

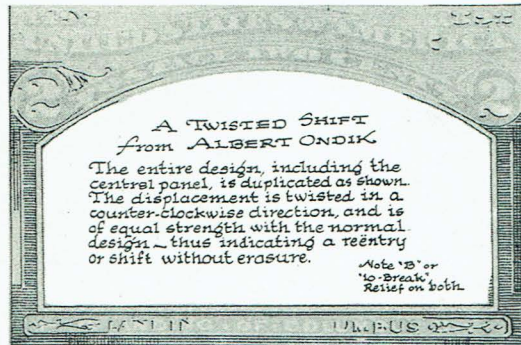


The SHIFT HUNTERS

AN ORGANIZATION OF STUDENTS OF PLATE RESEARCH PROBLEMS—
Acting as the PLATE VARIETIES COMMITTEE of the BUREAU ISSUES ASSOCIATION



Subscriptions to Shift Hunter Letters \$2 per year, starting with January

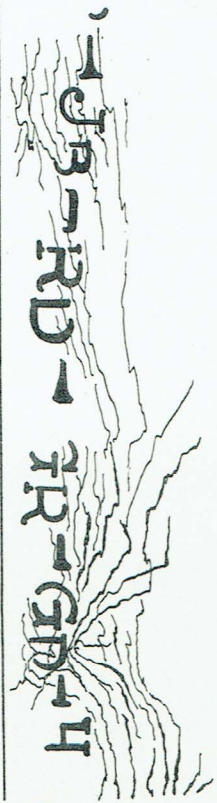
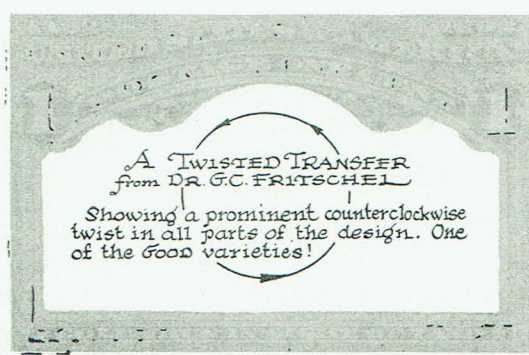


WITH THIS THIRD LETTER OF the new series we send you a reprint of the Plate Variety Committee reports in our BIA publication - the "BUREAU SPECIALIST" - of February and March, in lieu of a mimeographed supplement containing the roster of Shift Hunters. Because of the fact that such a large number of the old subscribers have not yet re-subscribed -- and that new subscriptions are coming in every day, we are holding the roster open to the end of the month and will mail it with

the April Shift Hunter Letter. Tell YOUR FRIENDS about these reports and get all the new subscriptions you can during the current month!

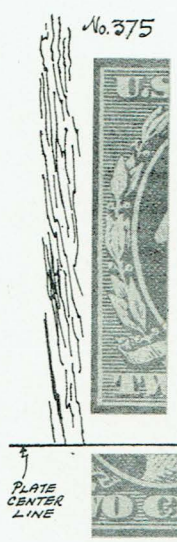
The 1¢ and 2¢ 1908-10 are our own particular pets, and we have examined some 50,000 of each during the past three years without finding but one copy showing a plate crack...and that was the "Fractured Skull" that was illustrated back in SHL #51. However, it seems easy enough for some of our "hunters", for we are constantly shown new varieties that excite our envy and spur us on to further search. The three examples shown below are from Albert Ondik...and we would like to know how many hundred thousand he had to examine to find these. Then he ends his letter with the statement that "these are just a drop in the bucket to what I have to send"!!!!

OK, Albert -- send 'em in!!

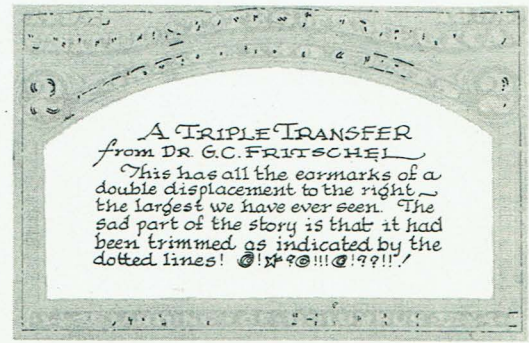


SPEAKING of Cracks...here's plenty of them in one place! This vertical pair of #374 and plate margin comes from friend Clem Ernst, while D.C. Bartley says he can remember when he had whole sheets showing this! Some of our "gang" should be able to furnish position data for these, and we will appreciate getting it.

PLEASE SEND YOUR VARIETIES IN FOR RECORD!



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Committee On Plate Varieties

L. M. RYER, Chairman

1932 E. Calhoun St., Seattle, Wash.

All of our committee members will be glad to learn of the resumption of the publication of *SHIFT HUNTER LETTERS*, the first of which is numbered Volume 6, No. 1, and will be in the hands of all new and old subscribers by the time you read this. If, thru an oversight you have not received a copy, or if your name has never been on the mailing list and you desire to subscribe, please communicate immediately with your Chairman. The subscription price is \$2 per year for 12 reports.

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In connection with our taking over publication of the *Shift Hunter Letters*, we received all the stock of back reports, mats, blank sales books, and other accessories formerly carried by the late C. W. Bedford. Back issues of the *Shift Hunter Letters* will be furnished at the rate of \$2 per year for the years ending September 1931, 1932 and 1933. Mounting and illustrating Mats from \$1.25 to \$2.00 per 100, postpaid. Blank circuit books 20 for \$1.00. We shall be pleased to hear from any member at any time with reference to any of the activities or supplies of this committee or the Shift Hunters.

* * * * *

One of the urgent jobs that presents itself for completion this year is the listing of all data on the Hudson Fulton issue. Only 8 plates were made for these stamps, numbered 5388 to 5395, both inclusive. Many of these plates contain outstanding varieties, but just as we think that all varieties have been found and accounted for, somebody finds a new one of which we have no record. Such a variety has just been received simultaneously from two sources, but outside of the fact that it has a guide line at left, and is therefore from a right pane, we have no clue. In the material received from Akron was a book of old notes made by Mr. Bedford, which contained a schedule of the 32 panes and a notation following the schedule reading "All positions checked at Bureau". Whether this was intended to mean that all positions of all 32 panes had been checked, or just all positions of some particular pane or plate we do not know, for no further information is given. Personally we have checked only four panes, and on two of those the straight edge positions had been removed. Those completely checked are 5388 LL and 5391 LL. Those partially checked are 5388 UL and 5394 UL. Some of our members must have or know of other panes which could be obtained and checked . . . or if you have already completely checked any of the panes not listed will you please forward your data, including varieties found, so that our records can be completed as quickly as possible.

* * * * *

JEFF SCHENK sends the complete pane 5391 LL of the Hudson-Fulton, which contains very small shifted transfers in positions 13 and 55; questionable (unverified) small double transfers in positions 11, 36 and 41, and identifying scratches in positions 14, 19 and 34. All of these varieties might easily be overlooked, so if you have this pane we would prefer to personally check it against our record illustrations before closing our records on this pane.

* * * * *

The Parcels Post issues present another fertile field for research, for nice varieties

have already been found in the 1¢, 2¢, 3¢, 4¢ and 5¢. JEFF SCHENK sends us the upper left pane of an unknown 1¢ plate (unfortunately, the margins with the plate numbers were missing) containing nice double transfers in positions 13 and 22. UL 13 shows an upward displacement above, in and below the lettering of the upper label and just below the legend POST OFFICE CLERK, while UL 22 shows a northeast displacement in nearly all the lettering and in or around both numerals of value as well. In SHL 51 were illustrated three fine double transfers occurring in positions 1, 2 and 4 of the upper left panes of 5¢ plate #6215; the displacement being sharply upward in all cases. Since then a fourth variety has been received from AL ROSS thru CHARLIE PALMER, showing a northwest displacement "all over". This copy has a straight edge at left, indicating that it comes from a right pane.

Who has more varieties in these interesting "special use" issues — the Parcels Post — Postage Dues — Special Delivery and Special Handling — Registry — Postal Saving Officials — Airmails etc.

* * * * *

Speaking of Postage Dues — JEFF SCHENK sent in the complete upper left pane of 10¢ PD #2271, showing a beautiful Two-way Triple Transfer in position 57. The displacement is westward at the top and eastward at the bottom, but shows no evidence of twisting. The pane bears the Bureau Imprint, Star and plate number 5532.

* * * * *

Thanks to J. G. Kuespert, Jeff Schenk, Al Ross, Charlie Palmer, Dr. Gearhart, Everett H. Townsend, Lyle Daigneau, Max Johl, Dr. Fritschel and many others for cooperation in recent weeks.

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One of our members dropped us a card recently, saying, "I have been a member of B.I.A. for about a year and would like to know how to get the most benefit by being a member. Would like to know the workings of your committee."

There is a chap whom we hope to add to our list of regular cooperators, for he has the right idea. Why don't all of you apathetic members get in and learn all about your organization and its various working committees — and then get to work with them?

It costs you nothing but a postcard to start — then an occasional 3¢ stamp and a few minutes of your time while you write a short note to accompany any specimens you may have to submit — and the various committee chairmen will appreciate it greatly. We're here for your benefit — with only the hope that we are able to increase our own knowledge while helping you — and at the same time increase the knowledge of the hobby as a whole! Don't be selfish with your varieties — they will be more valuable to you if publicized — and you will get a "kick" out of helping to push us along. And don't be afraid to send anything you may have for fear that you will find it doesn't amount to anything — that you will be laughed at as a hopeless amateur — or something — for "there aint no such animal"! We're all amateurs, but not hopeless — and we will be only too glad to answer your questions, coach you along, and make the subject really interesting to you! Give us a chance this year, will you?

(Reprinted from the February Specialist)

Committee On Plate Varieties

L. M. RYER, Chairman

1932 Calhoun St., Seattle, Wash.

A fine lot of varieties this month from a wide circle of contributors. Fine work . . . but keep it coming! Remember, it seems that all the past records have been lost, and unless your material has previously been reported in these columns or illustrated in the *Shift Hunter Letters*, it should be submitted again so that we can be sure that it is of record.

* * * * *

4¢ 1898, No. 280.

From Shift Hunter C. S. Ernst we have received the upper half of the left pane of plate 793, showing three nice double transfers not previously plated. These are in positions 8, 41 and 49 and are illustrated in SHL 66, but inadvertently the position designations of 8 and 41 were reversed in the illustrations. In position 8 the displacement is downward, showing below the medallion, in the top of the left numeral, in the lettering of FOUR CENTS and below the bottom frame. In position 41 the displacement is upward, showing above the upper left corner, in the white ovals above and below STATES and above CE of CENTS, at the top of the bow tie, in the left numeral of value, and in the colorless inner frame at the lower left corner. In position 49 the displacement is downward, showing at left of medallion, top of left numeral, FOUR CENTS and below bottom frame.

* * * * *

2¢ Jamestown, No. 329.

We encroach a bit on Monk Halsey's territory to save time of forwarding a specimen submitted by W. W. Hopkinson, showing a small Two-way Triple Transfer in the stamp under the top imprint of plate 3593. A Northwest displacement shows outside the upper left frame and many letters of both upper and lower labels, and an Eastward displacement shows outside the right frame and many other parts of the design. This is low in visibility, but a nice item which should be found readily in plate number collections.

* * * * *

1¢ 1908, No. 331.

From John G. Kuespert comes some fine varieties in this stamp. The most important is a 3 mm. upward displacement showing in and below the bottom of the medallion, in the left ribbon, in all the letters of ONE CENT and in several of the leaves at the sides.

Next is a copy showing a downward displacement in POSTAGE and ONE CENT and below the bottom frame. Dozens of similar Doubles are already of record, and someday we are going to find a full sheet of the plate from which these varieties come.

The third is a Southwest displacement showing inside the right frame and below the bottom frame, inside the left frame at top and bottom, in the S of U.S. and E of POSTAGE, and in the E of ONE and the NT of CENT.

* * * * *

2¢ 1908, No. 332.

From W. E. Booker comes a beautiful Double Transfer of large degree, showing a downward displacement of nearly 2 mm. below the top frame at left, in U and GE of U. S. POSTAGE, in all lettering of TWO CENTS, inside the bottom frame, and quite

