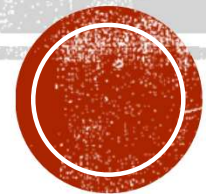


STAMP TAGGING

For Lake County Philatelic Society

2024 March 26

Dave Sadler



WHY AN INTEREST & RESOURCES

- Started this project due to expanding into minor varieties listed in the Scott Catalogue — insufficient information available; so google —
- <https://www.renostamp.org/post-boy/articles/2018/Tag-You're-It-A-Discussion-of-Philatelic-Luminescence.pdf>
- <https://stampsmarter.org/features/Tagging-Home.html>.
- Examples of problem/varieties:



WHY TAG?

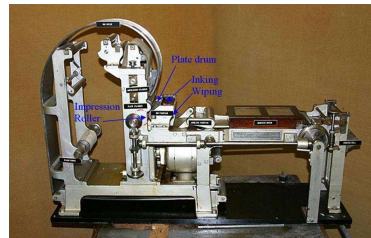
- In the late 1950s, the United States Postal Department began to look for a faster, more efficient way to process ever-increasing volume of mail.
- The major point of congestion was found early in the process were facing and post-marking the mail as it entered the system — a tedious, space taking, time-consuming task that was done by hand.
- If machines could be developed that could find the postage stamp, flip and turn it so a postmarks could be applied would be a major improvement in moving the mail through the system.



USPOD PROCESSING EVOLUTION:



- One of the first problems the USPOD had to resolve was standardized addressing and placement of the stamp. The stamp placement in the upper-right corner was resolved by an order in 1868 ***“that letters not having the postage stamp(s) in the upper-right hand corner will be rejected.”***
- The standardized address format is a continual evolution – with the first order in 1871 mandating internal markings of ***“Name/Company on one line followed by City & State/Territory on a second line”***.
- In the early 1900's the problem was not so much the volume of mail but the production of postage stamps. This was overcome with the introduction of rotary printing presses in 1922.



Stickney Rotary Web-fed Intaglio Press



1967



USPOD PROCESSING EVOLUTION:

- With the 1938 Presidential issue, the USPD made its first step into auxiliary processes to provide quality control in stamp production with the “electric-eye”.

On 1935 February 05, the US Post Office delivered its first stamps produced using the new electric-eye perforator. This new machine helped ensure better centering of stamps and resulted in a dramatic decrease in waste.



Jefferson — A279

807a	A279	3c	3mm vert. gutter, Jan. 27, 1939	30.00	3.25
Booklets					
BK100	BC8A	37c	violet, buff	85.00	
BK101	BC8A	73c	violet, pink	700.00	
807a	A279	3c	2½mm vert. gutter, Mar. 6, 1942	8.50	2.00
Booklets					
BK102	BC8A	37c	violet, buff (3)	20.00	
BK103	BC8A	73c	violet, pink (3)	45.00	



- As collectors, we are reminded by the two types of booklet pane found in this series with 2.5 mm (electric-eye) vs 3 mm gutters (straight rotary).

Electric Eyes (Photo-electric Sensors)





LUMINESCENCE:

LUMINESCENCE IS THE GLOW OF A SUBSTANCE WHEN EXPOSED TO UV LIGHT.

- **Goal** — To use this trait to define a process that uses this nearly invisible substance when added to stamps that some machinery could detect them and manipulate the letter.
- **Result** — Taggants and some inks that glow when exposed to ultraviolet light were added to stamps. A UV light would find the postage stamps that had taggant applied and the machinery would “flip” the letters so that all the stamps were in the same position and then apply the postmarks.
- The first regular production US stamp with tagging was the 1963 8c Airmail issue (Scott C64^a); quickly followed with the first tagged commemorative stamp, the 5c City Mail Delivery (Scott 1238).
- After January 1967 most all U.S. stamps were tagged.

Scott C64
(Untagged)



Scott C64a
(Tagged)



TAG EVOLUTION: *SURFACE TAG*

- In the beginning, there was **Overall Tagging** — where the taggant was ***applied on top of the printed stamp*** – edge-to-edge over the complete sheet. The drawback of this method was that the taggant proved abrasive, wearing the perforation machines pins leading to missed and ragged perforations.



TAG EVOLUTION: *(SURFACE TAG CONTINUE)*

- To mitigate this problem was the introduction of **Block (Dimensional) Tagging** — where the taggant is applied to leaving gaps between the stamps perforations.



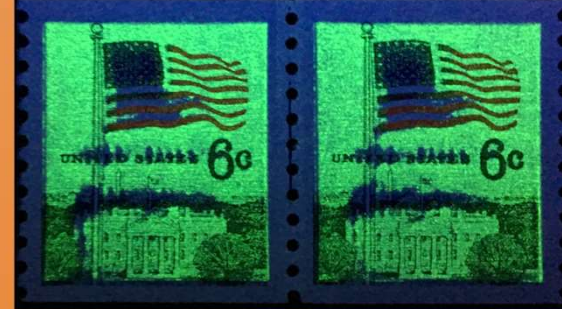
Scott 2115
Wide-Block Tag
19 mm x 21½ mm
[B-press]



Scott 2115a
Narrow-Block Tag
17½ mm x 21½ mm
[C-press]



Scott 2115b
Wide-Tall Block Tag
19½ mm x 23 mm
[D-press]



Scott 1338A
Large-Block Tag
[Huck Press]



TAG EVOLUTION: *PAPER TAG*

- The next iterations involved was adding the taggant into the paper before printing the stamps. This meant that the stamps could go to the perforators immediately after printing and produced less wear on the perforation machines due to the lower density of taggant.
 - **Prephosphored Uncoated Paper with Embedded Tagging**
 - **Prephosphored Coated Paper with Surface Tagging**



TAG EVOLUTION: *(PAPER TAG CONTINUE)*

- **Prephosphored Uncoated Paper with Embedded Tagging** (EP/ET/UP) where:
 - EP = Embedded phosphor paper
 - ET = Embedded Tagging &
 - UP = Uncoated paper.
- Paper without coating layer means that taggant can penetrate the untreated paper leading to the following variations in tagging appearance: Mottled/Grainy appearance



TAG EVOLUTION: *(PAPER TAG CONTINUE)*

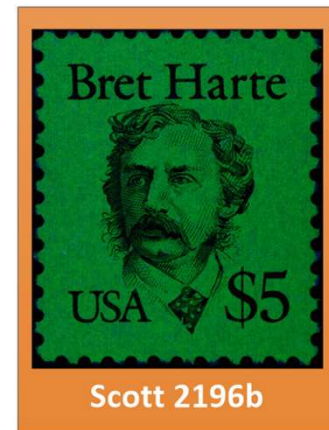
- **Prephosphored Coated Paper with Surface Tagging** (SP/ST/CP) where:

SP = Surface phosphor paper

ST = Surface Tagging &

CP = Coated paper.

- Paper with coated taggant requires less ink to print since less absorbent on which the taggant has been applied; the Taggant cannot penetrate the paper and can lead to the following variations in tagging appearance: Smooth, close and even distribution, Solid ('Even'), Dense and grainy, Solid Grainy Tagging, Uneven, Uneven Tagging



TAG EVOLUTION: *INK TAG*

- **Added To Color Tagging (AC)**
- **Glow-bar Tagging (GB)**
- **Image Tagging (IT)**
- **Screen Tagging (AT)**



TAG EVOLUTION:

- **Added To Color (AC) Tagging**
- The Tagging has been added to the printing ink - not always mentioned by Scott accordingly, sometimes as "Tagged" and sometimes as "*Luminescent Ink*". This method is still used on US stamps and postal stationery.



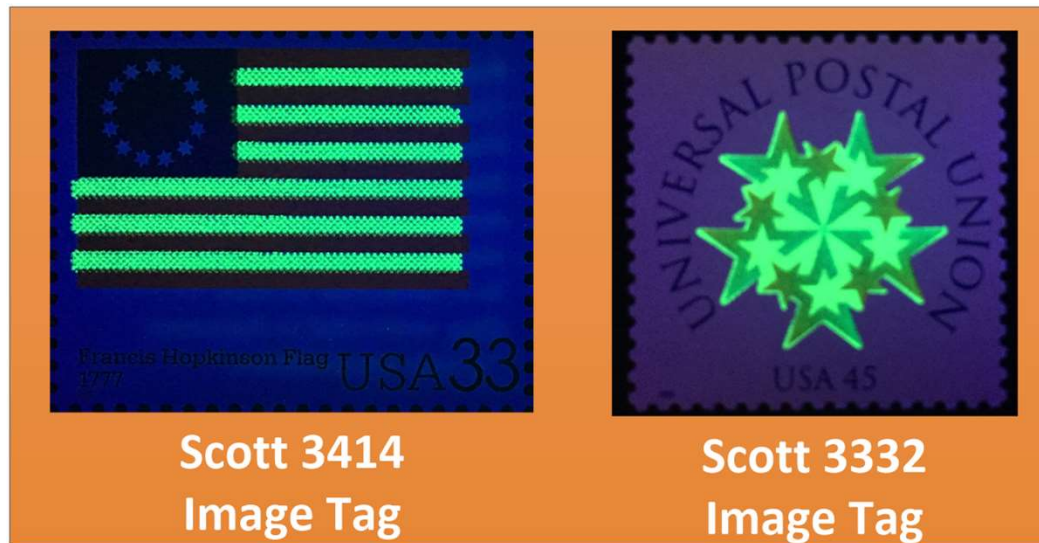
TAG EVOLUTION: *INK TAG (CONTINUED)*

- **Glow-bar Tagging (GB)**
- A vertical luminescent bar or block used on US postal stationery, differs in size, shape/position and sometimes can be seen without a UV-lamp.
- Under SWUV will sometimes give a light-pink or yellow glow.



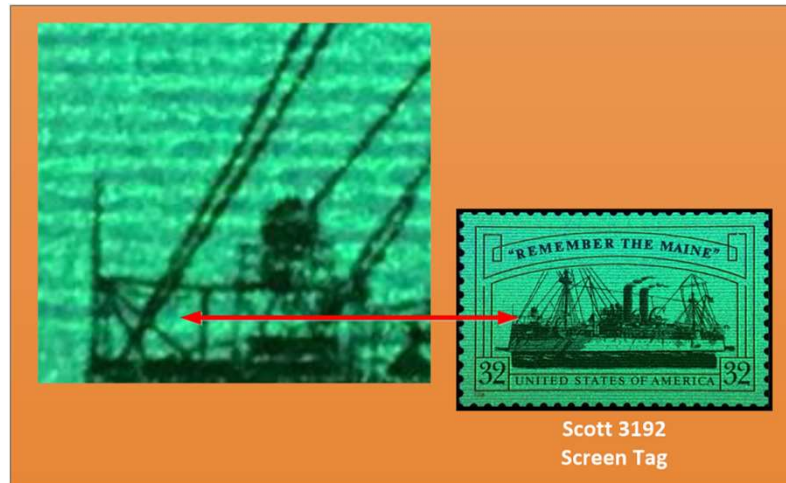
TAG EVOLUTION: *INK TAG (CONTINUED)*

- **Image Tagging (IT)**
- Certain parts of the image are tagged with ink mixed with taggant — *can be very pretty.*



TAG EVOLUTION: *INK TAG (CONTINUED)*

- **Screen Tagging (AT)**
- Produced from using an Anilox roll (hard cylinder constructed of a steel or aluminum core which is coated by an industrial ceramic, typically a chromium(III) oxide with millions of small cells and is the heart of Flexographic Printing.



PAPER TYPES:



1279
DP



1280
NF



1280
DF

- This is a list of the seven types of paper used in stamp production:
- **Dead Paper (DP)** — Dead paper appears dark purple, purplish gray, dark brown, dark grey, or dark blue grey under the UV lamp.
- **Non-Fluorescent Paper (NF)** — NF paper appears brown, gray, lighter blue grey or lighter purple. It may contain some very sparse and randomly distributed luminescent fibers.
- **Dull Fluorescent Paper (DF)** — DF paper appears grayish white, light gray, ivory, yellowish ivory, whitish & very light violet. DF paper contain luminescent fibers, which are typically very sparse in density across the entire stamp.



PAPER TYPES: *(CONTINUED)*

- **Low Fluorescent Paper (LF)** — LF paper appears a dull bluish white, grayish white or white and is not particularly bright when viewed from a distance. Up close under magnification, the paper will be various shades of gray or brown with a low concentration of luminescent fibers evenly distributed across the stamp. The luminescent fibers are responsible for the fluorescence.
- **Medium Fluorescent Paper (MF)** — MF paper appears almost exclusively bluish white and is fairly bright when viewed from a distance. Up close under magnification, the paper will be various shades of gray or brown with a medium concentration of luminescent fibers evenly distributed across the stamp. The luminescent fibers are responsible for the fluorescence.
- **High Fluorescent Paper (HF)** — HF paper appears exclusively bluish white and is bright when viewed from a distance. Up close under magnification, the paper will be various shades of gray or brown with a high concentration of luminescent fibers evenly distributed across the stamp. The luminescent fibers are responsible for the fluorescence.
- **Hi-Brite Paper (HB)** — HB paper is very bright and bluish white in color when viewed from a distance. The fluorescence is uniform in distribution and is not derived solely from the presence of individual luminescence fibers like LF, MF and HF paper. It is very distinct from other types of paper. Compare it against typical printer paper for a reference.



1280
LF



1304C
MF



1860
HF



1289b
HB



'NUF SAID

- Information on paper types and tagging for recent issues (1995 – Current) can be found in the USPS Postal Bulletins (<http://lcpshome.org/pb/2024-USPS-Bulletins.htm>)

דאָס איז אַלע מענטשן
(dos iz ale mentshn)

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postal bulletin 22641 (1-11-24)

Issue:	<i>Pillars of Creation</i> Stamp
Item Number:	122800
Denomination & Type of Issue:	\$9.85 Priority Mail Rate
Format:	Pane of 4 (1 design)
Series:	N/A
Issue Date & City:	January 22, 2024, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Art Director:	Greg Breeding, Charlottesville, VA
Designer:	Greg Breeding, Charlottesville, VA
Existing Photo:	NASA, ESA, Canadian Space Agency, and the Space Telescope Science Institute
Modeler:	Joseph Sheeran
Manufacturing Process:	Offset, Microprint
Printer:	Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd (APU)
Press Type:	Muller A76
Stamps per Pane:	4
Print Quantity:	2,500,000 stamps
Paper Type:	Nonphosphored Type III, Block Tag Applied
Adhesive Type:	Pressure-sensitive
Colors:	Black, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow
Stamp Orientation:	Horizontal
Image Area (w x h):	1.4200 x 1.0850 in. / 36.0680 x 27.5590 mm
Overall Size (w x h):	1.5600 x 1.2250 in. / 39.6240 x 31.1150 mm
Full Pane Size (w x h):	4.1200 x 3.4500 in. / 104.6480 x 87.6300 mm
Plate Size:	120 stamps per revolution
Plate Number:	"P" followed by four (4) single digits
Marginal Markings:	
Front:	Plate number in two corners
Back:	© 2023 USPS • USPS logo • Four barcodes (122800) • Plate position diagram (6) • Promotional text



— Stamp Services,
Marketing, 1-11-24

