3 1 9 Vaniman Street, A K R O N Ohio.

U.S. PLATE VARIETIES
SHIFT HUNTER LETTER

C O M P I L E D F R O M T H E R E C O R D S of C. W. BEDFORD

12 58 Penna. A v e n u e T Y R O N E Penna.

Sept. 1938

P L A T E C R A C K S --- Type I.

Usage Cracks: Cracks developed during use of the plate. Uneven heating for the plates of the early issues or uneven pressure on any plate often developes usage cracks. This type of crack is found almost exclusively on the early issues. A crack is a depression in the plate, holds ink and prints in color like an engraved line.

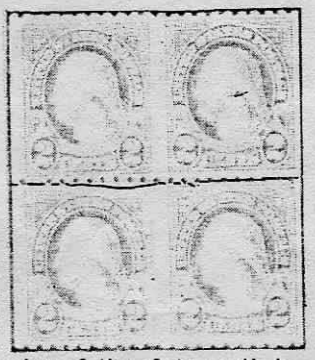
The illustration to the right is a large plate crack from the interior of Plate 5 of the 5¢ Inland Exchange.

P L A T E C R A C K S --- Type II.

Rocking-in Cracks: Cracks which follow the Frame Lines or Gutter and are produced by the enormous strains set up in the plate during transfering. These cracks are usually long, single cracks or a succession of cracks each being an extension of the other. When a crack is observed at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the plate is withdrawn from service.

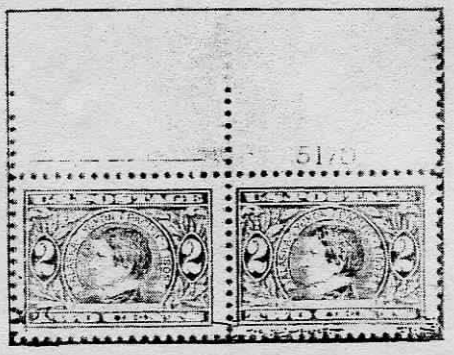
The illustration to the left is Scott #499. Mr. Geo. B. Sloane advised Mr. Bedford that this came from U.R. pane of Plate 9171 about the center of the pane. See S.H.L. #26 for Type II-crack on Scott #409 lower right pane of Plate #7580. Complete data for this was furnished by G. W. N. Ustiche. See S.H.L. #46.

P L A T E C R A C K S --- Type III.



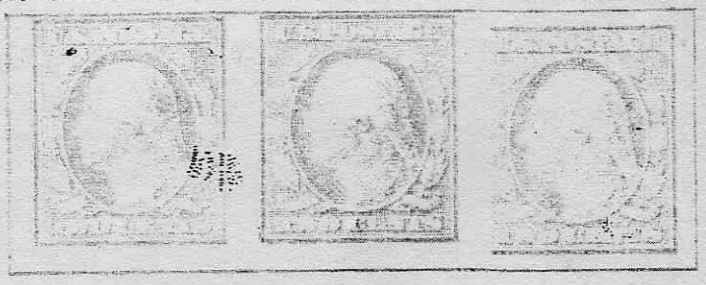
Rotary Press Cracks: Cracks produced during the bending of the plate to fit the Rotary Press. These cracks may be single or multiple but if the latter they are nearly parallel.

Illustrated to the right is a pair of vertical coils, Plate No. 18757, from Mr. Gerald Burgess. See S.H.L #47. For Type III-plate crack on Scott #487, 2¢-Carmine Type III, see Supplement to S.H.L #17.



P L A T E C R A C K S --- Type IV.

Irregular Surface Cracks: Many small cracks wandering here & there over the plate some times following the design but as often otherwise. Sometimes these tiny cracks tend to radiate or converge. Often they are due to improper annealing or softening of the plate so that the pressure from the rock-in process produces large numbers of these cracks. They are also said to develope during the final hardening of the plate. See S.H.L #26 for Type IV-crack on Scott #408. Illustrated to the left is Plate #5170 of the Alaska-Yukon.



P L A T E C R A C K S --- Type IVa.

DEFECTIVE TRANSFER: Surface cracks in the plate before entering causing a Note the fine Rosette- like cracks, evidently caused by a hard spot in the plate that did not anneal properly and remained harder than the rest of the plate. When the stamp was rocked-in over this crack the metal was so hard at this spot that the right frame line of the design did not transfer properly.... This left what we call a Defective Transfer (See Supplement to S.H.L. #17.)

Below is an actual photograph of three stamps of the 2¢ 1908-10 issue showing the Type III-plate crack. A close check will show that these are identical proving that these are constant on the plate. Another proof that these are from the same plate and same position is that none of them are watermarked. 72,000 stamps of this issue have been checked to obtain these cracks. Several more cracked plates were found which will be illustrated in future S.H.L. Two stamps were found showing Type III-cracks in the bottom of the stamp. These are much more rare than top cracks. Several were found showing cracks to the left frame line and these are by no means common.

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Sincerely yours,

GEO. BLACK