

SHIFTY BUSINESS

Color shifts are not uncommon on stamps. The early 2 color issues give us some of the most obvious, sometimes dramatic examples. The 'shift studies' presented here show varied alignment of print position disregarding perforation and overall centering. Using the plate and arrow blocks below as a center finders for the #702 Red Cross stamp, I determined the cross would ideally be centered about $\frac{3}{64}$ " under the P.

The segments of the #703 Yorktown pane work similarly when looked at individually. But the position varies between them. The left arrow lines up near perfect horizontally with the red line, but gives no vertical reference. The right shows shift in both axis. Top and bottom pieces appear to be shifted the same in the vertical. Yet the top is near perfect horizontally and the bottom is not. I very much doubt that the plates were a different size. So my thought is this resulted from paper stretch, possibly due to varied moisture content.

Lastly I include the #295 with the train from the Pan American series. Which gives us the very collectible High, Low, Fast and Slow trains.







