

BUREAU
ISSUES
ASSOCIATION

PLATE
VARIETIES
COMMITTEE

U. S. PLATE VARIETIES

Shift Hunter Letter No. 60

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
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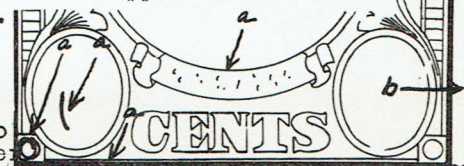
All Other Issues
C. W. BEDFORD

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

12¢-1922, No. 564. Richard Kindig refers to SHL No. 36 and finds that the double transfer on the Melville cover as illustrated at the lower right corner of No. 36, is from position 2 in the UR pane of plate 14,404, which was the first plate used for this stamp. On further inspection Kindig finds that position 74-UL-14,404 shows the fine TRIPLE TRANSFER as illustrated at the right. This triple shows a bit in "Columbus", better in the lower left corner circle and below the lower frame. The other double shows clearly in the right margin. See a and b.

Mazel Knurm has sent in a contribution of considerable importance and extent. His data will be found in several subsequent reports. Please turn to SHL No. 40 and with a pen mark the plate positions for the crack on plate 10656 as follows:- 3-4-5 and 13-14-15. Then sketch in positions 23-24-25 below the others. The crack may now be extended downward to opposite the lower frame lines of positions 23 and 24, where it stops. This plate has no Imprints and the eight plate numbers are opposite the fifth stamp in from the corners, both vertically and horizontally.

Next turn to the early SHL that was not given a SHL number but was marked "Report No. 4". The plate crack on plate 10645 is from the LL pane (data from F.J. Towler) Mazel Knurm has a copy of this crack that only extends up to the top of positions 95-96. McCoy's copy is therefore a late state of the crack which evidently enlarged during usage.



Scott's S.U.S. Cat. lists a "Diagonal line through left '1' (Plate 2138)" on No. 323, the 1¢-Louisiana Purchase Issue. We reproduce here the drawing of this variety by George A. Hunt as recently published in Mekeel's Weekly. This is a large gash or damage to the plate and is position No. 2 in the left pane. There are only two panes, L & R, on the plate so this stamp is the second stamp in the top row at the UL corner of the plate.

Arrow blocks on the 1¢-1902 and the 2¢-1903 Shield frequently show large colored balls variously spaced in the arrows. The three at the right are from plate 2631 of the 2¢-1903. They also appear on plates 2848 and 2869 of the same stamp. Max G. Johl has a copy showing this same item on the 1¢-1902.

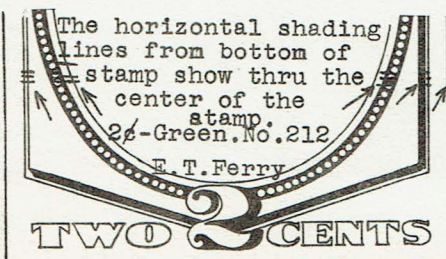
The Shifted Transfer that doubles the left frame lines on the 3¢-Louisiana, No. 325, is 8-R-2101 or the third stamp in the second horizontal row, right pane, plate 2101. There are no other plate varieties in the 4 plates used for this stamp. Mazel Knurm.



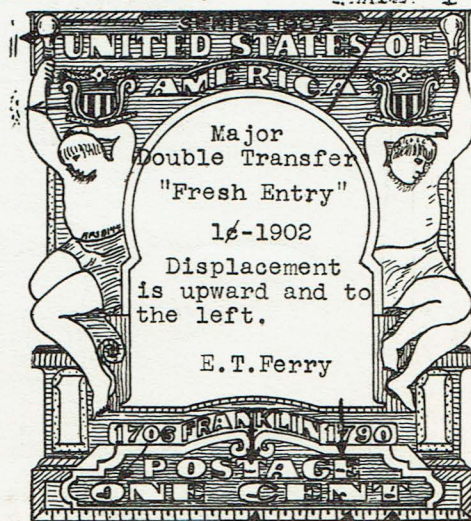
Cracks at the plate edges, adjacent the so-called center lines made by the edges of the plates, are now quite common on coil stamps. Here is one that is different. It comes from F.L. Owen thru L.M. Ryer and the Western Stamp Collector. Not only is there a crack at the edge of the plate but there are several parallel cracks through the top label. These are therefore Type III, Rotary Press Cracks, see SHL No. 42.

Dr E.M. Gearhart reports a variety on the present 5¢ Air Mail stamp. This is in the two stamps just above the stamp with the LR plate No. 20606. A heavy line runs from the center of the right frame of the upper stamp down through the margin, into the lower stamp and ends in a dot about midway in the inner right margin between the inner and outer frame lines as illustrated. This is a constant variety but what is it?

E.T. Ferry contributes two more major plate varieties



as shown in the two lower corners. Both are the only copies so far reported and both are fine items. Pick up a few thousand of these common stamps and try your luck at variety hunting.



SPECIAL NOTICES TO ALL B.I.A. MEMBERS AND TO ALL SHIFT HUNTERS

Funds. The funds from which the Shift Hunter Letters are issued are still frozen in the bank and the March issue is the last one that has been printed. Master copies are already prepared for the next seven issues but there is not a cent wherewith to print them. Ways and means will certainly be found to proceed with the work but if there is a delay, rest assured that sometime in the near future you will receive all missing copies and that the work will not cease.

Two dollars from each Shift Hunter will again be payable on the first of September. If there are a few fortunate members who are able to advance this amount at the present time it will be of material aid at this critical time.

In the meantime correspondence and compilation of data need not cease. Let us continue the good work and pile up the Masters for future Shift Hunter Letters.

Reprints In addition to the regular Shift Hunter Letters it has been our object to supply Reprint copies of articles that have appeared in various philatelic journals so that the Shift Hunters might have as complete a file of Plate Variety information as possible. In many cases the publishers have failed to grant our request and in many other instances they have heartily cooperated. The expense has been paid out of the Shift Hunter Funds.

With the printing of the Bureau Specialist the cost of reprints of the Plate Varieties Committee has enormously increased beyond our limitations and for the present, at least, these reprints are no longer available. Most of the Shift Hunters are B.I.A. members and this will work no hardship on them. The few who are not members of the B.I.A. may not miss these reprints but if they do we suggest that the annual dues of this society are very low and that they get in touch with the Secretary at once and back date their membership to January 1st, 1933 so that they receive all back copies. A copy of this issue of the Bureau Specialist is mailed to all the Shift Hunters whether B.I.A. members or not.

Reprints from other Journals will be continued wherever we are successful in making the arrangements. This is considered as an Extra part of the Shift Hunter Service. All those who receive this service realize that we try to give them as much for their yearly \$2 as we possibly can.

Circulating Philatelic Library. All of our B.I.A. members or all of our Shift Hunters cannot purchase all of the fine books that ap-

pear on Philatelic subjects. Where ever these books have sufficient contents to make them desirable for Plate Variety Collectors we hope to purchase them and make them available for the members.

The following books are now here. Against your positive guarantee of CAREFULL handling and prompt attention to forwarding, they are available to you under the following conditions:

Mailing charge, 10¢ a book, minimum.
Flat rate of 3¢ a day from date of mailing to date of remaining based on postmarks
Minimum charge, 5 days.
Advance deposit, \$1.00 until used or refunded

The following books are now available.

"The 3¢ Stamps of the U.S. 1851-57 issues."
Dr. Carroll Chase.

"The U. S. Postage Stamps of the 20th Century" King & Johl.

"An Introduction to Advanced Philately."
Alexander Sefi.
(This book by Sefi is of special interest to every Shift Hunter)

Other books will be added if warranted by the demand.

Educational Collections. The Plate Varieties Committee Educational Collection now sports a Blue Ribbon and has traveled far and wide in its mission of helpfulness. It is shipped by Express with a valuation of \$500.00. The charge is \$1.00 for ten days and the collection is sent C.O.D. and returned Prepaid. For your annual exhibitions or for a special night at the club you will find this exhibition will furnish a bright spot in your year's program. Shipping weight about 8 pounds.

The Educational Collection of the 3¢ 1851-1857 stamps also continues to be in demand. This collection, in two large Rapkin albums, is one that you will want to study for a week to ten days and you could easily work with it for six months or longer. Shipped by express with a valuation of \$600.00. Shipping weight about 20 pounds. Sent C.O.D. and returned Prepaid. Charge of \$2.00 for ten days. This is not just a lot of 3¢ 1851 stamps but is arranged and illustrated to show the methods of replating and all the varieties that aid in replating. Yes, it is a collection for the student and not a collection to just satisfy idle curiosity.

Both of these Educational Collections are for the serious collector who desires to improve his philatelic education or for a group of such men. The 3¢ 1851 collection is not for public exhibition but the Plate Varieties Educational Collection is easily used for this purpose or for passing around at a club meeting. Lecture Notes are included.

New Sub-Committee I cannot too strongly

express my appreciation of the wide spread support given to the Plate Varieties Committee and to the Shift Hunter program. So great is the interest and so great is the correspondence that once again we must subdivide the committee work.

Mr. L. M. Ryer, 4819 38th St., Seattle, Wash. now takes over the committee work on "Bureau Issues Plate Varieties"

This will not affect the work of Max Johl, 20 W. 37th St., New York who will continue to receive data and to report on "Commemoratives and New Issues". With this exception, all Bureau printed varieties should now be reported direct to "Lee" Ryer and all earlier issues to C. W. Bedford, 319 Vaniman St., Akron, Ohio.

Arrangements are being made so that both Johl and Ryer will prepare illustrations which will appear in the Shift Hunter Letters and both of these sub-committees will make a monthly written report thru the Bureau Specialist.

All data on earlier issues and Revenues should be reported through Mr. Bedford as in the past.

For Information What is the difference between the "Shift Hunters" and the "Plate Varieties Committee of the B.I.A." This question is so frequently asked that a reply seems necessary.

1. The "Shift Hunters" are a group of plate variety collectors and as a whole they are independent of any society or organization. They are older than either the B.I.A. or the P.V. Committee.

2. The Shift Hunters report their finds on Bureau Issues thru the Bureau Specialist and function as the Plate Varieties Committee of the B.I.A.

3. The Shift Hunters report their finds in Early U.S. postage stamps thru the Shift Hunter Letters and through various philatelic journals.

4. The Shift Hunters report their finds in U.S. Revenues through the Revenue Unit of the American Philatelic Society.

5. The Shift Hunters as a whole seek to encourage plate variety collecting and to broadcast data through any or all magazines or possible philatelic publicity.

6. The monthly reports of the Shift Hunters at \$2. a year, are available to any collector irrespective of Society affiliation. The monthly reports of the Plate Varieties Committee are obtainable only through the Bureau Specialist, the monthly journal of the Bureau Issues Association. These two reports are supplementary to each other.

7. The two sub-committees under the

leadership of Johl and Ryer, make their written reports through the Bureau Specialist and place their illustrations in the Shift Hunter Letters.

8. There is no conflict and very little overlapping of interests. The Shift Hunters include the Plate Varieties Collectors of the B.I.A. as well as the plate variety students of any or all issues, inside or outside of any society. The Shift Hunters are unorganized, have no dues, they are not an organization, just a cooperating group of collectors of like interests that work together anywhere at any time.

To obtain the greatest value:—

All Shift Hunters should subscribe to the "Bureau Specialist".

All B.I.A. members should subscribe to the "Shift Hunter Letters".

All Revenue collectors should subscribe to the "American Philatelist".
C. W. Bedford.