

# The 1893 2¢ Columbian “Broken Hat” Variety



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# The Columbian Exposition Issue of 1893

- The World's Columbian Exposition took place in Chicago, Il from May 1 to October 30, 1893 to Commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus.
- Sixteen stamps depicting various scenes in the life of Columbus, as well as portraits, were issued January 1893 by the American Bank Note Company, ranging from 1¢ to \$5.00.





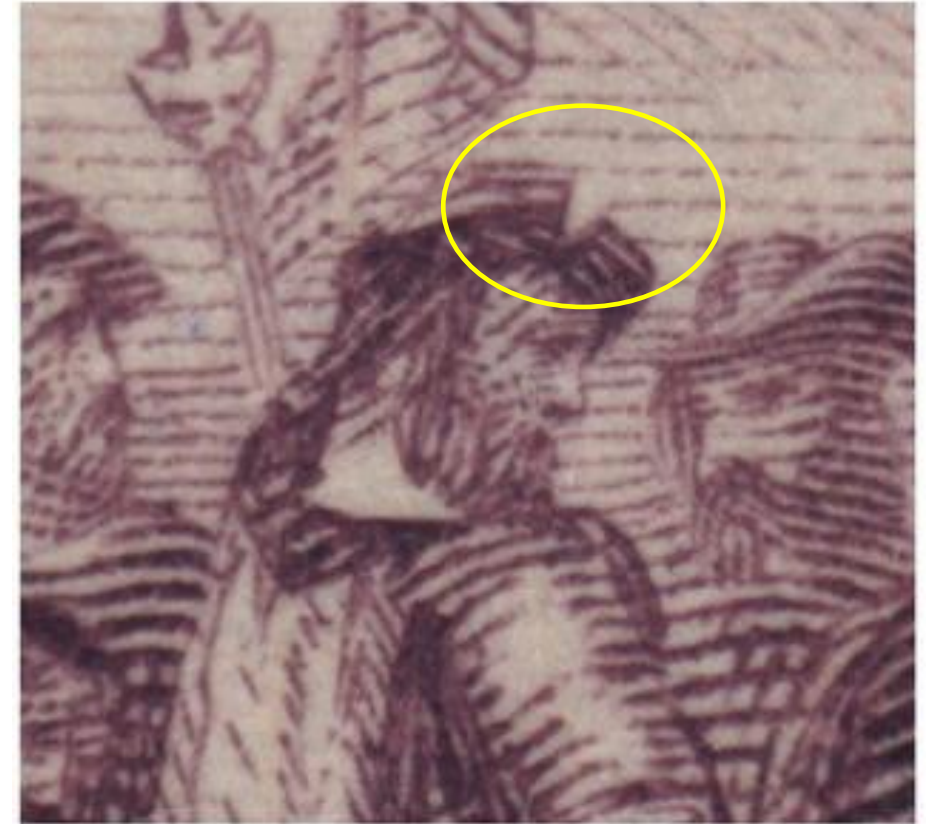
# The 2¢ “Landing of Columbus” Stamp

- The 2 ¢ Columbian depicted a scene of the “Landing of Columbus” in the West Indies.
- Based on painting by John Vanderlyn, which hangs in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda.
- Issued in Plates of 200 in two panes of 100 each.
- Perforated 12 on unwatermarked paper.



# The “Broken Hat” Plate Variety

- Numerous plate varieties exist: Double, Triple and Quadruple transfers, as well as progressive broken and recut frame lines and cracked plates.
- Best known is the “Broken Hat” variety, found in the hat of the knight to the left of Columbus.
- This is a result of a transfer roll break (damaged relief) which apparently developed gradually.
- This yielded numerous variations, where the heavy lines of the hat brim are broken and a colorless V-shaped notch results.



Reference: “*The United States Postage Stamps of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*,” by Lester G. Brookman, Volume III, 1883-1898, David C. Phillips Publishing Co., 1989



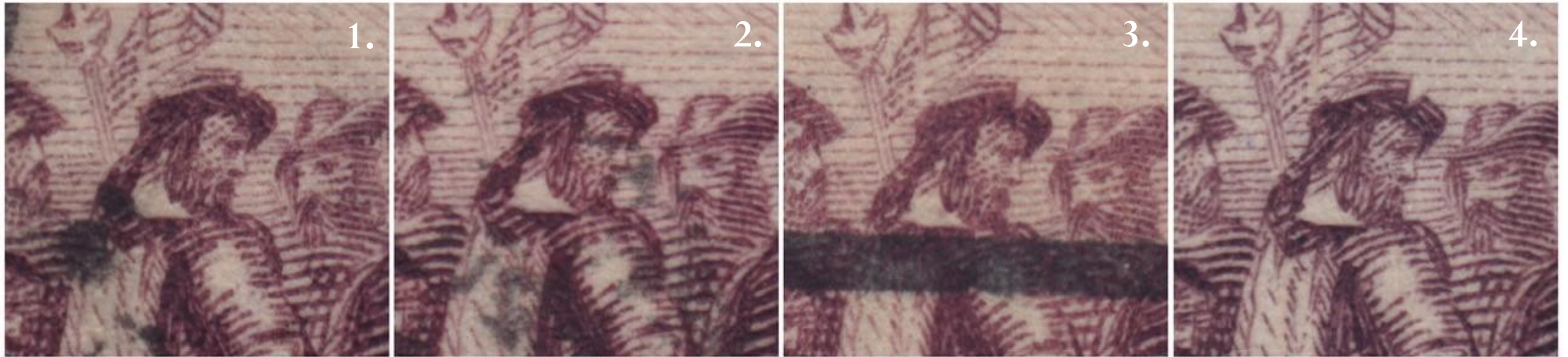
# Searching for Variations

- I had been amassing “Broken Hat” varieties over the years.
- Initially, I did not pay much attention to size & shape of the notch.
- At right is page 1 of 5.
- I examined ~150 examples, mint and used, all singles, no multiples.
- What became apparent was that there were subtle difference in the Broken Hat V-shaped notches.





# Variations in the “Broken Hat” Variety



- Above are four different examples highlighting the V-shaped notch and subtleties.
  - #1 shows a shallow notch, with horizontal line entering the hat, with shading.
  - #2 shows similar shallow notch as #1
  - #3 shows a more developed V-shaped notch, but with faint brown ink within.
  - #4 shows the typical fully-developed V-shaped, sharp-outlined notch, no color within (most common)

# Samples of Broken (not recut) Frame Lines



- Block above shows complete lower right frame lines recut



- Block above shows incomplete lower right frame line recut





# Thank You & Questions?

Any error and/or omission is the author's responsibility.

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