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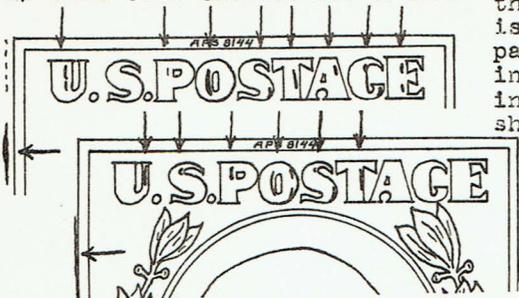


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PLATE VARIETIES COMMITTEE

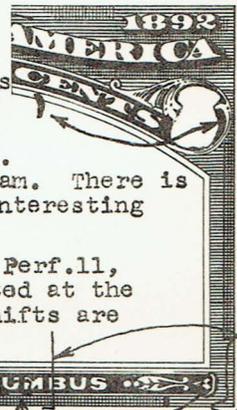
SHIFT HUNTER LETTER No. 35.

1¢-1908 Coil Shifts. 390 & 392.



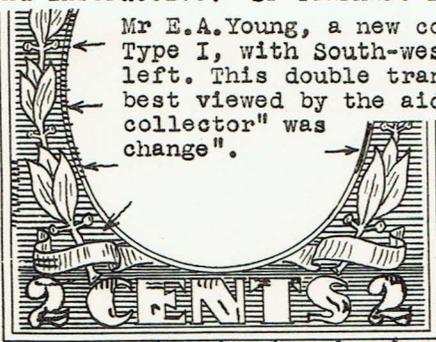
Mr. W. H. Schneider has exactly located the 1¢-1908 shift that was so poorly illustrated in S.H.L.No.17. Its position is 63-LL-5567. It is again illustrated (top-left) for comparison with another shift that is very similar but occurs in the fourth horizontal row of a lower pane, probably in the same plate. It is often the case that similar shifts are found on the same stamp and the Shift Hunter must carefully differentiate each variety.

Dr. E. M. Gearhart has located the first real shift on the 3¢-Columbian that we have seen. It is small in extent but heavy enough to be seen without a glass. The right side of the relief evidently rested on the plate about 1/3 of the



width of the stamp to the left, with sufficient pressure to leave its mark. The shifted lines as well as the original lines are indicated in the diagram. There is no law that tells how a shift may occur and these unusual items are both interesting and instructive. Dr Gearhart is to be congratulated on his discovery.

Mr E. A. Young, a new contributor, has a mint copy of the 2¢-1917, Perf. 11, Type I, with South-west shift of considerable degree as illustrated at the left. This double transfer can be seen without a glass but all shifts are best viewed by the aid of one. "Time was" when the "spyglass collector" was change".



In Shift Hunter Letter No.30 we illustrated the Blister on the 400 subject negative of the 3¢-Offset of 1918. Thanks to Mr M'Coy and Mr Lybarger we here illustrate the RETOUCHE NEGATIVE. Many plates were made from the same negative before the defect was discovered and many more plates were made from the same negative after it was retouched. Only one plate, No.9274, was recut to correct the error. This RECUT PLATE is perhaps the rarest item from

the 3¢-Offset prints. We have never seen one but someone will surely find one with plate No. 9274 attached and send it to us for illustration.

Mr. J. C. Schenk finds several shifts on the 4¢-Martha Washington of 1922, of which this crude illustration represents the best. The shift is small but clear. You may use a glass on this illustration.



"Jeff" is also the first one to find a variety on the recent Red Cross stamp. Position 37 in the left pane of Black Plate 20456, shows a small shift in the horizontal shading lines at the left of "UNITED" in the upper left corner. It needs a good glass but it is there.

Also in Mr Schenk's collection we find a very fine example of the "usual but not common" shift on the 2¢-Shield of 1903. It is illustrated in the lower left corner of this sheet and will be found in many varieties if one has the patience to look over several thousand of these interesting stamps.

Here is one of Mr Schenk's oddities that is worth our consideration. It is a defective right numeral on the 2¢-1890 as illustrated in the lower right corner. He has two copies that are identical but we must have more information before we know whether it is a plate variety, occurring only in one position on one plate or a relief variety that may appear on any plate and in many positions on a plate.

This is the last number of the Second Shift Hunter Year, as our year begins and ends in September. The number of cooperating



SHIFT HUNTERS has increased 200% during this year and the additional support has made it possible to make many improvements in the SHIFT HUNTER SERVICE. 250 supporters for next year will allow the use of HALF TONE illustrations for many fine varieties that are deserving of more accurate reproduction.

