

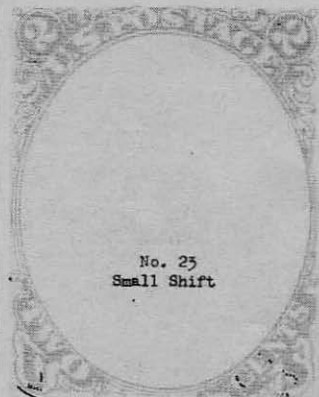
U. S. PLATE VARIETIES SHIFT HUNTER LETTER

COMPILED FROM THE RECORDS

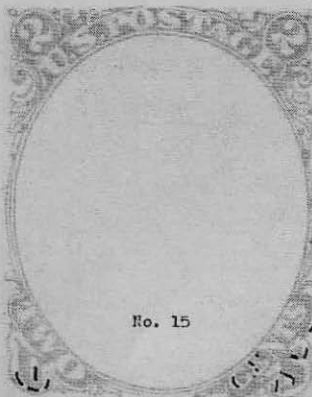
of
C. W. BEDFORD

319
Vaniman
Street.
AKRON
Ohio.

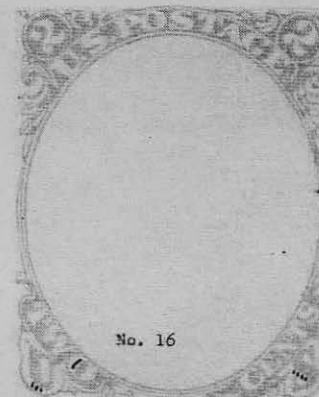
1258
Penna.
Avenue
TYRONE
Penna.



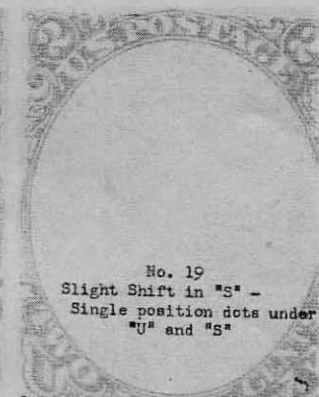
No. 23
Small Shift



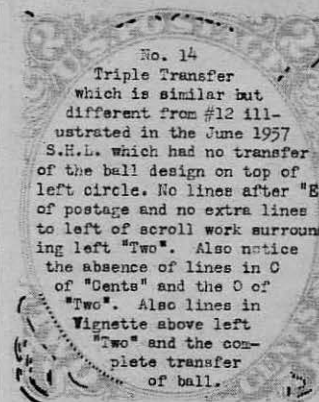
No. 15



No. 16



No. 19
Slight Shift in "S" -
Single position dots under
"U" and "S"



No. 14
Triple Transfer
which is similar but
different from #12 ill-
ustrated in the June 1957
S.H.L. which had no transfer
of the ball design on top of
left circle. No lines after "E"
of postage and no extra lines
to left of scroll work surround-
ing left "Two". Also notice
the absence of lines in C
of "Dents" and the C of
"Two". Also lines in
Wignette above left
"Two" and the com-
plete transfer
of ball.

Dear Shift Hunter:

January 1939

In going thru Mr. Bedford's files I came across the following letter which appealed to me very much. I wrote Mr. Atherton for permission to publish in the Shift Hunter Letters which he granted. This was written more than five years ago and we quote as of that time:

RANDOM NOTES ON 2¢ BLACK JACK
(by H. P. Atherton)

I consider any perfectly centered B.J. with "reasonable" (i.e. light etc.) cancel should be catalogued @ \$1.50 or so and should be sold @ around a \$, as the stamp is a tough bird, when perfect. (This does not mean stamp with shift; but the common garden variety.) I see very few perfect copies.

These are taken from the "fringe" around my actual collection - where the shifts are all arranged and titled as "at top left"; "at bottom right" - etc.

You notice this - if the stamp has shift at T.R. as example, its diagonal corner seems to have one ----e.g. top left and bottom right - odd! Believe I have over 75 different shifts in the collection. There were 7 plates 28, 29, 30 & 31 all in gray black as a rule then 50, 51 & 53. Have never seen Pl. #53. I call 'em the #30 group -- gray-black; the #50 group -- Intense black, or jet black, as those shades seem to predominate - the 2 groups. The jet Blacks are soft wide line which give the intense black, I think. They rarely show clean-cut D.T's.

Chance for you to write a book on this one stamp and its D.T's. My eyes are worth more to me than writing a book! Have, and can furnish right smart lot of material-- always saved 'em for 25 years - interesting but not now- am after pmks. and covers etc.

There are triple transfers too, note the single stamp on first page - at B.L.

I have saved "Month Dates" - May is complete except two. Have maybe 290 of the 366. Those missing are "tough". When a common N.Y. pmk. with clear date (and no year date) comes in today, the dealer annexes a price of \$1 - to \$1.50 on it!!! and so am trying to quit B.J's. as they have actually lost interest with me now.

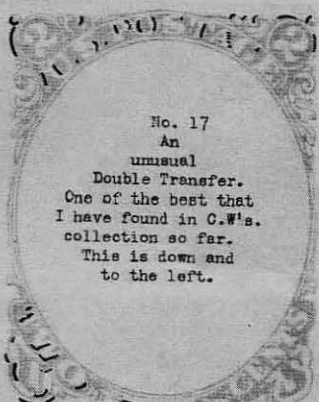
There are several cracked plates and several "scratches" of interest. Have one pair from bottom row showing "arrow" and think it was the first stamp to have ARROW on the plate. It is faintly engraved.

Possibly 10% of the B.J's send me in by gone days showed D.T's; but the dealers pick 'em out now.

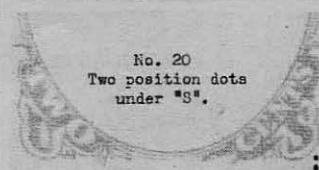
Am not bothering to draw "arrows to the points where crime (shift) occur", as you'll see 'em better than I can, most likely.

The D.T's. at T.R. are sometimes GOOD but they are less common than elsewhere.

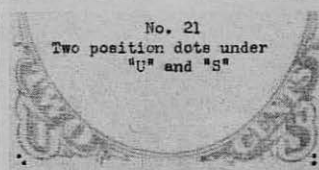
Sincerely yours, George Black



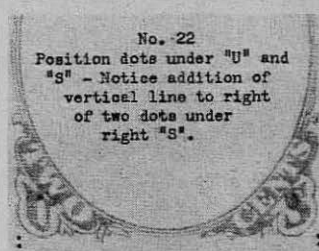
No. 17
An
unusual
Double Transfer.
One of the best that
I have found in C.W.'s
collection so far.
This is down and
to the left.



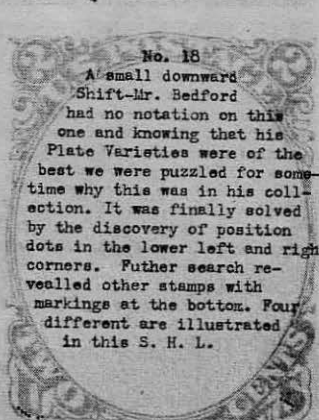
No. 20
Two position dots
under "S".



No. 21
Two position dots under
"U" and "S"



No. 22
Position dots under "U" and
"S" - Notice addition of
vertical line to right
of two dots under
right "S".



No. 18
A small downward
Shift-Mr. Bedford
had no notation on this
one and knowing that his
Plate Varieties were of the
best we were puzzled for some
time why this was in his col-
lection. It was finally solved
by the discovery of position
dots in the lower left and right
corners. Further search re-
vealed other stamps with
markings at the bottom. Four
different are illustrated
in this S. H. L.