

USPS gives '94 shipping quantities

The Postal Service has supplied *TPN* with its totals of stamps shipped during Fiscal Year 1994, which ended on Sept. 30.

While the data do not give us information on plate numbers, we are able to extract some numbers referring to individual stamps.

The C Press version of the 1¢ Omnibus, for example, can be clearly identified by its item numbers, so we can calculate that 379,792,000 stamps were shipped by BEP, of which only 13 million were in rolls of 500. All the rest were rolls of 3,000.

On the untagged 2¢ Locomotive, BEP shipped 39,460,000 stamps, of which only 100,000 were rolls of 500.

BEP shipped a lot of 5¢ Circus Wagons during the year, possibly because ABN had lost its stamp-printing contract and the new Stamp Venturers version was not issued until this year. But before it

Complete statistics appear on Page 98

stopped working for USPS, ABN shipped 150 million more 5¢ Circus Wagons.

On the 10¢ Canal Boat, the totals given are for the stamps from Plate 2 printed on the C Press.

The report does not give quantities for self-adhesive coil stamps. The quantities provided for self-adhesive stamps are the product of the number of "booklets" shipped times the number of stamps in each self-stick pane.

The 20¢ Truman in the Great Americans Series on mottled prephosphored paper had a total distribution of 25.2 million stamps. For reasons that only the Postal Service will ever figure out, the

stamp was never listed in the *Stamps, etc.* catalog, but the stamp is still on sale at the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center as Item 1022.

The original Truman stamp was taken off sale at the cave on June 19, 1993, but the prephosphored reprint was and is available from the cave.

More mysterious is the 25¢ London. All versions of that stamp were taken off sale long ago, and the sheet stamp was off sale after Sept. 25, 1993. So how come BEP had to print more? Or did these stamps simply come out of BEP's vaults?

The same question applies to a shipment of 1.5 million 21¢ Carlson stamps. They went off sale Sept. 25, 1993.

There are errors in the report. The 3¢ Conestoga is listed as the 3¢ Circus Wagon. The 50¢ Nimitz is given the item number 1050, but that's not its item number.

Shiny and low-gloss gum replacing dull gum (we think)

The Postal Service is abandoning what philatelists call dull gum in favor of shiny gum and what Ken Lawrence has dubbed low-gloss gum.

This has been established by deduction, not on the basis of a USPS announcement.

Clue 1: new precancels are low gloss

The Postal Service said the 15¢ Tail Fin and the 25¢ Juke Box were being printed on "PVA gum." When dull gum was first used on stamps in the Americana Series, it was called PVA gum, or, sometimes, by its trademarked name, Davac.

Writing about the Americana Series in the May issue of *The American Philatelist*, Lawrence said:

The new paper was backed with a proprietary dull gum called Davac, consisting of polyvinyl alcohol and polyvinyl acetate, generically known as PVA gum.

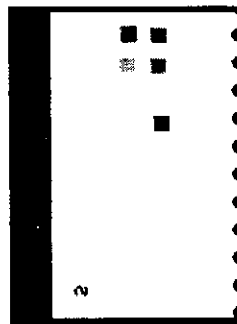
Clue 2: untagged 3¢ White reappears

BEP has been printing untagged 3¢ White stamps on LP-57 paper [for paper specifications, please consult *TPN*, July 1993, Page 92] with glossy gum. That's exactly how the stamps were supposed to have been issued in the first place, according to an announcement by the Postal Service.

The USPS announcement [*TPN* May 1995, Page 69] said that "while the type of paper, color of ink, dry gum adhesive,

and engraving are identical for the first and second printings [of the White

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Circulation this issue: 435

THE STUDY GROUP LIVES II

Al Haake was among the first members of the dissolved Plate Number Coil Study Group to agree to be in the re-constituted Plate Number Coil Study Group.

I have just noticed that on Page vi of the 1995 *PNC Catalog*, some of which I wrote for Richard Nazar, he erased Haake's name from among study group members. Haake had not resigned, but Nazar had a grudge against Haake over a business deal that later went sour. Nazar certainly had every right to write Haake and ask for his resignation, but to simply excise his name was a bit much!

The following also came back into the fold:

Gerald Blankenship, A. S. Cibulskas, Gerald H. Clark, Kim Cuniberti, Eugene R. Ernst, Glenn A. Estus, Larry G. Haynes, Myron G. Hill, Jr., Joann Lenz, Dr. Robert Rabinowitz, Philip F. Rose, Wolfgang Schön, D. John Shultz, Scott F. Smith (via the Internet from the South Pole), Robert M. Washburn, and Wayne L. Youngblood.

Not rejoining were Dr. John Greenwood, Alan Malakoff, Nazar, and Alan Thomson. Tom Maeder resigned on the grounds that he had not contributed much for several years. Ken Lawrence was invited but, but declined.

Lawrence stated his position in his PNC column in *Linn's*.

Neither Esrati nor Nazar has found an answer to the problem that undermined the group's prestige in the first place: Some members were freely sharing the results of their studies and discoveries, while others were concealing theirs in order to gain private advantage from them.

That was the issue that led to my resignation four years ago, and is my reason for not rejoining now. Unless each member contributes fairly, dissension is certain to erupt again.

Much of what Ken was aiming at is the reporting of new finds. We know that some new PNCs were found by dealers who are members of the study group who withheld information about the find to await further finds. But that's in the nature of being in business. These dealers are not collectors. They're into PNCs to make a living. And without them, PNC collecting would not be where it is today.

The ethical problem here is this: If I report the existence of the number, my competitors will seek it. If I set a low price on it, it may turn out to be scarce. If I set a high price on it, I may be accused of gouging collectors. If I say nothing, I run the least risk of criticism or of financial loss.

We all know of examples when dealer-members placed an item on sale cheaply, only to learn later that they could find no more. This happened with Eagle and Shield A32333 and "G" A4435. Both could be bought early at less than \$5. It was a financial disaster for the sellers.

We also know of the withholding of data on the new 10¢ Canal Boats because the finders were unsure of the way

The Plate Number

and Great Americans Review

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they should price them.

But Ken's charge of "private advantage" was aimed primarily—in this instance—at the finding of a used Eagle and Shield A11 10 10 10 11 by Rob Washburn, who is not a dealer and had nothing to gain. Rob actually called Ken first to tell him of the find, but could not reach him. He next called Dr. Robert Rabinowitz and Jerry Koepp (not a member of the study group).

Meanwhile, the item had been found by Diane Thompson and offered at a high wholesale price.

Dr. Rabinowitz and Haake, certain that they would find adequate supplies of the stamp, urged me to warn people against buying stamps at prices at or above Diane's wholesale price. I put a notice on the Internet that the new find was overpriced and urged patience.

And that may have been a straw in what caused Nazar to break up the study group. As was my habit, I couched the message as follows: "The Plate Number Coil Study Group advises collectors..."

That brought the ire of Alan Thomson, Nazar, and Alan Malakoff. Joann Lenz and Kim Cuniberti pointed out that they, too, are members of the study group and that they had not been consulted.

That's true. But it has always been my practice to use the study group's name for most public announcements because it was unseemly to call attention to myself for many of the successes of the study group.

In the case of the Internet message, three study group dealers were behind the message and only one (Cuniberti) who was not involved. I felt it was a correct way to handle the situation. I still do. After all, the study group also studies prices and dealers do the pricing.

On the other hand, I have told Nazar that I can no longer do the pricing for the catalog. I am trying to decrease my workload and I actually put in more than a month of work on prices for the 1995 catalog. I have to pace myself.

I wish the study group well, may it continue to solve the mysteries. And please note, the study group has just opened up a new and mysterious room: CC1 squares. Let's see where they take us!

Stephen G. Esrati

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.

LETTERS:

*Roger de Poont draws
a rave from collector
of 'manuscript' cancels*

The March 1995 copy of *TPN* arrived today. Naturally, it was a must-sit-down-and-read-cover-to-cover event. I especially enjoyed "The Unorthodox Collector" (Page 56). What a delight! The esoteric microspecialties never cease to amaze me. One of my little cubbyholes is modern manuscript cancels, i.e., "Who took that marking pen to the Priority stamp?" So now I have quite a collection of them.

As a Liberty Series collector, hole size can be very important when collecting the coil items. And just think, Roger de Poont might just have a small-hole perf from the nonexistent 2½¢ Scott 1056. He does have examples of other items that have never gone to press. The very thought of it sends chills up my spine! And to know where the Phenix, Ala., precancels are...and even to have a perf! Oh well, maybe his collection does not date back into that era.

Carol Morehouse
La Cañada, Calif.

In reply (by Steve Esrati): Some friends who do not collect PNCs must have been extremely puzzled when they got Roger's article as my Christmas card. But I thought a laugh in the belly was worth two yucky commercial cards any day.

A tendency to curl

All my plate strips of 20 of the 35¢ Drew from Plate 1 and 2 have an annoying tendency to curl away from the gum side. The printed surface has a glossy finish.

All my strips of Plates 3 and 4 (to press just eight days after Plates 1 and 2) lie perfectly flat, and the printed surface has a dull finish.

I've seen the same phenomenon on the 5¢ and 30¢ dull-gum postage dues, where I equate the glossy finish paper with tinted paper and the dull finish with white paper, possibly erroneously.

Was there a change in paper specifications or in suppliers?

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

P.S. All my 19¢ Sequoyahs are on glossy finish paper. They also curl.

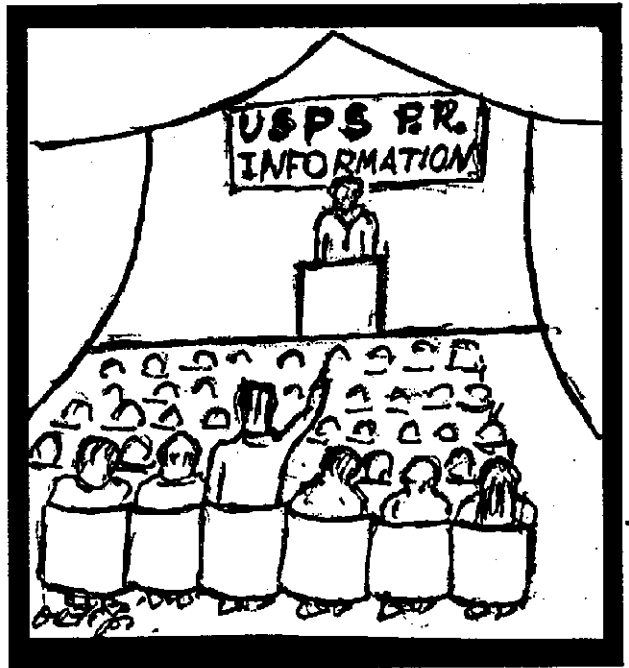
In reply: *TPN's* examination of the Drew and Sequoyah stamps did not result in a finding that these stamps are "glossy" or "dull." All of the Cottrell-printed Great Americans exhibit something of a sheen when manipulated under a strong light, but it would be going some to call that sheen "glossy."

Dr. Stiff's finding that the Drew 1 and 2 and the Sequoyah curl away from the gum was confirmed.

Readers are asked to examine their holdings and report what they find.

Pedro's World of PNCs

by Pedro Ortegon, M.D.



Reporter: *Is it true that USPS will be releasing a Legends of Transportation Coil Series, Mr. Runyon?*

Runyon: *Well... er... The USPS does not recall!*

Is completion still the goal?

I'm still pursuing commercial use of PNCs on cover, but this latest batch of G's etc. is mind boggling.

Is completion really our goal in philately anymore?

James E. Duffy Jr.
Highwood, Ill.

What about my untagged errors?

I'm not sure if I understand you properly...

Did you say that the 3¢ White was re-issued untagged with dull gum? If that is true, then I suppose there is no way for me to distinguish my untagged error single from that issue...

I was hoping that the re-issue would be exclusively on glossy gum.

In reply: *This raises an old problem in philately. The possibility always exists that your Hammarskjöld error will become worthless because of a reprinting. What do you do?*

You run, don't walk, to your nearest expertizer and get the thing expertized as an error BEFORE there can be a reprint.

In the case of the 3¢ White, we have been put on alert from the day the Postal Service announced that it would henceforth stop tagging values under 10¢. There was lots of time to get it expertized. It would prove it was from an earlier printing.

We have had the 3¢ Conestoga reprint with glossy gum for a while down here in the 35¢ vending machines. The

paper they are printed on has a rather "shiny" or otherwise "polished finish" that is noticeable when you turn it the right way in the light and when compared to the original stamp. That's the way I located my first one on cover and found the source locally.

Jim Fowler
Greenville, S.C.
via the Internet

What about this misperf?

I have not seen any mention of the enclosed photocopy of a misperforated 20¢ Truman Plate 1 (floating plate numbers, L-perforator).

Is this a common or rare misperf error?

In reply: Scott Magdole of Montclair Stamp Co. says it is quite common.

Perhaps you can tell me what its value is.

In reply: As in all things philatelic, that depends on supply and demand. Magdole says you would probably get the same from a dealer as you would from an auction.

Would you break this into a plate strip of 20 and the rest into pairs or blocks?

Magdole says it would be easier for a collector to sell as a full pane.

Alphonse D. Ponzillo
Waterbury, Conn.

I'm not interested

Please continue my subscription. I'm afraid I am not interested in the Great Americans, but you still do include PNC news.

A.C. O'Leary
Inglewood, Calif.

On phosphored papers

After being away from dealing for 4½ years, I'm not advertising until my catalog is completed, probably a year from now.

In the meantime, perhaps you can use my updated catalog sections on descriptions of overall tagging and pre-phosphored paper for *TPN*. It also includes a number of ways to separate the three types (overall, embedded, and surface tagging).

In reply: The guide will appear in the September issue.

Your article on what terms to use for prephosphored paper was thought provoking. I avoid the use of the terms "mottled" and "even" for the prephosphored paper terms only because "mottled" paper can be embedded taggant in the case of intaglio prints, and gravure prints can be either embedded or surface tagging.

The same holds true for "even" tagging.

Even though mottled and even tagging describe the tagging type more graphically than embedded and surface, the terms don't always accurately define the tagging type.

I'm only interested in terms that work for U.S. tagging.

Gene Paquette
Scottsdale, Ariz.



MISPERF—Part of a full pane in which the horizontal perfs are halfway into the stamps.

'G's cause FDC nightmare

Artmaster, which also produces House of Farnam first-day covers, has been having a dreadful time. Getting all the varieties of the "G" stamp has been difficult, Bill Toutant said in a letter to dealers.

There was a tremendous proliferation of plate numbers for the (32¢) "G" coil printed by American Banknote Co. (blue G). A total of 26 different numbers. We've prepared a very small number of these. While they last, we have complete sets of 36 PNC FDCs. Depending on cachet and whether they're PS/3 or PS/5, we have priced them at retail for around \$375.

Toutant told *TPN* that all the "G" stamp sets had been sold.

2 stamps per cover

Like the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center, Artmaster is preparing one FDC with both Stamp Venturers and BEP versions of the new bulk-mail stamps and the Flag Over Porch.

No more extensions

Scott Beach, manager of the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center, set the final limit on extensions for canceling "G" stamp FDCs as May 22. For the Flag over Porch, the final deadline is June 23. Beach said he would not honor any further requests for extensions on the two issues, but he did, as he usually does.

Delay on Peach, Pear

Toutant heaved a sigh of relief when USPS moved the Peach and Pear stamps from June to July. It's been that busy with new stamps.

Costly Marilyn Monroe cachet

Artmaster, by the way, paid an advance of \$2,500 to the estate of Marilyn Monroe for permission to use her picture and signature in its cachet. That's an advance payment against 8% of gross sales.

High-bright varieties on Great Americans

Stamp	Perf	Gum	Tagging	Dead	Bright
2¢ Stravinsky			Overall	X	X
3¢ Clay			Overall	X	X
3¢ White†		Dull	Untagged	X	
3¢ White†		Glossy	Untagged		X*
4¢ Schurz			Overall	X	X
5¢ Black		Yellow	Block	X	X
5¢ Black		White	Block		X
5¢ Buck		Yellow	Overall	X	X
5¢ Buck		White	Overall		X
13¢ Crazy Horse			Overall	X	X
14¢ Lewis			Small block		X
14¢ Lewis			Large block		X
15¢ Cody			Solid	X	X
17¢ Carson			Overall	X	X
17¢ Lockwood			Block	X	X
18¢ Mason		Yellow	Overall	X	X
18¢ Mason		White	Overall	X	X
19¢ Sequoyah			Overall	X	X
20¢ Bunche			Overall	X	X
20¢ Gallaudet			Overall	X	X
25¢ London			Block	X	X
28¢ Sitting Bull			Block	X	X
29¢ Warren			Mottled	X	X
29¢ Jefferson†			Solid	X	X
35¢ Drew			Overall	X	X
37¢ Millikan			Overall	X	X
40¢ Gilbreth	L		Block	X	X
40¢ Gilbreth	Bull's eye		Overall	X	X
45¢ Cushing			Block	X	
45¢ Cushing			Overall	X	
50¢ Nimitz	Bull's eye		Block	X	X
52¢ Humphrey		Glossy	Mottled	X	X
56¢ Harvard			Block	X	X
\$1 Revel			Block	X	X

Dealer-go-round

A4435 'G' stamp price tops \$100, but you can get them for two recalled LOWs

Somebody is playing games with the "G" stamp with the plate-number combination A4435.

In March, someone offered a quantity of the stamps at \$85 a roll to Stamps 'n' Stuff. The seller backed out of the deal and sold to Howard Grossman, a Brooklyn dealer, instead.

Grossman first advertised them at \$90, then went to \$95 and then to \$135. He refused to wholesale any. A week after his offer at \$135, he offered a complete set, including A4435, at \$215. That would mean Grossman is selling the other 41 strips at \$2 each—and that's for XF.

Some 'G's don't even exist XF. A2223 and A3315 are usually high; A3436 and A5327 are usually off center horizontally. But if Grossman has them XF, he could charge more than \$2 a strip.

Dealers other than Grossman appear to be out of A4435 except Dr. Robert Rabinowitz, who was selling them at \$150. Dr. Rabinowitz also advertised that he'd sell a set for two recalled Legends of the West panes or \$125 and one recalled LOW.

Back numbers

Dealers are trying to cater to collectors in the matter of back numbers, which are now to be found on all coil stamps printed by Stamp Venturers.

As Richard Sennett, the former managing partner of the firm told TPN, back numbers are put on stamps with no guidelines or spe-

cifications from the Postal Service. Sennett advised collectors not to try to collect varieties of the back numbers because they could have an infinite number of varieties.

Sennett also said the ink jets that apply the numbers do two rolls of stamps at a time. But since 25 rows are printed at once, one row needs its own ink jet. That row gets the numbers in the middle of the stamp. The other rows get them either at the top or the bottom.

Based on that information, some dealers are charging premiums for stamps with numbers at the center.

Dealers are also charging extra for the position of the back number, usually adding a premium for its presence on the plate-numbered stamp.

Self-adhesive panes

Kim Cuniberti has issued a "catalog" price list for self-adhesives. Among other things he says he has found die-cutting on the brown 29¢ Eagle and Shield. He hopes to develop his list into a catalog.

Brokerage service

Federle Stamps has started a stamp brokerage service for higher priced items. The fee is 10% of the sales price, split evenly between buyer and seller. The minimum fee is \$10, therefore, items costing less than \$100 are unlikely to be included. For a form, write 3663 Pimlico Ct., Indian Springs OH 45011-5508.

This chart, prepared by Wolfgang Elser, is based on the use of Lighthouse longwave and shortwave (with filter) lamps in a totally dark room.

The stamps Elser describes as high bright have a strong fluorescence in longwave UV.

The stamps he describes as dead show no fluorescence at all in longwave UV.

† The 3¢ White and 29¢ Jefferson were added by TPN. The "bright" White stamps has a brownish-yellow appearance in longwave UV, but is much less fluorescent than the other stamps listed here.

Readers are urged to compare their holdings against this table, but all reports should indicate what type of UV lamp was used. Readers may be asked to lend their stamps to TPN for comparison since UV lamps do differ so much.

What the heck are CCI squares, anyway?

By Stephen G. Esrati

It began with the 20¢ Truman. When Gerald Clark examined one of the prephotoshopped Plate 4 reprints, he noticed that some had little squares in the selvage.

The question was: "Hey, what are these squares?"

In the May issue of *TPN* we ran a long letter from Michael O. Perry, in which he illustrated miscut coils. Perry sought information about other collectors who may collect such material.

But we did not print the part of Perry's letter in which he showed a miscut strip of 29¢ Flag over White House. The strip was easy to identify because it shows a small part of the design. It even includes the plate number, a 6.

These stamps were from an imperforate strip of 50 that shows the wide horizontal line that we saw last time on the 25¢ Flag over Yosemite. The White House strip also shows vertical lines, but it also shows the little squares that Clark had seen on the Truman.

Perry called them "CCI" squares. That's two "C"s and the numeral one.

Perry believes the "CC" to be the name of a company, Color Control. But CCI may be the full name of the company.

"These marks have been found on six booklet-pane issues since 1992. While it is possible the CCI markings exist on all stamp formats printed by the BEP, they have only been found on two gravure and four intaglio/offset printed booklet issue to date," Perry said.

"But I believe that the plate-makers put on all the marginal markings for any press that

might be used. That includes the E-E (electric eye) markings, the crow's feet, and the CCI markings."

Here again we regret that we are missing data about the presses used to print these stamps, but we can now make some guesses.

Anything that can be printed on the intaglio C Press can also be printed on the intaglio/offset D Press and the intaglio/offset F press.

It is possible that the D and F presses need the CCI marks. For the life of him, though, Perry cannot understand why the BEP uses the CCI squares on one-color stamps (or why there are two dark blue CCI squares on his Flag coil. Why not just one CCI square as on the Truman and the White sheet stamps?)

Another thing troubling Perry is the fact that the CCI dots are not consistent in position or in size.

There are two different sizes of CCI squares below the horizontal line. The strip [printed across the top of this article] shows the plate number to the left of one of the two vertical bars (the printing sleeve only printed one plate number per revolution, but there are two vertical bars and four sets of CCI squares per revolution).

I don't know why they had the two different sizes of CCI squares. And, interestingly, the location of the two sets of small CCI squares was not

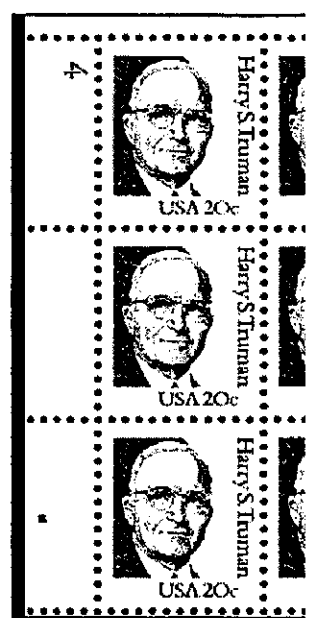
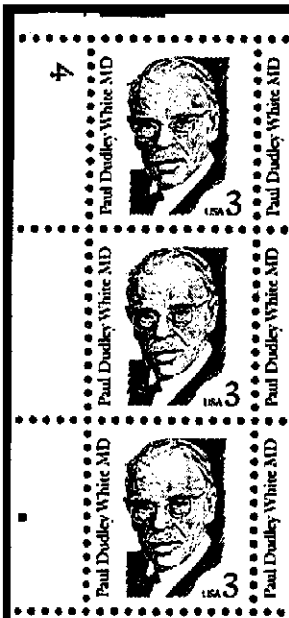
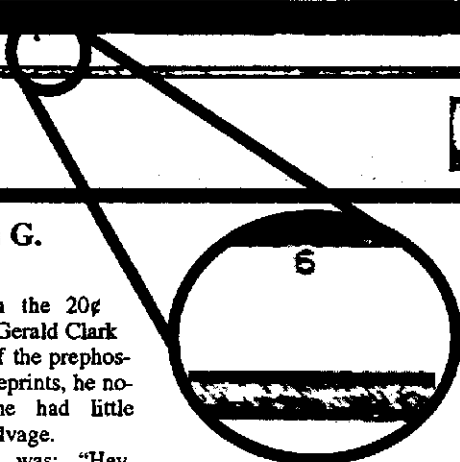
LARGE SQUARES—Two squares are seen near the right end of the strip shown above. The strip is from an imperforate strip of 50, easily identified as coming from Plate 6 of the 29¢ White House. The rectangular indentations at the top of the strip are actually the bottoms of the White House stamps.

SMALL SQUARES—This portion of the same strip, seen below, shows smaller squares. Both illustrations are the same size as the original.

uniform (one set is 14 stamps to the right of one vertical bar while the other set is 13 stamps to the right of the other vertical bar) whereas the two sets of large

CCI squares were both three stamps to the right of the two vertical bars.

A little later, André Thiele sent in a photocopy of the new



untagged 3¢ White. He correctly identified the CCI square by that name.

After *TPN* began kicking the subject around, Perry was able to obtain a photocopy of an article about controlling the register of the web from some of his colleagues who study the production of booklets. The article was called "In Control of Register" and



ONE INTAGLIO, FOUR OFFSET—Unfolded booklet pane showing one intaglio and four offset CC1 squares in the

appeared in the May 1994 issue of *Package Printing & Converting*.

The article discussed the need for an inspection system to control color registration. Printers want a system that is easy to use.

When members of the Plate Number Coil Study Group toured BEP last year during NAPEX, one thing they noticed was that the pressmen working on the F Press were watching video monitors as the press whirled.

Ken Lawrence recalls that “we were shown the small-square marginal dots. The printers showed us that the new video monitors are activated by those markings, one for each color of ink.”

The article, by Marie Ranoia, makes this a bit clearer. Pressmen control register by the use of high-resolution cameras, electronic controls, and video monitors.

We noticed that the pressmen were able to stop the whirring picture on the monitor at a selected spot on the web. They did this through the electronic controls. The picture on the monitor, of course, came from the cameras that constantly scan the web.

One of the systems listed by Ranoia is an image processor manufactured by CC1. It is menu driven and controlled by touching the screen on the monitor.

David Allen, sales manager for video web inspection systems at CC1, is quoted as saying a “register-control system has to cut make-ready time; it has to have the ability to get the press into initial register faster so that make-ready time is cut to an absolute minimum.”

Allen predicted that press manufacturers and the makers of web-inspection equipment would get together to integrate the systems into the presses.

Lawrence remembers being told that each CC1 square is for each color. This made Perry wonder why CC1 squares are used at all on one-color printings.

TPN then asked Phil Rose, a member of the PNC Study Group, who is a collector of booklets, whether he had ever heard of CC1 squares.

“Sure,” he said. “You find them—along with those color-registration crosses—in the selvage of miscut booklets.”

Rose later sent in a copyright diagram drawn by Perry that is reproduced (without the copyright notice required by law) in the 1994 *Linn’s U.S. Stamp Yearbook* (pages 308-09). The diagram shows the 36 booklet panes in the web and shows that the pane from Position 25 shows CC1 squares. The pane from Position 28 may show CC1 squares on its right edge if it has been miscut. Readers who have the *Linn’s Yearbook* are urged to consult these diagrams and to consult the tables about unfolded booklets panes.

Told that CC1 squares were being used on one-color intaglio

tab. Here the CC1 squares are used to check color registration. (Collection of Michael O. Perry)

stamps, Rose said, “I don’t know why they’d do that. In a multi-color printing, there are several of these, all in different colors. I have one that is miscut [Position 28 in the Perry drawing] and where the squares are not aligned.”

But there’s another matter that needs to be discussed here. Some PNC purists have objected strongly to the inclusion in *TPN* of material not directly dealing with PNCs. We had already noticed that the study of the Great Americans led to better understanding of the papers used to print PNCs and the time frames for the use of various presses. Many of these data simply were not available to philately because of the veil pulled over stamp production by USPS.

Here we have an example of a booklet specialist (Perry) studying PNCs to figure out his specialty and then two PNC collectors noticing on Great Americans what they had found on miscut PNCs. Finally, a PNC collector (Rose) who also collects booklets, pulls the whole thing together for us.

Perhaps it’s not so easy to segregate one part of philately from all others.

The novel that wasn’t

By Stephen G. Esrati

This issue of *TPN* was supposed to carry a half page ad for *Comrades, Avenge Us*, a full-length novel by me. Because the book has two heroes, an American and a Canadian, I had sought to have it published in Canada and answered an ad from a Canadian literary agency that appeared for more than a year in *The New York Times* and in many other publications.

In the fall of 1994 I was overjoyed when the agent called me, saying he was calling from Dublin, Ireland, to tell me that the novel had been “sold.” There was a hitch. The “publisher” was new and needed seed money to get his initial works on the market. I was asked to pay a modest amount in co-publishing fees and was told my book was too late for the 1994 Christmas list.

Try as I might, I could not get the publisher to come forth with galley proofs, the cover art, the name of an editor with whom I could work, or a publishing date. Further, when I informed the publisher of a possibility of getting the book published in Slovenia (where much of the action takes place), I was ignored. There was no spring list. I was told I was on the summer list, but never was able to get one. Finally I retained a lawyer, who found that the “literary agent” and the “publisher” were one and the same. I had been victimized by a huge fraud.

I am now looking for a new (and honest) agent.

1st official plate report since July 1992

A plate-activity report for the first quarter was received by *TPN* on April 17. The report was promuzed by Azeezaly Jaffer during his meeting with writers at NAPEX in November 1994.

The report covered only the following stamps:

- One-ounce undenominated Love Cherub sheet stamp
- One-ounce undenominated Love Cherub sheet convertible self-adhesive booklet

- 5¢ undenominated Butte
- 5¢ Circus Wagon from SVS (Stamp Venturers)
- 10¢ undenominated Auto from SVS
- 15¢ undenominated Tail Fin from BEP and SVS
- 25¢ undenominated Juke Box from BEP and SVS
- 32¢ Florida Statehood.

We jotted down some notes on those parts of the plate-activity reports in which we are interested:

FACE	PKC CAT	PLATE	NAME	COLOR	APPROVED	ISSUED	PRESS	SUBJ Across	SUBJ Around	10 PRESS	OFF PRESS	IMPRESS	TOTAL
(05)	ASS5111		Butte	Yellow	12/12/94	03/10/95	Chempain 1	616	22	12/12/94	12/16/94	1,605,143	
(05)	ASS5111		Butte	Red	12/12/94	03/10/95	Chempain 1	616	22	12/12/94	12/16/94	1,605,143	
(05)	ASS5111		Butte	Blue	12/12/94	03/10/95	Chempain 1	616	22	12/12/94	12/16/94	1,605,143	
(05)	TSCW51		Circus Wagon	Red (PMS 105)	01/12/95	03/20/95	Chempain 1	616	22	01/12/95	01/17/95	385,107	
(10)	AT10S111		Auto	Light brown	11/21/94	03/10/95	Chempain 1	616	22	11/21/94	11/21/94	654,280	1,764,533
(10)	AT10S111		Auto	Light brown	11/21/94	03/10/95	Chempain 1	616	22	11/21/94	12/23/94	654,280	
(10)	AT10S111		Auto	Black	11/21/94	03/10/95	Chempain 1	616	22	11/21/94	12/23/94	654,280	1,764,533
(10)	AT10S111		Auto	Black	11/21/94	03/10/95	Chempain 1	616	22	11/21/94	12/23/94	654,280	
(10)	AT10S111		Auto	Dark brown	11/21/94	03/10/95	Chempain 1	616	22	11/21/94	11/21/94	654,280	1,764,533
(10)	AT10S111		Auto	Dark brown	11/21/94	03/10/95	Chempain 1	616	22	11/21/94	12/23/94	654,280	
(15)	AC151111	194949-1	Tail Fin	Magenta	12/16/94	03/11/95	601	432	18	12/15/94	01/09/95	615,000	
(15)	AC151111	194950-1	Tail Fin	Yellow	12/16/94	03/11/95	601	432	18	12/15/94	01/09/95	615,000	
(15)	AC151111	194951-1	Tail Fin	Green	12/16/94	03/11/95	601	432	18	12/15/94	01/09/95	615,000	
(15)	AC151111	194952-1	Tail Fin	Black	12/16/94	03/11/95	601	432	18	12/15/94	01/09/95	615,000	
(15)	AC151111	194953-1	Tail Fin	Blue	12/16/94	03/11/95	601	432	18	12/15/94	01/09/95	615,000	
(15)	AC15S111		Tail Fin	Yellow	12/19/94	03/17/95	Chempain 1	432	22	12/19/94	12/19/94	237,525	
(15)	AC15S111		Tail Fin	Yellow	12/19/94	03/17/95	Chempain 1	432	22	12/19/94	12/19/94	237,525	
(15)	AC15S111		Tail Fin	Magenta	12/19/94	03/17/95	Chempain 1	432	22	12/19/94	12/19/94	237,525	
(15)	AC15S111		Tail Fin	Cyan	12/19/94	03/17/95	Chempain 1	432	22	12/19/94	12/19/94	237,525	
(15)	AC15S111		Tail Fin	Lead (PMS 3155)	12/19/94	03/17/95	Chempain 1	432	22	12/19/94	12/19/94	237,525	
(15)	AC15S111		Tail Fin	Black	12/19/94	03/17/95	Chempain 1	432	22	12/19/94	12/19/94	237,525	
(25)	AC25111111	195011-1	Juke Box	Magenta	01/31/95	03/17/95	601	432	18	01/30/95	02/11/95	2,072,000	
(25)	AC25111111	195012-1	Juke Box	Yellow	01/31/95	03/17/95	601	432	18	01/30/95	02/11/95	2,072,000	
(25)	AC25111111	195013-1	Juke Box	Cyan	01/31/95	03/17/95	601	432	18	01/30/95	02/11/95	2,072,000	
(25)	AC25111111	195014-1	Juke Box	Black	01/31/95	03/17/95	601	432	18	01/30/95	02/11/95	2,072,000	
(25)	AC25111111	195015-1	Juke Box	Green	01/31/95	03/17/95	601	432	18	01/30/95	02/11/95	2,072,000	
(25)	AC25111111	195016-1	Juke Box	Purple	01/31/95	03/17/95	601	432	18	01/30/95	02/11/95	2,072,000	
(25)	AC25S11111		Juke Box	Magenta	12/05/94	03/17/95	601	432	18	12/05/94	12/06/94	304,498	
(25)	AC25S11111		Juke Box	Yellow	12/05/94	03/17/95	601	432	18	12/05/94	12/06/94	304,498	
(25)	AC25S11111		Juke Box	Cyan	12/05/94	03/17/95	601	432	18	12/05/94	12/06/94	304,498	
(25)	AC25S11111		Juke Box	Lead (PMS 3155)	12/05/94	03/17/95	601	432	18	12/05/94	12/06/94	304,498	
(25)	AC25S11111		Juke Box	Black	12/05/94	03/17/95	601	432	18	12/05/94	12/06/94	304,498	

15¢ Tail Fin

Colors of BEP stamp were listed by USPS as yellow, magenta, cyan, black, and dark aqua. Colors listed by BEP were Process magenta, cyan, yellow, and green (PMS 3155C).

Plates listed by BEP (in order of plate number) were magenta, yellow, cyan, black, and blue. Plates listed by SVS (order of plate number not stated) were magenta, yellow, cyan, black, and teal (PMS 3155).

Gum listed by USPS in its news release on this stamp was "water activated." BEP said "PVA," SVS said "water activated."

25¢ Juke Box

Colors of BEP stamp were listed by USPS as yellow, magenta, cyan, black, dark aqua, and lavender. Colors listed by BEP were Process magenta, cyan, yellow, black, green (PMS 3155C), and purple (PMS 522C).

Plates listed by BEP (in order of plate number) were magenta, yellow, cyan, black, blue, and purple. Plates listed by SVS (order of plate number not stated) were yellow, magenta, teal (PMS 3155), black.

Gum listed by USPS in its news release on this stamp was "water activated." BEP said "PVA," SVS said "water activated."

Conclusions:

We are not really interested in how the gum is used. What we want to know is the type of gum. "PVA" tells us that we are dealing with low-gloss gum. And, that gum is on both versions, BEP and SVS.

We are not sure that we received a complete plate-activity report for the quarter. All of the stamps listed above were indeed issued in the first quarter of 1995, but what about the new 3¢ Conestoga Wagon on Plate 3, the dull-gum and glossy gum versions of the 3¢ White from Plate 4, the 10¢ Eagle and Shield from SVS with the plate-number combination S22222, the 32¢ Flag over Field ATM, and other stamps we believe to have been printed during the quarter but on which we have not yet had collector reports such as the 1¢ Omnibus and 2¢ Lyon?

On the other hand, this is the plate-activity report has listed only stamps that have already been issued leaving us with no stamps to go out and hunt for.

Activity of BEP's Eagle and Shields

Combination	To press	Off press	Impressions
11111	03/10/93	03/12/93	602,800
	04/07/93	04/12/93	1,425,000
	10/06/93	10/13/93	956,000
	08/18/94	08/19/94	64,000
22222	07/23/93	08/03/93	1,789,000
	01/25/94	03/04/94	2,356,500
33333	09/06/94	09/27/94	907,000

Real Plate Numbers

Red	191536-1
	191541-2
	194510-3
Blue	191537-1
	191542-2
	194511-3
Yellow	191538-1
	191543-2
	194512-3
Green	191539-1
	191544-2
	194513-3
Brown	191540-1
	191545-2
	194514-3

Note: Some combinations could be reprinted in the second quarter

Glossy gums replacing dull gum, we conclude

Continued from Page 83

stamp], the third printing [on the D Press] used LP-57 paper stock and a dextrin adhesive."

In plain English, the new White was to have glossy gum.

But when the first untagged version of this stamp was originally found used in March by Scott Adams and a few days later mint by André Thiele, both finds were on paper with dull gum.

According to the new paper specifications, all D Press papers were supposed to use glossy dextrin gum. Untagged dull-gum stamps were, however, listed under papers for the C Press, which is identical to the D Press in everything except that it lacks offset capabilities. One such paper is LP-40, which was used to print the first two printings of the White stamp. It is still in use. But its days appear to be numbered.

Both new versions of the White stamp were printed on Plate 4. The upper left pane shows CC1 squares [see Page 88, this issue].

After *TPN's* report of the new stamps being found with dull gum, Eugene O'Neal was looking for them when he came up with Plate 4, but with high-gloss gum.

One of the things that is wrong with the plate-activity reports at the left, is that the 3¢ White, which probably had two reprintings, is never mentioned.

Clue 3: the new Conestoga Wagon has high-loss gum

Meanwhile, the same thing happened with the 3¢ Conestoga Wagon coil, which was reprinted untagged on Plate 3 on the C Press late last year. It had dull gum. That was Item 7763.

Now, the Conestoga, still on Plate 3, has emerged with shiny gum. It is Item 77631.

The USPS announcement for this stamp [*TPN* May 1995, page 69] clearly said: "The paper stock has changed from LP-40 to LP-57 and the adhesive type has changed from dry gummed to dextrin." The announcement did not say on what press the new version was being printed. But it did say that stamp had already been printed.

We had, of course, been expecting more Conestoga Wagons because *Information from...* had indicated that it, the 1¢ Omnibus coil, the 2¢ Lyon, and the 5¢ Canoe coil were being delivered to stamp distribution offices. We expected the White stamp to be untagged and to have shiny gum, merely because that had been the trend.

One of the things that is wrong with the plate-activity reports at the left, is that the 3¢ Conestoga Wagon is never mentioned.

Clue 4: the stickiness survey found dull gum lacking

Lawrence said USPS was aware of complaints that many stamps were falling off because the gum did not adhere. A survey, done under the old administration in the Stamps Division, found that it was the dull-gum stamps that were the biggest culprits.

Since USPS is now announcing the low-gloss stamps as "PVA," we can conclude that the low-gloss gums are a reformulation of the old dull-gum PVA gum that results in better adhesion and that also adds a certain amount of gloss, gloss that we call low-gloss.

But what about this?

Meanwhile, Wayne Youngblood reports a new version of the 10¢ Red Cloud in which the red is more like that of the 5¢ Muñoz Marin. The tagging is mottled prephosphored (previous prephosphored was solid) and the gum is glossy (same as previous prephosphored Plate 2.)

Plate-number interval of 14 finally explained from 1st plate-activity reports in three years

As a quick glance at the technical details on Stamp Venturers' Flag over Porch coil (Page 92) will demonstrate, the Postal Service has been unable to get SVS to give proper information on the plate makeup of its Champlain Model 1 press. That's the press that gives a plate-number interval of 14.

For the Porch, SVS told USPS the plate was made up of 20 rows of 24 stamps, which is impossible if the interval is 14 (which it is). But in its plate-activity reports for the first quarter, SVS gives the plate makeup as 22 rows of 28 stamps, with two plate numbers in every row of 28.

"Why not put the plate number on every stamp?" Richard Nazar asked in amazement when told of two plate numbers on every row. Previously, one number per revolution was standard.

The Postal Service said the plate number would be on every 14th stamp on the 32¢ Flag over Porch stamp in coils of 10,000, which are printed by Stamp Venturers.

That led to speculation that a new press is being used at J.W. Ferguson & Sons, the subcontractor to Stamp Venturers for several coils being printed in rolls of 10,000.

The first plate-activity reports in three years said the press was a Champlain Model 1. This still left a question hanging. Previous stamps printed on the Champlain press (not termed the Model 1) had an interval of 33.

Having a PNC interval of 14 means that more used PNCs will be found than previously, that dealers and collectors will have less scrap to dispose of, and that PNC prices for stamps out of rolls of 10,000 should come down a bit.

On the new Transportation coils, USPS ordered two PNCs per row, giving an interval of 24 in a row of 48.

Data Bank

(all text from USPS, TPN additions in brackets)

Postal Service moves up 'Flag Over Porch' release date to meet heavy demand for self-adhesive stamps

[TPN Note: The Postal Service no longer provides the names of subcontractors to Stamp Venturers, saying the stamps were printed by Stamp Venturers in Richmond, Va., and processed by Stamp Venturers in Milwaukee, Wis. TPN has fought a losing battle to identify the subcontractors correctly. We believe all work done in Richmond is at J.W. Fergusson & Sons and all work done in Milwaukee is at Joseph Schmitt Co. But we shall identify the subcontractors from now on in the way USPS does, even though it is wrong.]

[The following came in in time for the May issue, but we had run out of room.]
WASHINGTON (April 7)—With self-adhesive stamps being sold as fast as they can be printed, the U.S. Postal Service has stepped up production and will release the "Peel & Stick" version of the Flag Over Porch stamp in Washington, D.C., on April 18, a month ahead of schedule.

The gummed version of the Flag Over Porch 32¢ stamp, issued in panes, coils, and booklets, will still be issued May 19 in conjunction with the ROMPEX Stamp Show in Denver, Colo.

"We are pleased that the Postal Service was able to develop a product that so appeals to our customers," said Postmaster General Marvin Runyon. "Since we issued our first self-adhesive stamp two decades ago, we have done extensive research and introduced many changes that have made today's Peel & Stick stamps so immensely popular."

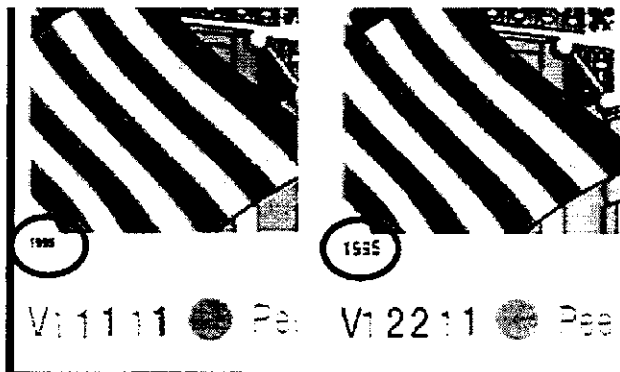
More than 1.9 billion self-adhesive Flag Over Porch stamps are being produced, part of the 6.8 billion Peel & Stick stamps the Postal Service will produce this year. That is nearly a 200% increase over the 2.4 billion produced in 1994.

Earlier this year, 1.2 billion "Love" stamps were released in the Peel & Stick format, and the public is asking for more.

"People love the Peel & Stick stamps because they are so easy to use," said Runyon.

The Flag Over Porch stamp also marks the first time a Peel & Stick stamp will be issued with simulated perforation die cuts. When removed from the sheet, the edges will appear perforated.

The Flag Over Porch stamp will be available in Peel & Stick sheetlets of 20 stamps on April 19, and gummed booklets of 20, panes of 100, and rolls of 100, 500, 3,000, and 10,000 stamps on May 20, 1995.



SMALL DATE—The self-stick stamp (only from V11111) has tiny print for the year. USPS ordered a change.

LARGE DATE—Other plate numbers have larger type for the date. The small type carries a premium.

Issue:

32¢ Flag Over Porch

TECHNICAL DETAILS (self-adhesive)

Type:	Avery Dennison version
Format:	Self-adhesive (booklet/sheetlet)
Series:	Sheetlet (convertible booklet) (single design)
First-day:	Flag
Manufacturing process:	April 18, 1995, Washington, DC
Printer:	Gravure
Printed at:	Avery Dennison
Processed at:	Avery Dennison Security Printing Division
[Press:	Avery Dennison
Stamps per pane:	Not stated]
	20

Paper:	Phosphored
Gum:	Pressure-sensitive
Colors:	Gold, red, dark blue, light blue, black
Size:	Standard definitive

Image: 0.72x0.818 inches/18.29x20.78mm

Overall: 0.87x0.982 inches/22.1x24.9mm

Full pane: 2.61x7.25 inches/66.3x184.15mm

Plate numbers: "V" followed by five single digits

Marginal markings: "© USPS 1994"

Item number:

6673 sheetlet of 20
66731 coil strip of 20
F6673 First-day cover (single)
SAF32-V11111 for the coil]

[PNC Catalog:

TECHNICAL DETAILS (coils)

Stamp Venturers version

Type:	32¢ Stamp (Coil of 10,000)
Format:	Coil (single design)
Series:	Flag
First day:	May 19, 1995, Denver, CO
Manufacturing process:	Gravure
Printer:	Stamp Venturers (SVS)
Printed at:	Stamp Venturers, Richmond, VA
Processed at:	Stamp Venturers, Milwaukee, WI
[Press:	Champlain Model 1, based on interval of 14]
Stamps per coil:	10,000
Paper:	Prephosphored
Gum:	Water activated
Colors:	Yellow, magenta, cyan, dark blue, gray
Size:	Standard definitive coil

Image: 0.72x0.81 inches/18.3x20.6 mm

Overall: 0.87x0.96 inches/22.1x24.4 mm

Plate size: 480 subjects (20x24) [probably in error; should be

616 subjects (22x28)]

Plate numbers: "S" followed by five single digits (Repeat every 14 stamps) [S11111]

[This proves that plate size is in error; 2 plate numbers per row of 28]

[Press:

Champlain 1]

Item number:

7904 coil of 10,000
7904 single stamp
E7901 First Day Cover
(Includes single BEP and SVS stamps)

[PNC Catalog:

F32-S11111]

TECHNICAL DETAILS (coils)

BEP version

Type:	32¢ Stamp (coils of 100, 500 and 3,000)
First day:	May 19, 1995, Denver, CO
Mfg. process:	Gravure
Printer:	Bureau of Engraving & Printing (BEP)
Printed at:	BEP, Washington, DC
Processed at:	BEP, Washington, DC
Press:	Andreotti 601
Plate size:	480 subjects (20x24)
Stamps per coil:	100, 500 and 3,000
Paper:	Prephosphored Type 1 [low phosphor]
Gum:	Water-activated PVA [polyvinyl acetate]
Colors:	Tan, red, dark blue, light blue, brown
Size:	Standard definitive coil

Image: 0.71x0.82 inches/18.0x20.8mm

Overall: 0.87x0.96 inches/22.1x24.4mm

Plate numbers: Five single digits [11111, 22222, 33333, 44444, spaced 24 stamps apart]

Item number:

7901 single stamp
7901 coil of 100
7902 coil of 500
7903 coil of 3,000
E7901 first day cover
(Includes single BEP and SVS stamps)

[PNC Catalog:

F32-11111, F32-22222, F32-33333, F32-44444]

Business Reply Mail Format

Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) S922.6.7a is corrected to show that the business reply mail (BRM) format element "FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO." requires a hyphen between "FIRST" and "CLASS" ...

First-Class Mail is a Postal Service trademark and must be written with the first letter of each word capitalized (or the words written in all capital letters) and a hyphen inserted between the first and second words.

Postal Bulletin (4-13-95, Page 11)

[TPN has long noticed this USPS affectation, but will continue to ignore the "trademark" and use "first-class mail." Like Scotch™ tape, Laundromat™, Xe-

rox™, and Polaroid™, First-Class Mail™ doesn't stand a chance unless the USPS legal department wants to start mailing out warning notices to thousands of miscreants like TPN who simply won't go along. TPN stands on its First Amendment rights, so sue us!

Love is in the air as hearts and cherubs herald spring

WASHINGTON (May 9, 1995)—Had the U.S. Postal Service's new Love stamps ... been available in the 17th century, Cyrano de Bergerac would have had no problem communicating his feelings to the beautiful Roxanne.

Fortunately, modern-day Cyranos will be able to acquire this year's 32¢ and 55¢ Love Cherub stamps ... May 12 in Lakeville, Pa., ... in a public ceremony at Caesars Cove Haven Resort. ...

This year's Love stamps are the 14th to be issued by the Postal Service since 1973. The one- and two-ounce stamps ... feature the two popular cherubs included in Raphael's Renaissance masterpiece, *Sistine Madonna*. ...

[The] *Sistine Madonna* ... is on display at the Gemäldegalerie in Dresden, Germany.



Issue: 55¢ Cherub
TECHNICAL DETAILS (self-adhesive)
 Type: Self adhesive stamp
 Format: Sheetlet (or convertible booklet) of 20 (single design)
 Series: Love
 First day: May 12, 1995, Lakeville, PA
 Mfg. process: Combination offset/intaglio
 Printer: Banknote Corp. of America (BCA)
 Printed at: BCA, Suffern, N.Y.
 Processed at: BCA, Suffern, N.Y.
 Press: 6-color Goebel offset; Epikos 4-color intaglio
 Plate size: 360 subjects
 Stamps per pane: 20
 Paper: Prephosphored self-adhesive
 Gum: Pressure sensitive
 Colors (PMS colors): Process yellow, magenta, cyan, and black (offset); and red (intaglio)

Size:
 Image: 0.72x0.82 inches/18.29x20.76mm
 Overall: 0.87x0.982 inches/22.09x24.94mm
 Full pane: 7.28x2.610 inches/184.9x66.3mm
Plate numbers— "B followed by four single digits (offset) plus one single digit) intaglio) (TPN reporters have seen B1111-1)
Marginal markings: "©1994 USPS"
 "Peel here to fold • Self-adhesive stamps • DO NOT WET"
Item number: 6644 sheetlet of 20
 [No mention of self-adhesive coils in USPS news release.]
 [Art of self-adhesive single unavailable at press time. The self-adhesive does not have simulated perforations.]

Cog Railway and Ferryboat stamps

[This information is taken from *The Postal Bulletin* for April 27. The Stamps Division "forgot" to send it out. Additional data (marked by an asterisk) was obtained by telephone.]

The Postal Service will issue the 20¢ Cog Railway stamp in coils of 100, 500, and 3,000 on June 9 in Dallas Texas. ...The stamp is based primarily on the Cloud, an engine from the Mt. Washington (N.H.) Cog Railway, circa 1870.

Issue: 20¢ Cog Railway
TECHNICAL DETAILS (coil stamp)
 Formats: Coils of 100, 500, and 3,000 stamps
 First day: June 9, 1995
 First-day city: Dallas, TX
 Printer: BEP
 Manufacturing process: Intaglio
 *Press: 3-color, web-fed intaglio 901 (C)
 *Subjects: 864 (18x48)
 *Gum: Water activated
 *Paper: Prephosphored
 Color: Green (PMS 343)

Size:
 Image: 0.71x0.82 inches/18.0x20.8mm
 Overall: 0.87x0.96 inches/22.1x24.4mm
Plate number: One single digit [1]
[Plate number interval: Not stated, probably 24]
Item number: 7770—Coil of 100
 7771—Coil of 500
 7772—Coil of 3,000
 T20CR-1]

[PNC Catalog:

Issue: 32¢ Ferryboat
TECHNICAL DETAILS (coil stamp)
 Formats: Coils of 100
 First day: June 3, 1995
 First-day city: McLean, VA
 Printer: BEP
 Manufacturing process: Intaglio
 *Press: 3-color, web-fed intaglio 901 (C)
 *Subjects: 864 (18x48)
 *Gum: Water activated
 *Paper: Prephosphored
 Color: Blue (PMS 300)

Size:
 Image: 0.71x0.82 inches/18.0x20.8mm
 Overall: 0.87x0.96 inches/22.1x24.4mm
Plate number: One single digit [2]
[Plate number interval: Not stated, probably 24]
Item number: 7911—Coil of 100
 [PNC Catalog: T32-2]

Pink Rose self-adhesive

[This information is taken from *The Postal Bulletin* for April 27. The Stamps Division "forgot" to send it out.]

The Postal Service will issue the 32¢ Pink Rose self-adhesive stamp in a \$6.40 convertible booklet of 20 on June 2 in McLean, Va.

The Pink Rose features the same design as the 29¢ Rose stamp issued on Aug. 19, 1993, except for the change in the denomination (from 29¢ to 32¢) and the color (from red to pink).



Issue: 32¢ Pink Rose
TECHNICAL DETAILS (self-adhesive)
 Format: Convertible booklet of 20 stamps
 First-day: June 2, 1995, McLean, VA

CHANGED SIMULATION—

This picture, taken from *The Postal Bulletin*, shows what Gerald Clark says genuinely resembles a gauge 11½ by 11¾ serpentine roulette of the olden days. USPS "forgot" to send art.



What's new in self-adhesives?

By Gerald H. Clark

Once again, it's been a frantic (and expensive) two months for collectors of self-adhesives who tried to keep up with all the plate numbers on the new issues. Even the large initial distribution of the Flag over Porch issue seemed to vanish from post offices nationwide within the first two weeks. Thirteen new plate numbers were added to the Master List on four new issues

Love Cherubs

One new plate number (B3333-2) was reported on the second and final distribution of the undenominated (32¢) Love Cherub booklet. Only one plate (B1111-1) has been reported on the 55¢ Cherub issue, and with the smaller print quantities, that may be the only one we will see.

A phone call to the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center confirmed that the Love Cherub coil issues were CANCELED. Four item numbers had been set up for these: 66991—undenominated coil strip; 66992—undenominated full roll; 66441—55¢ coil strip, and 66442—55¢ full roll. Their order status on the computers have gone from "NO" to "YES" to "NO" to "LATE DELIVERY" to "CANCELED" within the last 60 days.

Data Bank (continued)

Continued from Page 93

Manufacturing process:	Gravure
Printer:	Stamp Venturers
*Printed at:	Stamp Venturers, Richmond, Va.,
*Processed at:	Stamp Venturers, Milwaukee, Wis.
*Press:	Unspecified
Stamps per pane:	20
[Coil stamps per plate: Not stated]	
*Paper:	Prephosphored
*Gum:	Pressure-sensitive
Colors:	Pink (PMS 1905), green, and black
Size:	
Image:	0.72x0.83 inches/18.29x21.1mm
Overall:	0.87x0.98 inches/22.1x24.9mm
Full pane:	2.61x7.25 inches/66.3x184.15mm
Plate numbers:	"S" followed by three single digits [panes seen by TPN's reporters show S111 and S112]
Marginal markings:	© USPS 1994
Item number:	6675 sheetlet of 20
	**Coil strip of 20, 66751
	*First-day cover (single), F6675[PNC Catalog: SAR32-S111, SAR32-S112 for the coil]

**A SHORT EDITORIAL

The Postal Service sells coils of 20 of the 32¢ Pink Rose self adhesive through the *Stamps, etc.* catalog, as it does coils from all other self adhesives.

But the people at Postal Headquarters have never heard of these coils, give out no information on them, and don't even believe they exist. Told that Geoge Amick published technical data on 1994 self-stick coils, Monica Hand said, "He didn't get that information from me."

If the cave can sell the stamps and if Amick can be told how the plates are made, why can't the Information Specialists in the Corporate Relations Department find that out, too?

Flag over Porch

It didn't take long to come up with 10 different plate numbers and three distinct varieties on this issue.

A real shock came from the "SMALL DATE" variety on the pane with the plate-number combination V11111 and it's limited area of distribution. The two sizes are shown in "Data Bank" on Page 92.

The year was enlarged to almost twice its original size on all panes produced after V11111. The San Diego area has been the only location reporting this number. Logic would dictate that Philatelic Fulfillment would receive quantities before nationwide distribution would begin. Collectors who have received orders from Kansas City, however, have reported only V12211. There is an unconfirmed rumor that Philatelic Fulfillment is aware of the variety, does have quantities, and may assign a separate order number for it in the next *Stamps, etc.* catalog. When I called to verify this, I was told that AT THIS TIME panes could not be ordered by individual plate number. To me, that leaves the door open.

The third variety comes from the fact that the coil stamps have straight die cuts on the top and bottom, with "simulated perfs" only on the sides—a rather ingenious way to simulate a normal coil stamp. Also using V11111, the coil version has a large date.

Don't let your guard down in watching for new numbers on this issue. The second distribution scheduled to begin May 30, arrived in some post offices on May 15. A third distribution is scheduled for July 1, but may, again, start early due to customer demand

The Pink Rose

Issued June 2, the Pink Rose was reported with two plate numbers up to 10 days before the issue date. Two distributions were scheduled—the first to be completed by May 20 and the second to be completed by June 20. Coils had not been seen as of this writing. The "simulated perfs" on this issue are much smaller than on the Flag over Porch issue. Measuring 11½ by 11¾, these genuinely resemble the "serpentine roulette" of the olden days

29¢ brown Eagle and Shield

Thanks to the work of Doug Iams, we have added the terms "random die cut" and "bull's-eye die cut" to the Master List (see Iams' article on Page 106).

29¢ Statue of Liberty

Surprise! Surprise! The coil was also printed without micro-perfs and exists with splices! (see article on Page 104). This variety has been added to the Master List.

More test/demo panes

I was definitely surprised to hear from Jim Noll who has some rather intriguing collecting interests. Among them are two that cross paths with self-adhesives—ATM test currency and ATM stamp sheetlets. He informed TPN of three test items used in conjunction with Postal Buddy machines of which we knew nothing previously. The items involve self-adhesive booklets and regular coils. An article is planned in the September issue of TPN detailing these items.

TPN Thanks to:

Dick Federle, Doug Iams, Bob Kitson, Joann Lenz, Mike Lipson, Alan Malakoff, Wayne Meyers, Carol Morehouse, Jim Noll, Frank Norulak, Joe Reymer, Dr. David Schneider, André Thiele, and many others for contributing information to help us all keep track of self adhesives.

Self-stick price averages

By Gerald H. Clark

2431a 25¢ Eagle and Shield	
A1111	\$12.75
2475a 25¢ USA Flag ATM	
No numbers	\$8.33
2478a Red Squirrel	
D11111	\$11.49
D22211	\$13.06
D22221	\$15.49
D22222	\$15.42
D23133	\$15.56
2479a 29¢ Rose	
(UPC 91)	\$12.58
(UPC 94)	\$10.99
2480a 29¢ Pine Cone	
B1	\$21.58
B2	\$12.50
B3	\$12.14
B4	\$12.71
B5	\$16.07
B6	\$12.14
B7	\$11.91
B8	\$13.07
B9	\$13.56
B10	\$11.81
B11	\$12.14
B12	\$16.07
B13	\$11.81
B14	\$12.14
B15	\$14.93
B16	\$11.43
2522a 'F' (29¢) Flag ATM	
No numbers	\$9.25
2531A 29¢ Torch ATM	
No numbers	
1. lacquered	\$15.00
1 uniacquered	\$12.50
Stamp picture	\$10.50
29¢ Eagle and Shield	
2595a Banknote Corp. (Brown)	
B1111-1(unspecified)	\$12.79
B1111-1(bull's eye)	\$11.63
B1111-1(random)	\$15.00
B1111-2(unspecified)	\$11.49
B1111-2(bull's eye)	\$11.63
B1111-2(random)	\$15.63
B2222-1	\$18.21
B2222-2	\$15.64
B3333-1	\$18.07
B3333-3	\$19.50
B3434-1	\$13.00
B3434-3	\$20.21
B4344-1	\$14.71
B4344-3	\$205.00
B4444-1	\$13.42
B4444-3	\$13.99
2596a Dittler Bros. (Green)	
D11111	\$11.99
D21221	\$11.49
D22322	\$12.16
D32322	\$13.50
D32332	\$13.70
D32342	\$24.00
D42342	\$22.07
D43352	\$17.79
D43452	\$20.63
D43453	\$18.25
D54561	\$16.21
D54563	\$13.57
D54571	\$14.07
D54573	\$16.93
D54673	\$24.17
D61384	\$27.14
D65784	\$13.75
2597a Stamp Venturers (Red)	
S1111	\$9.75
2598a 29¢ Eagle	
M111	\$11.00
M112	\$11.00
2599a 29¢ Statue of Liberty	
D1111	\$11.71
D1212	\$12.06
2719a Christmas Train ATM	
V11111	\$11.30
2802a 29¢ Christmas Toys	
V111-1111	\$7.58
V222-1222	\$7.99
V222-2112	\$7.81
V222-2122	\$7.81
V222-2221	\$7.46
V222-2222	\$8.33
V333-3333	\$8.11
2803a 29¢ Snowman ATM	
V1111	\$10.86
V2222	\$13.58
2813 29¢ Love Sunrise	
B111-1	\$11.87
B111-2	\$11.99
B111-3	\$11.99
B111-4	\$11.68
B111-5	\$131.67
B121-5	\$12.49
B221-5	\$16.21
B222-4	\$11.78
B222-5	\$11.78
B222-6	\$11.68
B333-5	\$24.19
B333-7	\$18.64
B333-8	\$17.36
B333-9	\$12.71
B333-10	\$12.71
B333-11	\$12.71
B333-12	\$12.71
B333-14	\$85.00
B333-17	\$12.71
B344-11	\$13.39
B344-12	\$12.71
B344-13	\$12.14
B434-10	\$91.67
B444-7	\$14.11
B444-8	\$12.14
B444-9	\$15.56
B444-10	\$11.99
B444-13	\$12.71
B444-14	\$12.71
B444-15	\$12.14
B444-16	\$15.21
B444-17	\$12.71
B444-18	\$12.14
B444-19	\$12.14
B555-20	\$12.39
B555-21	\$11.50
2873a 29¢ Christmas Santa (SV)	
V1111	\$7.65
2874a 29¢ Cardinal ATM	
V1111	\$11.14
V2222	\$12.33
2886a 32¢ "G" undenominated	
V11111	\$11.00
V22222	\$11.00
2887a 32¢ "G" ATM	
No number	\$11.00
2949a 32¢ undenominated Cherub	
B1111-1	\$12.92
B2222-1	\$11.67
B2222-2	\$11.67
B3333-2	\$11.67
NEW 32¢ Flag over Field ATM	
V1111	\$11.00
NEW 32¢ Flag over Porch	
V11111	\$15.00
V12211	\$11.00
V12212	\$11.00
V12312	\$11.00
V12321	\$11.00
V12322	\$11.00
V13322	\$11.00
V22211	\$11.00
V23322	\$11.00
V23432	\$11.00
NEW 55¢ Love Cherub	
B1111-1	16.50

Updated through June 15 by TPN.

What's with these?

We ask, USPS replies

By Gerald H. Clark

Questions asked by a TPN reader in November about self-adhesives have been answered by the Postal Service.

Sunrise Love

The third printing, in November 1994, was the last.

- The cylinder combination on the stamps is 555-20 (yellow, red, blue). This combination is different from the earlier blue, yellow, red combination. The change in the color rotation was prompted by some problems Banknote Corp. of America (BCA) was having on press. The colors were tracking and marking the white area of the stamp image. (TPN note: *Are there any examples of this phenomenon?*)

- The difference you note in the brightness of the yellow ink was caused by the change of color rotation. With the yellow down first, the color retained a cleaner appearance. (TPN note: *The question dealt with the brightness of the yellow under long-wave UV light. On the first two printings, the yellow sun rays glow brightly. On the third printing there is no reaction to the UV. TPN believes that a change of ink could also help solve the tracking and marking problems noted above.*)

- The reason for the large number of intaglio plate numbers (20 in this instance) was due to a problem with a plate clamp on press. The clamp caused certain intaglio printing plates to crack. It is against BCA procedures to print with a cracked plate because it is hazardous. Hence, the high number of plate changes.

Red Rose pane

- The Rose pressure-sensitive stamp was printed with cut-guide marks on the left and right side of the web. The Rose was printed five sheetlets across and four sheetlets around. Out of the 20 sheetlets per cylinder revolution, the cut marks can be found on eight of the sheetlets. The interior sheetlets (12 per revolution) would not have these guide marks. (TPN note: *We know 40% of these panes should exhibit cutting marks. Only panes printed with the error UPC (91) have been found with cutting marks. Did the process of cutting suddenly become so exact that all guide marks were trimmed from panes with the corrected UPC (94) or was the plate reworked when the UPC was changed?*)

- Plate numbers S111 were used throughout all printing of the Red Rose. The UPC correction is done on the back of the liner. The plate numbers correlate only to the printing on the face stock, or stamp image. Because the UPC code change did not require re-engraving the stamp image, the plate numbers did not change. (TPN note: *We concede that the plate number would not change because of the correction of the UPC error. However, with a total printing of over 50 million panes, a "re-engraving" of that plate had to occur at some point and the same set of numbers (S111) was repeated.*)

Red Eagle and Shield

The red Eagle and Shield was printed five sheetlets across and four sheetlets around the cylinder. Cutting marks can be found on the eight exterior sheetlets, but not on the 12 interior sheetlets. There are, therefore, red Eagle and Shield panes in circulation without cutting marks, just like the Red Rose. (TPN note: *Again, 40% of the production should have cutting marks. They will occur only on panes with the center bar in the top or bottom positions. This is consistent with our findings. See TPN, January 1995, Page 23, for further insights.*)

TPN appreciates the time and effort put forth by the Postal Service in attempting to answer our questions. Although not totally precise in some instances, they have given us more insight into the technical problems and solutions of self-adhesive stamp production.

We return to TPN Average, and it's starting back up

By Stephen G. Esrati

The last time we compiled the TPN Average was in the issue of September 1994, when it stood at 208.83. (The exact amount was missing on the chart in that issue.)

Meantime, we can add prices from the 1995 PNC Catalog and those of the most recent dealer price lists.

I will no longer be able to run comparisons from the previous issue because that is extremely time-consuming.

However, I have added two items to the average:

- "G" stamp with the plate-number combination A1417.
- 29¢ White House Flag from Plate 18.

To do this, I adjusted the divisor used for the average so that the average was identical before and after the additions.

It may be worthwhile to note that no strips went up in price since we compiled the 1995 catalog's prices. But the price for Plate 2 of the 20¢ Fire Pumper in the catalog was wrong. (It's my fault!) It was way too low at \$435.

The actual price should have been near the current average of \$800.

If that price had been correct, the average for the 1995 catalog would have been 205.23, not 191.94. In other words, the average is up a bit over the 1995 catalog and about even with our last calculation.

We are also tracking "G" stamps and self-adhesives. The compilation for self adhesives may be found on Page 95.

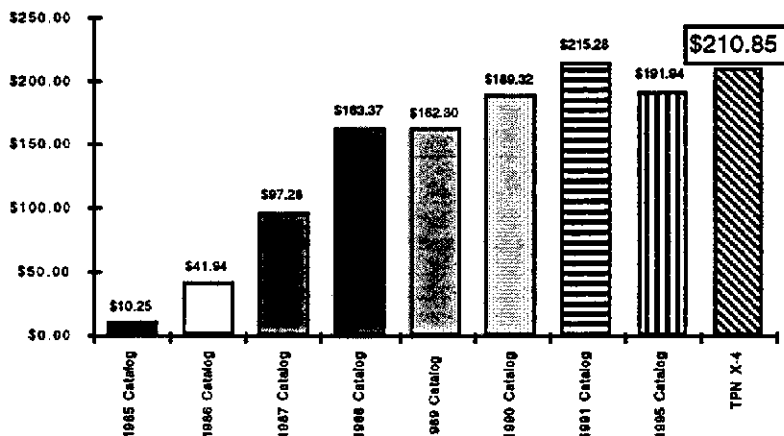
A word on self-adhesive prices. Some numbers are not being advertised, so only one dealer's price may be reflected in our chart. Some numbers are simply too new to have been advertised by dealers, and so we lack data.

Should one pay extra for back numbers?

When Stamp Venturers' Eagle and Shield stamps with the plate-number combination S22222 came out in rolls of 10,000, plate strippers soon made a remarkable observation. They got three strips of five with back numbers for every PS/S without a number. Yet dealers charge more for stamps with back numbers.

Al Haake commented: "Who knows whether 10 years from now strips without back numbers may be more in demand because the back numbers may bleed through and ruin the stamps. They're already starting to show through."

TPN Average



THIS CHART IS ALL WET!—The 1995 PNC Catalog had a wrong price for Plate 2 of the 20¢ Fire Pumper. The real 1995 Catalog TPN Average should be 205.23.

Incidence of 29¢ White House

Plate	Found	Percent
1	314	1.20%
2	771	2.94%
3	739	2.81%
4	1,408	5.36%
5	282	1.07%
6	1,901	7.24%
7	6,592	25.10%
8	2,209	8.41%
9	138	0.53%
10	2,265	8.63%
11	4,370	16.64%
12	1,627	6.20%
13	1,250	4.76%
14	153	0.58%
15	1,298	4.94%
16	927	3.53%
18	16	0.06%
Totals:	26,260	100.00%

Incidence of 32¢ 'G' stamps

Plate	Found	Percent
1111	55	0.65%
2222	92	1.08%
A1111	142	1.67%
A1112	16	0.19%
A1113	1	0.01%
A1211	1	0.01%
A1212	5	0.06%
A1222	15	0.18%
A1311	46	0.54%
A1313	246	2.89%
A1314	19	0.22%
A1324	55	0.65%
A1417	6	0.07%
A1433	8	0.09%
A2211	2	0.02%
A2212	32	0.38%
A2213	320	3.76%
A2214	1,184	13.90%
A2223	0	0.00%
A2313	13	0.15%
A3113	249	2.92%
A3114	55	0.65%
A3313	83	0.97%
A3314	709	8.32%
A3315	2	0.02%
A3323	64	0.75%
A3324	562	6.60%
A3423	15	0.18%
A3426	4	0.05%
A3433	302	3.55%
A3435	7	0.08%
A3436	579	6.80%
A4426	4	0.05%
A4427	202	2.37%
A4435	0	0.00%
A5327	83	0.97%
A5417	18	0.21%
A5427	478	5.61%
A5437	2	0.02%
S1111perf	283	3.32%
S1111roul	808	9.49%
S2222	1,750	20.55%
Totals:	8,517	100.00%

About these charts

It is unwise to lean on reports of collectors of the number of PNCs they found in post office dumpsters or in mixtures as a reflection of scarcity. These charts are based upon reports to *Coil Line* and *TPN*.

An example of this is Plate 18 of the 29¢ White House. The stamp was issued just days before the end of the 29¢ era. Dick Koenig told *Coil Line* that he knew of four verified covers with the stamp that were canceled before the rate change and 10 after. But that alone will not make the stamp scarce. Dealers were able to load up on these, so most dealers do not add a premium over what they charge for most other White House numbers.

But the chart does illustrate that the mailing public did not find Plates 5, 9, 14, or 18 in great quantities.

It's different with the "G" stamps. While early finds were made of the one truly scarce number, A4435, there were not enough to supply all dealers. The stamp is

currently offered by only three dealers at prices from \$125 to \$150. Some dealers are asking a premium for A3323, but not for others that appear scarce in the chart.

PLATE NUMBER COILS

NEW (5c) Butte S111	LP	PS3	PS5
2604 (10c) Eagle and Shield	.60	.65	.75
A11111, A11112, A21112, A22113, A43334, A43335, A53335, A77777, A88888, A99999, A99999, A1010101010, A101101010, A1011101011, A101101012, A1110101010, A1110111010, A111101010, A1111111010, A1211101010, A141101010, A1411101011, A1412111110, A1412111111	2.64	2.72	2.80
A21113, A33333, A33335, A34424, A34426, A43324, A43325, A43326, A43426, A54444, A54445, A88889	3.80	3.88	4.00
A12213	20.00	20.00	20.00
A32333	180.00	180.00	180.00
A33334	85.00	85.00	85.00
A110101011	12.00	12.00	12.00
2605 (10c) BEP 11111, 22221, 22222, 33333	2.64	2.72	2.80
11111, 22221 phospheral (error)	25.00	25.00	25.00
2606 (10c) SV S11111, S22222	2.64	2.72	2.80
NEW (10c) Auto S111	2.20	2.30	2.50
NEW (15c) Tail Fin 11111	2.00	2.30	2.45
S1111111	1.80	2.10	2.25
1891 18c Flag 1	96.00	112.00	352.00
2	13.72	20.58	36.00
3	288.00	290.00	800.00
4	4.41	4.66	8.00
5	2.45	3.29	4.40
6	WANT	1.40	WANT
7	26.60	26.99	31.20
2149 18c Wash. 1112, 3333	1.93	2.10	2.80
2149a 18c PC 33333 shiny & dull	3.20	3.60	4.00
PC 11121, 43444	4.60	4.92	5.20
2529 19c Boat A1112, 1212	8.00	8.20	8.40
A1111, A2424, A5555, A5556, A6667, A7667, A7776, A7779, S11	2.60	3.00	3.60
A5555 untagged	9.60	10.00	10.40
2005 20c Consumer Ed. 1, 2	3.19	26.25	160.00
3, 4	3.19	26.25	96.00
1895 20c Flag 1	3.92	6.40	68.00
2, 11, 12	5.29	7.00	9.60
3	2.35	2.45	6.00
4	26.46	45.50	640.00
6	72.00	76.80	120.00
8	3.82	3.92	12.80
5, 9, 10, 13, 14	1.93	2.80	4.80
1895a 20c PC 14	48.00	48.00	48.00
0135 20c Official 1	7.35	17.50	56.00
2150 21.1c Letters 111111	2.10	2.21	3.80
111121	2.84	3.08	4.60
2150a 21.1c PC 111111, 111121	3.08	3.08	4.60
2115 22c Flag 1, 7, 13	3.82	10.15	12.00
3	8.40	11.20	48.00
5, 6, 10	4.80	4.90	6.00
14	20.40	20.80	21.60
2, 4, 8, 12, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 11	2.80	2.87	3.60
11, 17, 18, 20	4.76	6.64	7.60
2112 22c "D" Eagle 1, 2	3.80	4.08	6.20
0139 22c "D" Official 1	24.50	35.00	64.00
2607 23c Present Flag			
A111, A212, A222	2.60	3.00	3.20
A112	7.20	7.60	8.00
A122, 333	3.60	4.00	4.40
2608 23c USA			
A1111, A2222, A2232, A2233, A3333, A4364, A4443, A4444, A4453, S111	3.20	3.60	4.00
2608a BEP version 1111 (shiny)	2.80	3.20	3.60
2608a BEP version 1111 (dull)	3.20	3.60	4.00

	LP	PS3	PS5
2280 25c Yosemite			
Block 1, 7	5.60	6.40	7.20
Block 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	2.66	2.94	3.60
Block 9	8.00	8.80	9.60
Phos 1	38.40	39.20	40.00
Phos 2-3, 7-11, 13-14	2.80	2.98	3.80
Phos 5, 15	4.80	5.60	6.40
Phos 6	11.20	12.00	12.80
2279 "E" Earth 1211	3.80	3.92	5.80
2222	4.00	4.40	4.80
1111, 1222	1.68	1.84	3.00
2281 25c Honeybee 1, 2	1.68	1.96	3.60
1 Orig. full serif	24.00	25.20	25.60
NEW (25c) Jake 11111	3.25	3.50	4.00
S11111	3.00	3.25	3.75
2518 "F" (29c) Tulip			
1111, 1222, 2222	2.80	3.20	3.60
1211	31.20	31.60	32.00
2211	6.40	6.80	7.20
2525 29c Flower S1111, 2222 Sh.	2.80	3.20	3.60
S2222 (Part.)	3.20	3.60	4.00
2523 29c Mt. Rushmore			
1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7	2.80	3.20	3.60
6 on Lenz Paper	120.00	120.00	120.00
5, 8, 9	6.80	7.00	7.20
2523c Toledo brown, 7	120.00	120.00	120.00
2523a granite A11111, A22211	2.80	3.20	3.60
2690 29c White House 1-16, 18	3.60	4.00	4.40
32c Flag over Porch			
11111, 22222, 33333, 44444	4.00	4.25	4.75
S11111	3.50	3.75	4.25
CVF31 Variable Rate Shield (UVM) BEP version Plate 1 per PS/5			
1c-18c			30.00
19c-29c			10.00
CVF32 Unisys, ABN version A11, 19c-29c			10.00

Self-stick coils

2480 Pine Cone self-stick B1	—	—	5.00
2813 Love self-stick B1	—	—	5.00
2598 Eagle self-stick 111	—	—	5.00
2599 Statue of Liberty B1111	—	—	5.00
2791 Xmas toys PS/8 V11111111	—	—	6.00
NEW Santa V1111	—	—	5.00
NEW Flag/Porch V11111	—	—	5.00

'G' stamps

	LP	PS3	PS5
BEP version 1111, 2222	4.15	4.40	5.00
Stamp Ventures versions			
32c Perforated: S1111, S2222	4.15	4.40	5.00
32c Routelink: S1111	4.15	4.40	5.00
25c First-class Postcard S11111	4.15	4.40	5.00
American Bank Note version (all with prefix "A")			
A1314, A3114, A4426	5.35	5.65	6.25
All other 32c numbers	4.15	4.40	5.00
5c Nonprofit A11111, 211111	1.35	1.40	1.50

Self-stick booklets

2431a Eagle and Shield 1111	15.00
2478a 29c Red Squirrel 011111, 022211	10.50
021333	11.00
022221, 022222	13.00
2479a Rose S111 (94)	10.00
S111 (91 error)	11.00
2480a Pine Cone B1	25.00
B5, B12, B15	15.00
B2, B3, B4, B6-B11, B-13, B-14, B-16	11.00
2595 Eagle Brown B1111-1, B1111-2, B2222-1, B2222-2, B3333-1, B3434-1, B4444-1	11.00
B4344-3	250.00
B4344-1, B4444-1, B4444-3	15.00
2596a Eagle Green	
B11111, B2121, B22322, B32322, B32332, B32342, B54561, B54563, B54571, B54573, B65784	11.00
B43352, B43452, B43453	15.00
B54673, B61384	20.00
B42342	30.00
2597a Eagle Red	10.00
2598a Blue Eagle A1111, A1112	11.00
2719a Christmas Train V11111	9.50
2802a Christmas	
V111-1111, V222-1222, V222-2112, V222-2122, V222-2221, V222-2222, V333-3333	7.50
2830a Snowman V1111	11.00
V2222	13.00
2813a Sunrise Love B111-1, 2, 3, 4, B222-4, 5, 6	11.00
B111-5	150.00
B222-4, B222-5, B222-6, B333-9	11.00
B333-5	25.00
B333-8	20.00
B221-5, B333-7, B344-12, B344-13	13.00
B333-10, B333-11, B333-12, B333-17	11.00
B333-14	75.00
B344-11	POR
B444-8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19	11.00
B434-10	100.00
B444-7, B444-16	13.00
2599a Statue of Liberty B11111, D1212	10.00
2873a Santa V1111	8.00
2874a Cardinal V1111	8.00
V2222	11.00
6 stamps V11111, V22222	11.00
(32c) Love Cherub B1111-1, B2222-1, B2222-2, B3333-2	12.00
NEW Flag/Porch V11111	15.00
V12211, V12211, V12212, V12312, V12321, V12322, V13322, V22211, V23322, V23432	10.00
NEW 55c Love Cherub B1111-1	15.00

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Stamp quantities shipped in Fiscal Year 1994

BEP COILS, prime rate

Face	Item No.	Notes	Description	Roll of	Stamps shipped
\$0.29	7706		Flower	100	320,000
\$0.29	7738		Rushmore	100	7,440,000
\$0.29	7922		White House	100	10,341,400,000
\$0.29	7923		White House	500	911,400,000
\$0.29	7924		White House	3,000	523,104,000

BEP COILS, other

\$0.01	7704		Omnibus	500	13,000,000
\$0.01	7705		Omnibus	3,000	249,792,000
\$0.02	7729		Locomotive	500	100,000
\$0.02	7730		Locomotive	3,000	39,360,000
\$0.03	7762	B Press	Conestoga	500	4,900,000
\$0.03	7763	C Press	Conestoga	3,000	45,024,000
\$0.04	7779		Steam carriage	500	100,000
\$0.04	7780		Steam carriage	3,000	12,096,000
\$0.05	7755	B Press	Circus Wagon	3,000	7,392,000
\$0.10	7739	C Press	Canal Boat	500	5,000,000
\$0.10	7740	C Press	Canal Boat	3,000	14,880,000
\$0.15	7964		Tugboat	3,000	192,000
\$0.23	7913		Lunch Wagon	100	219,480,000
\$0.23	7914		Lunch Wagon	500	3,600,000
\$0.23	7915		Lunch Wagon	3,000	13,248,000
\$1.00	7703	C Press	Seaplane	500	5,700,000

BEP COILS, precanceled

\$0.05	7905		Canoe	500	23,900,000
\$0.05	7906		Canoe	3,000	691,392,000
(\$0.10)	7976		Eagle & Shield	500	122,900,000
(\$0.10)	7977		Eagle & Shield	3,000	648,960,000
\$0.10	7909		Tractor Trailer	500	22,900,000
\$0.10	7910		Tractor Trailer	3,000	51,744,000
\$0.23	7925		USA	500	8,200,000
\$0.23	7926		USA	3,000	630,336,000

COILS, other printers, not precanceled

Face	Item No.	Printer	Description	Roll of	Stamps shipped
\$0.05	7732	ABN	Circus Wagon	10,000	150,000,000
\$0.19	7718	ABN	Fishing Boat	500	150,000,000
\$0.19	7719	SVS	Fishing Boat	500	175,000,000
\$0.19	7732	ABN	Fishing Boat	3,000	150,000,000

COILS, other printers, precanceled

Face	Item No.	Printer	Description	Roll of	Stamps shipped
\$0.05	7907	SVS	Canoe	10,000	150,000,000
(\$0.10)	7976	ABN	Eagle & Shield	500	12,000,000
(\$0.10)	7977	ABN	Eagle & Shield	3,000	600,000,000
(\$0.10)	7978	ABN	Eagle & Shield	10,000	500,000,000
\$0.23	7927	ABN	USA	10,000	300,000,000

BEP GREAT AMERICANS

Face	Item No.	Notes	Description	Sheet of	Stamps shipped
\$0.02	1052		Lyon	100	18,650,000
\$0.04	1054		Flanagan	100	21,000,000
\$0.05	1013		Marin	100	25,100,000
\$0.10	1010		Red Cloud	100	69,050,000
\$0.15	1062		Cody	100	2,800,000
\$0.20	1022	Phosphored	Truman	100	25,200,000
\$0.21	1042		Carlson	100	1,500,000
\$0.23	1043	Phosphored	Cassatt	100	134,400,000
\$0.25	1025		London	100	200,000
\$0.40	1048		Chennault	100	18,200,000
\$0.50	1050		Nimitz	100	24,600,000
\$0.52	1057		Humphrey	100	81,150,000
\$0.75	1075		Willkie	100	50,400,000
\$1.00	1090		Hopkins	20	48,700,000
\$5.00	1094		Harte	20	2,360,000

BCA GREAT AMERICANS

\$0.20	1018		Appar	100	128,030,000
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SELF-ADHESIVES (coils not stated)

Face	Item No.	Printer	Description	Pane of	Booklets shipped
\$5.22	6604	BCA	Love Sunrise	18	20,366,088
\$3.48	6616	DTR	Xmas '94 contemp	12	16,160,000
\$5.22	6661	DTR	Statue of Liberty	18	23,348,088
\$3.48	6689	AVR	Xmas '93 contemp	12	40,000,000
\$5.22	6690	BCA	Pine Cone	18	23,156,200
\$5.22	6694	SVS	Rose	18	29,805,000
\$5.22	6697	MWM	Blue Eagle	18	21,101,000

ATM panes

Face	Item No.	Printer	Description	Pane of	Booklets shipped
\$0.29	5517	AVR	Cardinal	18	767,500
\$0.29	5528	AVR	Snowman	18	1,858,000
\$0.29	5541	AVR	Liberty torch	18	1,135,000

Catalog Update



New PNCs

F29WB-8-FDC—A first-day cover of Plate 8 of the 29¢ Flag over White House exists although Plate 8 was not available until after the end of the grace period. Two examples known. (Ernst)

F32-11111—Flag over Porch with the plate-number combination 11111 (from BEP). Coils of 100, 500, 3,000. Issued May 19. Interval 24. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

F32-22222—Flag over Porch with the plate-number combination 22222 (from BEP). Coils of 100. Issued May 19. Interval 24. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

F32-33333—Flag over Porch with the plate-number combination 33333 (from BEP). Coils of 100. Issued May 19. Interval 24. (Dr. Rabinowitz, Thiele)

F32-44444—Flag over Porch with the plate-number combination 44444 (from BEP). Coils of 100. Issued May 19. Interval 24. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

F32-S11111—Flag over Porch with the plate-number combination S11111 (from Stamp Venturers). Coils of 10,000. Issued May 19. Interval 14. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

M10-S22222—The undenominated (10¢) Eagle and Shield from Stamp Venturers with the plate-number combination S22222. Back numbered on low-gloss gum. (Haake)

T3CW-3-shiny—The 3¢ Conestoga Wagon from Plate 3, untagged, with shiny gum.

T4S-5, T4S-6—Plates 5 and 6 of the unprecanceled 4¢ Stagecoach, totally untagged (error). (Rinaldi)

T20CR-1—The 20¢ Cog Railway coil from Plate 1, issued June 9. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

T32-2—The 32¢ Ferryboat from Plate 2, issued June 2. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

New Great Americans

3¢ White, Plate 4, untagged, shiny gum. (O'Neal)

10¢ Red Cloud from Plate 2 on mottled prephosphored paper with shiny gum. (Youngblood) (This may be the Red Cloud recently described in Linn's as being in the color of the 5¢ Muñoz Marin. The stamp described by Linn's also had mottled tagging and shiny gum.)

Self-adhesives

SAF32-V11111—32¢ Flag over Porch self-adhesive coil. Numbers are spaced 20 apart. Coil is microperfed 10 stamps from the plate-number combination. Plate number is V11111. Coil size is 5,000 (Malakof)

32¢ Flag over Porch self-adhesive pane. Plate number is tiny V11111. (Clark)

32¢ Flag over Porch pane. Plate number is V12211. (Lenz, via Internet)

32¢ Flag over Porch pane. Plate number is V12212. (Lenz, via Internet)

32¢ Flag over Porch pane. Plate number is V12312. (Grove, via Internet)

32¢ Flag over Porch pane. Plate number is V12321. (Lenz, via Internet)

32¢ Flag over Porch pane. Plate number is V12322. (Lenz, via Internet)

32¢ Flag over Porch pane. Plate number is V13322. (Lenz)

32¢ Flag over Porch pane. Plate number is V22211. (Lenz, via Internet)

32¢ Flag over Porch pane. Plate number is V23322. (Grove, via Internet)

32¢ Flag over Porch pane. Plate number is V23432. (Grove, via Internet)

32¢ Pink Rose—Issued as a pane of 20. Plate-number combination S111. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

32¢ Pink Rose—Issued as a pane of 20. Plate-number combination S112. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

Facer-cancelers and envelope contents

Several recent issues—In discussing whether the contents of a letter could trigger the facer-canceler, we failed to make clear that it is not the reflected phosphorescence of tagged stamps that activates the machinery. It is rather the next step after the UV lamp excites the phosphors that controls the facer-canceler. That next step, usually called a "dark room," is where the machinery detects the afterglow of the phosphors. It is the afterglow, not the direct excitement of the phosphors that controls the machines. This means that it is very doubtful that any contents or the fluorescence in the ink of the 5¢ Circus Wagon could activate the facer-canceler. But read the next item for a contrary view.

Page 63—Wayne Youngblood has responded to the letter suggesting that the contents of a letter can trigger the facer-canceler: "Contents cannot trigger facer-cancelers. If an envelope without a tagged stamp goes through, it may get canceled or not. Many times one or more other corners receive the then-random cancel.

"The often-promoted idea that fluorescence cannot trigger facer-cancelers is ludicrous. Just place a fluorescent label on a different corner than the stamp and see which is canceled. Or, to use USPS' own words, why was the 15¢ Bison card reprinted on nonfluorescent paper stock? Because USPS admitted that the fluorescence was screwing up the canceler."

Wrong series for Tail Fin

Page 68—The series for the 15¢ Tail Fin is American Culture, not American Transportation. The *PNC Catalog* number prefix for the stamp should be AC, not AT.

Terminology on phosphored stamps

Page 78—We misquoted Wayne Youngblood in the discussion of tagging terminology ("Memory needs a Post-it.") This is what he said:

"The terminology (surface coated or embedded phosphors) "applies only to engraved stamps, which are generally printed on uncoated paper. On gravure and offset stamps, there is no embedded tagging because the stamps require a coating, and at least up to now, taggant has been added to that coating."

Wayne adds that he has never seen overall tagging applied over surface tagging. He has seen block tagging applied as on the Chinese New Year stamp.

That missing editorial about Arvonio

Page 80—Toward the end of "APS Writers Unit gives award to Jaffer" there is a reference to an editorial about Rick Arvonio. That editorial was replaced as *TPN* was going to press by another, because news of Richard Nazar's dissolution of the Plate Number Coil Study Group arrived on the day *TPN* was being taken to the printer. It was too late to update the story on Page 80.

Revisions in self-adhesives list

By Gerald H. Clark

29¢ Eagle and Shield

2595a Banknote Corp. (Brown)

Random die cut

B1111-1 _____ A-B

B1111-2 _____ A-B

Bull's-eye die cut

B1111-1 _____ A-B

B1111-2 _____ A-B

(all subsequent numbers are bull's-eye die cut)

2599a 29¢ Statue of Liberty

Coil: D1111 _____ B

Unperforated

2949a (32¢) undenominated Love Cherub

B3333-2 _____ D

NEW 55¢ Love Cherub

B1111-1 _____ A

NEW 32¢ Flag over Porch

V11111 _____ C

Small year date

V12111 _____ C

V12112 _____ C

V12312 _____ C

V12321 _____ C

V12322 _____ C

*V13322 _____ C

V22211 _____ C

*V23322 _____ C

V23432 _____ C

Coil: V11111 _____ A

Large year date

NEW 32¢ Pink Rose

S111 _____ A

S112 _____ A

Coil:

Coming new issues

June 17 (Delayed)—\$6.40 Fruits (pane of 20) (peaches and pears)

Same: coil of 5,560

November—\$5.76 Christmas ATM (pane of 18)

November—\$6.40 Christmas contemporary (pane of 20)

Same: coil of 5,560

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

* indicates item was found in self-service packaging.

Amick digs up what USPS wouldn't say

We'll never know for sure, but more and more reasons why American Bank-note Co. lost its contract to print stamps are coming to the surface. Even before the announcement, we knew that there had been a conflict between USPS and ABN about who would pay for the rewinding of the Unisys UVM stamps, which, ABN said, had been wound the wrong way because the USPS specs were wrong.

There followed the fantastic array of plate-number combinations on the "G" stamps (all printed long before the contract came up for renewal).

And now we learn that when ABN printed the \$5.80 Love booklet in 1994, it simply ignored the Waldbaum typeface that had been selected by Richard Sheaff who was the art director and typographer for the stamp.

George Amick, who tells the story in the 1994 *Linn's U.S. Stamp Yearbook*, said the change made the stamp lose some of the elegance of the original. But ABN retained Sheaff's font on the stamp shown on the booklet's cover, so the stamp and the cover don't agree. This, however, lets you compare the fonts. Amick is right.

It's just one of the many stories to be found in the Yearbook, although officials at the Postal Service swear up and down that the printing contracts were awarded by competitive bid. Perhaps they were, but there are ways to bend the letting of contracts so the process is not blind.

Amick was able to get exact printing information not only on the self-adhesive booklets (most of which the Postal Service did not include in its inadequate press releases), but also learned something entirely new about the self-adhesive coils.

Unlike earlier models that were printed from an appendix at the bottom of the plate that printed the panes, coils are now printed separately on a separate plate:

• The Love Sunrise had 180 subjects, 10 across and 18 around, with a plate number on every 18th stamp. We didn't know that. The Postal Service didn't tell us.

• The Santa coil was printed on a 324-subject cylinder that was 9 across and 36 around. The plate-number interval was 12, or to emphasize the importance of Amick's information, three plate numbers for each revolution of the press. Until now we thought the new 14-stamp interval of recent Stamp Venturers stamps was something new. So, once again, we didn't know that. The Postal Service didn't tell us.

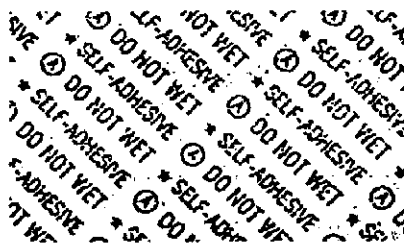
Hey, Mr. Jaffer, we didn't know a lot because the Postal Service wouldn't tell us. Now George Amick tells all. But we should have learned it from you

• When the Postal Service released the 1994 stamp program, it showed a Santa stamp different from the one that was released. The "Greetings" was missing. Amick tells us why: What was shown was the stamp in a proposed ATM pane, which was replaced by the Cardinal. We didn't know that. The Postal Service didn't tell us.

• The cylinder used to print coils of the 29¢ Blue Eagle had 126 subjects (7 across, 18 around) with a plate-number interval of 18. Also, the counting numbers Al Haake found on the backing paper, occurred only once across the width of the seven-stamp-wide web. We didn't know that. The Postal Service didn't tell us.

• On the Statue of Liberty coil, plate numbers were 18 apart and the plate had 396 subjects (11 across by 36 around), thus creating the second stamp with more than one plate number per revolution. We didn't know that. The Postal Service didn't tell us.

• On the self-stick "G" coil, plate numbers were 18 apart and the plate had 396 subjects (11 across by 36 around), thus creating the second variety with more than one plate number per revolution. This one, of course, was the very first of the special plates used to print self-



CIRCLE A MEANS FASSON—Once again George Amick fills us in on something we did not know. Fasson is the Painesville, Ohio, backing paper plant of Avery Dennison. The only other mark so far is Circle M, for 3M Cos.

adhesive coils. We didn't know that. The Postal Service didn't tell us.

So we have seen how Amick filled in the blanks left by USPS. But he left some blanks blank, possibly forever since we have been singularly unable to get the Postal Service to provide answers about the paper differences on the 20¢ Apgar as well as the difference in the color of the ink.

That's only one of the gaps.

Amick carefully excluded the "G" non-profit stamps belatedly added in 1995 from the 1994 Yearbook because they are 1995 stamps, even if they do have a lying 1994 FDOI cancel.

On the "G" coils, Amick provides what the Postal Service insisted did not exist: technical data on ABN's stamps.

Here's the plate setup: 456 subjects (19 across and 24 around). We knew the 24 because of the plate-number interval. But, of course, we could do nothing to calculate maximum PNCS. Even that may prove out of the question, because we cannot get hold of the statistics ABN provided about quantities printed of each plate number. That information may come out when we get plate-activity reports for the so-called gap years, when no such reports were collected. Now, however, USPS and BEP are fighting about the cost of recovering the data. That's because USPS told BEP to destroy the data and BEP did (although it can, in fact, be salvaged). It's the cost of that salvaging effort that is so high.

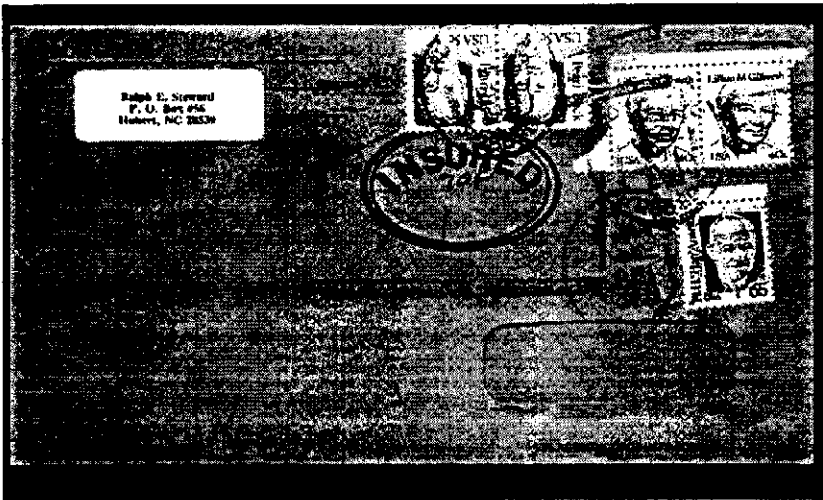
The Stamp Venturers "G" coils also came in an odd size: 936 subjects (26 across and 36 around).

Amick also solves another mystery. What does the "(A)" on the backing paper of self-adhesives mean? You find it on the diagonal inscription that says: "Self-Adhesive (A) Do not wet." Sometimes it is replaced by an "(M)" or another letter.

Now we know. A is the code for laminated paper made by the Fasson Division of Avery. M is for laminated paper by 3M Co.

As always, Amick has done the hobby a distinct service by digging up all this information we had been denied. And we're taking note here only of the stamps that are in TPN's sphere. The discussions of commemoratives are equally interesting, especially the detailed story of 1994's most important stamp story, the recalled Legends of the West.

But for that, you'll just have to buy the book for \$18 plus handling from *Linn's*, P.O. Box 29, Sidney, OH 45365. (sg)



This cover, mailed to a stamp company in Placentia, Calif., and postmarked Jan 4, 1989, has three different Great Americans stamps to pay a four-ounce insured rate.

The \$1.55 in postage breaks down as 70¢ for minimum-level insurance (con-

tents valued at \$50 or less) and 85¢ for postage (25¢ for first ounce, 20¢ for the next three ounces).

These were the rates until Feb. 2, 1991.

One item of note: Items mailed at the minimum insured level do not require a

printed prenumbered blue label. That label, commonly found in post office lobbies, is only required when the insurance requested is \$50.01 or more. In the case of this cover, a rubber stamp with the word "INSURED" is sufficient.

Great Americans

Linn's reported that the 23¢ Cassatt has vertical lines on vertically adjacent stamps. At first, they were thought to be plate cracks, but *Linn's* later called them wiping freaks.

Meanwhile, John Orsega has found a pane of the 20¢ Apgar with the dot-matrix overprint (*TPN* May 1995, Page 77). What is new about Orsega's find is that his overprint is found on Plate B2. Previously, we knew of the overprints only on Plate B1.

Orsega's pane does not show any overprinting on the stamps, only on the bottom margin.

As you will note elsewhere in this issue, the 3¢ White from Plate 4 has been found on glossy gum.

Scott Adams uses his vacations to hunt and search. From his base near Albany, N.Y., Adams drove to Washington, where he found the glossy-gum 3¢ White on sale at the philatelic window inside the National Postal Museum.

The next find was in Atlanta, where he found glossy-gum 40¢ Chennaults on sale at the Airport post office.

Finally, in Nashville, Adams found 17¢ Carsons from Plate 15 and 16. To make it even better, the panes showed a vertical tagging break.

Ken Moreau has found a 3¢ Clay from Plate 1 with a vertical tagging break. He has also found a 2¢ Stravinsky from Plate 4 with four of them. When *TPN* called them four track-untagged lines, using the nomenclature provided by Larry G. Haynes, Moreau protested: "They're not tracks, they're tagging breaks." The terms are interchangeable.

He has also found a block of 37¢ Millikan from Plate 4 with three thin breaks vertically through stamps 1 and 11 on an upper-left pane and three more in the selvage.

Cover of the Bi-Month

By Richard L. Beecher

(If you have a cover for this feature, write me at 2641 Locksley Pl., Los Angeles, CA 90039.)

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... and then there were 2!

"There's one plate number for every revolution of the press," was a sort of rule we all lived with. But it is not so any more. As may be seen from the review in this issue of George Amick's *Linn's 1994 U.S. Stamp Yearbook*, as many as three plate numbers have been floating around on some self-stick coils.

And now the new Transportation coils are being advertised in *Stamps, etc.* as strips of 24, meaning that there are two plate numbers per revolution.

Amick also has another blockbuster: In printing self-stick panes, the printers no longer have one row at the bottom to print coils. No sir, they're printing the coil stamps by the platefull.

Remember stamp sticks?

The new coils from Stamp Venturers do not have straight top and bottom edges. Like the rouletted 29¢ Flowers, they show those tiny bits of paper that were featured in the "stamp stick."

If you recall, those stamps could be made into large blocks, but because of the curl of the coils and the weakness of the tiny links between rows, they were hard to preserve that way, usually breaking down into coil rows.

DAV covers (cont.)

How does the DAV make up 32 cents on its return envelopes? One recently seen cover had four 5¢ Circus Wagons (showing the plate number "A3") and three 4¢ Steam Carriages. All the stamps were untagged.

According to reports reaching *TPN*, the Postal Service wanted DAV to make its return envelopes usable to facer-cancelers. In lieu of low-value tagged stamps, USPS suggested that DAV put a small phosphorescent mark on its envelopes that would fool the facer-cancelers into "thinking" this is where the stamp is.

But the cost was prohibitive. So now the Postal Service must cope with millions of envelopes from DAV that are not machinable. It would have been cheaper to print up some tagged stamps just for DAV.

Wanna book or a catalog?

Volume 1A of the *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*, which carries a cover price of \$34, is making an ef-

fort to be a library-shelf book, rather than one that is discarded after a year of use as a catalog.

It lists only the United States, United Nations and British Commonwealth countries of this hemisphere and adds a 30-page compendium called "The Scott Annual," consisting of stamp articles printed during the previous year in vari-

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

ous publications. This is an attempt to elevate material from throw-away weeklies into a keepable book.

People who buy this expensive catalog, however, are more interested in the cataloging, and as always it is useless to collectors of PNCs, Great Americans, or self-adhesive coils and panes. This is \$34 you can save unless the 1995 catalog numbers are worth \$34 to you.

In any event, the catalog was printed after Scott announced that it would start a new set of catalog numbers for the Great Americans.

Flower is off sale

Richard Beecher was told by the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center that the 29¢ Flower coil was removed from sale on Nov. 11, 1994. The news first appeared in *Coil Line*.

Self-sticks all sold out

Starting in April, post offices put up signs saying they were sold out of self-adhesives and promising that new supplies would be on hand in May.

That's what Gerald H. Clark has been saying all along.

But in May, the signs were still up at many post offices, despite a huge printing run on the self-stick Flag over Porch.

And Steve Esrati found out the hard way. He took several thousand "G" stamps to a firm to sell as scrap. The boss loved the savings. The secretaries hated to see lick-and-stick stamps back in their office. "We prefer the self-sticks," one said. Fortunately, the boss' wish prevailed.

Stagecoaches found

Pat Rinaldi made a nice find with a roll of 3,000 of the 4¢ Stagecoach from Plates 5 and 6. These were from the first printing, which had pretty good centering, as opposed to a second printing that was just awful.

Both printings were made especial-

ly for the DAV.

But these had another feature. Many of the stamps had tagging that looked like the stars in a moonless sky—little dots of taggant all over. Similar tagging has been found on Plate 3 of the 13¢ Crazy Horse (Paper I) probably printed in 1984, and Plate 4 of the 17¢ Electric Auto from Plate 4 (Paper II) printed in 1985.

In addition, some of the stamps in the roll were totally untagged.

Hey, the type's too small!

Are you having trouble reading the tiny new plate numbers and dates on recent stamps? Apparently you are not alone. The first Flag over Porch self-sticks had a plate-number combination of V11111 that was so small that Avery was asked to enlarge it on later stamps. Cuni-berti says V11111 may be hard to find if production was halted for the change. Dealers are already asking a premium.

Our PNC winners

Dean Hawk won several awards at the McKinley Stamp Club's show in Canton, Ohio, for his "U.S. Flag Coils 1969-1991." Ron Hayes did likewise for an exhibit of used 10¢ E&S PNCs at Wiscopex 95 in Madison, Wisc.

Telling them apart

Al Haake has spent a lot of time in Ann Arbor, Mich., recently feeding money into UVM machines to print dull-gum and shiny-gum versions of the BEP version of the UVM stamps. These all have the changed font in the machines printer, the one that produces a real

decimal point.

The personnel at the Ann Arbor post office have figured out a way to tell the dull-gum from the shiny-gum versions while they are still in the boxes of eight rolls of 3,000. The dull-gum version has a label on the side of the box warning against opening before the first day of issue. The shiny-gum stamps, being reprints, lack that cautionary label.

Note to Coil Line

We're happy that you like the new forms used by USPS to provide plate-activity data. You wrote: "Whoever built the form knew what he was doing, making us suspect it has its roots in the philatelic community."

You are correct, not only in the philatelic community but in the Plate Number Coil Study Group.

Here's the story. Assistant Postmaster General Gordon Morison arrived at STAMPSHOW '91 in Philadelphia carrying a proposed form. He showed it to Dr. Robert Rabinowitz, Richard Nazar, and Steve Esrati. We liked some of it, but made many suggestions for added data. In fact, therefore, the three of us designed it.

Unfortunately, we outsmarted ourselves. The people who fill in the forms do not always understand what we wanted. So, for example, when we asked for information about presses, we were told "intaglio" or "gravure." What we wanted, of course, was the name of the press and its model number, not the process.

The same applies to other technical details. Thus, it's time for the Postal Service to have another meeting with philatelic writers.

No back numbers in albums

The publishers of the Lighthouse albums have decided to pay no attention whatsoever to back numbers in albums or supplements. But work has begun on publishing a 1992-94 album supplement for PNCs and coil singles. The company has accepted the premise that the Transportation Series has come to an end but will begin grouping the American Transportation, American Scenes, and American Culture series.

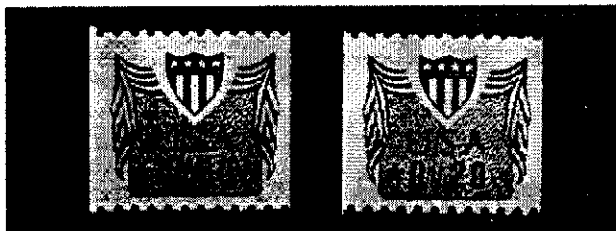
New font yes, but useless

Frank Norulak demanded a refund after he put \$16 into the Postal Mailing Center in Costa Mesa, Calif., for 50 UVMS with the new font.

But the machine, which had just been fixed, mangled the stamps so that many of them were "perforated" in mid-stamp by its feeding mechanism.

When postal officials saw his stamps, he got his money back.

Norulak said the color of the imprint varied from pitch black to an outline. When TPN examined these stamps, the difference turned out to be insufficient inking. Here's how they look.



ADLETS

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

WANTED: Coil wrapper labels from any roll of 17¢ Electric Auto. Send info and asking price. E.V. Chadwick, 124 E. Center St., Shavertown, PA 18708. (4-95 PNC³)

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)

WANTED PS 16s: Regular Perfed XF-S, imperf, misperf, miscut. John Tison (PNC³ 473, APS, ASDA), PO Box 8755, Newport Beach CA 92658. 1-800-854-4487. (6-95)

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. (4-95)

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 11111 tagged error, VF \$35, XF40; E&S 22221 tagged error, VF \$25, XF \$30, E&S 22222 tagged error, VF \$40, XF \$50. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Hts., OH 44120 (4-95)

TRACTOR TRAILER OVERPRINTS wanted: Pay \$20.00 for covers without plate numbers, pay \$25 for covers with plate numbers. Mixture clips also wanted, inquire at Box TT, P.O. Box 20130, Shaker Hts. OH 44120 (4-95)

RICHARD NAZAR wants to thank all TPN readers for their support in the success of the 1995 Plate Number Coil Catalog. He has fewer than 50 spiral editions and 40 hard-cover editions still available. Get them while they last: Nazar Publications, Inc., POB 7307, Somerset NJ 08875-7307. Spiral \$32.95; hard-cover \$49.95; add \$3 shipping and handling for each catalog ordered. (4-95)

ALL BACK ISSUES of TPN are available. For a list with key articles send SASE to

POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (4-95)

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.

JOIN PNC³ For details, write Joann Lenz, 37211 Alper Dr., Sterling Hts. MI 48312-2203. (4-95)

UNTAGGED 10¢ Red Cloud, full pane, \$2,500.00; overall-otagged 30¢ Laubach, pane \$99.00; plate block \$49.00; single 99¢, single with selvage \$1.50. Ken Moreau, 402 Coronation Dr., Franklin MA 02038. (PNC³ 4-95)

PNC RARITY: 17¢ Auto, Plate 1, showing broken ade variety that was left out of the 1995 PNC Catalog. PS/7, Fine only, \$50; PS/5, Fine only, \$40; PS/3, \$25; PS/2, \$20. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (4-95)

VACATION SCHEDULE: The "office" of TPN will be closed from June 21 to June 30 for recreation and rehabilitation. The computer will accept faxes while I'm away. Don't even dare ask where I'm going (the May trip was intended for V-E Day in Italy, but the Italians celebrate April 26, we got there April 25. We missed the whole show). I'm taking my running shoes and my heart pills. Steve Esrati

6th REVISION of the Summary of Data on the Great Americans is out! It includes some new stamps, some new data, even CCI squares. \$7.50 if you've not ordered before; \$5 for updates. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (4-95)

'G' STAMP FDCs

House of Farnam (my choice of numbers) \$5; ArtCraft, \$4; Artmaster, \$4. I have ABN, Stamp Venturers, BEP, nonprofit and presort. Hurry, they will not last. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (4-95)

JOIN PNC³ For details, write Joann Lenz, 37211 Alper Dr., Sterling Hts. MI 48312-2203. (4-95)

Did you get A4435 for 4.75 (VF)?

My new-issues subscribers did. How much did you pay? My FDC new-issue subscribers are paying about \$7 for A4435 on FDC. My PS/5 subscribers paid \$4.75. How much did you pay?

But it's always that way. PNCs by subscriptions insure that you get the tough items at the opening price. That's E&S A32333 for under \$5.

To be honest, they're not always cheap. Some start high and go up from there. But it's a surefire, safe way to collect.

Steve Esrati

And if you collect Great Americans, I have the untagged 3¢ White. Glossy gum is 90 cents. Dull gum is \$4.

I also have the shiny gum 40¢ Chernault. It's \$4.00.

Liberty coil also made without the microperfs

By Gerald H. Clark

The issuance of the 29¢ Statue of Liberty self-adhesive coil on June 24, 1994, introduced collectors to a new philatelic term—"microperfs."

Microperfs were put on coils to make it easier to break down rolls into strips of 18 at the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center. The philatelic press devoted much space to the location of the perfs in relation to the plate-numbered stamp. The original intention of USPS officials was to place the perfs just to the left of the numbered stamp. This would have ruined the collectibility of the PS/5. When issued, however, the perfs had been moved so that there were four stamps between the perfs and the numbered stamp.

The September 1994 *TPN* said: "The shift was done at the request of Scott Beach, manager of the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center, who asked the manufacturer, Avery Dennison, to move them to meet collector preferences."

In that same article, *TPN* queried dealers Al Haake and Dr. Robert Rabinowitz who believed that the microperfs were insignificant and that collectors would only want plate-numbered strips of five.

"*TPN* thinks that the perfs through the liner are not what collectors want to collect, but for those who do want to show the microperfs, it would be best to have at least one stamp at the left of the microperfs, making a strip of at least eight," wrote Steve Esrati.

Most specialists in self-adhesives felt that a strip showing the microperfs was needed for a collection to show the evolution of self-

ITEM# 6661 SELECT
 STATUE OF LIBERTY COILS (PERFORATED)
 QTY: 1 ROLL OF 5004 STAMPS
 \$.29/STAMP
 DATE 05/19/94
 UNIT VALUE \$1451.16 PER ROLL

ITEM# 6661 SELECT
 STATUE OF LIBERTY COILS (UNPERFORATED)
 QTY: 1 ROLL OF 5004 STAMPS
 \$.29/STAMP
 DATE 05/19/94
 UNIT VALUE \$1451.16 PER ROLL/COIL
 PLATE # D1111
 MANUF AVERY DENNISON

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

STATUE OF LIBERTY LABELS—Labels indicating that the microperfs were intentionally omitted on the coil stamps.

adhesive production. But to get a long strip showing the microperfs, as Esrati described, access to a complete roll was needed.

"The Cave" only shipped strips of 18 that were torn at the microperfs at each end.

Shortly after issuance, Ken Lawrence noted the existence of roll splices made with red tape on the back of the strip. These have been found at various positions in relation to the numbered stamp.

Now, almost one year after the first day, *TPN* has learned that we were only told half the story of the microperfs.

Only a portion of the 396 rolls that were produced and delivered were actually microperfed!

Illustrated are two labels from coil rolls manufactured on the same date and labeled

"SELECT." Note that one is labeled "(PERFORATED)" while the other is labeled "(UNPERFORATED)."

TPN has verified that the coil is, indeed, "un"perforated. Although it is not yet known how many were produced, at least six rolls of 5,004 have been found. A red tape splice has been reported on one of the "un"perforated rolls.

PNC collectors interested in varieties will want to add a long strip to their collection. With almost 1,700 strips available, supply should be well ahead of demand making this variety affordable to most. Remember, this is not an error, but a deliberately produced second variety.

TPN will try to learn how many rolls were made, why we were not informed of the existence of two collectible

varieties, what the purpose was, and why it took us almost a year to learn of their manufacture. We hope to have some answers for the next is-

You won't find free 1¢ coils in vending machines anymore

New vending machines being placed in post office lobbies will sell any number of 32¢ stamps you ask for.

The machine will also make change in pennies as well as Susan B. Anthony dollars.

That means unwanted strips of 1¢ Omnibus coils will no longer be available for PNCers to look over.

The dangling Omnibuses never did serve as a clue to a new variety, but there was always hope. You walked past, looked, and hoped you had found a new variety.

My PNC prices

PNC³ members may deduct 5%. PNC Study Group members may take an added 5%. You'll love my my no-quibble return policy, my VF quality. This list (List 13) is good through July 4, 1995. Prices are for F-VF PS/5. Deduct 10% for PS/3 or Fine; add 25% for XF. If you prefer PS3, deduct 5% except where separate prices are noted. I have precancel gaps, varieties. Ask!

1c Classics 1, 2, 5, 6	.40
3, 4	.50
B Press 1, 2	.55
B Press Unlogged 2	.50
C Press 3 (normal 3)	3.00
County 3 (variety 1)	.75
Full size 3 (Variety 3)	2.00
2c Locomotive 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10	.50
3 Smoking L or coat	15.00
B Press 1	.50
Spika variety (see F)	10.00
C Press 2	.50
3c Mascot 1, 2, 3, 4	.70
3c Conestoga Wagon 1	1.00
2, 3 unlogged	1.00
3, glossy gum	1.00
3.4c School Bus 1, 2	1.00
PC 1, 2 (IR, No Gap)	6.00
4c Stagecoach 1, 2, 3, 4	1.00
5, 6 (VF, Poor only .50)	1.50
PC 3, 4, 5, 6	6.50
Same, B Press 1	1.00
Overall logged 1	14.00
4c Steam Carriage 1, logged, unlogged	1.00
4.9c Backboard 3, 4	.90
4 Buggy whip (img)	10.00
PC 1-6	1.80
5c Motorcycle 1, 2, 3, 4	1.00
5c Milk Wagon 1	1.00
5c Circus Wag 1, not 1, A1, A2, A3, S1	1.50
5c Canoe 1, 2, 3	1.50
Ground S11 (dishes, unlogged gum)	1.25
Ground S11 (dishes in VF, smooth gum)	2.00
(5c) "6" Hooprail, A11111, A21111	1.00
(5c) Bulla Hooprail, S111	1.00
5.2c Sleigh 1, 2	8.50
3	240.00
5	170.00
PC 1, 2	12.00
PC 3, 5	14.00
PC 4, 6	13.00
5.3c Elevator 1	1.00
5.5c Star Route Truck 1	1.75
PC 1	1.50
PC 2	4.00
5.9c Bicycle 3, 4	15.00
PC 3, 4	25.00
PC 5, 6	80.00
6c Bicycle 1, reg or PC	1.50
PC 2	8.00
7.1c Tractor 1, PC 1	3.00
PC 1 "DIP-4"	2.00
7.4c Baby Buggy 2	9.00
PC 2	5.00
7.6c Carrota 1, 2	2.50
3	6.50
8.3c Ambulance 1, 2	1.50
PC 1, 2	2.00
PC 3, 4	5.00
B Press 1	3.25
2	7.50
8.4c Wheelchair 1, 2	2.00
3	13.00
8.5c Tow Truck 1, reg or PC	2.50
PC 2	11.00
9.3c Mail Wagon 1, 2	12.50
3, 4	33.00
5, 6	250.00
PC 1, 2	20.00
PC 3	25.00
PC3 or 5, Hash mark (PS/10)	45.00
PC 4	20.00
PC 5, 6	3.00
PC 8	180.00
10c Canal Boat 1 (block log)	1.50
1 overall tag (dull gum) F-VF	3.50
1 overall tag (dull gum) XF	5.00
1, 2 plus shiny gum F-VF	3.50
10c Tractor 1	2.00
10c Tractor 1 with grooves 11, 22	2.25
(10c) Eagle, Shield	
A11111, A11112, A21113, A21114, A22115, A22116, A22117, A22118, A33333, A33335, A43324, A43325, A43326, A43327, A43328, A43329, A43330, A43331, A43332, A43333, A4444, A4445, A77777	

A88888, A99999	2.75
A88889, A99990, A99991, A10101010, A101101010, A1011101011, A1011101012, A1110101010, A11101101010, A1111101010, A11111101010, A1211101010, A1411101010, A1411101011, A1412111110, A1412111111, S11111, S22222	
11111, 22221, 22222, 33333	3.50
11111 plus (error)	2.75
22221 plus (error)	30.00
22222 plus (error)	15.00
22222 plus (error)	35.00
A34424, A54426	5.00
A12213	20.00
A52333	200.00
A11 10 10 10 11	12.00
A33334	85.00
(10c) Auto Bulk Rate, S111	1.75
10.1c Oil Wagon 1	2.50
PC 1, 2	2.50
Rod PC 2, 3	2.50
10.9c Henson Cab 1, 2	28.00
PC 1, 2	30.00
3, 4 (PS/3 only)	250.00
11c Caboose 1, PC 1	3.50
Unlogged PC 2	2.00
11c Stutz 1, 2, 3, 4	2.00
12c Steamer 1, 2	2.00
PC 1, 2	2.50
B Press PC 1	20.00
12.5c Peshcar 1	2.65
2	4.50
PC 1 Light olive, Paper Illa	2.70
PC 1 Dark olive, Paper Illa	3.00
PC 2	5.00
13c Patrol Wagon 1	2.50
13.2c Coal Car 1, 2	2.50
14c Inboard 1, 2, 3, 4	2.00
14c Inboard B Press 2	3.00
15c Topcoat 1	2.00
Overall 2, Block 2	3.00
(15c) Mail Fin. Present, S1111	2.25
(15c) Mail Fin. Present, 11111 (BEP)	2.25
16.7c Popcorn 1, 2	3.00
17c Auto 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2.00
6	12.00
7	5.00
PC 1C, 2C (F only)	6.00
PC 3A, 4A	3.50
PC 3A, 4A	3.50
PC 3B, 4B	22.00
PC 3C, 4C	7.00
PC 3BA, 4BA (PS/10)	23.00
PC 5A	5.00
PC 5B, 6B	18.25
PC 5AB, 7AB (PS/9) (SR)	13.00
PC 6A	13.00
PC 5C, 7C	24.00
PC 7A	12.00
17c Dogsled 2	3.00
17.5c Rover 1, reg or PC	3.00
18c Survey 1	76.00
2, 5, 6, 8, 17, 18	3.00

3, 4	63.75
7	30.00
9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16	12.50
13, 14	5.50
18c Flag 1	345.00
2 PS/5	40.00
2 PS/3	18.00
4	7.00
5	4.00
7	30.00
18c Wash. 1112, 3333	3.00
PC 11121	6.00
PC 33333	3.00
PC 33333 (dull gum, logged)	5.75
PC 43444	7.00
19c Fishing Boat	
A1112	6.00
A1212, 1111, 2424, 5555, 5556, 6667	
7667, 7679, 7766, 7779, S111	4.00
A5555 unlogged	10.00
20c Fan Pumpor 1 PS/5	175.00
1 PS/3	50.00
3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16	4.50
7, 8 (PS/5 F-VF only)	160.00
12, 14	8.00
6	35.00
11 PS/5	75.00
11 PS/3	29.00
20c Consumer Ed. 1, 2 PS/5	150.00
1, 2, 3, 4 PS/3	25.00
3, 4 PS/5	95.00
20c Flag 1 PS/5	70.00
1 PS/3	4.25
2, 11, 12	8.00
9	5.00
4 PS/3 only	33.50
5, 9, 10, 13, 14	4.00
6 PS/5	125.00
6 PS/3	69.00
8 PS/5	12.00
8 PS/3	3.00
12	7.50
PC 14	50.00
20c Official 1 PS/5	57.00
1 PS/3	11.00
20c Cable Car 1, 2 (block)	3.00
Overall logged 2	5.00
20c Cap Railway 1	3.00
20.5c Fire Engine 1	3.00
21c Rail Car 1, 2	3.00
21.1c 111111, plain and PC	3.00
111121 plain and PC	5.00
22c Flag 1, 7, 13 PS/5	14.00
1, 7, 13 PS/3	10.00
3 PS/5	48.00
3 PS/3	11.00
14	30.00
2, 8, 12, 15, 16, 19, 22, T1	3.00
4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 17, 18, 20, 21	5.50
(22c) "D" Eagle 1, 2	7.00
(22c) "D" Official 1 PS/3	32.50
23c Lunch Wag 2, 3 (solid log)	3.50

3 (modified, dull or shiny)	3.50
23c Present A111, 212	30.00
A222 (see middle 2)	3.50
A222 thin middle 2	4.00
A112, 122, 333	4.50
23c USA A111, A222, 1111 (shiny)	4.00
S111, 1111 (dull gum)	4.50
A2252, A2233, A3333, A4344, A444, A4453	4.50
1111 plus (error)	40.00
24.1c Handm 1	3.50
25c Brand Wagon 2, 3, 4	3.50
1, 5	4.00
25c Yosemite	
Block 1, 7, Phos 5, 15	6.00
Block 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	3.50
Block 9	9.00
Phos 1	40.00
Phos 6	12.00
Phos 2-3, 7-11, 13-14	3.50
(25c) "E" Earth 1211, 2222	4.25
1111, 1222	2.50
25c Honeybee 1, 2	3.50
1 Orig. full seal	20.00
(25c) "G" Present S11111	4.75
(25c) Juice Box, Present S11111	4.00
(25c) Juice Box, Present 11111 (BEP)	4.00
(29c) "F" Trip	
1111, 1222, 2222	3.50
1211	20.00
2211	5.00
29c Flower S1111, S2222	5.00
S11	5.00
S2222 (Preshield)	5.00
29c Mt. Rushmore Flag	
1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7	3.50
7 Toledo brown VF PS/3	127.50
5, 8	6.00
9	15.00
A11111, A22211	5.00
29c White House Flag 1-16, 18	4.50
29c UNM 1 (29c PS/5) (dull)	8.00
29c UNM 1 (32c PS/5) (shiny)	8.00
29c UNM Unseals A11	4.50
29c UNM 1 new font (29c PS/5) (dull)	8.00
29c UNM 1 new font (32c PS/5) (shiny)	8.00
29c Pine Cone PS/5, B1	4.50
29c Xmas, PS/B V1111111	5.00
29c Love PS/5 B1	4.50
29c Eagle PS/5 111	4.50
29c Liberty PS/5 D1111	4.50
29c Santa PS/5 V1111	4.50
32c "G" stamps	
Meet 32c 6 PS/5	5.00
A1222, A1417, A2223, A2313	5.25
A1314, 3114, 3426	6.50
A4435	125.00
32c "G" PS/5 V11111	5.00
32c Flag 11111, 22222, 33333, 44444, S11111	5.00
32c Patch V11111	5.00
32c Ferryport 2	5.00
S1 Seaplane 1, 3	8.00

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

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

STEPHEN G. ESRATI



P.O. Box 20130, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120
 Telephone: (216) 561-9393
 FAX: (216) 561-6030
 E-Mail: StevStamps@ADL.com



VARIETIES

I have varieties, some illustrated in the 1995 PNC Catalog, some left out. If you need plate cracks, gaps, low transfers, hash marks, all the stuff that makes PNC collecting interesting, drop me a note.

I ALSO PUBLISH THE MOST COMPLETE LIST OF THE GREAT AMERICANS SERIES. ASK FOR IT!

Brown E&S pane has two styles of die cut

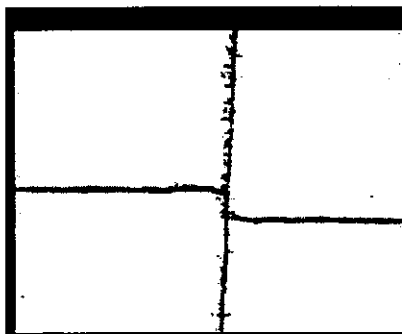
By Doug Iams

Much attention is being paid to the two sizes of the "1995" on the Flag over Porch self-adhesive pane, but there is another self-adhesive variety that has been around for nearly three years that received scant notice.

Just as some perforated stamps exist with different types of perforation, the brown Eagle and Shield pane exists with two types of die cuts.

Type I (also called random) die cuts have vertical cuts that run in continuous lines, but the horizontal cuts are made up of one stamp-wide segments that often do not line up with the next one in the row. Sometimes the horizontal cut does not extend fully between pairs of vertical cuts, thus leaving a small uncut bridge between a vertical pair of stamps.

For the Type II (also known as bull's-eye) die cut, the vertical and horizontal cuts appear continuous and meet in a regular intersection. The corners that are formed by the edge of the sheetlet and a single horizontal or vertical cut are sharp, but the interior corners formed at the in-

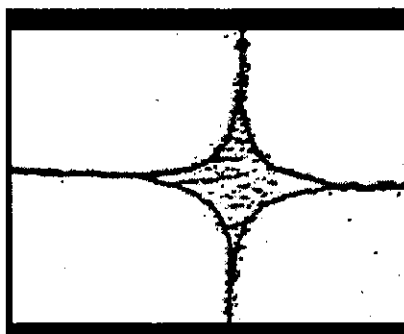


TYPE 1—Horizontal die cuts do not line up with each other.

tersections of the vertical and horizontal die cuts are slightly rounded. This leaves tiny holes at the intersections.

Plate-number combinations B1111-1 and B1111-2 exist with all four possible combinations of Type I and Type II die cuts and Type A and B liner inscriptions.

Since Type I is known only on B1111-1 and B1111-2, while Type II is known on all



TYPE 2—All die cuts line up with each other and are rectangular at edges, curved inside pane.

plate-number combinations of this issue, it is likely that Type I was the first found by collectors.

TPN note: Dealers Michael Lipson and Kim Cuniberti are selling the brown E&S in all four varieties. Other dealers, who have them, say most collectors are not interested but will oblige any who ask for the varieties.

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

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IF BOX IS CHECKED
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HAS EXPIRED

USPS ERRED AGAIN
The PNC interval on the Cog
Railway and Ferry is 48. We believed
USPS. We should know better.
Corrections in next issue.