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PLATE
VARIETIES
COMMITTEE

U. S. PLATE VARIETIES

Shift Hunter Letter No. 45

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Gratis report to all B.I.A. members.

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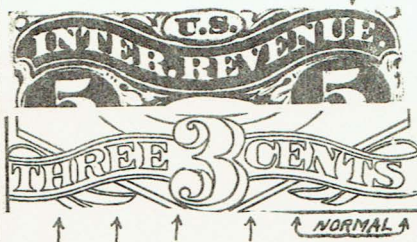
SHIFT
HUNTER
CLUB



VARIETIES THAT SHOW LACK OF COLOR WHERE COLOR SHOULD BE. These are known as

(1) RELIEF VARIETIES and (2) INK or PRINT varieties. LEARN TO DISTINGUISH THEM!?!?!?

Please refer to "Relief B" as shown in S.H.L.No.25. A thin colored ring on the stamp around the numeral is represented by a thin ridge of metal on the relief of the transfer roll. Being highly tempered and subjected to heavy pressure during the rocking-in process, this ring BROKE during usage while transferring the upper right pane of plate No. 15754, 5¢-Walloon. See the illustration above. The break started in position 1 and the thin piece of metal gradually worked loose thru positions 2, 3, 4 and 5 and then fell off so that all the rest of the positions on the pane show the DEFECTIVE TRANSFER as shown in position 6 above. Only positions 1 to 5 inclusive, actually show the break. The Defective Transfer shows LACK OF COLOR where COLOR SHOULD BE and is CONSTANT for all plate positions rocked-in with the broken relief.



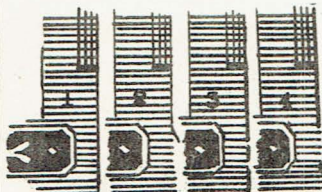
Two small breaks in the relief occurred while rocking-in plate 3365 of the 1¢-1902. THE break occurred in the thin piece of metal between the "2" of "1902" and the "E" of "STATES"



A. B. C.

(A) shows the complete break. The ONE DOT or B relief comes only from plate 3365. The TWO DOT or C relief comes on plate 3365 but also appears scattered thru many later plates. It is found on perforated, imperforate and Booklet plates. Here again we have LACK OF COLOR where COLOR SHOULD BE.

The Broken Hat on the 2¢-Columbian stamp is a relief variety that is well known. It shows a succession of enlargements or breaks as illustrated in part at the right. Blocks are frequently found with all positions showing the break. It offers an attractive opportunity for limited specialization on one stamp. LACK OF COLOR where COLOR SHOULD BE.



There were also many other breaks in the reliefs of the 2¢-Columbian as illustrated at the left. Everyone has noted the broken frame lines at the lower right and one copy has been seen with a part of the broken metal on the relief bent outward as in No.2, similar to the 5¢-Walloons above. Here is an opportunity for research. How many different reliefs show a break and what is the sequence of breaks on the same relief? LACK OF COLOR where COLOR SHOULD BE.



SHORT TRANSFERS due to incomplete rocking-in are illustrated above for the 5¢-Inld. Exch. and the 3¢-Green. These also show LACK OF COLOR where COLOR SHOULD BE.

The WEEKLY GOSSIP has or is about to publish a complete "exposé" of the "WHITE SPOTS" that are found in ever increasing numbers around the numerals or in heavily inked portions of the stamp design, especially in wide inked areas. This common INK or PRINT VARIETY is found in all issues and in hundreds of "varieties" on each issue or stamp. They all show LACK OF COLOR where COLOR SHOULD BE and are a source of "trouble" to many collectors who think they have found some rare plate variety. These WHITE SPOTS are NOT CONSTANT. Where ever found, one can always find the SAME PLATE POSITION properly printed on another sheet from the same pane. The "Icicles" around the numerals of the 1¢-1890 are NOT constant for the same plate positions from different sheets. (See illustration at the lower right corner). The 2¢-Pulaski and the 2¢-Yorktown, all the large Airmail and almost every stamp now in use are "just loaded" with WHITE SPOTS. Here's WHY.

- (1) Peeled Ink. Heavy ink sticks to the sheet above, dries and then peels off when sheets are torn apart.
- (2) Dry Prints. The paper dries out over the week end at the Bureau and the ink fails to "take" to the paper.
- (3) In "wiping" the plate surface the wiping device tends to "scoop out" part of the ink from wide depressions in the plate just as the wiper passes over the depression. This gives an appearance of constancy. AVOID WHITE SPOTS. KNOW HOW TO TELL A BROKEN RELIEF.

