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U. S. PLATE VARIETIES

Shift Hunter Letter No. 64

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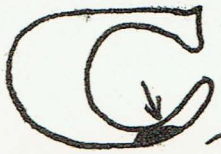
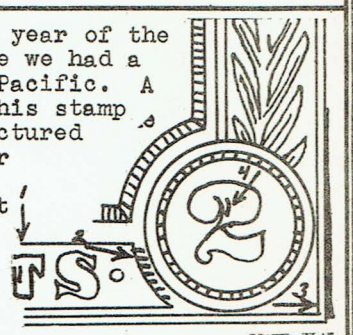
Dr. G. C. Fritschel is the discoverer of this fine set of Cracks on the 2¢ 1908, No. 332. Zig-zag and ragged, they are plate cracks that no one can question.

W. T. Kiepura has checked many of the 2¢ Spanish-American War Documentary stamps of 1898, and finds a BROKEN RELIEF with a sequence of the breaks from a mere start to the full break which is here illustrated. It is found in the "C" of "Documentary". A series of stamps showing a break of this kind are an attractive addition to any plate variety collection.



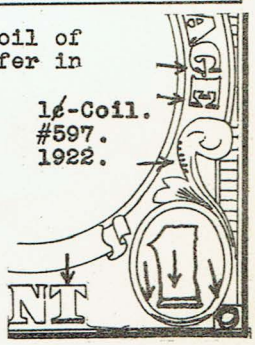
Information concerning the plate numbers on which the break started and ended would be of interest and value.

Not since the first year of the Shift Hunter Letters have we had a report on the 2¢ Panama Pacific. A new Double Transfer on this stamp from John Kuespert is pictured at right. He has another in which the left frame, etc., is doubled, but not so heavily.



Dr.R.B.Montgomery finds several new varieties worthy of illustration: #597, the sidewise 1¢ Coil of 1922, with a fine Double Transfer in the lower right corner as illustrated at the right. Here also (below at left) is a new Double Transfer on the 12¢...

Dr. Montgomery also has a faint double on the 12¢ with a clear defective transfer of the square at the lower right corner. Many other varieties from the same source were reported in the Bureau Specialist for February 1933.



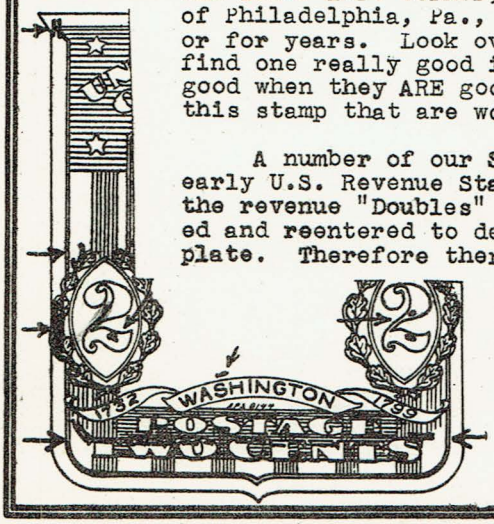
1¢-Coil. #597. 1922.

12¢-1922

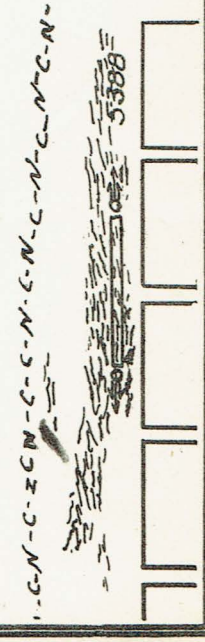
IN the lower right corner is illustrated one of the finest examples of a series of surface cracks that I have yet observed, and being on a commemorative plate does not "spoil it a bit". It is on the upper left pane of the plate and very easily seen without a glass. This was probably a hard spot in the plate because there is a strong Defective Transfer in the Imprint and plate number. It is on the 2¢ Hudson-Fulton and comes from the collection of Dr. E. M. Gearhart of Erie, Pa.

AT the left is a similar series of surface cracks from the 2¢ Flag stamp of 1902, similar to those previously reported by Dr. Gearhart, but a bit more spread out. The same illustration will also serve for several similar items on No. 375; the 2¢ stamp of 1910 as submitted by E. P. Nickinson.

The big double transfer on the 2¢ Shield of 1903, pictured in the lower left corner, comes from Georges Creed, the stamp dealer of Philadelphia, Pa., who has been an ardent plate variety collector for years. Look over five thousand of this stamp and if you can find one really good item you will be well rewarded for they are good when they ARE good. There are also many Shifted Transfers on this stamp that are worth studying.



A number of our Shift Hunters are just finding out that the early U.S. Revenue Stamps are loaded with plate varieties. Most of the revenue "Doubles" are reentries, where a worn plate was annealed and reentered to deepen the design and lengthen the life of the plate. Therefore there is usually an EARLY and a LATE state of each plate and the same positions may be found with and without the Double Transfers. Cancellation dates will indicate the approximate date of reworking the plate.



(NOTE: For obvious reasons it was necessary to slightly rearrange and to entirely retype this report. Hence any difference noted between this and previous reports. LMR)

40