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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

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MORE DATA ON THE 1902 ISSUES -- #300 and #301

HERE are some of the efforts of JOHN COULTHARD, genial cartoonist whose efforts have been appearing for some months in "GOSSIP"...and who has given his attention to both the humorous and serious sides of the Shift Hunting game. At the upper left is illustrated a new Broken relief which he submits in a number of duplicate copies to prove it constant. However new it may be to us, it may have been previously known to some of our members, and we will gladly publish any further data which is submitted. Here is a fine opportunity for you plate number collectors to cooperate. See if you can find the break on plate number specimens in your albums



Broken at Left side
Broken at Right side

part of these the break is in the lines at the left side; on others, only at the right, and on still others, on both sides of the panel. This may indicate that the different breaks were produced from three reliefs breaking in a similar manner, or from two reliefs of which one broke first on one side and then on the other. It is possible, too, that they are only printing varieties.



From the Shift Hunter Records
Indications of Possible Double Transfer in AG

Stamp Collectors I Know »

John Coulthard



No. 5—The Shift Hunter

Another possible such break is pictured at the left and also is submitted in a number of copies. On part of these the break is in the lines at the left side; on others, only at the right, and on still others, on both sides of the panel. This may indicate that the different breaks were produced from three reliefs breaking in a similar manner, or from two reliefs of which one broke first on one side and then on the other. It is possible, too, that they are only printing varieties.

Three of the stamps at left are from Coulthard, and show a strong line through "POSTAGE"... are they just Layout Lines?

"Yes, I've seen that 1c with the fifth horizontal line doubled, but what I'm looking for is the same stamp with the scrolls tripled and the numerals doubled. No, I've never seen one, but I read somewhere that someone saw one with the left side doubled and as near as I can figure it is the same pane I'm working on because when they were making the plate for it the superintendent's daughter had twins so he was kinda upset that day and made several slips—"

The Thrill That Comes Only Once

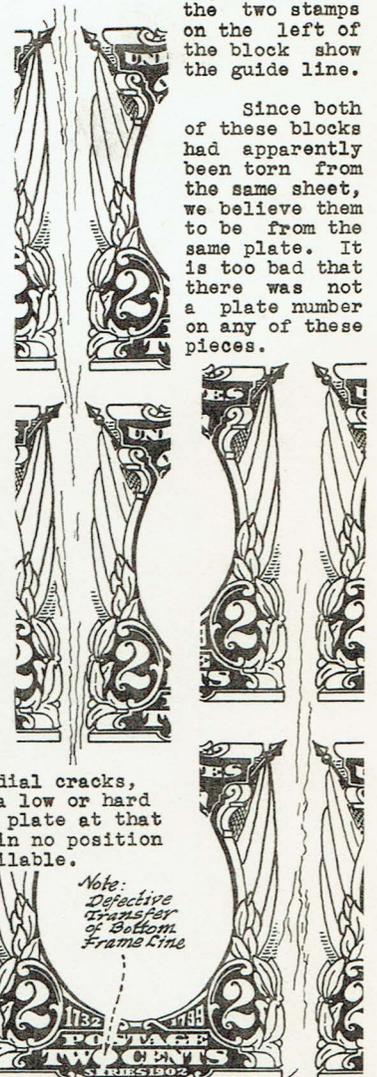


YOUR FIRST DOUBLE TRANSFER.

WE had a big thrill on a recent occasion, in having the opportunity to examine a number of mint sheets and blocks of the 1898 to 1908 issues.

In the lot we discovered the two blocks of #301 illustrated at the right.

Both of the blocks show some extensive cracks in the plate surface which are of interest to us. The block at the lower right is most interesting in that a fine defective transfer is just above the largest group of radial cracks, indicating a low or hard spot in the plate at that point. Again no position data is available.



Note:
Defective Transfer of Bottom Frame Line

The block at left is from a right pane, for the two stamps on the left of the block show the guide line.

Since both of these blocks had apparently been torn from the same sheet, we believe them to be from the same plate. It is too bad that there was not a plate number on any of these pieces.

Our thanks to Coulthard for his cooperation and apologies to Gossip for our unlicensed use of their cartoons. May we have more of both!

Cordially
Lee M. Ryer

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!

