

BUREAU
ISSUES
ASSOCIATION

PLATE
VARIETIES
COMMITTEE

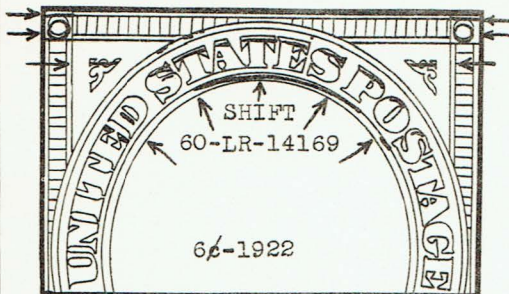
U. S. PLATE VARIETIES

Shift Hunter Letter No. 36

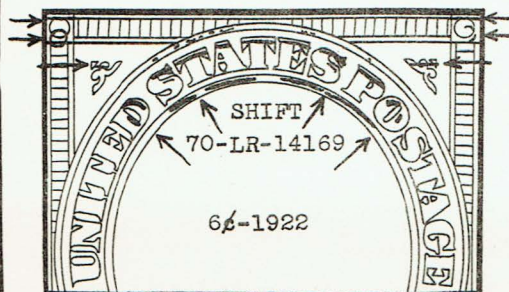
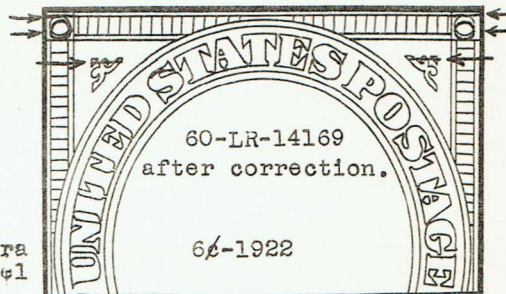
SHIFT
HUNTER
CLUB

C. W. Bedford

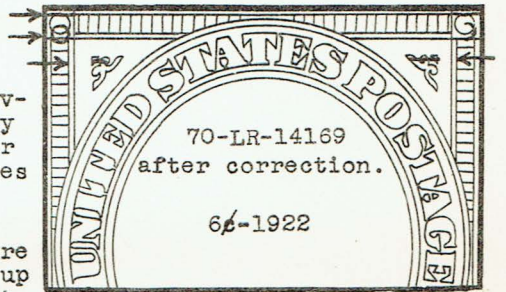
319 Vaniman Street - Akron, Ohio



Thanks to J.C.Schenk and A.E.Young we are able to illustrate the two shifts on the 6¢-1922, No. 558, Perf.11 and also the same plate positions after the errors were removed in part. You will note that the extra lines in the upper label were removed but that the shifts still show in both upper corners.



Mr.A.W.Hall, Director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing kindly tells us how this error was corrected. He writes as follows:-



"Portions of the two stamps on the plate were scraped out, hammered up from the back and recut

(re-engraved) by an engraver. The stamps were not re-transferred." We are so accustomed to speak of a "recut" as referring to a few lines retouched that in this case it seems better to speak of the corrected positions as "Re-engraved" for the engraver did a large amount of hand work on both positions and apparently did a perfect job of it. An album page showing both Double Transfers and both Re-engraved positions with all four nicely illustrated by illustrated mats, certainly is an attractive feature in any collection. Here we have another of what we call "TWENTIETH CENTURY CLASSICS".

We wish to correct the plate position nomenclature used in S.H.D. No.28. Since the sheets of the George Rogers Clark stamp were supplied to the Postmasters in sheets of 50, there were no upper or lower panes but only right and left panes. The position described as 4-LR-19721 should read 29-R-19721-Red. Thanks to Mr King and Mr Johl.

Position 28 in one of the upper panes of plate 14129, 2¢-1922, perf.11, shows a very clear Double Transfer as illustrated in the lower left corner. At one time we saw a still larger shift on No. 554 but the owner refused to allow us to make an illustration from it. We have always felt that publicity increases the value of any rarity.

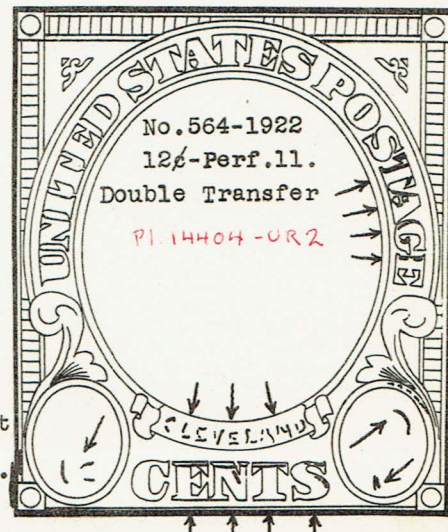
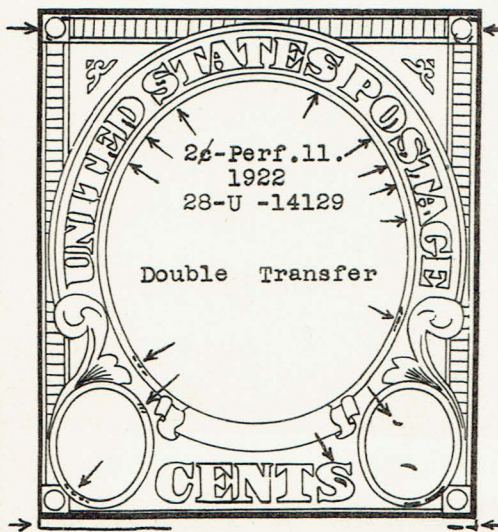
On Mar.20, 1923 a letter was mailed from the Philatelic Exhibition in the Boston Public library, this letter being addressed to Mr.Fred J. Melville at London. This letter is a FIRST DAY COVER for the 12¢-1922, No.564 and bears a 12¢ stamp showing the rare DOUBLE

TRANSFER as illustrated at the lower right.

Historically and Philatelically, this cover is one of my prized possessions.

Mats are now available as used for this letter and also for the 10¢ blue Air Mail and the 10¢Lindbergh. 1-1/2¢ each plus postage. Mount and illustrate your plate varieties.

This is the first letter in our third year and is mailed to all who have at onetime subscribed for the Shift Hunter Letters. Send us your \$2.00 for the third year before you forget it.



Mr. J. C. Schenk has spent many a dollar on the Red Cross stamps and has personally examined 40 panes, all different. His energies spent in behalf of this committee are certainly appreciated. The following data are the results of his study.

So far, no outstanding or big shift has been found. There are several, however, that are quite attractive even though small and there are many that may be observed under a high powered glass.

Plate 20441 Left - 36, 51, 94. Top at left.
Plate 20451 Right - 3, 17, 18, 64, 65, 90, all small. 7 - Horizontal lines in globe. 29 - Slight shift in top of "CENTS".
Plate 20452 Right - 55, 68, 69, 78, all small. 55 is best.
Plate 20455 Right - 3, 4, 5, 15. Slight shifts in top of "CENTS" and in horizontal shading lines of globe. 15 is best.
Plate 20456 Left - 37, 57. Top at left.
Plate 20466 Left - 15 very small top shifts. 91, 93, and 100 are the best. 49 - Nurse has a "RING" on the ring finger of the right hand. 59 - Nurse has a "WISHBONE" in the right hand. These two accidental plate markings are interesting and rather striking.
Right - 8 small shifts. 78 and 99 are the best. 99 shows a nice shift in the leaf or scroll above the left numeral.
Plate 20468 Right - 53. Upper right corner.

Panes not inspected, 20467, Left. 20514, Right.
Plates not inspected, 20513, 20515, 20516, 20525, 20526, 20527, 20528.
All plate numbers above are for the black plates.

Both Mr. Schenk and Mr. Kiepora have suggested that with a little co-operation, we might easily examine all the panes of each new commemorative with a minimum amount of work for each individual. We, therefore, seek volunteers who will try out this plan for the next new issue. Here is how!

1. Each cooperator must live in or near a large city.
2. Each will send the chairman a reply postcard stating the number of each plate and the pane as found in his post office, with the data as to which panes he has been able to carefully examine without purchase.
3. The reply card will be returned at once giving panes that are desirable to purchase without duplicating the purchases of others.
4. After immediate examination, each cooperator will report by letter without delay.
5. Data on plate varieties, if any, will then be returned to all cooperators at once and also be incorporated in the next Plate Varieties Report.
6. Only those who will agree to act speedily are asked to volunteer.

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

PLATE VARIETIES COMMITTEE

319 Vaniman Street,
Akron, Ohio.

A PERSONAL LETTER ADDRESSED TO
ALL SHIFT HUNTERS and
ALL B. I. A. MEMBERS.

The SECOND year of the SHIFT HUNTER LETTERS and the FIRST year of the PLATE VARIETIES COMMITTEE REPORTS has been completed with the mailing of S.H.L. No. 35. For this service you have paid \$2.00

Your S.H.Letter files now contain more data on U.S. Plate Varieties than is to be found in any other single publication. It is our ambition to continue this work until you have in your own library a fairly complete set of illustrations and descriptions of ALL the major PLATE VARIETIES of ALL the U.S. issues, EARLY or LATE. This is an enormous undertaking and will require several years work, but with the continuance of the wonderful cooperation which we have received from 112 Shift Hunters during the last year, this is certainly possible.

The OFFSET PRINT illustrations of the SHIFT HUNTER LETTERS cost much less than copper plate work and will bring to you a wealth of plate data such as never before has been available. You cannot afford to miss it!

Don Lybarger will soon start broadcasting the data on the Offset Stamps of 1918. Bohr is working on the 4¢-Carmines and Greens. Jones has more shifts on the 2¢-Greens than you ever dreamed could exist. Davis has a mass of data on the 1¢-Greens of the Triangles. We have not yet even started on the Columbian data of Steimley, Schenk and Gearhart. In my files in Akron there is waiting for illustration hundreds of major varieties sent in by the Shift Hunters and my own collection is hardly touched.

Now for the cost. ***** On the 1930-31 series of S.H.Letters we just break even with income against publication and distribution costs, but still have a deficit of \$150.00 for zinc plates and printing of the diagrams which are used for making the illustrations. Even though Rotaprints are cheaper than copper plates, they still cost plenty. This is the reason why we must charge you \$2.00 for a year's reports and only keep active supporters on the mailing lists.

Tell your friends that the 1930-31 series of reports ARE STILL AVAILABLE AT \$2. Several have asked for two copies of the S.H. Letters, one for their library and one for clipping and use in album illustration.

These Shift Hunter Letters are YOUR letters and contain your report data.

SEND IN YOUR TWO DOLLARS AT ONCE FOR THE NEXT SERIES.

Tell your collector friends about the work for the more supporters, the greater the income and the more reports that can be made for \$2.00. Remember that THREE reports of the last year were GRATIS due to the assistance of THREE PUBLIC SPIRITED SHIFT HUNTERS. Next season there will be three more GRATIS REPORTS. Let each do his share with his own Two Dollars.

Cordially yours,
C. W. BEDFORD.

August, 1931.