

319 Vaniman St.,
Akron, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Hunter:

Several of the Hunters have been sending in data on prices paid for U.S. Shifts at Auction. If everyone will cooperate in this, we will be glad to tabulate the data and furnish each with a copy. Please look over your priced catalogues of previous auctions and keep your eye open for more data. The 58th sale of the Nassau Stamp Co. on Dec. 11-12, is loaded with early U.S. plate varieties. We have sent a dollar for a priced catalogue of the sale.

Mr. A. E. Owen has just sent us the plate position of the big shift on the 4¢-1898 as illustrated on the inclosed Rotaprint. There were 200 subjects on the plate with only two panes, right and left. The shift is 62-R-790 as located on a Bureau plate proof. In Mr. Luff's book on The Postage Stamps of the United States, it is stated that plates 460, 461, 462, and 463 were used for both the 1895 and 1898 issues, while plates 530, 531, 532, 533, 790, 791, 792, and 793 were used only for the 1898 issue. The Rotaprint may, therefore, be in error in listing this shift also for the 1895 issue. We have a notation of having seen this shift with an 1895 shade but may have been colorblind. Can anyone show us this shift with the 1895 shade?

Ten different shifts have been sent in on the 4¢-1898 of which 62-R-790 is the largest. LeGrand Payne has the second largest shift. Dr. Gearhart has two more and the rest are in my own collection. (Please pardon me if I have not reported others that have been sent to me for inspection. They are all carefully recorded on mat diagrams in the file of unused material but this file has grown to such a size that it takes hours to go over it in detail. This winter we will start a new filing system so that all data will be filed by catalogue number so as to make all of the data on a given stamp available at a moments notice.)

ADVANCE NOTICE. Please check your Post Office at once for upper left plate number 18925 on the 20¢ stamp. (The upper right number is 18925F) Get blocks of six that have the plate number above the center stamp. You will have one Good and one minor shift. Mr. A. R. Davis is the lucky finder of this data. I hope someone finds a duplicate copy for I would like to obtain one for my own collection. This shift will be illustrated later.

One of Dr. Steimley's mats for the Columbians is inclosed. The handwork is superb. The 6¢ mats are now available and we hope to have the 1¢ through the 50¢ ready for distribution soon. 1-1/2¢ each plus postage. If you do not have samples of the 30 different mats that are now available, just send 10¢ in stamps for postage and they will be mailed to you at once. "A Shift without an illustrated mat is like an egg without salt." The more the Shift Hunters use the mats, the more mats will be made available. There is no profit in making and selling them. There are many more that should be made but we are still \$55. in the hole on the first thirty. Just try mounting one of your 6¢ Columbian shifts on this mat, illustrate the shift carefully with India ink, black or red, draw a neat border around it and see how much better it looks.

Cordially yours,

C. W. Bedford.

REPORT NO. 3. PLATE VARIETIES COMMITTEE.
BUREAU ISSUES ASSOCIATION.
SHIFT HUNTER LETTER NO. 20.

SHIFTED TRANSFERS ON BUREAU ISSUES

