

The 1¢ Error of 1908.

For many years I have had a 2¢-1908, Scott's No.332, with a mass of extra hairs in the head of Washington and with an apparent Shift in "TWO CENTS" that did not check-out as corresponding to any of the lines in the normal stamp. A complete coil, imperforate and with plate No. #5299 concealed at every fourth pasteup, has just been located with this same variety in the fourth stamp under this plate number, of which there are six in the coil. The old puzzle has at last been solved in a most surprising manner.

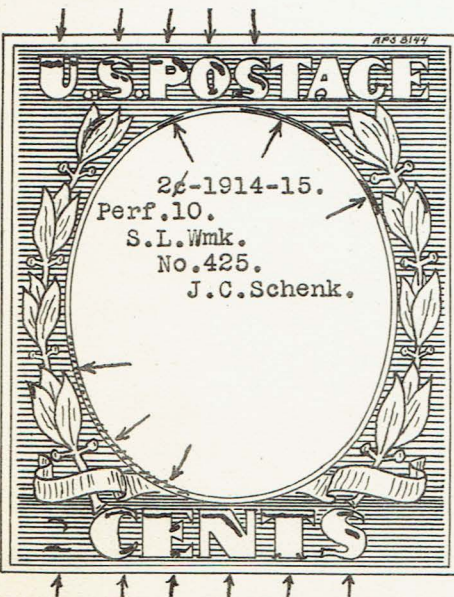
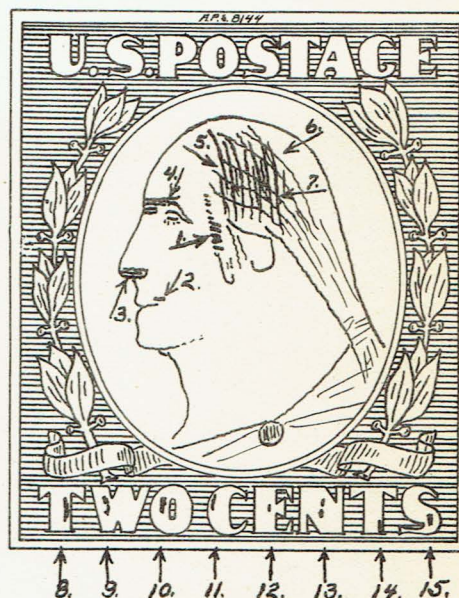
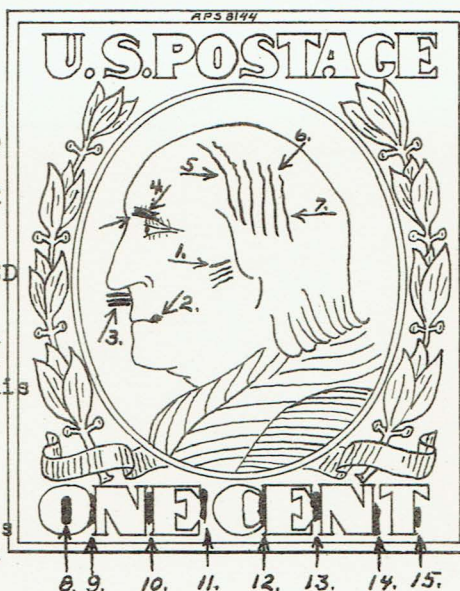
For some unknown reason the transfer man made an entry on this plate with a ONE CENT RELIEF, discovered his error, eradicated the entry as best he could and then transferred the proper two cent in the same position, leaving sufficient of the first One Cent Entry so as to produce a very interesting variety for the philatelist.

Note that Franklin's hair runs almost vertically while that of Washington runs diagonal. These extra hairs in Washington's head are the hairs of Franklin. Note the apparent shift in TWO CENTS. None of the extra lines in the letters correspond in distance or direction from any part of the lower label. There are extra lines in the nose, the eye, at the corner of the mouth and in front of the ear.

We have an enlarged photo of this stamp and another of exactly the same size of the 1¢-1908. A TRANSPARENT TRACING OF THE EXTRA LINES IN THE 2¢, WHEN PLACED OVER THE ONE CENT PRINT, SHOWS EXACT COINCIDENCE WITH THE ONE CENT DESIGN AS INDICATED BY THE NUMBERED ARROWS.

This variety is therefore a DOUBLE ENTRY similar to the 5¢-Error of 1916, but in this case the wrong entry came first rather than last.

It is well worth the task of looking over thousands to find one copy. The lines in the hair are easily seen and the lines in TWO CENTS are quite heavy.



In the above 1¢ illustration, the heavy shading around the letters of ONE CENT has been omitted except for those portions that show as shifted(?) lines in TWO CENTS. The illustrations are crudely drawn, but they must suffice as the law does not permit reproduction of any portion of the vignette. Someday we hope that this law will be altered.

In the collection of Mr. J.C. Schenk we find these two major varieties. The one illustrated in the lower right corner is a 3¢-Type II of 1916. It shows as the lower left stamp in a left plate block of 6 with plate number 8456 in the left margin opposite the center stamp. Mr. Schenk's block is imperforate, Scott's No.483.

Remember the Shift Hunter Letters to your friends. We need 100 more supporters. Subscriptions begin and end in September. This years back copies are still available. None are left of the first year.

C.W. Bedford,  
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Plate Varieties Report for June, 1931.

Messrs. A. S. Blanchard, C. M. Schaefer, J. L. Koch, B. F. Neal, Jr., and Burnes Soloman have recently joined their interest and ability with the Plate Varieties Committee as also their financial support. In each case they have requested that their files be completed back to Sept. 1930.

Burnes Soloman, the U. S. Variety expert of GOSSIP fame, has volunteered his assistance in the work of this Committee. This with other announcements that our President, Mr. Southgate, has up his sleeve for future advancement of the Association work, should put the "pop" in all B. I. A. members.

New members are pouring in to the Bureau Issues Association not for just the privilege of receiving sales circuits, as is the situation in many instances, but to receive the wealth of information that emanates from the many ACTIVE Committees. "KNOW YOUR COUNTRY'S STAMPS" is a fitting slogan for our "gang" and "GIVE AND YE SHALL RECEIVE" is a motto that applies to philatelic data as furnished by our various Committees.

It looks like 500 B. I. A. members in 1932. It will be 500 if each member is as energetic as indicated by one new member. Increased membership means better support for each Committee and this in turn means BETTER REPORTS.

Mr. Vestal sends us a nice Double Transfer of the IMPRINT on an 8¢-1908. The shift is in one of the top margins.

John D. McCullough has a block of 10 of the 1¢ Omaha with three shifted positions. These are the "usual", but not common shifts that show in the upper left margin, in the left numeral and rarely in "UNITED". Mr. Lorenzen has one with an upper margin attached showing plate No. 709. If a full sheet with this number can be located we may find some interesting data.

In answer to many inquiries, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing makes very few errors. We know of none in the 20000 plate number series that can be identified with the plate number. As soon as Mr. McCoy's checklist for the 19000 plates come out we will have a few varieties to list. Here are two:

19634

19364 L.L. pane. Red plate of bicolored air mail. A most peculiar plate scratch as illustrated in the next Shift Hunter Letter.

19008 10¢-Lindbergh. L.R. pane. Double initials of the Transfer Man and small shift in the left numeral of the L.R. corner stamp, No. 50.

When the Bureau makes an error it is time for a celebration, especially for the one who first finds it. Evidently they "read proof" more carefully today.

The 3rd Educational Rotaprint is being prepared for issue in September and will illustrate the methods used in making the Offset Prints of 1918. All incoming mail relative to this issue is being forwarded to Don F. Lybarger, 422 Engineers Bldg., Cleveland, Ohio. Three public spirited B. I. A. members have underwritten the cost of this report and it will be distributed gratis to all members.

C. W. Bedford, Chairman  
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