

1977 EXHIBITION SOUVENIR
WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB
PENNSYLVANIA'S LARGEST AND MOST PROGRESSIVE
P.O. BOX 8711, WILKINSBURG, PA. 15221
APRIL 23-24, 1977



CUSTERS LAST FIGHT — SMITHSONIAN

13c — VERIFYING THAT CUSTERS LAST FIGHT WAS HIS LAST STAND.
18c — THE OFFICER WHO WOULD SEND SUCH A SMALL DETACHMENT OF
24c — "CHICKEN" (IT "SHOOB")
31c — SOLDIERS INTO SUCH A FRY
18c — THE ULTIMATE WINNERS, WAITING FOR THE FIGHTING TO SUBSIDE.





518



New discoveries on the 25¢ Honeybee coil

One of my fondest memories as a plate number coil collector is the fun my friends and I had at the Omaha Stamp Show in September 1988.

I roomed at the show hotel

Plate Number Coils

By Ken Lawrence

with two fellow Linn's writers, Wayne Youngblood and Steven Rod. Both men are as enthusiastic about United States stamps as I am. (Youngblood has since left the Linn's staff to become the editor of *Scott Stamp Monthly*, and I now contribute a bimonthly column to that magazine also.)

Linn's editor-publisher Michael Laurence wasn't there, but he did enter his exhibit of Transportation coil stamps in competition. His entry won a silver medal, an excellent result for a display of modern material at a national-level show (1988 was the first year that the Omaha show's grand award winner was admitted to the American Philatelic Society's World Series of Philately competition).

Opening day of the show, Sept. 2, began with the dedication ceremony for the 25¢ Honeybee coil stamp. The

featured speaker, then Postmaster General Anthony Frank, included a teaser line about a possible future Elvis Presley commemorative issue in his speech, but all attention was on the new stamp.



Figure 1. This sleeve No. 2 PNC of the 25¢ Honeybee coil has offset and PMS yellow colors shifted about 2 millimeters to the left of their proper positions, out of register with process yellow, magenta, cyan, and intaglio black colors.

As soon as the ceremony was over, collectors formed a queue to buy stamps for their first-day souvenirs. Some promptly rode off to distant places with thematically related names such as Bee, Neb., to obtain unofficial first-day cancels.

Rod, Youngblood and I purchased the Omaha show's cacheted envelopes and others from several of the local cachetmakers who hawked their wares in the hallways. Wayne also decorated some envelopes with his own art-

work, which the postmaster general had autographed.

We each had some of our covers canceled with the show's pictorial postmark. After that we drove around the metropolitan area to get other cancellations, including those of Boys Town and the Omaha airport facility.

The three of us found plenty of Honeybee coil souvenirs to collect that day, but we were blissfully unaware of the complex features that soon made studying the Honeybee coil a cult among PNC collectors.

It was the first U.S. coil stamp to have its design printed by two separate processes, offset lithography and line-engraved intaglio. The problems associated with combining these two methods had caused two postponements of the issue date.

Initial printings were on two presses. Background colors, frame and inscription portions were printed by off-



Figure 2. An error Honeybee stamp with the intaglio black ink omitted.

set on a Goebel Optiforma press. Black details of the bee were printed by intaglio on the C press, where tagging also was applied. Registering the two images posed a tough challenge, and the quantity of waste was huge.

Later printings combined both methods in one pass through the offset/intaglio D press, but problems persisted. Either way, the printers' difficulties yielded a trove of varieties that delighted PNC collectors.

Figure 1 shows a sleeve No. 2 PNC with offset black and Pantone yellow inks shifted almost 2 millimeters to the left, out of register with the other colors. On the Figure 2 stamp, all the offset colors are properly printed, but the intaglio black is omitted.

These are just two of the dozens of varieties collectors have found on Honeybee coils. Others include offset seam lines at 25-stamp (Optiforma press) and 24-stamp (D press) intervals; black offset ink omitted; shifts of every ink color, tagging block, and perforations; imperforate and imperforate-between errors; and an assortment of serif shapes on the plate numbers.

Because this was such a tough job to print, the Bureau created a special souvenir card as a token of thanks to the employees who had worked on the stamp. Only

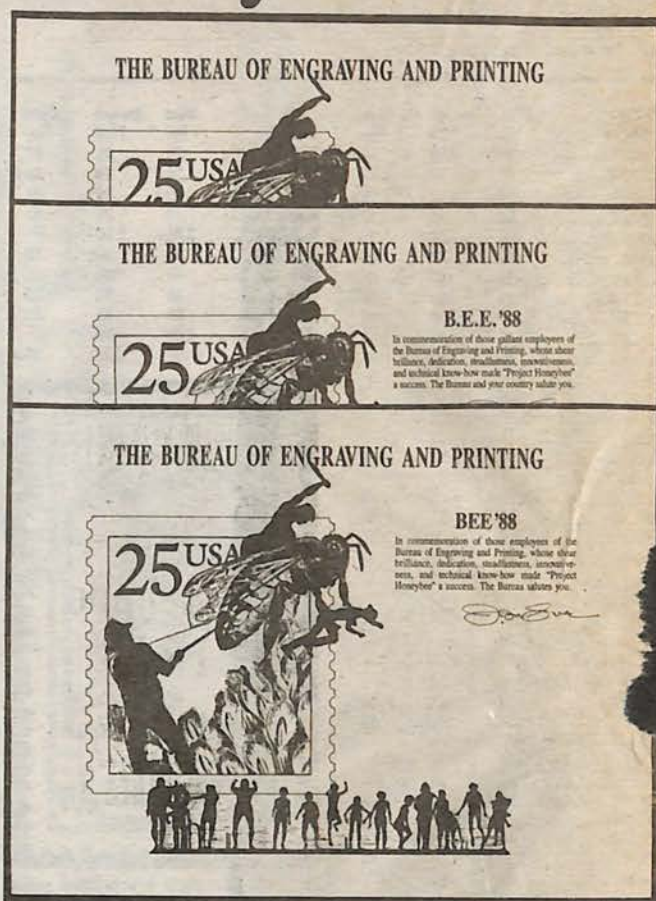


Figure 3. Three stages of the Honeybee souvenir card. Periods in B.E.E. '88 were deleted, and a corrected block of type was added in a separate printing.

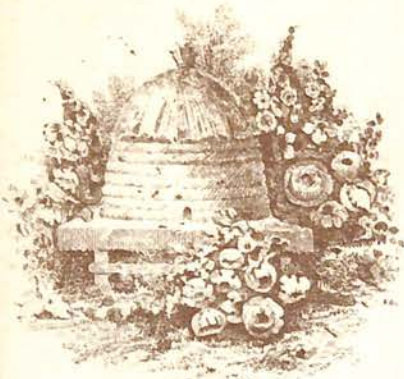
about 80 of the cards were distributed, each bearing a Honeybee coil stamp canceled first-day-of-issue.

When the souvenir cards reached the philatelic market, they were expensive. Some sold as high as \$700 each, but even at that level, collec-

tors snapped them up. But now a group of related material has appeared.

Maryland souvenir card dealer Barry Fox has obtained some of the original artwork for the card, a set of progressive color proofs, and finished prints that do not

HONEYBEE



25M/1;
#2281
C PRESS
P#1
CAT 15.
PAID 3 11/91



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

The honeybee's best-known contribution is the "nectar of the gods," honey. This year, more than 3 million beehives will produce about 200 million pounds of honey in the United States alone. To produce a single pound of honey, more than 550 bees have to visit more than 2.5 million flowers.

KMC. 25M/1; D. PRESS 30.00 CAT PAID 3

Honey Bee

Colorano "Silk" Cachet



First Day of Issue

#2281 PL#1
7 4 15.00/MH/92



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

25M/1; VI P#1 16 PRESS
FOLL SERIE
PAID 5- CAT 25- 10/30/83
IRWIN

© WHITMAN PUBLISHING CO.
PRINTED IN U.S.A.

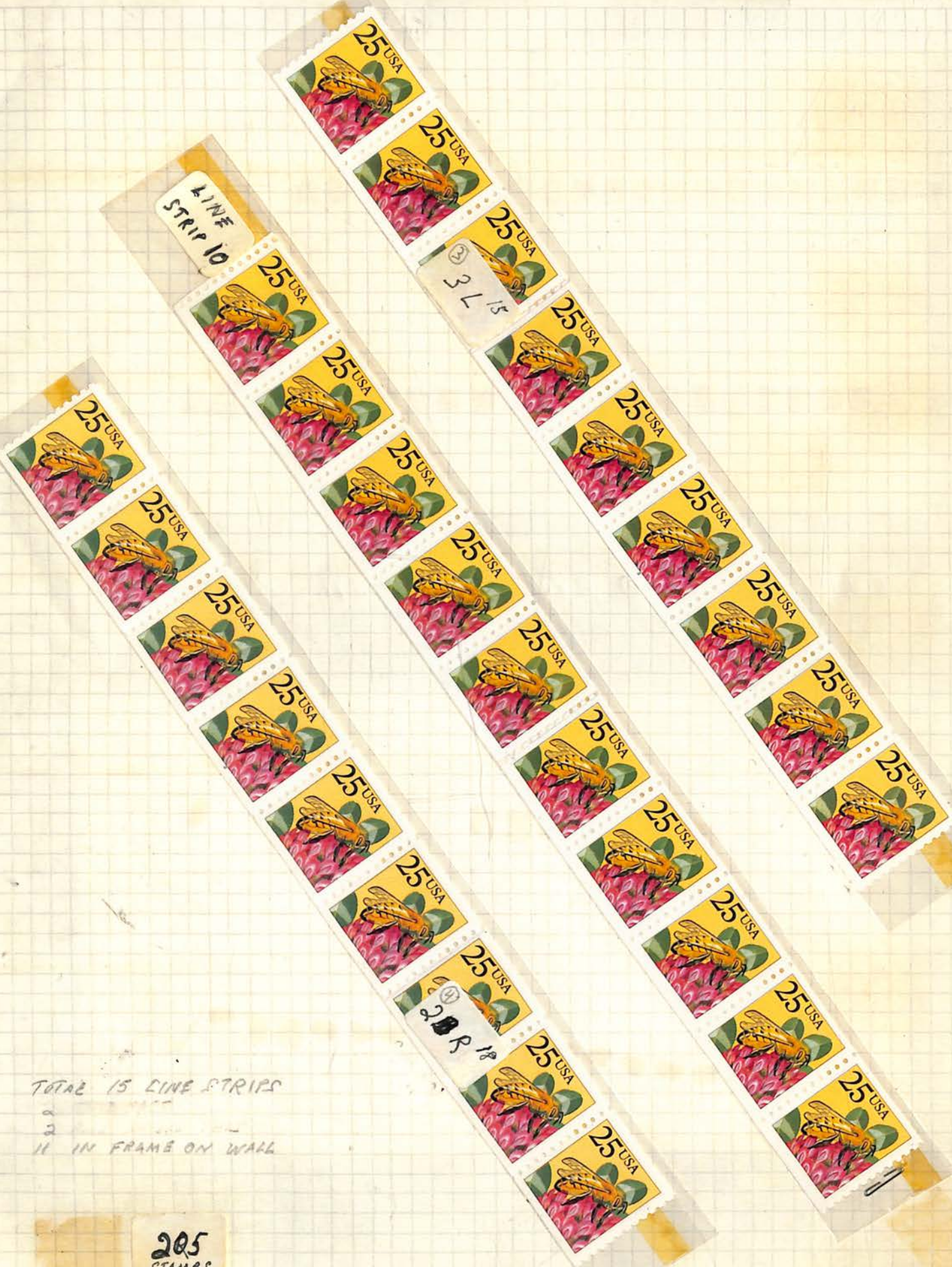
LINE
STRIP 10

37 1/2

205 R 18

TOTAL 15 LINE STRIPS
22
11 IN FRAME ON WALL

205
STAMPS





BOUGHT AS PA3/14/88
COVER MAN
TAGGED & PRESS
HOUSE OF FARNUM
25%

1000
800
BEE HF

HONEY BEE



FIRST DAY COVER



OMAHA, NE
SEP 2
1988
68108

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

PRICE
STRIP OF 3 8-
STRIP OF 5 4-
H.T. COVER 4
D PRESS 4-
20-

2281

PLATE #1

8.99

Honey Bee

Colorano "Silk" Cachet



OMAHA, NE
SEP 2
1988
68108

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



2281 #1
LARGE B/FAC
10/14/04



2281 #1
LARGE TAG

2281

Robert H. Bonoff
99 Tower Avenue
Stamford, CT 06907



COBRA ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNT

P.O. Box 360422M
Pittsburgh, PA 15251

Indicate change of address on enclosed remittance.

NAME Ms. Louise Haril
ADDRESS 4362 Lindell, Apt. 2
CITY St. Louis
STATE Mo. ZIP 63108



Begin an Adventure of
Giant Propaganda
Collect Stamps



FROM:

NAME

NO. STREET

CITY STATE ZIP CODE



COBRA ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNT

P.O. Box 360422M
Pittsburgh, PA 15251

398586



D FRES
↓



FROM:

Jamison
25904 Sandalia Drive
Valencia, CA 91355



TRUNCATED T1

COBRA ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNT

P.O. Box 360422M
Pittsburgh, PA 15251

18 MM

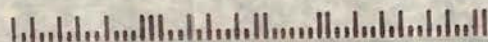
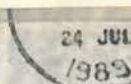
398586

NAME *PO BOX 1720*

ADDRESS *PO BOX 1720*

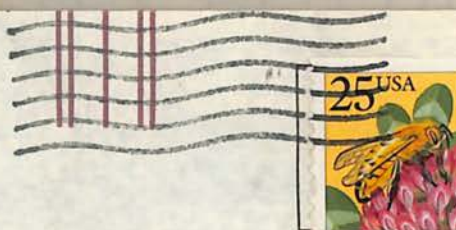
CITY *Sparks*

STATE *NV* ZIP *89432*



Indicate change of address on enclosed remittance.

Name *T. Cooper*
Address *1648 Cedar Highland*
City *Daytona Beach*
State *Fla.* Zip *32117*



CENTRE
Inch 7
WORM



Center
stamp

Inch
WORM



Inch 2R
Worm

PLATE
NO. 2



4 LINES

Line
strip
of 6



Line
strip
of 7





FOUND AT STAMP FESTIVAL
IN N.Y. 9/15/91 PNC#2
WITH LINES

HAVE 1-2
LINE STRIP
OF 10

RARES)



PAID 97
COST 76

PNC



PAID 97
COST 76



2281
SEAM LINE
3R² OF 9

PAID 8
CAT 16-



2R 7



2281
PAID 3-
CAT
T. MAZDA



BEE
OUTSIDE
FRAME LINE

2281
PAID 25-
CAT
T. MAZDA



IMPERF

2281 # PHANTOM
PAID 15-
CAT 35-
1/8 S 7/30/92



Honeybee Coil



Van

First Day of Issue

OUT OF FRAME

LINE



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



2281
25M1; P#1

CAT 35-
PAIR 1-

7/9/93



Omaha, NE

25M1; P#1 ONLY



2281 #1 set
C PRESS
L BARR

2281 #1
0.75MM
C PRESS

10x2 = 20.
CAT 25-
5/31/92



2281 set IN
COMPAS SHORT
10x2 = 20.



2281 #1 D PRESS
PAID 1.90 X 10 19-
CAT 5.25
L.B 5/15/92



2281 #1
PAID 1.90
X 20



L. BARRETT
6/28/92
PRESS



THESE ARE ALL
D PRESS 18.5MM
BY 25MM
CAT 25% MORE



9.3c #5,6 PC HASH MARK 3R; GAP 3L P312 VF-XF SET 100.00

