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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
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The AMERICAN PHILATELIST for April 1934 contained a posthumous article by Clayton W. Bedford in explanation of the various relief and Shifted Transfer varieties to be found on the 1¢ 1902 that were printed from that famous plate No. 3365. The article showed that it was on this plate that the relief broke to produce the one and two-dot breaks that are common to this stamp.

The relief breaks and shifted transfers are so numerous on the plate that it could easily be replated by overlapping blocks, strips and pairs if the material could be found and submitted.

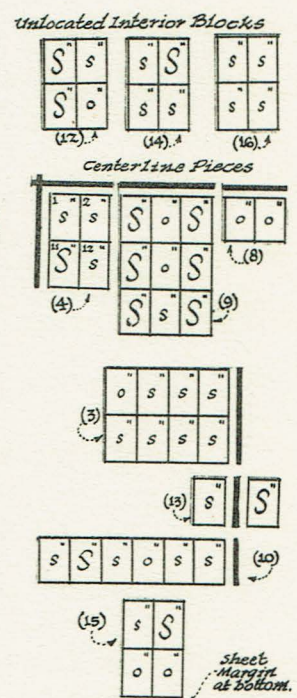
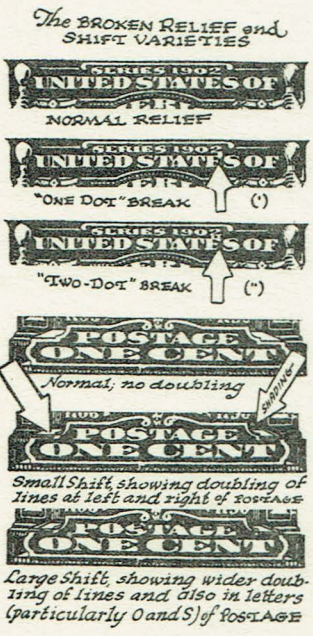
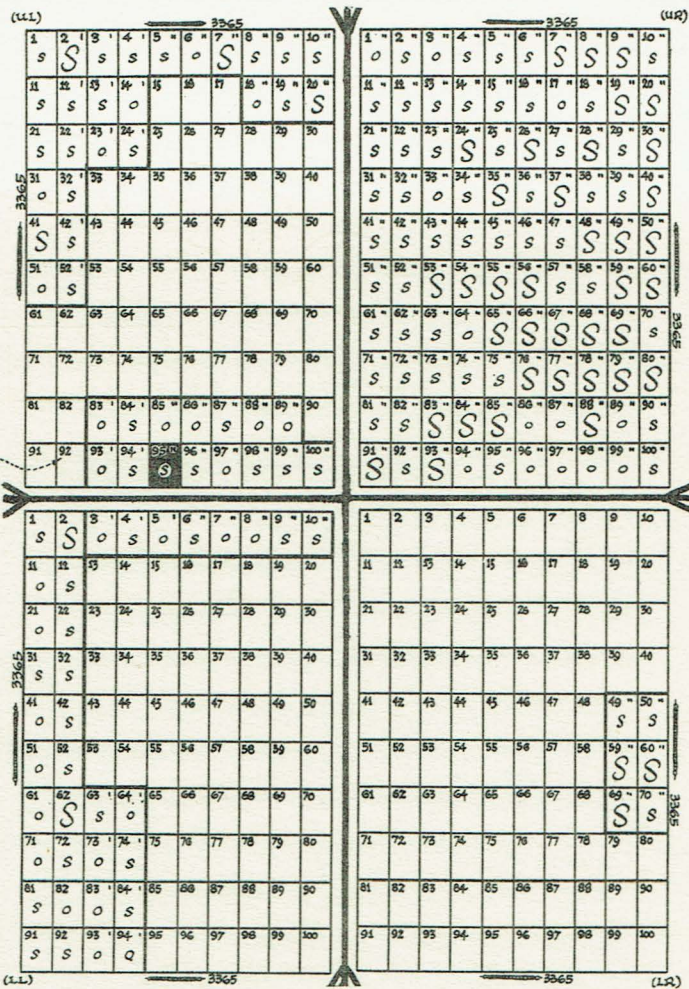
The entire UR pane and a considerable portion of the two left panes is identified as indicated by the heavily outlined blocks on the chart, in which "o" indicates "No variety", "s" indicates "small shift", and "S" indicates "large shift".

It is known that the rolling-in progressed from LL 91 to UL 1...LL 92 to UL 2...and so on until the UR corner at UR 10 was reached. From this, it

centerline block of four, and on checking it more closely we found that it contained a small shift in LL-1, a large shift in LL-2, a small defective transfer in UL-91 and a large shift WITH THE "1-DOT BREAK" IN UL-92!...thus proving that the latter position was the one on which the break occurred.

The "key" block is illustrated at the left of the plate chart. After the second break occurred, the relief continued in use on numerous other plates, so it is not possible to determine the source of a 2-dot break unless it is in a pair or block that also contains a 1-dot

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was determined that the one-dot break occurred somewhere between LL 2 and UL 52, and that the two-dot break occurred on UR 95. These relief breaks are illustrated at left in case they are not familiar to you. Some time ago we purchased a left arrow and

break or is large enough to accurately overlap a number of known positions, as determined by the degree of shift, position of plate markings, etc. A number of "wild" blocks and strips which are as yet unlocated are illustrated at the right of the plate chart; the numbers being those given in the Bedford article. We would like very much to completely reconstruct this plate this year, but it will require the cooperation of each and every one of you to accomplish the job. Let's do it... before it is too late!

Confidentially
Lee Myer

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!



2/6/35

Dear Shift Hunter;

Herewith the second Shift Hunter letter of 1935...and right on time as we hope all will be during this year. However, it will be a great help to us if you will send in your two bucks as soon as possible so that we will not have to "Stall" the printer for his work on these reports and for mats that we MUST have. PLEASE give us this assurance of financial security if you can....but if for any reason you should be a bit "financially embarrassed" just now (so are we)....DON'T feel obligated to resign, for we'd much rather have you stay with us, even if we have to send the reports GRATIS for a time. Of course we need the money....but we also need reports...and lots of them....so just drop us a card or a letter (with some Plate Varieties for record) and we'll be only too glad to "play ball" with you! We've a fine and ever-growing "gang" and we'll do anything possible to hold the bunch together. We're sure that our revered "CW" would never have dropped anyone from the list just for non-payment, and we're going to "carry on" as he would have us do it! Is that fair enough?

Two new Shift Hunters added to the roster during January, and one change of address, as follows:

256 PALAZZI, ANTHONY, Box 42, Byrnedale, Pa.

255 VINCIL, PEAKE, 24 Madison St. N.E., Washington, D.C.

231 LEE, JAMES R., to 1024 Washington St., San Francisco, Calif.

We're doing our best to increase the number of our cooperators, but we need YOUR help, too! Get your friends and correspondents to subscribe, send us the names and addresses of any live prospects you know of; do everything you can to broaden our field of activity....it will pay YOU dividends in more and better reports, mats and service. We will gladly send extra copies of the reports to any subscriber asking for them for missionary purposes.

REMEMBER....we are able to supply complete sets of back issues of all the Rotaprint (illustrated) reports....more than four years prior to 1935....and they make a wonderful Plate Variety reference library. The price is \$2 per year....\$3 the set....and they are getting scarce! For a limited time only, we will furnish a fine cloth-bound loose-leaf binder with orders for complete sets...at no extra cost! If you don't have these....get them NOW!

We want YOUR suggestions and criticisms. These are YOUR reports and we want them to reflect YOUR wishes and ideas. We are sure that you all HAVE ideas....but we can't read your mind. Put them in writing and mail them in!

We will shortly prepare an index of all information which has been published in the illustrated reports up to the end of 1934, which will greatly increase the value and convenience of the reports. You will not want to miss this!

With our next roster (about May or June) we would like to publish the SPECIALTY of each member, so that those similarly interested may work together. For instance, we have a dozen or so who favor the 2^d Columbian; another dozen are working on the 2^d 1890....etc....etc. These people should "pool" their findings and publish joint reports....and believe you us....we'll be glad to publish them, even if they run over into special reports during the year! So that we may include this information, please advise us of YOUR specialty at once!

CORDIALLY YOURS,

L. M. RYER