

Back numbers prove puzzling

By Stephen G. Esrati

Don't try to collect the accounting numbers now being placed on the backs of all coils of 500 and larger by Stamp Venturers, because you could face an infinite number of possibilities.

That's the opinion of Richard Sennett, retired managing partner of the firm.

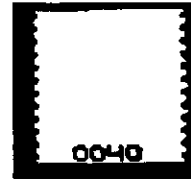
His comments came at the end of a conference call with Monica Hand, a Postal Service spokesperson. Michael Schreiber of *Linn's*, and myself. Dr. Robert Rabinowitz missed the call.

The numbers were first shown on dummy coils at the World Columbian Stamp

Exposition in Chicago. They reappeared on large rolls of "G" stamps, and that's when collectors started wondering how to collect them.

The reason for the concern was that the numbers were found at both the top and bottom of the stamps, in various colors ranging from violet to almost black, and in various sizes and spacings between the little dots that make up the numbers.

The only requirement issued by the Postal Service to Stamp Venturers were that the ink used had to be approved by the Food and Drug Administration and that the numbers be legible. There were no specifications for how the ink-jet numbers should appear on the stamps.



Tall 4-digit number from roll of 3,000



Short 5-digit number from roll of 10,000

Under the current contract, Sennett said, back numbering is required on all coils of 500 or larger. Sennett said there was no such requirement at the time the contract was awarded for printing "G" stamps.

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Thanks to FOI request

Study Group obtains missing BEP reports

By A. M. Malakoff

Through the persistence of some of its members and some well-placed Freedom of Information requests, the Plate Number Coil Study Group has received the raw printing information for BEP-produced stamps from late 1991 through the fall of 1994. Although this information (700 pages of it) is still being digested and reviewed, enough has been assembled enough to give *TPN* readers insight into the BEP's activities of the last few years.

The accompanying table details much of the printing history as relates to coils and the Great Americans. Note that impressions are per print run and not "total impressions" as in the past. This format of individual press runs may actually be of more use for the tagging and paper collectors out there. Note that these data are preliminary and subject to change as all of the records are reviewed and reconciled. Also, the printing of the undenominated Eagle and Shield stamps will be reviewed in the next issue of *TPN*.

Anyway, some of the more interesting details:

Plate Number coils

"G" Coil—Although printed in 1992, the "G" coil is included here. Only combinations 1111 and 2222 should exist. There

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Raft of new PNCs coming

Two new Transportation coils will be issued in 1995, USPS said Feb. 2.

Also coming are several miscellaneous coil stamps as well as a Flag coil stamp, four Great Americans, and several self-adhesives.

The new Transportation coils are a 20¢ Cog Railway Car and a 32¢ Ferryboat. The 5¢ Circus Wagon, previously printed



Preview of 1995, Page 45

by ABN, will be the first PNC showing the year of issue. It has a "¢" sign, not "05."

The new Flag stamp will be 32¢ Flag over Porch, which will be issued in sheets, coils, booklets, and self-adhesive panes. A 32¢ Flag Over Field ATM pane will also be issued.

The Great Americans are: 32¢ Milton S. Hershey; 55¢ Alice Hamilton, MD; 78¢ Alice Paul, and 32¢ James K. Polk.

The Polk and Hershey designs had been revealed previously, and the Polk stamp is not consistent with the rest of the Great Americans Series in its design.

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Paid circulation this issue: 450

IT'S WONDERFUL!

Something new and wonderful happened on January 10. It was a conference call in which *TPN* and *Linn's* were able to ask technical questions of Stamp Venturers.

The call was arranged by Monica Hand of the Corporate Relations Department at Postal Headquarters, apparently in response to technical questions about the accounting numbers found on some Stamp Venturers "G" stamps.

Once upon a time, stamp journalists were able to call printers directly and ask such questions and obtain explanations. But Postal Service cost cutting entered the picture. Under the printers' contracts, the printers were to be reimbursed by the Postal Service for costs of dealing with those pesky questions from stamp writers. The Postal Service checked its contracts and Rick Arvonio, who has been cast as the bad guy in the black hat in all discussions of the cutoff of information from the printers, said the Postal Service would require that it would only pay if it asked the question.

Thus the gag rule (which Arvonio denied ever having issued but which was posted on the walls of the offices of American Bank Note Company) came into being. And for three years, we asked the Postal Service and the Postal Service asked the printers.

The results were highly unsatisfactory. The people in Corporate Relations hardly understood our questions (we were once asked: "What is tagging?") and things got messed up in the transmission back and forth.

LETTERS: *January editorial brings anti-ego blast from Steven Rod*

Just read the January issue. Someday, collectors and writers such as yourself will learn to "stick to the knitting," as Tom Peters said back in 1980 in "In Search of Excellence." It means to do what you do best, and don't get involved in stuff that will distract you from your mission and achievement of goals.

Your editorial in the January issue of *TPN* should have, at worst, been a letter to the editor of *Coil Line*, at best it should have been a private letter to the PNC³ Board.

I am unimpressed, deeply, with your wasting time and energy in picking such a ridiculous fight. It makes it appear as Esrati's Ego-centric Egomaniacal Diatribe. *Coil Line* is what the members want. *TPN* is what the subscribers want—if that weren't the case they wouldn't be members or subscribers!

Stick to the knitting, Steve. Keep publishing the useful

The Plate Number and Great Americans Review

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The new Postal Service policy of hooking up writers with the people who know the answers is the best news we have had since Arvonio announced that he would not only re-institute plate-activity reports starting in 1995, but his further announcement that he would also compile plate-activity data for the years we missed.

An amusing thing happened at the end of the conference call when Hand asked Michael Schreiber of *Linn's* and *TPN* whether we were happy. Schreiber said he was and hung up after saying thank you. I stayed on the line a bit and heard Richard Sennett of Stamp Venturers say:

"Did I hear Steve Esrati say he was happy?"

But as this editorial indicates, I am ecstatic. The Postal Service is trying to obtain answers for us. What more could I want?

and helpful information that you do so well.

Steven J. Rod
 Orange, N.J.

... but praise from a reader

I agree with your opinion on *Coil Line*.
 Howard J. Heissel
 Arcadia, Calif.

...and brickbats from another

I find it difficult to be sure whether your objective is to bash *Coil Line* or to pat yourself on the back. You've done a good job with *TPN* and deserve credit for it, but your sour criticism of PNC³'s newsletter is unjustified and fails to understand the purpose of it.

Coil Line is a club newsletter, not a technical philatelic journal. That's what it was intended to be and the results of a recent survey by club president Gene Ernst make it clear that's what the membership wants. You have repeatedly stated that hal of your 450+ subscribers are members of PNC³. They receive both *TPN* and *Coil Line* and

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.

apparently like it that way. But that still leaves about 425 club members who apparently don't want vast amounts of technical information. They also may not want data about Great Americans or self-adhesive sheetlets. More than once I've read letter from *TPN* subscribers who complained about too much technical data or your digression from PNCs. Run your publication as you see fit, but people in the club don't need your choices foisted upon them by having *TPN* the club voice. This is especially true since your privately published journal would be answerable to no one in the club.

You have delighted in quibbling with Michael Laurence's 1987 objection to *TPN* as PNC's journal because *TPN* is a "for profit" publication. Whether or not you make a profit is an obfuscation. His point was one of who controls the club publication and what is printed therein.

I stopped writing for *TPN* some time ago because I got tired of your telling me over the phone how bad *Coil Line* is. I felt perhaps I could re-channel my efforts to give the club paper a more informative character. You, however, as a member of as PNC's, have done nothing whatever to improve it. You may be busy with *TPN*, but if you aren't able to make *Coil Line* more to your liking, stop carping. As the saying goes, if you don't vote, don't complain about who is elected.

At the end of your editorial you say, "In other words, *TPN* has done what *Coil Line* should have done." Dead wrong. They are two entirely different types of publication. Each has its own place. I am delighted that Michael Laurence spoke up in 1987. I believe he had the foresight to see the intrinsic divergence of the two periodicals.

Alan Thomson

Northwood, N.H.

Dastardly 'G' stamps

Enclosed is a bit of money on account to help defray the next shipment of these dastardly "G" stamps. In view of the expected cost (\$350 or so, according to *TPN*) it would seem the hobby is going to lose some members. Also, because of the way USPS has decided to farm out its work to private printers, it has absolutely no control over such things as plate numbers, etc. It gives one the impression that the USPS is doing its best to destroy PNC collecting, or am I just fantasizing?

Dr. Bob has already admitted (in some publication I recently read) to losing some customers, and I'm sure you'll have the same situation. How many, one wonders?

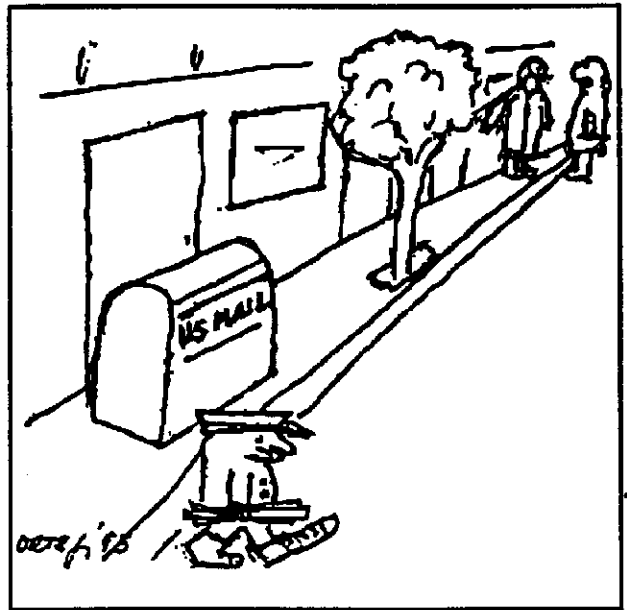
[In reply: I've found a few new customers who want me to worry about their completeness in obtaining "G" stamps. But I've also had two old customers cancel their new-issues subscriptions.]

Someone in USPS needs to exercise a little restraint over the way this is being handled. Otherwise, only a select few are going to have "complete collections" as the years roll past.

I know this sounds negative, but it's the way I feel about it. And if I were a dealer I'd really be sweating blood over the outlandish expenditures needed just to obtain

Pedro's World of PNCs

by Pedro Ortega, M.D.



"Look at that poor mailman!"

"Yeah, it must be something to work under 42 'G's!"

everything to pass on to the customers. The hobby ceases to be fun when such gluts of new issues come onto the market.

To have so many versions of the "G" stamp is, in my opinion, ridiculous.

George Kutn

Fruitland Park, Fla.

[In reply: This was written before USPS decided to issue the nonprofit "G" stamps after all, despite what philatelic writers had been told. Apparently USPS will do anything to recover the cost of printing these unnecessary issues.]

Here's a happy face!

I like *TPN*. I have with my first issue learned many things I didn't know. This is a great newsletter, and a great hobby.

Thanks.

William L. Lingle, Jr.

Hartford, Iowa



Could 'G' stamps be forever?

You might want to reflect on what it says inside the booklet cover of the "G" stamps.

"The G Series stamp is valid for First-Class domestic mail use (for U.S. Addresses only), and may not be used for international mail. The stamp will also be valid for future use and the denomination will be the First-Class mailing rate in effect at the time of issuance."

This might be taken to imply that the "G" stamp will always pay the first-class rate. Note that other countries with non-denominated stamps (I'm familiar with Brazil and Portugal) re-issue their A stamp (domestic rate) and sell it for whatever the new rate is. Both countries all have B stamps and/or stationery for International rate.

So you might want to hoard those "G"s.

Steve Washburne
via the Internet

In reply: Funny, we had heard all manner of rumors about using the "G"s again in the next rate change.

One rumor reaching *TPN* was that the Postal Service had determined that it could save on printing stamps by going with a forever contingency stamp. Even if USPS expected some losses from stocks held by collectors and dealers, it would be insignificant.

But there's a very serious flaw in the theory. Identical wording has been used on rate-change booklets since the 25¢ "E" Earth stamp. We doubt that we'll ever see "G" stamps again.

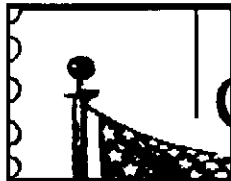
What's this slit in 'G' stamp?

I recently read about a partly imperforate coil of "G" stamps. The article mentioned tiny slits on the top or bottom of the coil.

Enclosed is a stamp that came as the last stamp in a roll of 100, which has the largest slit I have seen. Most slits I have seen are less than one sixth this size.

Frank R. Cowey
Macomb, Ill.

In reply: Any explanations?



Scott wrong again

Scott lists the plate blocks of 20 with floating plate numbers of No. 2111, the "D" sheet stamp, as existing with plate numbers 1 and 2. I have one from Plate 4.

H.A. "Tom" Merkel
Clovis, N.M.

Why no paper types?

I collect Great Americans in all the tag and paper types and I'm interested in how many others are also collecting the paper types.

In reply: There are others who do. I have had orders for the two Truman papers I advertised. (I am out of one of them now.) But, to be perfectly honest, I work awfully hard in putting out *TPN*, managing my PNC business (especially now with the "G" stamps), and doing the GAs. Paper types take a lot of extra time. I just don't have it. And, to be honest again, how much profit do you suppose there would be in paper types?

I know you advertise the tag types and you've listed papers in your articles on the GA PBs. Does your lack of ads for paper types mean there's just no interest?

In reply: Not at all. It means there are only 24 hours in the

day and I cannot spread myself any thinner.

I was very glad to see the listings with prices you did on the self-adhesives in *TPN*. Although I think the prices were rising and falling so fast that any info was not very current by the time it came out, it was still a very big help to me in trying to decide what to buy in the post office when I found numbers.

John Bensko
via the Internet

Why the personal attack?

Three issues ago, *TPN* opened a dialogue regarding the future of PNC collecting. I followed that with a letter expressing a different point of view. Bob Rabinowitz followed last issue with another letter, more close to the original *TPN* point of view.

I don't want to get into an ongoing debate over this. I feel that my views are legitimate and based in fact. I also regard both *TPN*'s and Rabinowitz's views as differing, but completely justifiable views.

What I do object to is the tone of Rabinowitz's letter. He didn't just discuss the subject—he made parts of his letter into a personal attack on me. Especially upsetting was the phrase "...opportunists (perhaps even Malakoff himself)." No, it isn't libelous as the word "perhaps" was in there. It was uncalled for—more like street fighting than an open exchange of views.

I challenge him to find a *TPN* article where I've attacked him personally and that would warrant this type of response. Personal attacks do not belong here. A mensch would apologize. I'm waiting, Bob....

Alan Malakoff
via America Online

Why no prices for pairs?

I was surprised to find that the *1995 Plate Number Coil Catalog* did not price numbered pairs. I would appreciate guidance on how to price pairs, e.g., how much below the price of a PS/3.

In reply (by Richard Nazar): Pricing in the 1995 PNC Catalog provides an average of dealers' advertised prices for the most popular collecting formats (PS/1 mint and used, PS/3, and PS/5). Obviously other coil formats exist (e.g., PS/2, PS/4, and PS/7). However, they are not listed because of their small following and relatively low profile in today's PNC marketplace. Dealers who offer PS/2s typically price them at a small discount below their PS/3 price for common issues (sometimes the face value off one stamp from the strip) and a substantial discount off their PS/3 price for less common items.

The new "G" coils have thrown dealers into a tizzy. Why USPS came out with 37 different plate numbers is hard to understand.

In reply (by Steve Esrati): It is not USPS that makes plate numbers, it's printers.

I find that you have a constant battle with USPS to obtain the information you should be getting. It would be appropriate to have the following data before stamps are issued:

- How many different plate numbers will be used?
- How many stamps will be printed of each number?
- What is the distribution of these coils. If we knew this, dealers could write and buy coils with the numbers they seek.
- Information should be forthcoming each time there is a change in the printing process, tagging, etc.

Lee B. Zuckerman
LBZ Stamps
Worcester, Mass.

In reply: Stamp writers were promised some of this information, but even *TPN* has not sought plate-number information and printing quantities before stamps are issued. Who's to know? Once the stamps are delivered from the printer to USPS, the information should be made public. We shall have to see whether the promises are fulfilled. The plate-activity data in this issue are not from USPS but the result of a Freedom of Information Act suit.

29¢ stamps are taken off sale

My local post office has pulled all 29¢ stamps from sale. The philatelic in San Diego is fairly bare-bones, too.

Carol Morehouse
Carlsbad, Calif.

In reply: We no longer can tell when stamps are taken off sale from the *Stamps, etc.* catalog, but there was not one word in *The Postal Bulletin* on withdrawing any 29¢ stamps. It seems that some postmasters just do their thing.

Wrong about phosphored paper

Your reply to Jim Fowler's inquiry in the January *TPN* departs from the facts we have about phosphored paper used to print U.S. stamps. You have forgotten the BEP letter that explained how embedded and surface-coated phosphor papers are made.

There is no U.S. stamp printed on phosphored paper where the taggant is mixed with the paper mash. No, not even the 22¢ test coil.

Refer to my article on tagging in the May 1994 *Coil Line*. The BEP made it clear that the difference between the two papers is in the binder used with the orthosilicate. The embedded type allows the mixture to penetrate the paper fibers like stain penetrates wood; the surface type adheres to the surface like paint (my analogy).

Using the term "mottled" as a key to determining embedded-phosphor paper is misleading. I cautioned against its use because most surface-phosphored papers display a slight degree of mottling. Two exceptions are Lenz paper and that use on the 23¢ Lunch Wagon.

If collectors would use the White House Flag (all plates are on embedded-phosphor paper) as comparison stamps, their difficulty in distinguishing one paper from the other would end.

The term "prephosphored" is a generic one and includes both types. The names you insist on using are cumbersome and inaccurate. "Mottled prephosphored" and "even

prephosphored" are baloney. Learn the identifying features and use the descriptive names: embedded phosphor and surface phosphor.

In reply: Baloney! *TPN* will continue to call them Solid and mottled prephosphored.

Yes, there is a degree of difficulty in distinguishing between overall tagging (applied after printing) and surface-coated phosphor paper (taggant applied by the papermaker). The key? Overall tagging is on top of the printing ink.

Finally, it seems to me the \$64 answer is simply "block tagging over surface phosphor." What's so tough about that?

Alan Thomson

Throwing caution to the wind

In the September 1994 issue of *TPN* you listed all the varieties of the 15¢ Cody that had been reported, but there was no mention of Type II paper. I enclose a Plate 2 block on Paper II with overall tagging and untagged selvaige.

I find it ironic that you took a conservative route in not publishing my Cody report in January because you had not seen it, yet you threw caution to the wind in your listing of "G" coil numbers. *TPN* was hardly alone as *Linn's* and *Coil Line* also reported numbers they did not have solid proof of and quite a few dealers advertised numbers they did not have.

In reply: The phantom number we reported was A2222. The number was reported by Mike Lipson. *TPN* regrets the error.

With Dr. Robert Rabinowitz being noted by Fred Baumann in the Jan. 2 *Linn's* as saying:

Rabinowitz, who both sells PNCs and writes about them, expressed concern that the proliferation of numbers on coils produced by ABN could harm plate-number coil collecting by making it hard for those of modest means, including many retirees, to keep up with all the combinations....

"I know I'm going to lose customers over this."

And with Ken Lawrence writing in his PNC column in the Jan. 23 issue that:

The sudden flood of new plate-number coils, mainly on the "G" Flag coils printed by ABN, poses a grave threat to the future of PNC collecting.

Now is definitely not the time to be scaring people with false numbers that no one can locate. If you want to publish rumors, then note them as such.

Doug Iams
San Jose, Calif.

In reply: I'm not certain whether Iams is irritated because I would not print his Paper II report without seeing it or because I printed Lipson's report of A2222. I make it a rule not to print reports about paper types without inspection because there is so little expertise in the field.

I have also been leery of reports on tagging unless I see examples. That is because I was once flooded with reports of "untagged" PNCs. I asked the correspondent what sort of UV lamp he was using. "I don't use a UV," he wrote back. "I can tell with my eyes."

In any event, I have to defend *TPN* on the "G" stamps. The January issue went to press on Dec. 15, three days after the "G" stamps were issued. We now know of 42 catalog-different stamps. In January we listed 25 of them, plus one phantom. *Linn's* of about the same time (Jan. 2 issue) listed 34 stamps, including three phantoms from Howard Grossman's ads in *Linn's*. I applaud *Linn's* for reporting six more that we did. Contributing to our coverage were Dr. Rabinowitz, Al Haake, Gerald Clark, and Richard C. Cook.

In the January issue, we also said USPS had scrapped the nonprofit "G" stamps. Now we know that these stamps are being sold only to collectors. We could not have known that when we reported the opposite.

It wasn't dealer bashing

Doug Iams asked (January *TPN*) why it was "dealer bashing" when he wrote (November *TPN*) about the large difference between Dr. Rabinowitz's buy and sell prices. It wasn't.

The problem with it is two-fold: (1) ego, and (2) the editor again saw fit to waste almost a full page with Dr. Rabinowitz's boring reply.

André Thiele
Stronghurst, Ill.

Is there a guide to stamp papers?

Have you ever considered offering a set of "A Young Person's Guide to Stamp Papers" or blocks of four to teach us novices the secrets of determining the various paper types?

I am sure there would be takers besides yours truly.

Wolfgang Elser
Alexandria, Va.

In reply: Kim Cuniberti (P.O. Box 3654, Danbury CT 06813-3654) has been offering a selection of PNCs showing just that for some time (at \$2.50 plus postage). *TPN* has sent him some 20¢ Apgars to show the difference in those papers.

Studies of the long-wave characteristics of Great Americans, just being begun by you, are still too incomplete to work up. But it can be safely said that all 29¢ Warrens and 29¢ Jeffersons have a wide spread in brightness.

This is outrageous

I just received the Winter 1995 issue of *Stamps etc.*, the quarterly catalog published by the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center. No sooner has the 800 number been implemented and I read on the back page a plan to increase shipping charges, effective April 1.

As someone who orders around \$90 per month from the catalog, I will now have to pay \$6.20 in shipping as opposed to the current 50 cents or \$1. This is outrageous!

I urge all *TPN* readers to drop a Stamp Czar Azeezaly Jaffer (Room 4474-E, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington DC 20260-2400) a line and tell him to rethink this proposal.

Richard L. Beecher
Los Angeles

ADLETS

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

FOR SALE: Vertical band-tagged Carlson. Full pane, \$125; PS(20), \$35; PB (4), \$10; ZIP and Copyright blocks, \$8 each; plain block, \$6; vertical pair, \$3. A. Stanley Hietaala, 1585 McKinley Pk Rd., Tower MN 55790, (2-95)

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 18s: Regular Perfed XF-8, imperf, misperf, miscut. John Tison (PNC3 473, APS, ASDA), PO Box 8755, Newport Beach CA 92658. 1-800-854-4487. (6-95)

PNCs, GREAT AMERICANS plate blocks, tagging varieties, self-adhesive booklets at discount prices. PNC 1906 #1 \$2.00; 1868d Nimitz OE, dull gum Plate 2 \$14; E&S green 65784 \$10 plus 50¢ postage. SASE for complete list. A. Stanley Hietaala, 1585 McKinley Pk Rd., Tower MN 55790, (2-95)

BARGAIN! I have one 20¢ Gallaudet plate block from Plate 8 with some short perfs. Usually \$75, this copy only: \$40. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Hts., OH 44120. (2-95)

19¢ FISHING BOAT FIRST DAY PROGRAM: Produced by Arlington, VA, post office for Stamp Venturers version of the Fishing Boat. Contains individual stamp with \$111 plate number on it. 200 total programs exist, probably only 6 with plate numbers. One available at \$50. Malakoff, 616 Braun, Highland Pk, NJ 08904. (2-95)

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, XF 40; 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 (2-95)

20¢ APGAR plate blocks: B1 on dead phosphored paper \$3.75, on high-bright paper \$4.75; B2 on dead paper \$2.50, on high-brite paper \$4.75. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Hts., OH 44120 (2-95)

JOIN PNC³ For details, write Joann Lanz, 37211 Alper Dr., Sterling Hts. MI 48312-2203. (2-95)

☆☆☆ 1995 PNC Catalog ☆☆☆

The 1995 catalog is the indispensable aid to collecting PNCs. Soft-bound, \$28.75; library edition, \$49.00; specialist's set (one of each) \$70. Please add \$2.75 shipping per catalog. NJ residents add 6% tax. Nazar Publications, Inc. P.O. Box 7307, Somerset, NJ 08875-7307. (2-95)

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. (2-95)

*** 2nd PNC Errors' Auction ***

Including some better non-error rarities. Closes March 19. Bidders from my first auction will receive catalogs automatically. Call or write today! Kim Cuniberti/Contemporary Coins, P.O. Box 3654, Danbury, CT 06813. (203) 431-4303. APS, PNC3

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

VACATION SCHEDULE: The "office" of *TPN* will be closed April 25–May 7 and June 15–July 1 for recreation and rehabilitation. The computer will accept faxes while I'm away. Don't even dare ask where I'm going, but I'm taking my running shoes and my heart pills. Steve Esrati

Value of a new-issues service

My new-issues subscribers obtained each and every "G" plate-number combination at minimum cost. My FDC subscribers (some of whom wanted every number combination on three different cachets) did likewise.

How much did you have to pay for the rare numbers?

Steve Esrati

Data Bank

(all text from USPS, TPN additions in brackets)

Information from ... December 1994

Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP)
Deliveries are continuing to occur on the following stamps in A/P3 [accounting period 3, or, roughly, December]:

- Definitive stamps**
- 02¢ Mary Lyons—Pane of 100 (Item 1052)
[Name should be Lyon. This would be an untagged stamp, probably with shiny gum. Original stamps were A Press, block tagged.]
 - \$2.90 Priority Mail—Pane of 40 (Item 1108)
[Strange! Rate made obsolete by rate change.]
 - 01¢ Omnibus—Coil of 100 (Item 7705)
[Item number is for coils of 3,000. This could be the shrink-wrapped stamps found by Rich Nazar]
 - 3¢ Conestoga Wagon—Coil of 500 (Item 7762)
 - 3¢ Conestoga Wagon—Coil of 3,000 (Item 7763)
 - 29¢ White House—Coil of 100 (Item 7922)
[Probably Plate 18]
 - 05¢ Canoe—Coil of 3,000 (Item 7906A)
 - NDN [nondenominated 10¢] Bulk Rate Eagle/ Shield—Coil of 500 (Item 7976A)

[The *Special Postal Bulletin* announcing the rate changes, said this about old-rate precancels: "Precanceled stamp permit holders may have on hand precanceled 5-, 10-, and 23-cent stamps...when the new bulk and presort rates are implemented. Accept these stamps...indefinitely, provided that the mailer (1) pays the difference in postage between the amount affixed and the new rates..."

Private Contractors
Self-Adhesive Convertible Booklets
Headquarters is continuing to ask all Stamp Distribution Offices (SDOs) and Accountable Paper Depositories (APDs) to distribute 17 29¢ Eagle/Shield booklets (Item 5540) that are available at the APDs or the Stamp Distribution Network (SDN), Kansas City.

[This notice, which has run at least six months, is slowly reducing stocks of E&S self adhesives, but is surprising in view of shortages of self-adhesives at many post office counters while these booklets sit in vaults. The notice was finally dropped from the newsletter in January.]

Nonprofit 'G' Stamps...

WASHINGTON (Jan. 12)—The Postal Service announced today additional "G-series" postal stationery and stamps are now available through mail order.

These items may be ordered by calling 1-800-STAMP-24, or by writing Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center, U.S. Postal Service, P.O. Box 419636, Kansas City, MO 64141-6436. Ordering numbers are:
7918A Nonprofit coils of 500
7919A Nonprofit coils of 3,000

...may be used for postage

The Postal Service is making additional "G" series stamps ... available for sale to collectors...

Although these items are for sale primarily for collectors, they are valid for postage and some of them may eventually end up in the mainstream. All employees should be informed that these additional "G" series items may appear in the mainstream and they should be accepted, processed, and delivered the same as any other "G" series items.

Marketing, 1-19-95

Angelic cherub wings in with Valentine thoughts of love

WASHINGTON (Jan. 20)—A whimsical cherub contemplating the enigma of romance graces the 1995 Love stamp to be issued Feb. 1 in Valentine's, Va. The 14th Love stamp issued by the Postal Service, this year's version features one of two cherubs included in Raphael's Renaissance masterpiece, the Sistine Madonna.

In order to make the Love stamp available in time for Valentine's Day, the Postal Service is producing two versions. The stamp being issued Feb. 1 will be nondenominated, with a value of 32 cents, and will be available in sheets of 50 stamps and self-adhesive booklets of 20 stamps.

A 32¢ denominated version of the design will be issued in the spring, along with a two-ounce rate Love stamp [55¢] depicting the Sistine Madonna's second cherub.

TECHNICAL DETAILS [self-adhesive only]

Issue: Cherub
Type: Nondenominated (32¢) self-adhesive stamp
Format: Sheetlet (or convertible booklet) of 20 (single design)
Series: Love

Issue date: Feb. 1, 1995
First-day city: Valentine's, Va.
Manufacturing process: Combination offset-intaglio
Printer: Banknote Corp. of America (printed and processed by BCA, Suffern, N.Y.)
Press: 6-color Goebel Offset; Epikos 4-color intaglio
Stamps per pane: 20
Paper: Prephosphored self-adhesive
Gum: Pressure sensitive
Colors: Process yellow, magenta, cyan, and black (offset); red PMS 185u (intaglio)

Size: Image: 0.72x0.82 inches/22.09x24.94mm
Overall: 0.87x1.0982 inches/22.09x24.94mm
Full pane size: 7.28x2.61 inches/184.9x66.3mm
Plate size: 360 subjects
Plate numbers: "B" followed by four single digits (offset) plus one single digit (intaglio) 6699 (sheetlet of 20)

Item number: [Coil not mentioned in Postal Service announcement or in *Stamps etc.* catalog. The PNC Study Group has determined that the item number of the self-adhesive coil is 66991.]

For details of new
PNCs, Great Americans,
and self-adhesives, see
Page 45

Stamp Services Update January 1995

[This is new name for *Information from...*]
Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP)
Deliveries are continuing to occur on the following definitive stamp items in A/P5 [roughly February]:
• 02¢ Mary Lyons—Pane of 100 (Item 1052)
[Name should be Lyon. This would be an untagged stamp, probably with shiny gum. Original stamps were

- A Press, block tagged.]
• 01¢ Omnibus—Coil of 100 (Item 7705)
[Item number is for coils of 3,000. This could be the shrink-wrapped stamps found by Rich Nazar]
• 3¢ Conestoga Wagon—Coil of 500 (Item 7762)
• 3¢ Conestoga Wagon—Coil of 3,000 (Item 7763)
• 05¢ Canoe—Coil of 3,000 (Item 7906A)

[The Postal Service also released the issue date of the 32¢ Knox stamp as Nov. 2. TPN ran out of space to bring you this non-vital bit of news. So we note it here.]

Producing Artmaster,
House of Farnam &
Cover Craft Cachets.

Please inquire about our new Issue service and
past issue inventory including PNC FDCs.

While they last, limit one:
Mint #1891 Pl#2 Strip 3 - \$12.00
FDC #2112 Pl#1 Strip 3 - \$ 9.00

When requesting information.

P.O. Box 7156 Louisville, KY 40257
502-897-1336 FAX: 502-893-7568

'G's force catalog numbering change

By Richard J. Nazar

Editor and Publisher,

1995 Plate Number Coil Catalog

Oh, those "G" stamps! Their arrival is straining more than our checkbooks. The latest casualty of the "G" onslaught is the numbering system used in the 1995 Plate Number Coil Catalog. Although the catalog has only been available for a short time, a modification is already required to accommodate "G" coils.

The modification only involves numbers assigned to contingency coils, and simply requires the substitution of the contingency stamp letter ("D," "E," "F," or "G") for the denomination in the current catalog numbers. For example, C22-1 (previously assigned to the 22¢ "D" Eagle from cylinder 1) will now be CD-1. Similarly, C25-1111 (previously assigned to the 25¢ "E" Earth stamp from cylinder combination 1111) will become CE-1111.

This modification addresses the primary goal of the catalog's numbering system: to provide a mnemonic system to describe each PNC. Because no numerical denominations appear on contingency stamps, the letters are more meaningful and less likely to be confused or misinterpreted. The modification also shortens the catalog numbers for each contingency PNC by one character.

By now, I'm sure you're wondering, "How does this relate to the 'G' stamp coils?" It all started when USPS issued the "G" First-class Presort coil with a face value of 25¢. If we had followed the existing numbering system, we would have designated that stamp as C25FP-S11111, where the C identified it as a contingency coil, the 25 stated the face value, the FP (for "First-class Presort") distinguished it from the 25¢ "E" Earth coil, and lastly the cylinder combination. Sure, this number would have uniquely identified the new stamp, but it would have detracted from the clarity of the PNC Catalog numbering system. Also, collectors who use computers to sort their inventories or lists would have found the "G" Presort stamp misplaced among the 25¢ "E" Earth stamps.

Instead, the catalog number assigned to the "G" First-class Presort coil is CGFP-S11111, where the C identifies the stamp as a contingency coil, the G identifies it as stamp issued for the January 1, 1995, rate increase, the FP identifies it as the "First-class Presort" stamp, and lastly the cylinder combination follows the hyphen. This same pattern was used to assign PNC Catalog numbers (CGNP-A11111 and CGNP-

A21111) to the (5¢) "G" Nonprofit Presort PNCs.

I hope this modification doesn't inconvenience those of you already using PNC Catalog numbers. I guess we'll have to chalk this one up to experience, and understand that no matter how hard you try to put things in order, USPS always has a surprise for you down the road.

Catalog Update

New PNCs

(32¢) 'G' stamp from BEP (black 'G')

CG-1111—The 32¢ "G" stamp from BEP. (Cuniberti)

CG-2222—The 32¢ "G" stamp from BEP. (Haake)

First-class Presort (25¢) 'G' stamps from Stamp Venturers (blue)

CGFP-S11111—(Dr. Rabinowitz)

Nonprofit (5¢) 'G' stamps from American Bank Note (green)

CGNP-A11111—Rolls of 3,000. Jan 20. (Dr. Rabinowitz)

CGNP-A21111—Rolls of 500 and 3,000. Jan 20. (Dr. Rabinowitz, Lenz)

(32¢) 'G' stamp from American Bank Note (blue 'G')

If no date is given, these stamps were found within a week of the day the stamps went on sale.

CG-A1111—(Federle)

CG-A1112—(Dr. Rabinowitz)

CG-A1113—(Dr. Rabinowitz paid \$400 bounty for this find)

CG-A1211—(Federle)

CG-A1212—(Federle)

CG-A1222—(Lipson)

CG-A1311—(Haake)

CG-A1313—(Dr. Rabinowitz)

CG-A1314—(Haake)

CG-A1324—(Malakoff, Haake)

CG-A1417—Jan. 24. (Haake paid \$400 bounty for this find)

CG-A1433—(Dr. Rabinowitz)

CG-A2211—(Dr. Rabinowitz)

CG-A2212—(Federle)

CG-A2213—(Lipson)

CG-A2214—(Federle)

CG-A2223—(Fowler)

CG-A2313—(Haake)

CG-A3113—(Malakoff, Haake)

CG-A3114—Feb. 6 (Haake)

CG-A3314—(Malakoff, Haake)

CG-A3315—(Dr. Rabinowitz)

CG-A3323—(Dr. Rabinowitz)

CG-A3324—(Malakoff, Haake)

CG-A3423—(Dr. Rabinowitz)

CG-A3426—Jan. 20. (Dr. Rabinowitz paid \$400 bounty for this find)

CG-A3433—(Federle)

CG-A3435—(Dr. Rabinowitz)

CG-A3436—(Dr. Rabinowitz)

CG-A4426—Jan. 20. (Dr. Rabinowitz paid \$400 bounty for this find)

CG-A4427—(Malakoff, Haake)

CG-A4435—(Dr. Rabinowitz)

CG-A5327—(Dr. Rabinowitz)

CG-A5417—(Dr. Rabinowitz)

The following table shows examples of the new PNC Catalog numbers for old contingency PNCs. The adjoining Catalog Update shows the numbers of "G" stamps.

Description	Old Number	New Number
(22¢) "D" 1	C22-1	CD-1
(25¢) "E" 1111	C25-1111	CE-1111
(29¢) "F" 1111	C29-1111	CF-1111

CG-A5427—(Lipson)
CG-A5437—(Charles Wilber on the Internet, Jan. 21, confirmed by Haake)

(32¢) 'G' stamps from Stamp Venturers (red 'G')

CG-S1111-roul-Rouletted. (Lipson)

CG-S1111-perf-Perforated. (Lipson)

CG-S2222-roul-Rouletted. (Staiger)

(32¢) 'G' self-adhesive coil from Avery Dennison

SACG-V11111—Liner position A.(Clark)

Total number of catalog-different "G" PNCs so far: 45 (includes a self-adhesive coil and 36 32¢ stamps from ABN)

New self-adhesives

29¢ Cardinal ATM, V2222, Dec. 14 (Esrati, unknowingly)

"G" pane with the numbers V11111 and liner position C, Jan. 1. (Reymer)

"G" pane with the numbers V22222 and liner position C, Jan. 1. (Draper)

Undenominated (32¢) Love Cherub pane with the numbers B1111-1 and liner position D. (Clark)

New Great Americans

3¢ White, Plate 3, Paper IIIb (yellowish gum) and Paper IIIa (white gum) (Elser)

15¢ Cody, Plate 2, overall tagged, untagged selvage. Type II paper. (Iams)

20¢ Apgar, Plate 2, on high-bright paper. (Morehouse, Orsega)

Changed EKU

Rob Washburn writes: "The catalog gives the EKU of F18-5 as 6/9/81. I have examined that cover, and am convinced that it is actually 7/9/81. Therefore, the EKU should be listed as 6/27/81."

Constant varieties—Report 55

By A.S. Cibulskas

Reports on constant plate varieties on PNCs have slowed to a trickle. With the large number of new PNCs, we expect a turnaround.

The only report over the past few months has been:

"G" coils (ABN)

Plate numbers "A1111": Tail on "S" of "U.S." down from midpoint of bottom curve of the "S." Constant at 2R. (Lju)

Postmaster refuses to stock 'G' stamps, then lies about it to Postal Headquarters

By Stephen G. Esrati

The distribution of "G" stamps did not go as smoothly as had been anticipated. In some post offices, there were holdups, and the stamps did not go on sale Dec. 13, the day announced for distribution by Postal Headquarters.

Postal Headquarters had indicated earlier that all post offices would receive their "G" stamps by Dec. 2 except San Diego, Calif., and Raleigh, N.C. Distribution was to be complete, even to the two exceptions, by Dec. 7.

The announcement of the new rates came Dec. 12, and Monica Hand at Corporate Relations sent a special fax message to *TPN* so we could get the stuff in print before our deadline. That message said the stamps were to go on sale Dec. 13.

I went to the Shaker Heights post office on the 13th and asked for "G" stamps. The clerk told me they had been in a couple of days, but were not for sale.

Leslie McQueen, the postmaster, overheard the conversation and came out to explain that the stamps were not to go on sale until Jan. 1.

When the stamps still had not been put on sale a few days later, I called Sheldon Glazer at the Stamp Distribution Branch in Postal Headquarters.

Glazer immediately set up a three-way phone call and asked the McQueen why he had not put the stamps on sale.

"They only came in yesterday," McQueen said, "and the message that

they could go on sale arrived only this morning."

Glazer thanked him and then called the Cleveland Stamp Distribution Office in another three-way call. The SDO said the stamps had gone out a week or more ago.

"You have signatures for them?" Glazer asked.

"Of course."

By afternoon of the 15th, the stamps were on sale at Shaker Heights.

The hang-up is caused by the fact that *TPN* is hooked into the USPS fax network. But local post offices have to wait for what computer hackers call "snail mail"—that's the ordinary U.S. mail that we all get—from downtown to get their orders.

Glazer said this should not have been a problem because "post offices were put on notice when the planned selling date was to be." SDOs got the word on the Postal Service's internal messaging system on Monday for a Tuesday sale.

"G" stamp self-adhesives did not go on sale at Shaker Heights. When I complained to the SDO that I had been delayed in making up first-day covers, I was sent a free 10-stamp booklet (not a self-adhesive) and an apology.

Based on reports from around the country, other collectors experienced similar delays in having "G" stamps put on sale during the last days of December.

And the inability to buy rolls of 10,000 lasted right into the new year. Those have five-digit back numbers.



January *TPN*

Pages 1, 30—The index we printed on Pages 8 and 9 was for 1993 and 1994, not 1992 and 1993.

Summary of Data on Great Americans

Page 10—The discussion of the 23¢ Cassatt was incorrect. Plate 1 is known with block tagging and with overall tagging that has untagged selvage.

Plate 2 is known only with overall tagging that has tagged selvage, making it difficult to distinguish it from the same plate on prephosphored (solid) paper.

The only help is that on some overall-tagged Plate 2 stamps there is a horizontal tagging break caused by a seam in the tagging cylinder.

The box on the 23¢ Cassatt now reads as follows:

Known Cassatt varieties

Plate 1: Block tagging (large), bull's-eye perforations. Paper III. E-E (crow's foot)

Plate 1: Overall tagging, bull's-eye perforations (selvage is untagged). Paper IIIa. E-E (crow's foot)

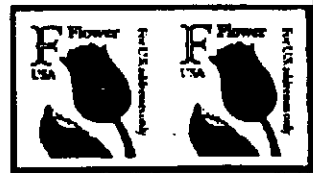
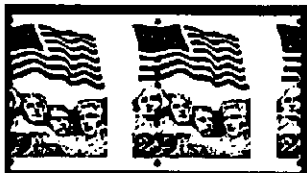
Plate 2: Overall tagging, bull's-eye perforations (selvage is tagged). Paper III. E-E (crow's foot)

Variety: Stamps from Plate 2 with untagged selvage are known with horizontal tagging breaks. Paper IIIa.

Plate 2: Phosphored (solid) paper. Dull gum.
Plate 3: Phosphored (mottled) paper. Shiny gum, high bright in long-wave UV. Item T1043

Anyone who would like these two pages replaced should send a 32¢ SASE (Number 10 envelope, please) to *TPN*.

BUYING ERRORS



Imperforates • Missing Colors • Perf Shifts
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MONTCLAIR STAMP CO.

(215) 728-7836

P.O. Box 38, Cheltenham, PA 19012



ABN's 'G' stamps mirror E&S paper change

H. Harry Mueggenburg put his new "G" stamps under long-wave UV and noticed that the stamps from ABN with plate-number combinations in the A5000 series are on high-bright paper.

The same phenomenon took place when ABN printed Eagle and Shield stamps. We were told then that the change was the result of a change in paper specifications.

ABN's "G" stamps vary in long-wave UV brightness, with A2211 being the least fluorescent and others with more fluorescence.

Mueggenburg noted that Stamp Venturers' "G" stamps are all on dead paper.



How to mount back numbers

The question being asked most often about the "G" stamps concerns the accounting numbers found on the backs (the gum side) of some stamps made by Stamp Venturers. The question concerns how to collect them.

Here, for example, is how Harald Singer has decided to do it:

On a stock page that accommodates eight strips of seven, he mounts one strip of seven face up with the plate number on the center stamp. Beneath it, Singer places seven strips gum side up, starting with one that has the accounting number on the rightmost stamp. Then, in each row, the number moves one space to the left, until on the bottom row of the page, the number has traveled all the way across the strip of seven.

Steve Esrati has come up with a different (and less costly) technique. He seeks one strip of eight with the plate number on the third stamp from the left and with the accounting number on the back of the eighth stamp. He then folds the last two stamps over, resulting in a strip of six showing the gum side of the last two stamps.

Neither of these methods takes into account (no pun intended) the many differences found in the accounting numbers themselves. The object is merely to show that the stamps are back numbered.

TPN has even had a report that someone is attempting to collect singles of all the accounting numbers. That could turn out to be mighty costly for a roll of 10,000.

Haake restricts buyers

Noting that "several dealers, myself included, have had to get large bank loans to finance the purchase" of "G" stamps, Al Haake said he is forced to sell ABN-produced "G" stamps only as complete

sets to protect his investment.

"G" stamps from BEP and Stamp Venturers do not fall under Haake's prohibition.

3¢ Parkman (dull) re-emerges

There were extreme stamp shortages in many post offices immediately after the rate change, particularly of 1¢ and 3¢ stamps. Machines in Salt Lake City suddenly started belching out 3¢ Parkman coils again. Jerry Clark says they were the dull-gum variety.

The dull-gum Parkman coil is listed in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps (1995)* as 1297, the same number given to the shiny-gum coils.

Salt Lake City quickly sold out of its Parkmans.

First-day cancels lie about ATM 'G' stamps

The official first-day city for all "G" stamps is given as Washington, D. C., on Dec. 13, 1994, including the dollar-sized sheets sold through banks' automatic teller machines.

Most ATMs, however, did not have the panes until long after the new rates came into effect. While an initial distribution of "G" stamps to post offices took place in early November, the ATM distribution did not take place until early December. Huntington Banks of Ohio placed the ATMs on sale on Jan. 12.

The dates are from the *Special Postal Bulletin* giving rate-change data.

White plate number means that the plate is blue

The first-class presort "G" stamp from Stamp Venturers does not have accounting numbers on the gum side.

But it has something we have never

seen before—a white plate number.

No, it does not mean that there is a white plate as the February *Coil Line* appears to believe). The stamp is printed on white paper, not blue, but there is no white margin in which to print the blue plate number. And a blue plate number would not show up on blue.

So the printers knocked out the number (actually, they removed the little dots from the gravure plate to form a "1") and produced a white number. They also had to knock out the dots for the white stripes in the flag.

What all this means, however, is something entirely new: The white plate number is the number of the light blue plate!

The stamp is also extraordinary in another sense. It is on prephosphored paper!

TPN has run tests at a post office to see if the facer-cancelers would detect the prephosphored presort stamps. They could!

Cave hangs up its phones

Calls to the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center in Kansas City, meanwhile, were answered by a Southwest Bell operator who said the number had been disconnected.

Orders called to 1-800-STAMP-24, the Postal Service's new 800 number, received mixed reviews from collectors. But that number, in Phoenix, could route callers to Kansas City.

At the 800 number, employees of Neodata, a private contractor, field calls. They are not Postal Service employees and, according to one TPN editor, know little about stamps. But, according to another TPN editor they are more willing to help, spend more time with callers, and are free of the time pressure that used to hang over callers to the cave, who often had to wait 20 minutes before even reaching an order taker.



The Postal Service explains all this in a news release, saying it's to make it easier for collectors to order by phone. But it's also a whole lot more expensive and complicated. If you do reach Kansas City, you are asked to leave a voice-mail message to be called back, but the voice-mail system tells you the mail box is full and you should call back later.

TPN's advice to collectors is to use philatelic counters (if you can find them) to avoid the steep new handling charges. Here is the text (WARNING:It can raise your blood pressure):

Postal Service makes it simple to order stamps by phone

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Jan. 25)-The U.S. Postal Service today announced new, simplified procedures for ordering stamps through its Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center in Kansas City, including a new toll-free number for all stamp orders and an overhaul of its postage and handling fee structure.

Customers can now call 1-800-STAMP-24 for all their stamp and philatelic needs. They also can request information on subscription programs, stamped envelopes and special services such as First Day Cover cancellations, and can even check on the status of a recent order.

"The toll-free number is already on-line, making ordering stamps and other items easier than ever before," said Azeezaly S. Jaffer, manager of USPS Stamp Services. "Customers now have service at their fingertips 24 hours a day, seven days a week, free of charge."

Customers calling 1-800-STAMP-24 choose the

service they require from a touch-tone menu. Those desiring to order stamps can select philatelic items from either the Stamps etc. catalog or the Not Just Stamps catalog, or simply, order stamps for general use. Dealers and vendors can order from a separate menu selection.

Along with providing a toll-free number and consolidating all stamp orders beneath the 1-800-STAMP-24 umbrella, the Postal Service will adjust its shipping and handling charges for the first time in more than 20 years, with the new rates going into effect on April 1.

"We've long resisted the kind of processing-charge increases that have swept the catalog industry," said Jaffer. "Now, after more than 20 years, we need to make some adjustments in order to continue to provide the same quality service our customers have come to expect."

Currently, shipping and handling charges are based on the number of items per order. For example, the charge for shipping between 1-500 items is a flat 50¢. Under this system, an order of 400 "Legends of the West" hard cover books is shipped via Priority Mail for the same 50¢ postage and handling charge as an order of 400 stamps.

Even on the smallest of orders, those weighing less than two pounds, the net result is a loss of \$2.50 each-the difference between the current Priority Mail rate and the actual postage and handling charge.

The new charges will be based upon the dollar value of the orders. "The overwhelming majority of current mail-order businesses base their shipping and handling charges on the dollar value of orders received," said Jaffer. "None of them use the number of items as we have been doing. Our change will bring us on-line with the other mail-order industries."

Under the new fee structure, orders totaling up to \$20 will add a \$3.20 shipping and handling charge. This reflects the \$3 cost of Priority Mail service plus a 20-cent handling fee. The maximum charge under

the new structure is \$9.20, for orders of more than \$170. (Currently, the maximum charge is \$22.50 for customers ordering more than 100,001 items.)

In other words, the cost of collecting U.S. stamps just went up, not much for collectors who get one of each new stamp, but a whale of a lot for dealers who have to buy rolls of 10,000 of the new "G" stamps to get the back numbers.

The new added charges:

\$0.01—\$20.00	-----	\$3.20
\$20.01—\$50.00	-----	\$4.20
\$50.01—\$80.00	-----	\$5.20
\$80.01—\$110.00	-----	\$6.20
\$110.01—\$140.00	-----	\$7.20
\$140.01—\$170.00	-----	\$8.20
Over \$170.00	-----	\$9.20

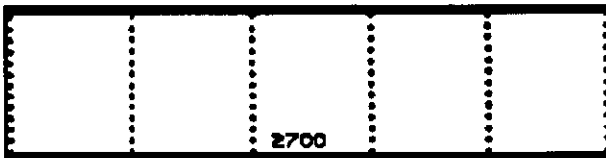
Roll size on self sticks

We are having some difficulty in determining the exact size of self-adhesive rolls of the "G" stamp (Item 55391). There were no technical data on the coils in the news release we printed in Data Bank in January. But we printed two sizes: 5,004 and 5,015.

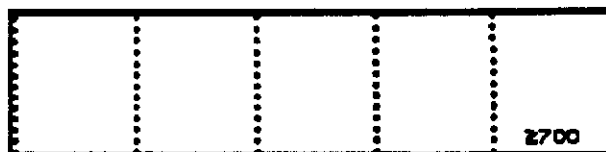
Gerald Clark has a label from one roll, and it says 5,004 (the date of printing is given as May 17, 1993).

But that's not how the coils will be in future because coils are printed at the same time as the sheetlets and they're being switched to a 20-stamp format. So the new self-adhesive coils (such as the Flag over Porch) will be in rolls of 5,560.

SEEING DOUBLE (OR TRIPLE)



M M K Stamp Venturers' dummy strip from World Columbian Stamp Exposition in Chicago.



M M K Stamp Venturers' "G" stamps showing same back counting number.

M M K New York state residents, please add appropriate tax. On orders under \$100, please add \$1.50 for postage and handling.

MATCHING BACK NUMBERS

- 2 plain "G" strips of five (no plate number), one with top and one with bottom matching (purple ink) counting number.....\$10.00
- 2 PNC "G" strips of five, one with top and one with bottom matching (purple ink) counting numbers (not on center stamp).....\$16.00
- Stamp Venturers test coil with back (purple ink) counting number, strip of five.....\$75.00
- Call or write to confirm availability of back (purple ink) counting number on plate-number stamp with matching test coil. We have only a few sets, one will be a PNC, the other matching counting number will not be a PNC.....\$125.00

If you already have a Stamp Venturers test coil or a specific number on a "G" stamp, write us and we will try to match the respective numbers.

MICHAEL M. KAREN

1025 Rosedale Rd., Box 517

N. Woodmere, NY 11582

Phone (516) 374-4827

PNCs and the Cottrell Presses

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

By Larry G. Haynes

This is the third and final installment of this article.

The following is a plausible explanation for the presence of the untagged areas referred to as the "round screw head" and the "rectangular clip" shapes found on the four (2¢, 5.2¢, 5¢, and 17¢) Cottrell issues:

- The precancel rubber mat evidently overlapped the joint where the screw holes were to be located. The BEP either used a drill or carefully shaved off the mat so that the screw could be inserted. Figure 12a (next page) diagrams the unshaved precancel mat. It demonstrates that the circular removed portion of the mat is below the printing surface and remains invisible during precancel printing.
- The shaved mat used in tagging is depicted on the bottom part of Figure 12b. As can be seen, the joint seam and the circular screw hole cutout are now level with the printing surface but still depressed so as not to pick up tagging fluid. Therefore, the tagged surface will show an untagged area in the shape of the joint line with intermittent circular areas.
- The "clip" shape image replaced the "screw" shape image in some printings. It is possible that the fastening mechanism of using screws to attach the two shells began to fail when the cylinders were used for tagging. Perhaps the tagging fluid was more severe on the equipment. Clips could have been used to provide more bearing surface (like washers) for the screws. In order to remove the portion of the overlapped mat to insert the clips, chisels had to be used. This is a little cruder removal method than the drill, and probably accounts for the irregular shapes seen on stamps with clip images. It is, of course, also possible that some shell mats were initially fabricated for using the clips in the attachment process. The end result would be the same, whether they were newly fabricated or made from shaved precancel mats.

The diagrams at the right illustrate the various shapes that occur on the issues with vertical tagging breaks:

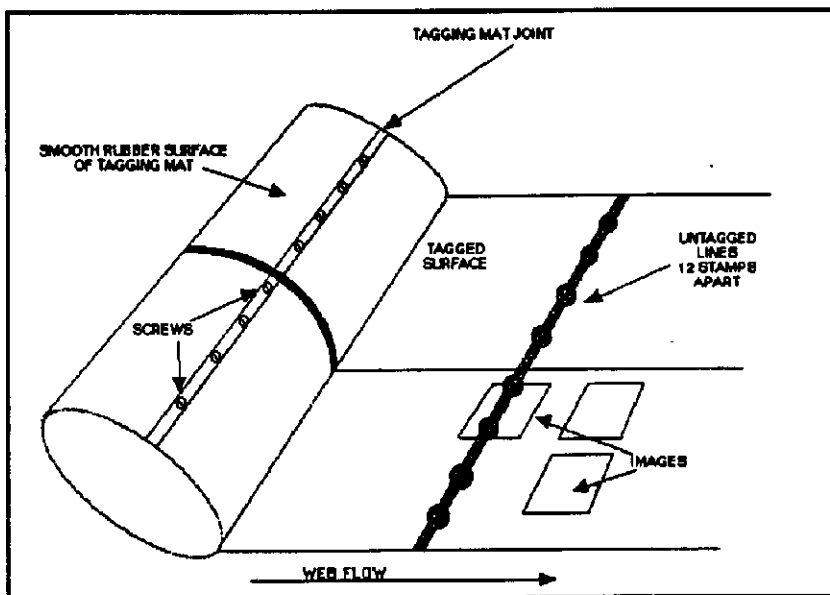
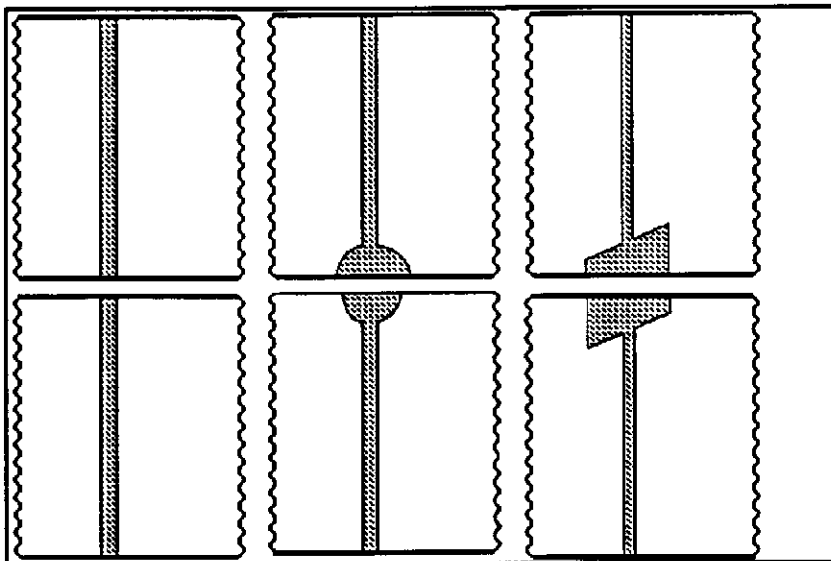


FIGURE 11—This diagram shows how the tagging mat joint puts down a vertical untagged line on stamps. The interval between such untagged vertical tagging breaks is 12 stamps, the same as the distance between precancel gaps. Any flaws in the untagged areas will repeat every 24 stamps.



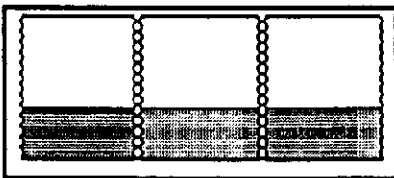
VERTICAL
UNTAGGED
LINE

LINE
AND
'BULB'

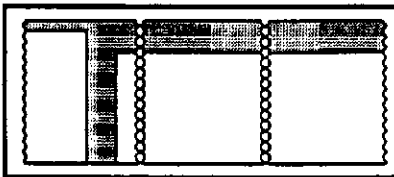
LINE
AND
'CLIP'

The process of using screws and clips could also be damaging to the mat, as one can imagine. This damage accounts for many of the irregularly shaped lines, bulbs, and clips as well as peripheral untagged areas that appear on stamps tagged with these mats.

Also, there is a possibility that the tagging cylinder was either not long enough to completely cover the web or was not always aligned properly to get complete coverage of the web. There are many examples of wide, untagged horizontal areas, most probably at the top of the web or at the bottom of the web (i.e., showing across the top or bottom of the stamps). The following illustrations are examples:



Untagged horizontally at bottom



Untagged horizontally at top. This also shows the vertical tagging break.

[Editor's note: These large untagged areas have also been reported on the stamps of the Great Americans Series that were printed on the Cottrell Presses. Those stamps were printed with the sides of the stamps near the edges of the web (on coils, the tops and bottoms were near the web's edge), so the untagged areas run vertically down the pane.]

This phenomenon could also have occurred with the tagging rollers on Presses 801, 802, and 804. It is likely that the adaptation effort on Press 803 was more prone to this type of problem.

"Track" tagging is a different phenomenon, and has been hard to explain. Initially, it was thought that the "problem" was caused by inadequately shaved shell mats; but no stamps have been found with both track tagging and the vertical tagging break. So it could not be caused by the shaved 17¢ shell mats.

These are the two types of track tagging.

1. Horizontal single and multiple lines that are untagged or very sparsely tagged. I will refer to this as Track Untagging or

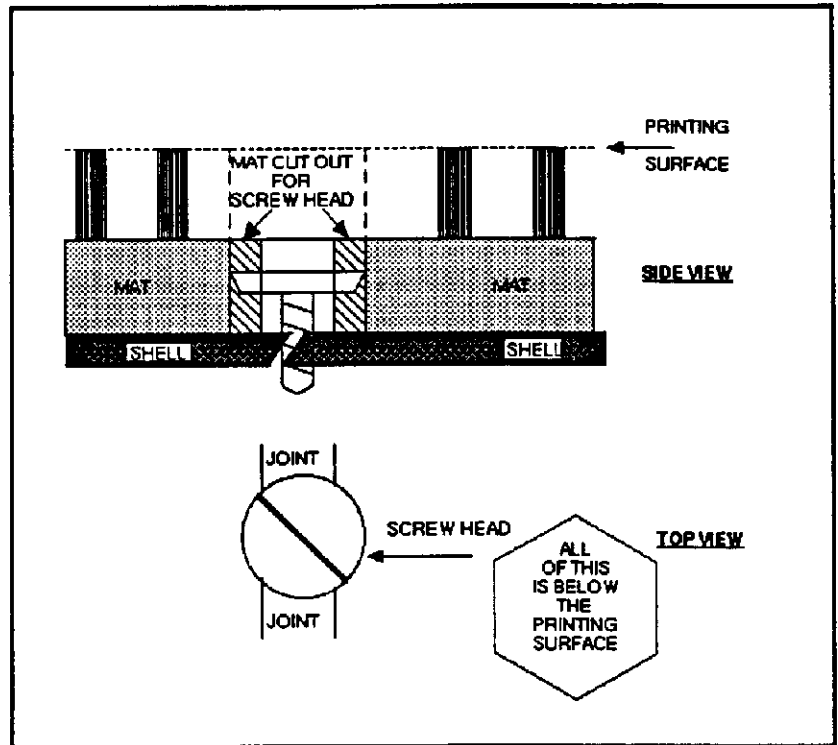


FIGURE 12a—An unshaved precancel mat, showing that the cutout for the screw head is below the printing surface.

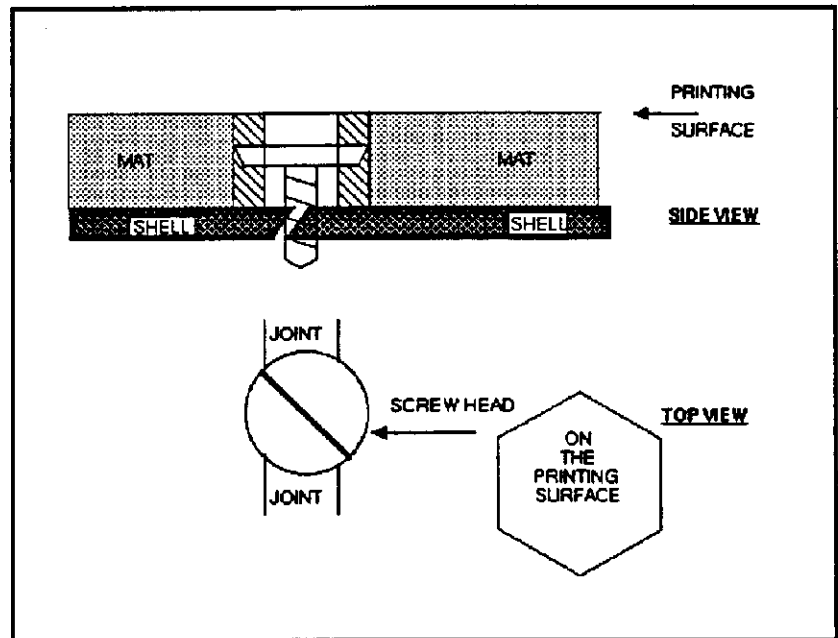


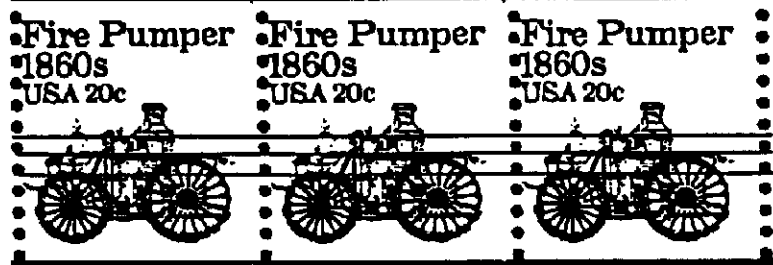
FIGURE 12b—A shaved tagging mat, in which the cutout for the screw is on the printing surface, causing a bulb-shaped untagged area on the vertical tagging break.

Track Untagged.

Track untagging has been seen on 2¢ Locomotive, 3,4¢ School Bus, 4¢ Stage-

coach, 9.3¢ Mail Wagon, 11¢ Stutz Bearcat, 14¢ Iceboat, and 20¢ Fire Pumper.

2. Horizontal single and multiple lines



TRACK UNTAGGED—This strip of 20¢ Fire Pumpers is evenly tagged, but is crossed by three untagged horizontal lines. This variety has nothing to do with the untagged horizontal lines that resemble the lines of a precancel mat. This variety is known on 2¢ Locomotive, 3.4¢ School Bus, 4¢ Stagecoach and 9.3¢ Mail Wagon. On the 11¢ Stutz Bearcat and 14¢ Iceboat it is known together with track tagged lines on the same stamp. *TPN*, unfortunately, cannot make a representation of track tagged lines.

that are more intensely tagged than the surrounding field (Editor's note: Early researchers into U.S. tagging, referred to these phenomena as "hot lines"). I will refer to this as "Track Tagging" or Track Tagged. Track Tagging has been found in 11¢ Stutz Bearcat, and 14¢ Iceboat.

The lines are unevenly spaced, some wider and some narrower. Most are about 1mm wide. The Track Tagged and Track Untagged lines clearly occur together on only the 11¢ Stutz Bearcat and 14¢ Iceboat. The Track Tagged stamps seem to have lines that vary from bright intense tagging to very light tagging. The Track Untagged stamps have only clearly untagged lines.

The Track Untagged lines that appear on the stamp are straight horizontal lines that are clearly untagged. They appear with single, double, and multiple lines. These tracks are obviously the result of either a recessed area in the tagging mat or some phenomenon that prevents transfer of tagging fluid to the tagging mat.

At one time, the BEP explained the untagged lines as the result of large grains of phosphorescent mineral forming small dams in the ink-transfer system, thus preventing flow of the tagging fluid to the tagging roller. This explanation was later determined to be incorrect¹.

The untagged lines are most probably caused by the wear, over time, of the inking rollers in contact with the precanceling mat rollers during the precancel runs. The inking rollers became dented by the raised surfaces on the precancel mat. Then, during the tagging runs, tagging fluid was not transferred to the tagging roller because of these depressions. The end result was untagged horizontal lines on the web.

The Track Tagged lines are straight, horizontal lines with higher-intensity tagging than the surrounding tagged field.

The intensity of the lines varies and the number of lines present on the face of a stamp varies from one or two to eight or ten lines. These tracks are obviously the result of a slightly raised surface that accepts and transfers more tagging ink to the web.

It is theorized that the tagging rollers and the taggant-transfer rollers were interchangeable. When a dented taggant-transfer roller was used as the tagging roller, the slightly raised surfaces accepted more tagging fluid than the surrounding area and printed out more intense tagged lines on the web.

In any case, I will stick to this theory or model for Track Tagging until we get a more plausible explanation. We do know that BEP did shave mats. The 17¢ Electric Auto precancel mats were shaved. Also, an 11¢ Caboose precancel mat was shaved off and made into a tagging mat.

One last important point on tagging lines. On Press 803, the curved 17¢ four-shell mats were used for tagging. As mentioned earlier, these produced the vertical tagging breaks. They also produced a horizontal tagging break (thus far found on the 17¢ Electric Auto and the 5¢ Motorcycle) that is the result of the joint seam formed in the middle of the cylinder where two "front" shell mats butt up against the two "rear" mats.

Many other Cottrell press tagging varieties exist. Some examples and possible explanations:

- Untagged error (no taggant flow-ran out, plugged)
- Found on 1¢ Omnibus, 4¢ Stagecoach, 5.2¢ Sleigh, 11¢ Stutz Bearcat, 12¢ Stanley Steamer, 14¢ Iceboat, 17¢ Electric Auto, and 20¢ Consumer Education

1. John Gulka: "Phantom Precancel or Grem-lins in the Ink Well?", *United States Specialist*, February 1983.

- 99.9% untagged (low taggant flow-running out; plugged)
- Best example is 2¢ Locomotive. [Editor's note: This phenomenon is also found clearly on Plate 3 of the 13¢ Crazy Horse in the Great Americans Series.]
- Smooth, even tagging coverage (new, smooth rollers)
- Rough, "rivulet" uneven tagging coverage (shaved mats, worn-out rollers)
- Yellowish tagging color under UV
- Whitish tagging color under UV

[Editor's note: The "normal" color of the tagging under short-wave UV is greenish. The type of UV lamp used may give different results. Many UV lamps "leak" unwanted longwave UV, which will show up fluorescence from optical brighteners. High-bright paper contains such brighteners. Type I and Type III papers contain a varying amount of such brighteners. Type II paper exhibits no brighteners. The presence of brighteners and use of an unfiltered short-wave UV lamp can result in yellowish and whitish tagging colors.]

Many different large and small untagged areas and shapes also exist as the result of damage or unevenness of the roller surface. Most are repetitive and even occur on different issues.

In Memoriam Cottrells

Although the Cottrell presses have been out of service for nearly 10 years, we are still learning about them.

We might have learned more if the one Cottrell press in storage could have been installed at the National Postal Museum. Efforts by the Plate Number Coil Study Group in that direction have been rejected by museum management. Our fear is that it may end up on the scrap heap.

This entire series will be reprinted as a brochure for \$6, postpaid.

New PNCs, Great Americans

Continued from Page 31

Replacing the 5¢ Canoe will be an undenominated 5¢ Butte; replacing the 10¢ Eagle and Shield will be an undenominated 10¢ Automobile showing the hood ornament on a classic car.

There will also be an undenominated 15¢ Auto Tail Fin (to meet the rate for presorted first-class post cards) and an undenominated 25¢ Juke Box, which will replace the 25¢ USA for first-class presorted letters.

In self-adhesives, the 29¢ Rose pane will re-emerge as a 32¢ value. A rumor has it that it might be a "yellow rose of Texas" for that state's sesquicentennial.

USPS announces new PNCs, self-sticks, Great Americans

Data Bank [TPN additions in brackets]

Definitive stamps feature Great Americans, and other symbols of U.S. history and culture

WASHINGTON (Feb. 2)-The U.S. Postal Service announced today its 1995 definitive stamp program to support new postage rates. The preview of stamps and stationery designs include several new additions to the U.S. Postal Service's Great American and Transportation series [and] two new designs featuring the American flag....

Since 1980, the U.S. Postal Service has issued 54 original designs in the Great Americans stamp series, the most recent being a 1994 stamp honoring Dr. Virginia Apgar. Four new stamps will be added to the series in 1995 including a 55¢ stamp (two-ounce rate) of Dr. Alice Hamilton whose pioneering work in industrial medicine contributed to the passage of early workmen's compensation laws. Suffragist Alice Paul will be featured on a 78¢ stamp (three-ounce rate) and philanthropist Milton S. HERSHEY and former President James K. Polk will be featured on 32¢ stamps.

Additions to the Transportation series include a 20¢ postcard rate stamp featuring a Cog Railway Car and a 32¢ stamp featuring a Ferry Boat. Although not part of the Transportation series, several other new stamps compliment this series: a non-denominated bulk rate stamp (valued at 10¢) picturing the front end of a classic automobile; a non-denominated presorted First-Class post card rate stamp (valued at 15 cents) picturing an auto tail fin; and a 20¢ postal card featuring an American Clipper Ship.

The following listing of definitive stamps and stationery includes a tentative schedule that is subject to changes in issue dates, cities of issue, formats, and design elements. Further information on each subject will be released at a later date.

[Miscellaneous PNCs]



5¢ Undenominated Butte

Format: Coils of 3,000 and 10,000
Issue Date: March 10, 1995
Issue City & State: State College, PA 16801
[Presumably to replace 5¢ Cance]

10¢ Undenominated Automobile

Format: Coils of 500, 3,000 and 10,000
Issue Date: March 10, 1995
Issue City & State: State College, PA 16801
[Presumably to replace Eagle and Shield]



15¢ Undenominated Auto Tail Fin

Format: Coils of 3,000 and 10,000
Issue Date: March 17, 1995
Issue City & State: New York, NY 10199

Please Note: The tail fin design is used with the permission of the General Motors Corp.
[For presorted, first-class postcards]

25¢ Undenominated Juice Box

Format: Coils of 500, 3,000 and 10,000
Issue Date: March 17, 1995
Issue City & State: New York, NY 10199
[Presumably to replace 23¢ USA]

[Self-adhesive panes]

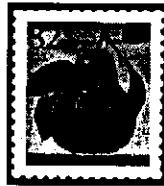


32¢ Flag Over Field

Format: ATM sheetlet of 18
Issue Date: March 17, 1995
Issue City & State: New York, NY 10199

32¢ Rose (reprint)

Format: Self-Adhesive convertible booklet of 20
Issue Date: June 2, 1995
Issue City & State: McLean, VA 22101



32¢ Fruit (Peach and Pear) [two separate stamps]

Format: Booklet of 20; and Self-Adhesive convertible booklet of 20
Issue Date: June 17, 1995
Issue City & State: Sparks NV 89431

[Transportation Series]



5¢ Circus Wagon (reprint)

Format: Coil of 10,000
Issue Date: March 20, 1995
Issue City & State: Kansas City MO 64108
[All previous were printed by ABN, which is no longer printing stamps]



20¢ Cog Railway [BEP intaglio]

Format: Coils of 100, 500, and 3,000
Issue Date: June 9, 1995
Issue City & State: Dallas TX 75260



32¢ Ferryboat

Format: Coil of 100
Issue Date: June 2, 1995
Issue City & State: McLean, VA 22101
[Presumably printed outside BEP]

[Flag Series PNCs]



32¢ Flag Over Park

Format: Pane of 100, Coils of 100, 500, 3,000 and 10,000; Booklet of 20; and Self-Adhesive convertible booklet of 20
Issue Date: May 1995

[TPN knows this will be a gravured stamp from BEP]

[Great Americans]



55¢ Alice Hamilton, MD

Format: Pane of 100
Issue Date: July 1995
Issue City & State:



32¢ Milton S. HERSHEY

Format: Pane of 100
Issue Date: Sept. 13, 1995
Issue City & State: Hershey, PA 17033



78¢ Alice Paul

Format: Pane of 100
Issue Date: Aug. 18, 1995
Issue City & State: Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054



32¢ James K. Polk

Format: Pane of 100
Issue Date: Nov. 2, 1995
Issue City & State: Columbia, TN 38401

[BEP has informed TPN that it now is able to print coils in rolls of 10,000.]

More Data Bank
on Page 37

Great Americans

By Stephen G. Esrati

What is large-block tagging as compared to small-block tagging on the early A Press issues of the Great Americans?

According to one reader, small-block tagging is really only a debasement of the large-block tagging mat, a wearing out.

So I sat down and did some measuring. The large tagging block is about 19mm wide and 19mm tall. Please note that the measurement is given as "about 19mm wide and 19mm." That's an approximation.

(It's extremely difficult to measure tagging varieties in the dark. I take a piece of paper and line it up with what I'm trying to measure. I mark the paper. Then I measure the marks on the paper in a lighted room. Never try to measure directly under UV because you get too close and could damage your eyes.)

The stamp on which I first obtained that measurement was the 1¢ Dix from Plate 1 that was perforated on the A Press.

Similar results (large blocks) came on:

2¢ Lyon, 3¢ White, 4¢ Flanagan, 5¢ Black, 10¢ Russell (although it appeared just a bit too narrow), 10¢ Red Cloud, 14¢ Lewis, 14¢ Stow, 15¢ Cody, 17¢ Lockwood, 20¢ Truman from Plate 2, 22¢ Audubon from Plate 2, 23¢ Cassatt, 25¢ London, 28¢ Sitting Bull, 30¢ Laubach Plate 2, 39¢ Clark from Plate 2, 40¢ Gilbreth from Plate 2 (but worn down), 45¢ Cushing, 50¢ Nimitz Plates 1 and 2, 56¢ Harvard, 65¢ Arnold (but slightly worn), \$1 Revel, \$1 Hopkins, \$2 Bryan, and \$5 Harte.

The small block was harder to measure because in most cases it was irregularly shaped. But the most nearly perfect rectangle measured about 16mm in width. Many stamps using the small block exhibit rounded corners, shrunken sides of the rectangle, and other distortions, all of which make the rectangle smaller.

The reason for the re-examination was that Ken Moreau submitted a floater strip of 20 of the 20¢ Truman, saying he had it with large block tagging while the *Summary of Data on the Great Americans* says it exists only with small-block tagging.

Here was the perfect demonstration of what a small block looks like before the usual wear and tear. It was exactly 16mm wide and 18mm tall. The worn-out version still carried the same maximum measurements, but had the rectangle gnawed away all over the place. But both strips were small-block tagging.

I have gone through the *Summary* to make sure all the descriptions match these findings.

But A. Stanley Hietala, to whom I sent the above comments, disagrees.

When I read the above, I was a bit surprised because I could not recall any with tag blocks about 19x19. So, I spent several tedious hours measuring block tags on the Great Americans. I found no block tags 19x19 or 16x18. The block tags vary in size from 16x18½ on a 1¢ Dix (I guess, that's really a 16x18) to 18½x24 on a Cody with a mishapen block tag.

Several issues, especially the 2¢ Lyon, 15¢ Cody, and 50¢ Nimitz, have two different size block tags on the same plate block, the UL and UR blocks being larger than the LL and LR.

Two issues, the 21¢ Carlson and the \$2 Bryan, have larger block tags on the stamps adjoining the selvage.

This would lead one to the conclusion that the size of the tagging block can vary inside one pane and, therefore, is not critical in identifying a stamp.

Adding to this confusion is the fact that the 1995 *Scott Specialized Catalog* claims that the L-perforated 1¢ Dix exists with large and small tagging blocks as does the 14¢ Lewis.

The accompanying table shows what Scott and the *Summary* have found.

High-bright stamps

Wolfgang Elser has checked older Great Americans for high-bright paper, especially those that were printed before USPS put

Size of tagging blocks found to be almost meaningless in classifying these stamps

Size of tagging block as reported by Scott, TPN

Stamp	Perf	Scott	TPN	Notes
1¢ Dix 1	Bull's			
	-eye	—	S m	Paper I, no Scott
1¢ Dix 1	L	S m,		
		L g	S m	Papers II, Ila
1¢ Dix 2	L	S m,		
		L g	L g	Paper II
10¢ Russell 1	L	—	S m,	
			L g	Paper II, no

restrictions on the use of optical brighteners into effect. These are his findings:

2¢ Stravinsky (also the untagged error); 4¢ Schurz; 17¢ Carson Plate 1; 18¢ Mason (also the untagged error); 19¢ Sequoyah; 20¢ Bunche (also the untagged error); 20¢ Truman with floating plate numbers, and 37¢ Millikan (also the untagged error).

Elser also notes that the 56¢ Harvard that shows a tagging spill is on high-bright Type I paper. He sought to find a Harvard with normal block tagging that is also on Type I high-bright paper, and in mid-January he found one.

Elser proves one can have fun with a longwave lamp, too.

The same goes for Ken Moreau who has just found the untagged 3¢ Clay on bright and high-bright paper.

A correction to the January comments on high brights. We said the 29¢ Warren from Plate 2 was not on high-bright paper. Gregg Greenwald proved us wrong. Then we checked our examples, and they were high-bright as well as bright. So were \$1s. We erred. But now we have two kinds of bright stamps, bright and high bright. The latter is bluish white in longwave UV.

On the 29¢ Jeffersons, we have three types of paper: high bright, bright, and dead in longwave UV.

More on the Apgars

Color difference

When Banknote Corp. of America (BCA) printed the 20¢ Apgar with Plate B1, the color came out an orange-brown (the Postal Service did not specify a PMS color and called it "brown"). But on Plate 2, the color contains less orange, giving the stamp a darker tone than B1. Neither color matches the Pantone colors in a standard Pantone Color Products Selector, a fan-like object that allows instant color comparisons.

B2 on high-bright paper

Meanwhile, Carol Morehouse has found the B2 Apgars on the same high-bright paper we found on B1 stamps. Surprisingly, her philatelic window had one pad of the stamps and they alternated: high-bright pane, dull pane, high-bright pane, etc.

Since the Postal Service stopped our calls to the printers, we have had almost no technical information on the presses used on recent Great Americans. It turns out that the Apgars, Warrens, and Jeffersons were all printed on a T/A press.

Having alternate sheets on different types of paper suggests that the T/A press was fed one sheet at a time from two different stacks of paper, possibly one sheet from the left and then one

sheet from the right. That could explain an alternating sequence of different papers.

But from our point of view, the how is not as important as the result. It means that we now have four types of Appgars to collect: two colors on two papers.

Elser's comment may be appropriate here:

"The Great Americans Series is proving to be a tremendous amount of fun."

TPN wrong on Apgar gum

TPN has incorrectly described the gum on the 20¢ Apgar stamp. It is a matte (PVA) gum, not a shiny gum.

Is there an untagged 2¢ Lyon?

The appearance of the 2¢ Mary Lyon stamp in recent issues of *Information from...* may indicate that a reprinting has taken place. All previously known Lyon stamps are block tagged and on dull-gum paper, and were printed on the defunct A Press. New printings could be untagged and on glossy paper.

Alan Malakoff has learned that BEP has been printing 3¢ White stamps for the rate change because the 3¢ Bluebird stamp was printed by ABN, which no longer has a printing contract.

'Band-tagged' Carlson, again

Stanley Hietala found the remains of a pad (100 panes) of select stock of the 21¢ Carlson. This pad still had its cover sheet.

Every other pane contained the flaw first described by Ken Lawrence (*TPN*, May 1994) in which the untagged horizontal areas were filled with taggant. Lawrence hypothesized "band tagging," but also suggested a worn-out tagging mat.

Hietala found upper left and lower left panes. This is what he saw:

Of the panes remaining, only every other one had the tagging flaw; the alternate ones have only a minor indication of the flaw consisting of taggant above and below and in alignment with the block tags. I also have one pane on which only Rows 2, 3, and 4 have a rather solid band of taggant...

It would appear, then, that the panes with the minor flaws of varying degrees are indicative of a gradual deterioration of the tagging mat over a period of time or gradual build-up of taggant on the rollers, which finally resulted in the comparatively solid vertical band of taggant being applied to the later panes in the press run.

I will have to agree with Bruce Menia (letter *TPN*, July 1994) that it is not a new form of tagging, created by the fertile minds in the USPS to confound the collector, but a dramatic deterioration in the normal process of applying the block tag, a rather rare occurrence. I have seen only one other example which mimics it very closely, that on the \$2 Bryan.

Why nothing on paper types?

A reader wants to know why *TPN* has had nothing on the paper types of the Great Americans other than in the *Summary*. "Don't people collect paper types?" he asked.

Some collectors do collect paper types. But the main reason for including paper types in the *Summary* was not just to make it the most complete source available on the Great Americans.

Rather, the inclusion was for correlating the skimpy printing data we have on Cottrell-printed PNCs with the skimpy data we have on Cottrell-printed Great Americans.

The data have been put into a data base. We are able to draw time lines. But the chief investigator of paper types, Richard Nazar, has been busy recently with other things (see his full-page ad in this issue). One day, we will combine the considerable amount of new information we obtained on the Great Americans with what we have on PNCs, and gain insight into both sets.

But please note that we have had differences in paper types on recent Great Americans, high-bright and dull in UV; shiny, matte, and dull gum. The study of paper types did not die with the demise of the Cottrells.

For collectors only

Nonprofit 'G's not for mails

The Postal Service decided Jan. 13 to issue green 5¢ nonprofit "G" stamps, but they're being sold only to collectors.

"First-day" covers bearing the stamp will be serviced with a Jan. 12 FDOI cancel.

Rick Arvonio, manager of stamp distribution, had told stamp writers that the stamps would not be issued because they were not needed since nonprofit mailers could still use the 5¢ Canoe coil stamp (to be replaced by the undenominated 5¢ Butte).

USPS spokesperson Monica Hand, repeated that view: "Originally, we were not going to distribute them because there are plenty of nonprofits out there."

Hand said the Postal Service was issuing the stamps in response to wishes of "the philatelic community, who wanted them."

Michael Schreiber, writing in *Linn's* for Jan. 30, said:

The new items are being made available now largely because of inquiries by *Linn's* early in the second week in January. *Linn's* wanted to know why these G-rate items, known to be in storage, were not being released.

An inquiry as to why a stamp was being kept in storage is a far cry from "the wishes of the philatelic community."

Hand said the stamps would be available only through Kansas City, a reference to the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center. The nonprofit stamps will not be distributed to post offices, she said.

Bill McAllister, stamp writer of *The Washington Post*, told *TPN*: "I have to believe, based on the numbers of stamps, cards and stationery, that they will move them out to the field shortly."

"What was surprising to me was that the nonprofit mailers association here was unaware that the stamps had been printed. Usually the mailing groups know before anyone else."

The nonprofit "G" stamps were printed by American Bank Note Co. in 1992. Hand had no technical details about the stamps because ABN is no longer a supplier of stamps to the Postal Service.

In late 1992, ABN revealed to *TPN* the quantities of nonprofit stamps that it had printed: 1.36 million A11111 and 700,000 A21111. The fifth number represents the green plate.

Dr. Robert Rabinowitz, who obtained nonprofit rolls within a week of their announcement, said the rolls of 3,000 show A11111 while the rolls of 500 show A21111.

In the Jan. 23 issue of *Linn's*, PNC columnist Ken Lawrence reported that 176 million nonprofit "G" stamps were printed in coils of 500 and 604.8 million in coils of 3,000.

Lawrence cited a Postal Service document and said the total cost of these stamps was \$1.30 million. At a nickel a stamp, the Postal Service won't be able to recoup that by sale of the nonprofits to collectors.

'New improved' Stamps, etc. catalog is late again, neither new nor improved

The January-March *Stamps etc.* catalog finally arrived at the end of January, blurred as something special, because of "latest news" and "service enhancements."

It certainly is special! It is incomplete. In its listing of "G" stamps it omits the nonprofits. It also omits most PNCs. The only coils in the book are the 10¢ undenominated Eagle and Shield, the Unisys version of the universal vending machine coil (UVM), the 29¢ White House flag and the ECA-GARD UVM (provided you do not want plate numbers).

There are no Great Americans, or any other definitives. But there are hints of new 1955 stamps not yet available for sale.

But there is a boastful letter from stamp czar Azcezal Jaffer, touting the "new, improved" catalog. Jaffer refers to it as part of the catalog industry. We always thought it was a listing of stamp prices available from USPS.

Great Americans Bimonthly cover

By Richard Beecher

On July 15, 1979, USPS introduced a series of rates covering mail that did not meet a minimum or maximum size.

Requirements regarding the thickness of the mailpiece were also introduced.

These are referred to as the non-standard surcharge, which applies only to first-class matter (single piece or presorted) weighing less than one ounce and third-class mail weighing less than two ounces.

When first introduced, the surcharge for single-piece first-class matter was 7¢. It was increased to 9¢ on March 22, 1981, and to 10¢ on Feb. 17, 1985.

On Jan. 1, 1995, when the first-class letter rate went to 32¢, it was increased to 11¢.

Examples of surcharges on covers and cards that exceed the maximum are scarce but available for diligent hunters. Covers and cards that do not meet the minimum size requirements are harder to come by.

Cave knows plate numbers on coils and booklets

By Alan M. Malakoff

TPN has obtained a weekly internal worksheet from the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center in Kansas. It includes information that employees need to know: Item numbers, detailed stamp descriptions, printer, format, first days, and remaining inventory.

The worksheet is produced on a personal computer and supplements the cave's regular computer system.

For coils and booklets though, the worksheet indicates one added item: plate numbers. USPS has for a long time sold sheet stamps by plate numbers (matched sets and supplying a list of numbers on-hand). It has refused to do so for coils and booklets.

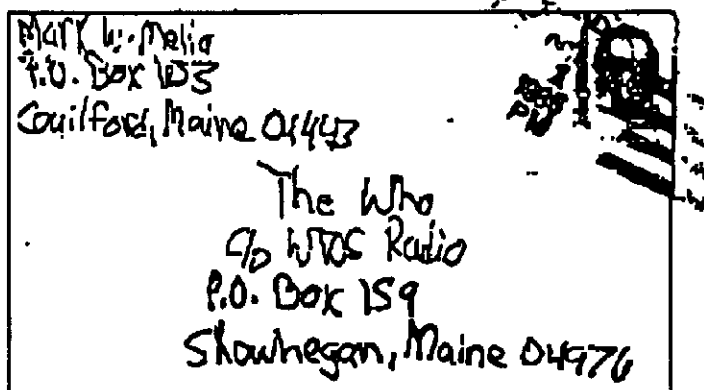
The obvious questions are: Why do these numbers exist on the report and who has access to them? When questioned about this document, Gary Stone, acting manager of the center, said, the "numbers are there so [the report's originator] has an idea of what's there." It is interesting to note that the plate numbers of sheet stamps do not appear here.

Stone told *TPN* that this document was for internal use only and was not supposed to leave the cave. He was shown *TPN*'s copy as proof that it does. He conceded that an employee in may have let the information out to one or more stamp dealers.

Stone vows to put a stop to the flow of any special information regarding inventory and plate numbers.

The basic question remains though: Why were these numbers there in the first place?

ATTN: CUT ALONG THIS LINE TO REMAIN



CROPPED COVER—*TPN* had to draw in the outline of the 3-inch by 5-inch card that was mounted on this Postal Service form with transparent tape. About an inch on the right of the form was cut off by a software problem.

Cover courtesy of Rob Washburn

The postcard pictured here, overfranked with a 22¢ Audubon stamp (the postcard rate at the time was 14¢), is a standard 3- by 5-inch index card. Since it did not meet the minimum requirement of 5 inches in length and 3½ inches

in height, it was properly returned to the sender as unmailable.

The Postal Service attached the card to a larger instruction card, telling the sender how he could remail it.

'G' self-stick coil? Duhh, wuzzat?

By Alan M. Malakoff

The folks at USPS's 800 number may not always know it, but there is a "G" self-adhesive coil.

As with other "G" self-adhesives, the coil was printed by Avery and contains a plate number on every 18th stamp).

Several things make this coil interesting. It is actually the first self-adhesive coil with a plate number on it. It was printed in May 1993, three months before the Christmas issue of that year. It does not contain the microperfs of recent issues.

Opening a roll is a surprise because the plate number is on the roll's first stamp. As the purpose of these coils is to sell plate strips to collectors, every roll must have 18 stamps discarded right away (Would you want a strip with the number at the end?).

The rolls come shrink-wrapped, with an 8½-inch diameter. The shrink-wrapped roll was then put into glassine for further protection. The outside of the roll has a large rectangular label, nearly identical to the labels found on other Avery products (and previously illustrated in *TPN*). The shrink-wrapping also holds a circular cardboard disk to give the roll support.

The roll is held shut with red fluorescent tape. There is a 27½-inch header strip (with evidence of die cuts), and a 1½-inch trailing strip (again with a die cut) attached to the core. The core is the standard three-inch size and is about a quarter inch thick.

The coil contains 5,004 stamps, the same 27½ plate strips as on other issues. A total of 599 rolls were delivered to USPS, about 50% more than on most self-adhesive coils.

PLATE NUMBER COILS

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

	LP	PS3	PS5
2604 (10c) Eagle and Shield			
A11111, A11112, A21112, A22112, A22113, A43334, A43335, A53335, A77777, A88888, A89999, A99999, A1010101010, A1011101010, A1011101011, A1011101012, A1110101010, A11101101010, A1111101010, A11111101010, A1211101010, A1411101010, 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
2605 (10c) BEP 11111, 22221, 22222, 33333			
22221 phosphored (errm)	25.00	25.00	25.00
2606 (10c) S. Vanuatu S11111	2.64	2.72	2.80
1891 18c Flag I	96.00	112.00	352.00
2	13.72	20.58	36.00
3	288.00	290.00	800.00
4	4.41	4.66	8.00
5	2.45	3.29	4.40
6	WANT	1,440	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 Bear A1112, 1212	8.00	8.20	8.40
A1111, A2424, A5555, A5556, A6667, A7667, A7766, 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 I	3.92	6.40	68.00
2, 11, 12	5.29	7.00	9.60
3	2.35	2.45	6.00
4	26.46	45.50	640.00
6	72.00	76.00	120.00
8	3.82	3.92	12.80
5, 9, 10, 13, 14	1.93	2.80	4.80
1895a 20c PC 14	48.00	48.00	48.00
0135 20c Official I	7.35	17.50	56.00
2150 21.1c Lathes 111111	2.10	2.21	3.80
111121	2.84	3.08	4.60
2150a 21.1c 111111, 1111213.08	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, 17, 18, 20	2.80	2.87	3.60
	4.76	6.64	7.60
2112 22c "D" Eagle 1, 2	3.80	4.08	6.20
0139 22c "D" Official I	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	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	2.64	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 Ding. full seal	24.00	25.20	25.60
2518 "F" (29c) Tulip			
1111, 1222, 2222	2.80	3.20	3.60
1211	31.20	31.60	32.00
2211	6.40	6.80	7.20
2525 29c Flower S1111, 2222 Str. S2222 (Prof.)	2.80	3.20	3.60
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 green A1111, A2211	2.80	3.20	3.60
2690 29c White House 1-16, 18	3.60	4.00	4.40
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 keys PS/B V11111111	—	—	6.00
NEW Santa V1111	—	—	5.00
NEW 6 stamps	—	—	XXX
CYP31 Variable Rate Shield (UVW) BEP version Plate 1 per PS/5			
1c-18c	—	—	30.00
19c-29c	—	—	10.00
CYP32 Unisys, ABN version A11, 19c-29c	—	—	10.00

'G' STAMPS

	LP	PS3	PS5
BEP version 1111, 2222	4.15	4.40	5.00
Stamp Ventures versions			
32c Parakeet: S1111, S2222	4.15	4.40	5.00
32c Bluebird: S1111	4.15	4.40	5.00
25c First-class Present S11111	4.15	4.40	5.00
American Bank Note version (all with prefix "A")			
32c stamps old only as a set of 33 stamps at \$165.00			
5c Mariposa A11111, 211111	1.35	1.40	1.50
Any self-adhesive coils V11111, Y22222	—	—	11.00

New numbers are being discovered daily. We will obtain them all and can supply them.

Self-stick booklets

2431e Eagle and Shield 1111	15.00
2478a 29c Red Squirrel B11111, B22211	10.50
B23133	11.00
B22221, B22222	13.00
2479a Rosa 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, B33331-1, B3434-1, B4444-1	11.00
B4344-3	250.00
B4344-1, B4444-1, B4444-3	15.00
2596a Eagle Green	
B11111, B21221, 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	
B598a Blue Eagle B1111, B1112	11.00
2719a Christmas Train V11111	9.50
2802a Christmas	
V111-1111, Y222-1222, Y222-2112, Y222-2122, Y222-2221, Y222-2222, Y333-3333	7.50
2830a Snowman V1111	11.00
Y2222	13.00
2813a Sunrise Love B111-1, 2, 3, 4, B222-4, 5, 6, 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	POE
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, B1212	10.00
2872a Santa V1111	8.00
2874a Cardinal V1111	8.00
Y2222	10.00
6 stamps V11111, Y22222	11.00
Love Church B1111-1	12.00

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BEP plate activity for the years we missed

Continued from Page 31

were 2,085,800 impressions of the former (about 42 million PNC strips) and 1,078,000 impressions of the latter (about 21 million PNC strips).

1¢ Omnibus—Plate #3 of this issue first went to press in November 1993 on the C press. Subsequently, there have been at least three additional printings, all on the F press. Even as *T P N* is going to press, this Omnibus plate is continuing to be used; BEP is putting it and the 3¢ Conestoga Wagon on whenever the presses are free and available.

2¢ Locomotive—Unsure of the amount of the rate change, Plate 2 was sent back to press three times in August-October 1994.

10¢ Tractor Trailer (gravure)—There were 1,246,000 impressions of the "11" combination and 1,954,850 impressions of the "22." At least through last fall, these were the only combinations printed. That's over 50 million PNCs for this possibly unnecessary stamp.

29¢ Flag over White House—This has been the mainstay stamp over the last three years. With some missing plates and stamps known before print dates, it looks like the BEP data on the stamp pick up in the second quarter of 1992, after the stamp had been printed and issued.

A quick review of the data also indicates that we are probably missing some of the printing data on Plate 14 and perhaps the first printing of Plate 12.

Of probable relief to collectors, while BEP reported the printing of Plate 18, the use of a Plate 17 was not indicated. It is also interesting to note that the 29¢ Flag was printed into December 1994, less than a month before the rate change.

Great Americans

4¢ Flanagan—For a stamp that serves no useful rate, it is amazing that this issue went back to press five times in 1994.

10¢ Red Cloud—BEP reports printing Plate 3 in the fall of 1994 on the F press. However, the six digit number matches that of Plate 2, first used in 1991. Data for the printing of Plate 2 on the C and D presses in 1993 are missing from the report, leaving a lot of open questions on this issue.

50¢ Nimitz—It was originally thought that plate 179842-2 was run on the A press. This report however shows that cylinder being used on the D press in September, 1992. Another mystery....

52¢ Humphrey—This stamp was issued in 1991 with an error in the selvage; it said Humphrey was vice president from 1964 to 1968, rather than from 1965 to 1969 (his actual term). In February, 1993, BEP printed Plate 2, which had the corrected selvage. In March, 1993, after making about 1,000,000 impressions with this plate, BEP put Plate 1 (with the error) back on for another 150,000 impressions.

BEP-printed coils and Great Americans, 1992-1994

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Plate #	Date	Press	Impressions	Plate #	Date	Press	Impressions
"G" Coil (480 subjects/plate):				10¢ Tractor Trailer (432 subjects):			
Red				Green			
190481-1	06/92	Andreotti	1,270,000	193287-1	03/94	Andreotti	771,500
	06/92	Andreotti	336,000		04/94	Andreotti	474,500
	10/92	Andreotti	479,800	193289-2	03/94	Andreotti	1,700,850
190485-2	06/92	Andreotti	1,078,000		06/94	Andreotti	254,000
Blue				Black Plate			
190482-1	06/92	Andreotti	1,270,000	193288-1	03/94	Andreotti	771,500
	06/92	Andreotti	336,000		04/94	Andreotti	474,500
	10/92	Andreotti	479,800	193290-2	03/94	Andreotti	1,700,850
190486-2	06/92	Andreotti	1,078,000		06/94	Andreotti	254,000
Gray				23¢ Lunch Wagon (432 subjects):			
190483-1	06/92	Andreotti	1,270,000	188104-3	02/91	C	61,105
	06/92	Andreotti	336,000		07/91	C (or D?)	246,000
	10/92	Andreotti	479,800		08/91	C (or D?)	N/A
190487-2	06/92	Andreotti	1,078,000		06/93	C (or D?)	180,000
Black					09/93	C (or D?)	478,780
190484-1	06/92	Andreotti	1,270,000		11/93	C (or D?)	245,000
	06/92	Andreotti	336,000	23¢ USA Presort (432 subjects):			
	10/92	Andreotti	479,800	Red			
190488-2	06/92	Andreotti	1,078,000	190918-1	09/92	Andreotti	841,700
1¢ Omnibus (432 subjects):					01/93	Andreotti	947,000
192556-3	11/93	C (or D?)	343,000		02/93	Andreotti	794,000
	01/94	F	189,000		04/93	Andreotti	1,339,000
	03/94	F	308,000		05/93	Andreotti	1,386,000
	11/94	F	70,000		09/93	Andreotti	1,709,000
2¢ Locomotive (432 subjects):					01/94	Andreotti	1,436,000
192404-2	10/93	D (or C?)	105,000	Cyan			
	08/94	C	243,000	190919-1	09/92	Andreotti	841,700
	09/94	C or D	189,700		01/93	Andreotti	947,000
	10/94	C or D	60,000		02/93	Andreotti	794,000
3¢ Conestoga Wagon (432 subjects):					04/93	Andreotti	1,339,000
193022-3	09/94	D	N/A		05/93	Andreotti	1,386,000
4¢ Steam Carriage (432 subjects):					09/93	Andreotti	1,709,000
187462-1	08/93	C (or D?)	556,250		01/94	Andreotti	1,436,000
5¢ Canoe (432 subjects):				Dark Blue			
188274-1	06/91	D	163,000	190920-1	09/92	Andreotti	841,700
	09/91	D (or C?)	887,758		01/93	Andreotti	947,000
	12/91	D (or C?)	487,500		02/93	Andreotti	794,000
	12/91	D (or C?)	177,918		04/93	Andreotti	1,339,000
	12/91	D (or C?)	416,092		05/93	Andreotti	1,386,000
	01/92	D (or C?)	142,000		09/93	Andreotti	1,709,000
	04/92	D (or C?)	375,900		01/94	Andreotti	1,436,000
	05/92	D (or C?)	447,716	Black			
	10/93	D (or C?)	0	190921-1	09/92	Andreotti	841,700
	01/94	D (or C?)	N/A		01/93	Andreotti	947,000
190473-2	06/92	C	175,000		02/93	Andreotti	794,000
	07/92	C (or D?)	62,850		04/93	Andreotti	1,339,000
	08/92	C (or D?)	164,000		05/93	Andreotti	1,386,000
	11/92	C (or D?)	22,000		09/93	Andreotti	1,709,000
	01/93	C (or D?)	330,000		01/94	Andreotti	1,436,000
	10/93	C	670,122	10¢ Canal Boat (432 subjects):			
191133-3	10/93	C	818,000	192099-2	9/93	C	404,000
	08/94	C (or D?)	163,400	29¢ Rushmore (432 or 480 subjects):			
				188095-7	02/91	C	30,000

Plate #	Date	Press	Impressions	Plate #	Date	Press	Impressions	Plate #	Date	Press	Impressions
29¢ White House (432 or 480 subjects):				29¢ White House (432 or 480 subjects):				75¢ Willkie (? subjects):			
189905-2	07/92	C	870,494	191893-10	07/93	C, D or F	542,000	188904-1	01/92	C (or D?)	N/A
(18 wide)					10/93	C, D or F	574,400		09/92	C	101,207
	05/93	C (or D?)	763,500		04/94	C, D or F	883,900		09/92	C (or D?)	11,000
	06/94	C (or D?)	N/A		09/94	C, D or F	265,000				
	10/94	C (or D?)	213,000		09/94	C, D or F	13,000				
					10/94	C, D or F	244,900				
					11/94	C, D or F	112,400				
190167-4	03/92	C	296,047	191915-11	10/93	C, D or F	468,000	\$1 Hopkins (? subjects):			
(20 wide)	03/92	C	251,101	(20 wide)	12/93	C, D or F	850,000	190505-2	07/92	C	149,500
	03/92	C	367,000		12/93	C, D or F	338,000		04/93	C (or D?)	253,500
	06/92	C (or D?)	264,000		12/93	C, D or F	618,700		08/93	C (or D?)	466,900
	07/92	C (or D?)	1,161,750		03/94	C, D or F	N/A				
	09/92	C (or D?)	410,000		06/94	C, D or F	173,000				
	10/92	C (or D?)	845,000 (?)		08/94	C, D or F					
	05/93	C (or D?)	907,000								
190289-5	04/92	C or D	482,400	192100-12	10/93	C	218,000				
	04/92	C or D	491,221	(20 wide)	12/93	C (or D?)	727,000				
	07/92	C or D	790,860		01/94	C (or D?)	423,200				
	03/93	C or D	609,000		03/94	F	68,000				
	09/93	C or D	706,000		10/94	C (or D?)	280,000				
					11/94	C (or D?)	220,400				
					12/94	C (or D?)	318,000				
190302-6	03/92	C or D	417,500	192275-13	09/93	C	632,500				
	03/92	C or D	767,129	(20 wide)	11/93	C (or D?)	14,000				
	04/92	C or D	626,540		12/93	C (or D?)	45,000				
	05/92	C or D	450,423		01/94	C (or D?)	552,400				
	06/92	C or D	750,000		03/94	C (or D?)	194,000				
	08/92	C or D	559,157								
	09/92	C or D	69,800	192512-14	10/94	C	317,500				
	09/92	C or D	85,000	(20 wide)							
	12/92	C or D	671,700	193494-15	04/94	F	195,000				
	01/93	C or D	1,020,700	(20 wide)	04/94	C or D	500,000				
	02/93	C or D	340,000	193595-16	04/94	C	N/A				
	02/93	C or D	378,108	06/94	C	928,204					
	03/93	C or D	523,000	09/94	C (or D?)	740,907					
	04/93	C or D	319,474	11/94	D	110,400					
	05/93	C or D	N/A	11/94	C (or D?)	635,200					
				11/94	C (or D?)	12,000					
190322-7	04/92	C	762,211	194763-18	10/94	D	254,000				
(20 wide)	06/92	C (or D?)	741,462	\$1 Seaplane (? subjects):							
	09/92	C (or D?)	876,200	191794-3	[No data supplied]						
	09/92	C (or D?)	692,778	4¢ Father Flanagan (400 subjects):							
	10/92	C (or D?)	726,500	191546-2	04/93	C	10,000				
	11/92	C (or D?)	753,686			ink test					
	01/93	C (or D?)	500,000		04/93	C	825,240				
	02/93	C (or D?)	340,000		01/94	F	242,000				
	04/93	C (or D?)	550,000		02/94	F	433,000				
	04/93	C (or D?)	127,000		02/94	F	455,000				
	05/93	C (or D?)	995,800		04/94	F	308,000				
	06/93	C (or D?)	1,423,500		07/94	F	220,000				
	06/93	C (or D?)	289,000								
	07/93	C (or D?)	1,109,700	10¢ Red Cloud (400 subjects):							
	07/93	C (or D?)	40,000	189137-3	10/94	F	434,900				
	12/93	C (or D?)	165,000		12/94	F	N/A				
	01/94	C (or D?)	869,500	(possibly plate #2, not #3)							
	02/94	C (or D?)	1,180,500	20¢ Truman (400 subjects):							
	04/94	C (or D?)	1,308,000	192276-4	09/93	C	297,500				
	10/94	C (or D?)	505,000	50¢ Nimitz (400 subjects):							
	10/94	C (or D?)	N/A	179842-2	09/92	D	165,000				
	11/94	C (or D?)	512,400	188704-3	09/93	C, D or F	265,000				
	12/94	C (or D?)	649,400	52¢ Humphrey (? subjects):							
190955-8	09/92	C	692,778	188116-1	03/93	C	4,000				
	10/92	C (or D?)	53,000		03/93	C (or D?)	150,000				
	10/92	C (or D?)	96,700		02/93	C	970,750				
	11/92	C (or D?)	550,650		03/93	C (or D?)	33,000				
	11/92	C (or D?)	1,121,421		07/93	C (or D?)	394,000				
	02/93	C (or D?)	1,033,966		08/93	C (or D?)	470,000				
	03/93	C (or D?)	827,000								
	03/93	C (or D?)	807,900								
	05/93	C (or D?)	660,615								
	06/93	C (or D?)	289,000								
	07/93	C (or D?)	999,100								
	12/93	C (or D?)	268,500								
	12/93	C (or D?)	90,000								
191684-9	05/93	C (or D?)	622,000								
(18 wide)	09/93	C (or D?)	1,000								

damaged

New BEP data provide preliminary conclusions

By Stephen G. Esrafi

There were quite a few gaps in the production data provided by BEP to the PNC Study Group.

Several of these gaps were needed for our understanding of the changes in paper specifications, a process we would have been able to see best if we had been given complete data on the production of the 10¢ Canal Boat, a stamp that went through several major changes. Those data are missing.

Similarly, we were not given complete data on the \$1 Hopkins and the \$5 Harte, on both of which there were changes of press, press layout, and paper.

Also missing were the data on the production of the intaglio 10¢ Tractor Trailer, and on several Great Americans that simply had to have new plates because the original press, the A Press, was no longer usable.

But we did gain some information that confirms earlier leaks, such as the scarcity of Plate 9 of the 29¢ White House, which, we knew, was damaged during a 1993 press run. What we did not know was whether there had been other press runs.

Unfortunately, given the paucity of the data we did receive, we cannot yet safely conclude that there were no other press runs because the key element we are missing is the information that we used to be given when a plate was canceled. In the past, we were given the total production figures. Lacking any cancellation data, we simply cannot tell whether we are complete or not with the data provided. Alan Malakoff did not ask for cancellation data in his suit.

But we do have confirmation of the color varieties we found in the 4¢ Father Flanagan in that we were told that there had been an ink test.

And we can make a stab at a time frame during which BEP switched to glossy gum: It looks like the last quarter of 1993, but there are so many other dates that it is impossible to make sure.

A glance at the White House data appears to confirm the relative scarcity of some plate numbers.

The data we are publishing are not the ones that the Postal Service has promised us to cover the so-called "gap period." These are just what Malakoff was able to dig up on his own. But they point to how much we are still missing, as can be seen by anyone leafing through the new PNC Catalog.

Still, these will help our research into our stamps, and for that we are grateful.

Accounting numbers on gum pose challenge to collectors

Continued from Page 31

"It was just something we did because we had the capability," he said.

On "G" coils, back numbering appears on coils of 3,000 and 10,000 and was not applied on the 25¢ Presort "G" stamps.

Asked whether any currently available stamps are being printed with the back numbers, the new managing partner, Sandra Lane, said: "No."

Joining Sennett in the call were Sandra Lane, who is also president of Unique Binders, one of the firms participating in Stamp Venturers; Don Woo, vice president for contracts; John McCaughey, vice president of manufacturing, and Robert Lane, vice president of engineering.

Sandra Lane said the question of whether the numbers have leading zeroes or go "10, 20, 30" instead of "0010, 0020, 0030" is just a software thing and "we can do it either way." She said she does not recall how it was done for the "G" stamps, which were printed a long time ago.

On "G" stamps, sizes and color vary. Phil Cole sent in the four-digit stamp shown on our front page, wondering why it was so different from the five-digit copy he had obtained off a roll of 10,000.

Sennett said the ink-jets that apply the numbers do two rolls at a time, one at the top of the stamps, the other at the bottom.

Giving credence to this is what was found by Richard Cook, the philatelic clerk in Salt Lake City. He found rolls in a case alternating with the numbers at the top and at the bottom. But then after large numbers on top, the next roll showed up with small numbers at the bottom.

Sennett said what appears to be a change in font from one roll to another is a function of the speed at which the roll moves past the ink jets. The size of the numbers would be affected by the distance of the paper from the jets. But, said Richard Nazar, publisher

of the 1995 Plate Number Coil Catalog, that explanation may not be totally correct, since it is unlikely that the distance from ink jet to paper would fluctuate that much on one roll.

The different vertical sizes, however, do not come from the same roll, but from different rolls.

A possible explanation is that the distance between jet and paper may vary from one ink-jet machine to another. Sennett said Stamp Venturers now has eight such machines.

Sennett said it is theoretically possible to find a strip of stamps with two plate numbers between two accounting numbers because of a web splice. He said web splices are always made before the back numbering is done to preserve the integrity of the accounting system.

The difference in color noted by many collectors was explained by Sennett as a gradual change to an ever-darker shade, so it is now almost black. (Schreiber and I were barred from asking questions about stamps not yet announced by the Postal Service, but it was acknowledged that numbering is now taking place.)

The numbers are placed on the coil for accounting purposes to determine how many stamps have been sold, not to see how many remain in the roll for inventory purposes. For that reason the lowest numbers are at the outer edge of the roll and increase toward the middle.

"You need only to look at the last number and count the stamps in front of it to know how many stamps have been sold," Sennett said.

Sennett expressed some surprise that collectors were collecting the numbers.

The numbers appear on every 10th stamp and are printed horizontally across the stamp.

Some collectors are collecting them by po-

sition. Harald Singer, for example, collects plate-numbered strips of seven with the accounting numbers on all seven stamps.

In Germany, where accounting numbers have been on every fifth stamp for more than 30 years, collectors have adopted several ways of collecting them.

- Some mount strips of five with the gum side down, leaving the number out of view on the album page.

- Some mount strips of three but fold over one numbered stamp making for a vertical pair with one stamp showing the face and one showing the gum. This destructive practice is generally frowned on in philately.

- Others try to maintain the strip of five by folding over two stamps and making a strip of three, with two showing the gum. This method is also frowned on because the fold weakens the fibers and could cause tearing.

Those who mount the stamps to show the numbers also make a distinction between three-digit and four-digit numbers, while some collect both odd and even numbers. The U.S. analogy of that would be four- and five-digit accounting numbers.

Nobody in Germany pays any attention to the numbers themselves, and no one has been reported to collect all possible back numbers. Furthermore, there have been hardly any reports showing any interest in varieties of the back numbers, except for the major colors, red numbers, black numbers, etc.

On another matter, Sennett was asked whether Stamp Venturers was informing the Postal Service of all plate changes on stamps it is printing as USPS officials had promised stamp journalists.

"That's part of the contract," Sandra Lane interjected.

It's a step toward plate-activity reports, which are to start again this year.

29¢ White House EFOs

Compiled through Feb. 1, 1995, by John Tison

Plate Number	Imperforated	Imperf	Imperf Between	Transition Perf-Imperf	Transition Imperf-Perf	Imperf/Perf Solids	Perf Solids	Perf Miscut	Misperf	Perf/Imperf Mixed	Albino
No number	X	X	X								X
1	X										
2	X						X	X		X	
3	X	X									
4	X		X								
5	X						X				
6	X	X		X	X	X					
7	X	X		X		X			X		
8	X	X		X							
9	X		X		X						
10	X										
11	X				X	X					
12	X										
13	X										
14									X		
15											
16											
18											

Please report any EFOs not in this chart to:
 John Tison,
 PO Box 8756,
 Newport Beach,
 CA 92658
 or phone:
 (800) 854-4487

Not in my back yard

Stamps turn up in the darndest places

In September, Scott Publishing Co. mailed out a promotional mailing with Wayne Youngblood's picture on the envelope. The envelope was franked with an undenominated 10¢ Eagle and Shield from BEP.

Al Haake put the stamp under his UV light. It was tagged.

A quick hunt at the post office in Sidney, Ohio, found several rolls of tagged stamps with the plate-number combination 22221.

But if Haake thought it was funny to find a tagging error in the hometown of Youngblood, author of *Linn's Stamps That Glow*, it is just as funny that Ralph Persels, who lives in St. Louis, found 10 rolls at the post office there.

Haake lives just outside St. Louis.

No more plate numbers from Kansas City cave

According to an article by Ken Lawrence in the Jan. 30 issue of *Linn's*, the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center is no longer filling orders for ECA-GARD UVM plate-numbered strips. (This has nothing to do with the new fonts to which these machines are being converted.) The cave, says Lawrence, is still selling scrap from these UVM strips, but no plate numbers.

Stamp Venturers' freebie, used on a fancy cover

James J. O'Connell, III, was going through some material he had accumulated and found a program (picture on next page) from Stamp Collecting Month in 1992 that a friend had given him.

The program, which was flown on the Goodyear blimp, according to one of its cachets, bore a 29¢ Panda stamp and a single from Stamp Venturers' coil-stamp dummies, which were given away at the World Columbian Stamp Exhibition in Chicago in 1992. Each stamp had a line across the perforations or rouletting.

The significance of the dummy on the program was that the blimp was the Eagle and the dummy shows an eagle. The Oct. 2 cancel was for the first day of general distribution of the booklet containing the panda stamp. The first day was Oct. 1 in New Orleans.

Shrink-wrapped Omnibus

Rich Nazar gets the wrappers used in a post office's vending machine. In Janu-

ary, he got a wrapper from a roll of 3,000 of the 1¢ Omnibus, only this one was in a shrink wrap, not the old cellophane. This leads to the possibility of a new printing.

DAV back to untagged PNCs

Don Draper has received a mailing from the Disabled American Veterans in which the return envelope was franked with five 5¢ Circus Wagon stamps and two untagged 2¢ Locomotives.

Found, after 82 years!

David L. Myers sent an end pair of a 1¢ Washington coil (Scott 412) to the American Philatelic Expertizing Service for an opinion because it showed the plate

them, he got his check back; but the ad kept right on running in subsequent weeks with some of the nonexistent numbers.

Grossman's original vaporware "G" stamps are A2222, A3313, and A5117.

Coil Line also lists some vaporware: A2222, A2333, and A3316.

Coil Line is also in error in stating that all Stamp Venturers' rouletted "G" stamps have a plate-number interval of 36. That applies only to those with the plate-number combination S2222. The ones with S1111 have an interval of 33.

Dr. Robert Rabinowitz theorizes (we did not get technical data on this from USPS) that the rolls with the 33-stamp interval were printed at J.W. Fergusson &

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

number 6009. Not only did it prove genuine, but APES added a personal note to his certificate: "Plate #6009 is a previously unreported number for #412."

That should encourage PNC collectors. It took philately 82 years to find that plate number. There is hope yet for finding the missing E&S stamps from ABN.

Flaw on phosphored paper

A strip of 20 of the 15¢ Cody on pre-phosphored paper showed horizontal purple streaks when viewed in UV light.

Under magnification, the stamps still appeared to be printed on top of the tagging. So, what were we looking at?

TPN asked Wayne Youngblood, the Plate Number Coil Study Group's expert on tagging.

"It's surface tagged paper," he said, "and there are no completely untagged areas, but it's quite a disturbance. This is the first I've seen on surface-tagged paper, except for a seam line on the Cherokee Strip stamp."

Hackers call it 'vaporware'

Howard Grossman has been advertising "G" stamps in *Linn's* that had strange plate-number combinations. When Phil Rose of the PNC Study Group ordered

Sons on a Champlain gravure press while the stamps with the 36-stamp interval were printed by Multi-Color Corp. on a Schiavi 10-color web-fed press.

The Schiavi printed the early 19¢ Fishing Boats before American Bank Note Co. switched printing to Guilford Gravure.

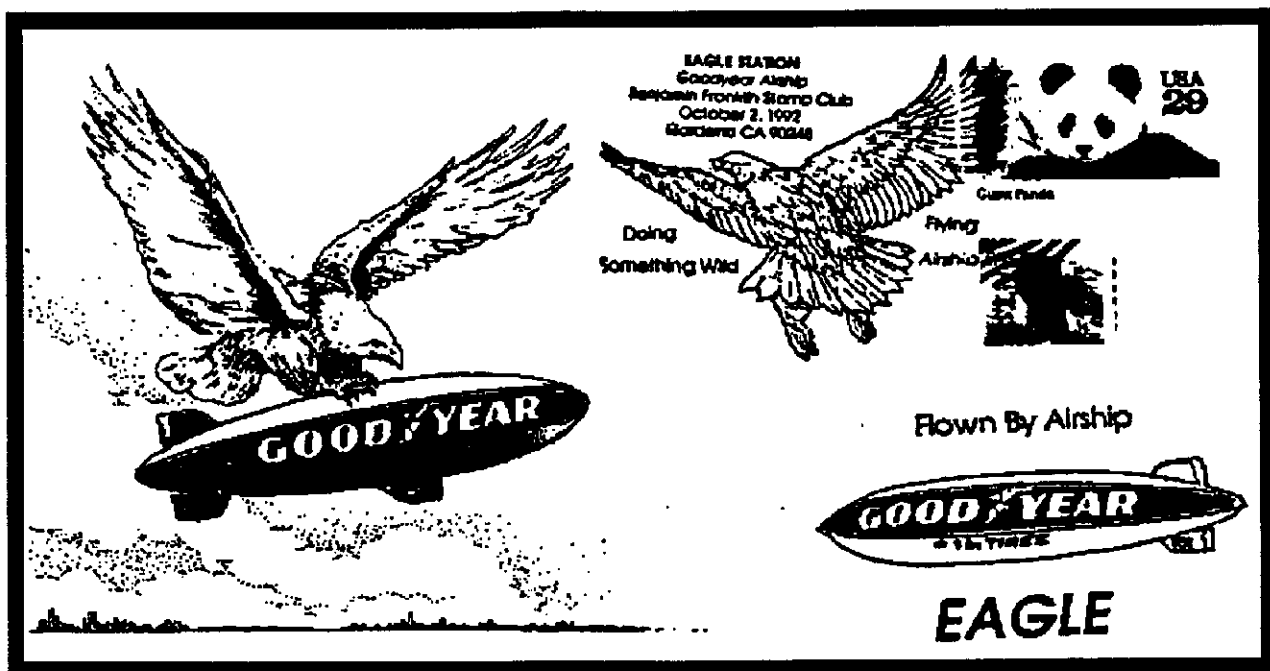
Such a big deal!

Some PNC dealers are advertising their "G" stamps with come-ons, saying their prices are the lowest in town. Trouble is, they don't have all the numbers.

Eventually, to serve their panting new-issues customers, these dealers have to buy the numbers they are missing from other dealers, and then their promises will sound somewhat hollow.

Dr. Rabinowitz has been offering a \$400 bounty for information leading to the apprehension and arrest of numbers not listed in his ads. That's just one way he finds numbers. The "I-can-beat-his-price" bunch is unable to spend the time, effort, and money he does to find numbers. So far, he has paid the bounty twice.

Dr. Rabinowitz, incidentally, has a share-the-numbers agreement with Al Haake, who has paid the bounty once.



DUMMY STAMP—One of the dummy stamps given away by Stamp Venturers at the World Columbian Stamp Exhibition was affixed to this cover marking the 1992 Stamp Collecting Month. The connection, of course, is the flight

to Gardena, Calif., of the Goodyear airship "Eagle." The dummy stamp shows an eagle, too. The event was the day after the first day of the animals set. (Cover courtesy James J. O'Connell, III)

'G' stamps fall off

Perhaps because they have been in storage so long, some "G" stamps fall off envelopes.

Two customers of Steve Esrati sent in envelopes that went through the mails without a stamp and not a postal marking on them. They had stamps when mailed.

Legends of the West legend

Tom Maeder, former president of PNC³, noted with some sadness that if no one had cheated by sending in multiple orders, all real stamp collectors who wanted the Legends of the West error panes would have been able to obtain one.

New longwave UV lamp

Lighthouse Publications has a new longwave UV lamp on the market. This one needs a 110-volt outlet and costs about \$30. But for PNC collectors and others who search in post offices and at bourses, Lighthouse's portable (battery-operated) longwave lamp is the lamp of choice. And it only costs \$16.

New bulk-rate stamps coming

BEP is preparing rolls of 500 and 3,000 of the Tail Fin and Juke Box stamps, *TPN* has learned. The Postal Service also lists rolls of 10,000 and BEP told *TPN* it can now print rolls of 10,000.

The undenominated (25¢) Juke Box stamp will be for first-class presort and will be issued at the Mega Event in New York in March. The Juke Box and the undenominated (15¢) Tail Fin are gravure issues. The Tail Fin is for the presorted post card rate.

Transportation stamps remain intaglio products

The 20¢ Cog Railway stamp is being printed on the BEP's intaglio presses. Rolls of 100, 500 and 3,000 are being prepared.

BEP unveiling capabilities

BEP was to make a presentation to USPS during early February concerning its new capabilities. Among the items to be discussed were coils of up to 30,000 (including self-adhesives) and self-adhesive conventional booklets. This latter item is two panes of 10 self-adhesive stamps put together into a two-pane booklet.

BEP is taking delivery this fall of two new coils—fully automatic and able to handle both regular and self-adhesive coils.

3¢ White isn't extinct

The 3¢ Paul Dudley White stamp has reportedly gone back to press. This issue was withdrawn in 1991, being replaced

by the ABN-printed Eastern Bluebird definitive.

With ABN out of the picture and a large need for 3¢ stamps, the Great American issue was ordered again. It is expected that the stamp will now be untagged and made from new plates because the original A Press is no longer in service.

Bye-bye, intaglio! New Flags are made on gravure press

BEP is printing the 32¢ Flag Over Porch stamp by gravure in rolls of 100, 500 and 3,000. The Postal Service also lists rolls of 10,000 for this stamp.

Richard Nazar notes that this may lead to many more plate numbers on Flag stamps than on the intaglio presses. He noted the many combinations on the "E" and "F" stamps, but Dr. Robert Rabino-witz noted that only two combinations of "G" stamps have become known from BEP, and they, too, were printed by gravure.

Rare 7.4¢ FDC: \$2,000

On sale at Eupex'95, a Cleveland local show, was a House of Farnam FDC of a precanceled 7.4¢ Baby Buggy. The cover was in the rarest Category E in the 1991 PNC Catalog.

Asking price: a mere \$2,000.

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 Overhead 1, 2, 5, 6	40
3,4	50
8 Press 1, 2	55
8 Press Unbagged 2	50
C Press 3 (normal 3)	3.00
Cloudy 3 (variety 1)	.75
Fall size 3 (variety 1)	2.00
2c Locomotive 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10	50
3 Smoking 1, or cont.	15.00
8 Press 1	.60
Spide variety (no #)	10.00
C Press 2	.60
5c Number 1, 2, 3, 4	.70
5c Gunboat Wagon 1	1.00
Flaming Wagon, or 1st or 2d cont.	20.00
2, 3 unbagged	1.00
4c School Bus 1, 2	1.00
PC 1, 2 (JR, No Guy)	5.00
4c Singapore 1, 2, 3, 4	1.00
2 Queen	7.00
2 Queen and child damage	12.50
5, 6 (VF, Four only 50)	1.50
PC 3, 4	6.50
PC 5, 6	6.50
Some, 8 Press 1	1.00
Overall Ingepp 1	14.00
4c Steam Carriage 1, Ingepp, unbagged	1.00
4c Dredboard 3, 4	.90
4 Buggy whip (long)	10.00
PC 1-6	1.80
PC 4 Buggy whip	10.00
PC 5 Main crack or cont.	35.00
PC 4 Buggy rein	35.00
5c Motorcycle 1, 2, 3, 4	1.00
5c MR Wagon 1	1.00
5c Cream Wag., 1, cont. 1, A1, A2, A3	1.50
5c Cannon 1, 2, 3	1.50
Ground S11 (6-hole, aligned gum)	1.25
Ground S11 (head in W, smooth gum)	2.00
(5c) "G" Memorial, A11111, A21111	1.50
5.2c Single 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
PC 4, 6 Hash mark (PS/10), each	50.00
5.3c Elevator 1	1.00
5.5c Sea Roam Truck 1	1.75
1 Burned Rubber	5.00
1 No. on top	10.00
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 1 Goggles (1/2)	8.00
PC 1 Dirt dnd (2L)	8.00
PC 2	8.00
7.1c Insect 1, PC 1	3.00
PC 1 "2P-4"	2.00
7.4c Baby Buggy 2	9.00
Blown like variety	65.00
PC 2	5.00
7.6c Carrot 1, 2	2.50
3	4.50
8.3c Ambulance 1, 2	1.50
1 Whole low number (three repeats)	30.00
1 Cut low number	5.00
Double number (whole of top)	18.50
PC 1, 2	2.00
PC 1 No number	75.00
PC 1 Double number (cut of top)	5.00
PC 3, 4	5.75
8 Press, 1	3.25
2	7.50
8.4c Wheelchair 1, 2	2.00
3	13.00
8.5c Toy Truck 1, reg or PC	2.50
PC 2	11.00
PC 2 (Fina Fleck)	15.00

9.3c Mad Wagon 1, 2	12.50
3, 4	33.00
5, 6	250.00
PC 1, 2	20.00
PC 3	75.00
PC 3 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 (black top)	1.50
1 overall tag (dnd gum) F-VF	3.50
1 overall tag (dnd gum) XF	5.00
1, 2 plain shiny gum F-VF	3.50
10c Teacher Index 1	2.00
10c Teacher Index groove 11, 22	2.25
(10c) Eagle, Shield	
A11111, A11112, A21112, A21113, A22112, A22113, A33333, A33335, A43324, A43325, A43326, A43334, A43335, A43426, A53335, A54444, A54445, A77777	
A8888, A9999	2.75
A8888, A9999, A9999, A1010101010, A101101010, A101110101, A101101012, A110101010, A110110101, A111101010, A111110101, A121010101, A141101010, A141110101, A141211110, A142111111	
511111	3.50
11111, 22221, 22222, 33333	2.75
11111 photostamp (over)	30.00
22221 photostamp (over)	15.00
22222 photostamp (over)	35.00
A34424, A34426	5.00
A12215	20.00
A32333	200.00
A33334	85.00
10.1c Of Wagon 1	2.50
I have many varieties. Ask for list	
PC 1, 2	2.50
Red PC 2, 3	2.50
10.9c Thomson Cab 1, 2	28.00
2 Low over	80.00
PC 1, 2	30.00
3, 4 (PS/3 only)	250.00
11c Calzone 1, PC 1	3.50
I have many varieties. Ask for list	
Unbagged PC 2	2.00
11c Swiss 1, 2, 3, 4	2.00
I have many varieties. Ask for list	
12c Steamer 1, 2	2.00
PC 1, 2	2.50
8 Press PC 1	20.00
12.5c Pushcart 1	2.65
2	4.50
PC 1 Light olive, Paper life	2.70
PC 1 Dark olive, Paper life	3.00
PC 2	5.00
13c Patrol Wagon 1	2.50
13.2c Coal Car 1, 2	2.50
14c Insect 1, 2, 3, 4	2.00
14c Insect B Press 2	3.00
15c Tugboat 1	2.00

Overall 2, Block 2	3.00
16.7c Popcorn 1, 2	3.00
17c Auto 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2.00
6	12.00
7	5.00
PC 1C, 2C (F only)	6.00
PC 3A, 4A	3.50
PC 3A, 4A	3.50
PC 3B, 4B	22.00
PC 3C, 4C	7.00
PC 3BA, 4BA (PS/10)	25.00
PC 5A	5.00
PC 5B, 6B	18.25
PC 5AR, 7AR (PS/7) (SR)	13.00
PC 6A	13.00
PC 3C, 7C	24.00
PC 7A	12.00
17c Dogtag 2	3.00
17.5c Razor 1, reg or PC	3.00
18c Sawney 1	76.00
2, 5, 6, 4, 17, 18	3.00
3, 4	63.75
7	30.00
9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16	12.50
13, 14	5.50
18c Flag 1	450.00
2 PS/5	45.00
2 PS/3	20.00
4	7.00
5	4.80
7	30.00
18c Wash 1112, 3333	3.00
PC 11121	6.00
PC 33333	3.00
PC 33333 (dnd gum, Ingepp)	5.75
PC 43444	7.00
19c Fishing Boat	
A1112	4.00
A1212, 1111, 2424, 5555, 5554, 6667	
7667, 7679, 7764, 7779, 5111	4.00
A5555 unbagged	10.00
20c Fire Pump 1 PS/5	175.00
1 PS/3	50.00
3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16	4.50
7, 8 (PS/5 F-VF only)	160.00
12, 14	8.00
8	35.00
11 PS/5	75.00
11 PS/3	29.00
20c Commem. 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
2 Flying Footprints (no number)	10.00
3	5.00
4 PS/3 only	33.50
5, 9, 10, 13, 14	4.00
14 "G" mark (PS/3)	25.00

4 PS/5	125.00
4 PS/3	69.00
8 PS/5	12.00
8 PS/3	3.00
12	7.50
PC 14	50.00
P14 "G" mark (PS/3)	75.00
20c Official 1 PS/5	57.00
1 PS/3	11.00
20c Cable Car 1, 2 (black)	3.00
Overall Ingepp 2	5.00
20.5c Fire Engine 1	3.00
21c Rail Car 1, 2	3.00
21.1c 111111, plain and PC	3.00
111121 plain and PC	5.00
22c Flag 1, 7, 13 PS/5	14.00
1, 7, 13 PS/3	10.00
3 PS/5	48.00
3 PS/3	11.00
14	30.00
2, 4, 12, 15, 14, 19, 22, 71	3.00
4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 17, 18, 20, 21	5.50
(22c) "G" Eagle 1, 2	7.00
(22c) "G" Official 1 PS/3	32.50
23c Lurch Wagon 2, 3 (solid tag)	3.50
3 (unfilled, dull or shiny)	3.50
23c Present A111, 212	3.50
A222 for middle 2	3.50
A222 thin middle 2	4.00
A112, 122, 333	4.50
23c USA A1111, A222, 1111 (shiny)	4.00
5111, 1111 (dnd gum)	4.50
A2222, A2233, A3333, A4364, A4443, A4444, A4453	4.50
1111 plain (over)	40.00
24.1c London 1	3.50
25c Bevel Wagon 2, 3, 4	3.50
1, 5	4.00
25c Yosemite	
Block 1, 7, 7, 15, 15	4.00
Block 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	3.50
Block 9	9.00
Plan 1	40.00
Plan 6	12.00
Plan 2-3, 7-11, 13-14	3.50
(25c) "G" Earth 1211, 2222	4.25
1111, 1222	2.50
25c Honeybee 1, 2	3.50
1 Orig. full seal	20.00
(25c) "G" Present 511111	3.50
(29c) "G" Baby	
1111, 1222, 2222	3.50
1211	20.00
2211	5.00
29c Flower 51111, 52222	5.00
5111	5.00
52222 (Purple oval)	5.00
29c Mt. Rushmore Flag	
1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7	3.50
7 Toledo Brown W/ PS/3	127.50
5, 8	6.00
9	15.00
A11111, A22111	5.00
29c White Horse Flag 1-16, 18	4.50
29c UWM 1 (29c PS/5) (dnd)	9.00
29c UWM 1 (29c PS/5) (shiny)	8.00
29c UWM Unites A11	4.50
29c Pine Cone PS/5, B1	4.50
29c Jones, PS/5 V11111111	5.00
29c Love PS/5 B1	4.50
29c Eagle PS/5 111	4.50
29c Liberty PS/5	4.50

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@AOL.com




"G" stamps

Mount 32c 6PS/5	4.75
A1314, 1417, 3114, 3426, 4426	10.00
A435	FOR
Sold since, V11111	5.50
5c and 25c "G" stamps are listed above.	
S1 Souvenir 1, 3	8.00

The unorthodox collector

Collecting PNCs from the inside out

By Roger de Poont

I cannot tell whether this happens to everybody, but when I was growing up, one of the questions that kept me awake nights was: "What happens to the hole in the doughnut?"

I have not yet lost the shyness that kept me from asking, even though I realized that grown-ups around me must surely know. It must have had something to do with my collecting habits.

After growing up in a very poor neighborhood in New York (I remember my father saying he was the poorest physicist in the Manhattan projects), I went the usual rounds of stamp collecting: worldwide at the Benjamin Franklin Stamp Clubs, U.S. plate blocks, Disney, dinosaurs on stamps, junk mail as postal history, and finally, a new, wonderful field: PNCs!

Granted, I could not have collected them when I was growing up, but ... it was love at first sight.

Fate must have decided that I get a house right behind the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. I soon realized the boon I had: all the discards from BEP. Fascinated as I was with the Cottrell press issues, it did not take long for me to decide on my area of collecting; all PNC collectors I knew collected the stamps; I could not find one who collected perforations; you know, the hole in the doughnut, and there they were, by the billions, in the dumpsters of BEP!

You cannot imagine the excitement of going through a drawer full of the little circles, about 0.75mm in diameter, the joy of occasionally finding the Cottrell line, gorgeous purple in the 1¢ Omnibus, lustrous black in the 2¢ Locomotive, emerald green in the 8.3¢ Ambulance.... I could go on and on!

It was not long before I had to develop a meaningful system of classification to keep my growing collection straight. No less importantly, to qualify as a philatelist I had to study my material.

I came up with the classification in

Editor's note: This article was submitted to The New Yorker, which set it in type but then decided it was too esoteric for its very sophisticated readers. It sent it here, and we have retained The New Yorker's typeface and editing.



Figure 1

Figure 1, which shows my major types: F (Full) perforations, AF (Almost Full) perforations, HF (Half Full) perforations, LTHF (Less Than Half Full) perforations, AE (Almost Empty) perforations, and E (Empty) perforations. I had some doubts about HF, which I originally named HE (Half Empty), but my wife, a die-hard optimist, prevailed and it got its definitive name.



Figure 2

This classification served me well for wide or smudgy joint lines, but for thin lines such as the ones you are apt to find in 5.2T4 (Yes, I know that it now goes under another name, and I will change it as soon as I receive my copy of the 1992 PNC Catalog), I had to resort to the classifications in Figure 3: DTM (Down The Middle), NQ (Not Quite) which can be R (Right) or L (Left), CTE (Close to the Edge), SC (Still Closer), and NL (No Line). I am trying to find a sure way to tell E from NL, because they look awfully alike, even to the trained eye.

For those issues that developed two parallel lines, such as 3T1, possibly because of the angle the plate edge made with the press (we shall have to ask Ken Lawrence about this), I sought refuge in the classification in Figure 3 which shows PLL (Parallel Lines Left), PLC (Parallel Lines Center) PLR (Parallel Lines

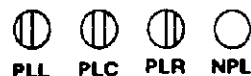


Figure 3

Right), and NPL (No Parallel Lines), which is tricky to differentiate from NL and E. I am studying the patterns of deformation of the paper fibers at different angles of application of compression forces; therein may lie the answer.

I have been able to plate, perhaps more specifically to strip, the 8.3T5 and 8.3T6, two stamps listed in my old, worn-out 1991 PNC Catalog as never having gone to press, but this again shows how one cannot trust data from BEP, the 10.9T3 and 10.9T4, and 5.2T3 and 5.2T5. I am only one hole short of plating 18F6!



Figure 4

A few of my specimens, shown in Figure 4, have kept me puzzled; they may very well be very old leftovers from the printing of vertical coils.



Figure 5

Some real rarities that I may exhibit some day are shown in Figure 5. 5A gave me more than one headache until I realized that it was a 1T misperfed through the "8" of "1800s"; 5B I finally identified as a misperf through the bottom of a 5.2T, and 5C, although more easily identified, is quite rare—a misperf through the plate number of 8.3T3. 5D shows one of my prize possessions, the bottom of a black 9, that resulted from the ephemeral pairing of Plates 9 and 10 of 2T. That batch of stamps was destroyed, but nobody at BEP thought of destroying the perforations. It was my good luck to have gone to check

that blustery autumn day, how well I remember September 25th of '84!

For all good things, however, there must be a balance: I look with sadness at the pages forever destined to remain empty: those assigned to the imperforates.

There are a few little problems in my area of collecting: I had a lot of trouble convincing any of the major accessory makers to produce mounts that will fit my material, or to take the trouble to produce minitongs. Since all my material is mint and not postally used, I hate to use hinges.

Along the way I have picked up a few pearls I can share with collectors. The floor of your perforation room and the health of the friends to whom you show your collection are very important. It isn't that you'll catch a disease, but I shall never forget my almost complete 18F6 (nine perforations) which I showed to a fellow philatelist. I did not realize he had a cold, and on his taking a really

deep breath, I lost three perforations that he inhaled; the rest were blown into the brown shag carpet and oblivion when he completed his sneeze. I did not vacuum the room for six months after that while I searched every single hair of the shag. I finally gave up.

Since then, I keep surgical masks at the door, and anybody coming in wears one. My perforation room floor is now in smooth black linoleum. A minor fracture suffered when I fell down because I was not wearing my perforation room crepe-sole shoes has been the only untoward consequence. (By the way, after a few years, I have been extremely lucky in being able to reassemble anew 10 of the 11 perforations of 18F6.)

Still eluding my efforts to identify them are the two specimens in Figure 6. The fact that they are black makes me think they came from 2T, and it would be one of the earliest

(to be modest) reports of a break in the joint line, but the engineers at BEP tell me this is most unlikely; the possibility of a foreign body that prevented ink penetration has been considered, but the ends of the line are too straight and smooth to make this likely. We will continue pursuing the search for an explanation. With the myriads of questions that come up at every turn, I will have enough to keep me occupied for the rest of my collecting life. To top it all, a very suspicious package came in the mail a few days ago and I have not seen it since. Something tells me I am getting a UV lamp for my birthday.

Happy collecting, and do not let anybody tell you what to collect.

Editor's note: Mr. de Poont is a distant relative of the DuPonts of Delaware, a poor relation.



Figure 6

New PNC Catalog is indispensable

The 1995 Plate Number Coil Catalog, compiled by the Plate Number Coil Study Group, edited by Richard J. Nazar, Nazar Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 7303, Somerset, NJ 08875-7307. Spiral bound, \$32.95 plus \$3 shipping; hard cover, \$49.95 plus \$3 shipping; both books, \$75 plus \$6 shipping.

By Tom Maeder

The 1995 Plate Number Coil Catalog, edited by Richard J. Nazar, has been a long time coming. It is easy to pick at the details of anybody else's work. Before I do, let me say at the start that this is an absolutely essential reference work for anyone who is a serious PNC collector. It contains vital information, not just for the collector of strips of five, but also for collectors of the numerous PNC specialties.

My biggest single disappointment is the absence of tables which had appeared in Steve Esrati's 1991 edition. Whereas the precancel gap data are present under each issue's section, it is helpful for gap collectors to have a single table showing all known positions.

Similarly, the table of postal rates for all classes of mail during the PNC era is helpful to collectors of postal history. It, too, was present in the 1991 edition, but is absent in the new edition. The checklist and scarcity table for PNCs on first-day covers is missing, also.

Listing constant plate varieties is a

challenge. Rob Washburn's catalog of varieties lists every conceivable constant variation, and some that are not constant. His is the definitive work on the subject. Nevertheless it is proper for Nazar to list the principal plate varieties, and he does. An attempt has been made to list every known gripper crack. Plate cracks have been collectibles since the 19th century, and have been listed in Scott's from the beginning.

Constant varieties resulting from pitting and gouging on the plate present other problems. Some issues (such as 10.1¢ Oil Wagon) have constant dots all over the place. Once the editor made the decision to list some varieties that are not the result of cracks, the omission of the others leads logically to a charge of incompleteness. It appears that the criterion was "Does the variety have a name?" Hence, "perched parrot," "artillery shell," "flying hyphen," etc., are illustrated, but "dot over i" and "dot at 5L," etc., are not. Fair enough, I guess.

An earnest attempt has been made to list the earliest known use and realistic market price for all PNCs on commercial-use cover. My opinion is that these listings are thorough and prices are realistic. The only "maybe" are tagged fractionals which, being philatelic creations, are anybody's guess as to market value. Most

are priced at a slight increment over the used single price.

Paper types, being Rich Nazar's forte, are definitely treated with a thoroughness lacking in previous editions of the catalog. Paper types are separately listed and priced in the body of the listings.

The "biography" of each stamp is a little lengthy for my taste, and probably of little interest to most collectors. On the other hand, it does lend credibility to this work as the *magnum opus*. Anyone who needs the name of the engraver, designer, modeler, etc., will find it here.

As in any work of this length and scope, there are a few editorial errors that might have been averted by a closer proof reading, but they are few and relatively insignificant.

There can be little doubt that the editor and his contributors did not merely "slap this together." It is meticulously done and has a pleasant and usable layout. The spiral binding allows it to rest open on the table during use. The cost may seem high, but I cannot imagine being without it.

*Editor's note: It was difficult to find a reviewer because all who worked on the catalog felt that they could not review it. Maeder, a member of the PNC Study Group, is a former president of PNC³ and the founding editor of its journal, *Coil Line*. He did not work on the catalog.*

'G's are a snap for collectors of self-sticks

By Gerald H. Clark

While PNC collectors have been tearing their hair out trying to find all possible plate-number combinations on "G" coils, self-adhesive collectors have had it relatively easy with the ATM and convertible booklet "G" stamps.

Only two plate numbers—V11111 and V22222—have surfaced on the booklets and both have liner position C.

Carton labels show that these booklets were produced by Avery Dennison on Nov. 3, 1992. The corresponding coil issue has been reported only with the plate-number combination V11111 with liner position A.

Most collectors were expecting the usual automatic shipment of a small supply of ATM sheetlets to their philatelic windows. It appears that such shipments were diverted to banks using automatic teller machines. Collectors would be wise to order these from the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center before the new charges go into effect on April 1. There are no plate numbers or liner positions on the ATM.

New Love Cherub

Feb. 1 saw the release of the undenominated first-class Love Cherub sheet stamp and the self-adhesive convertible booklet. This marks the third time that designs of self-adhesives have paralleled sheet stamps (1993 Christmas Toys and the "G" stamps came earlier) and is the first self-adhesive in the new 20-stamp format.

The only plate-number combination found so far is B1111-1 with liner position D. This liner position is significant for a Banknote Corp. of America (BCA) product; it marks the introduction of a new press.

All past BCA products have had line positions A or B and have been produced on

sheet-fed presses. As you can see in "Data Bank" on Page 37, this issue was produced on a six-color Goebel offset and a four-color Epikos intaglio press with a 360-subject plate.

[This piece of information was added to the technical details put out by the Postal Service at the request of the Plate Number Coil Study Group.]

Master carton labels show the print date of Dec. 15, 1994.

Remember, too, that starting this year all U.S. stamps will have the year printed in the design portion of the stamp.

The cover of the self-adhesive pane carries an ad for the *Stamps, etc.* catalog. The end card for select stock now says "PHIL-ATELIC."

But where's the coil?

Many of us have been trying to order Item 66991, the undenominated Love Cherub self-adhesive coil, for several weeks. When you ask for this item, you are told that it is a strip of 20 stamps. When you order a quantity, the computers at the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center give a "sold out" prompt to the order taker.

After several calls to customer service and others in the cave, it is still unclear whether this coil was even produced. If not, how will first-day covers be serviced. The sole reason given by Postal Headquarters for the production of self-adhesive coil stamps is for making FDCs.

If it is available, why can't we buy it?

New packaging for stores

A new packaging concept for postal store self-service products was launched with the introduction of "G" self-adhesives.

Old packaging measured 4 1/4 by 6 inches and showed the old USPS logo printed

on white stock. This has been replaced by more tightly fitting packages with indigo background and the new logo in white lettering.

Both plate numbers on the "G" booklet have been found in both types of package. The new Love Cherub booklet will be found only in the new.

A word to the wise: If you make a purchase from the postal store, make sure the window clerk demagnetizes the package! Although no longer visible, the packages contain a security attachment that will set off an awfully loud alarm when you leave the store. Believe me, it's embarrassing! If postal workers were able to deliver the mail as quickly as they were able to leap over the counter to stop me, there would be no need for Express Mail service. Luckily for me, the clerk from whom I purchased the stamps confessed to not demagnetizing the packages, but it is also wise to ask for a receipt at the time of purchase—just in case!.

Esрати finds new number

While on his way to the printer with the January issue of *TPN*, Steve Esрати stopped at his bank to fill a simple collector request for an ATM with a receipt. Steve made the purchase, put both items in an envelope, and mailed them without giving a glance at the sheetlet.

The receiving collector was shocked to find the plate-number combination V2222 (then an unreported number) on the Cardinal ATM.

On the day Steve made the purchase, Phoenix-area collectors reported that ATMs there were dispensing V2222s. Since then, they have been found in orders sent from the cave and most dealers have been able to obtain supplies.

Self-adhesive master list as reported through Feb. 10, 1995

By Gerald H. Clark

Code to text on liner

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

An asterisk (*) in front of a number indicates that the number was also found in self-service packaging for postal stores.

NOTE: No pricing this month because of fewer dealer ads.

2431a 25¢ Eagle and Shield

A1111 _____ C-D
Call: No numbers _____ C-D

2475a 25¢ USA Flag ATM

No numbers _____ A from back

2478a Red Squirrel

D1111 _____ D

D22211 _____ D
* D22221 _____ D
D2222 _____ D
* D23133 _____ D
Call: No numbers _____ C

2479a 29¢ Rose

(UPC 91) (error) S111 — A
* (UPC 94) S111 _____ A
Call: No numbers _____ C
(Yellowish clear splice)

Note: 40% of the first production was incorrectly printed with Universal Product Code (UPC 91) for the \$2.90 African Violet booklet, instead of the correct UPC 94 for the \$3.22 Rose booklet. Copies with the error (UPC 91) are known with cutting-guide marks on either the left or right side of the pane. No cutting-guide marks have been found on copies of the corrected UPC (UPC 94).

2480a 29¢ Pine Cone

B1 _____ B
B2 _____ B
B3 _____ B
B4 _____ B
B5 _____ B
* B6 _____ B
* B7 _____ B
B8 _____ B
B9 _____ B
* B10 _____ B
B11 _____ B
B12 _____ B
B13 _____ B
B14 _____ B
B15 _____ B
B16 _____ B
Call: B1 _____ A-B
PNC Catalog: SA29PC-B1
(clear or red splice)

2522a 'F' (29¢) Flag ATM

No numbers _____ A from back
2531A 29¢ Torch ATM

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

Note: There are two varieties of the booklet with the first cover (Scott BC68A, text only): lacquered and not lacquered. The second cover (Scott BC68B) features an enlarged picture of the stamp.

29¢ Eagle and Shield

2595a Banknote Corp. (Brown)

B1111-1 _____ A-B
B1111-2 _____ A-B
B2222-1 _____ A-B
B2222-2 _____ A-B
B3333-1 _____ B
B3333-3 _____ B
B3434-1 _____ B

- * B3434-3 _____ B
- B4344-1 _____ A-B
- B4344-3 _____ B
- B4444-1 _____ A-B
- B4444-3 _____ A-B
- Coils: No numbers _____ A-B
(yellow or red splices)
- 2596a Dittler Bros. (Green)**
- D11111 _____ A
- D21221 _____ A
- * D22322 _____ A
- D32322 _____ A
- D32332 _____ A
- D32342 _____ A
- D42342 _____ A
- D43352 _____ A
- D43452 _____ A
- D43453 _____ A
- D54561 _____ A
- D54563 _____ A
- D54571 _____ A
- D54573 _____ A
- D54673 _____ A
- D61384 _____ A
- D65784 _____ A
- Coils: No numbers _____ A
- 2597a Stamp Venturers (Red)**
- * S1111 _____ C
(top, center, and bottom positions)
Notes: Cutting-guide marks are known on top and bottom positions.
Coil: No numbers _____ C
- 2598a 29¢ Eagle**
- M111 _____ A-B
- M112 _____ A-B
- Coils: 111 _____ A-B
- PNC Catalog: SA29E-111
(clear splices, one splice known with A liner to the left of the splice and B liner to the right)
- (one row is known with numbers on the back of the liner at 18-stamp intervals with Position A)
- 2599a 29¢ Statue of Liberty**
- * D1111 _____ D
- D1212 _____ C-D
- Coils: D1111 _____ B
- PNC Catalog: SA29SOL-D1111
(Red splice has been found on coil)
- 2719a Christmas Train ATM**
- V11111 _____ No writing
- 2802a 29¢ Christmas Toys (4 designs)**
- V111-1111 _____ B
- * V222-1222 _____ B
- V222-2112 _____ B
- V222-2122 _____ B
- V222-2221 _____ B
- V222-2222 _____ B
- V333-3333 _____ B
- Coils: V1111111 _____ B
- PNC Catalog: SA29G-V1111111
(red splices)
- 2803a 29¢ Snowman ATM**
- V1111 _____ No writing
- V2222 _____ No writing
- 2813 29¢ Love Sunrise**
- First printing**
- B111-1 _____ B
- B111-2 _____ B
- B111-3 _____ B
- * B111-4 _____ B
- B111-5 _____ B
- B121-5 _____ B
- B221-5 _____ B
- B222-4 _____ B

- * B222-5 _____ B
- B222-6 _____ B
- Second printing**
- B333-5 _____ B
- B333-7 _____ B
- B333-8 _____ B
- B333-9 _____ B
- B333-10 _____ B
- B333-11 _____ B
- B333-12 _____ B
- B333-14 _____ B
- B333-17 _____ B
- B344-11 _____ B
- B344-13 _____ B
- B434-10 _____ B
- B444-7 _____ A-B
- B444-8 _____ A-B
- * B444-9 _____ A-B
- * B444-10 _____ B
- * B444-13 _____ B
- B444-14 _____ B
- * B444-15 _____ B
- B444-16 _____ B
- B444-17 _____ B
- B444-18 _____ B
- * B444-19 _____ B
- Third printing**
- B555-20 _____ A
- B555-21 _____ A
- Coils: B1 _____ A
- PNC Catalog: SA29L-B1
(yellowish clear splices)
- 2873a 29¢ Christmas Santa (SV)**
- * V1111 _____ A
- Coils: V1111 _____ A
- 2874a 29¢ Cardinal ATM**
- V1111 _____ No writing
- V2222 _____ No writing
- NEW 32¢ "G" undenominated**
- * V11111 _____ C
- * V22222 _____ C
- Coils: V11111 _____ A
- NEW 32¢ Love undenominated**
- * B1111-1 _____ D
- Coils: Unavailable, see story.
- Coming new issues**
- March 17—\$5.76 Flag over Field ATM (pane of 18)
- May—\$6.40 Flag over Porch (pane of 20)
- Same coil of 5,560
- June—\$6.40 Rose (reprint) (pane of 20)
- Same coil of 5,560
- April—\$6.40 denominated Love Cherub (pane of 20)
- Same coil of 5,560
- April—\$11.40 2-ounce Love Cherub (pane of 20)
- Same coil of 5,560
- June 17—\$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 photo-copy would be appreciated.*

Great Americans varieties

1¢ Mitchell 1	LR, UL	Light print	\$1.00
2¢ Stravinsky 4	LR	Vert Tag Break	12.50
2¢ Stravinsky 5, 6	UL, UR	Vert Tag Break	12.50
4¢ Schurz 2	LR, LL	Vert Tag Break	10.00
4¢ Schurz 2	LL	Vert Tag Break	15.00
5¢ Buck 1	UR	Vert Tag Break	10.00
5¢ Buck 2	LR	Track tagged	5.00
5¢ Buck 3	LR	Vert Tag Break	10.00
5¢ Buck 4	UL, UR	Vert Tag Break	10.00
5¢ Block 1	LR, UR	Light print	1.40
5¢ Muñoz		Inscription block (6) tagged	.70
5¢ Muñoz		Inscription block (6) untagged	.70
10¢ Red Cloud 2	all bot LR	Phos. (mott), shiny gum	.85
10¢ Red Cloud	singles	Untagged (error)	25.00
13¢ Crazy Horse 2	LL	Light print	4.50
13¢ Crazy Horse 3, 4	UL	Track untagged	5.00
15¢ Cody 2 (PB4)	UL	Overall tagged, tagged salvage, Horiz Tag Break	5.00
15¢ Cody 2 (PB20)	UR, UL, UR	Overall tagging, tagged salvage, Horiz Tag Break	10.00
17¢ Carson 4	LR	Track tagged	5.75
17¢ Carson 13	UL or LL	Track untagged	5.75
17¢ Carson 14	UL, LL	Track untagged	5.75
17¢ Carson 15, 16	UR	Vert Tag Break + Track tag	27.50
17¢ Carson 15, 16	LR	Vert Tag Break	25.00
20¢ Galvaded 5, 6	LL, UR	Control	12.00
20¢ Galvaded 8, 9	LR	Control	75.00
20¢ Truman 3	UR or LR	Paper lin	6.00
20¢ Truman 4	all 4 pos.	Phos. (mott), shiny gum	2.50
20¢ Apper 82	UR, LR, LL	High bright paper (NEW)	3.75
23¢ Cassatt 2 PB4	all 4 pos.	Overall tagged, Horiz Tag Break	3.75
(Only way to tell overall tagged from phosphored)			
23¢ Cassatt 2	all 4 pos.	Overall tagged	3.75
(These may all be phosphored. I'm not sure.)			
23¢ Cassatt 3	all 4 pos.	Phos. (mott), shiny gum	3.00
25¢ London 2	LR	Block tagged	10.00
29¢ Warren S1, S2	a few	high bright or bite (P5/20, S13.00)	2.35
29¢ Warren		Inscription block (6)	3.00
29¢ Jefferson S1	all 4 pos.	Plate blocks of 8	6.50
29¢ Jefferson S1	UR, LR	Plate blocks of 8 (high bright)	8.50
29¢ Jefferson S2	all 4 pos.	Plate blocks of 8	4.50
30¢ Laubach 2	UR, LR	Overall tagged	75.00
40¢ Cheannovt 2	UR	Phos. (mott), shiny gum	4.00
40¢ Cheannovt		Insc block (6) (overall tag or phos)	5.00
45¢ Cushing 1	UL	Overall tagged	7.50
50¢ Nirmitz 2	UR	Overall tagged	17.50
50¢ Nirmitz 3	LL	Overall tagged, P5/20, HTB	20.00
(Only sure way to tell overall tagged from phosphored)			
52¢ Humphrey		Inscription block (wrong) (6)	5.50
52¢ Humphrey		Inscription block (right) (6)	5.50
75¢ Wilkie		Inscription block (6) (both gums)	6.50

These are but highlights of my Great Americans. My customers have found that if they order special positions and I'm out of them, I send out back-orders promptly when I obtain them.

I am always buying Great Americans at half my sales price. My stock is constantly changing. Send a 32¢ SASE for my latest price list.

The most complete encyclopedia of the Great Americans is my *Summary of Data* (5th revision), 18 pages, \$7.50 (\$5 if you ordered previously).

Stephen G. Esrati

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 E-Mail: StevStamps@AOL.com

Thank you!

For their help in keeping us up to date on self-adhesives, thanks go to Richard Beecher, Doug Iams, Clair Jones, Mike Keller, Robert Kitson, Joann Lenz, Alan Malakoff, Wayne Meyers, Carol Morehouse, Michael Perry, Joseph Reyrner (Get well, quick!), Rick Staiger, Rob Washburn, and, of course, the Dumpster Diver.

'G' rarity heads toward \$200 per PS/5

Hold on to your hats, here comes another Eagle and Shield A32333 only this time it's a "G" stamp.

Like its infamous predecessor, this stamp was produced by American Bank Note. Its number is A4435 and some collectors obtained it from new-issue dealers at minimum price, which is why some dealers sold the "G"s only as sets.

Dr. Robert Rabinowitz and Al Haake had heard several reports of the existence of A3114, but always had their checks returned. They began to doubt that the number existed.

Then another dealer found A3114. That dealer had been unable to obtain A4435, so a swap was negotiated: 40 strips of my A3114 for 40 strips of your A4435.

Haake said he believed the A4435 strip would quickly sell for more than \$200.

Dr. Rabinowitz, meanwhile, spotted these numbers as difficult to find: A1314, A3114, A3426, A4426, and A4435.

One tagging bargain missing

It started with a confusing notice from PNCs Unlimited saying that all E&S varieties would sell for \$7 until Feb. 30, 1995.

No, it was not because Teresa Wajek added two days to February that the notice was confusing. The mixup came

when one checked what she called "all" E&S varieties. Her price list shows only two items reduced to \$7, these are the tagged 11111 and the tagged 22221.

Other dealers have not followed suit. Al Haake's price on 22221 remains at \$15; Mike Lipson charges \$12.95.

Lipson charges \$29.50 for 11111; Haake's price is \$25.

But the main problem with Wajek's notice is the word "all." She apparently did not know that 22222 also exists with erroneous tagging. And that one is expensive, and going up.

White House prices climbing

Al Haake has raised the price of all his 29¢ White House strips from \$4.50 to \$5.25. The new number 18 carries a \$6 pricetag.

Haake also raised his price on BEP UVM stamps with dull gum and with the new typeface. Haake was the dealer who cleaned out the machines at Ann Arbor, Mich., before dull-gum stamps ran out. His original price was \$10. It has risen gradually since then. In his Winter list, the price is \$15.

His initial price on the shiny gum UVM stamps is \$15.



Dumpster yields E&S without denomination

By Gerald H. Clark

An anonymous correspondent reports finding a brown Eagle and Shield with the intaglio printing (the 29¢) omitted as he was going head over heels in the dumpster of his local post office.

Shown above, canceled and on piece, this major self-adhesive error is currently retailing at \$300 for mint singles. It has shown up in auctions.

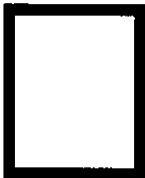
"The Dumpster Diver" also found a major Stamp Venturers EFO, a pane of the 29¢ Rose with a 6mm shift in the die cut.

TPN ran out of room this month, so this will be shown in the May issue.

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