

The "Shift Hunters" are an unorganized group of specialists who exchange information regarding U.S. Double Transfers thru the medium of these letters. Membership is Attained and Maintained by Cooperation.

"One illustration is worth 10 pages of Description"

Dear Mr Shift Hunter:

It is impossible to illustrate all the fine shifts that are sent in for broadcasting. We try to use new material or data that will be usefull to aid the Hunters in their searches.

Mr Vestal sends a block of 4 of the Johnson & Johnson Medicine stamp of 1898 with all 4 stamps showing the above shift. He finds a similar shift on No. 5609, 5/8th-green Lanman & Kemp. Second Illustration-----

See page 2.

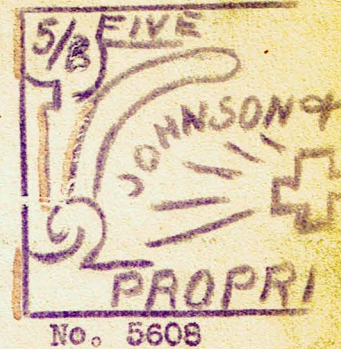
for this shift

There are many shifts on the Spanish War Revenues which have been sent in by Mr Jones of Huntington. Shifts showing at the right (Third sketch) are as rare as the many big shifts showing in the letters of the Upper & Lower labels. Each one of a dozen or more of Mr Jones finds would make a beautiful illustration for these letters but space will not permit and you can't miss them as they are celarly defined. Some one should choose the 1898 Revenues for concentrated attention.

Mr Theo.L.Behr has choosen the 2nd-TransMississippi as a stamp for his special attention. Hope to have a special S.H. Letter for him in a few months.

This will introduce Mr Georges Creed of Phila., Pa. George sells stamps by Auction and plays with shifts as a side line. He sends us this eye-opener on the \$500.00 Future Delivery, No. 4287.

This same shift should be looked for on the Stock Transfer No, 4267 and on the un-surcharged Revenue No. 4247. The shift also shows clearly in most of the design which is not illustrated. It has a straight edge at bottom and right, being the lower right corner stamp on the plate. Georges says he found three in a lot of nearly 4000. 4000 is a lot of \$500 stamps.



No. 5608



Mr Robison, of Mentor, Ohio. sends the big shift on the 2¢-1890 which is illustrated on the first page, and which is a duplicate of one in my collection. Below the drawing there is shown a rough detail of the heavy bottom frame line used in this issue comprising 4 heavily engraved lines. These lines are doubled thru the top of the numerals as illustrated in red. The misplacement of the relief is so great that one imagines the transfer roll resting temporarily on the plate while there was some mechanical adjustment being made in the apparatus. The relief touched only at the lower edge since it was already in position for starting the rocking-in process starting at the bottom of the stamp. This would make this shift the accidental transfer on a portion of the plate where no transfer was intended. While it is a Shift and also a Double Transfer it might more appropriately be called an "Accidental Transfer". Perhaps this is a distinction without a difference. I am content to exhibit my copy as a Fine Shift and let it go at that.

Mr Phillip Little, Jr. has shown me some very artistic mats or diagrams that he has prepared for illustrating shifts on the 2¢ & 5¢ Civil War Revenues. His shift reproductions on these mats are works of art and we hope they will be published for the benefit of all the Hunters and members of the Revenue Unit of the A.P.S.

I have suggested Mr Arthue Davis and Mr Frederick McAlpin as members of a new committee of the P.P.N.A. to carry on in that society with Shifts, Cracks and Relief Varieties on the Bureau Issues. The Shift Hunters should cooperate with the societies in which they are members.

There has been quite a bit of talk in the Philatelic Plate Number Association of making the society a unit of the American Philatelic Society. As you know, I am not in favor of new organizations even for my own hobby of Shift Hunting. In Union there is Strength, greater efficiency in cost and added value for all members.

Relief Varieties are so near akin to Shifts it might be well to consider them. Here a few that I recall, among late issues.

1. Broken Relief. 2¢-1890 Caps on 1 or both numerals.
2. " " " Breaks in the bust at the edge of the vignette.
See illustration at the right-----→
3. Broken frame lines on the 2¢-Columbian.
4. Broken Circles on the 5¢-Walloon.
5. Broken Relief. 1 or 2 white dots between the "2" of "1902" and the "E" of "STATES" in the 1¢-1902. See illustration below.
6. The 1898 Medecine Stamp of the J. Ellwood Lee Co. No. 5616 5¢-Chocolate. Mr Vestal has a blk. of 4 in which every stamp shows a line of color in the lower left margin. Also a single. Looks like a Relief Variety.



We all know the importance of Relief Varieties in Platelets, the early U.S. issues. Once in every so often they appear in the later issues and they are certainly worthy of attention.