

319 Vaniman Street
Akron, Ohio
2-1-30

Dear Mr Shift Hunter:

This is the time it is a letter without those "bum" freehand sketches attached. Haste and necessity are the reasons.

Beverly S. King gives to the Hunters a months advance notice regarding a big shift found on the \$10.00 Conveyance. It will be announced in the March American Philatelist. If I illustrate in two colors you will not receive it for another week. It is an Eastward shift easily seen in the top labels in "U.S." and "INTER. REV*". If you are lucky and diligent you may pick one up. Thanks Mr King.

Refer to Letter No. 8. The lines in the "FIVE" of the 5¢-Forn.Exch. are apart of the design and Not a shift, according to Mr King. Are you interested in Shifty Problems such as this one? Here's another, propounded by at least four Hunters:-

IS THERE SUCH AN ITEM AS A DOUBLE TRANSFER FROM
DIE TO TRANSFER ROLL?

Four new mats are now available for illustrating your shifts. They are yours at cost. 1 1/2 ¢ each plus postage.

- No. 26. 25¢-Civil War Revenues.
- 27. 50¢- Ditto.
- 28. \$1.00-Ditto.
- 29. Present issue. 17¢, 20¢, 25¢, 30¢, 50¢, \$1.00, etc.

SPECIALIZED COLLECTION OF 2¢-COLUMBIAN SHIFTS.

Dr E.M.Gearhart of Erie, Pa. has sent me his wonderful collection of NINETY*SEVEN different shifts on this stamp. Obviously they cannot be illustrated in the Shift Hunter Letters but a detailed description can be given.

First as to mounting. A full leather, three ring binder of standard letter size with each leaf of heavy paper and reinforced at the rings with Dennison linen eyelets. Each page is of heavy paper with a neatly printed black line border showing a small ornament at the four corners. Each shift is mounted on a "Shift Hunter Mat" with the shift very neatly and accurately illustrated with india ink.. But that is not all. Each mat has been surrounded with a heavy black border 3/8 inch wide, slightly larger than the mat and neatly trimmed down to the black border. The mats are then mounted on the album pages with Black Art Corners. The pages are extremely attractive, showing much labor and thought. They "present the shifts" so that not only a Shift Expert but also the uninitiated collector will pause with interest at each stamp. "A Shift Without an Illustration is like an Egg without Salt".

Now for a brief list of Dr Gearhart's finds. I have tried to so word this list as to answer the oft repeated question-

"Where do I look for the Shift on this Stamp?"

2¢-Columbian Shifts in Dr Gearharts collection.

- A. Avery heavy shift in the upper labels and year dates. Extends across the entire stamp. Easily seen with the eye alone. This is the Big Shift of the collection.
- B. Two shifts answering the above description but not so strong. One does not show in the year dates and the other shows strongly in the lower label also. These are far above the usual shift and should be worth at least six times catalogue price for a shift. Try and find them.
- C. Several major shifts of the Right side of the stamp. Not the usual shifts showing just the right frame lines doubled but also showing in the numerals and in the upper and/or lower labels.
- D. Same as C. but at Left side. These are rare shifts and certainly worth more than the list price of 35¢.
- E. Several Corner shifts. They show only in one corner in the labels, numerals, etc. and sometimes in the border lines. These are fine examples.
- F. This collection shows a large variety of shifts of small extent but very plain, scattered in various positions thru the top labels. They make a very interesting study and cause one to imagine the curved relief or transfer roll being lowered onto the plate in approximate position perhaps for trial before applying full pressure for the rocking-in process. Some of them sure are twisted as the border lines of the labels are doubled at many angles.
- G. Shifts of border lines only. The rarest are the upward doubling of the TOP frame lines and downward and upward doubling of the BOTTOM frame lines. The USUAL shifts are the doubling of the Right (more rarely the left) frame lines, such as are often seen in many collections and worth about 25¢ each if they are easily seen.
- H. A few "Twisted" shifts are found showing in three corners.
- I. DOUBLE-Double Transfers. Three different examples of a Shift to the Right at the Right Side and a Shift to the LEFT at the Left Side in the same stamp. A Block of Four shows one normal, one shift to the Left, one shift to the Right with the fourth stamp showing a DOUBLE-Double.
- J. You are all familiar with several varieties of the "Broken Frame Lines at the Lower Right Corner" and with the "Broken Hats". Dr Gearhart finds double transfers made with these Broken Reliefs but strange to say all of his DOUBLE-Doubles also show the broken hats. These combinations of Relief and Plate Varieties make a fine study for the Specialist.

Ninety Seven Shifts with many more still to be found. I suggest that we all send Dr Gearhart our shifts on this stamp. He will make Mat Illustrations, return the stamps and place the blank mats in his collection with the name of the owner on the mat. Thereby Dr Gearharts collection will become a REFERENCE COLLECTION.

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Herein lies the advantage of each Hunter specializing on one stamp, not to the exclusion of Shift Collecting in general but paying more than ordinary attention to one stamp and holding a reference collection for the benefit of all. No one man can do it all. A "big Frog in a little puddle (on one stamp)". Who does not admire Dr Chase of 3¢-1851 fame? Dr Gearhart has a fine start and we congratulate him. There are probably several years of work yet to be done on the Columbians. There is no reason why he should not excell the many other Specialists on the 2¢-Columbian Stamp for to my knowledge none of them have equaled the display of shifts now in Dr Gearharts collection. If they had they would have played-up the shifts in their write-ups far stronger than by just honorable mention.

Someone had to pioneer on the 10¢-1847's when they were obtainable. Mr Claflin "goes after" the "One Cent Bank Notes". He has about 40 of my shifts for study. Dr Chambers "likes" the 5¢-Taylor. I sent him my best shift on this stamp. Mr Jones "wants" 2¢-Green shifts. Help him all you can. Dr Gearhart is a "bear" on the Columbians. Perhaps we will get Shift Hunter Letters from him. The Letters are not patented, you know. Mr Vestal has us all "beat" on Shifts on Proofs, Mr King "sticks" to Civil War Revenuses but does not over look the other issues. Now WHAT WILL YOU TAKE AS YOUR SPECIALITY?

Thanks to a friend that is not "Shifty", I looked over several hundred 5¢-Parcel Post stamps. At least 8 or 10 different shifts on this stamp. The Parcel Post series would make a fine specialty for someone. This is new data since the last letter.

I have at least 15 different shifts of the # 4¢-Triangles and several new ones on the 10¢-1894-98. This is a virgin field for someone. Don't "tag along" after the others, go after one stamp or one series. You can become an authority on some one phase of Shift Hunting.

Here are several new men who are interested in Shifts.
 Hunter No. 20. W.E. Booker, The Homestead, Jamaica, Vt.
 No. 21. Malcolm H. Ganser, 1509 Arch St., Norristown, Pa.
 No. 22. Theo. L. Behr, Box 157, Lindsay, Calif.
 No. 23. K.R. Cobb, Jr., 400 W. 118th St, New York.
 No. 24. Thos. H. Hawk, 2106 Freemansburg Ave., Easton, Pa.

Mr Hawk sends us the complete data on 2 panes of the first 2¢-Harding plate, the plate being full of shifts, but that will come in a later letter. Mr Cobb just found a big Newspaper Shift that does not need a glass. Send it in, Mr Cobb and let the S.H. Letters tell the rest about it.

Every Hunter should take the American Philatelist to his study desk during 1930. This is the official organ of the American Philatelic Society. Write Mr Holland A. Davis, 3421 E. Colfax A., Denver, Colo. if you are interested. A shift artical appeared in bothe the Jan. & Feb. numbers. That is how-come we have several new Hunters as listed above.

Thanks, Mr Robison, for the \$2.00. There is no charge for the Shift Hunter letters. We only ask cooperation in compiling Shift Data, but the cost is considerable and we appreciate your assistance.

C.W. Bedford.

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