

Akron, Ohio, Aug 11 1960

(17X)

Dear Mr Shift Hunter:-

A year ago the 23d of this month we started writing these letters. At that time there were about six of us, today there are thirty three. Many of us have become personally acquainted and all of us have learned more about Double Transfers, thanks to the rest of us. What is the vote? Do we continue for another season?

This letter is a bit more pretentious. The B.I.A. boys have wanted some illustrations of shifts and plate varieties to help educate their members. The results are made a part of this letter. From Process Film photos, prints, retouching, layout and drawing to the final large photo, transfer to metal and printing, each letter of this kind costs \$25.00 by the time it is mailed to you-all.

The next letter will contain accurate mat reproductions of about 15 big shifts on the 2¢-1890 with perhaps half a dozen 50¢ revenue shifts. Accurate reproductions as contained in this letter are far superior to the rough, free hand sketches altho the latter have their advantages and will continue to be used in part.

S.H. Letters to date have cost a bit over \$2.25 per person. We will therefore close the books of last year and ask for your vote as to procedure in the future.

1. Shall we continue only with the usual type of letters?
2. Shall we supplement the letters with Rotoprints?

Rotoprints will cost each person 25¢ each letter.

It will be necessary to find 100 supporters of the Rotoprint letters at 25¢ per letter. With 33 Shift Hunters already interested we hope to find about 50 more from the Bureau Issues Assoc. That leaves several more to be recruited to avoid financial loss. Will you do your bit? One new supporter enlisted by each of us. IT CAN BE DONE.

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Beverly S King sends us this small shift on the 2¢-Second Issue revenue. It does not appear on the plate proof and if a duplicate can be found it will furnish evidence of another plate or of a reworked plate. Your assistance is requested.



Postage Paid  
"Hunting"

Watch the copies you see of the 20¢-Inland Exchange, First issue, Civil War revenue. Plate proof blocks of 4 have been found with a nice shift in all 4 stamps.

Between vacation and hot weather there has been little time for these letters. Thanks to many Hunters we have a fine lot of new data to broadcast and several new Hunters to introduce. Anna May Johnson and Grace M. Duckwall of Indianapolis are philatelists of renown in Indiana and are well known among A.P.S. members. Olaf J. Olson of Saint Paul, Minn. is an old A.P.S. member.

Back numbers of the Shift Hunter letters have been reproduced where out of print, the last going to the duplicator this week. You will receive all your missing numbers sometime within the next three weeks. When this supply is gone there will be no further duplication.

Cordially yours,

C.W. Bedford.

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ILLUSTRATIONS OF PLATE VARIETIES

2¢-Red Brown-1883 This illustration shows the rare "Bead Shift at Right" a Double Transfer that should catalogue at least \$10.00 in value. Note the row of dots in the white margin around the vignette at the lower right of Washington's shoulder, also the extra lines in "United States Postage". Dots in the beads at the left and in "Two Cents" do not show clearly in the photo.

5¢-Blue-1898 This major shift is found as No. 11 in an upper right pane of a plate whose number is unknown. The shift shows as extra lines in both numerals and the heavy lines in the bust extend out into the white margin around the vignette at both left and right.

1¢-1908-1910 Two Double transfers are illustrated. The major shift at top and left is position No. 63 in a left pane of plate 5567 and was found on the 1910 coil, perf. 8 1/2 vertically with the plate number concealed under the paste-up. The usual(not common) shift on the One Cent 1908-10 is poorly illustrated in the lower half of the illustration. The horizontal lines in the white vest of the bust are double and in the best of copies the bottom line of the vignette is double. In some stamps there is an extra line running thru the top of "One Cent".

2¢-1908 In this stamp there was a rosette crack in the plate before the stamp was "rocked-in from the transfer roll". The unevenness of the metal caused a "**DEFECTIVE TRANSFER**" of the right frame line which is easily seen with the naked eye altho the beauty of the cracks are best studied with a good glass. Plate cracks are valuable and interesting additions to any collection.

2¢-Shield-1903 In degree this is an enormous shift. The bust lines on each side of the white cravat in the bust are shifted up to the top of the stamp and extend out into the upper border. Outlines of the ribbon containing the word "Washington" are found showing in "**UNITED STATES**" and "**AMERICA**". A center line running thru the upper perforations and a straight edge at the right indicate that this shift comes from a booklet pane plate. Please look over your booklet panes and see if you can locate this wonderful double transfer.

2¢-1916-Rotary press. This horizontal crack was probably made after the plate was completed and as it was being curved to fit the rotary press. It is No. 487, Type III.

2¢-Carmine-1923 Air Mail. The illustration cannot do justice to this beautiful shift. Great spots of red appear in the right numeral, the right frame is heavily doubled at the lower right and the right end of the upper label almost closes the white margin under the "E" of "**POSTAGE**". This is a top row stamp just to the right of the plate number which is 14841. Only four plate number blocks have been found. Who will be lucky enough to be able to report another?

2¢-Valley Forge Stamp No. 33 in the lower left pane of plate 19496 (33-L1-19496) contains a plate defect in the triangle at the lower left corner. Perhaps "something dropped onto the plate" but at least the variety is constant. As it is found in the 3d vertical row it does not show in Left plate blocks of 6.