

BUREAU  
ISSUES  
ASSOCIATION

PLATE  
VARIETIES  
COMMITTEE

# U. S. PLATE VARIETIES

Shift Hunter Letter No. 46

C. W. Bedford  
319 Vaniman Street - Akron, Ohio

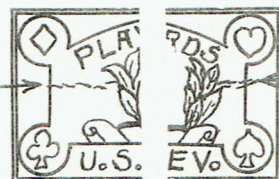
SHIFT  
HUNTER  
CLUB

Subscriptions \$2.00 a year, beginning and ending in September.

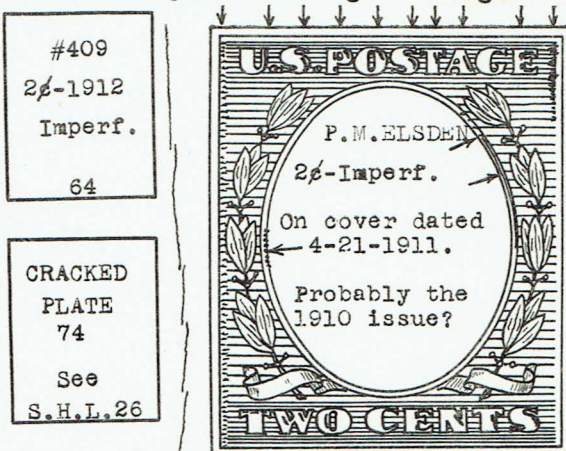


Here is a new shift on the 6¢-1922, flat plate from G.W. N.Ustiche. The downward shift shows below the stamp and strongly in the "S" of "CENTS". The interesting feature is that the top of the next stamp below is not clearly printed. Apparently the first entry was "tapped out" and in doing so they partially eradicated the top of the next stamp. We have often mentioned that a defective transfer often accompanies a shift. This is not a defective transfer altho it has the same appearance. The lower stamp was probably transferred properly and then partly tapped out, provided it was entered first before the upper shift was made. If, however the shift came first and the lower stamp was entered later, then this is a true defective transfer due to uneven plate surface from the previous tapping. This can only be proved by obtaining the plate positions and then inquiring from "The Bureau" as to whether transferring in this vertical row proceeded upward or downward.

W.T.Klepura finds two cracks on the present 10¢-Playing card coil stamps as shown at the right. Both stamps have a center line running thru the perfs at the top and are cracked in similar positions but on opposite sides. They probably are adjacent on the same plate.



Check your top imprint and plate number strips for an outstanding example of a DAMAGED PLATE on No. 252, the 2¢-Triangle III of 1894. The stamp under the left side of the imprint in one of the top panes shows the heavy gash as illustrated at the right. Looks as if some object or corner of the same struck the plate leaving a triangular indentation. Several copies have been noted in sales circuits and auctions. We have a faint recollection that several years ago we saw a shift in the next stamp below. Does anyone have this?



#409  
2¢-1912  
Imperf.  
64

CRACKED  
PLATE  
74  
See  
S.H.L.26

Complete  
data on  
the crack  
from  
G.W.N.  
Ustiche.

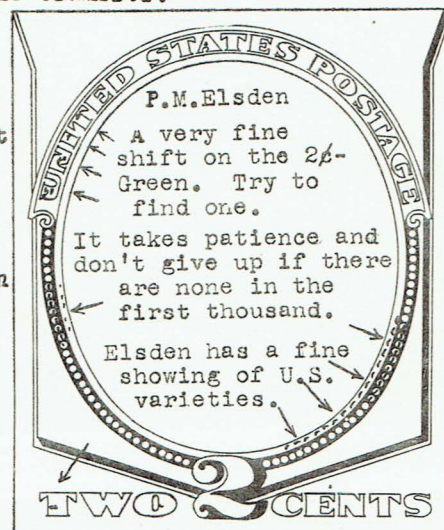
Plate  
7580  
L.R.Pane.  
94

shows a shift just as on a normal stamp. Elsden has this combination on No.406, the 2¢-Type I, perforated 12. The entire stamp seems to be very heavily doubled with a blurred impression but in addition there is a clear doubling of all the hairs in the forehead and face. A nice distinction in this stamp. The shifted lines are sharp and clear. The blurred lines, well-they are just blurred without clear outlines. It is not difficult to tell an INK Variety from a plate variety if one will examine closely.

Note crack following the frame lines of the lower two stamps. This is a Type II crack. See S.H.L. No.42.  
95 96

P.M.Elsden has a fine collection of plate varieties accumulated by many years of searching. In addition to the two varieties from his collection here illustrated as new varieties, he has three copies of a strong downward shift in "Series of 1898" on the 10¢-Documentary "Battleship" revenue of 1898. We also noted, among his revenues, a 25¢-Certificate with three outer lines at the lower left corner that look like a triple transfer.

Blurred impressions or slip impressions or pulled prints that smear the ink may happen on a stamp that shows a shift just as on a normal stamp. Elsden has this combination on No.406, the 2¢-Type I, perforated 12. The entire stamp seems to be very heavily doubled with a blurred impression but in addition there is a clear doubling of all the hairs in the forehead and face. A nice distinction in this stamp. The shifted lines are sharp and clear. The blurred lines, well-they are just blurred without clear outlines. It is not difficult to tell an INK Variety from a plate variety if one will examine closely.



7580



PLATE VARIETIES COMMITTEEREPORT FOR FEBRUARY, 1932.

In Rotaprint No. 4, as they were then numbered, we illustrated the usual shift on the 12¢-1914-1917. P. M. Elsdon has a good example of the same type of shift on the 10¢ Perf. 10, of the same issue. The 10¢, Perf. 12, of 1912 is also known with this shift.

Charles L. Palmer finds the following items to be constant on all the Washington Bicentennial sheets in the Fresno Post Office as well as in a few adjacent towns. We will be interested to know if any of these plate positions are found elsewhere, WITHOUT the varieties as listed. Please report your observations.

3¢ 7-LL-20558. Heavy spot in the collar of "Stock" of Washington. If this happened during usage, early prints may not show it. If it is due to a bit of dried ink film, it will not show after the film wears off. If it is constant due to a permanent damage to the plate it is worth our attention.

5¢ 8-LL-20636. A heavy gash or spot over the right eye of Washington on the left side of the portrait. Comment same as above.

7¢ 85-86-LR-20564. A strong scratch,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mm long, vertical, between stamps 85 and 86, about on a level with the year dates in both stamps.

7¢ 25-35-LR-20563. A plate scratch running from the "E" of "CENTS" down into the portrait of the next stamp below. 25 down into 35.

Edward T. Ferry has found a new one. A nice shift of the outer and inner left frame lines on a 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ Snuff stamp. "Ed" also has the finest shift on a 25¢ Certificate that we have yet seen, the bottom line being so heavily doubled that it looks like an extra recut line. The shift also shows elsewhere in the stamp. He also has a good left side shift on the present 50¢ and is the first to report a shift of any kind on No. 561, the 9¢-1922. The doubling shows in the lower curve of the medallion in "JEFFERSON" and in the top of "CENTS". This is the "usual but not common" type of shifts for the U. S. stamps from 1906 to date.

Chas. H. Hermann has completed the abstracting of the old files of Mekeel(s for data on plate varieties. In many cases his work has put us in touch with new shift hunters who have kindly furnished their data for our reports. Compilations from Mr. Hermann's manuscript will be prepared for future reports.

A CORRECTION. The 5¢ Lexington variety described in SHL 29 is position No. 43, (not 36) in the lower left pane of plate 16807. Correction furnished by Max Johl, who is a 20th century specialist.

P. M. Elsdon also "springs a new one." A nice shift in the 2¢ pink, of 1894. This might be expected as the same plates were used for different shades but it is the first one to be reported.

Homer W. Davis has a block of the 3¢ Offset stamps of 1918 with five stamps showing what would be called a shift in a single engraved stamp. The vertical lines in the button, in the ribbons and in the leaves of the wreath at either side of the medallion, are all nicely and clearly double. This is a double print.

H. M. Jones adds to the data on the 16¢ Air Mail of 1923 with a doubling of both



inner frame lines at the LEFT. Similar shifts at the right are known and have been previously reported. Also, out of a thousand 2¢-Blue, Liberty, Fifth Issue Revenues he has found 36 shifts, most of them small, some large, with almost every portion of the frame doubled on some one stamp. This is a very interesting display and indicates what new data can be found on an old stamp by careful study.

A. E. Owen sends us a complimentary block from the lower left corner of plate 20690 with plate number attached, showing a series of plate scratches in the lower margin, extending out past the plate number. This is the new 1¢-Washington and was found on 50 sheets at the Post Office.

L. M. Ryer used a glass of high power to find a small set of extra lines in the lower part of the letters "DOL" of "DOLLAR" on the \$4.00 Columbian. Most of the Columbian shifts are small and this one should not be overlooked.

Check the Broken Relief on the 1¢-1917 (SHL 28). Chas. H. Hermann finds this relief with the break was used to rock-in many positions in the lower left pane of plate 10129. Record this on your plate number check sheets and look over your plate number blocks for the break. Hermann also notes that the shift on the 12¢ 1914 illustrated in SHL 29 also shows in the upper left corner of the stamp. Put this in in red ink on your copy of SHL 29. He also finds a left side shift on the 1¢-1916, Scott's No. 481, in the stamp just below a left plate number 9481. Plate number block collectors may again look for a sleeper in their collection.

Plate No. 8949. 1¢-1916. Two small but quite heavy scratches in the lower margin of a stamp with the plate number attached at the top. Reported by W.S. Robison

Mekeel's for 12/22/17 reported a triple and two double transfers as positions 26, 27 and 28 in the upper right pane of plate number 8131 of the 3¢-Imperf. of the then current series. Can anyone locate these varieties? (From the abstracts of Chas. H. Hermann.)

56-UL-7951. 2¢-1916 or earlier? Extra line outside left frame and double in 2-CENTS-2. Reported in Mekeel's, June 30, 1917.

57-UL-7494. 2¢-1916. J. W. Bradbury discovered this position as the only shift in the pane. Doubling of left frame and in every letter in U. S. POSTAGE. Reported in Mekeel's, Sept. 2, 1916.

- NOTICE -

All Shift Hunters and B.I.A. members who are interested in Plate Varieties should write to the Sales Manager, Thos. H. Hawk, 2106 Freemansburg Avenue, Easton, Pa., and register their names to receive the new Shift Circuits.

Mr. Hawk will also provide special books for entering shifts or plate varieties in these circuits at 6 for 25¢ or 25 for \$1.00. All Shift Hunters or B.I.A. members are requested to send for these books and to enter their duplicates at once.

C. W. BEDFORD,  
319 VANIMAN ST.,  
AKRON, OHIO.



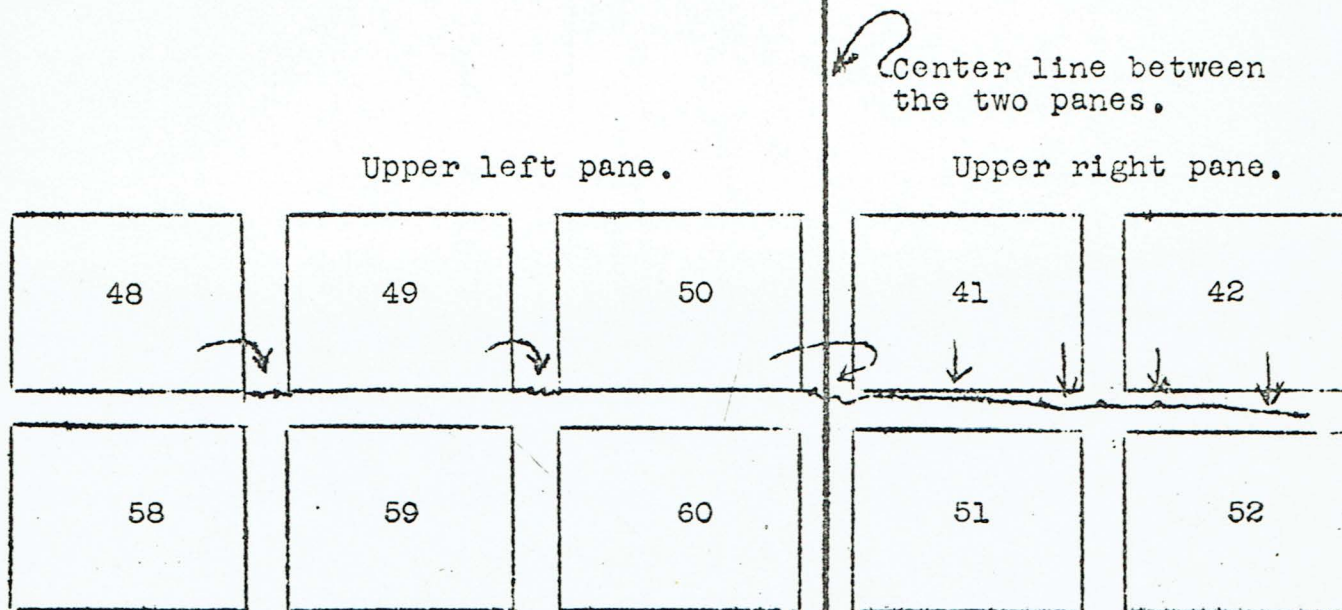
Supplement to SHIFT HUNTER LETTER No. 46

by

the Sub-Committee on Varieties of Commemoratives and new issues.

Chairman: Max G. Johl, 20 W 37th Street, New York.

Major PLATE CRACK running through the two upper pains of Plate No. 20823 on the Lake Placid stamp.



In this the first report of the sub-committee on Commemoratives and new issues, we present one of the most outstanding varieties that has appeared on new issues in recent years.

Max. G. Johl.

Report new plate varieties as follows:

Offset Issue of 1918 to Don F. Lybarger, 422 Engineers Bldg., Cleveland, Ohio.

Commemoratives and New Issues to Max G. Johl, 20 W 37th Street, New York, N.Y.

All other issues to C.W. Bedford, 319 Vanniman St., Akron, Ohio.

Please include RETURN POSTAGE in all letters as YOUR SHARE of the expense of carrying on the work of this committee.