

29X1
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SHIFT HUNTER LETTER No. 29 with Rotaprint.

Dear Mr. Shift Hunter:

Thanks to Mr. Geo. B. Sloane, this letter contains the data on the crack of Plate 7562. Mr. Sloane also states that the plate crack on No. 499 (see S.H.L. No. 26) appears at about the middle of the top row in the upper right pane of plate 9191 and that it is also found on the imperf. No. 482.

The scratch in the 5¢-Lexington of S.H.L. No. 26 has just been described in Scott's Monthly by Max J. Juhl as position 36-LL-16807. You should mark the above data on your Rotaprint.

Dr. Gearhart's two types of triangles in one pair is exceptionally fine with the shift in Type III. This requires a good glass for the transfer man did a good job in eradicating the first entry. Charles H. Hermann is to be complimented on the big shift in the 3¢-1895. A shift is not listed on this stamp and this major shift is sure worthy of being listed.

D. F. Lybarger has made a headline discovery. His block of 2¢-1908 shows a major double entry in all six positions, indicating a miscalculation of plate spacing and the necessity of removing a number of entries and doing the work over again in order to complete the plate properly. We may expect to find that the reworking of plate 5311 extended to other portions of the plate and the cooperation of all the Shift Hunters is earnestly requested in locating other positions on this plate. We would like to see all positions available to measure spacings, record defective transfers or shifts, etc., in order to piece together an explanation as to just what happened during the rocking-in of this plate. There is at least one other plate in the 2¢-1908 that suffered a similar mutilation in the transfer room. Keep your eyes open for star plate 5092, any or all positions and with a little more data we will have a very nice report for the Shift Hunter Letters. In addition to these two plates there are two others, 3365 of the 1¢-1902 and 6900 of the 12¢-1914-1917, that are Bureau Plates and are "loaded" with plate varieties. If you have large blocks or panes of any of these four plates we will be glad to record the data on them and to report the results.

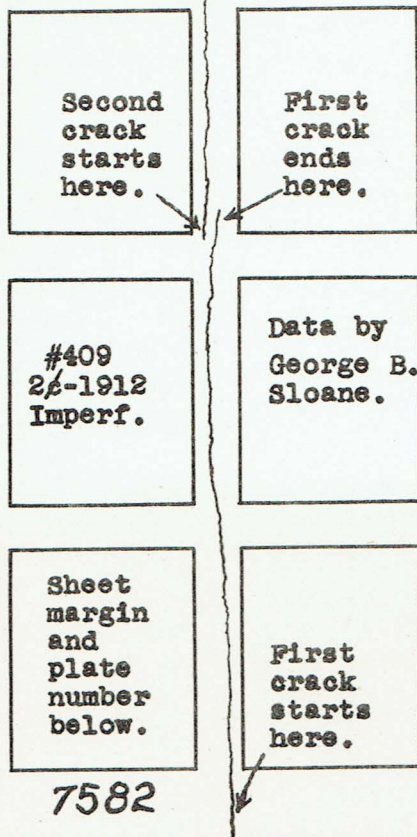
We have all been familiar with the "usual" shift as a double line at the bottom of the medalion in the 12¢-1914-1917. Many circuits are offering these small shifts at from 25¢ to 35¢ each with triple transfers of the same type at 75¢ and these prices are about right for they are quite common as shifts. Mr. Hermann has found a most "unusual" shift on the 12¢-1914 and I add another exception from my own collection. He also finds the usual shift on the 20¢-1914 in three copies, two of them with straight edge and center line at the right. A plate variety collector cannot overlook straight edges.

Mr. C. R. Long, Acting Director of the Bureau of Engraving & Printing tells us that after each zinc plate was made from the 400 subject negative for the Offset prints of 1918, the plate numbers were scraped off from the NEGATIVE and 8 new numbers substituted for the next plate to be made. At first the numbers were engraved in steel plates and photographed. Later prints from type were used. "Strippings" from the negatives showing the plate numbers were added to the 400 subject negative to provide new plate numbers. The literature is therefore in error in stating that the plate numbers were etched-in on the zinc plates. We will have more data about the Offset plates, later.

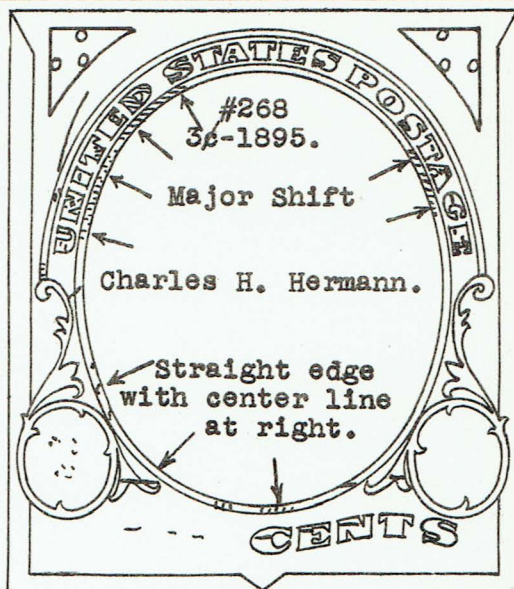
Cordially yours,
C. W. Bodford,
319 Vaniman St., Akron, Ohio.

SHIFT HUNTER LETTER No. 29.

Due to the granular or crystalline structure of metals, cracks in the plates from which stamps are printed, are always zig-zag and ragged. Mr. Geo. B. Sloane has almost completed the data on the cracks of No. 409 as listed in the S.U.S. catalogue.

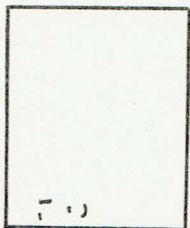
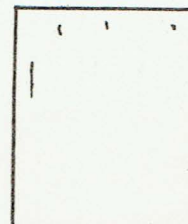


Is the crack in plate 7582 from the lower left or lower right pane? Does it extend farther up in the plate than as illustrated?

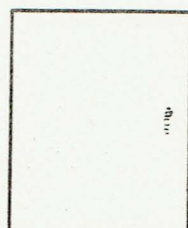


#344
2¢-1908
Imperf.

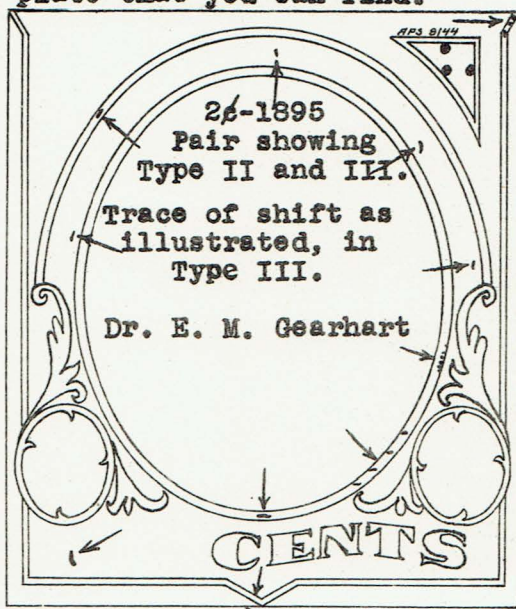
D. F.
Lybarger



Reworked
Plate.



Further data on plate 5311 is sure to reveal a most interesting philatelic romance. Please report all positions on this plate that you can find.



The usual shifts on the 12¢-1914-1917 have been described and are quite common. Here are two unusual shifts that are hard to find.

Address all correspondence to C.W. Bedford 319 Vaniman St. Akron, Ohio.

