

Address all  
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**L.M. RYER,**  
1932 CALHOUN ST.  
SEATTLE  
WASH.

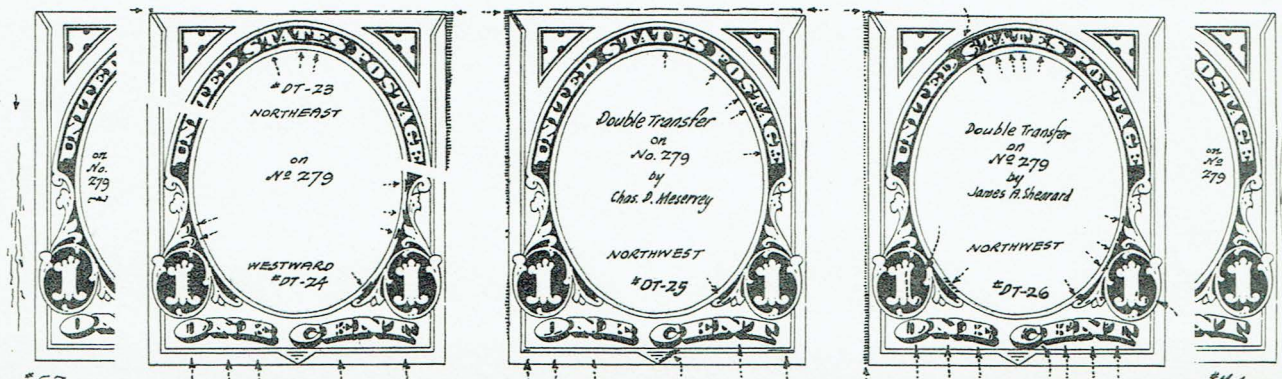
# The SHIFT HUNTERS

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

SHIFT  
HUNTER  
LETTER  
**VOL. VI, No 6**  
WHOLE No 71  
**JUNE 1934**

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

## ADDITIONAL PLATE VARIETIES ON THE 1¢ 1894-98 ISSUES



\*C-2  
Surface Cracks  
by  
C.D. Meservey  
(Shows Plate  
Center line  
at right)

Double Transfers  
by Charles D. Meservey

Double Transfer  
by James A. Shearard

\*M-1  
Scratched  
Plate  
by  
C.D. Meservey

Immediately following the issuance of SHL #70, an additional lot of varieties was received, and again we found it necessary to bring the story up to date by illustrating these further varieties. It will be noted that most of these varieties are from Chas. D. Meservey, and we congratulate him upon having added so many new items to our records on this stamp. It is probable that we will receive many more as the Shift Hunters check the items not yet reported, but any additional varieties will be held until another complete report can be issued.

### NOW WE WANT THE PLATE POSITION DATA!

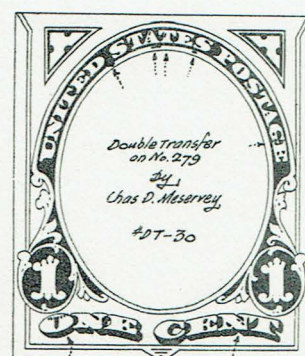
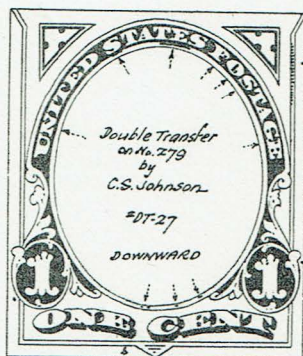
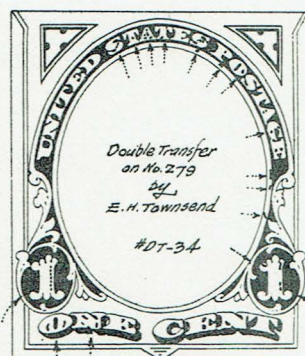
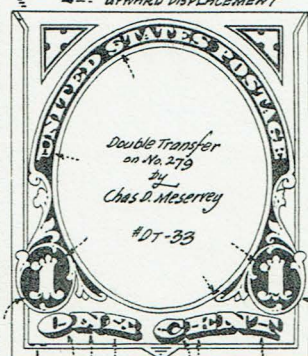
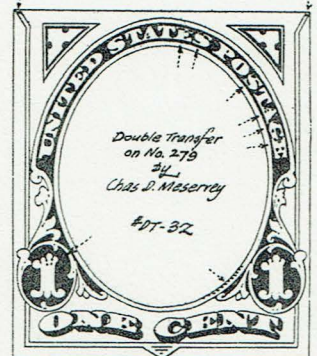
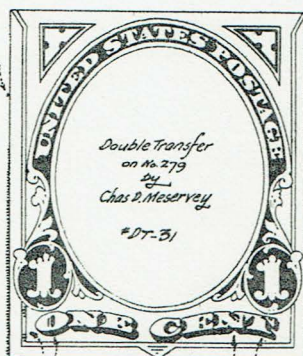


PLATE CENTERLINE

LOWER DETAILS DISPLACED SOUTHWEST

DISPLACED SOUTHWEST



DISPLACED SOUTHWEST

DISPLACED DOWNWARD

PLATE CENTERLINE

WESTWARD DISPLACEMENT

As Confucius said nearly 2500 years ago: "One picture is worth ten thousand words!" Use MATS for mounting and illustrating plate varieties. Prices from \$1.25 to \$1.75 per 100 postpaid—less than 2¢ each!

1934

12 CENTS (12)

1934



## Committee On Plate Varieties

L. M. RYER, Chairman 85 6/34

1932 Calhoun St., Seattle, Wash.

The boys and girls are still "up and doing" and our records are building up at a rapid rate. We're getting so many varieties these days that we don't know which to report first, but that's the way we like it! . . . . . then we'll be sure that we have enough to keep going during the summer months when things let up a bit.

\* \* \* \* \*

We do not believe that our readers have ever had an illustration of the two most interesting and novel cracks known in Bureau Issues . . . . . the two "Fractured Skull" varieties. The first of these, the 2¢ of 1908, was discovered about two years ago and was illustrated in a *Shift Hunter Letter* of that time. The second, in the 1¢ 1917 Horizontal Coil, was discovered last year and reported in *Stamps* by Max Johl. Now, to give you a better idea of exactly how they look, we illustrate them.



2¢ 1908 \*332, Perf. 11, D.L.W.M.K.  
**The FRACTURED SKULL of 1908**  
By L. M. Ryer ~



1¢ 1917 \*490, R.P. Coil, Perf. 10 vert.  
**The FRACTURED SKULL of 1917**  
By W. M. Miller ~



So far as we know the former exists only in a used single, while the later and larger variety was found in a mint coil . . . . . recurring every 34 stamps thruout. Since there are millions of the 2¢ 1908-10 stamps still to be examined and hundreds of coils of #490 still in postoffices and vending machine stocks it is probable that our steadily increasing crew of "Shift Hunters" will find duplicates of both . . . . . and many new ones besides!

\* \* \* \* \*

2c 1903, No. 319: W. W. Hopkinson sends a vertical Imprint and Plate Number block of six showing No. 4085 at left of the first stamp. The plate number position, as well as that beneath, shows a double transfer and defective entry at left. The imprint also shows a defective transfer, and appears to have been first entered inverted. The defects noted in the adjoining stamps may have been caused during tapping out and fresh entering the imprint. A fine block, whatever the causes.

Delbert Osborne finds a new double transfer in this stamp in which the displacement is 2 mm. downward. The top frame line shows in IT of UNITED and M of AMERICA. Lines of the bust show in the A and G of WASHINGTON. The left frame line continues downward very distinctly and the right frame line to a lesser degree. Additional indications appear in the AG of POSTAGE and EN of CENTS, and there is a short line 2 mm. below the bottom frame at right.

\* \* \* \* \*

2c 1908, No. 332: Dr. G. C. Fritschel sends duplicate copies of this stamp, showing an identical series of diagonal surface cracks across the upper right corner. A space of 3 mm. between the top of the design and the top perforations indicates that it comes from the top of a sheet; otherwise the bottom of an adjoining stamp would show in this much margin.

Albert Ondik sends the first Double Shift in this stamp, in which lines of the lower part of the medallion, top of TWO CENTS and lower shading lines are TRIPLED. This corresponds to the similar Double Shift (listed in the S.U.S. as "Triple Transfer") in the 12¢ 1914-17.

\* \* \* \* \*

50c 1908, No. 341: A Double Transfer showing an eastward displacement inside the left frame, outside the right frame, in the S, G and E of POSTAGE and in the N of CENTS, was shown us by Mrs. F. R. Joy. The copy shows a guide line straight edge at left.

\* \* \* \* \*

2c 1910, No. 375: A beautiful Double Transfer of eastward displacement showing strongly in the forehead and chin of the portrait and outside the right frame line (as well as in the lettering at both top and bottom) is submitted by Delbert Osborne. This looks very much like some from the bottom of plate 5311.

\* \* \* \* \*

1c 1912-15, No. 405: What appears to be a "rolling-in" crack along the inside of the right frame line and extending across the margin at lower right, is submitted in duplicate by L. P. Entwistle. One copy is #405 and the other #424, showing that it comes from some plate that was used for both issues.

\* \* \* \* \*

1c Booklet, No. 424B: Rev. C. Boevers sends duplicate booklet panes bearing plate number 6369 on which the fourth stamp shows the usual shifted transfer.

\* \* \* \* \*

1c Coil, No. 486: Add one more variety to those already discovered in this endwise coil . . . . . a gripper slot crack extending clear across the neck of the bust. This occurs in a stamp above the joint line, and can be seen without a glass.

\* \* \* \* \*

1c 1898, No. 279: Dr. G. C. Fritschel submits a copy showing a horizontal series of surface cracks above the design. Since the cracks run off the stamp at the left side, it is probable that they continue above other stamps of the row.

\* \* \* \* \*

2c 1898, No. 279b: A variety of interest to both our committee and the plate number fans is submitted by W. W. Hopkinson. The stamp is a plate number single, with No. 1374 at the bottom. In and around this plate number are unmistakable indications that the plate number was first entered inverted and then tapped out and replaced.

\* \* \* \* \*

1c 1902, No. 300: A. Lauzon sends a new double transfer, showing a downward displacement in the lamp at upper right; in the thigh and calf of the right figure; in the top of the right numeral; in the upper left corner; in A of AMERICA and in O of ONE.

\* \* \* \* \*

2c 1902, No. 301: Dr. G. C. Fritschel finds a new series of cracks running horizontally above the design on this stamp. Albert Ondik sends two copies showing similar surface cracks running vertically along the left margin. Kenneth D. Niven sends a third copy with still different cracks at left. The prize variety of the month in this stamp, however, comes from Chas. D. Meservey and shows a fine double transfer of downward displacement in letters of the top label, below AMERICA, in the top of the head, in letters of the bottom label and below the bottom frame line . . . . . also in both numerals of value. And BESIDES, shows a heavy series of horizontal surface cracks in and below the lower part of the stamp! Total, 5 new varieties.

\* \* \* \* \*

1c Coil, No. 490: A major Double Transfer of downward displacement is submitted by Delbert Osborne. The top frame line shows in the bottom of U. S. POSTAGE, the background shading at the top of the medallion shows on the forehead and side of the head of the portrait. The horizontal background is doubled downward into the leaves at the sides, and the lower left leaves are doubled downward in the background. The displacement is an even 2 mm. and the variety is as obvious to the eye as the "fractured skull" previously mentioned.

\* \* \* \* \*

7c 1926-27, No. 639: A Double Transfer showing all over the design is submitted by Kenneth D. Niven. The displacement is downward in about the same degree as a good shifted transfer, but shows in top frame lines, top of medallion, N and T of UNITED, lower part of the portrait, in MCKINLEY, side frame lines, above and below numerals of value, top of CENTS, and in all four corner circles. Looks like it should be due to a re-entry, but classified as a double transfer irrespective of cause.

\* \* \* \* \*

3c Stuart Coil, No. 721: W. W. Hopkinson sends a strip of this coil stamp showing a "gripper-slot" crack extending from the button upward across the stock to the jaw. The stamp shows the joint line at right and the number 20941 appears above the first stamp of the next plate. The crack is on the last stamp of the top row (position 17) of plate 20942, so you can mark this on your check list. Who can tell us if this is the crack listed in the S.U.S. catalog?

\* \* \* \* \*

10c Special Delivery, No. 1904: "Recuts"



in Bureau Issues are quite rare and particularly interesting, so we illustrate this "Broken Window" variety submitted by W. W. Hopkinson, showing the window pane as it appeared in the original state of the plate and then as repaired by recutting.

No. 1904 - 10¢ SPECIAL DELIVERY - RECUT  
1924 9 LL 45



Arthur F. Minkbach  
Walter H. Hopkinson

10c Postage Due, No. 2271: Albert Ondik submits the entire 9th vertical row from the upper left pane of plate 15860, every stamp of which shows a double transfer. The best positions are 29, 39, 79 and 89. Will somebody take the first opportunity to check and report on the lower left pane of this same plate, examining closely that same 9th row?

For the information of users of Shift Hunter Mats, we announce 9 new designs added to the list of those stocked, as follows: 1¢, 2¢ and 4¢ 1890-98; 2¢ 1902; 1¢ 1851-57; Univ. Walloon; 3¢ N.R.A.; 10¢ Special Delivery (first Bureau type); 10¢ Postage Due 1894-1929, and Medallions (Franklin or Washington) only for the 1908-21 series. All are obtainable in either grey tint or black @ 2¢ each or \$1.75 per 100, assorted to order.

Cooperate with and support your B. I. A. Committees and the Shift Hunters!

1c Coil, No. 21: A major double transfer of downward displacement is submitted by Delbert Osborne. The top frame line shows in the bottom of U.S. POSTAGE, the back-ground shading at the top of the medallion shows on the forehead and side of the head of the portrait. The horizontal background is doubled downward into the leaves at the sides, and the lower left leaves are doubled downward in the background. The displacement is an even 3 mm. and the variety is as obvious to the eye as the "fractured skull" previously mentioned.

7c 1928-27, No. 639: A Double Transfer showing all over the design is submitted by Kenneth D. Niven. The displacement is downward in about the same degree as a good shifted transfer but shows in top frame line, top of medallion, N and T of UNITED, lower part of the portrait in McKinley, side frame lines above and below numerals of value, top of CENTS, and in all four corner circles. Looks like it should be due to a re-entry, but classified as a double transfer irrespective of cause.

3c Stuart Coil, No. 121: W. W. Hopkinson sends a strip of this coil stamp showing a "gripper-slot" crack extending from the bottom upward across the stock to the jaw. The stamp shows the joint line at right and the number 30941 appears above the first stamp of the next plate. The crack in the last stamp of the top row (position 17) of plate 30942, so you can mark this on your check list. Who can tell us if this is the crack listed in the S.U.S. catalog?

10c Special Delivery, No. 1904: "Recut"

2c 1903, No. 319: W. W. Hopkinson sends a vertical imprint and Plate Number block of six showing No. 4085 at left of the first stamp. The plate number position as well as that beneath, shows a double transfer and a defective entry at left. The imprint also shows a defective transfer, and appears to have been first entered inverted. The defects noted in the adjoining stamps may have been caused during tapping out and fresh entering the imprint. A fine block, whatever the cause.

Delbert Osborne finds a new double transfer in the stamp in which the displacement is 3 mm. downward. The top frame line shows in IT of UNITED and M of AMERICA. Lines of the post show in the A and G of WASHINGTON. The left frame line continues downward very distinctly and the right frame line to a lesser degree. Additional indications appear in the AC of POSTAGE and EN of CENTS, and there is a short line 3 mm. below the bottom frame at right.

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1c Coil, No. 488: Add one more variety to those already discovered in this endwise coil. . . . a gripper slot crack extending clear across the neck of the post. This occurs in a stamp above the joint line, and can be seen without a glass.

# Committee On Plate Varieties

L. M. RYER, Chairman

1932 Calhoun St., Seattle, Wash.

The boys and girls are still "up and doing" and our records are building up at a rapid rate. We're getting so many varieties these days that we don't know which to report first, but that's the way we like it! . . . then we'll be sure that we have enough to keep going during the summer months when things let up a bit.

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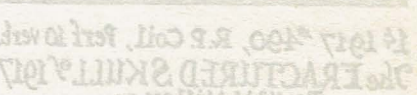
2c 1908 \* 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000'.



1c 1917 \* 400, R.F. Coil, 1st to 1st



1c 1917 \* 400, R.F. Coil, 1st to 1st



1c 1917 \* 400, R.F. Coil, 1st to 1st

So far as we know the former exists only in a used single, while the later and larger variety was found in a mint coil. . . . re-creating every 2¢ stamps throughout. Since there are millions of the 2¢ 1908-10 stamps still to be examined and hundreds of coils of \$400 still in post offices and vending machine stocks it is probable that our steadily increasing crew of "Shift Hunters" will find duplicates of both. . . . and many new ones besides!