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# U. S. PLATE VARIETIES

Shift Hunter Letter No. 48.

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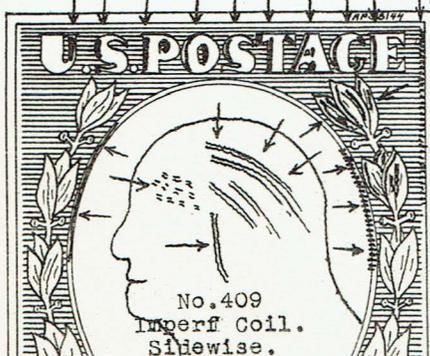
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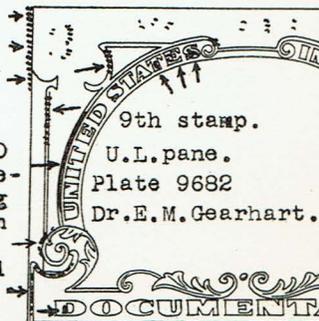


Attention to detail is one of the pleasures of the Shift Hunter. Here are two almost identical shifts on two different but subsequent issues that seem to indicate that the Bureau Of Engraving and Printing used one of the plates from the American Bank Note Co. But on close study the two shifts are not identical altho very similar. Each is an Eastward shift to the same degree and to the same extent but in fine detail they are quite different. They are from the shift collection of P.M.Elsden and make an attractive and interesting display.

Dr.EMGearhart has a full pane of the 2¢-Documentary stamp of 1898 with a nice shift in one stamp. We are always glad to broadcast the full position data on a shift. There are many more on this stamp.



T.J.Gridley has a horizontal strip of 10 with centerline of the imperforate, side-wise coil, No.409, showing that this big shift, as illustrated at the left, is in the sixth vertical row of a left pane. Someday this will be found in a vertical coil and then its exact position and pane will be known. It will be a bit more difficult to determine the plate number. This is a major plate variety and quite attractive.



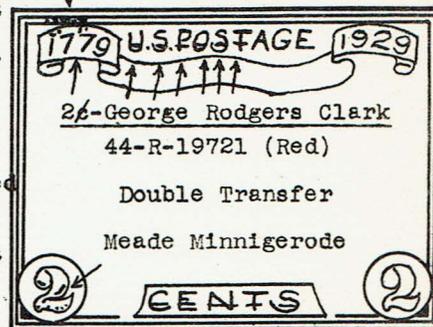
Theo.L.Behr finds a long heavy gash under "CENTS" in No.265, Triangle I, 2¢-1895, as illustrated. More than one copy has been noted.



From P.M.Elsden, we have a mint block with lower imprint and Plate 4961, with the stamp over the left end of the imprint considerably shifted in <sup>4#335</sup> small degree. The horizontal shading lines in the U.L. portion of the stamp are double and shifted to the right. The lines in front of the ear and in the leaves at either side of the medallion are also double. A shift worth noting but not so easy to illustrate.

Meade Minnigerode has been "sharp shooting" on the 2¢-George Rodgers Clark and finds two fine Double Transfers on the right pane of red plate 19721. The best of the two is here illustrated. No.14 is also shifted, to the left. Both of these misplaced entries were almost entirely eradicated before the final entry so that they are not as clear as this illustration might indicate. The extent and degree of shift in both cases makes them major varieties even tho distinctness is lacking.

In S.H.L. 28, position 29 (correction) was reported as a damaged plate in this same pane. It now is almost certain that this position is a Double Transfer. We now have positions 14, 29 and 44 as three shifts on the same pane with No.29 as the best of the three. We thank Mr Minnigerode for this corroborative evidence.



## A RESEARCH PROBLEM FOR PLATE VARIETY STUDENTS

There are usually several Reliefs on each transfer roll. Occasionally there are minor differences in these reliefs which help greatly in replating. Dr. W.E.Booker finds two minor varieties on the 2¢-1908-1910 in the stem of the right spray or branch of leaves as illustrated. "A" is the normal or usual variety with the center line in the stem as two dashes. Many copies are also found wherein the center line in the stem is one long dash. My strips of the 1¢-Error on the 2¢ show both of these varieties. If this is a Relief Variety, large blocks or panes should show a logical sequence in the use of the "B" relief so that it should appear regularly in certain horizontal rows. Compare the regular sequence of reliefs on the 3¢-1851, for example.

Here is a chance for a bit of research on twentieth century stamps that will at least be interesting. There should be plenty of material available for study.

7¢-Washington, 1932. There is a double line plate scratch(?) running vertically up from Washington's left shoulder(right side of portrait) on 21-LL-20563.

SH 59  
542 4615  
not 9  
plate  
variety