531A 29¢ Torch

Does not apply to any of the three printings. No writing
 Note: There are two varieties of the booklet with the first cover (text only): lacquered and not lacquered. The second cover features an enlarged picture of the stamp.

29¢ Eagle and Shield

2595a Banknote Corp. of America

- B1111-1 -----A --B
- B1111-2 -----A --B
- B2222-1 -----A --B
- B2222-2 -----A --B
- B3333-1 -----B
- B3333-3 -----B
- B3434-1 -----B
- B3434-3 -----B
- B4344-1 -----B
- B4344-3 -----B
- B4444-1 -----A --B
- B4444-3 -----A --B
- Coil: No numbers -----A --B (yellow or red splices)

2596a Dittler Bros.

- D11111 -----A
- D21221 -----A
- D22322 -----A
- D32322 -----A
- D32332 -----A
- D32342 -----A
- D42342 -----A
- D43352 -----A
- D43452 -----A
- D43453 -----A
- D54561 -----A
- D54563 -----A
- D54571 -----A
- D54573 -----A
- D54673 -----A
- D61384 -----A
- D65784 -----A
- Coil: No numbers -----A

2597a Stamp Venturers

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

2598a 29¢ Eagle

- M111 -----A --B
- M112 -----A --B
- Coil: 111 -----A --B
- PNC Catalog: SA29E-111 (clear splices, one splice known with A liner to the left of the splice and B liner to the right) (one row is known with numbers on the back of the liner at 18-stamp intervals with Position A)

2719a Christmas Train ATM

- V11111 -----No writing

2802a 29¢ Christmas (4 designs)

- V1111-1111 -----B
- V222-1222 -----B
- V222-2112 -----B
- V222-2122 -----B
- V222-2221 -----B
- V222-2222 -----B
- V333-3333 -----B
- Coil: V1111111 -----B
- PNC Catalog: SA29G-V1111111 (red splices)

2803a 29¢ Snowman ATM

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

2813 29¢ Love Sunrise

- First printing**
- B111-1 -----B
- B111-2 -----B
- B111-3 -----B
- B111-4 -----B
- B111-5 -----B
- B121-5 -----B
- B221-5 -----B
- B222-4 -----B
- B222-5 -----B
- B222-6 -----B
- Second printing**
- B333-5 -----B
- B333-7 -----B
- B333-8 -----B
- B333-9 -----B
- B333-10 -----B
- B333-11 -----B
- B333-12 -----B

- B333-14 -----B
- B333-17 -----B
- B344-11 -----B
- B344-12 -----B
- B344-13 -----B
- B434-10 -----B
- B444-7 -----A --B
- B444-8 -----B
- B444-9 -----B
- B444-10 -----B
- B444-13 -----B
- B444-14 -----B
- B444-15 -----B
- B444-16 -----B
- B444-17 -----B
- B444-18 -----B
- B444-19 -----B
- Coil: B1 -----A
- PNC Catalog: SA29L-B1

NEW 29¢ Statue of Liberty

- D1111 -----D
- D1212 -----D
- Coil: D1111 -----D
- PNC Catalog: SA29SOL-D1111 (Green splice has been found on coil)

Coming new issues

- 29¢ Blue Jay sheetlet
- Same, coil of 5,004
- 29¢ Christmas Santa booklet (SV)

Finder of 100th listing rewarded

Carol Morehouse, who reported the 100th listing in the master list, won a plate number coil from TPN.

A huge thanks also goes to Jerry Clark, who tries to live his life, do his work, tend to his family, and also cover the self-adhesives. In fact, it is a

Same, coil of 3,336
 29¢ Christmas ATM booklet (SV)
 "G" booklet (Avery Dennison)
 Same, coil of 5,015
 "G" ATM (Avery Dennison)

For helping with this project in these two months and aiding in keeping the record straight, thanks to Richard Beecher, A. S. Cibulskas, Doug Iams, Hank Karen, Robert Kitson, Joann Lenz, Michael Lipson, Alan Malakoff, Carol Morehouse, Richard Nazar, Michel Perry, Joseph Reymer, Dr. Robert Rabinowitz, Dr. David Schneider, and André Thiele.

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

gargantuan effort. He also contributed mightily to our front-page story about the demonstration sheetlet.

There is only one addition to the list this month, the second Statue of Liberty sheetlet. But we deleted 333-13 from the Love Sunrise sheetlets.

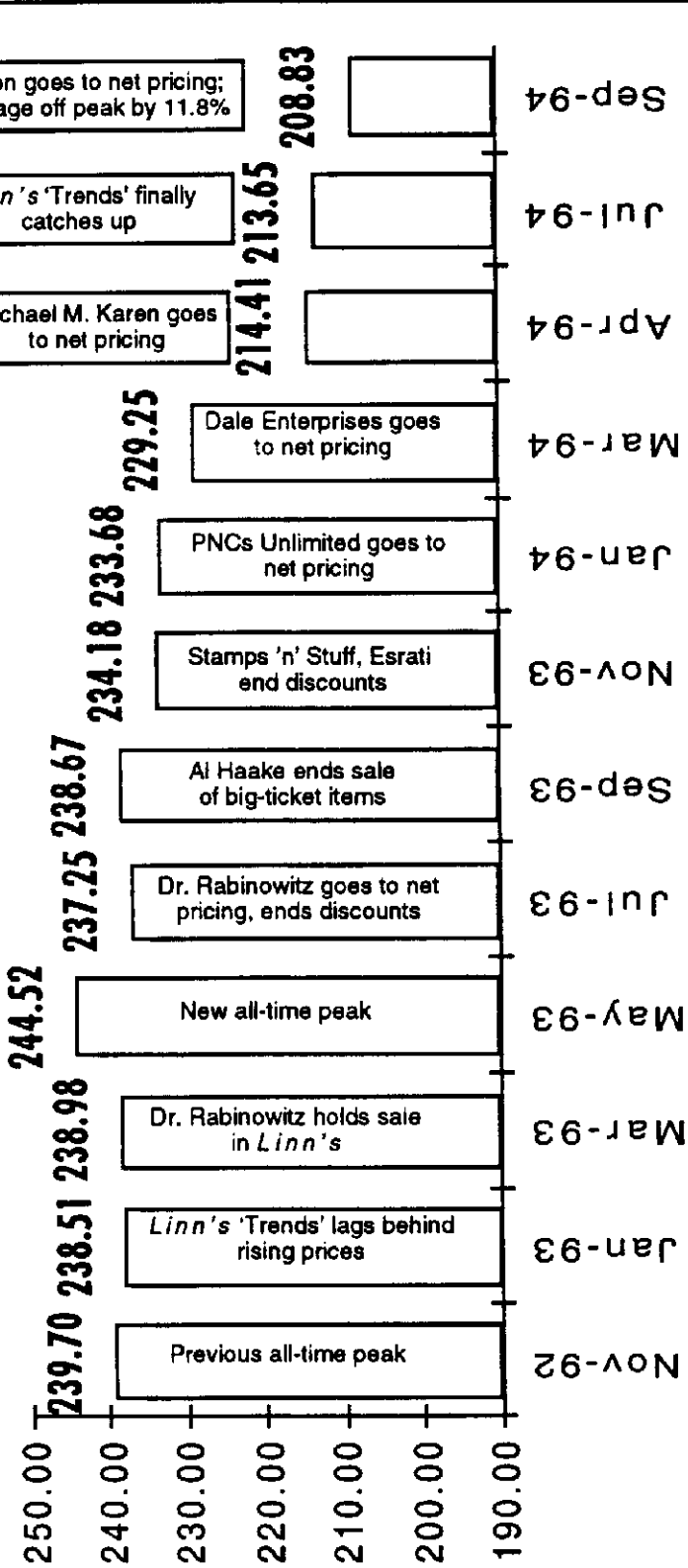
Changes in components of the TPN Average

CAT	STAMP	PLATE	TPN 01-4	TPN 01-6	% Change
C29-1211	'F'	1211	\$30.60	\$30.48	-0.41%
M10-A33333	E&S	A33333	\$4.77	\$4.85	1.74%
M19-A1112	Fishing	A1112	\$9.30	\$9.42	1.27%
M19-AS555-unt	Fishing	AS555	\$10.44	\$10.49	0.46%
M20-1	Consumer		\$200.77	\$189.11	-5.81%
M20-3	Consumer		\$119.03	\$116.44	-2.18%
020-1	Official		\$69.91	\$69.26	-0.92%
022-1	Official		\$84.94	\$83.18	-2.07%
F18-1	Flag		\$470.35	\$465.49	-1.05%
F18-3	Flag		\$975.20	\$975.20	0.00%
F20-4	Flag		\$778.41	\$764.04	-1.85%
F20-11	Flag		\$10.89	\$10.50	-3.59%
F22-1	Flag		\$14.93	\$14.66	-1.75%
F22-3	Flag		\$59.13	\$57.81	-2.23%
F25-Block	Flag		\$4.58	\$4.40	-4.03%
F25-Spikes	Flag		\$9.32	\$8.76	-5.96%
F29-1MR	Rushmore		\$4.96	\$4.90	-1.23%
F29-1WH	White House		\$5.23	\$5.34	2.03%
F52-3	Trans		\$230.86	\$233.29	1.05%
F52-4P-2L	Trans		\$15.53	\$14.92	-3.95%
F59-3P-LN	Trans		\$30.05	\$29.42	-2.11%
F59-6P-LN	Trans		\$36.01	\$34.76	-3.26%
T17-2	Trans		\$11.27	\$10.89	-3.37%
T84-3P	Trans		\$19.39	\$19.36	-0.18%
T93-1P-A0	Trans		\$17.84	\$17.68	-0.90%
T93-6	Trans		\$303.11	\$303.11	0.00%
T93-8P-2L	Trans		\$208.60	\$207.84	-0.36%
T109-1P-LN	Trans		\$35.03	\$33.57	-4.17%
T109-4P-LN	Trans		\$386.69	\$375.19	-2.97%
T17-6	Trans		\$17.46	\$16.63	-4.76%
T17-6Pbe-1L	Trans		\$52.26	\$54.54	4.37%
T18-1	Trans		\$97.77	\$95.07	-2.76%
T18-3	Trans		\$79.81	\$78.06	-2.19%
T18-17	Trans		\$6.66	\$6.65	-0.20%
T20P-1	Trans		\$178.07	\$168.34	-4.39%

ACROBATIC EXERCISE—This chart requires you to stand on your head to see the *TPN* issue being referred to. We couldn't help it. We are prisoners of our software and this is the best we could do. But it needs to be emphasized, that a decline of about 11% is not so bad.

Lipson joins price cutting

TPN Average since November 1992



Three members of the PNC Study Group had lunch during NAPEX 94 with Dale Hendricks, proprietor of Gale Enterprises and the PNC dealer who compiles the mint prices for Linn's "Trends."

Hendricks said the "Trends" prices do not necessarily reflect his own prices because he knows that many dealers use "Trends" to price their wares. His own prices, if lower, usually reflect items of which he is overstocked.

"If you compare them, you're pretty much able to figure out what I have too much of," he said.

Hendricks said he does not price used singles for "Trends" and does not know who does.

His own large price cuts (see *TPN* for January) would have been made earlier, he said, to keep his prices competitive. But Hendricks contracted Legionnaires' disease and was unable to work for many months.

He said the price cuts that have been generally sweeping PNCdom reflect a decline in interest.

"There are fads," he said, "and while they're hot, prices go up; but when the fads fade, prices fall."

The latest dealer to join in the massive price cuts is Michael Lipson, whose prices for some higher-priced PNCs were cut by as much as 30% (8.4¢ Wheel Chair Plate 3 from \$20 to \$14).

Other large cuts by Lipson were noted in:

- 4¢ Stagecoach, B Press, overall tagged: \$19 to \$14.50
- 5.2¢ Sled, Plate 5, \$195 to \$180
- 7.6¢ Carreta, Plate 3, \$10 to \$6
- 10.9¢ Hansom Cab, Plates 1 and 2, \$40 to \$34
- Same, Plates 3 and 4, Line Gap, \$380 to \$350
- 18¢ Surrey, Plate 7, \$42 to \$32
- 18¢ Flag, Plate 1, \$500 to \$400
- 20¢ Consumer, Plates 1 and 2, \$200 to \$180
- 20¢ Flag, Plate 1, \$90 to \$80
- 20¢ Official, \$70 to \$62
- 25 Yosemite, Plate 1, prephosphored, \$55 to \$45

The chart on the left traces the decline in the TPN Average since it peaked at 244.52 in May 1993.

The textual explanations for each bi-monthly average do not pretend to be the sole reasons for a rise or decline in the average. Several dealers, after they made the first downward adjustment in prices, made several more in drips and drabs.

Because of the large amount of space taken up by the chart this month, we are leaving out the table showing the monthly changes for the components of the TPN Average.

Gravured 10¢ Tractor Trailer has constant row-specific flaws

By Philip F. Rose

The new gravure 11¢ Tractor Trailer coils have appeared with plate-number combinations 11 and 22. My initial order from the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center in Kansas City yielded a partial roll of 22s showing the 22 WITH PERIOD constant variety reported on Page 95 of the July *TPN*. This variety apparently is row specific.

TPN note: Unfortunately we do not know the width of the Andreotti Press web used to print these stamps, so we do not know how many rows are printed from each plate

The stamps are printed in cycles of 24 stamps in the forward direction, yielding a plate-number interval of 24 as well.

The 22 WITH PERIOD variety occurs cyclically at 1L (the numbered stamp) and only on one row. Examination of the web before cutting would identify the row. This "find" encouraged me to examine the stamps more closely, and I noted design breaks, color dots, and fractures.

I decided, as a project, to attempt identifying more of the rows via the cyclical flaws that might be present. I have already examined three rows (3 roll strips) of plate-number combination 11 and three rows (5 roll strips) of plate-number combination 22.

I have prepared tables identifying the primary marks (PMs) that appear cyclically for the given row. The assumption has been made that the flaws existed at the time of the initial press run, and did not appear progressively as the press run continued. This will require further investigation.

One flaw was initially missed on Row Alpha. This is the black dot at the left of the "t" of "Tractor" at 7R, 18L.

The reason that the flaw was overlooked is due to the registration of the black printing. On one roll the black printing was shifted slightly to the right, causing the flow to meld with the green letter "t," making it difficult to see. In the other case, the black dot was clear of the letter "t."

I encourage correspondence at 38 Royalston Lane, Centereach, N.Y., 11720.

Philatelic windows

Alan M. Malakoff (616 Braun St., Highland Park, N.J. 08904) has volunteered to compile a list of philatelic windows

He asks reports of your window and its days and hours of operation. Malakoff says it is always good to call ahead to make sure a window is open and that the clerk is not on vacation. (Substitutes seldom have access to the philatelic stock.)

The conclusions of the study are already quite exciting. It appears that most design breaks are not cyclical and thus are not PMs. Most fractures in the lettering are not cyclical, with one exception (THE FRACTURED ONE flaw). The color dots in the majority of cases are cyclical and are PMs that will identify the row. The 22 WITH PERIOD variety is such a color dot.

I have observed that stamps from the plate-number combination 22 exhibit more color dots than stamps from plate-number combination 11.

In one case a PM was discovered that I call the TRIANGLE BAR flaw. It is a

large white rectangular flaw that extends from the bumper to the fender of the Tractor and that also exhibits a break (in this case cyclical) in the cab design at the left. This flaw rivals the 22 WITH PERIOD variety.

The other variety I discovered I call the GRAVE ACCENT PM. It appears above the "T" of "Trailer" on a roll with the plate-number combination 11. See Table 1.

The two tables summarize the PMs discovered by row. The rows are identified by Greek letters until someone can examine the web and place some of these varieties. I look forward to new discoveries!

Table 1: Varieties from Plate 11

Row	Position	PM
Alpha	3L, 22R	Dot well left of "10" near perf hole.
	1L, 24R	Plate numbers: Black 1 lower than green 1.
	13L, 12R	TRIANGLE BAR flaw. Triangular white rectangle extending from bumper to fender. A break in cab line at left.
Beta	1L, 24R	Plate numbers: Black 1 lower than green 1.
	7R, 18L	Weak dot above "ra" of "Trailer," weak dot above "10."
	8R, 17L	Dot above "0" of "10." Dot below rear tire.
Delta	1L, 24R	Plate numbers: Black 1 in line with green 1.
	9R, 16L	GRAVE ACCENT variety. The accent appears as a black dash above the "T" of "Trailer."

Table 2: Plate 22 varieties

Row	Position	PM	
Alpha	1L, 24R	Plate numbers: 22 WITH PERIOD variety.	
	3R, 22L	Large dot below rear tire.	
	7R, 18L	Black dot left of "r" of "Tractor."	
	10R, 15L	Dot right of "0" in "10."	
	15R, 10L	Dot high and left of "10."	
	20R, 5L	Dot above "l" of "Trailer."	
Delta	3L, 22R	Dot right of "Trailer" near perf holes and close to roof level.	
	1L, 24R	Plate numbers: Right 2 shorter than left 2.	
	1R, 24L	Dot past "Paid" near roof of trailer.	
	4L, 21L	Faint dot low and left of "T" of "Trailer."	
	9R, 16L	Dot following "r" (at top) of "Tractor."	
	15R, 10L	Dot above roof below "r" of "Presort."	
	21R, 4L	HOOD DOT variety. Large prominent green dot on front hood at right.	
	Gamma	2L, 23R	Dot after "s" of "1930s."
		5R, 20L	FRACTURED ONE FLAW variety. Printing fracture top of "1" in "10."
		11R, 14L	Dot well above "ai" of "Trailer" near top of stamp.
13R, 12L		Faint dot well above "P" of "Postage."	
16R, 9L		Dot above "1" and directly below the flair extending left of the "1" in "10" (two dots). Dot above "0" of "1930s."	
18R, 7L		Dot in center of fender.	
21R, 4L	Dot above "a" of "Tractor."		

Varieties are found on 1¢ Omnibus from the C Press

By Philip F. Rose

Varieties of the C Press 1¢ Omnibus from Plate 3 have been described in the July *TPN*. I ordered this stamp from the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center in Kansas City, getting two strips of 250 stamps each from the roll of 500 (Item 87704) and from the roll of 3,000 (Item 87705). Examination of the 87704 stamps

indicated plate numbers looking normal with no visible flaws or plate markings. The plate numbers from 87705 were similar to Variety 1 in the *TPN* article. Further examination of 87705 stamps indicated two very interesting features:

- Chill-roller-type flaws consistently cyclical with the 48-stamp cycle. These are primary marks (PMs).

- Acyclical whiteouts which appear as secondary marks (SMs). They seem to occur only in the window area of the Omnibus, and appear as oval white areas devoid of printing. Thus all frame and structure lines cease at the perimeter of the oval. A typical size of a whiteout is 2mm x 1.5mm.

I do not know the technical reason for these strange printing flaws, but they appear to be an interesting collectible, especially so if they occur within a plate strip.

The constant cyclical flaws are also very collectible, especially a strip containing the SPRINKLER FLAW (see Table 1).

Other rows not observed as yet will have their own characteristic PMs and possible SM whiteouts. Further research will answer this question.

The PM Marks I established for my strip of 250 are shown in Table 1. Table 2 lists the whiteouts by position and cycle. By the word "cycle" I mean the sequence number of each stamp group starting with the stamps to the left of my first plate number 3 as Cycle 1. Cycle 2 contains the

next 48 stamps, etc.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who is interested in further research on the C Press 1¢ Omnibus. My address is 38 Royalston Lane, Centereach, N.Y. 11720, telephone (516) 698-9523.

TPN note: The SPRINKLER FLAW cannot be illustrated at this time but resembles the rain flaw on the 4.9¢ Buckboard. Rose has ordered more stamps and hopes for more finds soon.



VARIETY 1—The plate number is white on violet.

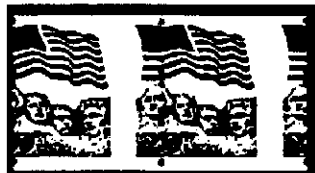
Table 1 Primary Marks

Position	Description
1L, 48R	Incised plate number 3, variety 1.
11L, 38R	Two short dashes near front wheel, one very close.
13L, 36R	Dark short dash within rear wheel.
14L, 34R	Dot next to "A" of "USA," dashes on both uprights of "u" in "Omnibus" and on "b."
16L, 33R	Dot in "A" of "USA."
17L, 32R	Dash next to front wheel, a second dash near first one.
18L, 31R	Dash top of "b" in "Omnibus," small dash in rear tire.
19L, 30R	Dark dash by second "8" of "1880s."
20L, 29R	Dash near front wheel below the solid-colored wheel.
21L, 28R	SPRINKLER FLAW. Sprinkler dots occur from left of "U" in "USA" to bottom of numeral "1," also right of "A" in "USA."
41L, 8R	Dash left of "1" of denomination, and a small caret-like dash left and attached to the "1" of "1880s."

Table 2 Whiteouts

Position	Cycle	Position relative to "BROADWAY TO 23. ST."
29L, 20R	2	Left of "D" of "BROADWAY"
2L, 47R	3	Left of "O" of "BROADWAY"
13L, 36R	4	Right of "S" of ".ST."

BUYING ERRORS



Imperforates • Missing Colors • Perf Shifts
Overinkings • Color Shifts • Miscuts, etc.
Older Issues • Recent Issues • New Finds

MONTCLAIR STAMP CO.

(215) 728-7836

P.O. Box 38, Cheltenham, PA 19012



BEP's F Press is now producing stamps by pffset, intaglio

By Alan M. Malakoff

A second offset/intaglio press, designated the F Press, is in full service at BEP. It was shown, in operation, to members of the Bureau Issues Association on a tour of BEP in late June.

The F Press, also called 801 in the official nomenclature, is a Koenig & Bauer AG press built in Würzburg. It was erected by De La Rue and Giori (and is commonly called a Giori). It can print four offset and three intaglio colors. The press was initially scoped out in 1985, purchased in 1988, and received in 1991-92. For the last two years or so, it has been available for regular stamp production. More recently, its scheduling and staffing has been integrated into the rest of BEP's work.

[TPN note: The F Press was named 801 because it was set up on the site of the old Cottrell Press bearing the same number. After it was installed at BEP it was run by Swiss and German engineers from Giori as BEP assessed the new press. Formal turnover to BEP was in November 1993.]

The F Press can use the same intaglio plates as the C and D presses. Of interest to TPN readers, both the 29¢ Flag over the White House and the 4¢ Father Flanagan have been printed on it. On tagged

stamps, such as the White House coil, the paper is prephosphored, just as on the other presses. Thus, there is probably no way to differentiate an F Press version of a stamp.

[The pressmen said they were phasing in PVA-gum paper and phasing out dextrin-gum paper. That accounts for the shift from shiny to matte gum.]

Other stamps recently printed on the F Press include the Norman Rockwell single, the 29¢ and 52¢ Love stamps, and the Silent Screen Stars sheet.

The Goebel D Press is also an offset/intaglio press. While it can share intaglio plates with the F Press, the offset plates are not interchangeable.

The press construction is also different. On the D Press, there are four print stations for the four offset plates. That is, one color is printed and the web moves down the line a few feet to the station for a second (third, fourth) color. On the F Press, there is only one print station—a large cylinder with the four offset plates arranged around it. This design should improve color registration of stamps.

Virtually all stamp finishing (coiling, booklet formation, perforating) is now done off-line at BEP. The F Press is no exception with its large rolls being sent over

to the appropriate equipment. The press, however, does use a different color-registration system than the other presses. To the booklet or sheet collector, this will mean more marginal symbols, especially on the intaglio plates.

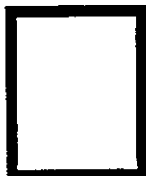
Conversation with BEP personnel also cleared up another mystery. Back in 1989, log sheets obtained from BEP indicated that an F Orchid stamp was printed on the D Press. It was assumed that this was later turned out to be the "F" Tulip contingency stamp issued in 1991. However, the "F" stamp was printed by gravure, not offset. It turns out that the Orchid stamp was really a test stamp printed by BEP on the D Press and then used for comparison with the same stamp printed in Europe on the new F Press.

The use of the letter "F" brings up an interesting question: What happened to the letter "E?" This was originally the designation of a new gravure press BEP was going to buy in the late 1980s. At the time, however, the Postal Service let it be known that all gravure stamps would eventually be printed by outside contractors. The press order was canceled. Now, BEP is again considering ordering a new gravure press, which will be designated the E Press upon arrival.

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

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

Forwarding and Return
Postage Guaranteed,
Address Correction
Requested



IF BOX IS CHECKED
YOUR SUBSCRIPTION
HAS EXPIRED