

Transportations, Great Americans live

By Stephen G. Esrati

When the 1995 stamp program was unveiled on Nov. 17, it included only two definitives: Milton Hershey in the Great Americans Series and President James K. Polk, in an entirely new design which, the Postal Service's Robin Minard said was also part of the Great Americans Series.

The Hershey stamp had previously been made public when Postmaster General Marvin Runyon scooped himself by showing it at a ceremony honoring Postal Governor LeGree S. Daniels. The stamp shows the founder of the Hershey Foods Corp. But before the official unveiling, we had to ask if Hershey would be a Great American.

Robin Minard, a Postal Service spokes-

Kim's toughest treasure hunt

Editor's note: It took two years to find mint copies of a prephosphored 23¢ USA first found on cover.

By Kim Cuniberti

Those of us who have ever spent any time trying to find a particular PNC (or any stamp for that matter) know the degrees of difficulty with which some of these finds can come.

The most frustrating part is that no matter how good your detective skills, the "right place at the right time" factor can almost never be discounted. The euphoria that follows the "luck" often belies the time and effort that made the thrill of discovery possible.

By this time many of us know of fellow PNCer George Leduc's find of a tagged 23¢ USA on cover (if I'm remembering correctly) in November 1992. I can't say that every PNC collector has been out there looking for it, but the dumpster divers have found a number of covers, and the stamp has been well documented and relatively well pursued.

This past summer, after reading and hearing of the various dead ends against

woman, confirmed that the Hershey stamp would be in the Great Americans Series, adding: "There are some Great Americans coming out next year."

Later, Minard said the Polk stamp was being listed as a Great American. She said other definitives would be made public at the time of the rate change.

She could not confirm continuation of

the Transportation Series, but I have learned that at least three Transportation coil values are due out, a 21¢ Cog Railway (the presumed post card rate later lowered to 20¢), a 25¢ Airship (the presumed second-ounce rate later lowered to 23¢), and a 32¢ Ferry Boat (the presumed first-class rate).

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Detroit gets new ECA-GARD fonts

The Postal Service is updating its ECA-GARD Postal Mailing Centers. The new machines were introduced in the Detroit area in November and are distinguishable by a bolder, taller font and a real decimal point.

Since Detroit was still using the dull-gum, solidly prephosphored, BEP-printed version of the stamps, Al Haake made a desperate six-day trip to get the last of them. He got 16 rolls of 3,000 before they ran out.

The dull-gum paper ran out, and all stamps now are being printed on shiny-gum paper with mottled tagging.

According to Joann Lenz, the machine at the main post office was operational on Nov. 8. The machine at the Renaissance Center was upgraded Nov. 8. The date of conversion at Ann Arbor was not known.

The machines, according to Lenz, print stamps more quickly and use a touch-

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NEW UVM—New printers produce new fonts (bottom) on Detroit UVMs.

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CRYING OVER SPILLED MILK

When the Plate Number Coil Study Group met at STaMpsHOW '87 in Boston, I suggested formation of a membership organization of PNC collectors, a suggestion that resulted in Gene Trinks' efforts to set up the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club (PNC³).

I remember saying that if such an organization were set up, it would already have a journal in *TPN*.

Mike Laurence, editor and publisher of *Linn's* and then still a member of the study group, voiced strong objection, saying it was highly irregular for a philatelic organization to have a "for profit" magazine as its house organ.

That may be true. But, for the record, *TPN* is hardly a "for profit" publication. In fact, it just about breaks even if telephone bills are not factored in. And it has now been around for 10 years.

During that time, I am proud to have been able to publish such magnificent research reports as Kim Cuniberti's "E=mc²" and Larry Haynes' current report on the Cottrell presses. In addition, this publication has scooped the entire philatelic press several times with such things as the first breakdown of printing quantities of the 10¢ undenominated Eagle and Shield stamps by plate number, the first reports of nonprofit "G" stamps, the only complete publication of everything that went into the printing of the 25¢ Honeybee, and the use of two identically numbered plates to print the 25¢ "E" stamps.

Al Cibulskas, our most steadfast contributor, has had several scoops to his credit, such as the still-unexplained lines on the 21.1¢ Letters stamps and the finding of the lines that look like joint lines on the 25¢ Honeybee.

Alan Malakoff has dug up stuff the Postal Service did not want us to know.

On the other hand, the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club (PNC³) has published *Coil Line* since its founding. It has little original research, no investigative reporting, no in-depth studies, no attempt to be anything other than a club newsletter with reports from members that nobody ever bothers to analyze to make them useful. Sometimes members "discover" things that have been known for ages.

At times, member after member, has sent in reports of quantities found of various PNCs. This stuff can be amazing, as witness the summations at the right about all 29¢ Rushmore and White House finds to the end of November 1994. Sort of tells you something, doesn't it? But not when *Coil Line* never bothers to add up the various reports.

Wouldn't it have been possible for someone in PNC³ to take on the job of collating these useless reports?

I find *Coil Line* useful only for its excellent auctions.

On the other hand, many members of PNC³ read *TPN* for news. We can now prove that because every request for the demonstration panes Gerald Clark has been giving

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
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Incidence of 29¢ Rushmore

Plate	Found	Percentage	Used Price
1	1,297	18.45%	\$0.55
2	252	3.59%	0.95
2 Lenz	4	0.06%	160.00
3	1,341	19.08%	0.45
4	945	13.44%	0.45
5	32	0.46%	1.50
6	304	4.32%	0.95
6 Lenz	1	0.01%	N/A
7	2,736	38.92%	0.45
7 Toledo brown	3	0.04%	N/A
8	12	0.17%	2.80
9	98	1.39%	1.80
A11111	4	0.06%	1.60
A22211	3	0.04%	1.90
Totals:	7,829	100.00%	

WHAT COIL LINE LACKS—These two charts, based on reports from readers to *Coil Line* and *TPN*, show scarcity of Plates 5, 8, and 9 of the Rushmore and of Plates 9 and 14 of the White House. Prices asked by dealers tend to confirm these shortages. But *Coil Line* never bothers to add up the reports to show these trends. It needs someone to collate the data and work them up once in a while to make them useful.

Incidence of 29¢ White House

Plate	Found	Percentage	Used Price
1	283	1.70%	\$0.65
2	417	2.50%	0.65
3	652	3.91%	0.60
4	1,223	7.34%	0.60
5	202	1.21%	1.35
6	1,690	10.14%	0.60
7	4,964	29.77%	0.60
8	1,842	11.05%	0.60
9	53	0.32%	1.10
10	1,222	7.33%	0.60
11	1,878	11.26%	0.60
12	1,329	7.97%	0.60
13	918	5.51%	0.60
14	22	0.13%	1.10
15	599	3.59%	1.15
16	132	0.79%	1.45
Totals:	16,873	100.00%	

away has shown a PNC³ number.

One should pause to think a little about how *Coil Line* could be made more useful. It is not enough to plead to members to submit an article, any article. There must be a give-and-take between writer and editor. Our best example of that was when Doug Iams went after dealers and we got comment from dealers and collectors on Doug's comments. It may have led to better understanding of what goes on.

At *TPN* we have always kicked articles around among members of the study group. You wouldn't believe what goes on sometimes before an article is actually published.

Take Larry Haynes' series on the Cottrell presses. Larry circulated copies to Alan Thomson, Kim Cuniberti and me. We made suggestions here and there. Some of Larry's prose simply died. Other text was expanded, made clearer. I redrew all the pictures so they would reproduce. [Photocopying was not a satisfactory alternative.]

It takes leadership to get people who do research to publish what they know. It has taken nearly eight years to get Larry to write his Cottrell study. And when Gerry Clark first wanted to publish his findings on the plating of the precanceled 17¢ Electric Auto he was so diffident about his writing talent that he asked Tom Maeder to write it for him. (I didn't know for several years that Maeder had not been the researcher.)

I persuaded Clark to write. The result: great reporting not only on the self-adhesives, but also on dozens of other things, some of which I could not print under his byline.

In other words, *TPN* has done what *Coil Line* should have done.

I'm proud of what I have achieved at *TPN* for 10 years. I just wish Mike Laurence had stayed silent.

And I thank all those who have helped along the way, including Ken Lawrence who recently quit as a contributing editor. His reports on actual quantities of PNCs shipped and his report on the printing of the nonexistent Plate 7 of the 20¢ Flag surely shed light on our collecting specialty.

Steve Eszaki

LETTERS: *Cheating is difficult with self-adhesives*

I would like to calm the concerns of Doug Iams ("Cheating with self-adhesives," July *TPM*) and everyone else. I believe I have a simple test to insure that a self-adhesive booklet has not been tampered with. I have done this simple test with each self-adhesive design without damage to any panes.

Take one of your panes—a common one if you are concerned that you might damage it—and hold the pane face up. Grasp two opposite corners and bend them backwards until they touch or nearly touch. If the plate-number strip has been tampered with, it will lift off the liner. If it does not, then the pane is genuine.

There is a bond between the adhesive and the liner.

Pedro's World of PNCs

by Pedro Ortegon, M.D.



The stripper's downfall

"Help, this coil got me!"

Once the adhesive is disturbed, it will not regain its cohesion to the liner or to the stamps. This "skin" of adhesive remains intact after die cutting. It can be seen if you take a pane of any of these stamps and slightly bend backwards the top row of stamps. Holding this to the light you can see the "skin" of adhesive that bonds the stamps to the adhesive and to each other.

This viscosity allows the stamps to remain as a single unit until the "skin" is broken by removing one of the stamps or the gutter strip from the liner.

Unless someone can prove that there is a way to restore the integrity of this bond, I feel confident that this is a sure way to expose a forgery.

I hope this will calm concerns regarding the newest and exciting collectable offered by USPS.

Wayne Meyers
Flagstaff, Ariz.

In reply: You are using highly technical language to repeat what Dick Federle said in the November issue: Once you peel 'em off, you can't put 'em back.

Reply to Malakoff

If Alan Malakoff's interest in PNCs has waned (letter Page 127, I believe him. But to extrapolate to collectors in general is erroneous, dangerous, and irresponsible.

Malakoff's "thing" may be the "thrill of the hunt." The demise of the Cottrell presses—and their many plate

numbers and opportunities for different precancel gaps—was cited by Malakoff as Reason 1 for waning interest. However, most collectors don't participate in the hunt and, I estimate that 90+% of today's active PNC collectors weren't involved at all when the Cottrells met their demise in 1985. Furthermore, even when the Cottrells were active, only a small fraction of PNC collectors then sought the various possible gaps.

By late 1985, the 5.2¢, 5.9¢, 9.3¢, and 10.9¢ coils had gone off sale. Those who continued to seek them out after that were largely not collectors, but opportunists (possibly including Malakoff) and dealers. By the time most collectors discovered the fascination of PNCs, the 18¢ Surreys and 17¢ Autos were gone also.

The thousands who became PNC collectors after the demise of the Cottrells did so because of many other factors that had nothing to do with searching. Malakoff's belief that a key element in PNC collecting is putting money into vending machines to see what plate numbers come out is of trivial importance to most collectors I interact with.

The driving force behind the unbelievable growth of PNC collecting has been the attractiveness of the Transportation Series and, even more importantly, the recognition by collectors that stamps with plate numbers printed on them are different than stamps without numbers, and that stamps with different numbers are different!

If you reread Malakoff's letter, everything focuses on searching for new numbers. Other factors are fewer post offices with bulk-rate coils, the problems with rolls of 10,000, and, of course, the vending machines and how they operate. All of this is meaningless (and I'm not sure it's all fact) except to a very small fraction of PNC collectors.

He even appears to condemn dealers who work very hard to find new plate numbers in post offices. In his view, we've taken the fun out of his searching. My view is entirely different. Think about items such as E&S A32333 and A33334, or the untagged Fishing Boat A5555, which might have gone into mailer oblivion if dealers had not sought them out, leaving most collectors incomplete. Dealers who search post offices perform an important function and, in most cases, collectors are grateful for our finding of numbers and providing them inexpensively.

Think about the early days of PNC collecting when collectors apparently did most of the searching. Did they find enough 5.9¢ Plates 5 and 6 or 9.3¢ Plate 8 or 10.9¢ Plates 3 and 4? And how many 5.2¢ Plates 3 and 5 with line gaps or 9.3¢ Plates 5 and 6 with 1R gaps did collectors find? Where was Malakoff then? The stock of these that are in collector hands were assembled by dealers in spite of the searching that Malakoff believes collectors did.

Most collectors work while post offices are open; I believe Malakoff does also. Yes, there are lunch times, coming in late, leaving early, vacations, Saturdays, etc. But this is no way to search properly and explains the general lack of success of collectors in finding many of the things

considered tough today. I can assure all of you that had it not been for dealers, the 18¢ Washington Monument with the plate-number combination 43444 would be a \$2,500 item today instead of being available for a few bucks. There are many more examples.

If you believe Malakoff that PNC collecting is in decline, then where are the collections of those who are bailing out? Collections come to market, but not at any greater frequency than in previous years. Are dealers selling PNCs? Certainly, but the market is different today than five years ago. Look at *Linn's* advertising; many more dealers are participating. Furthermore, many more bourse dealers and auction houses are involved, as well, so that any dealer who continues to market the same way he did five years ago is seeing a smaller share of the market. Personally, I had an excellent year in 1993 and a better one in 1994. What is Malakoff talking about?

What are other market signs? I spoke with the managers of Lighthouse Publications recently. They are sold out of PNC albums and are back-ordered for about five or six weeks. They appeared rather bullish about PNC albums and the stamp market in general as measured by the demand for albums. How many of you have noticed that Mystic Stamp Co. for the first time is offering face-different PS/3s and PS/5s. While these aren't offered by plate number and lack offers for precanceled versions of stamps existing unprecanceled, one can still expect that from the ranks of their huge customer base will emerge more than a trivial number of PNC all-number collectors.

Closer to home, is *TPN* "going under" in terms of subscribers? What about PNC³, the organization of PNC collectors? It's my impression that membership continues to grow, another sign of the strength of PNC collecting. And Richard Nazar has finally offered the *1995 PNC Catalog*. The volume he generates, in spite of the high price (which I believe is worth it), will be further support for the strength of the PNC market.

Steve, I think it was irresponsible of you to publish Malakoff's letter without comment or reply.

Dr. Robert Rabinowitz
Stamford, Conn.

In reply: Malakoff was answering my editorial. I had had my say and I did not feel it necessary to restate my views.

P.S. I noted that Richard Schulman wrote—characterizing the Rabinowitz-Lawrence and Kugel-Lawrence controversies—as "boredom." He's entitled to his opinion but I believe many more readers enjoyed them as opposed to considering them boring. Ken Lawrence made *The Philatelic Communicator* much more interesting by injecting some controversy. But after Schulman's remarks, I was amazed that he consumed almost an entire column in the November *TPN* with a regurgitation of *The Domestic Mail Manual*. This takes the prize for boredom.

Dealer bashing?

Why was it "dealer bashing" when I wrote about the large difference between Dr. Rabinowitz's buy and sell

prices for the E&S B4344-3 when in the same issue *TPN* wrote, "We also found some pretty silly 'buy' prices where a dealer offered to pay \$10 for an item another dealer is selling for \$100."

Is ABN back?

A few weeks ago a dealer told me that ABN was going to be printing coils again. I suspect confusion about "G" stamps that will include stamps from ABN (that were printed long ago). Or is ABN back?

Doug Iams
San Jose, CA

In reply: We heard the rumors, too. We even called Guilford Gravure (November's front page). But ABN is not printing stamps.

Why's my aunt on a stamp?

I thought a 20¢ stamp was what you added to an envelope when it was too heavy for a 29¢ stamp, but a friend recently said you need a 23¢ stamp. So, what is the 20¢ stamp for? I should know, as my great aunt is now on a stamp!

Eric Apgar
(Via Internet)

Terminology again

I still have some trouble differentiating overall tagging from phosphor-coated paper in stamps such as the 10¢ Red Cloud and the 15¢ Cody. Do you know a sure-fire way if you have only singles without selvage?

In reply: Sorry, you need at least one plain block with selvage to make comparisons on the Red Cloud and on the 23¢ Casatt. Untagged selvage or horizontal tagging breaks (on the Casatts) indicate overall tagging. Comparison with singles should then prove which stamps are overall tagged.

But there's no need any more to worry about Plate 1 of the 15¢ Cody. They're all prephosphored, albeit there is a version on high bright paper (discovered by Dr. Bob Kugel) that is easily identified in longwave UV.

You don't seem to distinguish in your price list between small-block tagging and large-block tagging. There appears to be a distinct difference in my observation, or am I misguided?

In reply: You are not misguided at all. There is a difference and it is itemized in the Summary of Data on the Great Americans. However, you are quite correct. I don't distinguish between them because hardly anyone cares. Those who do, usually ask whether my tagging blocks are large or small, and I try to meet their needs.

Also, I am confused by the term "prephosphored." To me it implies "embedded taggant" rather than "phosphor-coated paper." Can you straighten me out on these points.

I had no intention of asking all these questions, but I have gotten a lot of different answers when asking dealers; sometimes I get the impression that they are telling me that what they have is what I want whether it is or not.

Jim Fowler
Greenville, S.C.
(via America OnLine)

In reply: As used in *TPN*, "prephosphored" means that the paper was tagged before it went to the printer. Pre-phosphoring can take place in several ways. One is to put the phosphors in the paper mash. This results in mottled tagging (if no further tagging takes place at the printer's) as on the prephosphored 25¢ Yosemite.

Another method is to coat the paper by "printing" the taggant onto it. That is phosphor-coated paper and results in even tagging as in Lenz paper on the 29¢ Rushmore, or as on the 22¢ Test stamp.

But, phosphor-coating can also take place after printing if the printer does it. The printer may do so on untagged paper or on paper that was prephosphored but does not luminesce enough to meet postal requirements.

That is why *TPN* spent so much time and effort on the Chinese New Year's stamps which had to be tagged twice, once at the paper mill and once at ABN because the luminescence meter detected too few PMUs (Phosphor Meter Units). The same thing happened with the Classic Children's Books issue. In both instances the colors of the stamps obscured the tagging on the paper and necessitated further tagging after printing.

And now *TPN's* \$64 question: What do we call it when the original stamp is phosphor coated at the paper mill and is then phosphor coated again after printing?

For that reason, *TPN* continues to use the word "prephosphored." It usually qualifies the term by saying "mottled" or "even" tagging.

"Embedded phosphor" also has another problem. When the countries of Europe began adding taggant to their stamp paper, the stamps were luminescent from both front and back. This is not the place to go into my original research on how the German post office stole BASF's patent on Lumogen to avoid payment of royalties, but it should be noted that I have been researching tagging since the late 1950s and I cannot accept the claim that mottled tagging represents embedded phosphors until the gum side of the stamp luminesces under my light.

Therefore, *TPN* will continue to use "prephosphored," "mottled," and "even" tagging.

Who sells ATMs?

Do you have a list of banks that participate on vending stamps through ATMs.

Victor Bove
New Monmouth, N.J.

In reply: The Postal Bulletin for Oct. 13, 1994, listed the following banks:

Bay (Boston); Fair City (Murfreesboro, Tenn.); First National Southwest Ohio (Middletown); First State (Key West, Fla.); Huntington National (Columbus, Ohio); INB National (Indianapolis); Seafirst (Seattle); Shawmut (Boston), and Middlesex Savings (Natick, Mass.)

According to Postal Service spokespersons, USPS is actively marketing the idea of stamp sales through ATMs to other banks. You may expect the list to grow.

Scott Specialized still not up to snuff

By Stephen G. Esrati

The Great Americans Series in the new *Scott 1995 Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps* was revised by Wayne Youngblood, Stuart J. Morrissey, the publisher, said.

But through no fault of Youngblood's the catalogue is still largely useless. A small advertisement (illustrated at right) on Page 139 by the Bureau Issues Association explains why: Scott still makes no distinction among plate numbers. Thus a plate block of the 35¢ Drew is listed at \$2.75 whether it is from Plate 1 (236,189 impressions, or almost a million possible plate blocks) or Plate 3 (12,096 impressions, or less than 50,000 plate blocks).

The blatant disregard of variations among plate numbers of the same stamp is also obvious on the 20¢ Gallaudet, which now has the highest-priced blocks of any Great Americans.

But that's not all, as collectors of PNCs have known for years. Scott simply won't budge off its smug position. "If this is how we did it years and years ago, when we belonged to *Esquire Magazine*, that's how we should still be doing it" seems to be the battle cry. But it's all wrong. Comparison with other specialized catalogs, shows that catalogs can be useful to collectors.

Lousy Laubach

Here's a little example of all that is wrong with Scott:

1864 A1251 30¢ olive gray, small block tagging		
Sept. 2, 1984	55	15
P# block of 6	3.50	—
P# block of 20, 1-2 R, 1-2 copy-right, 1-2 zip	11.00	—
a. Perf. 11.2, large block tagging	55	15
Corner P# block of 4, perf. 11.2	2.75	—
Zip block of 4	2.50	—
Copyright block of 4	2.50	—
b. Perf. 11.2, overall tagging	55	15


• A very careful reading of the introduction will not reveal what "P# block of 20, 1-2#, 1-2 copyright, 1-2 zip" means. What this seems to indicate is that blocks of 20 of the floaters may have one or two each of the items marked "1-2."

• If a plate block is worth \$2.75, and four singles are worth four times 55 cents, or \$2.20, that adds a 30¢ premium for the other inscriptions. There's only one rub. Nobody seems to be saving ZIP or copyright blocks. Check at a bourse sometime.

• If 1864a is perf. 11.2, what is the perforation of 1864? Oh sure, you can look up at the top of the listing, but here's what you'll find:

Perf. 11x10^{1/2}, Perf. 11 (14, 64-114, 144, No. 1862, 224, 304, 394, 404, 504)

How Much Is This Plate Block Worth?



To users of the Scott catalogue, any plate block of the 13-cent Interphil commemorative stamps is worth \$1.00. Users of the *Durand Standard Plate Number Catalog*, published by the Bureau Issues Association, know better. Some plate numbers of that stamp are more scarce than others, and are worth a lot more money.

The new 1994 *Durand* values a plate number 36890 block at \$40.00. Just one discovery like this in your own collection would be worth more money to you than the price of the book. This example is not unusual, and is not an extreme case. In the 1954 *Library Series*, a few rare plate numbers are worth hundreds of dollars more than their common counterparts.

A new edition of the *Durand* is published every four years, but *BIA* members get updates every month in *The United States Specialist*. Write for a membership application.

The *Durand* catalog costs \$20 (airpaid \$18 to members) from Bureau Issues Association, P.O. Box 25707, Belleville, IL 62223-0707.

That's not an easy way to find out that this 30¢ Laubach is allegedly perforated 11. In fact, Scott said it was going to decimal listings of perf gauges and this one should say 10.9.

• And, finally, if a block-tagged Laubach from Plate 2 is worth \$2.75 as a plate block, what is a plate block of the overall variety worth? If you said \$2.75, go to the back of the class and write "\$50" or "\$75" a hundred times on the chalkboard. Isn't this sort of thing why people buy a catalog in the first place?

Not all there

But if Scott's contempt for collectors' needs for accurate pricing information is put aside, Scott's treatment of the Great Americans still leaves much to be desired in terms of completeness and user friendliness. The prephosphored 50¢ Nimitz is not listed. And its change to glossy gum is ignored. But the 10¢ Red Cloud is listed as both surface tagged prephosphored and embedded-taggant prephosphored. No mention is made of the fact that the first is on shiny gum.

There's still more that is just not there. This is a "specialized" catalog. Yet it is silent about such major varieties as the inverted ZIP inscription on the 37¢ Millikan and the difference between top and bottom panes of the 5¢ Muffoz, where the

siderographer messed up and put the ZIP inscriptions in the wrong corners. No, these are not scarce, but they are collectible. A catalog should mention them.

And it is not enough to price one plate block per design. If there is a major variety—such as a change in perforation gauge or tagging—blocks should be priced for each major variety.

No better on PNCs

Scott has not improved its fine points (or should one say poor points?) on plate-number coils. There is still only one catalog number for the two precancels of the 7.1¢ Tractor, 2127a and 2127a. How much easier it is to call them T7.1-1P and T7.1-1P-zip!

The three types of the 10¢ Canal Boat have two catalog numbers but the shiny gum is never mentioned.

The intaglio and gravured 10¢ Tractor Trailers are given separate numbers, but collectors of unnumbered stamps are given no hint how the stamps differ, only that the latter have two plate numbers and the former just one. How do you tell singles apart?

But worst of all is the fact that Scott misleads by giving incorrect information.

In the front of the book it defines Bureau precancels as being printed by BEP. It illustrates Bureau precancels on Page 33A and differentiates them from service indicators. But the first PNCs printed with service indicators (Scott 2149a and 2150a) have this text: "Untagged (Bureau Precancel)."

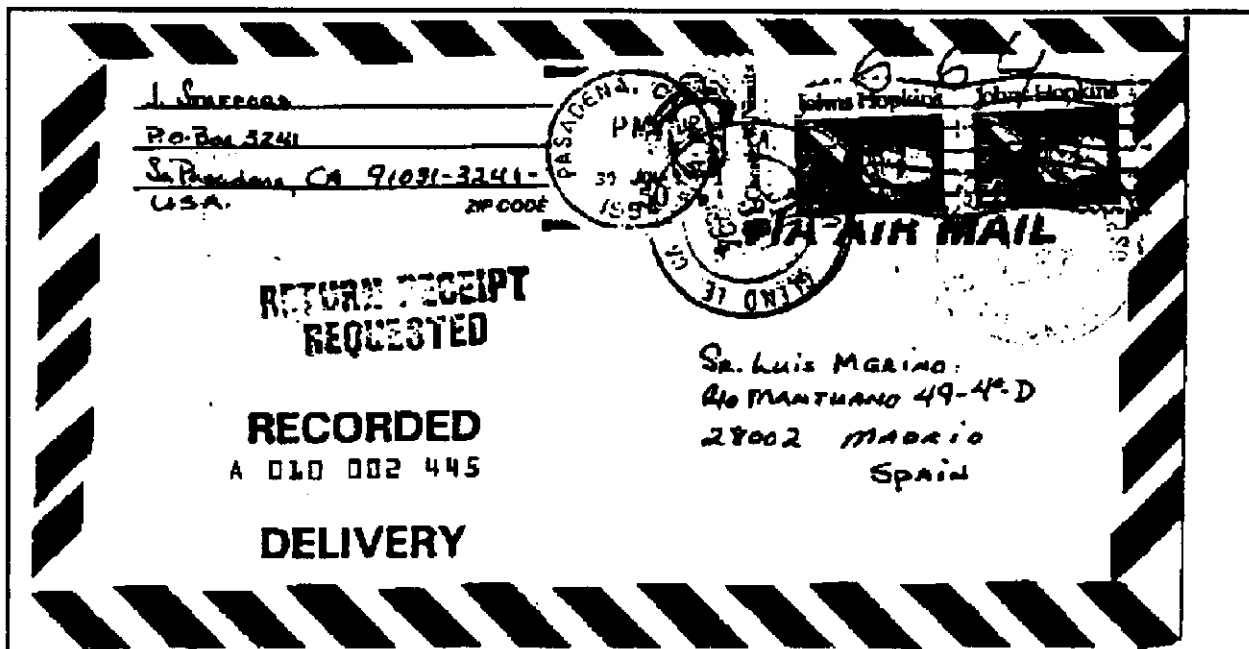
Printer mixup

If that's not bad enough, it gets worse with the first "Bureau Precancels" printed by another printer. Remember, we've been told in the preface that "Bureau Precancels" are printed by BEP.

The stamps, of course, were the 5¢ Circus Wagon printed by American Bank Note Co. (Scott 2452B) which Scott prices for strips with plate numbers prefaced by an "A." But Scott says they were printed by J.W. Fergusson & Sons for Stamp Venturers. Why don't the stamps show an "S"?

Scott does have the right printer on Stamp Venturers' 5¢ Canoe, but still calls it a "Bureau Precancel."

When we reach the 10¢ undenominated Eagle and Shield and other stamps with service indicators, Scott simply blows it. It says the E&S was printed by Guilford Gravure for ABN, by BEP, and by Stamp



Cover of the Bi-Month by Richard L. Beecher

In 1990, the Postal Service introduced Recorded Delivery service. Valid only on mail for foreign countries, the service is similar to domestic certified mail. USPS guidelines recommend that recorded delivery (yellow-and-white label at lower left) be used for documents only; items of value should be sent by insured or registered mail.

Trying to find covers with evidence of recorded delivery is not easy because:

- USPS does little to publicize the service.
- Only about two dozen countries will accept mail sent by recorded delivery.

This cover, mailed to Spain, has \$2.50 in postage affixed. One dollar covers the basic recorded delivery fee. This rate has been

in effect since Feb. 3, 1991, when the first-class domestic letter rate was increased to 29¢. There is an additional \$1 fee for the pink return-receipt card affixed to the back of the envelope (a card that is not unlike the green one used for domestic return-receipt service) The remaining 50¢ covers the half-ounce airmail letter rate.

The cover is postmarked with two Glendale, Calif., double-ring hand cancels and a Pasadena, Calif., machine cancel, all dated July 30, 1994. On the back of the cover is an Aug. 5, 1994, certified arrival cancel applied in Spain.

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.

Venturers. This is where Scott Publishing Co. and Amos Press, the powerhouses of American philatelic journalism failed collectors so much when they did not press the Postal Service for information, leaving the battle to 450-reader *TPN*.

Stamp Venturers at that time did not so much as own one press. It printed nothing. It leased facilities from other printers. Its engagement as a postal printer by the "former administration," as Marvin Runyon's minions refer to the era of Gordon Morrison and Donald McDowell, has been questioned in the philatelic press (mainly by Ken Lawrence).

When these stamps were issued, the Postal Service would not provide *TPN* with the name of the actual printer. We used to call Stamp Venturers and ask. Sometimes we were told. In these cases we were not, so we said the stamps were "probably" printed by Fergusson on a Champlain Press. That's not the same thing as being printed by Stamp Venturers.

But the Scott misinformation game gets worse with the 19¢ Fishing Boat. It says they were all printed by Multi-Color Corp. for American Bank Note Co. Why does Scott bother to subscribe to *TPN*? We differentiated between Scott Type I (Multi-Color) and Scott Type II (Guilford Gravure) right from the start.

And everybody knows that the Fishing Boat that is tied to the pier with one loop of rope was created by Stamp Venturers, but printed by Fergusson.

Self-adhesive sloppiness

The catalog does not list or price single self-adhesive coil stamps, but does price them as numbered strips of three or five. It does not tell collectors how coil singles differ from singles cut from panes.

The pricing of self-adhesive booklets attempts to do so by plate number, but the data were too sparse for accuracy. Scott can be forgiven for this because prices are unstable and hard to find. But a note to that effect, or prices in italics, would have warned collectors that they are not being cheated when a dealer asks \$225 for a pane Scott lists at \$25.

The trouble, I fear, lies within Scott's corporate psyche. It is reflected in an anecdote Morrissey told me. Scott recognized the Wildlife Series early and provided a block of numbers for it. But when other stamps appeared in the series, they had to follow the \$2 Bobcat because it got the first of the 30-some numbers. Scott can never change a number, it thinks.

Nor can Scott combine parts of a set, such as all the Transportation Series or all the Great Americans so they all sit together in the same spot. Oh, no! That is not how Scott does its thing. It would rather have you turn pages to find what you're after. It helps to memorize Scott numbers, too. But all this detracts from the catalog's usefulness.

10c Canal Boat	
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10c Tractor Trailer	
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Overprinting discussed	3-94 51
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11c Swiss Bearcat	
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Rain track found, AS Cliches	1-93 26
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23c Lunch Wagon	
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Miscellaneous Series	
ECA-GARD UVM stamps	
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10c Eagle and Shield	
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"Yellow missing" has yellow	4-93 106
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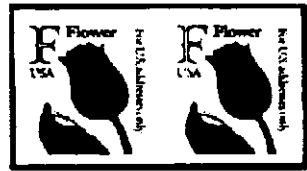
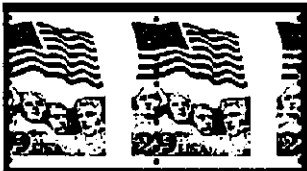
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SCAN terms B Flora and Fauna Series	1-94 9
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Note:

No attempt has been made to list all name mentioned in articles. Letters to the editor are indexed according to their newsworthiness and no attempt has been made to index all letters. All back issues of TPM are available. For prices, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

BUYING ERRORS



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Data Bank

(all text from USPS, TPN additions in brackets)

Santa, Holiday Stocking, Cardinal issued Oct. 20

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Oct. 13)—The Contemporary Holiday stamps, two single designs of a Santa and a Holiday Stocking, will be issued in Harmony, Minn., ... on Oct. 20. A seasonal winter stamp picturing a Cardinal will also be issued.

The Santa stamp will be issued as a self-adhesive stamp in sheets of 12 and in coils of 3,336. ...

The Cardinal stamp will be issued as a self-adhesive stamp in sheets of 19 for automated teller machines.

29¢ Santa

Type of issue: Self-adhesive stamp
 Format: Sheets of 12, coils of 3,336
 Series: Holiday stamps
 Issue date: Oct. 20, 1994
 First-day city: Harmony, Minn.
 Manufacturing process: Gravure
 Printer: Avery Dennison, Security Printing Division (Clinton, S.C.)
 Press: 8-color gravure
 Paper: Prephosphored self-adhesive
 Gum: Pressure sensitive
 Colors: Yellow, Red, Green, Blue
 Size: Image: 0.766 x 1.0312 inches (metric not stated)
 Overall: 0.982 x 1.0305 inches (metric not stated)
 Full pane: 6.125 x 2.610 inches (metric not stated)
 Plate numbers: "V" followed by 4 single digits
 Sheetlet: Plate number is on peel strip
 Coil: Plate number is on every fifth stamp of coil strip of 12.
 12. [Microperfs separating coil into strips of 12 are at 5L, making numbered stamp fifth stamp in strip]
 [PNC Catalog number: SA29S-V1111]
 Item numbers: 6616A (coil strip of 12); 55161 (coil roll of 3,336)

Seasonal winter stamp (Cardinal)

Format: Sheetlet (convertible booklet, single design)
 Series: Automated Teller Machine stamps
 Issue date: Oct. 20, 1994
 First-day city: Harmony, Minn.
 Printer: Avery Dennison Research Center (Pasadena, Calif.)
 Press: Chestnut, 6-color gravure
 Stamps per sheetlet: 18
 Paper: Non-phosphored self-adhesive, laminate for ATM, phosphor overcoated after printing
 Gum: Pressure-sensitive
 Colors: Blue (PMS 2736), green (PMS 3272), red (PMS 192) orange (PMS 144)
 Size: Image: 0.710 x .822 inches / 18.03 x 20.87mm
 Overall: 0.870 x .982 inches / 22.09 x 24.94mm
 Full pane: 6.125 x 2.610 inches / 155.57 x 66.29mm
 [Plate numbers: "V" followed by 4 single digits, V1111]

The following may indicate existence of an untagged 2¢ Lyon stamp.

Information from... Nov. 1994

Bureau of Engraving and Printing

Deliveries are continuing on the following stamp items in A/P 2 (accounting period 2, or roughly, November):

- Definitive stamps
- 2¢ Mary Lyon—Pane of 100 (Item 1052)
- 29¢ White House—Coil of 100 (Item 7922)
- 05¢ Nonprofit Canoe—Coil of 500 (Item 7905A)
- 10¢ Nondenominated Bulk Rate Eagle and Shield—Coil of 500 (Item 7976A)
- 10¢ Nondenominated Bulk Rate Eagle and Shield—Coil of 3,000 (Item 7977A)

Banknote Corp. of America:

Lows Sunrize 10 million booklets to be distributed Oct. 15—Nov. 15

G-Series Stamp Distributions

The prepositioning of the G-Series stamp distribution has begun. (The December issue said distribution to post offices was expected to be completed on Dec. 7)

TPN EXCLUSIVE

The Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center in Kansas City has inaugurated its 800 number for the public. Such a number was promised in February at the meeting of writers with the Postal Service.

The number is: (800) STAMP-24.

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.

FOR SPECIALISTS: We have what you need in tagging varieties—including untagged errors—gum types, precancels, booklets, sheets. Send 75¢ LSASE for my list. We pay high prices for NH. Victor Bove, Box 1013, New Monmouth, NJ 07748. (6-95)

BEP CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION INVITATION: Includes impressions by the BEP of the \$2 Madison and the 1¢ Franklin on the front. Approximately 500 produced. One available at \$25. Malakoff, 616 Braun, Highland Pk. NJ 08904. (1-95)

WANTED PS 18s: Regular Perfed XF-S, imperf, misperft, miscut. John Tison (PNC3 473, APS, ASDA), PO Box 8755, Newport Beach CA 92658. 1-800-854-4487. (6-95)

STATUE OF LIBERTY FDCs are in. House of Farnam \$5; ArtCraft, Artmaster \$4 (all with plate number, of course). Subscribe to my FDC new-issues service. \$25 deposit, please. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Hts., OH 44120. (1-95)

10¢ FISHING BOAT FIRST DAY PROGRAM: Produced by Arlington, VA, post office for Stamp Ventures version of the Fishing Boat. Contains individual stamp with S111 plate number on it. 200 total programs exist, probably only 6 with plate numbers. One available at \$50. Malakoff, 616 Braun, Highland Pk. NJ 08904. (1-95)

TAGGED ERRORS

TAGGED USA: 23¢ USA Flag, BEP version, 1111. PS/5 XF, \$50; VF \$40. 5% off for PNC³. Also all BEP E&S (1111, 22221) tagged errors. VF \$35, XF40. E&S 22222. VF \$40, XF \$50. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Hts., OH 44120. (1-95)

20¢ APGAR plate blocks: B1 (on dead or high-brite prephosphored paper) \$3.75; B2 (only on dead paper) \$2.50. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Hts., OH 44120. (1-95)

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 (1-95)

WANTED: PNC commercial covers: E&S A33334, A12213, A88889, A1411101011, A1011101010, A1211101010; 23¢ USA A4443, A2232; 10¢ Tractor Trailer 11. Top prices paid. Rob Washburn, PO Box 840, Skowhegan, ME 04976-0840. (1-95, PNC³ FREE)

JOIN PNC³ For details, write Joann Leriz, 37211 Aiper Dr., Sterling Hts. MI 48312-2203. (1-95)

THE 1995 CATALOG is the indispensable aid to collecting PNCs. Soft-bound, \$28.75; library edition, \$49.00; specialist's set (one of each) \$70. Please add \$2.75 shipping per catalog. NJ residents add 6% tax. Nazar Publications, Inc. P.O. Box 7307, Somerset, NJ 08875-7307. (1-95)

ECA-GARD revised type, dull gum, PS5, 29¢ only. \$4.50. 5% discount for PNC³. Esrati, POB 21130, Shaker Hts. OH 44120 (1-95)

ALL BACK ISSUES of TPN are available. For a list with key articles send SASE to POB 20130, Shaker Heights. OH 44120. (1-95)

LIGHTHOUSE ALBUMS, supplements, stock books, supplies, UV lamps. I offer a generous 15% discount. Also, KABE albums and supplements. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (1-95)

CHEAP AD: What you are reading is a cheap ad. Only 15 cents a word with no charge for name and address. Each PNC³ member is entitled to one free 25-word ad each year.

VACATION SCHEDULE: The "office" of TPN will be closed Feb. 15—March 1 and April 15—May 1 for recreation and rehabilitation. The computer will accept faxes while I'm away. Don't even dare ask where I'm going, but I'm taking my running shoes and my heart pills. Steve Esrati

UNTAGGED RED CLOUD—Singles only. \$25 each. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (1-95)

20¢ Apgar B1 on high bright paper
 Plate block of 20, \$15; Plate block of 4, \$4.75; Singles \$0.80.

20¢ Apgar B1 on regular (dead) paper
 Plate block of 20, \$13; Plate block of 4, \$3.75; Singles \$0.60.

Dull-gum UVMs, new typeface

PS/5 (29¢ only) \$12

Steve Esrati, P.O. Box 20130 Shaker Hts., OH 44120

TRANSPORTATION COILS

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

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

	LP	PS3	PS5
2127a PC 1	3.20	3.40	3.60
2127a PC 1 "ZF+4"	2.04	2.08	2.16
1902 7.4¢ Baby Buggy 2	3.92	4.41	8.80
1902a PC 2	4.00	4.40	4.80
2255 7.6¢ Carreta 1, 2	1.40	2.00	2.12
3	4.80	5.20	5.60
2128 8.3¢ Ambulance 1, 2	.88	.98	1.80
2128a 8.3¢ 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 8.4¢ Wheelchair 1, 2	2.00	2.20	2.40
3	19.20	19.60	20.00
2129 8.5¢ 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 9.3¢ 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 B	152.00	156.00	160.00
2257 10¢ 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 10¢ 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 10.1¢ Oil Wagon 1	1.12	1.47	2.60
2130a Black PC 1, 2	2.00	2.12	2.80
2130a Red PC 2, 3	2.04	2.12	2.20
1904 10.9¢ Hansom 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
190511¢ 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 11¢ Stutz 1, 2	.44	1.12	1.52
3, 4	.39	.98	1.52
2132 12¢ Steamer 1, 2	1.52	1.60	1.80
2132a 12¢ PC 1, 2	2.00	2.20	2.40
2132b 12¢ B Press PC 1	17.60	18.40	19.20
2133 12.5¢ Pushcart 1, 2	1.86	1.96	2.60
2133a PC 1, 2	3.12	3.20	3.60
2258 13¢ Patrol Wagon 1	2.20	2.40	2.60

	LP	PS3	PS5
2259 13.2¢ Coal Car 1, 2	2.20	2.40	2.60
2134 14¢ Caboose 1, 2, 3, 4	.98	1.68	2.00
2134b B Press 2	2.24	3.12	3.60
2260 15¢ tugboat 1, 2	2.00	2.24	2.40
2260a Overall tagged 2	2.80	3.04	3.20
2261 16.7¢ Popcorn 1, 2	3.20	3.52	3.80
1906 17¢ 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 17¢ 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 17¢ Dogsled 2	1.93	2.10	2.80
2262 17.5¢ Rocar 1, PC1	2.40	2.80	3.20
1907 18¢ Surrey 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	6.80
1908 20¢ Pumpkin 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	68.00
2263 20¢ Cable Car 1, 2	2.60	3.00	3.60
2263b Overall tagged 2	2.60	3.00	3.60
2264 20.5¢ Fire Engine 1	2.60	3.00	3.20
2265 21¢ Rail Car 1, 2	2.60	3.00	3.60
2464 23¢ Lunch 2, 3 (Solid tag)	2.60	3.00	3.20
3 mottled (dull or shiny)	2.60	3.00	3.20
2266 24.1¢ Tandem 1	3.12	3.36	3.60
2136 25¢ Bread Wagon	2.12	2.24	3.40
1, 2, 3, 4	2.68	2.80	4.40
5	4.00	4.80	8.00
2468 S1 Seaplane 1, 3	4.00	4.80	8.00

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

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

Amos Publishing finally follows TPN

Thirteen issues of *TPN* later, *Linn's* has started following the Great Americans and the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps* has revised its way of listing this complex series.

Linn's for Nov. 21 reported the existence of the shiny-gum 10¢ Red Cloud and 40¢ Chenault, both of which were reported on our front page in the November issue.

Both *Linn's* and *TPN* relied on a submission by Greg Greenwald for confirmation of the Chenault.

It's nice to be noticed.

But even better was *Linn's* story in its issue of Nov. 7, which reported the 1995 U.S. stamp program based on Steve Esrati's reporting in *Stamp Collector*. *Linn's* graciously gave credit in the ninth paragraph.

But *Linn's* should be praised for a new feature, a box listing the varieties of each Great American. *TPN* began the same practice in *A Summary of Data on Great Americans* in November when printing of the fifth revision began.

New Tractor overprint

Rob Washburn has found another variety of the overprint on the intaglio 10¢ Tractor Trailer. This vertical red overprint says "Bulk Rate" and was from McGraw Hill in New York. It bore a southern New Jersey ("SNJ #3") ink-jet marking on the front.

The overprints found previously were "First Class" vertical in red (from National Credit Group in Buffalo, Wells Fargo Bank in Petaluma, Calif., and Chase Manhattan Bank, Wilmington, Del.); "Bulk rate" horizontally in purple or gray violet (from AT&T in Roseland, N.J.), and "Bulk Rate" in red horizontally (from North Shore Hotel, Evanston Ill.).

Stamps, etc. is late

The OCTOBER-December issue of *Stamps, etc.* finally arrived a month late in collectors' mail boxes around Nov. 7. It features the Wonders of the Sea block on its cover, which had been issued a month before, on Oct. 3.

For the Virginia Apgar stamp, the catalog says "Pane of 100, plate no. 1 in corner" even though two plate numbers, B1 and B2, were known from the day of issue.

They're no good

Those 250 rolls of 500 of the 4¢ Stagecoach with a line gap that were obtained by Al Haake at face turned out not to be all that great a find.

Haake complained that the centering on many of these was horrible.

Change of name

When the faxed messages about the Christmas stamps first went out in mid-October, the 29¢ Cardinal was referred to as "29¢ Cardinal in Snow." By the time the hard copy followed (after much hand-wringing) on Nov. 7, the name of the stamp had been changed to "Seasonal Winter Stamp (Cardinal)."

What held up the hard copy was the measurements of the Cardinal and Santa stamps. In the fax, the measurements were given as "xxx x xxx."

The Cardinal is on untagged paper and was tagged after printing. We learned this from the excellent new technical data provided by the Postal Service, primarily because of input from the Plate Number Coil Study Group.

But there may be more to all this. Note the use of the word "Seasonal." That's a way of complying with the Postal Service's new rules against naming any religious holidays.

It made Postmaster General Marvin Runyon eat crow instead of turkey on the day after Thanksgiving when he grudgingly said he had directed the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to propose a 1995 Madonna and Child stamp after all. A Madonna had been purposely left out of the 1995 stamp program.

Then, President Clinton praised Runyon for changing his mind.

Now the question is whether it will be allowed to say "Christmas."

Stanchfield wins gold

Margaret Stanchfield won a gold medal at Thamespex '94 in New London, Conn., with her exhibit of the 25¢ Honeybee.

She also picked up the BIA President's Award and two PNC³ awards.

Gary Davis won a vermeil with "Markings of the 4.9¢ Buckboard.

He was also the winner of the Award of Honor of

the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors and a PNC³ award.

Dean Hawk won a silver and a PNC³ award for "The Transportation Series 1981-1983." Bill McMurray also won a silver and a PNC³ award for "Zero Defects?" That latter exhibit sounds like it would make a great story for *TPN*.

Why Plate 1 Jeffersons are scarce

When the 29¢ Jefferson was suddenly added to the 1993 stamp program because Postmaster General Runyon had canceled USPS' planned stamp show at which a Jefferson commemorative was supposed to have been issued to mark the sesquicentennial of his birth, the Postal Service ran into trouble.

We quoted the Feb. 18, 1993, issue of *The Postal Bulletin* at that time as saying only 30 million stamps were available and distribution was limited to Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New York, and Washington, D.C.

Now we find that stamps from Plate S1 are hard to find. Collectors needing these should try philatelic counters in the states listed.

Malakoff still needs your help

Alan Malakoff is compiling a list of philatelic windows around the country. He needs the address of your philatelic clerk and the hours the window is open. If you can provide the clerk's name and phone number, so much the better.

Why the phone number? It pays to call ahead before driving to an out-of-town philatelic to make sure the regular philatelic clerk will be there. Substitutes do not have access to the clerk's regular stock.

Eventually, Malakoff will make his list public, so we all benefit.



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

The two-year hunt for a mint, phosphored F23¢ USA-1111

Continued from Page 1

which the searchers for this item had come, I decided to take up the challenge.

Without question the bulk (no pun intended) of the covers were credit offers from First Deposit National Bank (FDNB) with PO box return addresses in New Hampshire. I spoke with Alan Thomson, whose own frustrations bore out the legacy left by this elusive stamp. However, it was the contents of a cover much like Alan's that provided what was ultimately the key that unlocked the door.

Each mailing by FDNB was independently handled by what amounted to an entirely different department, so that mailings, for example, promoting Visa Gold cards with different rate structures were overseen by different offices in different cities. So the contents of the FDNB offering I could analyze put me in touch with a supervisor of that particular promotion who directed me to the city where the mailing had been contracted. The supervisor, incidentally, had never spoken with anyone trying to trace the origin of a mailing.

I will interject here that there is a method or style to acquiring the kind of information that we as PNCers need in order to get to Square One. I will admit that some information holders will not talk to a "stamp nut" no matter what the approach. More often than not, however, with patience and clarity I believe I am able to intrigue those who can do so into helping me find out what I need to know. As in this case it sometimes results in a return long-distance call with the answers I need, knowing the veil of secrecy that often surrounds the identity of a mailer, I specifically denied the need to know the mailer, requesting instead only the city street on which the post office for the stamp stock was located.

In the past, armed with information like this, the remaining effort would be equated to stealing candy from a baby, but the phosphored 23¢ USA seemed to have a mind of its own. This post office supplied only sealed cases to all its mailer clients (their identities protected by USPS policy).

Is anyone up to buying a case blind for \$43,160 just to shine a UV lamp on a roll? This was also a long-distance search for me.

Update, New stamps

New Imperforates

M10-22221-The BEP version of the 10¢ undominated Eagle and Shield with the plate-number combination "22221." (Tison)

New Stamps

Plate Number Coils (For "G" stamps, please see Page 27)

F23USA-1111-phos-BEP's 23¢ USA Flag stamp on phosphored paper. Finally found mint two years after George Leduc found it used on cover. (Cuniberti)

F29WH-18-Rolls of 100 of the 29¢ White Horse with the plate number 18. Nov. 29. (Dr. Greenwood)

M19-11111-phos-The 10¢ undominated Eagle and Shield from BEP with the plate-number combination "11111" on phosphored paper. Nov. 22 (Hauke, Rabinowitz)

M10-33333-The 10¢ undominated Eagle and Shield from BEP with the plate-number combination "33333." About Oct. 10 (various finder reports)

SA29G-V1111-The self-adhesive Santa Claus stamp from Avery, coils of 3,336, issued Oct. 20, 1994. Litter is Type A.

Great Americans

20¢ Appar. Issued Oct 24, 1994. B1 (Clark, on two different papers); B2 (Oregon).

Withdrawals

The following items were dropped from listing in the October-December Stamps, etc. catalog.

Self-adhesive stamps

29¢ Red Squirrel, 29¢ Liberty Torch

Great Americans

52¢ Humphrey, original (incorrect selvage (withdrawn Dec. 31, 1993)

20¢ Truman, Plate 3 (item N022) and earlier went off sale without prior announcement June 30, 1993. Plate 4 (shiny gum, prephosphored), which went to press Sept. 10, 1993, never got into Stamps, etc., catalog although it was sold by the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center as item 1022 (called "Truman Release." It was still on sale when the 20¢ Appars were issued and is still available from the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center.

but I had the good fortune to have a local customer with a lamp to help me ... a lot!

The last remaining alternative was to try to contact mailers in that area to see if we could look at their current stamps and roll remnants.

If you have never tried to contact a mailer for reasons other than hiring them to do a mailing, you might be surprised to learn that you'd probably have a better chance of talking your way into the caves in Kansas City. Some of the larger mailing houses often have in excess of \$1 million on the premises, and they don't take kindly to inquiries from strangers asking about their stamp stock.

We were able, nonetheless, to get the cooperation of two mailers, but nothing was there. So the best we could hope for was to play the waiting game and hope we could get that last remaining piece of the puzzle: luck.

After three patient months we were finally rewarded, but with fewer rolls than we had hoped for. So we are still looking, hoping that we can save a few more rolls from ending up franking the fronts of dumpster divers' treasures in generations to come.

For me, I feel the satisfaction of succeeding at opening one more door unraveling one more mystery in what I think was my toughest dig.

DAV story: USPS denies reprinting; BEP confirms it

Donald E. Draper must feel put upon by TPN. In 1993, he brought a prephosphored 15¢ Cody to the Plymouth (Mich.) Show to have us accept its existence. But Wayne Youngblood shot him down, saying there were no prephosphored Codys.

Now he has read in TPN that the DAV has stopped using stamps and days later received a solicitation from the organization with a return envelope bearing five 5¢ Circus Wagons and two block-tagged 2¢ Locomotives.

Other envelopes bearing stamps turned up at the homes of Dr. Frank Shively and Joann Lenz.

We thought that, perhaps, 2¢ Locomotives had been reprinted, but were told by Robin Minard of Postal Headquarters that the most recent printing was around September 1993 when 105 million were printed in rolls of 3,000 on the C Press. Those, of course, were untagged.

But wait just a moment! The Plate Number Coil Study Group has determined that both the 2¢ Locomotive and the 3¢ Conestoga Wagon were reprinted in August, September, and October of 1994, in anticipation of needs during the upcoming rate change. We do not know if they were tagged, but if they had been, surely they would not have been block tagged. So the DAV is using up old stamps.

Needless to say, TPN regrets that the energies of the study group have had to turn into industrial espionage because we get late, wrong, or unreliable information from the Postal Service.

2¢ Locomotive Plate 192404-2 had 492,700 impressions (for 468 stamps per revolution) on the C and D presses in August, September and October. It was also rechromed in early September.

Plate 193022-3 of the 3¢ Conestoga Wagon was also reprinted on the D press in September and (perhaps) also the C and/or F. Impressions are not available.

BEP also reports that it has not yet printed an "H" stamp for the Postal Service. As of Thanksgiving, production had not yet started on the new definitives, awaiting USPS word on the final rates rather than print and destroy if unneeded.

Prepare for huge outlays

By Stephen G. Esrati

With an impending flood of new PNCs, including 24 plate-number combinations on "G" stamps from American Bank Note (see Page 27), collectors face a financial drain.

Dealers are in even more trouble. Outlays for all the new coil stamps, including Transportation Series, Flag stamps, and "G" stamps from other printers, are expected to hit the \$500,000 mark.

Wholesalers had to ask their dealer-subscribers for advance payments to help pay for all the stamps. I mailed off a check for \$10,000 to my wholesaler in early December. Other dealers had to send even more. One wholesaler planned to get a bank loan for his outlays.

How this will affect collectors is about

like this, assuming that collectors will seek one strip of five of each plate number, counting only the basic rates at the beginning of the rate change:

G Stamps, BEP	3 combinations	-----	\$15.00
G Stamps, ABN	50 combinations	-----	250.00
G Stamps, SV	(includes Presort)	-----	20.00
Flag stamps	2 combinations	-----	10.00
Transportations	4 combinations	-----	20.00
	Total		\$315.00

This does not even take into account the accounting numbers on the gum of stamps printed by Stamp Venturers.

It is an open question how these can be collected. The accounting numbers repeat in intervals of 10, but plate numbers from SV usually are 33 stamps apart. That means the accounting numbers will move in relation to the plate number. The ideal way to mount them would be a strip of 10 with the plate number on the third stamp

from the left and the accounting number on the 10th stamp. One then folds over the end of the strip to make a strip of eight, showing six stamps from the front and two from the gum.

But getting this arrangement of the two numbers is rare. I'll probably collect a plate-numbered strip of 10.

Finally, it is not yet known whether Avery's "G"-stamp coil bears plate numbers. The stamps were printed at the time when policy was changed in favor of putting plate numbers on self-adhesive coils. If the coils do have plate numbers, that \$315 estimate may go up another \$10 or so.

Dr. Rabinowitz is offering 25 "G" stamps as PS/5 for \$131.25.

Meanwhile, they're still printing E&S stamps.

Data Bank:

(all text from USPS, TPN additions in brackets)

WASHINGTON (Dec. 12, 1994)-The Postal Service announced today non-denominated "G-series" stamps will go on sale at post offices nationwide tomorrow, Dec. 13, 1994. The "G-series" stamps will be used to support new postage rates effective Jan. 1, 1995.

The non-denominated "G-series" stamps are the seventh in a series that used letters "A" through "D," "E" for "Earth," and "F" for "Flower" in conjunction with postage rate changes from 1977 through 1991.

The "G-series" stamps feature an American Flag on a white background. The words "Old Glory" appear centered above the flag. Also inscribed across the bottom of the design are the words "For U.S. addresses only."

International mail regulations require that all postage must bear a numeric indication of value. Therefore, "G-series" non-denominated stamps are limited to use within the United States.

These stamps, valued at 32¢, meet the new First-Class, one-ounce letter rate and are available in the following formats: sheets of 100; book[let]s of 10 and 20; coils of 100, 500, 3,000, and 10,000; self-adhesive convertible booklets of 18, and automatic teller machine (ATM) sheetlets of 18.

... The following non-denominated "G-series" ... are also available: presorted First-Class stamps in coils of 500 and 3,000 and official mail stamps in coils of 100. [The latter do not carry a plate number.]

... The presorted First-Class "G" uses a basic "G-series" stamp image, with the bottom line of text modified to read "First Class Presort" and the background color of light blue rather than white. It is valued at 25 cents.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Issue: "G" Old Glory Stamp

Format:	Stamp Coils of 100, 500, 3,000, and 10,000 stamps
Denomination:	Non-denominated
Issue Date:	Dec. 3, 1994
Issue City:	Washington, D.C.
Colors:	Blue, red, gray, and black
Size: Image	0.71x0.82 inches/18.0x20.8mm
Overall	0.87x0.96 inches/22.1x24.4mm
Process:	Gravure
Printer(s):	Bureau of Engraving and Printing (black "G") Stamp Venturers (red "G") American Bank Note Co. (blue "G")
Marginal markings:	Plate numbers
Plate Numbers:	BEP—4 single digits Stamp Venturers—"S" followed by 4 single digits ABN—"A" followed by 4 single digits

[Stamp Venturers' coils of 3,000 and 10,000 have accounting numbers on the gum of every 10th stamp.]

All about 'G' stamps

Format:	Self-Adhesive Convertible booklet of 18 stamps
Printer:	Avery-Dennison
Colors:	Red, dark blue, light blue, gray, and black
Size: Image	0.71x0.82 inches/18.0x20.8mm
Overall	0.87x0.96 inches/22.1x24.4mm
Full pane:	2.61x6.11 inches/66.3x155.2mm
Plate Numbers:	"V" followed by 5 single digits
Marginal Markings:	• Peel here and Fold • Self-adhesive stamps • DO NOT WET •

[There is also a self-adhesive coil. It is not known whether it has plate numbers, but probably not. 599 rolls of 5,004 stamps were delivered.]

Format:	ATM Sheetlet of 18 stamps
Printer:	Avery-Dennison
Colors:	Red, blue, and black
Size:	Same as Self-Adhesive
Plate Numbers:	None
Marginal Markings:	Peel here and Fold • Self-adhesive stamps • DO NOT WET • © USPS 1991

Issue:	"G" Old Glory First-Class Presort Stamp Coil
Format:	Coils of 500 and 3,000 stamps
Denomination:	Non-denominated
Colors:	Red, dark blue, gray, black, light blue
Size: Image	0.71x0.82 inches/18.0x20.8mm
Overall	0.87x0.96 inches/22.1x24.4mm
Process:	Gravure
Printer:	Stamp Venturers
Size: Image	0.71x0.82 inches/18.0x20.8mm
Overall	0.87x0.96 inches/22.1x24.4mm
Plate Numbers:	"S" followed by 5 single digits

Scott announces catalog numbers

Scott Publishing Co., has assigned catalog numbers to the recently released second type of the 1992 computer-vended UVM stamp (Scott 31b).

Other new numbers are:

20¢ Virginia Apgar	-----	Scott 2179B
29¢ Santa self-adhesive pane:	-----	2873a
29¢ Santa self-adhesive coil:	-----	Ignored
29¢ Cardinal ATM pane	-----	2874a

New issues of Great Americans

Available now: 10¢ Red Cloud, Plate 2, shiny gum. Plate block of 4 (UI, LL, UR only), \$0.85; Plate block of 20, \$4.50; ZIP, \$0.60. Apgar B1 on high-bright and regular paper, B2 regular only, 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.
Buying: 40¢ CHENNAULT, shiny gum. Paying \$2 per plate block. 10¢ RED CLOUD shiny gum LR, paying \$0.50 per block of four, \$3.60 per block of 20. I pay half my sales price.

My regular price list

Scott	Description	Single	Inscr. Bl. or Post. Bl.	PB/4	PB/6	PB/20
1844c	1¢ Dix Bl.	.10		1.00 (15E)	2.00 (1)	4.00 (1)
1844	1¢ Dix BE	.10		1.25 (1)	2.50 (1)	3.00 (1)
2168	1¢ Mitchell BE	.10		.25 (1)		
1845	2¢ Strawberry Cattel	.10		35 (1, 2, 3, 4)		
	Same, premium			2.00 (5, 6)		
	Same, with tag break			10.00 (6)		
2169	2¢ Lyon BE	.10		.35 (1)		
	Same, premium			.55 (2)		
1846	3¢ Cloy Cattel	.10		.70 (1, 2)		
2170	3¢ White BE	.10		.90 (1, 2, 3)		
1847	4¢ Schurz Cattel	.15		.80 (1, 4)		
	Same, with tag break			10.00 (1, 2)		
2171	4¢ Flanagan BE	.15		.80 (1)		
2171a	4¢ Flanagan UE	.10		.40 (1)		
NEW	4¢ Flanagan UE	.10		.60 (2)		
1848	5¢ Buck Cattel	.15		.90 (1, 4)		
	Same, with tagging break			10.00 (3)		
2172	5¢ Black BE	.15		.70 (1)		
2172	5¢ Black BE	.15		1.25 (2)		
2173	5¢ Muñiz OE	.15	.70	.75 (1)		
	Same, with ZIP			1.00 (1)		2.00 (1)
2173	5¢ Muñiz UE	.15	.70	.75 (2)		
1849	6¢ Eppmann Bl	.15		.60 (1)	1.20 (1)	3.90 (1)
1850	7¢ Baldwin Bl	.20		.90 (1)	1.80 (1)	4.50 (1)
1851	8¢ Knox Cl	.20		1.20 (3 - 6)		5.00 (3 - 6)
1852	9¢ 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	10¢ Red Cloud BE	.30		.85 (1)		
2176a	10¢ Red Cloud OE	.30		WANT (1)		
Plate 10E and 20E wanted, pay \$1.25 per block						
2176a	10¢ Red Cloud PE dull	.20		.85 (2)		4.50 (2)
2176a	10¢ Red Cloud PE shiny	.20		.85 (2)		4.50 (2)
1854	11¢ Partridge Cl	.30		1.60 (2 - 5)		6.00 (2 - 5)
1855	13¢ Crazy Cattel	.30		2.20 (1, 2)		
	Same, premium			3.00 (3, 4)		
1856	14¢ Lewis Bl	.30		1.20 (1)	3.00 (1)	9.00 (1)
2177	14¢ Howe BE	.25		1.90 (1, 2)		7.00 (1)
2178	15¢ Cody BE	.30		2.00 (1)		
2178	15¢ Cody BE	.30		4.00 (3)		
Plate 3 BE wanted, pay \$3 per block. Plate 1 BE wanted, pay \$2 per block						
2178a	15¢ Cody OE	.25		3.50 (1, 3)		
	Same, tagged salvage			1.25 (2)		
	Same, with tagging break			5.00 (2)		10.00 (2)
2178a	15¢ Cody prephosphated	.25		3.50 (1)		7.50 (1)
	Same on high-bright paper	1.50		WANT (1)		
1857	17¢ Carson Cattel	.35		2.85 (1, 4, 13-14)		
	Same, premium			20.00 (15, 16)		
	Same, with tagging break			10.00 (13)		
Plate 15, 16 wanted, pay \$10 per block						
2179	17¢ Ludwood	.35		2.00 (1)		
	Same, premium			3.50 (2)		
1858	18¢ Mason Cattel	.35		3.50 (1, 2, 5, 6)		
	Same, premium			6.00 (3, 4)		
1859	19¢ Sequoyah Cattel	.40		3.00 (both)		
1860	20¢ Bunche Cattel	.40		3.50 (1, 2, 5, 10)		
	Same, premium			12.00 (3, 4)		20.00 (4)
	Same, premium			25.00 (11, 13)		
1861	20¢ Gallaudet Cattel	.40		3.90 (1, 2)		
	Same, premium			12.00 (5, 6)		
	Same, premium			75.00 (8, 9)		
1862	20¢ Truman Bl	.40		5.00 (1)	10.00 (1)	13.00 (1)
1862a	20¢ Truman BE	.40		3.90 (2)		
1862b	20¢ Truman OE Paper #1			4.00 (3)		
1862b	20¢ Truman OE Paper #1h			4.00 (3)		
NEW	20¢ Truman PE shiny	.40		2.50 (4)		13.00 (4)
NEW	20¢ Apgar	.40		2.50 B2		8.00
	Same, fizzie paper	.80		4.75 B1		15.00
	Same, dead paper	.60		3.75 B1		13.00
2179	21¢ Carbon BE	.40		3.20 (1)		
1863	22¢ Audubon Bl	1.25		5.30 (1)	27.50 (1)	30.00 (1)
1863d	22¢ Audubon BE	.45		5.00 (3)		

Scott	Description	Single	Inscr. Bl. or Post. Bl.	PB/4	PB/6	PB/20
2182b	23¢ Cassatt OE	.50		5.00 (1)		
2182	23¢ Cassatt BE	.50		3.00 (1)		
2182b	23¢ Cassatt OE	.50		3.75 (2)		11.00 (2)
2182b	23¢ Cassatt PE	.50		3.00 (2)		
NEW	23¢ Cassatt PE shiny	.50		3.00 (3)		9.00 (3)
2183	25¢ London BE	.50		3.00 (1)		
2183	25¢ London BE	.50		10.00 (2)		
2184	28¢ Siring Bull BE	.50		3.80 (1)		
2184A	29¢ Warren PE	45	3.00	2.00 (51, 52)		13.00 (51, 52)
2184B	29¢ Jefferson	45	6.50 (8)	5.00 (51)		12.00 (51)
2184B	29¢ Jefferson	45	4.50 (8)	2.50 (52)		9.00 (52)
1864	30¢ Loubach Bl	.75		5.00 (1)	10.00 (1)	19.00 (1)
1864a	30¢ Loubach BE	.45		5.50 (2)		
1864a	30¢ Loubach OE	6.00		75.00 (2)		
1865	35¢ Drew Cattel	.75		4.50 (1, 2)		
	Same, premium			WANT (3, 4)		
Plate 3 and 4 wanted, pay \$7.50 per block						
2185	35¢ Chavez Pl	.50	3.50	3.50 (51, 52)		
1966	37¢ Million Cattel	.80		4.50 (1, 4)		
ZIP blocks wanted from Plate 4 with upside down inscription. Pay \$8.00						
1867	39¢ Clark Bl	1.00		8.00 (15E)	16.00 (1)	35.85 (1)
1867c	39¢ Clark BE	1.00		5.90 (2)		
1868	40¢ Gileath Bl	.95		9.75 (15E)	19.00 (1)	23.90 (1)
1868a	40¢ Gileath BE	.95		6.50 (2)		
2186	40¢ Chennault OE	.85	5.00	4.00 (1)		
2186	40¢ Chennault PE dull	.85		4.00 (2)		
2186	40¢ Chennault PE shiny			WANT (2)		
2188	45¢ Cushing BE	.75		3.50 (1)		
2188	45¢ Cushing OE	1.00		7.50 (1)		23.50 (1)
1869	50¢ Nimitz Cl	1.00		11.25 (1 - 4)		
1869a	50¢ Nimitz BE	1.00		6.50 (1, 2)		20.00 (1)
1869d	50¢ Nimitz OE	1.00		17.50 (2)		
1869d	50¢ Nimitz OE	1.00		7.50 (3)		20.00 (3)
NEW	50¢ Nimitz PE (shiny)	1.00		4.00 (3)		20.00 (3)
2190	52¢ Humphrey PE (dull)	1.00	4.50	3.45 (1)		
NEW	52¢ Humphrey PE (shiny)	1.00	4.50	3.45 (1, 2)		25.00 (1)
2161	56¢ Harvard	1.10		7.50 (1)		
2192	65¢ Arnold BE	1.30		5.20 (1)		
2193	75¢ Wilkie PE (dull)	1.15	7.00	5.50 (1)		
NEW	75¢ Wilkie PE (shiny)	1.15	7.00	5.50 (1)		
2194	\$1 Reval	1.95		14.00 (1)		
2194A	\$1 Hopkins BE	1.50		7.00 (1)		
2194Ab	\$1 Hopkins OE	1.50		7.00 (1)		
2194Ab	\$1 Hopkins PE phos. dull	1.50		7.00 (2)		
2194Ab	\$1 Hopkins PE, shiny	2.00		8.00 (2)		
2195	\$2 Bryan	3.50		21.00 (2)		
2196	\$5 Hate BE	9.00		40.00 (1)		
2196	\$5 Hate PE	9.00		35.00 (2)		
The following are not Great American stamps, but you may not have them.						
1894e	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 \$3 for P5/6, \$10 for P5/20.						
Dull gum from Plate 2 wanted. Pay \$4 for P5/6, \$7.50 for P5/20.						
C118	45¢ Langley OE	3.00		25.00		
Abbreviations used in descriptions:						
Tagging: B=Block; O=Overall; P=Prephosphated; U=Untagged (or Untagged salvage); T=Tagged salvage.						
Performance: L=Perforator; E=Engraved bull's eye; S=Straight edge						
I have a complete stock of ZIP and copyright blocks. All prices net. No discounts. Prices subject to change. Some quantities limited. I pay postage on orders over \$10, otherwise please add 52 cents.						
1993 Lighthouse supplements						
I carry all Lighthouse products at a 1.5% discount. Added 5% off for FNCS members.						

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PNCs and the Cottrell Presses

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

By Larry G. Haynes

This is the continuation of an article that began in the November 1994 issue.

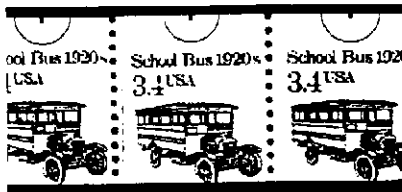
The bottom part of Figure 5 (opposite page) highlights the fact that there are two potentially different gaps and that each distinct gap repeats every 24 stamps, even though there is a gap every 12 stamps. So any mat flaw will repeat every 24 stamps.

As I noted earlier, the plate number and joint line also repeat every 24 stamps. Therefore, the position of the gap relative to the joint line will stay constant for each printing.

However, there was no provision for "registering" or coordinating the positions of the plate number on the intaglio press with the gap on the precanceling cylinder. Therefore, for each press run, the relationship of the mat's starting point of rotation and the plate's starting point of rotation changed. Thus the gaps would start out and finish each press run in different positions relative to the plate number/joint line.

If you plot the distribution of known gaps, the only position that stands out is the Line Gap position (with a total of 18 Line Gaps, and at least one on each of the 10 precanceled issues). There does not seem to be a significant bias for any other position.

I believe that the press operator had no guidelines for synchronizing the two systems relative to each other based on a gap/joint line relationship. However, I do believe that the operator had very strict guidelines on the relative position of the service inscription and/or gap to the position of the perforation holes. Only one major deviation has been found to my knowledge of perforations in the normal position on the stamp, but with the ser-



REGISTER MARKS—Semi-circles show register marks at top of top row of coils. These can be seen only because of severe miscutting.

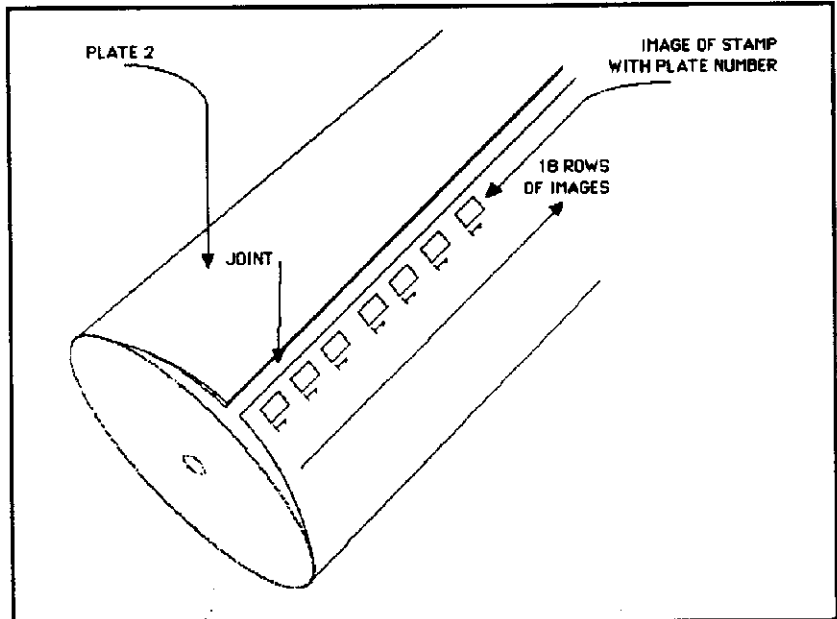
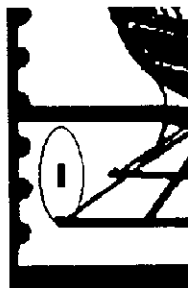


FIGURE 4—Schematic drawing to show how plates fit on roller. All pictures, type, and numbers, of course, are mirror images of the way they will appear on stamps. The plate number on Plate 2 would be on the other side, next to the second joint line. Horizontal alignment in mounting the plates determines whether the stamp on one side of joint line will be higher or lower than the stamp on the other side.



HASH MARK—These may have been used to align precancel mats with perforations. They are known on the 5.2¢ and the 9.3¢ stamps.

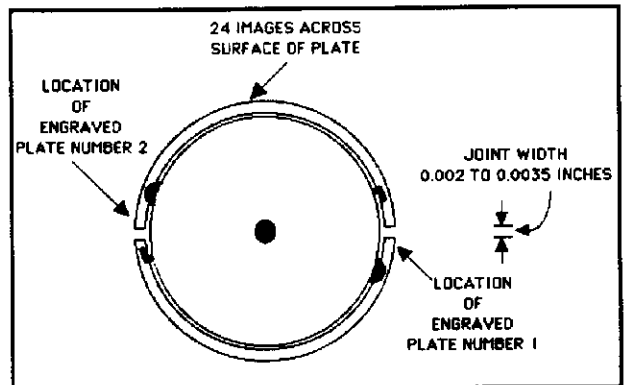


FIGURE 4a—End view showing how plate attaches to roller, leaving a joint line at either side. Seen from this side, there are 24 stamps on each plate. In the drawing above, there are 18 rows of stamps going to the upper right.

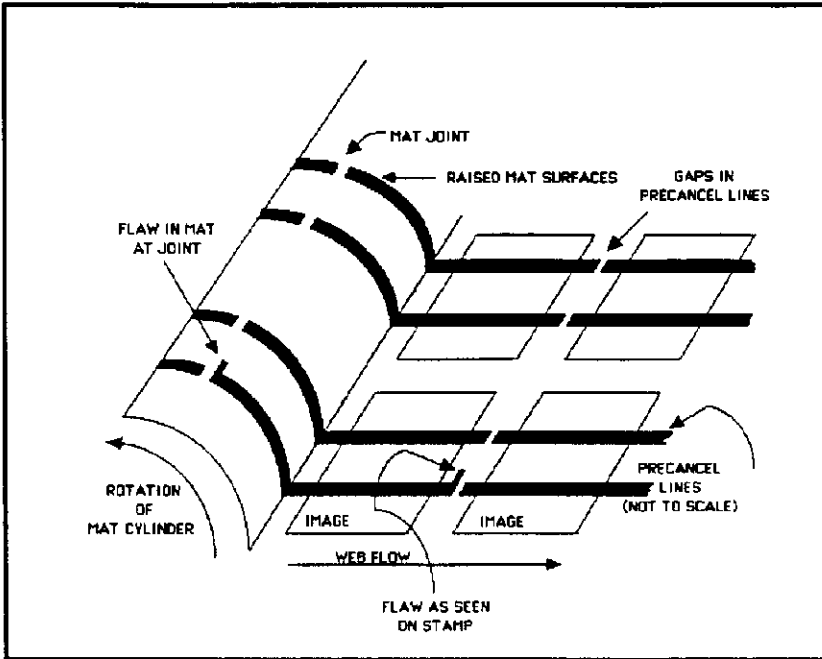


FIGURE 5a (left)—This schematic shows how precancel lines are put on stamps. The diagram shows only one gap. The precancel lines are not drawn to scale. Actually, lines are evenly spaced across the paper on the web.

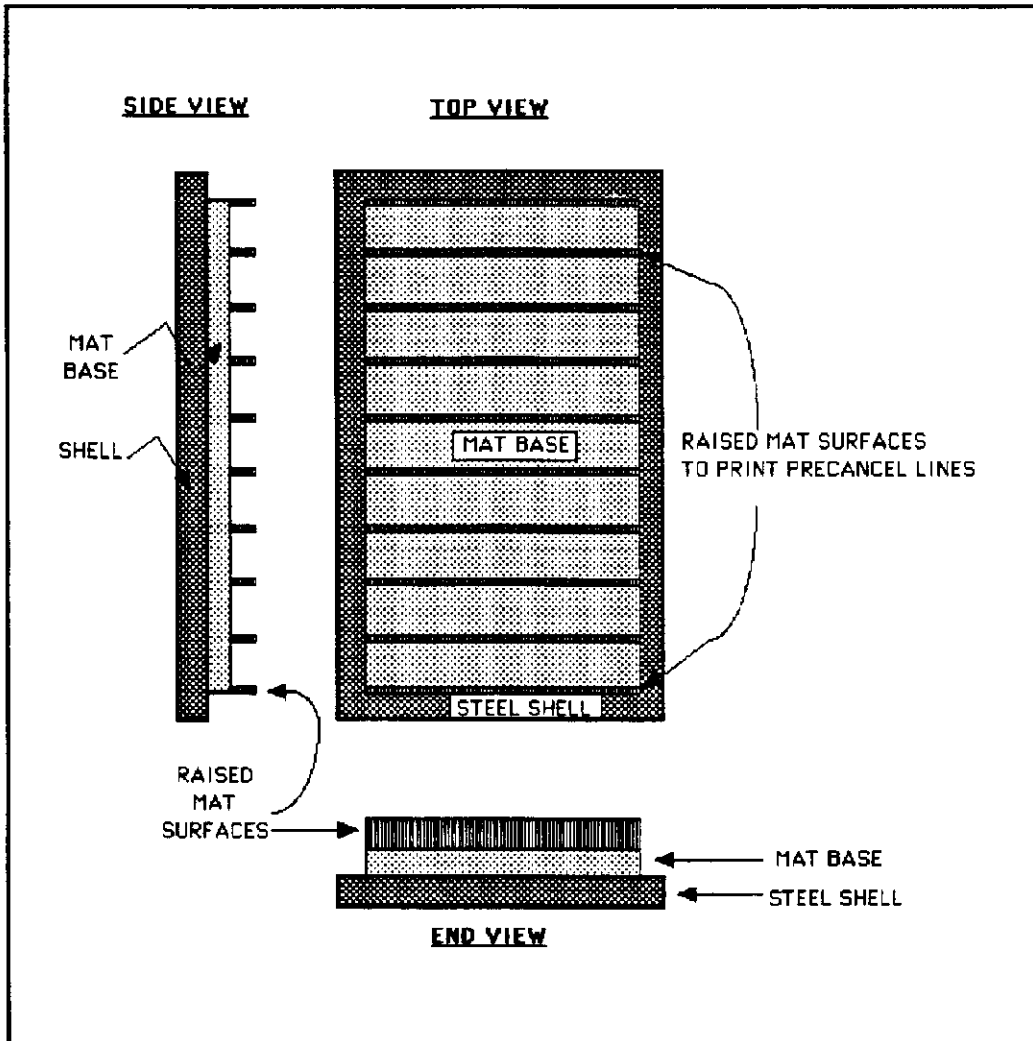
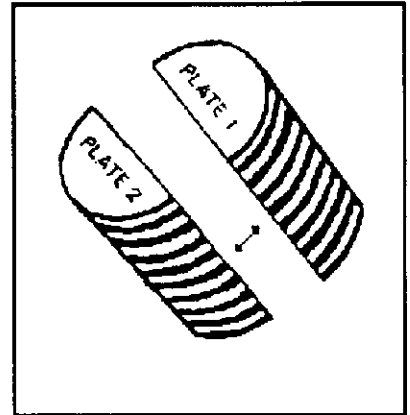


FIGURE 5b (above) — This diagram shows that there are two joint lines on the cylinder, one on each side where the two mat halves are joined. Gaps are 12 stamps apart. A flaw in the mat (shown in Figure 5a) will repeat once on every 24th stamp.

FIGURE 6 (left) —Schematic of flat precancel mat and shell. In fact, the metal shell is a half cylinder when the mat is glued to it.

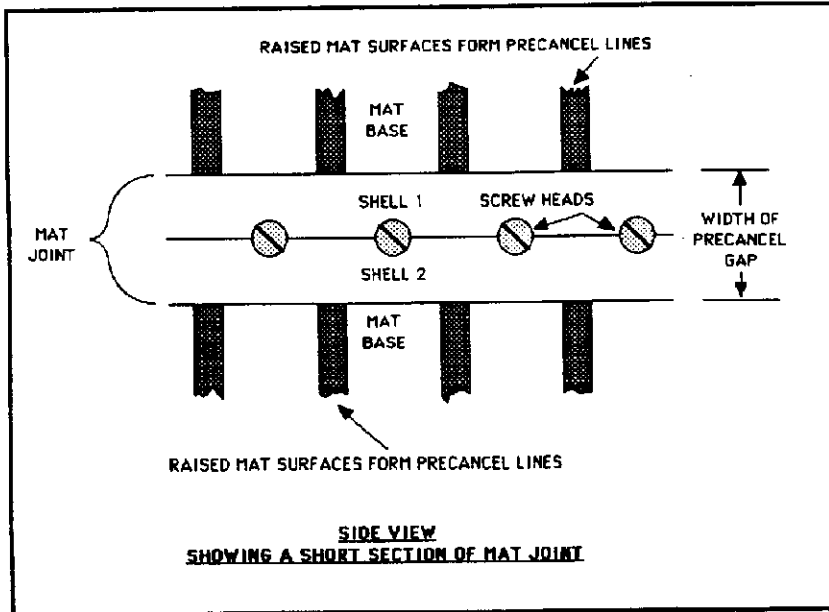
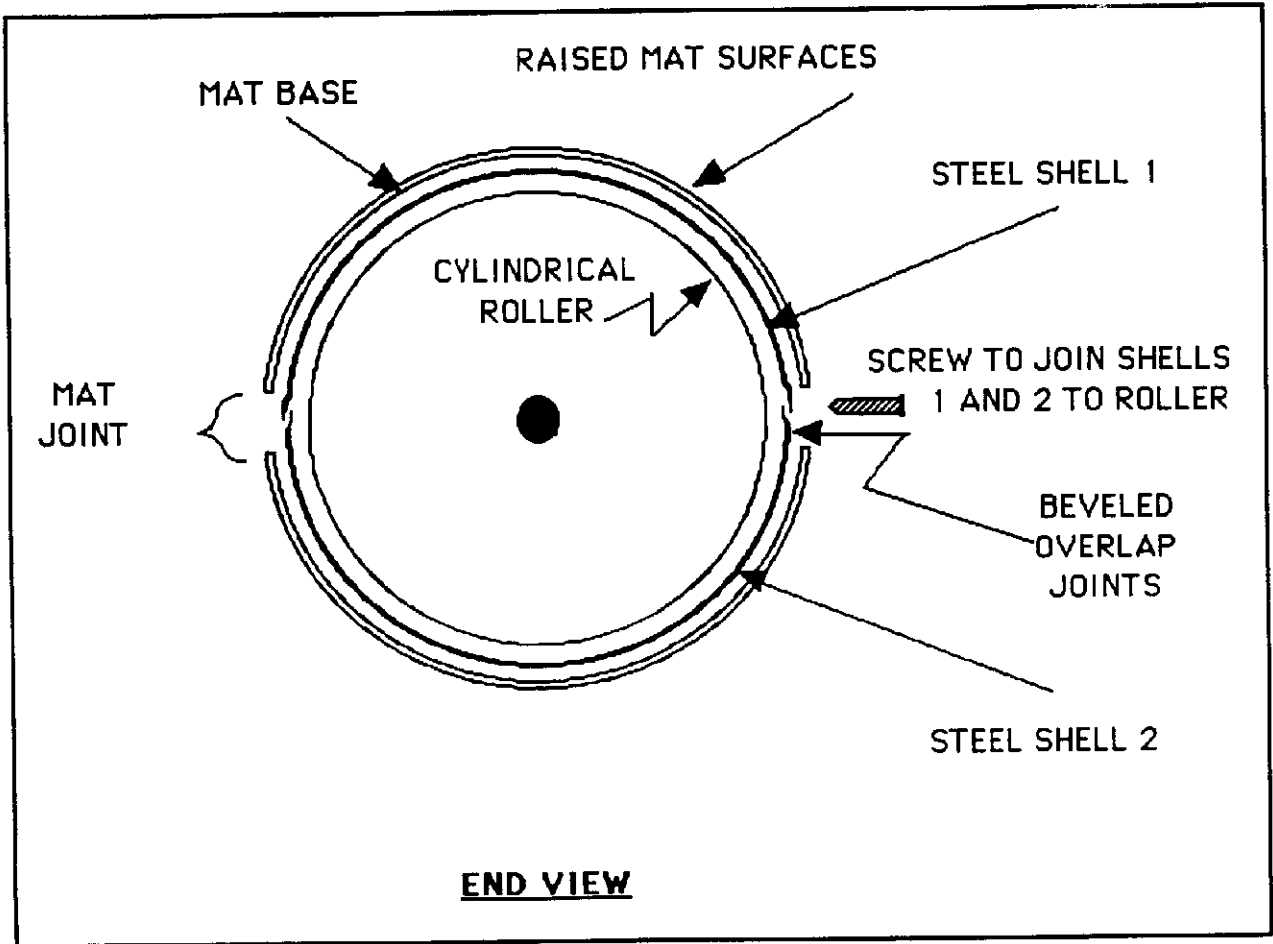


FIGURE 7—These two sketches are a schematic view of the precancel mats and the shell joint. Screws hold two shells together. Screws are placed so they are never at precancel lines.

vice inscription significantly off center and cut by the perfs. The operator obviously was trained to run in the system and align either the service inscription or the gap to the future perforation line by making adjustments to the mat cylinder.

It is also quite possible that the register marks on the plate and the hash marks on the mat were used to accomplish the perf alignment. Register marks have been found on at least half of the precanceled denominations but not yet on all precanceled issues. Hash marks (the analog of register marks) have only been found on the 5.2¢ and 9.3¢ issues.

Up to now the function of the register and hash marks has been a mystery. Perhaps the "why" is solved; but still not the "how."

Figure 6 (on Page 17) is a diagram of a "flattened" precancel mat. It illustrates that the curved rubber mat was glued on a metal shell. Actually, the metal shell is a half cylinder when the gluing step occurs.

Figure 7 (this page) illustrates how the two shells are attached to form the full mat cylinder. The shells have beveled ends that allow them to fit over or under each other so that they can be attached to

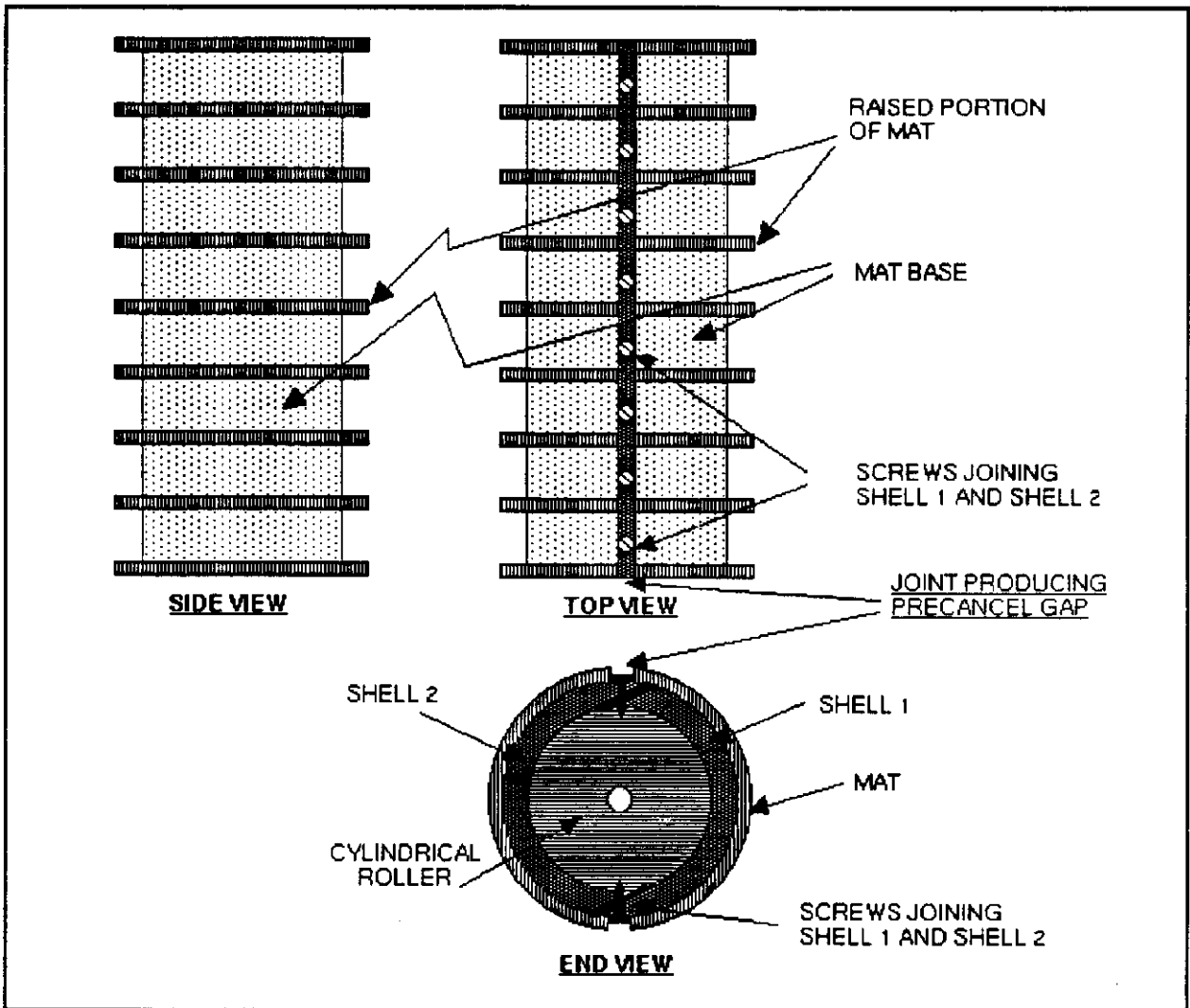


FIGURE 8—This is a schematic view of the cylindrical precancel mat and the shell to which it is attached. Screws inside the gap hold the two shells together on the cylindrical roller. The space between the mats causes the precancel gap.

the support cylinder with screws.

Some but not all of the precancel mats were constructed with only two half cylinders attached together as shown in Figure 8. There is not enough information to determine whether most of them were two-shell mats or not. We do know that the BEP used four-shell mats on the 17¢ Electric Auto precancels as shown in Figure 9. The end result of using two-shell or four-shell mats is the same stamp appearance. This is true for all the Cottrell precancel issues except the 17¢ Electric Auto, which used mats with three different inscription lettering styles (Types A, B, and C).

The Type A mat had slightly longer printing lines and a 2mm space between the upper word "PRESORTED" and the lower word "FIRST-CLASS." The Type

B mat had shorter printing lines and a 1.5mm space between "PRESORTED" and "FIRST CLASS."

In the Type C mat, the "PRESORTED" is 13.5mm long while it is 11.0mm long in Type A and 12.5mm long in Type B.

In assembling the four-shell mats on several printing runs, the mats were mixed up. Using Figure 9 (Page 20) as an example, the two mats labeled "3" and "4" were both Type A mats. However, the mats labeled "1" and "2" were mixed—one using a Type A mat and the other being a Type B mat. This is how the 17¢ Type AB and Type BA gaps were created.

By the time the Type C mat arrived, the Type A and B mats were already either destroyed or converted to tagging mats. Therefore no mixing of Type C mats with

other types occurred.

As far as mat varieties go, it is understandable that with all the handling and storage of these rubber mats, damage to the raised lines, such as chips and breaks, would occur. Also, it is no surprise that most of the breaks and chips found on the precanceled stamps occur at or near the ends of the lines (at the gap). This is the point at which the most handling occurred when the mat shells were joined and screwed together. Some examples:

- 17¢ Electric Auto
Crushed "P" of "PRESORTED."
Distorted "F" of "FIRST-CLASS."
- 4.9¢ Buckboard
Double extra gaps.
The "Cat Scratch"
The "Spider Mat."
- Many denominations have broken gap

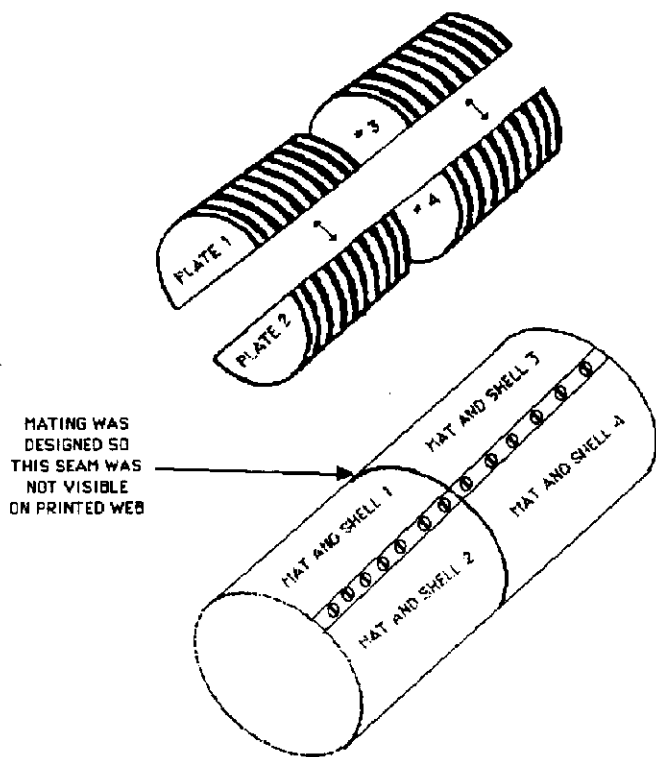


FIGURE 9—How four 9- x 12-stamp mats became one 18- x 24-stamp mat. In the process, BEP pressmen mixed up the mats and created se-tenant styles A-B and B-A.

ends such as:

- “Triangle falling out of gap”
- “Stirrup gaps”
- “Hook-ended gaps”

Tagging

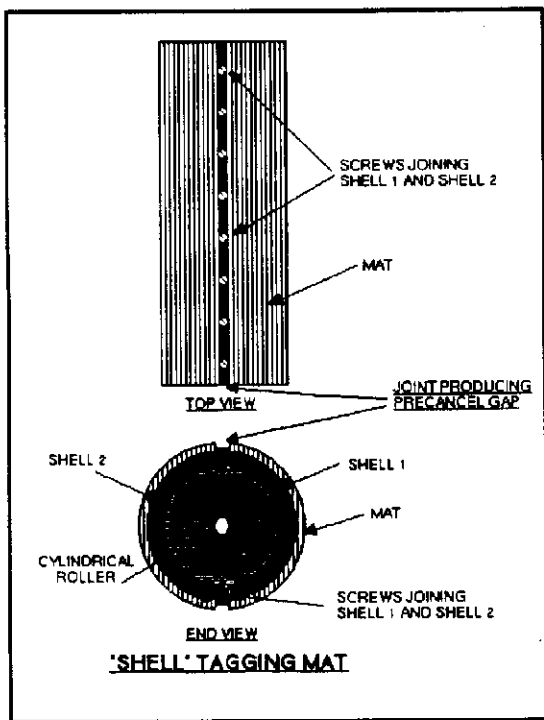
The tagging process on the Cottrell Presses is similar to the precancel-printing process described earlier. Presses 801, 802, and 804 were tagging-only presses. Press 803 was equipped to handle precanceling as well as tagging. On this press, the tagging fluid is introduced into the same “inkwell” that is used for holding precancel ink.

All Cottrell printings used the overall or blanket-tagging process. The tagging rollers have a smooth surface in order to distribute the tagging fluid over the entire surface of the web. Solid rollers were used on Presses 801, 802, and 804. Rubber-shell mats were used on Press 803.

There were at least two different solid rubber rollers: One that tagged 19½ stamps per revolution (noted on 1¢ Plates 3 and 4 and 4¢ Plates 3 and 4); one that tagged 18 stamps per revolution (noted on 1¢ Plates 1 and 2 and 5¢ Plates 1 and 2). There may have been more examples of each.

The rubber-shell mats used on Press 803 were the same four-shell mats used to add the precancel on the 17¢ Electric Auto. They were adapted for tagging by shaving off the raised surfaces. These tagging mats are the source of the vertical tagging breaks that appeared on four denominations in the Transportation Series. As far as I can tell, these mats were only used on Press 803 when it was converted to provide tagging as well as precanceling after the fire.

Figures 10a and 10b (at left) show diagrams of the solid rubber mat cylinder roll and the shell mat cylinder roll.



FIGURES 10a and 10b—A tagging mat mounted on a shell (left) and a mat made of solid rubber (below).

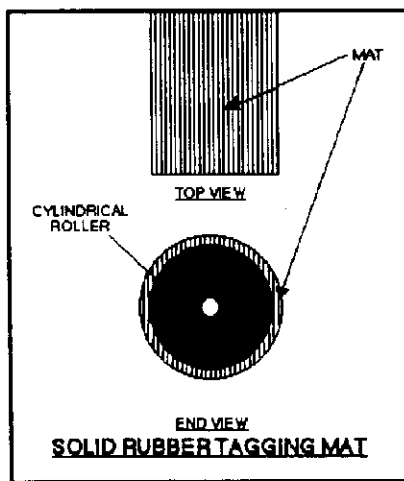


Figure 11 (in the next issue) depicts the laydown of the vertical tagging breaks that correspond to the joint in the shell mats.

The third installment of Haynes' analysis will appear in the next issue.

Technical note: All drawings in this article were done in Aldus SuperPaint, and saved as encapsulated PostScript for import into Ready,Set,Go! 6.03.

Great Americans News

2 Apgar papers found in longwave UV; Plate B1 damaged and replaced by B2

Gerald Clark noticed that the 20¢ Virginia Apgar stamp from plate B1 comes on two papers (mixed in the same pad of 100 panes). This is how Clark described them:

- Yellowish in visible light, greenish prephosphoring that looks almost solid but is slightly mottled.
- White in visible light, a medium bright, white mottled prephosphoring.

But when *TPN* got these panes, using a filtered Lighthouse shortwave UV lamp that screens out all longwave UV, both papers appeared identical. We next tried the two papers under our old two-way Raytech lamp, and now we saw what Clark saw.

The white prephosphored paper turns out to be blue in the longwave part of the Raytech lamp; the greenish paper is dead in longwave. That means the difference is not really in the shortwave phosphors, but in a brightener in the paper.

We asked Kim Cuniberti, an authority on paper types, about this. "Oh sure," he said, "the difference is in the longwave part. You need a Lighthouse longwave lamp to see the difference."

What Cuniberti was saying is that the unfiltered Raytech lamp emits enough longwave UV to make the difference apparent. The purer Lighthouse shortwave lamp saw only the phosphors, and they looked pretty much alike.

All B2 panes seen by *TPN* have the greenish prephosphoring.

New marginal rules followed

Apgar stamps are the first Great Americans with the new standardized marginal markings. They have no Mr. ZIP, show everything in tiny type (including the plate number), and provide a multiplication formula to indicate the value of the whole pane.

Plate B1 printed half a million sheets

As soon as the stamps were issued, panes with the plate number B2 were found. This prompted a question to the Postal Service whether these stamps were printed with two or more plate numbers in a single feed of the press. We had been told they were printed on a sheet-fed intaglio press.

The answer came after two weeks. The stamps were printed on a T/A press manufactured for American Bank Note Co. (The Apgars were printed by Banknote Corp. of America, not ABN.) They printed four panes at a time, but Plate B1 was damaged after printing 518,132 sheets and Plate B2 was put into use. It printed 109,368 panes in the first press run.

New packaging by Banknote Corp.

The select stock sent out by Banknote Corp. of America not only shows the plate number in a rubber stamp on the cardboard cover of the pad (100 panes of 100), but also has a printed position diagram similar to those that began appearing in pane selvage at the time of the 29¢ Jefferson.

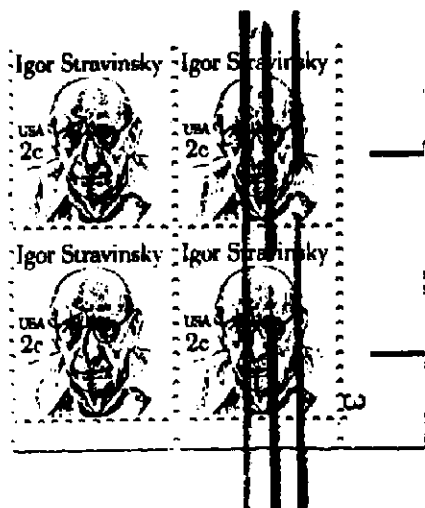
The regular stock does not have the position diagram.

All the cardboard comes with a square hole in the middle to allow postal clerks to see what stamp is inside.

Each pad is marked with the USPS item number and lists BCA as the printer. In effect, this is what the PNC community had been promised by the former USPS administration for coils.

2 types of untagged 3¢ Clay

Wolfgang Elser has found an untagged error of the 3¢ Clay on high-bright paper. This caused *TPN* to recheck the data we published in *A Summary of Data on the Great Americans*.



TRIPLE BREAK—Ken Moreau made a photocopy of a plate block on which he found a triple vertical tagging break. He then drew lines on the photocopy to illustrate the break, which is why the break extends below the stamps.

All Clay stamps were printed on Cottrell 801, according to our data. We know of two press dates: June 23 and July 17, 1983.

The first date falls into the time span in which most stamps were printed on Type I paper. But the second could have been on Type II or Type III paper (including all their sub-types).

In the *Summary* we said: "It is possible that the second printings in 1985 may show differences in paper."

So far, however, all reported Clay stamps are on Type I paper, which has a range of fluorescent colors in longwave UV.

All Clays we re-examined were on Type I paper and had a tagging anomaly that resulted in a large untagged area on upper right and lower right panes, a sure sign of a worn-out Cottrell tagging mat.

The tagging was unusual in another way, too. After we turned out the UV lamp, the stamps continued to glow much longer than is usually the case for Cottrell-printed stamps, about three seconds. Usually one can hardly see the afterglow.

But all of this just proves again that all Clays reported so far are on Type I paper. It would have been news if Elser's untagged error had been on paper that was dead in UV. So we did what the Paine Webber agent is reputed to have done, according to the firm's ads: We asked. He had one. Both untagged errors were on Type I paper, but the high bright's 45° gum striations were much more pronounced.

Since Type I paper varies from dull purple to bright purple-white in shortwave UV, it seems more and more likely that all Clays were printed on varieties of Type I paper.

Triple vertical break

Meanwhile, Ken Moreau has come up with something new, a triple vertical break, as shown in the accompanying illustration.

Untagged 35¢ Drew

Wolfgang Elser reports that Victor Bove, a dealer who has a stock of untagged errors, is offering a partly untagged plate block of the 35¢ Drew. One of the stamps is completely untagged, Elser was told. *TPN* called Bove and learned that the stamps came from the rare Plate 3.

Please turn page

Untagged 40¢ Gilbreth

Jim Fowler has found a used, untagged 40¢ Gilbreth. No such untagged errors had been reported previously.

Under very high magnification (40× binocular microscope) When examined by *TPN*, only a speck of taggant on the back of the stamp could be seen. *TPN* considers it an untagged error since no tagging can be seen even at 10× on the front of the stamp.

The stamp is on Type III paper.

All shiny gum reprints are high bright

Fowler also submitted a 50¢ Nimitz on mottled prephosphored paper with shiny gum and noted that the paper was high bright and fluoresced in longwave UV.

TPN immediately tested all the other Great Americans reprinted with shiny gum and on mottled prephosphored paper. All were high bright!

Tested were 10¢ Red Cloud, 20¢ Truman, 23¢ Cassatt, 50¢ Nimitz, 52¢ Humphrey, 75¢ Willkie, and \$1 Humphrey.

Viewed in longwave UV every one of these stamps emits fluorescence, but we may end up with two types even here. Some of the stamps are bluish white in UV; others have a tan color.

Fowler said he bought the Nimitz stamp from Hank Karen, who did not seem interested in the finding that the stamps are high bright. Karen, of course, is right if all shiny-gum mottled stamps are on high bright paper. But from a research point of view, Fowler has struck gold. Now we must follow up.

Stamps originally issued on shiny gum (29¢ Warren, 29¢ Jefferson, 35¢ Chavez) have not yet been found on the bluish-white high-bright paper. How will we detect reprints of these?

EFO shows both pane and coil stamps

By Alan Malakoff

A triangular EFO piece, showing parts of three red Eagle & Shield stamps, has been found in a packet of panes. This piece is illustrated at the right.

To fully understand the piece, one must first understand how the stamp was printed. As illustrated in the 1992 *Linn's Stamp Yearbook*, the E&S coil stamps were printed off the bottom row of the plate which printed the panes. This singular row was trimmed off for processing into coil rolls. (See top diagram on Page 23.)

The bottom two stamps on the EFO piece are from the coil. The spacing of the two stamps correspond to that on a coil strip. A normal coil strip, however, has the front paper between and around the individual stamps removed. Thus, the black electric-eye markings are never seen as they are die cut and stripped away. The color bar in the lower left is never seen as that is outside the normal slitting of the coil.

The stamp in the upper left is from the booklet pane. It does not align vertically with the bottom left stamp. It also shows a lower left cutting mark, one since associated with panes from the lower portion of the printing plate (version of the red Eagle & Shield pane with the bar at the top).

Although it can't be seen in the illustration, this piece shows one die cut mark. It is vertical, just to the lower right of the booklet pane stamp. Obviously, one cannot draw a lot of conclusions about an error piece that is a miscut, foldover, or something. One might be though that, at least with Stamp Venturers, the vertical and horizontal die cut operations on the panes are done in two separate steps.

TPN has found Fowler's discovery to apply to the shiny-gum 10¢ Canal Boat and the 23¢ Lunch Wagon.

Wolfgang Elser also noticed that the 56¢ Harvard—with a tagging spill that makes it appear overall tagged—is also bluish white in UV while normal Harvards are dull in UV.

Elser also made a surprising find: The normal 56¢ Harvard is on Type II paper with vertical gum striations; the spill is on Type I paper with 45° gum striations.

That tagging spill

We were also reminded of that 56¢ Harvard tagging spill when Gerald Clark sent in a mint single of a block-tagged 50¢ Nimitz that also appears—at least at first glance—to be block tagging on top of prephosphored paper.

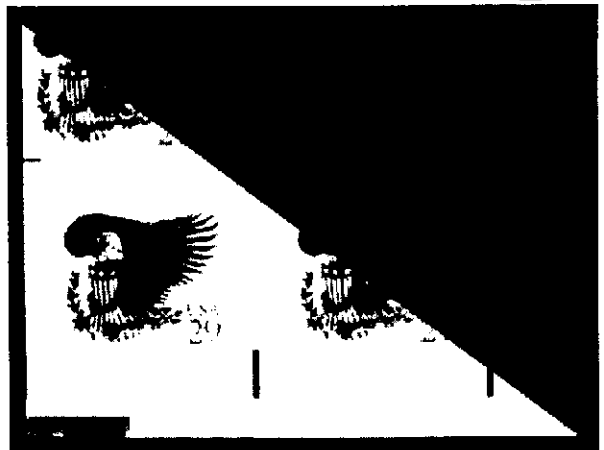
As we learned to our chagrin with the 56¢ Harvards, this is not prephosphored paper at all. It is untagged paper that has been tagged with block tagging. But the tagging got all over the pane because of the spill. That gives us a brightly tagged block and a less bright area around the block.

Blob on Audubon's cheek

Jim Fowler has found a colored blob on the left cheek of John Audubon on the 22¢ Great Americans stamp portraying him. The blob was found on a stamp from a plate block of 20 from Plate 1.

Said Fowler, "Under the microscope, it looks as if the plate may have been damaged." If so, there should be other stamps showing the same error. Any reports?

The left cheek, incidentally, is on the stamp's right.



AREN'T WE LUCKY?—Just when we are illustrating how panes and coils were printed (next page) we get this EFO to illustrate it. The half stamp at top is from a pane and shows a cutting mark; the other stamp and a half are from the coil strip, including its electric-eye marks. In the extreme lower left-hand corner is the color bar.

5th complete revision

The Summary of Data on the Great Americans now shows at a glance how to spot differences among the many varieties of this fascinating series. Updated to include the two paper types on the 20¢ Apper and always being updated. \$7.50 if you never bought one; \$5 for updates.

The Plate Number

Federle ad shows red pane's cuts

Richard Federle ran a full-color, full-page ad in the Oct. 31 issue of *Linn's* offering three versions of the red Eagle and Shield self-adhesive pane of 17 stamps.

His price for the three varieties—showing bars at top, at bottom, and at both top and bottom—was \$55.

But there was a flaw in the ad. Federle's top position (showing the bar at the top) is really the bottom of the web, as may be seen by the cutting mark at the lower right corner.

This cutting mark, exaggerated in *TPN's* illustration of the pane with the bar at the top, is also seen in an illustration that appeared in the *Linn's 1992 U.S. Stamp Yearbook*. *Linn's* was showing a portion of Stamp Venturers' plate proof. The cutting mark is at the bottom. In the *Linn's* picture, no other cutting marks are shown.

We have reproduced the main elements of that picture in the diagram at the top right.

But in Federle's ad a very faint cutting mark may be seen at the upper left corner of the pane that has the bar at the bottom.

The top mark is a 5mm vertical line that can be found on the right, left, both or neither side of the pane.

[See Alan Malakoff's article on the opposite page for an EFO showing a miscut with both pane and coil stamps in one piece.]

According to George Amick's text in *Linn's Yearbook* the plate was five panes high with the coil strip of 5,015 stamps was beneath the "booklets."

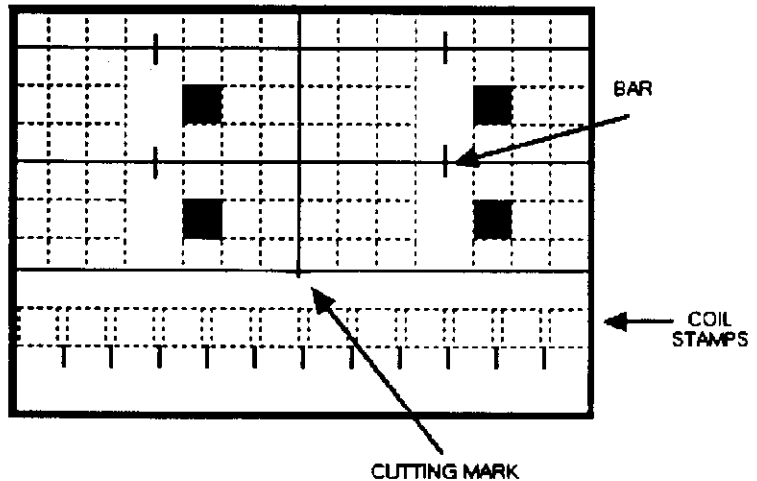
That means that out of each five panes, three will have bars at both top and bottom and one each will have a bar at the top or bottom. Thus, 60% of all Stamp Venturers' panes will have bars at both top and bottom while the other two varieties will constitute 20% each.

The cutting mark in the shape of a cross, called a registry mark in *Linn's*, is not a full cross in the photo of the plate proof. The descending bar is truncated, leaving room for the coil strip that runs across the bottom of the plate.

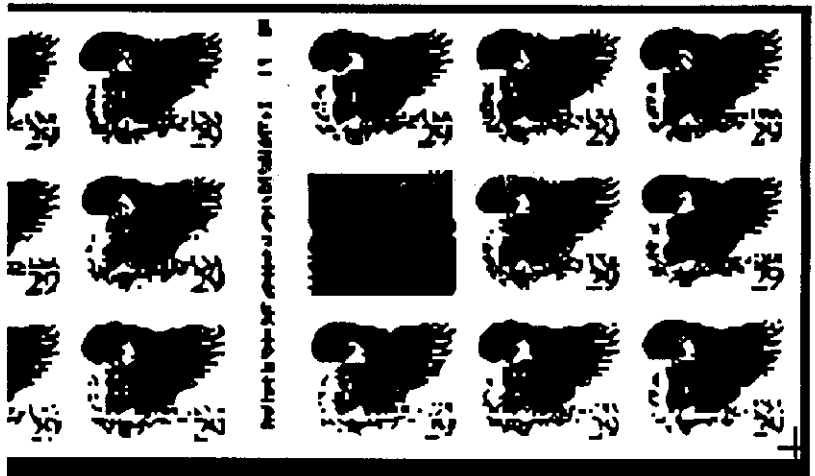


In March 1994, *TPN* reprinted articles from *Information from...*, the internal bulletin of the Stamp Acquisition and Distribution Branch. We did not know the author. It turns out the articles were written by Dr. Alim A. Fatah. Articles were on gum and self-adhesives.

Page 95—In reporting Ken Lawrence's discovery that the shiny-gum 23¢ Cassatt was on high-bright paper, we said the \$1 Hopkins on shiny-gum paper was not high



WHAT PROOF SHOWS—This diagram, based on a photograph in *Linn's 1992 U.S. Stamp Yearbook* of a plate proof of Stamp Venturers' Eagle and Shield, shows how self-adhesive panes were printed, five-high, on each plate with a coil strip at the bottom. In *Linn's* photograph, the word "Approved" is scrawled at the lower right. The blacked-out squares represent the text blocks on each pane. Each pane is enclosed in unbroken lines.



BAR AT TOP MEANS BOTTOM—The cutting mark at the lower right of this pane (with the bar at the top) proves the pane is from the bottom of the web.

TPN corrects a pile of mistakes

bright. We checked. Hopkins is high bright.

Page 129—*TPN* reversed Dr. Robert Rabinowitz' meaning in the paragraph beginning with "Actually." What he wrote was, "I do not have a retail price on B4344-3, in spite of the fact that Mr. Iams has concluded that I do."

Page 130—In the first reply to Richard Perls, *TPN* somehow got a bee in its bonnet that the letters had been mailed first-class presort at 23 cents and the E&S stamps lowered that cost because they had been bought below face from a PNC dealer. The fact is that the letters were mailed bulk rate, at

19.8¢ by indicia and only 19¢ by stamps.

Page 131—Despite the enthusiastic headline "USPS issues first holiday ATM," a look at the master list on Page 146 shows two prior holiday ATMs, the Christmas Train and the Snowman.

Page 146—*TPN* omitted Pine Cone B16 from the list. The average dealer's price for the pane in October was \$11.42.

Page 148—Two weeks after the November issue, the DAV sent out another appeal for funds, and used coil stamps on the return envelopes. (See corrective article on Page 13.)

Splice gives clues to Stamp Venturers' methods



SPLICE UPSETS STAMP SPACING—A splice, seen as a vertical line on the liner under the center stamp (caused by uneven horizontal spacing of the stamps as may be seen

from the narrow space at the right of the center stamp. The horizontal lines drawn in by TPN show a vertical displacement, most easily seen in the space over the "29."

By Alan Malakoff

A splice on the Rose self-adhesive coil stamp was obtained over the counter from USPS in Washington, D.C. By itself, this is not a notable event. However, an analysis of the splice may tell us something about Stamp Venturers' production methods.

All of the splices to date (at least the ones seen by me), typically have been "neat," and from a stamp perspective, have not interrupted the flow of the stamps. The spacing between the stamps around the splice has been as even as the spacing between any two stamps. Plate number counting has not been interrupted or "thrown off" by the splice.

The Rose splice, with the strip pictured above, is different. First off, there is a stamp on top of the splice. The stamp itself is not spliced or split indicating that either the stamp or at least the top paper layer was applied after the backing liner was spliced. The spacing between two Rose coil stamps is typically 6mm. To the left of the stamp on the splice, there is a 4mm gap. To the right, it is less than 2mm.

The stamps to the right of the splice do not line up horizontally with those to the left of the splice. The stamp on the splice is close, horizontally, to those on the right, but it is not a perfect match.

So what does all this tell us about the making of this coil and splice? My theory is as follows: Two separate large rolls of Rose self-adhesive coils were printed, die cut, and the excess material removed. It was then realized that they would be short of the 5,004-stamp roll size. Two of these larger rolls were then spliced together. The rolls were then slit (the liners on both sides around the splice have a smooth edge implying slitting after splicing). Finally, visual inspection of the roll revealed just enough space for an extra stamp to be fitted in, which was done manually. Note that these last two steps of slitting and stamp placement may be reversed and the result still be the same.

Further supporting evidence to this was the appearance of the stamps on the strip. They look dirty and have smudges, indicating a lot of handling. It could have been done by the USPS clerk (of course, it wasn't done by the stamp collector), but it would be a major coincidence for only this one strip to be so affected.

The splice tape itself is clear and is 48mm wide—probably a two-inch standard industrial tape. Even from the reverse, the splice tape is not centered around the splice.

Information and discussion about other splices on Stamp Venturers' products is welcome. By comparing enough pieces, we may be able to increase our understanding of production methods.

Details on the 1994 Santa self-adhesive panes and coils

By Alan Malakoff

Previous issues of *TPN* have discussed what full rolls of self-adhesive coils have looked like. With the issuance of the 1994 Christmas stamps, a similar study was done on the Santa self-adhesive coil.

The Santa coil was printed by Avery and is produced in coils of 3,336 stamps. The first question is why 3,336? Other recent self-adhesives have been in rolls of 5,004—this corresponds to 278 strips of 18. The 3,336 size corresponds to 278 strips of 12. As the Santa pane is only 12 stamps, the Philatelic Fulfillment Center is selling coil strips of 12.

[Author's note: this type of analysis clearly debunks the fact that the coils are for first-day programs and covers, but rather clearly intended for sale to the collector market.]

The Santa coil comes with the liner rouletted every 12 stamps. This rouletting is at the 5L position and is identical to that of the Statue of Liberty coil, also printed by Avery.

The roll is shrink wrapped with a rectangular label (5 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches) on the outside of the wrapper. The label is similar to other Avery products—it includes both a manufacturing date and a

plate number.

The roll itself is 7 5/8 inches in diameter, while wrapped. Inside the shrink wrap, on the opposite side of the label, is a piece of circular cardboard to give the roll support. It has a 3-inch thick core, again similar to the Statue of Liberty coil. Three inches is a standard size of industrial core. The thick core, versus the thinner one of earlier issues, increases the circumference in which the innermost strip is wound to—this decreases the likelihood of stamps falling off that last strip due to liner bending.

The outside end of the roll is held shut with a piece of unmarked masking tape (the 1993 Christmas rolls all had a hand-written notation on the masking tape). The inner end is glued to the core.

The header strip on this coil is about 26 3/4 inches, or equivalent to 24 stamps. It shows evidence of both die cuts and the rouletting. The actual stamps on the roll start at a roulette, so the numbered stamp is the fifth one in. The roll ends on a roulette, thus maintaining the multiple of 12 count.

This particular roll had no splices, nor have any been reported on the Santa as of this writing.

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Self-adhesive master list as reported through Dec. 10, 1994

(with average of dealers' prices compiled by TPN)

By Gerald H. Clark

Pricing by Stephen G. Earati
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
 A1111 -----C-D --\$10.72
 Coil: No numbers ---C-D
2475a 25¢ USA Flag ATM
 No numbers -----A from back
 -----\$7.00

2478a Red Squirrel
 D1111 -----D --\$11.64
 D2221 -----D --13.21
 * D2222 -----D --16.99
 D2222 -----D --16.74
 * D23133 -----D --17.56
 Coil: No numbers ---C
 (clear splices)

2479a 29¢ Rose
 (UPC 91)(error) S111 A -----\$11.58
 * (UPC 94) S111-A -----12.51
 Coil: No numbers ---C
 (Yellowish clear splice)
 Note: 40% of the first production was incorrectly printed with Universal Product Code (UPC 91) for the \$2.90 African Violet booklet, instead of the correct UPC 94 for the \$5.22 Rose

booklet. Copies with the error (UPC 91) are known with cutting-guide marks on either the left or right side of the pane. No cutting-guide marks have been found on copies of the corrected UPC (UPC 94).

2480a 29¢ Pine Cone
 B1 -----B -----\$20.58
 B2 -----B -----13.21
 B3 -----B -----12.85
 B4 -----B -----12.71
 B5 -----B -----16.44
 * B6 -----B -----12.49
 * B7 -----B -----11.78
 B8 -----B -----13.64
 B9 -----B -----12.93
 * B10 -----B -----12.31
 B11 -----B -----12.71
 B12 -----B -----15.93
 B13 -----B -----12.31
 B14 -----B -----12.71
 B15 -----B -----15.50
 B16 -----B -----11.56
 Coil: B1 -----A-B
 PNC Catalog: SA29PC-B1
 (clear or red splices)

2522a 'F' (29¢) Flag ATM
 No numbers -----A from back ---7.50
2531A 29¢ Torch ATM
 Does not apply to any of the three printings. No writing
 Note: There are two varieties of the booklet with the first cover (Scott BC68A, text only): lacquered and not lacquered. The second cover (Scott BC68B) features an enlarged picture of the stamp.

BC68A -----\$10.25
 BC68B -----11.00

29¢ Eagle and Shield
2595a Banknote Corp. (Brown)
 B1111-1 -----A-B -----\$12.85
 B1111-2 -----A-B -----11.99
 B2222-1 -----A-B -----24.00
 B2222-2 -----A-B -----19.71
 B3333-1 -----B -----20.07
 B3333-3 -----B -----21.50
 B3434-1 -----B -----13.57
 * B3434-3 -----B -----24.36
 B4344-1 -----A-B -----14.50
 B4344-3 -----B -----155.00
 B4444-1 -----A-B -----13.42
 B4444-3 -----A-B -----14.71
 Coil: No numbers ---A-B
 (yellow or red splices)

2596a Dittler Bros. (Green)
 D1111 -----A -----\$11.71
 D21221 -----A -----11.71
 * D22322 -----A -----11.83
 D32322 -----A -----13.21
 D32332 -----A -----13.36
 D32342 -----A -----24.50
 D42342 -----A -----13.50
 D43352 -----A -----17.07
 D43452 -----A -----20.13
 D43453 -----A -----17.50
 D54561 -----A -----16.36
 D54563 -----A -----13.00
 D54571 -----A -----13.21
 D54573 -----A -----16.07
 D54673 -----A -----21.83
 D61384 -----A -----25.43
 D65784 -----A -----13.56
 Coil: No numbers ---A

2597a Stamp Venturers (Red)
 * S1111 -----C -----\$24.67
 (top, center, and bottom positions)
 Note: Cutting-guide marks are known on top and bottom positions.
 Coil: No numbers ---C
2598a 29¢ Eagle
 M111 -----A-B -----\$10.67
 M112 -----A-B -----10.67
 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)

2599a 29¢ Statue of Liberty
 * D1111 -----D --\$10.86
 D1212 -----C-D --10.89
 Coil: D1111 -----
 PNC Catalog: SA29SOL-D1111
 (Red splice has been found on coil)

2719a Christmas Train ATM
 V11111 ---No writing ---\$11.20
2802a 29¢ Christmas Toys (4 designs)
 V111-1111 -----B -----\$7.83
 V222-1222 -----B -----8.24
 V222-2112 -----B -----8.03

V222-2122 -----B -----8.03
 V222-2221 -----B -----7.68
 V222-2222 -----B -----7.83
 V333-3333 -----B -----7.68
 Coil: V11111111 -----B
 PNC Catalog: SA29G-V11111111
 (red splices)

2803a 29¢ Snowman ATM
 V1111 ---No writing -----\$10.86
 V2222 ---No writing -----13.58

2813 29¢ Love Sunrise
First printing
 B111-1 -----B -----\$12.14
 B111-2 -----B -----12.14
 B111-3 -----B -----12.14
 * B111-4 -----B -----11.81
 B111-5 -----B -----72.50
 B121-5 -----B -----12.49
 B221-5 -----B -----17.21
 B222-4 -----B -----11.81
 * B222-5 -----B -----11.81
 B222-6 -----B -----11.81

Second printing
 B333-5 -----B -----24.05
 B333-7 -----B -----19.50
 B333-8 -----B -----14.93
 B333-9 -----B -----12.71
 B333-10 -----B -----12.56
 B333-11 -----B -----12.71
 B333-12 -----B -----12.71
 B333-14 -----B -----40.75
 B333-17 -----B -----12.99
 B344-11 -----B -----13.28
 B344-12 -----B -----12.71
 B344-13 -----B -----12.42
 B434-10 -----B -----66.13
 B444-7 -----A-B -----13.14
 B444-8 -----A-B -----12.42
 * B444-9 -----A-B -----12.42
 * B444-10 -----B -----12.66
 * B444-13 -----B -----12.66
 B444-14 -----B -----12.56
 * B444-15 -----B -----12.71
 B444-16 -----B -----15.21
 B444-17 -----B -----12.42
 B444-18 -----B -----12.24
 * B444-19 -----B -----12.42
 B555-20 -----A -----12.14
 B555-21 -----A -----11.50


Third printing
 Coil: B1 -----A
 PNC Catalog: SA29L-B1
 (yellowish clear splices)

2872a 29¢ Christmas Santa booklet (SV)
 V1111 -----A -----6.98
 Coil: V1111 ---A

2874a 29¢ Cardinal ATM
 V1111 ---No writing -----11.96
32¢ "G" undenominated
 "G" booklet (Avery Dennison)
 Same, coil of 5,015
 "G" ATM (Avery Dennison)
 (Issued Dec. 13, 1994)

NEW VARIETIES 10¢ Eagle & Shield and 23¢ USA Eagle & Shield 22221 F-VF PS5

Extra Blue 1 -----\$12.00
Eagle & Shield 22222 Shiny Gum F-VF PS5
 Extra Blue 1 or Bluebird -----\$12.00
Eagle & Shield 22222 Matte Dull Gum F-VF PS5
 Extra Blue 1 or Bluebird -----\$12.00
 Split numbers -----\$12.00



3 Numbers 100% on Top -----\$19.95
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 better version of 3 numbers 100% on top with 4 numbers 100% on top and fifth almost complete
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Eagle & Shield 33333 F-VF PS5
 Egg or Feathers -----\$10.00

NEW TAGGED ERRORS F-VF PS5
 10¢ E&S 11111 Tagged -----\$29.50
 10¢ E&S 22221 Tagged -----\$12.95
 Tagged Extra Blue 1 or Tagged Bluebird -----\$12.00
 23¢ USA 11111 Tagged -----\$29.50

15% discount over \$44.00
 PS5 XF add 25% PS7 XF add 50%

Lipson Box 2543 Reston VA 22090

Thank you!
 For their help in keeping us up to date on self-adhesives, thanks go to Dick Federle, Doug Iams, Clair Jones, Mike Keller, Robert Kitson, Joann Lenz, Michael Lipson, Alan Malakoff, Carol Morehouse, Michael Perry, Joseph Reymer, Dr. Robert Rabinowitz, Dr. David Schneider, Rick Staiger, and Wayne Meyers.

Coming new issues

- 32¢ Flag over Field ATM (pane of 18)
- 32¢ Flag over Porch (pane of 20)
- Same: coil of 5,560
- 32¢ Four Fruits (pane of 20)
- Same: coil of 5,560
- 32¢ Love (pane of 20)
- Same: coil of 5,560
- 57¢ Love (pane of 20)
- Same: coil of 5,560
- Love Cherub (pane of 20)
- Same: coil
- 2nd-ounce Love Cherub (pane of 20)
- Same: coil
- 32¢ Rose (pane of 20)

- Same: coil of 5,560
- 32¢ Christmas ATM (pane of 18)
- 32¢ Christmas contemporary (pane of 20)
- Same: coil of 5,560

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.

Prices remain in great flux with wide variations on some sheetlets.

Haake gets last dull-gum UVMS of ECA-GARD with new typeface

Continued from Page 1

activated, color screen. They are programmed for credit cards, but that function is not yet available. They are able to print and process changes of address.

The machines still set a maximum of three transactions and cut the stamps after three transactions or after printing 50 stamps.

"Collectors must be careful about the position of the plate number," Lenz said, "or they may end up with some very short perf's."

The machine at the main post office is identified on the receipt as PMC-0014.

The easiest way to tell the new UVMS from the old ones is by the decimal point. The decimal point previously was centered about halfway up the numbers for the denomination. It is now at the baseline of the numbers. The digits now are about 3.5mm in height. The old numbers were about 2.75mm tall.

Also significantly different is the asterisk in front of the denomination. On the old stamps it was poorly defined. It is now crisp and clear.

At the end of November, Al Haake drove to the Stadium Station in Ann Arbor and spent a week there, trying to buy 125,000 stamps. The machine broke down repeatedly and a new printer had to be express-mailed in from Chicago. Haake had called ahead and told the supervisor he needed 40 rolls of 3,000. Only 16 were available, so more were ordered from Detroit. But they turned out to be shiny-gum stamps.

Ann Arbor officials also reprogrammed the machine for Haake so he could print 96 stamps at one time (instead of having a cut after 50). The stamps were printed in numbered strips of 48.

Haake had to spend an extra day in Ann Arbor because of the many breakdowns. "I think these printers were not made for the kind of heavy usage they got from me," he said.

[Incidentally, collectors skeptical about dealers might consider the costs of Haake's 500-mile trip from St. Louis, six nights in a hotel, three meals a day away from home, and the cost of shipping home each day's purchases by express mail.]

The machine did not always work as it should. At one time the denomination starting dropping on the stamps. Haake made one strip of 96 in which the first and last stamps are normal, but all the rest have a steady progression downwards of the denomination.

After Ann Arbor's 16 rolls were used up, Haake started on the rolls that had been shipped in from Detroit. They had shiny gum.

But Haake wanted dull-gum stamps and told Ann Arbor officials. They tried to get more from Detroit, but they were all gone.

"Hey, isn't it great to know that I got the last of the dull-gum stamps?" he exulted.

Haake was fortunate in another way. The German engineers who developed the new printer were still in Chicago while he was in Ann Arbor. They had intended to leave in mid-week, but that's when Ann Arbor's machine died completely.

It wasn't any good going to Detroit, either. All Detroit machines were down.

Haake plans to go back to pick up more shiny-gum stamps.

Haake's coup was the subject of discussion on the Internet's stamp boards in early December, as collectors sought to get the dull-gum varieties. In his initial *Linn's* ad, Haake offered PS/SS of the 29¢ at \$9 VF and \$10 XF. By the time you read this, those prices will be \$12 and \$14, respectively.

USPS scraps nonprofit 'G's

Now that the Postal Service has gone into the lottery business "to recoup the cost of printing" stamps that could not be sold, it is time to hold another one, for nonprofit "G" stamps.

The stamps were printed by ABN in large printing runs. The stamps were ordered printed by the Gordon Morrison-Don McDowell régime.

When Michael Spates was asked at the last writers' summit why the stamps were being issued, he said: "Don't ask me. They were ordered by the prior administration."

When the "G" stamp news was released Dec. 12, no nonprofit stamps were included. The stamps will be:

First-class, sheet of 100; 3¢ makeup stamp (to make up rate from 29¢ to 32¢), sheet of 100; 20¢ post card, sheet of 100; booklets of 10 and 20 stamps; coil stamps, self-adhesive sheetlets of 18, ATM panes of 18, an unnumbered "G" official coil stamp, and the 25¢ First-Class Presort stamp shown above.

The "G" on the stamps changes color, depending on the printer. BEP's is black; Stamp Venturers' is red, and ABN's is blue.

Collectors have been getting a peek at some of the stocks in post offices. Here's what was known as TPN went to press:

Stamp Venturers

C32-S1111—"G" stamp, rolls of 3,000 or 10,000 with accounting number on gum of every 10th stamp, with plate-number combination "1111." Also in rolls of 500, but these do not have numbers on the gum.

C32-S2222—"G" stamp, rolls of 100, with plate-number combination "2222." Printing on gum not known, but USPS said only rolls of 3,000 and 10,000 would have the accounting numbers..

Bureau of Engraving and Printing

C32-2222—"G" stamp, rolls of 100, with plate-number combination "2222."

American Bank Note

Rolls of 100:	Roll size not reported:	
C32-A1433		C32-A3113
C32-A2213		C32-A3114
C32-A2214	C32-A1211	C32-A3314
C32-A3433	C32-A1212	C32-A3315
C32-A3436	C32-A1313	C32-A3324
	C32-A1324	C32-A4427
Rolls of 500:	C32-A2211	C32-A5327
C32-A1111	C32-A2222	C32-A5417
C32-A1112		
C32-A2212		
C32-A3323		



What's new in self adhesives?

By Gerald H. Clark

Love with a difference

As promised, a third printing of BCA's Love Sunrise was distributed beginning Oct. 15. Following a normal progression of plate numbers, two new numbers have been reported: B555-20 and B555-21.

Examples from both new numbers exhibit major differences from the first two printings. The color sequence of the numbers has been changed from blue (letter designation), blue (first number), yellow (second number), red (third number), and green (intaglio number) to blue (letter designation), yellow (first number), red (second number), blue (third number), and green (intaglio number).

I checked with two local printers to see if the change of color printing sequence could prolong the life of a sleeve and was assured that it would NOT! Why was the sequence shuffled?

A second major difference is the yellow ink used on the plate number "5." All yellow "sun rays" on the first printings glowed brightly under longwave UV. The new yellow does not.

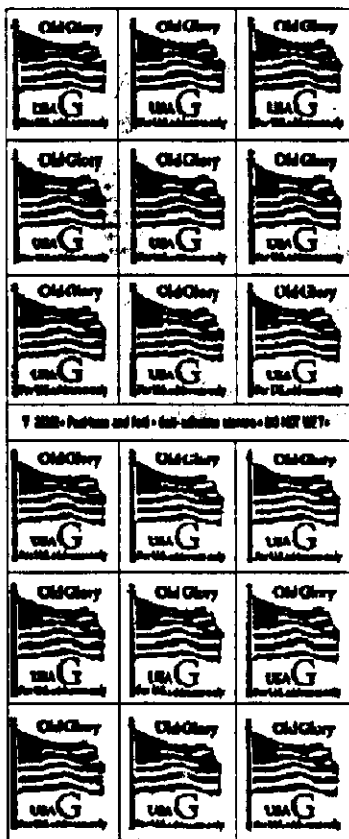
Finally, the liner position on all but three numbers of the earlier printings was Type B. Number 444-7, 444-8, and 444-9 exist with positions A and B. So far, only position A has been reported on the new printing.

The timing of this distribution was awkward in that most Stamp Distribution Offices (SDOs) were busy distributing Christmas panes. In some areas the new Loves still have not made it to the local window clerks. Don't let your guard down on this one. BCA used 10 plate combinations to print the first 10 million panes and 24 for the second 20 million panes. Could BCA produce another 10 million panes using only two combinations? Unlikely!

New Rose End Card

The final wave of the fourth distribution of the Rose stamp also began arriving in SDOs in mid-October. Once again the stamps are identical in all respects and there were no new plate numbers. Surprisingly, what did change was the end card! Fourteen months after the official First Day of Issue, the end card was changed to read:

Positively DO NOT SELL until the
FIRST DAY SALE DATE as
announced in *The Postal Bulletin*.



EARLY LOOK—When TPN went to press in early December, this pane was faxed. The stamps were not yet on sale. It is from V22222.

Blue Jay flies south

Due to the impending rate change, it is obvious that the long-mentioned 29¢ Blue Jay self-adhesive booklet and coil will not be issued. The design has evidently been moved to a 21¢ sheet stamp and regular 20-stamp booklet to cover the requested 21¢ post card rate.

If the Postal Service stays with the 20¢ post card rate approved by the Postal Rate Commission, it is possible that these proposed stamps will either get a new denomination or fall by the wayside again. It is not uncommon for approved designs to be moved from one proposed issue to another.

Did you know that the recent Cardinal ATM design was rejected in last year's Christmas foursome? See *Linn's 1993 Stamp Yearbook*, Page 257.

1994 'Holiday' Issues

So far, the self-adhesive Santa booklet and coil have been reported with only one plate-number combination (V1111) and only one liner position (A).

Likewise, the Cardinal ATM has only been seen with one plate number (V1111). There is now writing on the ATM liner.

'G' rate stamps due

"G" rate self-adhesives in booklet, coil, and ATM formats are just being released as TPN goes to press. Available locally is the booklet with the plate-number combination V22222 (shown at left) and a Type C liner. These stamps were produced in early 1992 with large initial orders. Based on the quantities of 1993 Christmas stamps, which were also produced by Avery Dennison, we should find five to ten plate-number combinations on this issue.

ATMs should soon be available at philatelic windows.

The future is now

The postal experiment with "self-service" outlets has been successful. Originally named "Stores of the Future," the name has now been changed to "Postal Store." Many new openings are planned for 1995.

Large quantities of stamps are diverted to Minnesota Diversified Industries for special packaging in self-service, shrink-wrapped packages and then shipped to the Postal Stores.

A new feature to the packaging is a magnetic "security" label on the back of each pack that must be demagnetized by the clerk at the cash register. Security sensors have been installed at the entrances to detect theft, and deter shoplifting.

TPN has recently cited several instances of major varieties of Great Americans stamps found only in Postal Stores. These stores should not be overlooked in your search for plate numbers or varieties on self adhesives.

Some collectors are beginning to keep examples of each self-adhesive issue in its self-service package. For this reason, we have added an asterisk by each number in the master list that has been found in Postal Stores. If you have found others, please let us know.

TPN pane offer successful

Within 30 days of the last issue, more than 25% of TPN subscribers had requested (and, I hope, received) copies of the two NCR demo panes that were of-

ferred free on Page 143. If you missed out, I will extend the offer only until Jan. 10, 1995! Remember, only one set per subscriber and please follow the instructions on Page 143.

But where are they?

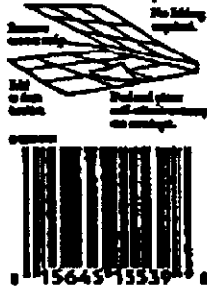
While traveling the country extensively for the past several weeks, (and stopping at every post office along the way), collector Carol Morehouse picked up two examples of Love Sunrise B444-8 with the A position liner. This position was confirmed by Clair Jones. Our only problem is that Carol can't remember where exactly she found them. Please remember, Carol! The rest of us fanatics need one also and time is running out!!!

Please send reports of new finds to Gerald H. Clark, P.O. Box 424, Midvale, Utah 84047-0424.

Editor's note:

Because of the rate-change news for which we had to hold up production of TPN until the last minute, A.S. Cibulskas' varieties report could not appear in this issue. It will return in the next issue.

Extra Value Stamps



Modern Convenience
The G Stamp roll was first to make the American postage stamp available to all consumers. Modernized equipment proved to be a major step toward the day when the first-class postage required to produce the billion of beautiful First-Class stamps would be printed on a single roll in the 1000-stamp quantity. The G Stamp roll is the First-Class domestic mail stamp of the U.S. address only, and is used for all first-class mail. The stamp is for credit for postage on the domestic mail only, and is not valid for international use.

Self-adhesive Stamps



G Series
New First-Class Letter Rate
Eighteen Stamps

For Domestic Mail Only
Not for International Use

FOR U.S. ADDRESSES ONLY—The text is the same as it was on the "F" Flower stamps, but there was no self-adhesive booklet then.

Accounting numbers are put on backwards

Stamp Venturers' back-numbered rolls of 3,000 and 10,000 of the 32¢ undenominated "G" stamp have the accounting number on the last stamp in the roll, the one nearest the hub. To be useful for seeing how many stamps are left on the roll, the number should be the first stamp on the roll, with the numbers decreasing as stamps are taken off the roll.

[Some clerks open rolls from the hub and work outwards. For them, the num-

bers are correct.]

Stamp Venturers displayed back-numbered dummy coils at the World Columbian Stamp Show in Chicago and then auctioned off one roll of 3,000 for the benefit of the Disaster Relief Fund on behalf of victims of Hurricane Andrew.

Henry Karen of Michael M. Karen, Inc., was the winning bidder and sold the dummy strips with back numbers at \$45 per strip of 10.

The Upside-down Yellow Number

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Did you think you had heard the end of the 1962 Invert story? Think again! Read my new report and be prepared for the greatest comeback in philatelic history!

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"The Upside-Down Yellow Number" is a light-hearted satire on stamps, collectors, and the government, combined with serious analysis and predictions; by the author of "The Great Philatelic Treasure Hunt," the 1983 report which predicted the unbelievable rise of Plate Number Coils. Don't be late, send \$10.98 today!

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Greats, Transportations live

Continued from Page 1

It was not known whether the proposed Airship would be changed into a 23¢ stamp since the 23¢ Lunch Wagon can serve that purpose. But no 20¢ coils exist that can be printed from present-day presses, meaning that a 20¢ Cog Railway may be among the first rate-change stamps.

I have also learned that two coils are coming out to meet the first-class presort and the first-class presort postcard rates. Both will reflect American culture. Other bulk-rate stamps will showcase American transportation and American scenes.

The new flag stamps will show a flag over a porch.

Other possible Great Americans, according to internal memos seen by *TPN* are: writer Edna Ferber, anthropologist Ruth Benedict, and Justin Morrill, the man who inspired the land-grant colleges.

The color brochure handed out at the unveiling said the Hershey stamp would be "the 1995 addition" to the Great Americans. Note the singular. The release never mentioned chocolate.

But the color of the stamp would be a silent ad for the chocolate king. It's the



CHOCOLATE KING—To get around USPS rules about advertising on stamps, Milton Hershey is identified on this 1995 stamp as a philanthropist. But the stamp gives a clue to who he really was. The color of the stamp is that of scrumptious milk chocolate.

color of a Hershey bar.

Minard said she hopes to bunch all the new definitives into one release and make them all public at one time. But just be-



GREAT AMERICAN?—The 11th president is considered part of the series. Both these pictures say "Preliminary Design" under the portraits. 1995 is the 200th birthday of Polk, a native of North Carolina but a resident of Tennessee, Vice President Al Gore's home state.

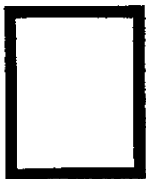
fore the rate change was announced, *Linn's* said two undenominated coils would show a juke box and a car's tail fins.

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