BUREAU ISSUES ASSOCIATION

PLATE **VARIETIES** COMMITTEE

U. S. PLATE VARIETIES

Shift Hunter Letter No. 59-40

C. W. Bedford

319 Vaniman Street - Akron, Ohio

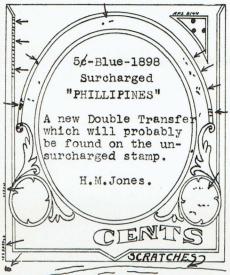
Commemoratives and New Issues MAX G. JOHL 20 W. 37th Street New York, N. Y.

Offset Issues DON F. LYBARGER 422 Engineer's Bldg. Cleveland, Ohio

All Other Issues C. W. BEDFORD

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Refer to the Research Problem in SHL 48. Max G. Johl finds that the variety is only an ink or print variety and not on the plate.

Here is another problem from Mr Nickinson. you figure out the origin of these lines on the 26-1922 coil, perf. 10 Vertical?-

Triangle I

26-1894

Here is another research problem. Its that little triangular gash that keeps "popping up" on different stamps Check SHL 46 for

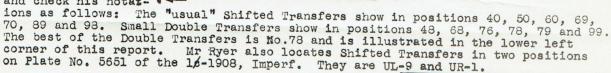
the 26-Triangle III and SHL 47 for the 30¢ present issue. This one on Triangle I is from E.P. Nickinson. No two of these are exactly alike but there seems to be a common cause. Can anyone figure out the reason?



The 26-1926, perf. 11 x 10 as shown at the left, has extra lines in the right margin, E.P. Nickinson has found four copies of this variety. We have no idea as to the origi of these lines. They are certainly on the plate. Why?

Lee M. Ryer has the lower right portion of the Lower Right pane of Star plate No. 5479 of the 16-1910, S.L. Wmk. we have just examined this large block of 35 with it's

right and lower imprints and plate number and check his notat-

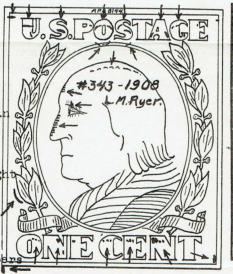


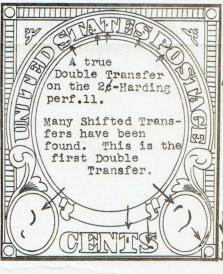
A small break in the relief at the top of the "0" of "POSTAGE" in the 12-1908-1910 has been found by Ryer as illustrated at the right. This break seems to appea first on plate No. 4972 and is also found on later

plates. Perforated, imperforated and coil stamps show the break. As this break is or was in one of the reliefs it is possible to study the use of different reliefs on the plates of this one cent stamp. Pairs will probably be found with only one stamp showing the break so that the other



stamp is definitely from another relief. A vertical strip of three, with a normal relief between two breaks will be an interesting sequence of relief changes. Plate block collectors may find this little break an interesting study. Please report your observations.





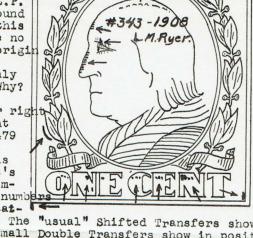


PLATE VARIETIES COMMITTEE

C. W. BEDFORD, Chairman Akron, Ohio 319 Vaniman, 1933 Jan.

VARIETIES IN PLATE NUMBERS

A new feature is being added to the game of Plate Number collecting that adds spice to the fun. Varieties in Plate Numbers. On many of the early Bureau plates nearly all of the eight plate numbers on a plate are distinctly

different, for example:

The different digits in each number seem to have been added to the plate one at a time. In making the two top plate numbers there are many cases where the digits in the UL number were not spaced exactly the same as in the UR position. There are therefore, two top plate numbers that can be differentiated from each other as "different" but it is impossible to say which was left and which was right. This is also true for the two right plate numbers, the two left and the two lower numbers. If you have duplicate numbers from the same edge of the plate, compare them carefully and you will often easily pick out two distinct varieties.

Two numbers from the same edge of the plate may be spaced, relatively to the adjacent stamp or to the imprint, so differently as to clearly show that they are different positions on the p'ate. Sometimes this spacing is so nearly the same as to require a millimeter guage to tell them apart and often the differ-

ence can be see with the naked eye.

Dots and little lines, used for the plate layouts or as rolling-in guides are often found in and around the plate numbers and only by the merest accident will these be the same for any two numbers on the same edge of the

D. Sometimes the digits in the numbers are twisted, stamped in too lightly or are only partly complete. In such cases the two numbers for the same edge of the plate are easily

told apart.
E. The most interesting difference yet observed is the accidental DOUBLING OF ONE OF MORE DIGITS, in part or as whole. These DOUBLE PLATE NUMBELS are now receiving considerable attention a d it might be one of the functions of the Plate Varieties Committee to tabulate a list of them so that their comparative rarity may be determined. Here are the first reports. In the past we may have returned such items without comment. If so we will be glad to see them again and to report them, as they are received, without attempting to place them in order.

er.
7302-B Double 7. Gustave F. Fabian.
7228-B Double 28. Fabian.
31-R Double 3. C. W.
60-B Double 0. C. W.
150-T Double 0. C. W.
152-T Double 52. C. W.
158-T Double 8. C. W.
*5300-B Double Star. C. W.

There are a number of imprints that are defective, double transferred or otherwise in-

dividually characteristic. These often aid in the differentiation of two plate numbers from the same edge of the plate. Plate Cracks are known to show at the imprints and plate numbers. These should be also listed.

COLUMBIAN PLATE NUMBERS R. R. DICKSON I just "kaint" keep my hands off cf | 1 te

numbers even if they are earlier than the Bureau Issues. The Columbian Issues offer a number of interesting plate varieties in connection with the imprints and plate numbers

that are worth recording.

There are two imprints and two plate numbers at the top and at the bottom of each Columbian plate. The upper two numbers and the lower two numbers are easily to'd apart as follows: The plate number is to the RIGHT of the imprint for the LEFT plate number at both top and bottom of the plate. The plate number is to the LEFT of the imprint for the RIGHT plate number at both top and bottom. (This is not true of bureau issues where the number seems to always be at the right side of the imprint.) A complete showing of Columbian plate numbers will therefore show four positions for each plate.

Up to plate No. 131 on the Columbians the plate numbers are above the upper left corner of stamp No. 5 and above the upper right corner of stamp No. 6 in the top row. Similarly located we find a plate number below the lower left corner of stamp No. 45 and below the lower right corner of stamp No. 46 in the lower row. Any single stamp with the number is therefore definitely plated as to its plate position by the location of the number.

Beginning with plate No. 131, for the 8c-Columbian and on many but not all subsequent plates, there was a change in the positions of the plate numbers but not of the imprints. In this change the "No. 131", for example, was moved nearer to the imprints so that "No." now appears over one stamp with "131" over another with the perforations between. Single stamps with "No." or "131" in the margins may now be plated as follows:-

"NO" Over one stamp and "131" over another

Imprint at UL with No. at		
ÚR	Position	4. Top Row
"131" at UL only	Position	5, Top Row
"No." at UR only	Position	6, Top Row
"131" at UL and Imprint at UR,	Position	7, Top Row
Imprint at LL and "No." at		
ĹRP	osition 44	, Lower Row
"131" at I I only	osition 45	Lower Row

"131" at LL only"
"No." at LR only"
"131" at LL and imprint at . . Position 46, Lower Row . Position 47, Lower Row

The imprints are always centered over positions 3-4 or 7-8 in the top row and under positions 43-44 or 47-48 in the bottom row.

There are a few plate number varieties in my collection that are here listed for record. As others are found, Mr. Bedford will be glad to list them in this column.

Upper right No. 54. Partial entry of scm: number or letter to the left of the plate num-

Lower left No. 194. Perhaps it is a "kiss"

and therefore just a printing variety but the imprint and number are partly reproduced a bit up and considerably to the right of the normal position. If so ne one can find a duplicate this will be an enormous double plate variety. It is probably only a printing variety.

Upper right No. 197. A plate scratch or perhaps crack runs down from the upper margin between the 1 and the 9.

Lower right No. 28. Nice double of "No.

Upper right No. 164. Double "No."

My plate number strip of four from the upper right section of plate No. 183 of the 2c-Columbians, shows one of the rare Double Transfers in "Postage Two Cents" in all four stamps. These are to be illustrated in the "Shift Hunter Letters" at a later date.

COMMITTEE NOTES

In the December 17th number of "STAMPS" you will find a wonderful description of the Washington Bicentennial Plate Varieties by Max G. Johl, which are finely illustrated by George R. M. Ewing. Back copies are available from the editor for 10c. Address H. L. Lindquist, 100 6th Ave., New York.

Remember that all items on Commemoratives and New Issues are to be reported to this committee through Max G. Johl, 20 W. 37th St., New York. All other issues to C. W. Bedford, 319 Vaniman St., Akron, Ohio.

The service that this committee renders is free to all, whether members of the B. I. A. or not. We feel that this service will exite more interest and bring inmany new members as it has done in the past. When in doubt, send in the stamp in question. We will tell you all we can about it and if it is a new variety we will report it as your contribution. If it is fine enough to warrant an illustration it will appear in the "Shift Hunter Letters" which go out each month to those who share in the cost of these reports. For this service there is no charge except that we ask you to supply the return postage and registration if necessary as your share of the committee expense. If you wish to include postage and 5c extra, Mr. Bedford will use an insurance slip and return by first class post without registration. This will insure up to \$25.00 in value and save you a bit over the registration fee. All items wil be returned according to the request of the sender.

Again we must ask you to be patient if your favorite variety does not appear at once in the Shift Hunter illustrations. The interest in plate varieties is becoming so wide spread, and so many fine varieties are being reported that we are several months behind in sending out the illustrations. For December and January there will be two Shift Hunter Letters per month to try to catch up with this energetic group of collectors.

May we suggest that your philatelic library is not complete without our monthly illustrated reports, in which there is more plate variety illustration than in all other philatelic journals put together. All of your \$2.00 per year will go into increasing the value of these

A COLLECTION OF COLLECTIONS

By C. W. BEDFORD Chairman, Plate Varieties Committee

THE idea intrigues me. Not because of its novelty, but due to the broadness of its scope, its educa-tional value and to the many additional contacts that it will bring to the philatelist.

The nearest thing to a collection of collections that I have seen is a large educational "Scrap Book" prepared by Walter "Pop" Poppenger, President of the Rubber City Stamp club. It was prepared in answer to many inquiries as to "Why do you collect?", "What do you collect?", "How do you collect?" and a thousand other queries from the hundreds of curious people who visit our annual exhibitions each December. Literally hundreds have been referred to this big Scrap Book and have been quickly educated regarding the many paths and lanes of philately. "Pop" says it pays to advertise but one must know something about how to advertise and he believes that an educational advertisement

leaves a lasting impression.

This so-called "Pop's Scrap Book" holds the attention of veteran philatelists as well as that of the uninitiated. One page is entitled "Some People Collect Revenues" and neatly mounted revenues with a bit of descriptive matter show the Civil War Revenues, State Revenues, Wines, etc. Almost at a glance one can see the wide scope and many phases of revenue collecting as a whole. It is fascinating.

Another page says, in large letters the top "COMMEMORATIVE at the top "COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS ARE ATTRACTIVE." There is room on this page for the first commemorative issue complete (Columbian) and a bit of historical data on the George Rogers Clark issue as well as on several others. A precanceled commemorative and one with a plate number attached are

with a plate number attached are cross referenced to other pages on these related methods of collecting. Under the heading "SOME LIKE SHIPS AND SOME LIKE AN-IMALS" there is displayed a beautiful array of attractive stamps of the world. Another page calls attention to "The King's Hobby," with photos of the royal personages, data on their collections and stamps bearing their portraits. Almost every phase of stamp collecting is represented in this book and many are the collectors who have been stimulated into activity by its pages.

I believe that "Pop's Collection of Collections" has a message to all col-lectors that is of great merit. This message was recently voiced in a lecture delivered before the "Tri-State Convention" at Indianapolis by Dr. L. Steimley of the University of Illinois. This message may be couched in the following words:

"ALL COLLECTORS SHOULD SPE-CIALIZE BUT ALL SPECIALISTS SHOULD COLLECT BROADLY."

Dr. Steimley believes that a specialmay easily become narrow and really be quite ignorant regarding other phases of collecting than his own little corner of interest. He warns against the PRECANCEL COL-LECTOR for example who so limits his attention to the overprints that he cannot tell one type from another or does not recognize an "August shade" or a rare revenue when he sees one. On the contrary he warns the general collector that he also is narrow and often ignorant in regard to the recuts on the 3c 1851 stamps, the postmarks of the pre-stamp and Civil War periods or the secret marks of the Bank Note issues.

It is a fact that MOST COLLECT-ORS SPECIALIZE. "Early issues only," "20th Century," "Bureau Issues only," "Plate Numbers," Air

Mail," "3c-1851s," "Plate Varieties," "Chicago Covers," "Precanceled Revenues," "Blocks," "Mint"—all these are special phases of collecting. Why do we do this? There are many reasons such as here listed.

- REASONS FOR SPECIALIZATION

 1. Lack of financial ability to collect broadly.
- 2. Imitation of others.
- Desire to lead in some one philatelic phase.
- Personal interest or aptitude in one line.
- 5. Specialization for profit.

Accident. (I know of one collector who was a general col-lector until he made a big find of early covers. Since that time he has been a confirmed cover collector.)

Yes, almost every collector is a specialist and this is a desirable condition. There are, however, far too many of us who "turn up our noses" at the collections of others and in so at the collections of others and in so doing we "shut out more information than we keep in." It is said that a manufacturer of white collars may visit a blacksmith shop and learn something that will aid him in the manufacture of his starched collars. Even so, may the collector of covers discover in a precancel collection data regarding the famous "Glen Allen Precancel" and then find it among his discarded covers. In a collection of early mint U.S. there was recently found an enormous double transfer on the 5c-Taylor, previously unknown and far exceeding in beauty any of the better known varieties.

Many a time I have observed an

exhibition of a collection at a club meeting where only a very few the members would pay any attention to the exhibit. These few were owners of similar collections. The others ers of similar collections. The others felt that they were not interested in the exhibit because "they did not col-lect that way," and yet the ones who were inattentive to the lecture were actually the ones who would have profited the most by it. The lectures in one case expounded in the rarity of certain paper and perforation varieties in a certain issue. Immediately after the lecture two attentive listeners at once picked up the sales books from an inattentive member and purchased three copies each of these rarities for a small fraction of their value. There is an old Biblical saying that goes something like this, to quote an old negro friend of mine: "If you don't have it you lose it, and if you have it, you get more."

"KNOW YOUR COUNTRY'S STAMPS" It was this slogan that first attracted me toward the Bureau Issues Association. It applies broadly to all collectors, the world over. I would like to modify it a bit:

"KNOW YOUR COUNTRY'S STAMPS

Here is how you can do it. Make a COLLECTION O F COLLECTIONS as a side issue to your own favorite specialty, consider the obtaining of one stamp to illustrate all the phases of philately. Try it and see for your-self how little you know about philately as a whole. Here is a tentative check list to start on:

A Collection of Collections

- check list to start on:

 A Collection of Collections

 A. Pre Stamp Covers

 1. An early date.

 2. A late date (after stamps were available of the collections)

 3. One ship or packet cancel.

 4. One straight line cancelation.

 5. Etc., with a bit of data on each item.

 B. Private Carrier Stamps

 1. Single copy with a bit of history of the company.

 2. On cover sione.

 3. On cover with a government stamp.

 4. Etc., with a bit of data in the fight of the private companies to prevent the government from monopolizing the letter carrying business.

 C. Postmaster's Issues

 1. One copy with data as to the government.

 D. U. S. Postage Issues

 1. One stamp from each regular issue with data for the reason of the issue or the abandonment of the previous issue. Do this and you will be surprised at the amount of philatelic history regarding which you know little.

2. Air Mail. One stamp from each issue with a descriptive write-up showing the history of the air mails. One pioneer flight cover, one first flight C.A.M. cover, one dedication cover, etc., with a description of each type of government activity. Do this first to educate yourself and then to educate others.

Plate Numbers.
 a. Obtain one copy from each firm who made plates for the government. Who were they? When did they have contracts?

a. Obtain one copy from each iffm who made plates for the government. Who were they? When did they have conbody the construction of the constructi

page of precances as the control of the control of

E. Revenues

1. Copy of a colonial embossed revenue. Did
you ever see one? They are not so hard
to find. How about one each of the diferent issues?

to find. How about one each of the diferent issues?

2. Civil War revenues. One copy each issue
and showing imperforate, part perforate,
etc. Postage used as revenues. Revenues
used as postage. Bisected precancels, etc.

3. Later revenues. Each issue represented.

4. For educational purposes you may obtain
revenues on documents showing each type
of usage. Notes, Receipts, Stock Transfers,
Deeds, Mortgages, Wills, etc.

7. Plate Varieties
1. One of the 1c or 5c errors.

2. Two double transfers.

3. One triple transfer.

4. One shifted transfer.

5. One recut.

6. One defective transfer.

7. One broken relief.

8. One trimmed relief.

9. One damaged plate.

10. Extra line varieties such as from the
three rows of plate 3 of the 3c-1851.

11. One plate crack.

6. Ink Variations
Select some one stamp and obtain all its
shades, marking them with their proper

Ink Variations
Select some one stamp and obtain all its
shades, marking them with their proper
color. Show faded, oxidized, washed and
chemically changed color. Double impressions from both regular and offset prints.
Blurred prints, etc.

Biurred prints, etc.

H. Use of U. S. Stamps outside of the U. S. Colonies, battleships, expeditionary post offices, etc.

Conditions

Selection of the control of the control of the Conditions on cover, off cover, mint, unused without gum, few perfs gone, off center, torn, heavily canceled, etc., and price these all with a net cash value to show the value of condition. The higher the price of the stamp the better this display will be. The educational value of such a display to a club is enormous.

The above description of a "collection of collections" is far from competition of collections" is far from competition of collections" is far from competition of collections of collections in the control of the control of the collection of collections in the control of the collection of collections in the collection of the collection of collections in the collection of collection of collections in the collection of collection of collections in the co

lection of collections" is far from complete as it may be expanded apparently without limit. As you read it over you will easily see how broad is the field of your hobby. Let each one specialize as he may choose but let all know something about the rest of the field. Make this "collection of collections" in your own mind at least. Let there be no phase of philately but of which you know at least the important fundamentals. Encourage others in their interests that they may educate you. Court the other collectors, they may have some new observations for your own edification. Thank the lucky stars that there are many ways to collect for if everyone collected as you do the hobby would soon die for then only a man of unlimited means could have what may now be a cheap item.

Reprinted from "Weekly Philatelic Gossip"

COMMITTEE ON PLATE VARIETIES: GENERAL

C. W. BEDFORD, Chairman 319 Vaniman St., Akron, Ohio

#1305. 24¢ AIRMAIL, 1923. E.J. Thomas, B.I.A. 433, sends his first contribution in a block of this stamp showing a Triple Transfer. The main double is displaced to the left, showing the left frame line faintly out in the left margin with extra lines in the "E" of "CENTS" and in the "AGE" of "POSTAGE". The right frame line is also doubled faintly to the right in the right margin.

#559. 7¢-1922, FLAT PLATE. A lower plate number block, 16252, shows small double transfers in all six stamps. Check at the top and in the corners. These doubles are apparently due to the removal of the relief from the plate to examine the design followed by returning the relief to the same position to still further deepen the design but in the first roll of the relief after examination, it did not exactly "key" with the design as first rolled-in. E.J. Thomas.

2¢ COLUMBIAN. Shift Hunter Letter No. 65 will illustrate a DT showing the biggest degree of displacement of design that has yet been found on this stamp. The right frame line and the "2" of the year date are to be found, clearly doubled to the left, out in the center of the stamp. Please do not misinterpret the catalog price for a DT on this stamp as applying to varieties of this type which were unknown at the time the listing was made. Several big Double Transfers and one enormous Triple Transfer have recently been found on this stamp and copies have exchanged hands at from three to ten dollars each. This new variety reported by E. J. Thomas.

#504.5¢ 1917. One of the two stamps that show Plate No. 13272 in the lower margin is slightly doubled upward and nearly all over, showing best just above the top frame line. There is also an apparent plate damage in the "S" of "CENTS" that is not a part of the double. Max G. Johl.

#2271-10¢ DUE. Large, twisted Double Transfer showing at upper and lower left corners. From the left edge of a pane as determined by a break in the precancel overprint in the stamp just beneath the double, Philadelphia. T.J. Gridley, B.I.A. 273, makes this report and he is the first one of the Shift Hunters to be so familiar with the over-prints as to combine the data of both schools of collecting. It never pays a collector to become so wrapped up in his pet method of collecting that he becomes an outstanding ignoramus in regard to other methods of collecting. Even if your friend

collects Match Box covers, take an interest in his work. You may learn something that will help you in your work. Just here we wish to compliment the students of the overprint plates. The location of breaks and errors on the plates continues to be a fascinating study.

15% OZ. TOBACCO TAX PAID STAMP. SERIES 102, ACT OF 2—26—26. Yes, this series is still in use and Gridley that 10 out of 11 that he has show, a double transfer. Sure, they are "Bureau Issues" and if you hunt a bit, you may find one. While we are on Tax Paids, the 12 inch long stamp for 50 cigars, Paid 30¢, Issue of 1878, shows a beautifully engraved picture of "CLAY" and out of about 100 copies we have found one with this picture showing a really fine Double Transfer, while the frame and the rest of the 12 inch stamp is normal. This Double is such as to clearly indicate that the picture of Clay was not on the same transfer roll as the rest of the design and was rolled-in separately. We have other Tax Paids that show DTs of sections only and it is quite interesting to figure out how many transfer rolls were used for one of these long stamps.

Committee On Commemoratives - New Issues

MAX G. JOHL, Chairman 20 W. 37th Street, New York City

Welcome to Lee M. Ryer the new Chairman of the Committee of Bureau Issues Plate Varieties. It is certain that the selection of Lee Ryer by C. W. Bedford is for the best interests of the B.I.A. and he should be given the same fine cooperation given to other committee heads as no one person can be expected to find ALL the varieties. As a welcome to Mr. Ryer we will start this month's report with one of the items submitted by him.

3 CENT BICENTENNIAL. 21015-UL-42. There is a small double transfer in the lower right corner. This can be seen with an ordinary glass as a doubling of the shading in in the corner as well as part of the background of the numeral which can be seen in the colorless circle at the right. There is also a very small double in the same corner on #82. This can only be seen with a strong glass as added lines at the lower right part of the white circle around the right numeral and at the bottom of the triangle in the lower right corner.

LAKE PLACID. 20823-UL-73 Reported by John G. Kuespert. There is a scratch running from the ski down through the "E" of CENTS and into the "E" of STATES in #83.

20823-LR-50 Has a horizontal scratch

starting in the lower right corner and continuing out into the margin.

2 CENT BICENTENNIAL. 20865-LR-40. A heavy scratch in the "N" of CENTS and running down into the margin between this stamp and #50 has been found on several copies by Anton Pristoupimsky.

20792-LL. Charles J. Demuth has found a series of cracks in the bottom row of this plate. These cracks are in the margin between numbers 4 and 5 and to the right #10. This may extend into the right pane. Additional information is required.

While on the subject of cracked plates it might be well for those interested to check back previous reports and note that almost all of these cracks recently reported are almost always in the outside rows of the plate, i.e., at the top or bottom. It will further be noticed that most of the cracks are in between the same stamps on different plates. The cracks are usually found on UL-1, between UL-4 and 5 in the margin between the right and left panes, between UR 6 and 7 and on UR-10. From these facts it seems logical to assume that these cracks are caused by pressure in the printing which is unevenly distributed by the bolts at the back of the plate which hold it to the press, causing the plate to crack at these points. This makes it advisable that collectors check these rows on the rotaries in their postoffice stock from time to time as the crack may not be found on earlier printings. A good example of cracks only found on later copies may be seen on the 3¢ Olympic, 20906 UL-1, which is known without cracks as well as with cracks above the sprinter's head, and the 1¢ Bicentennial, 20742-UL, on which there were no evidences of a crack on early printings, but several on later copies.

OGLETHORPE. 21095-UR-14. George R. M. Ewing has found a large dot in the top of "T" of CENTS. H.M. Jones has found the following varieties on this stamp but has not had the opportunity to check for constancy. These are on plate number blocks of ten. Who can check these as plate varieties?

21096-UL-4 Dot in lower loop of first "3" of 1933.

21104-UL-13. Last "T" in STATES is defective at the upper right.

21101-UL-61. Slight doubling of the lower left corner. Shows in the lower left frame line, also background around left "3". causing it to appear almost solid. The last item was found by Mr. Jones on two copies.

21099-LL-23. Dr. G.C. Fritschel has found a dot in the lower left "3". This is small but is found on several copies.

3 CENT, 1932. 20990-UL-72. Dr. Fritschel has found a spot on the nose in several