

BUREAU
ISSUES
ASSOCIATION

PLATE
VARIETIES
COMMITTEE

U. S. PLATE VARIETIES

Shift Hunter Letter No. 58

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Commemoratives
and New Issues
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New York, N. Y.

Offset Issues
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Cleveland, Ohio

All Other Issues
C. W. BEDFORD

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



#339. 13¢-1908. Damaged Plate over "AGE" of "POSTAGE". Only one copy observed. Found by L.M.Ryer.

10¢-SPECIAL DELIVERY-1902

Refer to SHL No. 34 and the variety listed as Damaged Transfer under "N" of "CENTS".

E.P.Nickinson has made a special study of this variety and has uncovered some very interesting new data. This variety is due to a break in the relief which progressively enlarged in exactly the same manner as the relief break on the 5¢-Wallon. See SHL No. 45. Mr Nickinson has round multiple



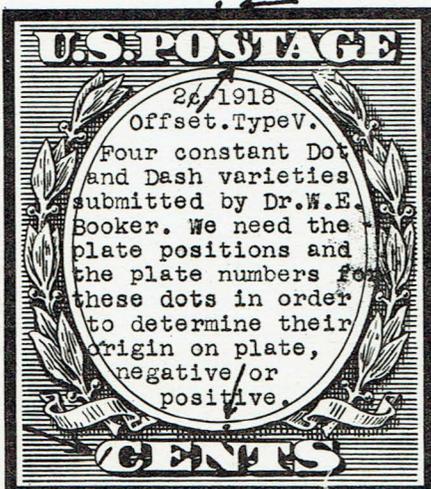
copies of five stages of the break, four of which are illustrated in order of sequence at the lower left. Type IV results by transfers from this relief, after the bit of metal was entirely broken off. This data now offers the possible location of mint blocks to show the sequence of the break in greater detail. As with the 5¢-Wallon, we may find that the damaged transfer, after the break (IV) is more easily found than positions showing the actual break. We wish to compliment Mr Nickinson on his observations and deductions. There is still much to be found out about the 20th Century U.S. stamps.

In this regard, we wish to call attention to the large quantity of DUE STAMPS that are to be had in large blocks or full sheets. We are finding some very nice plate varieties on these dues and can recommend them to the Shift Hunters as almost virgin soil for their investigations.

This plate crack on the 20¢-1917, from Mr. C.B.Durland, is easily seen and being in the lower margin next to the plate number, will probably be located in the plate number collections of B.I.A. members. The main part of the crack, under the next stamp, will probably be harder to find and pairs or blocks, showing the full crack will therefore be exceptional items.

No.515
20¢-1917
PLATE CRACK
IN LOWER
MARGIN ADJACENT THE
PLATE NUMBER 13471.
A fine example of a
ragged, zig-zag crack
13471

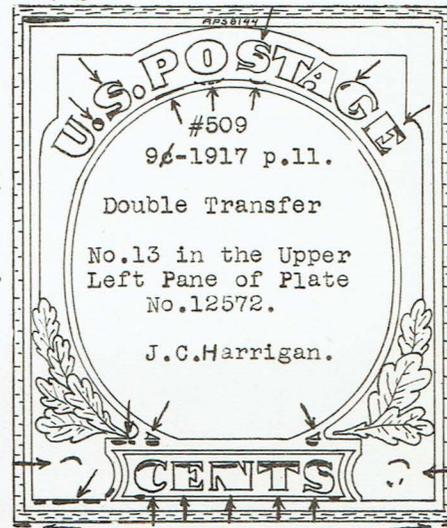
C. B.
Durland



Please report to D.F.Lybarger.

L.M.Ryer, one of our "Shift Hunters" is very capably editing a column on Plate Varieties in the "Western Stamp Collector". One of his correspondents, Mr. T.S.Hill, submitted to him two copies of this 1¢-1890 with a very heavy damage? to the plate, in the upper right margin. We have reported this before but this is the first illustration. This is a most striking item, the exact cause of which we do not know.

We have now reported several broken reliefs and the interest in this type of variety is rapidly increasing. Dr L.L.Steimley can show eleven stages in the break in the lower right frame of the 2¢-Columbian. Miss Kruse of Akron can show no less than 23 stages in one of the reliefs of the 2¢-1890. There are many more that still need intensive study. Watch those consistent breaks carefully.



Double Transfer
No.13 in the Upper
Left Pane of Plate
No.12572.

J.C.Harrigan.



PLATE VARIETIES COMMITTEE

REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1932

The joke is on the Chairman of this Committee. In SHL 50 we illustrated an "error" on the 1¢-1916 stamp, referring to the spacing of the center lines. Both Gustave H. Fabian and George Brett have very politely called us to time on this item and we are glad to acknowledge that the error was our own rather than on the stamp. This is the usual center line on a booklet pane plate, in position No. 82 according to Mr. Brett. The next time we will try to get a little education before we go blundering into print with a fake idea. We are after fact and not fancy. Yes?

✓ 1304-16¢ Air Mail of 1923. Max Johl has a DT that shows in CE**S of CENTS. This stamp is in the lower right corner of the pane with the initials "LBS" in the right margin. In addition there are extra lines in the right numeral and in the white part of the medalion that at first appear to be a second DT making this a Triple Transfer. These other lines seem to be rows of little dots duplicating the design and may have "crooked" onto the sheet above and back again. If any of the Shift Hunters can find another copy this will be the first Triple on this stamp.

✓ 3812-2¢ Proprietary-Blue. E. P. Nickinson has a copy that shows the shading lines in the ribbon at either end of CENTS, strongly doubled, as well as the coat lapel and elsewhere. Small but very clear and a new one to me.

✓ 599-R.P. Coil-2¢-1922. Georges Creed visited Akron last week and showed me this stamp with the little circle at the lower right corner nicely doubled as well as a few other lines. Also a 2¢-Alaska Yukon with a big shift at the left side that extends in so far that the label "Wm. H. Seward" is also double.

In answer to our inquiry last month Mr. Ryer writes that the double strike on plate 4968, in the Star is No. 332 instead of No. 375 as previously reported.

A worthwhile message from E. V. Pollock is here transmitted to the Shift Hunters. E. V. recently made a find of several strips and blocks of the 5¢-Inland Exchange revenue stamp. From the adjacent dates on the documents, from the perforations and the tears he patched together what he thought was a reconstruction of a very large block from the plate from which they were printed. He then sent them to me and much to our delight we found that his crude method of replating checked EXACTLY with my plate reconstruction.

Mr. Pollock suggests that those who find old revenues study them carefully before removing from the documents so that all possible data be preserved. Isolated and reconstructed strips and blocks should be preserved thus for the benefit of future study and possible plate reconstruction. Thanks to Mr. Pollock and I know of no better way to reach many who are interested than to place his comments in the Shift Hunter Reports through the B.I.A.

Reprints on the article "How to Replate the 3¢-1851 Stamps" are available to those who care to send me a postage stamp. All those who subscribe to the Shift Hunter Illustrated Reports will receive a copy this month.

This is the last typewritten report as the BUREAU SPECIALIST will probably be printed, beginning in January. By request we have furnished extra copies of this page in the past for duplicate filing. Perhaps this can be continued. We are not sure.

C. W. Bedford.

A WARNING TO PLATE VARIETY COLLECTORS

By C. W. BEDFORD
Chairman, Plate Varieties Committee

✿ It is always my pleasure to encourage my friends in their individual methods of collecting whether or no I take a personal interest in their collecting. There is so much good in the poorest collection and so much that is poor in the best collection that it hardly behooves any of us to belittle the collection of another.

When, however, a would be collector comes to the club seeking an education as to HOW to start or WHERE to start, we are always very careful to first place him in contact with a conservative, methodical collector who will not talk over the neophyte's head on Shades, Papers, Cancellations or PLATE VARIETIES. The beginner needs first of all the Elements or Foundations of Philately and had better avoid the complicated vernacular of the specialist. Every collector, whether he admits it or not, specializes or limits his collecting, but before he comes to this point he should be a general collector at least by education.

I wish, therefore, to warn our ever increasing number of Plate Variety collectors, and especially to counsel those who write publicity for news columns in regard to the danger of placing ultra fine varieties in front of those who know little or anything about this subject. There is nothing that will so quickly kill an embryo interest in plate varieties quite as easily as to place in front of the beginner a variety that can only be distinguished by an expert when using a high powered glass.

The policy used in issuing the illustrations of the monthly "Shift Hunter Letters" has been that of elimination of the "fine-haired varieties." From 50 to 75% of the items reported have been left unillustrated and unmentioned in the reports. To be sure, they have been interesting and have been returned to the owners with comments as to causes, rarity, extent, novelty, etc., and in only a very few cases have they been labeled "too small" or "pass this one up." We have

recognized the "spy glass viewpoint" of the extremely careful and observant worker and encouraged him in his work, even though we do not place such items in our own personal collection, BUT we have also carefully avoided presentation of these fine-haired items to the general public.

We note with whole-hearted approval the plate variety items that George B. Sloane is placing in the columns of *Stamps*. Fine, large varieties with simple descriptions and clear illustrations. This is the type of data that should be broadcast to the general public. When the minor and "hard to see" varieties are published they should be distinctly labeled thus. In showing a collection of plate varieties it is my policy to pass over even the varieties of average clarity and to comment only on the larger items that are easily observed. The beginner should only be fed the more easily digestible food.

In regard to the thousands of plate scratches and damaged plates that show little odd dots and blotches that are proven as constant plate varieties, I have only one comment to make. They are interesting varieties and easy to obtain on current issues. It is a fascinating game to rapidly comb all the post offices far and near for them and I once had a great deal of pleasure in so doing. I encourage the practice whenever I can, knowing that by this means we will be developing the Plate Variety Collector of the future who will, later, find an interest in the more sublime aspects of the game. Ultimately he will develop an interest in Fresh Entries, Re-entries, Recuts, Broken Reliefs, Errors, Extra Line Varieties, Plate Cracks, Die Varieties and the other types of Major Plate Varieties.

All merchandisable products must have good salesmanship to sell them. Conversely many a worthy article has failed due to poor salesmanship. The surest way to kill the present trend toward plate varieties is to use poor salesmanship. Plate variety collecting, in order to be a permanent phase of American Philately, must grow slowly and gradually. A boom will soon crash. A rapidly inflated bubble will soon burst.

Reprinted from "Weekly Philatelic Gossip"