

CHECK INTO PNC³!!!

Do you enjoy collecting Plate Number Coils (PNCs)?

Have you been at it for years or are you just getting started?

PNC³ MAKES IT MORE INTERESTING!!!

Would you like to know more and keep up to date about the basic and advanced points of finding, collecting and selling PNCs?

JOIN PNC³ NOW!!!

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The application should be submitted, along with the application fee and first year's dues, to the Club Treasurer (see application). The name of the applicant will be published in the next issue of the journal, *COIL LINE*, for review by current members. Upon acceptance, the applicant will receive a membership number and card, and will then be eligible for discounts offered to PNC³ members. The membership approval process may take up to three months for completion. Applicants will receive issues of *COIL LINE* during the approval process.

Membership dues are \$16.00 per year which includes *COIL LINE* electronically anywhere in the world. There is a \$14.00 surcharge for bulk-mail delivery of *COIL LINE*. Dues are payable by December 31st for the following year.



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Enclosed are my dues for membership in the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club (PNC³). I understand that the full amount of my remittance will be returned to me if my application is not accepted.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone () _____ Evening Phone () _____

E-mail address _____ Are you a stamp dealer? _____

My membership number(s) in the following philatelic societies are listed: (If number is not known, put a check mark.)

APS _____ USSS (BIA) _____ AFDCS _____ ATA _____ Other societies (specify) _____

PNC³ Sponsor or Philatelic Reference _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I agree to abide by the club's Bylaws and Code of Ethics, which are published on the website.

Signature _____ Date _____

This application is NOT ACCEPTABLE without all the above information.

Check here if you do not wish your name and address published on the annual roster.

PNC collection interest(s) MINT: PS7 _____ PS5 _____ PS3 _____ Singles _____ USED: Singles _____ Multiples _____

VARIETIES: Precancel gaps _____ Plate/mat _____ EFOs _____ Back Numbers _____ Die Cuts _____

COVERS: Commercial _____ First Day _____ Other PNC Items: _____

Make check payable to PNC3 and mail to the treasurer: John Himes, PO Box 453, Cypress, CA 90630-0453.

First year dues are pro-rated based on the month your application is received. Please remit payment according to the chart below. The amounts listed in the chart include a \$2 application fee.

Application Received During:	Electronic Delivery	Bulk Rate Mailing	First Class Mailing	Foreign
January - February - March	\$18.00	\$32.00	\$40.00	\$45.00
April - May - June	\$14.00	\$28.00	\$36.00	\$41.00
July - August - September	\$10.00	\$24.00	\$32.00	\$37.00
October - November - December	\$22.00 *	\$36.00 *	\$42.00 *	\$47.00 *
Yearly dues after acceptance	\$16.00	\$30.00	\$38.00	\$43.00

*Rate covers period until end of the following December.

NOTE: The Club Journal, *COIL LINE*, is sent electronically anywhere in the world. It can be mailed domestically by Bulk Rate for a \$14.00 surcharge annually (\$32) or First Class with an additional \$8.00 surcharge (\$40). Mailings to Foreign addresses are sent First Class and are \$45.00. Basic dues are \$16.00 after the first year.

Please send *COIL LINE* (select one): Electronically (default) Bulk Rate (\$32) First Class (\$40) Foreign (\$45)

FOR CLUB USE ONLY

DATE RCV _____ CARD _____ ACK _____ C/L _____ Member # _____

Our 26th Year

PNC³



Coil Line

Journal of the PNC³ www.pnc3.org
Plate Number Coil Collectors Club
American Philatelic Society Affiliate # 185

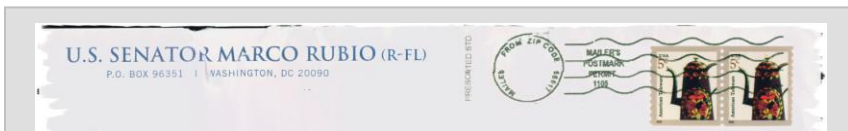
June 2013
Vol. 26, No. 6
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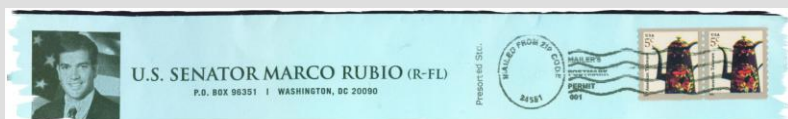
▲ "Cobras" spotted... *page 73*

Another PNC found in unusual place...
page 73 ▶

New PNC found in unusual place...
page 77 ▶



(from March 2013 cover)



(from May 2013 cover)



(excerpt of November 2011 cover shown on page 80)

5¢ Toleware coils in constant use...
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Another test of liquid soap soaking method...
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- Current Plate #s, Roll Sizes... *page 75*
- PNC³ Members Booster Program... *page 76*

Coil Line

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Coil Collectors Club (PNC³)

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Print Edition Mailings: Brian and Cory Snippen
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Scott #2130b plate # 3 imperf.
(issued June 27, 1988 25 years ago)

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(For *Coil Line*-related matters, please
consult column at left for appropriate contact.)

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Third Page	\$ 65.00	Back Cover	Add \$ 50.00
Quarter Page	\$ 45.00	Inside Cover	Add \$ 25.00
Sixth Page	\$ 35.00	Color, full page	Add \$ 100.00

(For Color Ads, Electronic Version only, Add \$25.00)

A check or money order, made out to **PNC³**, must accompany camera ready ad. Advertising copy must be submitted by the 1st of the previous month prior to the publication date. Please send all copy to Ronald Blanks, Coil Line Editor, PO Box 9282, Chesapeake, VA 23321.

The Classified Ad rates are six cents a word per issue, with a minimum of \$3.00 per individual ad. (Two 50-word ads per year per member are available at no charge. There is a 10¢ a word charge for words over 50.)

All material, including articles submitted, will be edited and formatted for inclusion in **Coil Line**, and must be received by the 1st of the month prior to publication.

Coil Line reserves the right to edit copy as necessary.

Coil Line is published monthly and as a member benefit is sent electronically with annual dues of \$16.00. Printed version of **Coil Line** is also available. To U.S. addresses, to receive printed version add \$14.00 for Bulk Mailing; add \$22.00 for First Class Mailing. To Non-USA addresses, add \$27.00 for mailing. Past issues of **Coil Line** available at \$2.50 per copy (quantities limited).

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All content matters, letters to the Editor, and advertising questions should be sent to **Coil Line**, c/o Ronald Blanks, PO Box 9282, Chesapeake, VA 23321. Phone 757-478-8719; email: coillineeditor@yahoo.com.
For mail delivery problems, contact the mailer below.

Postal mailings prepared by: Brian Snippen, PO Box 5542, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87185-5542. Email: bsnippen@comcast.net. Phone: 505-404-1624. Mailed from Zip Code 87185, on or near May 26, 2013.



President's Message

from the PNC³ president ...

It's not too early to start planning to attend the club's Annual Meeting in Milwaukee on August 10th. Based on my attempts to book a room near the show venue, I believe hotel rooms are filling up rapidly. The meeting will be held on Saturday at 1:00 p.m. in a room to be announced. Milwaukee is not that far from Chicago, and we expect a large attendance from members in the Midwest.

Orders for PNC³ Catalog items received by April 26th have been shipped. If your order arrived after April 26th, please be patient as Frank Covey is now traveling until the end of May, and will not ship again until early June.

For those members ordering the Illustrated Glossary, inventory of the older (2008) edition ran out. A new edition (April 2013) will be substituted for all orders. If you want the new edition, but have not ordered it, contact Andy Jakes (see contact info on preceding page).

Please see the article elsewhere in this issue on a new membership recruiting program that the Board has approved to use for the balance of this year. There is an incentive offered to entice you to reach out to non-PNCers and acquaint them with the benefits of PNC³ membership.

Please make copies of the membership application found on the wrapper of this issue and be sure to put your name in the space for "sponsor" so that you get credit for anyone who signs up. When offering the application to a prospective member, be sure to point out that dues for the balance of the year are reduced proportionately.

A report by Mike Conway on the Regional Meeting held in Boxborough this year contains comments on his efforts to set up regional chapters of PNC³ and encourages others to do the same. If you think it's a good idea to get together with others who share PNC interests, please contact Mike at mjconway@hotmail.com or call him at 203-459-9784. It's hoped that this concept will result in increased membership and a better PNC collecting experience for those getting together regularly.

—Gene Trinks

Welcome!

If you are a new reader to *Coil Line*, PNC³ is in our 26th year. We are a community of stamp collectors specializing in plate numbered coil issues of the USA. The first PNCs were issued in 1981 and, in February 1988, a network of PNC specialists founded our club. *Coil Line* was launched in May, 1988 and serves (along with other club literature) to inform collectors on the many aspects of PNCs. Studies include scarce numbers, varieties, printing methods, market values, PNCs on mail, and more. Thank you for visiting, and we hope you'll join us!

Philatelic Show Report

Michael J. Conway

The Connecticut Chapter of PNC³ held a Regional Meeting at the Boxborough Philatelic Show on Saturday, May 4, 2013. Six members attended a one-hour meeting hosted by Mike Conway. The meeting received news that the PNC³ elected officers recently approved two proposals:

1. Any member who sponsors two new members between now and the end of the year will not have to pay 2014 dues. The surcharge for hardcopy *Coil Line* mail delivery (if needed) is payable, however.

2. Next month a letter will be sent to those members who were dropped at the beginning of the year for non-payment of dues. The letter will explain that those who rejoin the Club will receive monthly *Coil Line* issues for the balance of 2013 at no expense. In December they will send payment for 2014 dues. *(please see page 72)*

Want to Sponsor a Regional Meeting?

Contact Tony Bruno for suggestions. He can put you in contact with others who have taken on the task. Several members have made it a regular habit of promoting meetings in their area.

Regional Meeting Chairman

Tony Bruno, PO Box 624, East Lyme, CT 06333-0624; email, tbbee@aol.com

(PNC³ meeting notices in this column are free. Please submit details to the Editor 3 months before the meeting.)

Membership Booster Report

Michael J. Conway

Based on face-to-face discussions along with phone conversations I have concluded that 95% of PNC³ members do not meet face-to-face with other members. As a result, most members do not come together and exchange ideas, learn from other members, swap stamps, make friends, etc.

Over time I have created stamp-hobby chapters in Connecticut. One example is the Irish Philatelic Chapter. For some 14 years this chapter met four times a year in Meriden, CT. (Meriden is located in the center of the state). All members were within 50 minutes of driving. Those four Sundays each year were great times for all. As for PNC³ members residing in Connecticut, we have also formed a chapter. We hold meetings on selected Sundays.

With the recent Boxborough Show in mind (see "Philatelic Show Report," page 71), we have studied the location of local stamp chapters in MA. Based on American Philatelic Society information, there are 19 local chapters. Given the size of the state, it could require two hours or more for some members to reach a venue. Eight of the 19 chapters are clustered in the greater Boston area. A first estimate of these eight chapters' attendance indicates there are a minimum of 15 PNC collectors (some of whom are PNC³ members and some are not). We have selected a venue for future meetings of the Connecticut PNC³ collectors, and all of the individual collectors could drive to the venue in 30 minutes or less. There are other potential clusters in MA that we will try to study over time.

Since *Coil Line* reaches PNC³ members throughout the country, we suggest consideration of applying the cluster idea in your state or a part of a state. I am available for additional guidance if you have an idea. My contact information: phone 203.268.5896 or mjcconway@hotmail.com.

Upcoming National Meeting

**APS StampShow – August 10
Delta Center – Milwaukee, WI**

The PNC³ board meeting and annual meeting will be held on Saturday, August 10. The APS show is Aug. 8 – 11. More details will be announced later.



Editor's Message

Welcome to our second issue in the 26th year of publishing *Coil Line*. It's the third issue in a row that a page is devoted to the "Current Plate Numbers, Roll Sizes," etc. chart. It occurred to me that if you're not going back to the May issue and marking its chart with the correction noted on page 75, and not marking the April issue's chart with the typos noted in May, an older chart might lead you astray.

This might happen if I grabbed an older issue when looking up something I thought was established (in contrast to "new" PNCs or varieties that are included only after being reported). For instance, days ago I had already completed some math for an article about the 10¢ Clock coil when I received Frank Covey's "catch" of a typo in the May chart about the 2006 version. The math showed the chance of getting a certain cover with two PNCs affixed (one being a 2008 10¢ Clock).

Frank's fix changed a 31 plate # interval to 14, and would almost double the chances that the math determined. As it happened, the cover involved the 2008 date (interval indeed 31) and not the 2006 one.

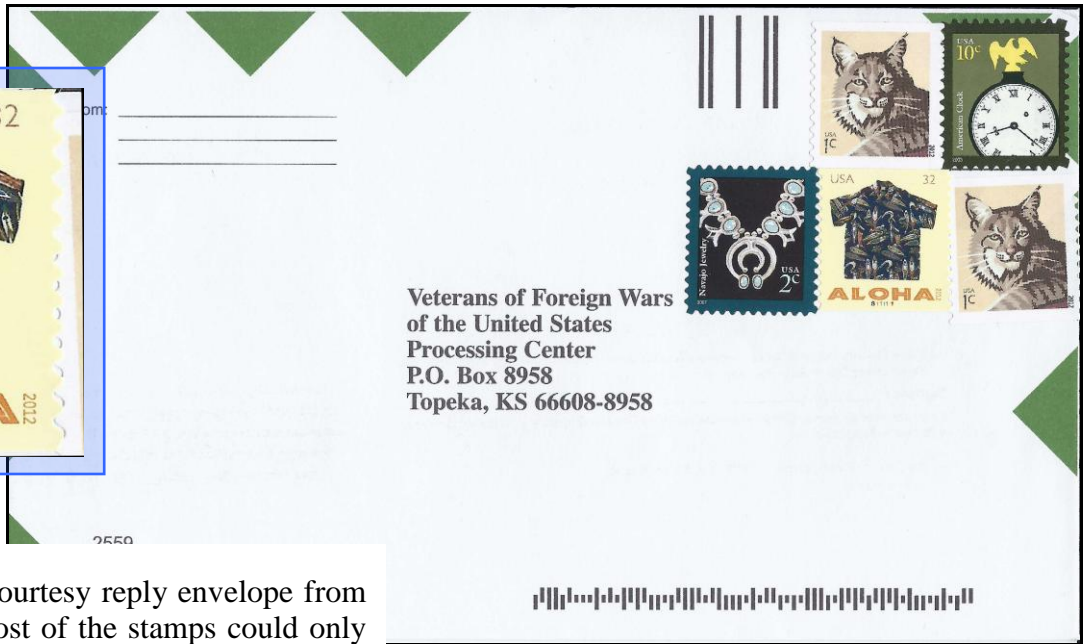
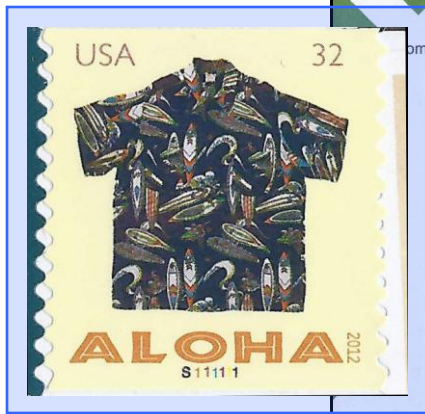
Speaking of the chart, its overhaul to make it easier to read and update resulted in a few more "bugs." When the proofread file was converted using Adobe software to prepare the publishing files, the last row of specs (Flags of Our Nation sets) got dropped in both the April and May issues. We think we tracked this down to tight tolerances between page paste-up elements, so we made allowances that hopefully avoid the cut-off as of this issue. A similar problem removed the page-number footer on the May back page; this was remedied later for electronic-version subscribers (if you didn't re-download your May copy, you can still do so). – *Ron Blanks*

(from page 71, Philatelic Show report)

Bill McMurray, a resident of Rhode Island, presented an outstanding exhibit titled: "U.S. Flag & Transportation Coil Issues of 1981" that was awarded a Gold Medal and APS Medal of Excellence (post-1980 exhibits).

Over the course of the three-day show held May 3 through 5, the chapter added six new members. Attendance at the show numbered 2000. The PNC³ Connecticut Chapter thanks Jeff Shapiro and his team for making the show more comfortable each year. – *Michael J. Conway, Membership Chairman*

Readers' Forum



Shown here is a courtesy reply envelope from the VFW I acquired. Most of the stamps could only be applied by hand, including a PNC of the 32¢ Aloha Shirts from a roll of 100. While the 1¢ Bobcat coils could have been applied by affixing machine, at least one was not (and likely neither was). One overlaps an edge of the hand-affixed 10¢ Clock; the other is partly overlapped by the hand-affixed PNC.

– Michael Mules #1289

[Reply envelopes with labor-intensive preparation are sometimes supplied to the “upper echelon” segment of a donor or prospect mailing list to convey a personal touch. Some regional American Red Cross offices have used these on a regular basis. – Editor]

The round Tuit wasn’t very large, but I finally got one so I can now ask: What do we know about signs on a Sennett-made coil stamp to show the coil came from the top row of the printed web? Theoretically, an extra-tall stamp or web mis-slitting of the rows might capture a register mark or other print-ink evidence above the stamp design.

But I was thinking of something more mundane that might be seen in misaligned die-cutting of a normal-size stamp. Below are three examples of “cobras” on Sennett 37¢ Flags (Scott 3632C) I accumulated years ago. The example in the middle doesn’t quite look like the other two. A closer look shows that the die cutting “stops” so the paper is actually torn at both corners. Would this be a hint that the stamp came from the top row, or is there another possible reason? – Ron Blanks #2119



A “cobra” die-cut section has been found at top corners on the Sennett-supplied (2012) Four Flags issue (pictured at left). – Frank Covey #319



This and That

Doug Iams

New *USA Philatelic*: Hit or Miss Surprises

No reprint of the 3¢ Coffeepot is listed in the new 2013 Quarter 2 issue of *USA Philatelic* even though we know it exists (with plate # S2222; one is illustrated elsewhere in this *Coil Line*).

10¢ Clock Reprinted with New PNC

A “2/2013” reprint of the 10¢ Clock is also listed. The specs given (offset printing, plate # interval every 31 stamps) are the same as the 2008 printing (Scott 3763), which is no longer listed in *USA Philatelic*, although the original 2006 version (Scott 3762) is still offered. No indication is given as to whether it is phosphor-tagged or not. Presumably the reprint they are offering is the S2222 printing, which PNC³ officer-at-large Michael Mules has confirmed on a Disabled American Veterans cover. Back numbers are not expected as it has recently been reported that water-activated gum (WAG) coil stamps will no longer carry back numbers. They started omitting the back numbers on WAG coils when a shortage of food-grade ink developed. It was supposed to be a temporary allowance, but apparently they decided to make it permanent.

5¢ Toleware Reprinted without Backnumbers

The surprise in this *USA Philatelic* is a 5¢ Toleware “12/2012” reprint is also listed. The given specs are identical to the original 2002 printing, and Richard Beecher reported in the online BidStart/Virtual Stamp Club forum that the strip of 25 he received from the Caves with a “REP AMERICAN TOLEWARE” sticker showed no differences from the original besides the lack of back numbers.

Full Rolls Only of WAG Coils?

The other interesting thing is that all the WAG coils are only listed as being available in full rolls. While this would be a new problem for collectors expecting to obtain a PNC in the strips of 25 that

used to be offered, Richard was obviously able to order a strip of 25 for the 5¢ Toleware reprint. However, he was not able to order a strip of 25 of the 10¢ Clock, so clearly it is a confusing situation as this is written in early May.

New “Strip of 10” Option Online

At the opposite end of the spectrum, the May 10 *Linn’s Stamp News* reports the 46¢ Star and 46¢ Kaleidoscope Flowers are not only available in strips of 25 (with plate #), but also in strips of ten (without plate #) through the online USPS Postal Store, although this option is not listed in *USA Philatelic*.



▲ AP’s, Avery’s ▲ Sennett’s # locations

PNCs on Different Flags for 2013 Editions!

The plate # interval for the Avery version of the new 2013 Flag for all Seasons coils of 100 is erroneously listed in *USA Philatelic* as every 21 stamps, which isn’t possible (it has to be a multiple of four since there are four designs). Reports from collectors with stamps onhand are in and stamp supplier Sennett has thrown us a curveball. The plate number on the Aston Potter and Avery coil versions is on the “Spring” stamp, but Sennett put it on the “Summer” stamp. This is the first time something like this has happened (among multi-design issues), and it will be interesting to see if this gets corrected if Sennett does a reprinting.

.....

PNC³ Publications’ 2013 Offerings Still Available

The PNC³ Catalog Committee still has in inventory all of the items offered on the April-May catalog order form. Please see the April or May *Coil Line* for the 2013 list (found on the inside wrapper page). Please submit your order and remittance to Andrew Jakes.

Current Plate Numbers, Roll Sizes, Die Cuts & Tagging

Issue	Plate#	Roll	Freq	Cut	Tag
1¢ Bobcat	P1111	3k	27	VP	
1¢ Tiffany Lamp 2008	S11111	3k	31	w	
		10k	"	w	
1¢ Tiffany Lamp 2003 ≠	S11111	3k	14	w	
2¢ Navajo Jewelry	S111111	10k	31	w	
3¢ Silver Coffeepot	S1111, S2222	10k	14	w	
4¢ Chippendale Chair	S1111	10k	14	w	
5¢ Toleware	S1111111	10k	14	w	
10¢ Clock 2008 ≠	S1111	10k	31	w	OA
▶	S2222	"	"	w	"
◊ 10¢ Clock 2006	S1111	10k	14	w	
20¢ Washington	P11111, P22222	100	31	VP	OA
32¢ Aloha Shirts	S1111111	100	25	PV	S
33¢ Apples	S11111	100	32	PV	S
42¢ Flags of Our Nation Set 1, Set 2, 44¢ Flags of Our Nation Set 3, Set 4	S111111111	50	10	PV	S
44¢ Flag ≠	S111	3k	31	w	S
44¢ Flag (affixer) ≠	V1111	3k	16	VP	S
		10k	"	"	"
44¢ Quill & Inkwell ≠	S1111	3k	27	S	S
		10k	"	"	"
45¢ Weather Vanes	S1111111	3k	25	S	S
		10k	"	"	"
46¢ Kaleidoscope Flowers	S11111	3k	28	PV	S
		10k	"	"	"
46¢ Patriotic Star	S111	10k	27	PV	S
(5¢) Art Deco Bird	P1111, P2222	3k	27	S	
		10k	"	"	
(5¢) Sea Coast	P7777, P9999	3k	27	S	
	P7777 ≠, P9999 ≠	10k	"	"	
(5¢) Sea Coast	B111	500	10	w	
		10k	"	w	
(with luminescent ink)	S1111	3k	14	w	
		10k	"	w	
	S11111	500	31	w	
(10¢) Banner	S111	10k	27	S	
	V111, V222, V333	3k	10	VP	
		10k	"	"	
	S111	500	31	w	
(25¢) Spectrum Eagle	V11111	3k	30	S	
		10k	"	"	
(25¢) Eagle 2003	S3333333	3k	20	S	
	S1111111, S2222222, S3333333	10k	"	"	
(weakly tagged)	S3333333	10k	"	"	S

Supplier IDs by Plate Number Prefix:
P = Ashton Potter
S = Sennett Security Products
V = Avery-Dennison

Issue	Plate#	Roll	Freq	Cut	Tag
(25¢) Spectrum 2005	S1111111	3k	25	S	
(25¢) Spectrum 2004	S1111111	3k	10	w	
▶ (∞) 2013 Flags-Seasons	P1111	100	32	VP	??
▶ (∞) 2013 Flags-Seasons	S1111	100	32	PV	??
▶ (∞) 2013 Flags-Seasons	V1111	100	20	PV	??
▶	"	"	"	VP	"
(∞) 2012 Four Flags	P1111	100	32	VP	OA
	P2222	"	"	"	S
(∞) 2012 Four Flags	S11111, S22222	100	32	PV	S**
(∞) 2012 Four Flags	V1111	100	32	PV	S
	"	"	"	VP	"
(∞) 2011 Liberty & Flag ≠	P111111	100	32	VP	S
(∞) 2011 Liberty & Flag	S111111	100	32	PV	S
(∞) 2011 Liberty & Flag	V111111	100	40	PV	S
	"	"	"	VP	"
(∞) 2012 Flags of Our Nation Set 5, (∞) 2011 Flags of Our Nation Set 6	S111111111	50	20	PV	S

Key to Symbols

▶ **new number or variety** ◊ **update or correction**
≠ new "sold out" (strips of 25 with PNC) or no longer shown in *USA Philatelic* (USPS catalog)
?? unreported attribute (∞) Forever first-class value
Freq – frequency or interval of # appearing in roll
Cut – **w** = water-activated gum (perforated);
PV = peak/valley die cut; VP = valley/peak;
S = serpentine without corner variation.
Tag – phosphor tagging if not blank/white: S = surface phosphor with smooth appearance; U = surface phosphor with uneven or grainy look; OA = overall.

Notes to this Report

** – Until data are received to the contrary, it is assumed the new S22222 PNC version of Sennett's 2012 Four Flags coils has same phosphor tagging as S11111 version.

Frank Covey caught the persistent typo for the 2006 10¢ Clock's # interval, now fixed (14, not 31).

The *USA Philatelic* catalog for 2nd quarter 2013 shows only strips from 3k rolls of (5¢) Sea Coast remain available.

Note PNC interval change from 10 to 20 for Sets 5, 6 of Forever Flags of Our Nation.

Note: Existing post office supplies of 2012 Four Flags coils will hold up release of the new 2013 edition of the Forever coils in some post offices.



Safe Soaking

Andy Jakes



I tried the “Safe Soaking” process with warm water and Softsoap to remove self adhesive stamps from paper, as initially suggested in the March 2013 issue of the *American Philatelist*. I gathered about 50 different U.S. stamps issued during 2012 for my experiment, including coils, stamps from booklets, and commemoratives.

None of the stamps floated off the paper, as one experiences with water activated stamps. I soaked the second batch of about 25 stamps for six minutes rather than the suggested four minutes, with no apparent difference in end result. I found that current U.S. self-adhesive stamps need coaxing to be removed from paper. Almost one-half of the stamps had no self-adhesive material remaining after using the warm water-Softsoap mixture. I reverted to the lighter fluid soaking process to remove the self-adhesive from the other stamps. The items produced by Sennett Security Products more readily lost the self-adhesive bonding. Yes, a few stamps could not be removed successfully from the envelope paper and were discarded.

I am disappointed that the “Safe Soaking” process was not totally successful, but probably will continue to use it. It reduces the need to rely entirely on the lighter fluid separation approach.



Images here are from stamps that went through similar testing using liquid soap [described in last month's Coil Line (page 65)].

Members Recruiting Program

Membership Chair Mike Conway is offering an incentive to all members to recruit new members to PNC³. This is an opportunity for members to get to know other coil collectors a little better or encourage other US collectors to adopt the PNC specialty as part of their collecting efforts.

Try to reach out to your local stamp club and attend a meeting or two to get to know what others collect, then show them part of your PNC collection to interest them in PNC collecting if they do not already collect coils. Most stamp clubs have a majority of members who collect US stamps, but many may not be pursuing a specialty such as PNCs. Having a specialty lends a great deal more enjoyment to one's collecting.

For those already collecting PNCs who are not members of PNC³, show them copies of your *Coil Line* and emphasize the benefits of knowing more about PNCs. Each month contains new information on PNCs and can add to one's collecting enjoyment significantly.

Details of the recruiting program follow. For regular members, we offer free dues (mail surcharge still required) for next year if you recruit **two** new members during this calendar year (applications postmarked by December 31st). Since Life Members do not pay dues, a financial reward of \$5 will be sent for each new member signed up this calendar year.

A membership application is included in this issue on the inside of the wrapper or, for electronic subscribers, appended to the monthly content. Please duplicate the form, and be sure to add your name to it in the appropriate place before handing it out to prospective members. Don't forget to mention the reduced dues amount payable for the balance of the year.



3¢ Coffeepot S2222 in PNC Combo

Ron Blanks

Ordinarily, finding a new PNC like the S2222 of 3¢ Coffeepot on-cover with another PNC would not be news. Alert readers will recall the S2222 was first reported earlier this year on a Disabled American Veterans reply cover. When the DAV franks some of its courtesy reply envelopes with “live stamps,” it typically uses two different denominations of coils. (*Coil Line* happens to show elsewhere in this issue some of these covers.) Based on probabilities given later, both coil strips might contain PNCs.

The cover shown nearby is an outcome of this chance. But unlike the typical reply cover, this one is found in interesting circumstances: It is encased in a cellophane mailer partially obscured by other contents.

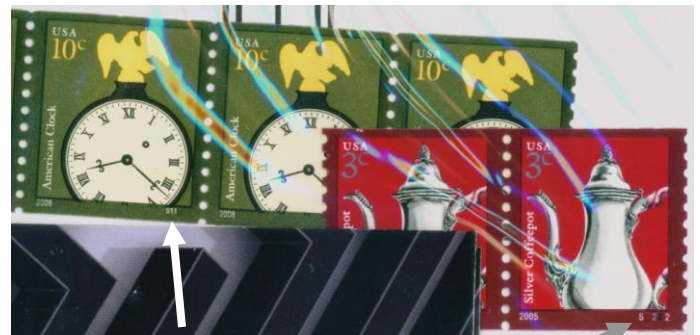


This technique is employed at times by some direct-mail marketers as yet another variation in

creativity. Their aim is to pique the recipient’s interest so the mailpiece is opened rather than discarded. Cleverly, the insert over the reply cover is at a reduced size so that in most cases of content-shifting, odds are some of the colorful stamps remain visible.

Because the location of any plate number is at the bottom of coils, usually any PNC is not visible through the unopened cellophane at first (except in extreme cases of shifting with a right-most PNC location). I’ve collected several of these types of mailings in recent years from a handful of organizations. I refrained from opening the package and tried to shift the contents to reveal any PNCs.

In this case, the coils’ position and the various dimensions involved easily revealed the 3¢ PNC near one corner. The 10¢ strip was a more typical challenge. Careful tapping moved the insert to the edge at one side and the cover to the other side. Fortuitously, one of the 10¢ Clocks is also a PNC. (See the closeup image below.) But more handling will move the contents again, hiding the S1111.



S1111 on 10¢, S2222 on 3¢

The odds of having a PNC in each strip are chances of a number on any of the 10¢ coils (4 of 31, or 13% of any strip of 4) times chances on one of the 3¢-ers (2 of 14, or 14.3% of any pair). The likelihood that any of this mailing has two PNCs is just under 2% (1.859), or almost one in every 50. This discussion portends an article I have long planned but not “gotten-to,” calculating the odds of PNCs on each American Design coil strip used on various DAV reply covers! It would be interesting to know which PNC combos, if any, have significantly lower odds.

But my intent here, besides showing an interesting combo PNC cover, is to point out that the “hidden” 10¢ PNC (please see page 80)

5¢ Toleware Rolls Constantly Used Regardless of Rates

Ron Blanks

Once it became known that the USPS was offering reprint rolls of Sennett Security Products' 5¢ Toleware (e.g., *USA Philatelic* 2013 Quarter 2, page 38), collectors speculated online why more rolls of 10,000 were needed. The main discussion centered around the first-class rate change from 45¢ to 46¢ this past January and its impact on Disabled American Veterans' use of stamps on its courtesy reply envelopes.

Like the report in last month's *Coil Line*, the 46¢ version of DAV reply covers are showing up with strips of three 10¢ Clock and strips of four 4¢ Chippendale Chair coils. (A similar cover I received in May is shown below). Some speculated that the DAV's use of 5¢ coils during the 45¢ rate depleted USPS inventory sufficiently to require more rolls, regardless if the present rate is not a multiple of five.



Other speculation proposed the DAV would affix ten stamps to courtesy envelopes, six 5¢ and four 4¢. But a cause of continuous consumption of 5¢ rolls irrespective of first-class rates was mostly overlooked.

Five cents (of the U.S. dollar) happens to be the common factor of values assigned to all presort undenominated coils provided by the USPS since 1995. The presort coils are tied to a streamlined policy effective that year and continuing ever since. The policy supports mass mailers' use of live postage on bulk mailings in the face of a myriad web of discounted rates.

Thus, we were introduced to more PNCs in the

form of non-profit organization-rate coils (priced 5¢ each, for mailers qualifying for special rates in the bulk third class, later called standard, class). A nonprofit mailing with one of these coils affixed to each mailpiece is counted as having 5¢ per piece postage paid so far. When the mailing is accepted, the mailer's account is charged the difference between this amount and total postage due, based on the eligible work-done discounts earned (sorting, automation barcoding, etc.).



Likewise, commercial standard-class mail can use the "presort standard" coils, priced a nominal 10¢ each; first-class postcards used presort coils that cost 15¢; first-class mail have coils that cost 25¢. The USPS set these "minimum" values back in 1995 to be below the lowest discounted rates possible in the respective mail classes.

Besides the system simplifying accounting greatly, the low values accomplished two things: They allowed the mailers to tie up less funds invested in coil rolls between mailings, and of course they almost eliminated the need for refunds when a mailing's postage cost totaled less than the postage value affixed.

When the USPS standardized the set of presort coils for mailers to choose from (based on the class of mail used),

(please see page 80)

Classified Ads

PNC used singles, used strips, MNH PS5s. Great prices! Guaranteed quality! No hassles! Visit <http://www.angelfire.com/ca5/HimesPNCs> or send LSASE for lists to John Himes, PO Box 453, Cypress, CA 90630-0453. Please specify what you collect. Or e-mail johnwhimes@yahoo.com. Member 957L

* * *

Getting bored? Looking for a new collecting area? How about used PNC strips (PS2, PS3, PS5)? They only occur on perforated issues, and are challenging to find. Send LSASE for list to John Himes, PO Box 453, Cypress, CA 90630-0453 or check the Used Strips link on my website.

.....

Membership

New Applicants

Herbert H. Holmes (2223)
PO Box 64

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herb14103@verizon.net (585)798-3156

James W. McNulty (2224)
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Joseph R. Signor, Jr. (2226)
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Littleton, MA 01460-1102
(978) 844-2876

Reinstated

Charles W. Ashcom (2209)
cw.ashcom@gmail.com

Display Advertising Rates *Coil Line*

• Full Page	\$ 100.00
• Half Page	\$ 80.00
• Third Page	\$ 65.00
• Quarter Page	\$ 45.00
• Sixth Page	\$ 35.00
• Eighth Page	\$ 20.00
• Back Cover	Add \$ 50.00
• Inside Cover	Add \$ 25.00
• Color Ad (<i>for full page</i>)	Add \$ 100.00
• Color Ad - Electronic Version	Add \$ 25.00

(Discounts available for multiple insertions.)

CLASSIFIED AD rates are 6¢ per word, with a minimum cost of \$3.00 per insertion.

PNC³ members are entitled to two free 50-word ads per year. (There is a 10¢ charge for each word over 50 with free ads.) Contact the editor to place an ad (see page 70).

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Previous Membership Count	515
New Applicants	4
Reinstated	1
PNC³ Membership Count	515



Address Changing?



Change of Address forms and membership applications are available from Harvey Wales, Secretary, 13 Birmingham Place, Vernon Hills, IL 60061. Email: Secretary@pnc3.org.
Membership form is also on our website at:
www.pnc3.org.

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(from page 77, 3¢ Coffeepot S2222)

places this cover in an interesting category: PNCs in the mailstream but hidden from sight. I believe our previous highlighted entry in this category was a 23¢ Washington #V46 on a first-class parcel, covered by a large red “SCAN” sticker (July 2010 *Coil Line*). I have at least one more type of cover in this category to share in the future; do you have any of a similar kind? We should try to feature these a little more than once every three years!

Will 5¢ Toleware reprint rolls (no backnumbers) show differences from earlier rolls?

This is not likely, seeing the range of “normal” variability found in older rolls. This random sample of three PNCs shared by John Himes shows how the color shades can differ slightly, given the high number of inks involved as shown in the plate #s:



(from page 78, 5¢ Toleware Rolls)

the minimum postage values to be applied uniformly to each mailpiece was also set for cases where the mailer applies postage *without using an undenominated presort coil*. This point is overlooked by most collectors; I’ve seen some interesting discussions as debate arises about creative mailing uses. Various parts of the Domestic Mail Manual will get quoted as discussion misses this simple implication of the various regulations:

The USPS allows creative leeway on use of stamps as long as these nods to the accounting work at mail acceptance are made: (1) Each mailpiece must be uniformly franked, (2) the franking must be a minimum value for the respective class (see presort coil values, above), and (3) of course for non-presort (or non-*precanceled*, the traditional term) stamps, the mailer must precancel them by acceptable means under a Mailer’s Postmark Permit (MPP).

Now we might recall seeing an example of that most-oft use of 5¢ Toleware rolls (first released in 2002) year-in and year-out, irrespective of the rates: Pairs are sometimes used as attractive alternative to the presort-standard rate (10¢) coil (current design, the “Patriotic Banner”). These seem especially popular for political mailings, as examples depicted at left and on the front cover show.

Interestingly, you might wonder why nonprofit mailers don’t use the 5¢ Toleware more often as a substitute for the current (5¢) presort coil [Art-Deco Bird], since presort coils can become “old hat” soon after their introduction. (The USPS stated way back in 1995 it was their plan to introduce new presort coil designs about every three years, but that lofty goal quickly fell by the wayside once the 1990s passed.)

Instead of single 5¢ Toleware stamps with MPP cancels, we usually see combos that add up to 5¢. I imagine that once a mailer arrives at a decision to “do something different” to get their mail opened by leaving the presort-coil path, they like to combine a second design since they’re using the overhead of water-activated coil affixers as well as applying an MPP cancel. (In any event, note that most mailers out-source the work to lettershops well-practiced in franking creativity. I got a kick recently by recognizing the same third-party firm had prepared both a nonprofit mailing and a political mailing. I will try to include examples in a future issue.)



Example of political mailing using 5¢ Toleware pair